

St Mary's Medieval Church, Thorpe



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of
Guildford



TRANSFORMING CHURCH
TRANSFORMING LIVES

VESTRY MEETING *and reports for the*

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 20th September 2020 11:30am

(Postponed from Sunday 26 April)

including the

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. MARY, THORPE

Charity No: 1176929

for the year ending 31 December 2019

Vicar: The Revd Damian Stewart Miles, BTh
St Mary's Vicarage, Church Approach,
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St Mary's Thorpe VESTRY MEETING and reports for the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

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What is the Annual Parish Meeting (APCM) all about? A brief introduction

The APCM is an important meeting for the whole church, an opportunity to elect the people our congregation want to represent them on their Parochial Church Council (PCC). It is an opportunity to ask questions about the finances of the church, the state of the buildings, or about any matter of concern to the life of the parish. The PCC takes account of views expressed at the APCM, and matters are taken forward into the subsequent PCC for discussion. Thorpe PCC meets six times a year to conduct the business of the church. Please read these reports thoroughly and come to the meeting with questions, as we share together as the family of faith in our life together, in sacramental worship and fellowship – Transforming, Church, Transforming Lives. We do this in a Christian spirit of mutual respect and love, friends, and pilgrims. We come prepared to look forward, as well as reflect upon the past year. May the Lord of all guide our thoughts, words, and actions to his Glory; the building up of the Kingdom in Thorpe.



Agenda for the Vestry Meeting (Meeting of Parishioners) via Zoom

Sunday 20th September 2020, 11:30am (*following the ONLINE Eucharist*)

1. The opening of proceedings with Prayers
 2. Apologies for absence
 3. Minutes of 14 April 2019 and any matters arising
 4. Election of Churchwardens
 5. Nomination for approval of four Deputy Wardens (honorary supportive role)
- End of Vestry Meeting

(At this point those not named on the Church Electoral Roll cannot vote if they remain.)

Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) via Zoom

Sunday 20th September 2020, 11:30am (*immediately following the Vestry Meeting*)

Apologies for absence

Minutes of the previous APCM held in Church on 14 April 2019, 11:30am.

Matters arising

1. Elections & Appointments

- Annual election of PCC Members
- Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
- Approval of Sides-persons (to assist Wardens with service duties)
- Appointment of Sides-person to assist the Treasurer with banking
- Confirmation of appointment of the Electoral Roll Officer
- *Note that the PCC Secretary, Treasurer and Vice Chair of the PCC will be formally agreed at the next Parochial Church Council meeting (to be held on Monday 21st September 2020, 7:30pm) as they are Officers of the PCC.*
- Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2020/21 Financial Accounts (Mr Alan Alderson)

2. Reports – see written reports – questions may be asked of each

- (i) Report on Electoral Roll
- (ii) PCC Secretary's Report on the proceedings of PCC
- (iii) Parish reports – *printed & distributed*
Summary of reports from the Chair
- (iv) Church Wardens' Report including Fabric/Terrier
- (v) Accounts – Financial Report 2019
Acceptance of Financial Report 2019
- (vi) Note on the Deanery Synod Report – *printed & distributed*

3. Any other business – to be notified at least 24 hours in advance

- (i) Questions & Answers Session – *questions please at least 24 hours in advance* stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com
- (ii) Announcements

The meeting concludes in prayer and with the Grace.

**Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)
of St Mary's Church Thorpe, Sunday 14th April 2019, 11:30am**

Present: Fr. D. Miles – Chair (DM)

D. Russell, C. Cobbold, R. Nicholson, S. Bruce, M. Herne, K. Stangroom, B. Syradd, A. Falconer, J. Grove, A. Grove, P. Whitlock, V. McGranaghan, J. Collinson, P. Hudson, J. Mitchiner, D. Radburn-Smith, J. Pike, L. Pike, J. West, Jane Lowe, P. Gruncell, J. Gruncell, K. Wade, I. Rigazzi-Tarling, C. Chambers, C. Chambers, E. Gill, M. Morris, B. Lowe, T. Leighton, A. Leighton, J. deVillie, H. Cunningham, J. Richardson, N. Wase-Rogers, S. Thornton, J. Carter, M. Harnden, J. Taylor, C. Wareham-Davis, J. Bright, L. Knapp, R. Castledine, Sam Thornton, A. Christie, D. Kidd, A. West, A. Kelly

Absent: All electoral roll members not listed as Present or having submitted apologies

Meeting commenced: 11.33 am

1. Father Damian opened the meeting with prayers.

2. Apologies for Absence:

K. Carthew, J. Carthew, N. Bothwell, D. Cotty, S. Cotty, J. Whittle, J. Bradley, Jim Lowe, S. Tickner.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes for the APCM Meeting held 25th March 2018 were accepted and no matters were arising.

4. Re-election of Wardens

Margaret Roberts and Barry Huxley confirmed their agreement to stand as Church Wardens for a further year.

Unanimously re-elected

5. Nominations for approval Deputy Wardens

There were eight Deputy Warden nominations, from:

Margaret Harnden, Susi Thornton, Helen Cunningham, Derek Cotty, Pete Gruncell, Bev Syradd, Jill Collinson, and Deborah Kidd.

All eight candidates were unanimously accepted.

7. Any Other Business

None

The meeting therefore continued with the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Mary's Church, Thorpe. A vote was taken and passed unanimously to allow any non-members of St Mary's Electoral church Roll to remain (without voting rights).

The attendance at both meetings was therefore the same.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Mary's Church, Thorpe Sunday 14th April 2019, 11:45am

Minutes from the APCM held 25th March 2018 were accepted with no amendments.

1. Elections and Appointments

Having moved to annual re-election of PCC each year 9 PCC members had submitted written nominations:

Andy West, Bev Syrradd, Jane Lowe, Bryan Lowe, Allison Kelly, Margaret Harnden, Peter Gruncell, Andrew Falconer, Jenny Bright
All 9 nominations were unanimously confirmed.

- Approval of Sides-persons

The following persons had put their names forward for appointment as sides persons:

J. Brittain, B. Grove, T. Grove, J. Whitfield, P. Whitlock, A. Falconer, J. Lowe, Jim Lowe, E. Gill, S. Thornton, Sam Thornton, K. Stangroom, C. Cobbold, A. Christie, J. Gruncell.

All persons were unanimously confirmed.

- Appointment of Sides Person to Assist the Treasurer with banking

John Brittain was unanimously confirmed.

- Confirmation of appointment of the Electoral Roll Officer

Sarah Tickner was unanimously confirmed.

- Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2019/20 Financial Accounts

Alan Alderson was unanimously confirmed.

2. Reports

(i) Electoral Roll

The electoral roll will have 103 members after the May PCC meeting.

There were no questions raised.

(ii) PCC Secretary's Report

There were no questions raised.

(iii) Parish Reports

There were no questions raised.

(iv) Church Wardens Report

There were no questions raised.

(v) Accounts – Financial Report 2017

Andy West proposed acceptance of the Financial Report.

The accounts were unanimously accepted.

Margaret Harnden proposed thanks to Andy West for his time and diligence in his role as Treasurer.

(vi) Deanery Synod Report

The annual report had been published in the booklet. Fr Damian pointed out Deborah Kidd and Clare Cobbold and asked if further information was required on the Deanery Synod, they should be put to the two ladies after the meeting. There were no questions raised.

3. Any Other Business

(i) No questions had been submitted before meeting.

Fr Damian outlined the importance of faith, which is at the heart of what it is to be a Christian. The PCC awayday in November put the 20:20 vision plan under scrutiny and concluded that faith was the most important item and what this meant. This has now led to several items being brought to the fore for contemplation, discussion, and action:

- To grow the Church further and work with families.
- To pray about faith and what this means to us.
- To revamp the Church Development Plan.
- How to prioritise the growing church and faith in Thorpe.

(ii) A question was raised regarding the organ upkeep and maintenance.

Fr Damian explained that the last quote for cleaning and repair of the current organ stood at £65,000. Any work undertaken to the organ would also require replacement of the blower unit which contains asbestos. The organ is inspected and tuned twice annually and there is a heater kept running to keep warm. A large sum of money would be required to keep it working in its current format. The new piano has been purchased and has organ settings and will be used if the organ fails. It was asked if there were any funds available for the organ, to which the response was negative. It was asked if there was a legacy, could these funds this be kept separately for the organ. It was further advised that the money could be used to reconfigure or replace but not upkeep in its current format. Fr Damian advised that the church needed to consider all the options available. David Howard has commenced looking at ways to make the organ serviceable, which would not be necessarily where currently sited. Lionel Pike concurred that there is no joy in playing the organ currently and St. Mary's could do better. Fr Damian confirmed that with such a huge projected cost involved, the organ would go into the next development plan.

The priority currently is growing the church. The second priority are donations to the Works Fund, to finance currently planned maintenance jobs, which may involve additional fund-raising activities for the coming year. Andy West confirmed that the deposit account is for all maintenance issues and we currently only hold £2,000. It would be useful to add to this for specific projects and fabric repairs.

(iii) It was observed that Café Church attendance appears to be improving and were there any more ideas like this to draw people in? Several verbal suggestions were made:

a) Banners could be displayed giving set days for church tours in the Summer months.

- b) Historic talks during the week, with a social evening, including photographs.
- c) Story telling evening
- d) Film nights
- e) Business networking – evening event

Fr Damian advised that TASIS School would like to use St Mary's Church more frequently for concerts etc and a local orchestra had shown interest in using the building. There was a general discussion regarding the use of social media as our current Facebook page received approximately 1,000 hits per month. It was felt that Facebook appeals to an older age group with Instagram being the choice of the younger generation.

On Saturday 22nd June 2019 will be St. Mary's Summer Fair at which The Art Society are to launch the children's heritage trail around the church. This is an opportunity for everyone to invite family and friends and coincides with the national invitation to church weekend. The Summer Fair is an opportunity not to be missed.

Meeting concluded at 1.21 p.m.

RECEPTION OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL IN ADVANCE OF THE APCM 2020

The revision of the Electoral Roll has taken place. Notices were posted on **Sunday 15th March** for 21 days, but lockdown prevented the PCC from meeting at that time and the revision was abandoned. Notices were re- posted on **Sunday 2nd August until 5th September**. The Roll will be presented to the PCC which will meet via Zoom on Monday 7th September at 7:30pm and the revised Roll displayed for 14 days at Church, as prepared and approved.

Under the Church Representation Rules any persons are entitled to have their names entered on the roll if they—

- (i) are baptised and aged 16 or over.
- (ii) have signed a form of application for enrolment.
and either
- (iii) are members of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the Church of England being resident in the parish or (not being resident in the parish) having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to the application for enrolment;
or:
- (iv) are members in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity declaring themselves also to be members of the Church of England and having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

Sarah Bolton, Electoral Roll Officer

Vicar's report on 2019

I would like to start with a very big thank you for your support and prayers for my first eighth with you at St Mary's Church – and what a busy time we have had! We have seen so many positive events and occasions. One highlight was the annual Memorial Service, with so many families and individuals returning to St Mary's on the feast of Christ the King to honour and remember loved ones who have died in the preceding year. Another highlight was Easter Sunday and the crowd of children hunting around the Churchyard for hidden chocolate eggs, the climax of a week of inspiring worship during Holy Week 2019. It has been a year of mixed emotions. On the one hand we welcomed Mother Jo Winn-Smith and her lovely family. Jo was ordained Deacon at Petertide and is serving as an assistant curate at St Mary's for four years and I am so thankful to have her among. She brings so many gifts to ministry – such a blessing. But we have also lost from regular worship several familiar faces, who have moved away or into supported living, outside of Thorpe Village.

2019 was marked with wonderful social events and services, meals, a dance, quiz night, Summer Fair, Memorial Service, Winter Wonderland, and of course the Christmas festive period with attendances during Advent beyond expectations. The St Mary's Team were on top form to welcome, include and love everyone who joined in. As Christians with a wonderful heritage and vibrant catholic Anglican tradition of liturgy, I believe that we offer the absolute best of who we are in worship before God, and what a joy that is. There is so much for us to reflect upon and give thanks for at this annual meeting and so much to build upon moving forwards, as we work in teams. Thank you for the part that you have played. And especially thank you to Margaret Roberts and Barry Huxley for all they have done and been among us over the past period as our wardens.

All the above and much more has been made possible because people have given their time and finances to support our Church here in Thorpe. But the truth is that on several occasions a few have carried far too much of the responsibility and we cannot allow that to continue. So, as we look back and give thanks to Almighty God for the past year and many rich blessings, so we must also look forward to working together in teams to support the on-going and new life in our wonderful church. We have many challenges to face in 2020+ as we look to review our mission action plan, to develop a new strategy building on the successes of the past few years and learning from the challenges too. We can achieve anything if we start in prayer and work together in teams, pooling our various gifts, talents, and resources for the build-up of God's Kingdom. Here are just some of our Church priorities:

- ❖ The need to 'share out the tasks' during 2020 and mentor others so that no single individual is responsible for any day to day task on their own (this also helps with succession planning).
- ❖ The appointment of a new Churchwarden to replace Margaret (now at the end of her 6-year term of office).

- ❖ Appointment of a Family & Children's worker to oversee the running of children's groups.
- ❖ Review and renewal of Family Worship at 11.30am fortnightly, to include some Eucharistic services and the question of service times.
- ❖ The on-going project to improve the sound system and visual resources in Church including some projection screens / digital displays.
- ❖ The challenge of increasing our income and meeting our parish share increase year on year: £54,395 for 2020.
- ❖ The need to invest in our Pipe Organ or investigate alternatives.
- ❖ Our plans to improve the paving from the Church Tower to St Mary's gate/TASIS South campus Car Park, as well as create a new patio area beside the Rutherwyke Room/Link/Wallace Room.

We can add to this list the need for continued support for Thorpe Primary School, rated Good with outstanding features by OFSTED in their 2019 report. A real achievement was the building of the new Rainbow Room at School providing much needed break-out and classroom space. As a Church with the responsibility of a Village Parish and a Church Primary School we all need to work hard to keep relationships flourishing, strong and intentional. This includes our growing friendship with TASIS whose Advent Carol Service was so brilliant. And no doubt there will be more too. Clearly, we will need to set priorities moving forward as we are helped by our Diocese of Guildford to set our new Church Development Plan, 2020+ as we continue to move forward together in faith and love.

Of course, all of this takes place within a wider economic context which is challenging in many ways, with BREXIT completed at the end of 2020 and the Covid-19 pandemic causing so much uncertainty and fear. Considering new and unforeseen circumstances, we must draw together different ideas and visions for the future of our country, local community, and Church. Here in Thorpe 2019 was remarkably busy for Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum, of which St Mary's leadership have taken part. The draft neighbourhood plan for this Village has been approved, following consultation in the run up to Christmas, and will now go before Thorpe residents in a referendum later this Spring. Central to this vision for Thorpe is the lifeblood of the community; the places people gather, to work, socialise, learn, pray, and laugh. We need to look after and enhance such community assets and ensure they are accessible to all, not least by providing a community run car park.

Celebrate success! Well where do I start, as 2019 was brilliant in so many ways. Probably two obvious but none the less important achievements. The first is that we paid our first parish share increase in full and were able to send the increase for 2020 to our Diocese in early January, meaning we are on budget for this new year. However, we cannot be complacent. This achievement was partly due to increase in planned giving, which will need to continue for us to meet future share increase. But also, such success is in no small part to the team that organise such engaging social and fundraising events, raffles, and activities for which we should all be thankful.

Secondly, we can celebrate our Sunday attendance figures which this autumn hit an average of 101 people, through St Mary's – a high! Of course, commitment is important for all of us. If every family on our electoral roll was to attend worship at least three times monthly this figure would be far higher and one day that may be possible. Let us pray that with the Lord's blessing and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will together face the challenges to come and see our church family continue to grow numerically and in confidence as we celebrate our faith and proclaim the Gospel in Thorpe and beyond. Thank you to all who have contributed towards this excellent report and thank you for all that you do in various and wonderful ways to support our Church. It is a privilege and a joy for me to be among you as one who serves.

Father Damian Miles, your Vicar.

Electoral Roll Report – January-December 2019

The Electoral Roll for St Mary's Thorpe at the end of December 2019 was 107, and of this figure there are 18 households where there are 2 members.

The figure at the beginning of January 2019 was 142 so there has been a decrease this year. However, it should be noted that there was a complete revision of the Electoral Roll in April 2019 so it is expected that numbers would drop at this time. The Electoral Roll is a true reflection of our worshipping community at St Mary's and I pray numbers may increase a little during 2020.

Electoral Roll Officer, Sarah Bolton

PCC Secretary's Report 2019 on the work of the Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council met five times during 2019 (plus the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 14th April). The sixth meeting of the year scheduled for November 2019 was unfortunately cancelled due to high level of apologies and was replaced with an Extraordinary PCC Meeting on 24th November in order to agree cancellation of Thursday night communion until January and Church Fees for the coming year. Normal meetings were preceded by the Eucharist at 7pm. The meetings started just after 7:30pm and it was aimed to conclude each meeting by 9:15pm.

The PCC have continued to execute the business of running St Mary's with enthusiasm and interest. Members of the PCC bring their own unique experiences and understanding. They have approved costs for a list of outstanding maintenance works and improvements including full electrical testing throughout the buildings, roof works, purchase of an electric piano, repairs to the communion table and approval of ground work to the Leigh Bennett Enclosure, which is now a gravelled area with sited bench, in remembrance of Eric and Rose Freeman. Tress have been maintained, the churchyard tidied, and a contract issued for repairs to the Church entrance brick footpath. Still in discussion are a new patio project (between the Church, link and Wallace Room), surface safety improvements to the footpath from St Mary's Gate / TASIS Car Park up to the Tower (with addition of handrail), possible screen/projection audio and visual enhancements to the

Church, Pipe Organ works/Tower space enhancements and possible extension to the Rutherwyke Room (above kitchen, cupboards/store and central space).

In September the PCC hosted Brian Nixon, Head teacher from TASIS, who gave a presentation on the proposed new dormitory building within the school grounds. Following a lively question and answer session, no objections were raised. It is anticipated these works will commence in March 2020.

PCC Secretary, Allison Kelly

Church Wardens' Annual Report, including St Mary's Church, Thorpe Terrier and Fabric, 2019

Another amazing year for St Mary's due to the huge amount of support we have from all of you. Our attendance at services is good and still rising, with significant increase at the Family Service. There is a downside to being the custodians of such an ancient but so beautiful a church in that the cost of maintaining it is high, but we can delight in knowing that the Parish Share is now paid for this year and we no longer have the burden of the stonework hanging over us. No complacency though there is still much to be done and thanks must be due to the Service Team and volunteers from the congregation who give so much of their time and skills to keep the place running. We have formed a Fabric Team (I am advised the term committee is not popular) which meets regularly and identify things needing attention and as much as can be fixed in house is done by them. Here I mention Peter Gruncell who fixed the Lych gate as well as other things, we owe him a great deal thank you Pete. Music at St Mary's goes from strength to strength thanks to David, Lionel, our choir, and Jill Collinson who does sterling work arranging practises and files giving substance to the service. How lucky we are to be so enriched. The social team who do such sterling work organising events and catering the flower guild, heartfelt thanks to you all. Deputy Wardens where would we be without you, such a splendid team; many many thanks. Where would we be however without Father Damian, Father Gerard, Mother Jo, and Andrew along with the rest of the liturgy Team. Thank you for being who you are, what you are and what you do.

Terrier Report 2019

During this year plans have been drawn up and a Faculty/permission will be sought from the Archdeacon of Dorking to improve and make safe footpaths and the area outside the Rutherwyke room. A drains survey has already been carried out prior to the work beginning. There were necessary repairs to the communion table which had suffered damage. Electrical problems were also identified and sorted.

Lots of work tidying and levelling the Leigh Bennett enclosure, some by people employed but most by our own wonderful volunteers. Again, volunteers pulled out all the stops for two churchyard clean up days another due shortly we were helped then by TASIS staff and pupils including the headmaster. Very many thanks to TASIS for all the help, use of car park on Sunday mornings, security person on duty and the many other ways you offer help and support.

Barry Huxley and Margaret Roberts

Financial Report 2019

(including the PCC Treasurer's report)

PCC accounts can be found at page 30-33.

Receipts

Regular Giving

Planned giving (standing orders and green envelopes) increased by 34% (£8,819), non-GA income from collections increased by 100% (£3,587) but income from GA collections and other giving fell by -27% (-£3,781) which is a result of green envelope giving being recorded within planned giving this year. Overall income from planned, gift aid and non-gift aid giving rose by 19.7% (£8,625) year on-year which is a positive out-turn.

Other Voluntary Receipts

Other Voluntary Income declined overall by 77% (£3,568) compared to 2018 due largely to a fall in revenue received from non-specific and *In Memoriam* Donations of £3,143. The Stewardship Committee will be prioritising legacy giving in the forthcoming year.

Fund-generating Activities

This year funding-raising activities brought in £13,192 and the hard work of the Social Committee and the many who helped and supported our events is acknowledged. Although 2019 saw a marked decrease (42% or £13,055) in income generated from fund-raising activities compared to 2018 this was because 2018 income was boosted by the Tower appeal. Income from the hire of the Church facilities brought in a total of £4,936 in year which, although down by £2,337, is on a level with 2018 when payments due to timing differences are considered.

Receipts from Church Activities

On paper, overall receipts from church activities were £16,604, an apparent drop of £2,768 compared to 2018. However, in 2018 the church transferred sundry income of £2,000 and £750 in July and September respectively to the TWRA War Memorial Fund on behalf of Surrey County Council and a donor. In real terms the year-on-year difference in income is actually 0.1% (-£19).

Receipts from Investments & Other Income

The PCC holds 822 shares with the CBF Church of England Investment Fund. On 31st Dec 2019, the individual share value was 1912.6 pence giving this investment a value of £15,721. Dividends received in 2019 were £458 compared to £447 in 2018 (+2.5%).

Other Income (£23,001) consisted of account transfers from the Works deposit account (£4,183) and the Education account (£4,011) to fund expenditure on PCC-approved works and resources. Tax refunds totalling £14,807 were received in January (£4,409 VAT) and September (£10,398 gift aid).

Total receipts for 2019 were £111,573 gross or £103,379 net if income from account transfers (deposit accounts) are taken into consideration.

Payments

Church Activities

Expenditure on Church activities fell by 3.5% (-£2,075) year on year overall. The Parish Share quota for 2019 was £50,121 which was paid in full, in year. All other cost centres (parish costs, organists, and service costs) saw a reduction in costs compared to 2018.

Facilities maintenance & Church running costs

Maintenance costs fell by 82% (£7,669) compared to the previous year due to the zero outlay on the Tower, architect's fees, Quinquennial inspection, and other remedial and maintenance costs as stated in last year's report. Maintenance costs include cleaning, fire and security protection, statutory electrical testing and remedial work, tree and enclosure work and refurbishing the nave altar. Church running expenses (insurance, gas, electricity, water) fell year on year by 3.6%.

Administration & Other Costs

Administration costs supporting the ministry of the Church were £5,081 compared to £5,791 in 2018, a drop of 12% year on year. Administrative services also saw an overall year on year reduction in expenditure. Parish fees to the diocese represents only 3 of the 4 Quarter years' fees due in 2019 as the 4th quarter was paid in January 2020. At least half of the expenditure on events & fund-raising constituted the initial outlay on Walsingham and Red Lion meals which was offset by the resulting income (Receipts). Sundry payments (£3,665) was the cost of a projector and its installation for the school, as agreed by the PCC.

Fund Transfers

This amount (£14,044) relates to funds transferred to the Works Account from donations identified for works projects. This was recorded as income when received (included *Receipts from Fund-generating Activities & Donations*) and as expenditure upon transfer to the Works Account (Deposit). This should be taken into consideration for any comparison of Total Income versus Total Expenditure.

Andy West, Treasurer

Safeguarding Officer's Report 2019

We continue to receive instructions from the NCIs (National Churches Institutions) about changes to the safeguarding training required in parishes. At the end of the 2019 it was decided that certain courses would be mandatory for all PCC members. We are waiting for clarification on the required courses.

In November 2019 we were allocated a set of application numbers to enable us to apply for DBS checks online. This will make applying or renewing (every 5 years) DBS checks much simpler. If you do not have online facilities, I can help you by accessing through my IT system.

A reminder to all of us of the need for vigilance, and if you have any concerns on what you think might be a safeguarding issue - within the church or in the community - do contact Fr Damian or me in the strictest confidence. Contact details are displayed on the church noticeboard in the link to the Rutherford Room.

Safeguarding Officer, Mary Morris

Runnymede Deanery Synod Report 2019

Deanery Events

Synod meetings in 2019 were held at St John's Egham (Spring), St Mary's Thorpe (Summer) and Holy Trinity Lyne & Longcross (Autumn), as usual presenting "Parish Focus" reports about the church life and community involvement of the hosting parish, with prayer requests/updates.

February Synod revolved around the theme of "Sticking plaster or transforming lives – what can every Christian contribute to fighting poverty?" with helpful presentations from Runnymede Foodbank and the Christians Against Poverty Debt Centres in Addlestone and Egham. Fruitful sharing and discussions during the networking break resulted in increased connections between our churches and the represented charities.

In June, we welcomed Revd David Welch (Diocesan Youth Advisor) for an enthusiastic presentation and lively discussion on "Being Good News to Young People", and this was followed up at October Synod with a series of short, topical highlights on "Youth Engagement Now and Then" in each of the deanery parishes, refreshingly presented mostly by Deanery Representatives. All three meetings were open to the public and detailed Minutes are available via the Deanery Administrator runnymededeanery@gmail.com.

On 15 October, Bishop Jo visited the deanery for a Prayer Evening at Holy Trinity Lyne & Longcross as an informal event to pray for the Diocese, Deanery and "Transforming Church Transforming Lives" Vision.

Deanery Growth and Strategy Group

The workgroup met three times in 2019, developing a Deanery Mission Action Plan as requested by the Diocese and organising a diocesan-funded "Growing Leaders Lite" course for the deanery churches. The Action Plan document is also available via the Deanery Administrator.

Runnymede Deanery Growth Fund in its first season granted £500 to "Loaves & Fishes" (Summer Lunches project at St Paul's, Addlestone), £190 to Christ

Church, Ottershaw for an upgrade of their in-service presentation software and £100 to St John's Egham as a contribution to their "Kingdom Quest" Holiday Club. Grateful and encouraging success reports on all three projects were heard at Autumn Synod. In a second round of grant allocations after the summer holidays, £150 each were given to St Paul's, Egham Hythe for an upgrade of large toddler group equipment and to All Saints', New Haw for Christian diaries to give away at their local Village Christmas Fair; feedback reports expected at 2020 March Synod.

Kebbi Link

The 2019 General Election in Nigeria brought increased violence and prayer requests from Kebbi who value our support very much.

Archbishop Henry Chukwudum Ndukuba, bishop of Gombe, was elected next primate of the Anglican Church in Nigeria, to be enthroned in March 2020.

Pictures of the colourful 2019 Diocesan Synod in Birnin, Kebbi can be found on the deanery website www.runnymededeanery.org.uk.

Finance

No outward donations were made in 2019; the earmarked funds of £500 were added to the Deanery Growth Fund. Runnymede Deanery accounts continue to be sound and Parish Contributions were confirmed to remain at the same level as in recent years (individual parish amounts are determined by three-year rolling average of Sunday attendance, combined with Relative Prosperity Index), supplemented by additional donations of 30% of the Parish Contributions, given to the Deanery Growth Fund.

Other Business

2019 saw the Election of Deanery Representatives to the Diocesan Board of Education, with our new representative being Lay Chair Keith Malcouronne.

o 2020 Open Synod dates were set as 3 Mar (New Haw), 18 Jun (Ottershaw) and 7 Oct (Addlestone).

*Claire Cobbold & Deborah Kidd
St Mary's Representatives on Runnymede Deanery Synod*



**Runnymede
Deanery**
(Diocese of Guildford)

OTHER REPORTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Faith Confirmed 2019

It was a joy to share the lead with Father Gerard, Mother Jo and Andrew Falconer for the Faith Confirmed course during autumn 2019. We had an average of 8 adults and one child taking part, leading to confirmation of several candidates at St John's Church Egham on the evening of Sunday 3rd November. We hope two more adults may be confirmed in 2020. Faith Confirmed explores various themes of Christian teaching, doctrine and experience from understanding God and creation to Jesus life, death and resurrection, the creeds, the Eucharist and 7 sacraments of the Church, St Mary's catholic-Anglican tradition, matters of financial stewardship and commitment to worship and fellowship, faith and life after death. We hope to run the course again in autumn this year and possibly an Emmaus Course.

Fr Damian Miles

Preparation for Communion before Confirmation 2019

Mother Jo and I had the pleasure of preparing three children for communion before confirmation during autumn 2019. We met on a Monday at lunchtime in the head teachers' office at Thorpe Primary School, over five sessions. The children studied the theological meaning of the Sunday Eucharist and our tradition belief that Jesus meets us and is present in the consecrated bread and wine - the Holy Sacrament of the Altar. They received communion for the first time just before Christmas on Sunday 15th December 2019. We plan on running this course again during autumn this year.

Fr Damian Miles

Café Stop Report 2019

During 2019, Cafe Stop took place every Saturday morning from 10-12noon, followed by prayers. However, due to the difficulty in recruiting two volunteers to be present every Saturday and due to the low attendance levels, it was decided to finish the trial. We are thankful for all who helped in any way over the year. Open Church is now the new initiative, with the church open on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 1.00-4.00pm, preceded by a Eucharist at 12noon. Hopefully, there will be a better response from both attendees and volunteers.

Deborah Kidd

Charities Engagement Report 2019

In 2019 we held five charity lunches:

January - Christians Against Poverty (local Debt Centres), raising £130.

February – RSPCA, raising £213. This was the chosen charity of Dr Dutta who provided a very well attended and interesting talk on pain relief.

May – Your Sanctuary, Woking (our local Safe House charity for women in violent relationships), raising £105.

July – Baby Basics, Sunbury (our local branch of this charity providing Moses baskets filled with baby products for new mothers in need), raising £141.
September – Loaves & Fishes (local Summer Lunches project run by St Paul's Church Addlestone), raising £137.80.

The November lunch, booked with The British Legion, was cancelled at short notice due to the speaker being unwell. Roughly £100 was raised for St Mary's instead.

St Mary's also continued to collect goods for Runnymede Foodbank as per their monthly request updates and supported White Lodge Chertsey and Runnymede Foodbank through the Harvest food collection. The Christingle Service plate went once again to The Children's Society who has also requested prayer support. Their thoughtful prayer emails are available monthly (contact Susi Thornton). A colourful portfolio with information on all the charities we have supported since 2017, created and curated by Jill Collinson, is available in the Link.

Petra Hudson

Noah's Ark – is a carer/parent and baby/toddler and pre-schoolchild group which meets Thursday morning 9.30.-11.30 am weekly during term time in the Rutherwyke Room. The group continues to thrive and is attended by an average of 16-19 children but has been known to occasionally welcome 23 children to a session. We welcome the donation of good quality toys from the parents/carers and provide refreshments, lovingly made and served by Joy Mitchener. We give thanks also to Janet Taylor for her assistance in the kitchen and Lisa Overin and Michelle Basheer for their support to me throughout the year. The children play, outdoors when possible, enjoy a craft activity and the morning ends with a singing session. It is a friendly, supportive group where adults are introduced to the church weekly newsletter and the children's services as well as the church's festivals and social events which take place throughout the year.

During 2019 we celebrated with an Easter egg hunt in the church; a summer 'indoor' picnic (due to a downpour of rain); decorated the Christmas tree in church and held a Christmas party with Father Christmas' visit as a highlight. Many of the older or past Noah's Ark children took part in the Christmas Eve nativity plays and Noah's Ark has become an introduction to the church/children's involvement at Thorpe School. Parents/ carers also supported the church by helping with a children's activity corner and stall at the summer fayre and another at Winter Wonderland early in December. I give many thanks to Lisa Overin for her ideas and her support of these latter events as well as running a Children's Disco in the Rutherwyke room on Friday 6th December for an after-school event attended by 25+ children.

Sunday Club- renamed Faith and Fun, has run on 2nd and 4th Sunday morning during the 10am service (during term time) throughout the year with the support of

co-ordinator and leader Margaret Alderson, ably assisted by Lisa Overin and 5 parent helpers . It is for children aged 4-11 years but younger children with their parent are welcome to join us in The Rutherwyke Room. It continues to be a valued addition to the church family. We follow the theme of the main service where appropriate with a bible story /theme explored, play fun games, and always have a craft activity. We finish with a prayer and a return to the main service after 40 minutes.

‘Faith and Fun ‘after school club, 3-4pm on Monday during term time at Thorpe School – It is organised and co-ordinated by Margaret Alderson and supported by PCC members Jane Lowe and Bev Syrradd and a volunteer school teaching assistant Ms Michelle Tobias who all take turns in planning and leading a specific weekly session. Catherine Wareham Davis has regularly supported the group when a leader was unable to be there. We are pleased to report that the new group of 15 children has been a huge success with parents and younger children aged 5-7. ‘Faith and Fun’ follows the church calendar and feeds into the 10am service Gospel readings when the theme is appropriate.

It is a structured activity session with an introductory snack/ drink and welcome song; a much loved glove puppet called Jack; fun games; a Bible story which is explored for meaning and a craft activity which reinforces the message and is proudly taken home. We end with an appropriate prayer and goodbye song. There is provision within the Educational budget, I am told, to resource the craft materials but supportive help and more leaders would be welcomed for this venture to continue to thrive.

Margaret Alderson

Church Cleaning Group Report 2019

Church cleaning is carried out on the third Saturday of the month starting at 8.00am.

A general dusting of all surfaces, tidying of books, polishing of woodwork, and vacuuming takes place, with floor washing carried out every three months, depending on availability of helpers.

There are now four regular volunteers.

John Brittain organises the cleaning of brasses and Terry Leighton oversees window cleaning.

Help is requested from the congregation for extra helpers before events such as Christmas and Easter or as needed.

Deborah Kidd

Contemplative Prayer Group Report 2019

This gentle life-giving meeting for prayer and contemplation takes place once a month, often on a Monday afternoon including prayer and meditation, which is followed by intercessions for people and situations in need, to which we all contribute. We would welcome more participants. If you feel drawn to explore contemplative prayer with us please ask Susi Thornton, Margaret Harnden or Jane

Carter for details. In John's Gospel Chapter 1: verses 38 & 39, Jesus said to the enquiring disciples 'come and see'. We extend a similar invitation to you. After prayer we usually have tea, biscuits, and conversation!
For further information contact Jane Carter on 01344 843033 or Susi Thornton on susi@thorntonclan.com or 01784 433480.

Craft Club Report 2019

Craft's Club has not been meeting in 2019 but individual members continued to supply needlecraft goodies for sale towards St Mary's Funds. These were sold at the Summer Fayre in conjunction with the accessories stall, at Winter Wonderland in conjunction with the accessories and Christmas stalls, and also on the Operation Christmas Child shoebox station and all year round on the small crafts cabinet in the Rutherwyke Room where cards and bookmarks continued to be especially popular.

Petra Hudson

Flower Guild Report 2019

As reported last year, the Flower Guild now has 6 members – Margaret A, Jane L, Helen C, Elaine G, Sarah B, and me. We take fortnightly turns to decorate our beautiful church, the main display always being the altar pedestal arrangement, with other areas being decorated for major festivals and occasionally weddings and funeral/remembrance services. This year the Christmas decorations seemed particularly well received – my sincere thanks to all who contributed. If you would like to join our very friendly team do contact me or any PCC member. You do not have to have any flower arranging/floristry knowledge – just a love of flowers and the church. We are all amateurs but very willing to share with you the knowledge we have gained along the way.

Margaret Harnden

Liturgy Group Report 2019

During one of our recent meetings, Fr Damian spoke of how worship is not about putting on a show but rather taking people on journey; offering the best of who we are back to God. The journey we offer here at St. Mary's is one of mutual respect in which we are all learning, feeding, and supporting each other. Although, our approach to worship may appear more structured than other communities we prayer constantly for the strength, wisdom and above all inspiration of the Holy Spirit to show us how to be relevant in our ever-changing world. Our building is a true blessing that lends itself to an encounter with God and as with previous generation we continue to bring additional resources than will enhance its beauty and practically. Each one of us involved with the Liturgy Group bring a wealth of diversity across the spectrum of Anglicism, nevertheless we are always open and value the opinions of others, so why do pray for discernment and ask the Lord if he wants you to embark upon a more active role in shaping the exciting 'transformative' road we are travelling together as the Eucharist family of Thorpe.

Fr Gerard Mee

Music Secretary's Report 2019

The choir has sung at the Sunday 10am Eucharist service on eleven occasions and at various other festivals throughout the year. A Lessons and Carols service was sung with the Hythe Singers. Practices are held on the third Thursday evening of the month when possible. We welcomed two new members this year and could I ask anyone wishing to join or wanting information regarding singing with the choir to please contact me. Requests, from the Deanery, to support local church choirs are passed on to the choir.

We have sung at four weddings this year and supported The Rose and Crown's charity evening at Christmas. The choir folders produced in 2018 have been invaluable but will need replacing this year as they are rather worn. I will undertake that in the next few months. A record of the carols and anthems sung is regularly updated. The copies made are stored for future use, saving time and money. On Sundays when there is no choir the music is provided by the Organist and Cantor or with pianist and iPod. New members would be welcome

Jill Collinson

Social and Fundraising Team Report 2019

2019 was another successful year for our "A" team. We started off with our annual quiz night which raised nearly £1,000. This was followed by our Summer Fayre which we held in the Churchyard, Church and Rutherwyke Room. Although the area was smaller it worked very well, and this was a good fundraiser of over £1,500 plus the money raised from the Grand Draw.

We were quite adventurous in organising a D-Day celebration which was disappointing in numbers. We all enjoyed it even though it was extremely hard work especially as it was held at the Jurgens Centre. However, we still managed to raise well over £1,000.

We were involved with the catering of several events leading up to Xmas, including the Egham Band, Carol Service and crib services which again raised a goodly sum. We also did well at our Winter Wonderland Christmas Fayre and again raised well over £1,000. However, the takings on the Grand Draw were down this Xmas which was disappointing. The "A" team continue to thrive. We are already planning a Quiz night on March 7th and we are in the process of planning other fundraising events. in 2020.

Jenny Bright

Stewardship Committee Report 2019

The Stewardship Committee works to enable the financial sustainability of St. Mary's and our parish activities. The significant annual increases in Parish Share and higher utility costs must be met by additional financial commitments from the congregation and other income streams. We are committed under the St. Mary's strategic objectives and "Transforming Church, Transforming Lives" from the Diocese to ensure funds are available for sustainable growth.

Regular ("Planned Giving") donations through Standing Orders have increased by 10% in 2019. We have had a year-on-year increase in such donations since 2012

and this is vital for the PCC to be able to project and plan expenditure. We actively encourage the whole congregation to donate using this method. The amount given ranges from £8 to £250 per month. It costs us over £12,000 per month to run St. Mary's and we are grateful for any increases in amounts donated. We receive on average £580/month through the Green Envelope scheme. Again, we are grateful to those who participate and give regularly through it. The colourful St. Mary's infographic depicting the church income, costs and usage has been adopted by the Diocese as an example of best practice for other parishes.

The Diocesan stewardship adviser has used it as an example with other churches, allowing them to see St. Mary's leading the way on stewardship information. The focus in 2020/21 will be on the sensitive issue of financial legacies. The church has benefitted from the generosity of so many who have left money in their Wills over the years. It is important we continue this for future generations – so watch this space!

Andrew Falconer

Thorpe Church of England Primary School Report 2019

Children at our school are very motivated to learn, follow the Golden Rules and our 'Steps to Success' Behaviour Policy. All children, staff and visitors ensure our motto "Faith, Love and Excellence" and our six values permeate all that we do. Our values start in the Autumn Term with 'Respect', then 'Kindness', 'Honesty', 'Responsibility', 'Trust', and the last half term of the year 'Resilience'.

We are now entering our fourth year of being an all through Primary School. Our children join us from a variety of different nurseries and follow a successful induction programme which ensures they settle well to life at Thorpe. Our children go on to various Secondary Schools including The Magna Carta School, Sir William Perkins, Gordon's, Tiffin's Grammar School, Jubilee High and Chertsey High School, The Park and St Dominic's.

Last year we took part in several extra-curricular activities: District Sports, Intra School Football Tournament, Hockey Tournament, Surrey Arts Festival, Voice in a Million Concert at Wembley, and NRLP Football tournament (NRLP North Runnymede Learning Partnership) as well as our residential trips in Year 6 to Liddington and in Year 4 to Hindleap Warren. We have close links with Chertsey Museum and Haslemere Museum and are well supported with our broad and balanced curriculum.

We have a fantastic relationship with St Mary's Church and our children are keen to write prayers that are shared with St Mary's congregation as well as during collective worship at school. We work very closely with Fr Damian, who leads Collective Worship every Tuesday. He has also initiated a Faith based after school club 'Faith and Fun' at our school which is extremely popular. The Diocese is a

particularly good resource for our school, offering us guidance with RE as well as academic and pastoral support across our partnership of schools.

We work closely with The Grace partnership of schools: St Jude's, Christ Church Infants, Lyne and Longcross and Englefield Green to share school improvement opportunities. Our Worship Committee meet with our partner schools and plan Collective Worship. We share the prayer; "May God keep us all in his care, may He watch over those who we love, and those who love us, this day and always, Amen." We say this prayer as a whole school whenever we meet.

Mrs Helen Southgate, Headteacher
Faith, Love and Excellence



God's Kingdom in our School
Faith – Love – Excellence



Thorpe School Choir singing in the Mothering Sunday Service, March 2019



Remembrance November 2019 - Thorpe Church, Procession & War Memorial.

Part 2

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical

Parish of St Mary, Thorpe – Charity No: 5116755

Annual Report & Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

On Sunday 7th June 2015, the Right Reverend Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford, led a service of Institution and Induction at which The Very Reverend Paul Bryer, Archdeacon of Dorking, made Father Damian Stewart Miles BTh the Vicar of Thorpe under 'Common Tenure' – with the agreement of our Parish Patrons Keble College Oxford. This was following a period of five years when the 'Living' was suspended under the pastoral measure. From 31 January 2011, all appointments are made under 'Common Tenure' and the 'Living' has ceased to exist. Father Damian's appointment as Vicar of Thorpe is under Common Tenure and is not time limited. Fr Damian had served Thorpe as Priest in Charge from February 2011 until he was made the Vicar in 2015.

Review of the Year *Please refer to the Vicar's and PCC Secretary's reports.*

The Parochial Church Council and Responsibilities

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with and assisting the Vicar in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission to which Christ Jesus calls his Church; worship, pastoral care, evangelistic outreach, fellowship as well as engaging fully within our local Deanery of Runnymede. Our PCC has responsibility for the fabric of St Mary's Historic Medieval Church, the Rutherwyke Room with Wallace Room (Parish Office) and closed churchyard surrounding the church buildings (including the Leigh Bennett Enclosure, and the southern end of Church Approach including the Lych Gate, flowerbed and entrance to the Vicarage in Church Approach). By agreement St Mary's PCC maintains the Vicarage front garden for use as a church car park. This land remains the property of the Diocesan Parsonage Board and the agreement allows for car parking on the red gravel area only (approximately 13 spaces). The red surfaced driveway must always be kept clear for emergency vehicles and access to the Vicarage.

Governance

Churchwardens are elected at the Vestry Meeting (meeting of parishioners) and serve for a period of no longer than six years. They are then disqualified from being churchwardens for the next two years, after which they are free to stand for another term of six years. In 2008 the APCM voted to allow an extension of up to two years' service before disqualification under the rules. Members of the PCC are either elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) or ex officio in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Up to 2018 elected members have served on a three-year term for up to two terms, before being disqualified for a year, as agreed by a previous APCM. This was reviewed at our 2018 APCM and a motion carried for a change to block elections for the PCC annually. From 2019 APCM all those intending to stand for the PCC need to complete an application

form and be proposed and seconded in the customary way. If there are more proposed people than places an election will be held. Additional members may be co-opted at the PCC's discretion for a specific purpose, up to two at any one time. (Church Representation Rules 46A and 46B) A person shall be disqualified from being nominated, chosen, or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council, a district church council or any synod under these rules if the person:

- is disqualified from being a charity trustee under section 72(1) of the Charities Act 1993 and the disqualification is not for the time being subject to a waiver by the Charity Commissioners.
- is included in a barred list (within the meaning of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006).
- has been convicted of an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (unless the person's disqualification under this sub-section has been waived in writing by the bishop of the diocese in question).
- has been so disqualified from holding office under section 10(6) of the Incumbents (Vacation of Benefices) Measure [1997].

A person is disqualified from being a charity trustee under the Charities Act if they have been convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty (unless any such conviction is legally regarded as spent), if they are an undischarged bankrupt, have made compositions or arrangements with any creditors from which they have not been discharged or have been removed from serving as a charity trustee, or been stopped from acting in a management position within a charity.

Charity Registration

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary, Thorpe is a registered charity no: 1176929. See www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk/policies for Thorpe Governing Documents and PCC Trustee Guidance, as well as other parish policies and role descriptions for elected, voluntary and employed staff.

Parish Share 2020 – 2023

In 2018 the Diocese of Guildford voted to adopt a new Parish Share calculation from 2019. For Thorpe Parish, if the new calculation were implemented in full, from day one, we would have needed to find nearly 80k each year, an increase of 35k annually. Negotiations followed with the PCC and Standing Committee, and a revised calculation for Thorpe was proposed by the Diocesan Board of Finance, which sees an increase in our contribution of 40% phased over five years. In 2019 we were asked to contribute £50,121. (+5k on 2018) This year (2020) we are asked to contribute = £54,439. This increases in 2021 to £58,769, 2022 to £63,281 and 2023 to £67,982. The Parish Share calculation is made up of two component parts: 'Ministry Costs' at £56,300 includes the stipend for a full-time Vicar (Fr Damian is actually paid £27,000k before deductions), pension liabilities (including historical pension costs), housing, training (including curates) and the cost of maintaining vicarages, etc. 'Shared Costs' are then calculated on the top, and these include money for mission and the National Church, church schools,

diocesan costs and much more besides. As our share contribution rises annually, we will not only pay the full ministry cost but begin to pay the shared costs component, which had previously been subsidised by other churches.

Stewardship Campaign 2019/20

We started by recognising the contribution that many people already make towards the ongoing life and ministry of Thorpe Parish. Thank you for all your time, love, and support. Considering the challenge of year on year increases to our Parish Share contribution (and rises in other bills such as utilities) St Mary's ran a stewardship campaign to help improve our financial position. Led by Andrew Falconer, the Stewardship Committee sought an increase in regular and planned giving by all members of St Mary's Church Electoral Roll because, in comparison with the average parish in the Diocese of Guildford, our amount of financial giving per household was historically much lower than other churches. Raising our giving levels to meet the average in the Diocese was therefore our target, and during 2019 we made real progress, as reflected in our income recorded in the accounts for last year. Your generosity is much appreciated and respected resulting in a 19.7% (£8,625) increase on 2018. There is so much to celebrate and give thanks to God for in this. Thank you again.

2020 – a year of many challenges

2020 sees a new set of challenges. We know several of our older members are moving away to accommodation further afield, and some have given-up driving. With no public transport into Thorpe on a Sunday this disproportionately impacts our income. The ministry team are committed to taking communion monthly to those who cannot attend regular Sunday worship, but none the less, a decrease in income from these people is to be expected. Most of all, we will miss them! It is still unclear exactly what impact the coronavirus will have upon attendances at worship and the amount of donations received, which potentially could fall as attendances struggle during a period of general sickness. The PCC strongly encourage everyone who can, to set-up a regular monthly standing order in place of cash donations at worship. In addition, we ask everyone to look prayerfully at their giving to see if there is any room for a small increase again this year to help us through this potentially difficult period.

Legacies – our project for 2020

Meanwhile, the Stewardship Committee are looking at ways in which we can promote legacies to support St Mary's and an extremely helpful leaflet about this has been included with this report and accounts booklet. Please prayerfully consider how you could help St Mary's, by attaching a legacy for St Mary's to your Will, so that after you are no longer among us you can continue to support the mission and ministry, and the historic building which we all love and treasure. Thank You.

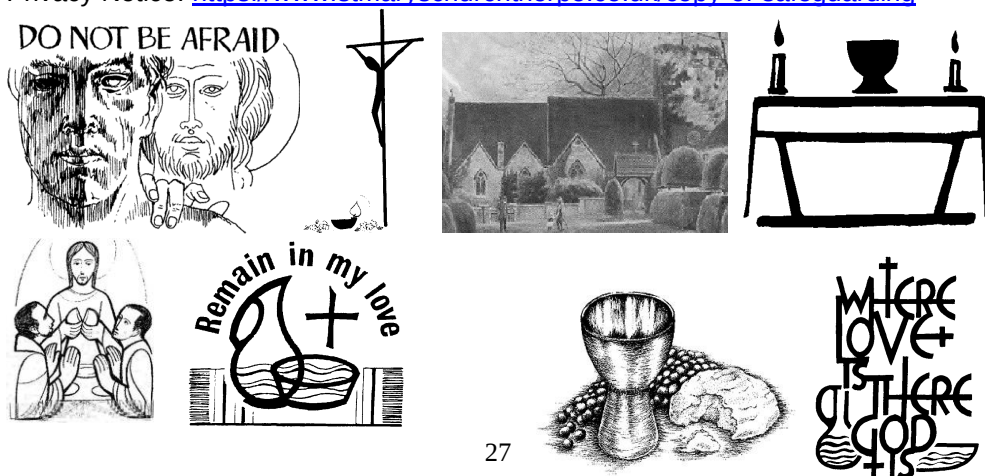
Church Attendance

On 31st December 2019, St Mary's Thorpe Electoral Roll stood at 107. The

average Sunday attendance at worship (including 8, 10 & 11:30am) during 2019 was 81 adults and 17 children, an increase in the overall average in 2017/18. The average attendance at the Sunday 8am Eucharist increased to 12 adults while the 10am Parish Eucharist attendance has remained around 49 adults and 7 children with the fortnightly Family Service attendances averaging 15 adults and 13 children. The number of weddings remained the same year on year. There was an increase in the number of baptisms and the same number of funerals conducted in church with the number of stand-alone cremation services and graveside ceremonies increasing (which is counter the national trend). However, the start of 2020 has seen a decrease. To help with comparison, the last five years' attendance figures have been included. These demonstrate several years of growth up to 2016 followed by a more challenging 2017/18 in which several of our regular congregation died or moved away to pastures new. Easter 2019 was only slightly down with the previous year with an exceptionally large number present for the Family Service (with Easter egg hunt being a big draw). Mothering Sunday and Harvest Festivals both saw an uplift in attendance, helped by holding a Family Service on these occasions. Attendance throughout September and early October improved compared with 2018 and built towards Advent and Christmas seasons. There was a particularly good attendance at services during Advent, nearly reaching the high of 2018. In 2019 Christmas communions were up while overall attendance was slightly down, reflected in a smaller adult congregation at the 5pm Crib Service. Not recorded in the figures above is attendance at our annual memorial Service, on Christ the King Sunday in November 2019. This was one of the most beautiful services of the year and attracted a record congregation. Also, services of Compline & Benediction on a Sunday at 6pm attracted 20 or more people. From January 2020, these are now held monthly, usually tied to a festival celebration.

GDPR & Privacy Policy

Your privacy is especially important to Thorpe PCC and we are committed to keeping your information and data secure and safe. Visit our website to read our Privacy Notice: <https://www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk/copy-of-safeguarding>



ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

(S) = Sunday Christmas with additional worship/service included in the figures.

STATISTICS FOR MISSION 2014 – 2019

(S)=Christmas Eve/Day includes a Sunday

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Mothering Sunday	83	205	194	77	97	157
Easter Day	214	222	183	259	257	249
Harvest	116	104	86	84	106	112
Advent Carol Services (new from 2017)				916	1133	1082
Christmas Eve/Day	659	661	697(S)	638	639	627
<i>Occasional Offices:</i>						
Funerals (Crematorium)	10	6	10	9	10	15
(In Church)	10	9	11	11	9	9
Burial of Ashes	2	2	4	5	3	4
Baptisms	24	26	17	22	17	25
Weddings	12	10	9	10	6	6
Wedding Blessings	1	0	2	0	0	1
Wedding Banns Only	1	3	4	2	2	3
Electoral Roll (Dec year-end)	103	108	122	140	142	107

National Church – continuing to decline

According to the British Attitudes Survey (September 2018), the number of people in society who describe themselves as part of the Church of England has more than halved since 2002, from 31% to 14%. This is a worrying statistic and should give us cause for concern with the number who attend regular Sunday worship thought to be far lower. Anecdotally we have seen more people connected to St Mary's (known as the 'fringe' of the church community) but overall people are less regular in their commitment to worship. Nationally, the decline in attendance among 45 – 54-year olds is most acute and again reflects the challenge we have in meeting this age group and their spiritual needs. The national average decline in Church of England attendance is said to be around 2% and St Mary's Church managed overall to come out level. We were one of a handful of churches in the Diocese of Guildford which showed up as growing consistently over a three-year period to October 2016.

Our numbers then fell (directly attributable to several parishioners dying or moving away) and since then we have remained relatively stable with encouraging signs towards the end of 2018 through 2019 of a new period of growth in Sunday attendances. This is also reflected in an increase in the Electoral Roll, rising above 140 for the first time in decades, although that fell back to 107 following the full revision in 2019. Considering the national challenge, we must not be complacent. We need to do more to encourage committed faith and disciple regular worshippers in view of the continuing and challenging change in wider society. Our post 20:20 Church Development Plan must prioritise our missional activity; recognising who we are and our catholic-Anglican foundation, with the proclamation of the Gospel

our top priority in a changing world and context. Whilst we all know that increasing the number of worshippers is not the sole aim of leading a healthy church community, it is still a measure that something is going well, especially given the national backdrop of decline. We have a lot to give thanks for at St Mary's Church but also much more work to still do. To have remained level this year with some modest growth, against all the odds, is a real achievement. Let us all pray for continued growth during 2020 as we seek to offer a new invitation to people within and beyond Thorpe to worship with us at St Mary's and discover the living God who longs to touch their lives with deep faith and his real presence.

Looking ahead – Mission!

As we review our post 2020 Church Development Plan, our PCC set us the challenge of reaching out during 2020 and promoting St Mary's to a wider constituency beyond the parish of Thorpe, because we recognise that many people who are drawn to our inclusive catholic-Anglican tradition live outside Thorpe Parish. Between 2011 and 2015 we attended various community events, seeking to promote St Mary's to a wider audience which proved extraordinarily successful. In place of a Summer Fair this 2020, the PCC and Social Committee planned to attend various events with stalls promoting St Mary's, including a Victory in Europe (VE) Day Street Party in Church Approach (Saturday 9th May), Magna Carta Day, Egham High Street, Carnival Capers, Black Cherry Fair and Thorpe Primary School Fair. Then Covid hit and all these events were cancelled. Our efforts then focussed on our 'online' offering of worship daily at 10am and developing communications for those who do not have access to the internet. Next year we will review how this has worked, but it is fair to say that we have all done the best we can in exceptionally challenging circumstances. (Due to Covid much of this has not been possible at this time).

Thorpe Together

Margaret Harnden (as editor) with Fr Damian and Petra, and the support of the Wardens and Social Committee have continued to draw together a list of events, services and activities to be included in Thorpe Together magazine which is distributed to every household in Thorpe Ward. Many enquiries about baptisms and funerals, as well as Noah's Ark toddler group have come through this publication which is an invaluable resource for promoting the activities of St Mary's across the Parish of Thorpe. The usual Spring edition 2020 was not produced as we were in lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Gift Aid

As a charity this is especially important in meeting the costs of ministry and the maintenance of our historic medieval church here in Thorpe. We ask every member of the church family who can do so, to complete and sign an annual Gift Aid declaration. Thank you for your help and support.

St Mary's Church, Thorpe

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

General Receipts & Payments

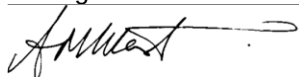
Receipts	2019	2018
	£	£
Regular Giving		
Planned giving	34,692	25,874
Collections and other giving (non-gift aid)	7,165	3,579
Collections and other giving (gift aid)	10,448	14,228
	<u>52,305</u>	<u>43,680</u>
Other Voluntary Receipts		
Donations/ <i>In Memoria</i>	77	3,220
Charities	731	1,086
Wall boxes & Candles	268	337
	<u>1,076</u>	<u>4,644</u>
Receipts from Fund-generating Activities		
Fund-raising Events & Activities	13,192	23,911
Hire of Church and Rutherwyke Room	4,936	7,273
	<u>18,128</u>	<u>31,183</u>
Receipts from Church Activities		
Fees (Banns, Weddings, Funerals)	12,091	12,041
Refreshments	1,887	1,955
Noah's Ark	913	704
Flowers	361	155
Books	-	91
Sundry (Stall, Cards, Gift etc.)	1,353	4,427
	<u>16,604</u>	<u>19,373</u>
Receipts from Investments		
CBF Dividends	458	447
	<u>458</u>	<u>447</u>
Other Income		
Works Account (inter acc transfers)	4,183	33,912
Education Account (inter acc transfers)	4,011	1,403
Tax reclaims (2018 GA & VAT on Works)	14,807	10,120
	<u>23,001</u>	<u>45,435</u>
Total Receipts	<u>111,573</u>	<u>144,762</u>

Payments	2019	2018
	£	£
Church Activities		
Diocesan parish share	50,121	50,392
Parish Costs (Expenses, Travel, Telephone)	1,599	1,898
Organists	2,935	3,270
Cost of services	3,159	4,330
	<u>57,814</u>	<u>59,890</u>
Maintenance		
Facilities maint. Cleaning, Fees etc.	7,669	43,687
	<u>7,669</u>	<u>43,687</u>
Church running expenses		
Insurance	2,600	2,582
Gas, Electricity, Water	4,002	3,789
	<u>6,601</u>	<u>6,371</u>
Administration		
Admin, computer & office supplies	5,081	5,791
Postage	7	20
	<u>5,088</u>	<u>5,812</u>
Other Costs		
Books	136	143
Music & Subscriptions	132	207
Charities	454	1,221
Parish Fees to Diocese	2,953	7,231
Events & Fund-raising costs	5,191	2,783
Refreshments	708	378
Marketing	922	1,371
Flowers	533	428
Sundry payments (training, misc)	3,665	3,903
Fixed assets	992	359
	<u>15,686</u>	<u>18,023</u>
Fund Transfers		
Transfer to Works Acc	13,814	15,446
Transfer to Education Acc	230	33
	14,044	15,480
Total Payments	<u>106,903</u>	<u>149,262</u>
Balance (Income less Expenditure)	4,670	(4,500)

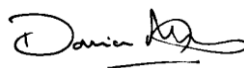
Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2019 £	2018 £
Cash Funds at 31 Dec 2019		
Bank: Current Account (1)	26,602	21,932
Bank: Business Reserve Account: Education (2)	36,838	40,773
Bank: Business Saver: Works (3)	9,310	2,536
Investment Assets at 31 Dec 2019		
CBF: Thorpe St. Mary PCC - value of shares (4)	15,721	13,274
822 shares @ £19.126 each on 31/12/19		
	<u>88,472</u>	<u>78,516</u>
Other Monetary Assets		
Estimated refund for 2019 GA donations (5)	11,285	10,493
	<u>11,285</u>	<u>10,493</u>
Breakdown of Cash Funds		
Unrestricted (1+4+5)	53,608	45,699
Restricted (2+3)	46,149	43,309
	<u>99,757</u>	<u>89,009</u>

Approved by the PCC on Monday 16th March 2020
and signed on their behalf by:



Mr. Andrew West
Treasurer



Fr Damian Harrison-Miles
Vicar



Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's Church, Thorpe

I report on the accounts of the PCC of St Mary's Church, Thorpe for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act: and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Alan Alderson Date: 09 March 2019

Address: 5 Mead Close, Egham, Surrey TW20 8JA



Part 3 Appendix Section

Sunday Worship at St Mary's & Covid-19 Plan

8am Said Eucharist

10am Parish Eucharist with congregation in Church and via Facebook LIVE

1st Sunday monthly **11:30am Family Service** ONLINE via Facebook LIVE / Zoom

2nd-5th Sundays by arrangement **12noon Baptism Service**

7pm Compline with congregation in Church and via Facebook LIVE

Weekdays

There is worship available **EVERY DAY ONLINE** via Facebook at 10am

Morning Prayer

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 10am.

Weekday Said Eucharist Wednesday & Saturday 10am

Wednesday 7pm Compline from our ministry team's own homes

Evening Sung Festival Eucharist (Mass) at 7pm on select occasions.

Noah's Ark Group, Faith & Fun, St Mary's Church Choir, Parish Office & Viewing the Church, Charities Group

These activities are all suspended but under constant review. The PCC is committed to re-starting these as soon as possible. Please note some services will come from the homes of our ministry team, as circumstances dictate.

Covid-19 Entrance Procedures at St Mary's Church

We aim to keep everyone safe and have introduced the following procedure:

1. A one-way system around the Church is in operation, with entrance to worship via the Rutherwyke Room Kitchen door ONLY.
2. On entering ALL must WASH THEIR HANDS. You should wear a face mask (unless prevented from doing so by a medical condition).
3. All must sign-in with their name and a contact phone number. (This information may be passed to TEST AND TRACE if requested by HM Government).
4. Place your financial offering / gift-aid envelope into the glass jar provided.
5. Collect a service sheet, weekly newsletter and post-it note, and make your way up the Link into Church via the Chancel.
6. Maintain social distancing by choosing a chair AT LEAST 2 SEATS AWAY FROM ANOTHER PERSON / HOUSEHOLD GROUP.
7. Place your post-it sticky note onto the top of the chair you have chosen (to identify this for cleaning purposes after the service).
8. The sharing of the Peace and the Common Cup have been suspended.
9. Communion is distributed in one kind, beside the FONT. Please follow the one-way system around the church (marked on the floor) to the Communion station.
10. Hand sanitiser is available in the Link and Church Porch.
11. Exit St Mary's via the BLUE MAIN DOORS / Church porch.

Visit our Parish Website for more information: www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk

What does our Church Development Plan look like post 2020?

We are nearing the end of our 20:20 vision / Church Development Plan, so it is time to ask questions about the next phase in our pilgrimage of faith and mission in Thorpe. The PCC would like every member of our church community to participate as we review where we have come from and celebrate so many achievements and seek to prioritise projects and ambitions for the coming years, post 2020.

As Christian people, we are called by God to service, just as Jesus' first disciples were called to gather people into God's Kingdom. This is our mission to Thorpe and beyond! To achieve this God has made each one of us unique with different and varied gifts. These gifts, or talents, are the building blocks of our Christian common life and we hope you will be willing to share those gifts with the church family for the building-up of faith. After all everything we have comes from God first:



"But who am I, and what are my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you." (1 Chronicles 29:14)



For the past three years our 2020 vision plan (Church Development Plan) has delivered renewal in our life together, fabric improvements, increased discipleship, and improved finances. We should celebrate and give thanks to God for the many achievements of the past five years - what an achievement. Over the next year our Church Teams will be contributing towards a new vision plan, taking us beyond 2020 towards 2024/5. But we need your ideas and help too, so we are asking:

What is God calling us to, as His Church corporate and His people here at St Mary's Thorpe, beyond 2020?

Our giving in the service of God is not simply about financial support (although that is one important aspect) but practical gifts of time and spiritual commitment to the Church including regular attendance at worship. Indeed, there are so many ways in which we can all play a part in the life of our Christian fellowship in Thorpe. Thank you for the part you already play in our life together and for being willing to support this wonderful community of faith into the future. Please help us plan for 2020+.

FOUR QUESTIONS TO PONDER AND RESPOND TO:

1. Are there any suggestions or comments you would like to make as our PCC begins to plan our Church Development Plan post 2020?
2. What should our priorities be beyond 2020?
3. What skills, talents, time, or gifts could **YOU** offer/bring to the life of this Parish and the mission of our Church in Thorpe?
4. Considering the Covid-19 pandemic, should we change our priorities and if so how and why? Any reflections upon our Church response so far?

Please return the response slip enclosed with this booklet at the APCM or email your response to stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com to have your say.

St Mary's Church Thorpe 2019

