

# **The Parish of St John the Evangelist Great Stanmore**



**Annual Report and Accounts  
for the year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

Front cover photo:  
Snowdrops in the churchyard

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**The Annual Meeting of Parishioners  
for the election of churchwardens**  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 10.30am in Church House

AGENDA

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. To receive the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of Parishioners (25<sup>th</sup> April 2021)
4. Election of tellers (if required)
5. Election of two churchwardens to serve 2022/2023
6. Date of next meeting (30<sup>th</sup> April 2023)
7. Closing prayer

# Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 10.15am in the Church

<b>Chair:</b> The Revd Matthew Stone	<b>Minutes:</b> Pam Curran
<b>Attendance:</b> 48 parishioners (of which 44 on the Electoral Roll)	

Introduction	
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Opening prayer</b> The Rector, the Revd Matthew Stone, welcomed parishioners and prayed for the meeting, the purpose of which is to elect two churchwardens to serve 2021/2022.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> Apologies were received and accepted from: Michael Carmody, Sheila Enaboifo, Daphne Johnson, Eric Kershaw, Valerie Kershaw, Ian Mackie MBE, Keith McKenzie, Daniel McKeon, Lauren McKeon, Lydia McLean, John Mair, Julia Mair, Nancy Newton, Andrea Nicholson, Michael Okyere, Sheila Oliver, Diana Phillips, Darina Scott, Peter Scott, Karen Stirrup, Carole White, Barbara Whitten, Sue Wright, Bill Wyon, Lorna Wyon.</p>
Administration	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020: to agree the minutes as a true record.</b> The minutes were signed by the Rector as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Election of tellers</b> It was not necessary to appoint tellers.</p>
Election of two churchwardens to serve 2021/2022	
<b>5.</b>	<p>The Rector reported that two nominations had been received as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Mark Lynch</u> proposed by Jane Prentice, seconded by Graham Nicholson.</li> <li>• <u>Jane Prentice</u> proposed by Sylvia Daniels, seconded by Sheila Oliver.</li> </ul> <p>Mark Lynch and Jane Prentice were, therefore, duly elected unopposed to serve as churchwardens for 2021/2022. The Rector thanked both churchwardens for their work across 2020/2021 which was their fifth year in office. Mark and Jane will be re-admitted to office by the Archdeacon of Northolt at a service on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021.</p> <p>The Rector explained that under Section 3 of The Churchwardens Measure 2001, Mark and Jane shall be disqualified from being chosen for the office of churchwarden at the next Annual Meeting of Parishioners, because they will have served as churchwardens at St John's Church for six successive periods. This is on the understanding that at the next Annual Meeting of Parishioners, a resolution is not passed to confirm this section of the Measure shall not apply. If passed, any such resolution may be revoked by a subsequent meeting of the parishioners.</p> <p>Mark and Jane both spoke about their work and said how much they enjoyed being churchwardens. Mark explained that it had been a particularly busy year because of the challenges generated as a result of Covid-19, especially with regard to the various risk assessments which have to be in place.</p>

## Miscellaneous

**6.** **Date of next meeting**  
The next Annual Meeting of Parishioners will take place on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

**7.** **Closing prayer**  
The Rector closed the meeting in prayer.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 10.40am in the Church

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting (25<sup>th</sup> April 2021)
3. Matters arising
4. Reports
  - 4.1 Electoral Roll Officer's report
  - 4.2 PCC Secretary's review
  - 4.3 Presentation of accounts and Treasurer's financial review
  - 4.4 Fabric report
5. Election of tellers (if required)
6. Elections and appointments
  - 6.1 Election of 4 PCC Members to serve 2022/2025
    - 6.1.1 Term of Office for PCC Members (CRR M16 (7) and (8)) - to renew
  - 6.2 Appointment of Sidespersons – DEFERRED TO PCC
  - 6.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2022/2023
7. Group Reports
8. Assistant Curate's Review
9. Rector's Review
10. Mission: Listening to London, Listening to God
11. Any other business
12. Date of next meeting (30<sup>th</sup> April 2023)
13. Closing prayer

**Advance Notice of PCC Meeting – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 11.15am**

*Immediately after the close of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, there will be a very short meeting of the newly elected Parochial Church Council (on Zoom) to appoint the Church Officers: Vice-Chairman, Deputy Wardens (if appropriate), Secretary, Treasurer and Electoral Roll Officer. Also, to appoint members to the Standing Committee.*

# **ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, GREAT STANMORE**

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 10.20am in the Church**

<b>Chair:</b> The Revd Matthew Stone	<b>Minutes:</b> Pam Wynne
<b>Attendance:</b> 48 parishioners (of which 44 on the Electoral Roll)	

### **Introduction**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Apologies were received and accepted from: Michael Carmody, Sheila Enaboifo, Daphne Johnson, Eric Kershaw, Valerie Kershaw, Ian Mackie MBE, Keith McKenzie, Daniel McKeon, Lauren McKeon, Lydia McLean, John Mair, Julia Mair, Nancy Newton, Andrea Nicholson, Michael Okyere, Sheila Oliver, Diana Phillips, Darina Scott, Peter Scott, Karen Stirrup, Carole White, Barbara Whitten, Sue Wright, Bill Wyon, Lorna Wyon.
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### **Administration**

<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020: to agree the minutes as a true record.</b> The minutes were signed by the Rector as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters arising</b> – none.

### **4. Reports**

- **4.1 Electoral Roll Officer**  
As the Electoral Roll Officer, Andrea Nicholson, was unable to attend the meeting, the Rector presented the 2021 report based on the revision which took place between 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The revised roll still stands at **184** which is made up of 66 residents (who live within the parish boundary) and 118 non-residents (who do not live within the parish boundary). 4 new people were added this time, 4 were removed because they had moved away.
- **4.2 PCC Secretary's review**  
PCC Secretary Pam Curran had prepared a report based on the work of the PCC in 2020. See pages A8-A11 of the 2020 Accounts Booklet. There were no questions.
- **4.3 Presentation of accounts and PCC Treasurer's financial review**  
Treasurer Jennifer Neve had prepared a report which is on pages A12-A14 of the 2020 Accounts Booklet.  
  
The Rector gave an overview of the income and expenditure during the year and highlighted the surplus of £8,787. This is an incredible achievement as a significant amount of income was lost owing to Covid-19 in 2020, when the Church and Church House had to be closed. In particular, Church House income was £22,000 under budget (apart from Stanmore Montessori, Church House was not used). The Rector thanked all those who continue to support the work of the Church through the regular giving scheme.



	<p>In the absence of any questions, Jean Orpwood proposed the 2020 Accounts be adopted. Frances Westcott seconded the proposal. The 2020 Accounts were unanimously adopted by the meeting.</p> <p>The Rector thanked Jenny for her work as Treasurer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>4.4 Fabric report</b> The Fabric report was prepared by Churchwardens Mark Lynch and Jane Prentice, and showed that a significant amount of work had been undertaken during the year in spite of Covid-19. The maintenance of the various buildings/properties remains up to date. The PCC continues to consider the larger projects which include: tower stonework repairs, introduction of disabled facilities, replacement of heating system and overhaul of the organ. Significant funds are required to undertake these projects which currently remain out of reach.</li> </ul> <p>There were no questions.</p>
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## Elections and appointments

<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Elections of tellers</b> It was not necessary to appoint tellers.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6.1 Election of 4 PCC Members to serve 2021/2024</b> The Rector reported that four nominations had been received as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Graham Denman</u> proposed by Becky Stone, seconded by Sylvia Daniels.</li> <li>• <u>Shaun Knevett</u> proposed by Lara Oyesanya, seconded by Susan Jones.</li> <li>• <u>Jackie Peters</u> proposed by Sylvia Daniels, seconded by Jane Prentice.</li> <li>• <u>Victoria Ward</u> proposed by Jane Prentice, seconded by Sylvia Daniels.</li> </ul> <p>In the absence of any further nominations, Graham, Shaun, Jackie and Victoria were duly elected to serve on the PCC for a period of three years until 2024.</p> <p>The Rector thanked the retiring PCC Members: Sheila Enaboifo, Jenny Neve, Graham Nicholson and Bill Wyon who had served 2018/2021.</p> </li> <li>• <b>6.2 Appointment of Sidespersons for 2021/2022</b> The Rector explained that another change in the Church Representation Rules is that the annual meeting no longer appoints sidespersons; they are now appointed by the PCC (see Rule M6(6)).</li> <li>• <b>6.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2021/2022</b> Derek Taylor-Mew was re-appointed for a further twelve months.</li> </ul>

## 7. Group reports

	<p>The 2020 Annual Report and Accounts were published on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Rather than comment on each report, the Rector invited additional comments from the various authors and questions from church members. Across 2020, fewer activities were able to take place because of Covid-19. In some cases, the reports covered January-March 2020 only, until the Government introduced the first lockdown.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>7.13 Safeguarding (pages 23-25)</b> The Rector stressed the importance of the safeguarding work undertaken during the course of the year and highlighted some of what the PCC had overseen. The Rector re-stated that Mark Lynch and Louise Gregory are the Parish Safeguarding Officers, Sue Wright is the Children’s Champion and Sheila Oliver is the Vulnerable Adults Champion. Any concerns about the safety/wellbeing of any child or adult should be reported to Mark, Louise or the Metropolitan Police.</li> </ul> <p>Beverley McKeon commented on how safeguarding is managed with Junior Church currently operating online each week.</p>
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### 8. Assistant Curate’s review

	Assistant Curate Jonny Rapson had written a report (pages 26-27) which included his priesting in September 2020. Jonny and Jenna continue to relish being part of the St John’s Church family.
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### 9. Rector’s review

	The Rector had written a report (pages 27-29) which explained some of his work in 2020. The members of the church were thanked for all they contribute to the life of St John’s Church.
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### 10. Mission: Listening to London, Listening to God

	<p>The Rector explained that the previous Diocesan Mission Action Plan, Capital Vision 2020, ended in that year. In 2019, the Diocese of London asked all parishes to contribute to a consultation to determine what focus the new mission action plan should take. All members of the congregation were invited to submit their views. A new Diocesan Mission Action Plan was launched with the following vision <i>"For every Londoner to encounter the love of God in Jesus Christ."</i> There are four ambitions: Confident Disciples, Compassionate Communities, Creative Growth and Connected Young People.</p> <p>The PCC has responded by introducing four Mission Action Groups with each PCC Member joining one of the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and Young People</li> <li>• Discipleship</li> <li>• Environment</li> <li>• Outreach</li> </ul> <p>Assistant Curate Jonny Rapson, spoke briefly about the two meetings of each Mission Action Group and highlighted some of their early plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10.1 Children &amp; Young People</b></li> </ul> <p><u>Short Term Goals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to consider young offender/knife crime charities (youth violence is the focus of this year’s Diocesan Lent Appeal).</li> <li>- Look into ‘Transforming Lives for Good’ (TLG) for mental health training resources – possible slide show in church featuring early intervention coaching.</li> <li>- Youth Group Zoom – limited replies so on hold until September to consider whether best medium to use.</li> <li>- Online fitness – being considered.</li> </ul>
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### Long Term Goals

- Mental health training - Young Harrow Foundation mental health first aid has varying costs for people to attend courses. An alternative would be to undertake Government-backed courses currently provided through schools which could be made available. No cost so long as certain basic criteria are met (eg being 19+).
- Future Engage service featuring a guest speaker on mental health (once services allowed).

## • **10.2 Discipleship**

### Short Term Goals

- Consider pre-recorded 'big topic' talks on subjects such as suffering and the resurrection. Could take place in May with a Q&A on Zoom (depending on the situation with Covid). Participants of the current Lent course will be asked to see if people would be receptive to this idea.
- Consider raising profile of existing Home Groups to make it easier for people to join including via the Church website and in Church. Noted need to ensure there is good follow-up to ensure people have settled well.

### Long Term Goals

- Look at option for a new six-week Home Group for people to see what they can be like before committing. If attendees would like to continue, they could be plugged into an existing home-group or a new one could be created.

## • **10.3 Environment**

### Short Term Goals

- Already use some environmentally friendly cleaning products such as hand wash and washing up liquid. Look into feasibility of 100% use of such products
- St John's has been signed up for Eco Church and the team will look at the survey to see what areas can be developed further.
- Conduct survey to determine the carbon footprint of St John's as part of Eco Church.

### Long Term Goals

- Investigate possibility of:
  - a) solar panels on the church roof,
  - b) installation of double/secondary glazing in church properties that do not have either,
  - c) installation of insulation in church properties where not installed,
  - d) replacement of oil boiler.

## • **10.4 Outreach**

### Long Term Goals

- Encouraging lifts, advertising through the pew sheet, to make sure people can attend services
- Expanding Tea & Chat to include lunch followed by the usual session. [Mark Lynch asked which day of the week this would be, Sylvia Daniels confirmed it would be a Tuesday].

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase advertising through social media to encourage people to attend. Leaflet to advertise Christmas and Easter services - possibly displaying in local venues.</li> <li>- Explore idea of an open day at the church and on church field for the community - could link with eg Little Fishers, Tea &amp; Chat and a possible Alpha course.</li> <li>- Concert with more contemporary music to engage with young people.</li> <li>- Carol singing as a form of outreach.</li> <li>- Display banner outside church to show time of regular services and updating notice board.</li> <li>- Running an Alpha course to help the wider community explore the Christian faith.</li> </ul> <p>[All activities to be considered post lifting of Covid restrictions]</p> <p>The Assistant Curate concluded his presentation by saying he hopes other church members would wish to join these groups. The Rector added that it was essential that we take our mission seriously if we want to grow the church and serve our community.</p>
<b>11. Any other business</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>11.1 Closing remarks from a Deputy Warden</b> On behalf of the members of the congregation, Susan Jones thanked the Rector (Matthew) and Assistant Curate (Jonny) for their ongoing hard work and commitment to lead St John’s Church. In spite of the challenges presented by Covid-19, 2020 was a very good year and the church has continued to flourish.  Thanks were also recorded to Becky, James and Emma Stone, and Jenna Rapson for all they contribute and for their ongoing support.</li> <li>• <b>11.2 Closing remarks from the Rector</b> The Rector responded by thanking the congregation for their encouragement and participation. A church has got to be so much more than simply attending services, but growing in faith <u>and</u> putting our faith into action as we seek to extend God’s kingdom through our mission and ministry in Stanmore and beyond.</li> </ul>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b> The next Annual Meeting of Parishioners will take place on Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2022.
<b>13.</b>	<b>Closing prayer</b> The Rector closed the meeting in prayer.

## **4. Reports**

### **4.1 Electoral Roll Officer's report**

*A verbal report will be given at the meeting.*

### **4.2 Parish Administrator's Report**

*See pages A8-A14 of 2021 Accounts Booklet.*

### **4.3 Treasurer's Financial Review and Accounts**

*See pages A14-A17 of 2021 Accounts Booklet.*

### **4.4 Fabric Report**

During 2021, the following work has been undertaken:

#### **Church**

1. The organ blower and humidifier were serviced in January and July. Cost £198 (each time).
2. Minor roofing works were undertaken to replace broken tiles. Cost £132.
3. Annual service of the tower clock. Cost £331.20.
4. The annual asbestos monitoring took place and the register updated. Cost Nil.
5. The organ was tuned on two occasions. Cost £732.
6. The biennial check for evidence of 'live' woodworm activity in the ringing chamber and bell chamber was arranged (= no sign of live activity). Cost Nil.
7. All electrical appliances were PAT Tested. Cost £72.
8. The toilet system was replaced after it failed and leaked. Cost £185.
9. The vestry carpet was replaced as it was wet and mouldy (see '8' above). Cost £230.
10. The oil-fired boiler was serviced and safety tested. Cost £150.
11. The ventilation fan in the boiler room was replaced. Cost £191.03.
12. Annual service of the lighting protection system. Cost £168.
13. The fire extinguishers were serviced. Cost £57.
14. Three replacement fire extinguishers were needed as the existing ones had come to the end of their serviceable life. Cost £161.34
15. The insurance policy was renewed on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021 (covers the Church, the Old Church, Church House and Church House Cottage). Premium £10,987.40. Excess £250.
16. The gutters, downpipes and drain gullies were cleared of leaves and the roof was inspected. There were no actions arising from this visit. Cost £165 (which included the same at Hollond Lodge).

#### **Churchyard**

1. The churchyard was regularly maintained throughout the year by the London Borough of Harrow. Cost Nil.
2. Following the falling of the large oak tree in August 2020, and after the wood was finally cleared in November 2020, the LB of Harrow gave permission for the damaged yew trees to be cut back to promote new growth in the hope they would show signs of recovery. The Diocese of London preferred this option instead of the removal of all the yew trees. The work was carried out in May. Their growth is now being monitored in case it proves necessary to further reduce the height of some of the yew trees.

Additional works undertaken included smoothing over the ruts that were created on the grass by the mechanical digger that was used to clear the fallen wood. Also, the tiny branches and leaves were removed to leave that section of the churchyard clear. The LB of Harrow paid for this work.

Following a recommendation by the LB of Harrow, the damaged footpath and 25 graves became the subject of an insurance claim (against the LB of Harrow). Whilst it took a significant amount of time to obtain two quotations for the repair of the footpath and two for the repair of the graves, compounded by lengthy delays by the LB of Harrow making a response, they have admitted liability and agreed to renew the damaged footpath at their expense.

Initially they refused to admit liability for the damage to the graves, saying they did not belong to the church as they are owned by the families. The PCC asked the LB of Harrow to reconsider as there is no current contact with any of the families (the graves are old). The LB of Harrow has now agreed to cover the cost of the graves as well. The repairs will take place in 2022.

3. A Faculty was obtained to replace a section of the surface water drainage pipe at the west end of the church, at the bottom of the tower, to clear a blockage. This necessitated a claim on our insurance as the footpath needed to be dug up to expose the pipe. The amount of the claim was £9,053.48. We only paid the policy excess of £250.
4. A section of the boundary fence started to lean as the wooden posts were loose. The fence is owned by Taylor Wimpey and after the PCC made a suitable representation, they responded positively and fitted a number of concrete fence repair spurs at their expenses. Cost Nil.

### **Old Church**

1. The insurance policy was renewed (see '15' under The Church above).
2. The weeds were cleared. Cost £165.61 which included the purchase of suitable weedkiller.

### **Church House**

1. Minor repairs to the roof were undertaken including refitting a section of the front gutter to the fascia board, replacing some broken tiles above the double gates, repairing a section of rear gutter and reattaching the rainwater pipe. Cost £196.80.
2. The doorbell switch-plate was replaced. Cost £27.61
3. The annual asbestos monitoring was undertaken and the register updated. Cost Nil.
4. The Wolstenholme heaters were hoovered to remove the dust.
5. A new thermostatic tap was fitted to the washbasin in the gents. Cost £135.
6. The gas-fired boiler and cooker were serviced and safety tested. Cost £90. The smoke and carbon monoxide detectors were also checked.
7. The five-yearly Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) was undertaken to establish the overall condition and safety of the electrics. The cost was £565 which included the EICR of Church House Cottage.
8. Four sockets in the Wolstenholme Hall and one in the Micklem Hall were replaced with RCD sockets. Some RCD fuses were fitted to the Church House fuse board (in the Wolstenholme light switch cupboard). A heating control was also replaced. Cost £456.20.
9. The fire extinguishers (and fire blankets) were serviced. Cost £101.24
10. Five replacement fire extinguishers were needed as the existing ones had come to the end of the serviceable life. Cost £258.41

11. The annual test for legionella was undertaken. Cost £52.50.
12. The insurance policy was renewed (see '15' under The Church above).
13. The gutters, downpipes and drain gullies were cleared of leaves and the roof was inspected (including Church House Cottage and the Micklem Hall). There were no actions arising from this visit. Cost £168.

### **Church Field**

1. Church Field was maintained throughout the year. Cost £3,273.
2. A branch fell from a tree at the far end of Church Field landing on an Elm Park neighbour's shed. We paid for the repair. Cost £195.28.
3. A spotlight (worked by a switch) was fitted to the side of the shed to provide illumination for those who park on the edge of Church Field near Cowmans Cottage. Cost £132.
4. Three additional spotlights were fitted – one on the side of the shed facing the Micklem Hall, two on the Micklem Hall facing the shed (all worked with switches). An outside power supply was fitted to the Micklem Hall. Cost £625 which was paid for out of a memorial donation given by the Rapson family.

### **Church House Cottage**

1. The boiler was serviced on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 under a British Gas plan.
2. The insurance policy was renewed (see '15' under The Church above).
3. To comply with new regulations in rental properties, an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) was undertaken to establish the overall condition and safety of the electrics. No follow-up action was required. The cost was £565 which included the EICR of Church House.
4. New Grohe taps were fitted (and a click waste to the bathroom washbasin). Cost £165.

### **Hollond Lodge**

1. The boiler was serviced on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 under a British Gas plan.
2. The buildings insurance policy was renewed on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021. Premium £850.01. Excess £25.
3. The gutters, downpipes and drain gullies were cleared of leaves and the roof was inspected. There were no actions arising from this visit. Cost £165 (which included the same on the church).
4. Some of the gutters were adjusted. Cost £168.
5. A new thermostatic radiator valve (with lockshield) was fitted in the second bedroom. Cost £95.
6. Treatment to remove mould in the bathroom was arranged by the tenants using a preferred contractor known to them. Cost £540.
7. The tenants reported a blocked drain in the same area that had a problem in 2018. This repair was undertaken by a drain firm appointed by our insurer and a ten-year guarantee was issued. The drain firm was contacted and upon investigation, they found the latest blockage was a build-up of fat that was promptly cleared. Whilst this work was undertaken the drain firm noticed that a section of the 2018 repair had failed necessitating a further repair. This work was arranged free of charge under the terms of the warranty. A new ten-year warranty was issued by the drain firm. Later in the year a new drain problem occurred which was related to the original issue but occurred further along the run. Another repair was undertaken which necessitated digging up some of the tiles in the backyard. The drain firm asked if the PCC would arrange for a local builder to lay new tiles which they would pay for. This work was done and cost £1,624.81. Cost to St John's = nil.

8. To comply with new regulations in rental properties, an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) was undertaken to establish the overall condition and safety of the electrics. No follow-up action was required. Cost £138.
9. The tenancy agreement was renewed for 36 months from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 at a monthly rent of £925pcm (increased from £850pcm).

### **The Chase**

1. The buildings insurance policy was renewed on 4<sup>th</sup> January. Premium £1,092.32. Excess £25.
2. The boiler was serviced on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 under a British Gas plan.
3. To comply with new regulations in rental properties, an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) was undertaken to establish the overall condition and safety of the electrics. Cost £138. The remedial works cost £372.
4. Two new carpets were purchased for the master and second bedroom. Cost £566.72 (the cost was shared equally with the tenants).

The PCC continue to place a high priority on undertaking the routine maintenance and repairs in an efficient and cost-effective fashion. The tenants in the two rented properties and Church House users are pleased with our diligence in this respect. Full reports of all fabric related works are made at each PCC Meeting. We also review the list of actions arising from the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection and tackle these as and when possible. The current larger projects include the organ, disabled access, tower stone and church heating. A Quinquennial Inspection took place in October 2021. At the time of writing, the report is awaited.

Brief comments on larger projects.

- Organ - the organ is being maintained now by Bishop & Son who have advised taking forward the overhaul on a modular basis. The monies generated by the Fundraising Committee are being held in a designated fund to contribute towards the cost of the overhaul. At the end of 2021 the balance of this fund was £20,000. Additional monies have been added to this fund across the past two/three years (eg smaller legacies).
- Disabled Access – the PCC commissioned Daniel Benson of Ablett Architects to prepare a Feasibility Study (RIBA 1) to introduce disabled access/facilities to the church. Mr. Benson visited in January 2020 to undertake the study and the PCC received his report several weeks later. Whilst PCC Members noted the four proposed options, it has not been possible yet owing to Covid-19 to share this information with the congregation. An Accessibility Audit took place in June 2020 by Lord Consultants Ltd and the report was received and circulated to PCC Members. Grants of £2,800 and £966 were received in 2020 from the National Churches Trust and the City Bridge Trust (respectively) towards the cost of this work.
- Tower Stone – the latest 2021 Quinquennial Inspection Report will clarify the up-to-date position.
- Church Heating – it is desirable to replace the heating system to move away from oil and install a replacement that is both energy and environmentally efficient. One of the new PCC Mission Action Groups is considering possible options including fitting solar panels to the church roof or a heat source pump in the churchyard. The



existing heating system does work to a reasonably satisfactory level, which is enhanced if people close the south door when they enter/exit the church!

The General and the Fire Risk Assessments for the Church and Church House were reviewed and updated. The Risk Assessment for the Old Church was also reviewed and updated. Actions arising from these reviews will be undertaken during the course of 2022. The Health & Safety policy was updated and is now on display in the porch.

We remain very grateful to those who help look after our buildings.

**Mark Lynch and Jane Prentice, Churchwardens**

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**The following elections/appointments will now take place:**

**5. Election of tellers *(if required)***

**6. Elections and Appointments**

**6.1 Election of 4 PCC Members to serve 2022/2025**

**6.2 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2022/2023**

## **7. Group Reports**

### **7.1 Bereavement Visiting Team**

The Bereavement Visiting Team has continued to work throughout the past year, albeit remotely, on-line for our support meetings and mostly by telephone to our bereaved clients. Bereavement is an inevitable part of life, as someone has insightfully said, "Grief is the price we pay for love". Each bereavement is different and comparisons can rarely be made between either individuals or their experiences. This is why our visitors' chief remit is to LISTEN, rather than talk, and to offer support through the grieving process. While each experience is unique, we have noted some common themes over the year. Recently there has been the additional pain of loved ones in hospital without being able to visit them, to be with them as they died or being able to hold funerals to suit their wishes. Over the past two years the grieving process has been even more lonely than usual.

Our visitors have had the privilege of offering this support during 2021 to 13 different individuals, who have appreciated being able to talk to someone who is willing to be available for them. For some, talking on the phone is less easy and for these clients we have made careful arrangements to visit them in their own homes. As restrictions eased more face-to-face meetings within the organisation have been made possible and one only hopes that this will continue in the coming year.

In 2021 Bereavement Care celebrated its 40th birthday. What began informally under the auspices of Harrow Deanery Synod in three parishes, including All Saints' Queensbury, St John the Baptist, Pinner, as well as our own, now extends across and into several neighbouring boroughs and across the faiths. As a charity Bereavement Care is dependent upon individual donations and grants from organisations. If you or your place of work would be interested in supporting the work, do please look at their website [www.bereavementsupportandcare.co.uk](http://www.bereavementsupportandcare.co.uk) for further information, or do speak to me.

Our group is a corporate member of Bereavement Care which entitles us to reduced fees for training and attendance at our annual conference. The team again acknowledges the generosity of the PCC to cover such expenses for our visitors. We look forward to another year of supporting those needing a listening ear during difficult times. Do please contact us, in confidence, if you would like to receive such support.

**Jean Orpwood**  
**Group Leader**

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### **7.2 Café St Jean and Welcome Team**

Sadly, the pandemic with its restrictions and lockdowns led to the temporary closure of Café St Jean and the suspension of the Welcome Team. However, the concept of Welcome within the congregation of St Johns continues - eyes smile above the masks and hands wave in acknowledgement as we share the Peace between both regular church members and any visitors and newcomers.

It was so good to gain some sense of normality when we were able to re-start the Café on 5<sup>th</sup> September, despite the necessary continuing requirement to wear our face coverings when moving around the hall and serving the refreshments plus observing social distancing.

The number of folk coming into the Café each Sunday to date has reduced by about two-thirds including the Sundays when there is morning Junior Church. It is understandable that people are still uncertain about mixing socially in this way, but we hope that numbers will increase once folk feel more confident. Meanwhile, a huge thank-you to both the Café St Jean Teams and to the Chair and Table monitors who valiantly work so hard to make the Café the welcoming place that it is.

**Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby**  
**Co-ordinator**

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### **7.3 Churchyard Gardeners**

The cosmos, grown from seed, was more successful this year providing a good show from summer to autumn together with the geraniums.

A free packet of seeds for 'flowers suitable for pollinators' prompted Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby and me to create a new bed near the boiler room steps where we sowed the seeds. It was interesting to see what plants would germinate and perhaps set seed for next year.

The roses were fed and deadheaded to keep their display for as long as possible. There are a few which are unlikely to last the winter due to historic damage at the base of the stem from strimming. Rosemary and I have tried to keep the beds around the roses edged and weeded to prevent further such damage.

Patrick Hill and Stewart Low weeded graves and cleared some of the area on the north side of the church.

The damaged oak tree on the north side did produce a few leaves but lost them in early autumn (before healthy oak trees). However, even in its present state, an oak tree can support a large amount of wildlife. The yew trees, also on the north side, have started to regrow, but could look better if the larger trees were cut back and reshaped.

We are grateful for the work done by the London Borough of Harrow cutting the grass and hedges (for free as the churchyard is formally closed for new burials). Thanks to Peter Williams and the Rector for removing the litter on a weekly basis, both in the churchyard and in Rectory Lane.

**Carole White**

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### **7.4 Engage**

Our contemporary service was once more cancelled by COVID-19 restrictions at the start of the year and, being a service with a lot of singing, we were cautious about bringing it back. We started with two outdoor services on Church Field in June and July, where Matthew and Jonny were our speakers. The weather was perfect and it was wonderful to come together and sing praise to God in the freedom of the outdoors (without masks!). Two beautiful summer afternoons together.

Over the summer Glyn Burns, who has been a faithful member of the band and the main technical advisor since Engage began, moved to Devon. We miss him and his wife Helen, and have been grateful for the way Jonny has shouldered the technical burden as well as taken on a greater role within the band. We are very grateful to all members of the band, some of whom are from other churches and travel some distance to join us, for their unstinting commitment to sharing their musical talent and leading great worship.

In the Autumn it was particularly special to come together with our friends from other Stanmore Churches for the United Advent Service in person once more. We welcomed a message about encouragement from The Revd Tim Meathrel of Emmanuel Church, Northwood.

Here is the list of speakers and their chosen themes from the last year:

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>THEME</b>
June	The Revd Matthew Stone Rector, St John's Church, Stanmore	Faith
July	The Revd Jonny Rapson Assistant Curate, St John's Church, Stanmore	Jonah and the unwavering grace of God
October	Andrew Barnett London City Mission	God's promises fulfilled in Jesus Christ
November	The Revd Tim Meathrel Vicar, Emmanuel Church, Northwood	Encouragement

If you haven't yet tried an Engage service, do come along and see what it's like!

**Becky Stone**

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## **7.5 Flowers**

In 2021 flower arranging in church was minimal due to Covid-19. At Easter, besides the cross adorned by the congregation, there was a single arrangement of flowers in our splendid brass vase placed on the altar which could be viewed on the recorded service too. The same was done at Pentecost in appropriate colours. To celebrate Jonny's priesting in the summer, there was a special pedestal arrangement that Sunday. Regular flower arranging started again in September until Advent. One altar pedestal was arranged fortnightly with a porch arrangement in addition for Harvest Festival.

In November there was a meeting for all flower arrangers at which we made plans for a new rota in 2022. Donations for altar flowers would start again. We agreed to try to modify our way of working, particularly to reduce the amount of floral oasis used which is environmentally unfriendly.

It was a pleasure to be able to decorate the church for Christmas in our usual way and to have the chance for our newer recruits to get involved and do some arrangements.

**Sheila Oliver**

## 7.6a Great Stanmore Bell Ringers

With the easing of the flu pandemic lockdowns 'tied' practices for learners (on a silenced bell) recommenced in September, 2021. The band is much depleted, but four learners are progressing well. At the very end of the year we attended a wonderful pantomime (Snow White) at Radlett. It was directed by Victoria Ward, one of our ringers.

**Peter Scott**  
**Master, Acting Secretary and Steeple Keeper**

## 7.6b Great Stanmore Bell Ringers Financial Accounts

HSBC current account statement, 2021:

Brought forward from 2020	£307.24
Add excess income	<u>£ 1.00</u>
	£308.24

HSBC savings account statement, 2021:

Brought forward from 2020	£ 63.76
Add excess income	<u>£ 25.00</u>
	£ 88.76

**Peter Scott**  
**Treasurer**

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## 7.7 Home Groups

Lockdown has impinged greatly on our meetings which are normally fortnightly on Tuesdays. We had begun the Acts of the Apostles back in 2019 and suspended that study in Lent 2020 to look at Julian of Norwich's 'Revelations of Divine Love'. We had met, however, for only two of the Julian sessions before lockdown restrictions in March 2020 meant that we had to discontinue our meetings. We didn't meet again until September 2021 at a new venue, Maureen's house in Bushey, which enabled greater social distancing. Our grateful thanks go to both Maureen and Pat, who hosted our meetings so beautifully for so many years.

At this first meeting in September, it was decided that it would be more convenient for our members to meet at 2.30pm instead of 8pm. This enabled another member to join our group, making a total of 9. We finally finished our Lent course on Julian in September and then returned to our study of the Acts of the Apostles. We have been using Tom Wright's 'Acts for Everyone', mainly because the text is divided into convenient short sections. By Christmas, we had studied up to and including Acts Chapter 12, which took us to the end of Tom Wright's Book 1, ready in January 2022 to start Book 2, Chapter 13 and the beginning of Paul's missionary journeys.

New members always welcome.

**Frances Westcott**

We began the year meeting on Zoom, with short sessions each of which were focused on a simple thought for the day, a reflection, and a chance to share any prayer requests or good news. Thanks to Sarah Skyrme for leading a session on our spiritual heroes, Louise Haddo for a discussion of aspects of our faith which we struggle with, and Pauline Bayliss for a session on remembering that God is in control even when it doesn't feel like it! In Lent, we joined the course 'Living His Story', led by Jonny for the whole church.

After Easter, we followed a course looking at self-esteem and how our faith can support having a healthy self-esteem, and for the final couple of meetings before the summer break we were able to gather in person on Church Field once, and then inside Church House when the weather was less kind!

For the Autumn term, we followed a course called 'Nothing More and Nothing Less', based on the film 'I, Daniel Blake'. We met in church, to make use of the projector for showing the film and have the benefit of the large space for social distancing. The course looked at various aspects of social justice, and the impacts of systemic oppression. It was a challenging course which invited us all to look at the lives of those around us and imagine how things we take for granted might need to be changed, and how we can keep our eyes open for people in need.

We hope to return to being a 'home' group as soon as the Covid-19 situation makes this feel wise, and look forward to welcoming any new members who would like to join us!

**Jane Prentice and Becky Stone**

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## **7.8 Junior Church and Youth Group**

Junior Church continued to meet regularly on Zoom during the lockdown with an average of 18 children attending. The sessions were split into two groups:

Group 1 – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2  
Group 2 – Years 3-6

The sessions were delivered by Matthew, Jonny and myself and contained teaching, craft, singing and games.

We started to meet back in person in September and our sessions have changed to a new format. We now have:

First Sunday – All-Age Service  
Second Sunday – Junior Church  
Third Sunday – Junior Church Games (2pm)  
Fourth Sunday – Junior Church

Our numbers have stayed at a good level with an average of 18 children attending each and it is pleasing to sometimes have 25 children in church on some Sundays. The weeks continue to have input from Matthew and Jonny with them taking turns on the rota and running the games afternoon on the third Sunday. We are back to using our regular material following the lectionary and enjoying some live music from Jonny each month.

Due to Covid-19 levels rising and various members of the congregation testing positive in December we did not have a nativity this year.

We are keen to develop a new expression of youthwork and this is on the PCC's mission action plan to progress this in 2022.

**Beverley McKeon**  
**Commissioned Children's Minister**

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### **7.9 Little Fishers & Toddler Group**

It was wonderful to reopen Little Fishers in May 2021. The pandemic meant the group needed to start from scratch (as the previous attendees were no longer toddlers!) and recruit new parents/carers and toddlers which has all been undertaken by the brilliant team who lead this important outreach. Little Fishers now meets on a Wednesday afternoon between 1pm-3pm. The group met throughout the summer holidays to ensure the new momentum was not lost. It enjoys a healthy attendance each week where there are toys, craft, music, singing and food. Lots of fun for the toddlers and an important meeting place for the parents/carers. We do need a little extra help leading this group, if you can assist, please speak to Edit Rees.

**Matthew Stone**

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### **7.10 Music**

Well, this past couple of years have been a bit different to what we were used to! With months of no singing in the church and, for a long time, no actual services taking place in the building. However, this did not deter the people of St John's! We still had weekly said services online, recorded by Matthew or Jonny (initially in their homes) and then, when allowed, in church.

It wasn't long into the lockdown that we added pre-recorded music in our online services. We would have two hymns per week and then added the Gloria, with subtitles, so people can sing along at home. Many people said how much they enjoyed these. I would record the hymns on my piano at home, send these recordings to Pam Curran and Lydia McLean, who would then sing along to the recording and then comes the most time-consuming and critical part, Don McLean would mix the three recordings together. Without the immense amount of time and skill that Don has contributed, the recordings would have been of a much poorer quality. Jonny or Becky Stone then added the music to the services. Quite an undertaking! I would like to say a big 'thank you' to all those who have been involved in this project.

When we were allowed back in to church, I then recorded a weekly organ voluntary to add to the online service, and Don and I recorded the hymns on the organ in church rather than me doing them on my piano at home. We have continued to do this, even after weekly services resumed in church, for the benefit of those who cannot attend or do not feel comfortable attending and who still watch the online services. This project then had a

completely unforeseen benefit when I slipped and broke my left elbow in October 2021. It meant we had a bank of hymns and voluntaries recorded that we used whilst I could not play with my left hand for three months. We also used the already recorded music when I tested positive for Covid-19 on Christmas Eve and I was, at zero notice, unavailable to play for the Crib Service, Midnight Mass, Christmas Day and Boxing Day (Sunday) services. Thanks to Jonny and Jenna for putting this all together and enabling there to be music in the services over Christmas. We are intending to keep our bank of almost 150 pre-recorded hymns in case we have no organ or organist so we can still have music in the services.

Since the beginning of lockdown in March 2020 we have not had the choir singing at our services (apart from a basic "congregational carols only" shortened carol service for Christmas 2021) but, hopefully, the choir will soon resume as restrictions are easing further. We will always welcome some new singers. If you are 'soprano' voice you don't need to be able to read music, just be able to sing in tune. If you can sing alto, tenor or bass then this is even better. Please talk to any member of the choir if you think you might be interested - an informal chat will not result in any commitment, I promise!

Regarding the organ, whilst a large number of faults were fixed before the lockdown, there are still a lot of bits that either don't work at all or don't work properly. Given that the cost of parts and labour is likely to increase much quicker than the value of savings, the PCC have agreed to carry out the next stage in the long-term repair project, using money that has been set aside for the organ over many years. It would be beneficial for the church if we could possibly obtain a grant towards the repairs, but we would need someone with time and the right skillset to pursue this. Do any of you think that this might be you, or do you know anyone who might be able to do this? If so, please speak to me or Matthew.

I must record my gratitude to Lydia for suggesting the hymns month by month and to Matthew and Jonny for their input into this selection, and I would also like to thank everyone who contributes towards the music in church, even if this is just joining in with the singing in the congregation.

**Philip Rees**  
**Organist and Director of Music**

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### **7.11 New Wine**

The annual conference was again cancelled due to the pandemic and moved online. We arranged to live stream sessions for the first half of the conference in Church House and also in church on the Sunday morning. It was well attended by those who had been booked to go and by some of those taking the opportunity to try it out. We also had friends from other local churches that joined us.

Some of us are booked to return to the live conference this coming summer (2022). Anyone interested in joining us please speak to Becky Stone or myself.

**Jane Prentice**



### 7.12a Old Church Working Group

The Old Church Working Group did not meet in 2021 and the Old Church remained closed to visitors because of the pandemic, apart from visits from the Year 4 children from both Aylward Primary School (October) and Stanburn Primary School (December). The weeds were cleared in October at a cost of £105. Suitable weedkiller was applied as part of this work. The weedkiller cost £60.61. The PCC paid covered this cost.

**Matthew Stone**

### 7.12b Great Stanmore Old Church Consolidation Fund

Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

	£
<u>Income</u>	
Donations, Sales and Interest	60.00
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Fees/supplies	0.00
	£60.00

### Balance Sheet

Bank Balance Total 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Barclays Bank	<b><u>£4,881.78</u></b>
<u>Fund Balance 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020</u>	4,821.78
Plus surplus for year	60.00
Fund Balance 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021	<b><u>£4,881.78</u></b>

**Ian Mackie MBE**  
**Hon. Treasurer**

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### 7.13 St John's Church of England School, Stanmore

The PCC has the responsibility of electing two governors to serve on the Governing Board, each for a term of four years. Our current PCC appointed governors are Tracey James (appointed in October 2020) and Jon Stephan (appointed in September 2021). Graham Nicholson is also a governor having been appointed by the Deanery Synod. The Rector is automatically a governor by virtue of office and has been Chair of Governors since September 2015.

Governing Boards are key strategic decision makers and vision setters in every school and play a major part in the school's accountability. They have a vital role to play in driving up school and pupil performance by making sure the resources are used well to ensure every child receives the best possible education.

In accordance with the Government's requirements, the Governing Board at St John's School provides strategic leadership and accountability in the school. It has three key functions:

- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

During the 2020/2021 school year, the Governing Board met routinely on five occasions (September, December, March, May and July). An extraordinary meeting was convened in June to review the new catering contract. The Admissions Committee, Staffing Committee and Standards & Achievement Committees usually met once each term. The Finance & Premises Committee meets more regularly. The new Christian Ethos Committee has been meeting regularly since it was established in July. All meetings were held on Zoom.

The Headteacher's Performance Management Committee met once, and the Pay Committee also met once. All committees meet during the school day. The Headteacher's Performance Management Committee is supported by an external advisor. Additionally, there is a facility to bring together small panel/committees although this was not needed. The Rector, as Chair of Governors, met the Headteacher regularly and was willing to meet parents if and when necessary. There were no complaints received, informal or informal.

Governors serve on one or two committees where their skills or interests enable them to play a full part. This information is gathered from the completion of a skills audit which is updated annually. The Governing Board and the committees all have clear terms of reference which are reviewed annually. Most governors are also linked with a specific subject or area within the school, often connected to the improvement priorities (see below). In 2020/2021, the subject/areas were: Child Protection, Equality, Health & Safety, Literacy, Maths, Music, Pupil Premium, RE, Safeguarding and SEN.

Formal monitoring by governors allows opportunity to observe and communicate with staff and pupils. After each visit the governor prepares a follow-up report which is considered at the next Governing Board meeting. Monitoring visits are especially useful as they help governors understand more about their specific subject/area and, over time, the progress/impact can be better measured.

The school was inspected last by Ofsted in January 2019 and is due a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) in 2022.

The Governing Board takes part in the annual cycle of school improvement by its interpretation and analysis of school data including, SATS results, Local Authority data, government data, Phonics Screening Check, Baseline Assessment, Ofsted Data Dashboard and regular internal school assessment data. Through data analysis, pupil progress and attainment is scrutinised and vulnerable groups including pupil premium children are closely monitored. Data monitoring together with external reports such as Ofsted mean that the Governors play an active role in the development of the annual School Improvement Plan.

Governors are also expected to undertake training to fulfil their role and enhance their contribution. During the year various courses were offered to governors including induction training run by the Local Authority.

In the 2021/2022 school year the focus was on becoming a centre of excellence by further developing the new curriculum. To do this, the following school improvement priorities were agreed:

- Reading (review phonics programme in line with government recommendations - books will match phonics stages of reading to aid fluency and phonics sounds. Details of the new reading scheme will be shared with parents).
- Maths (particularly mental maths and times tables).
- Religious Education (we are likely to receive a SIAMS RE Inspection this year).
- PE (this is part of the wider curriculum and important for children's mental health and physical wellbeing).
- PSHE (implementation of the new RSE Policy and curriculum – positive feedback received from parents. A further review for staff and parents will take place later this year).

The Governing Board annually approves a 3-year school budget and the Finance & Premises Committee regularly monitors the in-year budget. It works closely with the School Business Manager and the Local Authority Schools' Financial Services. Close scrutiny of the budget during the financial year 2020/2021 meant that the year-end outturn resulted in a positive balance which is a significant achievement given the pressures on school budgets. Governors also monitored the spending (and impact) of the Pupil Premium, PE & Sports Premium and Catch-up premium: coronavirus (COVID-19).

Governors are most concerned about the falling pupil roll which will impact negatively the school budget going forward. Many primary schools in Harrow, across London and further afield are in the same position owing to there being an excess of reception places compared to the actual demand. The Chair of Governors, Vice-Chair and Headteacher met the London Borough of Harrow's Director of Education in July 2021 to discuss this parlous position. There is no additional funding to cover any shortfall.

It would be remiss not to mention the work the school has continued to do during the Covid-19 pandemic (especially in the January – March lockdown). The online learning during the lockdown was further developed to include both music and individual instrument tuition. The Governors recognise the ongoing exceptional leadership of the school during these challenging times and the sheer commitment and dedication of the staff. We thank the parents/carers for the support they gave to the school and congratulate their amazing resilient children.

**Tracey James, Graham Nicholson, Jon Stephan and Matthew Stone**  
**Members of the School's Governing Board**

### **7.14 Safeguarding**

The PCC continues to place the highest regard on safeguarding to ensure the children, young people and any vulnerable adults who attend our services, participate in our activities, attend our groups or use church premises are kept safe. We take our responsibilities seriously and follow the recommended practice contained within the [Church of England's Parish Safeguarding Handbook](#). During the course of the year, 'safeguarding' remained a substantive item on every PCC meeting agenda. This enabled the PCC to monitor the implementation of the recommended practices.

Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, our services and activities were at times limited and for some weeks we could not open the Church or Church House. Online services were prepared each Sunday and Junior Church met weekly on Zoom. The Zoom logins were always sent to parents and no texting or emailing took place with anyone under the age of 18.

During the course of the year, the PCC monitored/approved/undertook the following:

1. Made sure DBS checks were renewed after five years in line with Diocesan Policy. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022, DBS checks are to be renewed after three years.
2. Requested all new PCC Members undertake the Church of England's C0 online safeguarding training course.
3. Signed the Safeguarding 'Safer Places Voluntary Pledge' which says the PCC will: speak up, put survivors first, conceal nothing, take responsibility, make change happen, hold each other accountable.
4. Signed the Church of England's 'Digital Charter' which has core values about how we will operate and communicate in this digital age.
5. Reviewed the safeguarding information contained on the church website.
6. An internal audit of our safeguarding procedures was undertaken using the Diocese of London's template and submitted to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.
7. Reviewed the Diocese of London's Safeguarding Policy.
8. Reviewed the Church of England's Parish Safeguarding Handbook.
9. Re-adopted the Safeguarding Policy Statement (updated copies were displayed in the Church and Church House).
10. Re-appointed Mark Lynch and Louise Gregory as Parish Safeguarding Officers.
11. Re-appointed Sue Wright as Children's Champion.
12. Re-appointed Sheila Oliver as Vulnerable Adults Champion.
13. Re-appointed Karen Stirrup and Matthew Stone as DBS Evidence Checkers.
14. Re-appointed Matthew Stone as Lead Recruiter.

*Role Descriptions were reviewed for 10-14.*

15. Reviewed the Role Descriptions for: the Bereavement Visiting Team, Commissioned Children's Minister, Director of Music, Junior Choir, Junior Church and Little Fishers Parent & Toddler Group.
16. Obtained updated Declarations on Safeguarding and Volunteer Agreements were obtained for those working with Junior Church and Little Fishers.
17. Reviewed the Group Risk Assessments for Junior Church (incl. crossing Old Church Lane) and Little Fishers.
18. Updated the General and Fire Risk Assessments for the Church and Church House.
19. Updated the Health & Safety Policy.
20. Reviewed the hiring agreements for Church House to ensure that the groups that work with children who hire the premises on a regular basis have their own safeguarding policies in place. Copies of these policies, together with their insurance, are obtained from each group annually and filed in the Parish Office. These groups are also sent a copy of our Safeguarding Policy.

When people hire the premises on a one-off basis, such as a child's birthday party, they are also sent a copy of our Safeguarding Policy and sign a clause on the Booking Form to say they have received a copy and undertake to follow the guidelines within it. The Terms and Conditions of Hire reflect the importance of our safeguarding procedures being followed and key messages are given to the hirer when Church House is handed over to them.

There were some weeks when Church House was closed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. When Church House was allowed to reopen and the regular hirers returned (eg Kandu, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Karate and Taekwondo) Covid-19

risk assessments were obtained from each. We supplied a copy of our prevailing Covid-19 risk assessment prepared for Church House.

### Safer Recruitment

We do not permit anyone to work with our children and young people unless they have an up-to-date DBS check in place, and for all new applicants two written references are always obtained as part of the safer recruitment process. A self-declaration form is also completed.

Once a DBS check has been issued, applicants undertake the Diocese of London's online safeguarding training and the pass certificate is handed to Beverley McKeon. New applicants are then asked to sign a Declaration on Safeguarding and Volunteer Agreement. These documents are updated annually (see 16 above).

In conclusion, the PCC continues to demonstrate due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children (as is our duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016). Safeguarding should be viewed as a shared responsibility and is always most effectively undertaken when an entire community works together to keep the children, young people and any vulnerable adults safe.

If you have any questions about our safeguarding procedures or a concern, please contact Mark Lynch or Louise Gregory.

**Matthew Stone**

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### **7.15 Tea & Chat**

There were no meetings in 2021 until September when, with appropriate Covid-19 safety arrangements, we were able to start again. We met in Church House on Tuesdays between 2-4 pm, giving the flexibility for people to come and go as most convenient for them. 12- 14 ladies came regularly for a cup of tea and homemade cake and lively chat. We were pleased to welcome Gay & Jackie who kindly came to make the tea and added to the chat. The children from St John's School were not able to visit at Christmas this year but we look forward to seeing them in the future. In the meantime it was clear that being able to get out and join with other people for a while was much appreciated.

**Sylvia Daniels & Sheila Oliver**

## **8. Assistant Curate's Review**

Although 2021 was full of uncertainty with the continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been much for the church to celebrate over the last 12 months. It is impossible to include it all in such a short report, but I hope I can highlight some of the key moments throughout the year to show that the mission of the church can continue, and even flourish, through such difficult circumstances.

The online world has time and time again proved to be a resource that has enabled the church to bring communities together amid lockdowns to maintain the unity of the body of Christ. Our online services have continued throughout 2021 when the church has been open for public worship and when closed during the early months of the year. This online provision has not been restricted just to online worship but included the meeting of two courses for Advent and Lent on Zoom. It has been clear that the hosting on Zoom has allowed many more to attend where otherwise would not be possible. I have been overjoyed at the attendance and engagement in both groups and I hope they have enabled us to deepen our faith through the study of God's word.

One of the biggest joys of the year was to see four children admitted to communion before confirmation, and eight young people and adults confirmed by Bishop John Packer in late November. Having been involved in the preparation classes for both children and adults, it was a joy to see them taking communion for the first time or being confirmed. These services are always an important part in the life of any church. It reminds us of our own journey of faith and the importance of sharing our faith with others. It is an important indicator that the spirit of God shapes our worship and subsequently bears the fruit of faithfulness and joy.

2021 has brought the easing of restrictions which has seen the return of some dearly loved elements of our fellowship. Both Junior Church (which met on Zoom during lockdown) and Little Fishers have returned to meeting in person with great success along with Tea & Chat. I enjoyed attending this groups. With a new model of Junior Church (with an all-age service, a games afternoon and two monthly sessions offered each month), we have settled into a new and exciting rhythm for the children of the church. I reflect on how lucky we are to share this time of fellowship and I have no doubt it will continue to grow in the coming months and years.

As I reflect on 2021, I cannot help but be reminded that this is my final report as Assistant Curate here at St John's. While Jenna and I are excited for our future in Amersham and Coleshill, we are saddened to be leaving our loving church family here in Stanmore. St John's has been a community where we have felt at home and it will be incredibly difficult to leave after these last three years. The love and support we have received at St John's will stay close to our hearts and I know that being here has shaped my ministry as a priest for the better. We are delighted that Amersham is not too far away! We will continue to be praying for St John's and there is no doubt in my mind that are many more amazing things to come in the parish.

**The Revd Jonny Rapson**

## **9. Rector's Review**

Like 2020, 2021 will inevitably be remembered as another year in which Covid-19 has impacted our lives. The rollout of the vaccine has been significant as the country moved from full lockdown as the year began to tentatively learning to live with Covid as the year drew to a close. A greater number of our church members have now had the virus (myself included – testing positive on Christmas Eve), but fortunately for many the symptoms have been increasingly mild.

I am pleased and thankful that we were able to continue functioning well as a church in spite of the various Government restrictions. We reopened on 28<sup>th</sup> March, which was Palm Sunday. The provision of online services has continued unabated, thanks to a wonderful team working hard behind the scenes each week to record music, sing, prepare readings, prayers and sermons. All of it is then seamlessly woven together to provide an act of worship which is uploaded onto our website ready to watch from 8am every Sunday.

We reintroduced some singing in our services but felt it was sensible to continue to wear face coverings for the time being. The 8am service restarted in September and the monthly all-age service resumed in October on our Harvest Festival. Engage also resumed in October, and we had a very special return of the United Advent Service with the Stanmore Churches on Advent Sunday. Little Fishers Parent & Toddler Group, Home Communion, Junior Church, Tea & Chat, Café St Jean, the flower arrangers, home groups, and bell ringers started meeting again in person at different times in the year, and it has been wonderful to see and hear the common joy of being together once again. A huge thank you to all those who organise and coordinate these various activities which enrich our church life.

It has been a privilege and a joy to have weddings in church again in 2021, and a particular joy to celebrate the marriage of Tee and Mark Waterhouse in November. Tee has been part of our church family for some years. Later that same month we were also delighted to witness the confirmation of two adults and six young people, along with the admission to communion before confirmation of four children. Thanks to Bishop John Packer for conducting this special service and to Jenny Neve and Jonny Rapson for preparing the candidates.

In contrast it was devastating to conduct the funeral of Farah Lungay in September, remembering all she meant to us through her significant contributions to St Johns and her deep friendship with so many. We continue to pray for her family.

The church was re-opened to visitors for private prayer, beginning on Palm Sunday, and it has been important to offer that sacred space once more. The church provides a significant focal point for the community, especially in difficult times, and open church is one of the ways we meet this need, as well as by marking particular moments. In April, we joined with the rest of the country and Commonwealth in mourning the loss of HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, marking it with the Union Flag being flown at half-mast and the tolling bell being rung 99 times on the day of his funeral. In June we honoured those who died in the Grenfell fire, tolling the bell 72 times at 7pm. There was an exceptionally high turnout for the Act of Remembrance on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November, with many local people coming together for this solemn occasion.

I continued in my role as Chair of Governors to St John's Church of England School and remain thankful for the sterling work they do for the children. In another extraordinary year of providing blended learning between in class and online, the school staff have exceeded all

reasonable expectations in demonstrating their dedication not only to the education but also the wellbeing of the children in their care, which includes the families. One of my contributions is to try and support the wellbeing of the staff in their turn, and provide them with pastoral support when required. Collective Worship (assemblies) have not yet fully resumed so Jonny and I continue to provide a regular online contribution which is used in the separate classrooms.

It has been significant to welcome back the Year 4s from Aylward Primary School and Stanburn Primary School on visits relating to their RE syllabus. We discuss aspects of church life including patterns of worship, the role of a priest, and the history of our building. Bentley Wood High School also brought 240 Year 11 GCSE students for the third year running. These visits are always well received and Jonny and I have great pleasure in hosting and teaching the students.

Within the community, as Padre to the Stanmore Air Cadets, I visit the squadron regularly and this year have spent time talking to the cadets about issues relating to mental health and their wellbeing. One of my duties is to enrol new cadets, and it has been pleasing to watch the squadron flourish. I also continue to be Chair of Trustees for the Bernays Memorial Institute, which has survived the pandemic unscathed and is once more a busy and thriving centre of community activities in the middle of Stanmore.

Looking back at the year, I am struck by the common thread of the significance of being together when we can, as people of faith. The part we play in the life and wellbeing of the community flows directly from the life we build in faithful worship and prayer. Each of us plays a part in this, those praying in their pew as much as those leading part of a service at the front.

It seems apposite to close this report by praising God for all that we have shared across 2021. Philippians 4:8 says "...brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.

Thank you for all you are and do for the kingdom.

**The Revd Matthew Stone**



