
Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2020



Chichester Road, Croydon, CR0 5NQ
www.stmatthew.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 1132508

**AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ST MATTHEW, CROYDON.
SUNDAY 23rd MAY 2021 AT 11.30 AM VIA ZOOM**

Opening Prayers

Election of Churchwardens

Meeting Close

**AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MATTHEW, CROYDON.**

SUNDAY 23rd MAY 2021 FOLLOWING THE PARISH MEETING VIA ZOOM

Apologies for Absence

Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 18 October 2020.

Matters Arising

Resignations and Elections for Membership of the Parochial Church Council

Elections to the Parochial Church Council

Reports for the year

Electoral Roll

Report from the Electoral roll Officer

Annual Report and Accounts

Adoption of Report and Accounts

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Fabric of the Church

The annual report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church

Deanery Synod

Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Vicar's Comments

Churchwarden's Response

Any Other Business

Closing Prayer

Written Reports

Click on a report to be taken to the page

Vicar's Report	29	Fabric	32	Roof Team	36	Rainbows	39
Churchwardens'	30	Safe Church	33	Zoom Coffee Morning	37	Brownies	39
Finance Team	31	Magazine	33	Communications	37	Scouts	40
Gift Aid	32	Deanery Synod	33	Guides	38	Beavers	41

Vicar's Comments

Churchwarden's Response

Closing Prayer

Blank Page

PARISH MEETING HELD IN ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH ON SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 2020 AT 11.03AM.

26 members were present and 6 on Zoom; the meeting was chaired by the Vicar, the Revd. Simon Foster.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

The meeting was held in accordance with the Churchwardens Measure 2001.

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

Stephen Collingwood, proposed by David Williams, seconded by Janet Williams and Rohini Abhayaratne, proposed by David Williams, seconded by Janet Williams were declared elected.

The chairman thanked both Rohini Abhayaratne and Stephen Collingwood for their support and for agreeing to fulfill the office for a further year.

The meeting closed at 11.05am.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD IN ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH ON SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 2020 AT 11.06AM.

28 members were present and a further 8 joined via Zoom; the meeting was chaired by the Vicar, the Revd. Simon Foster.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING ON 28th APRIL 2019

The minutes were unanimously approved.

MATTERS ARISING

None

RESIGNATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Deanery Synod 3 members were elected as required every 3 years given the numbers on our electoral as at the APDM in April 2019. 3 nominations were received:

Laura Easton – proposed by Janet Williams and seconded by Jane Passfield

James Reid – proposed by Jane Passfield and seconded by Janet Williams

Janet Williams – proposed by David Williams and seconded by Jane Passfield

These were declared duly elected. They are also de facto members of the PCC.

Parochial Church Council

Retirements – Christopher Grayson – moved away

John Ingman – end of 3 year stint.

Jane Passfield – end of 3 year stint

David Williams – end of 3 year stint

The chairman thanked John Ingman for all his help and support over the years and in his role as vice chairman of the PCC.

The following nominations were received:

Jane Passfield – proposed by David Williams and seconded by Janet Williams

Jane Smaldon – proposed by Judith Mitchell and seconded by Evelyn Gordon

Edith Chiwuzie will join after resolving family funeral arrangements.

These were duly elected. David Williams is a de facto PCC member as he is a member of the Diocesan Synod

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Terry Mitchell presented the annual accounts. As agreed by the PCC £15,000 was moved to support the roof repairs.

Ann Warr proposed the acceptance of the accounts, seconded by Richard Link and carried nem con.

Terry was then thanked for all his hard work on the accounts and reports.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

It was proposed by Terry Mitchell, seconded by Richard Tweed, and unanimously agreed that Chaweevan Williams of Verdant Accountants Limited be re-appointed as the Independent Examiner.

ELECTORAL ROLL

David Williams reported that, in line with Church of England regulations, have revised the electoral roll. We have had 5 people retiring from the roll and 9 people added and so we now have 117 on the roll. The roll had been displayed on the church notice board. The chairman thanked him for his work on the roll.

FABRIC OF THE CHURCH

This last year has been affected by COVID-19 and our preparations to renew the roof. We are missing Chris Greyson following his move to Walton-on-the-Hill but he is still helping us from a distance.

The roof is constructed from sheets of aluminium laid on marine-ply with folds to allow for thermal movement. Unfortunately, the folds between the aluminium sheets were not enough to prevent the roof from leaking during heavy rain and strong winds and as a result the roof has always leaked but luckily it seems the structure of the roof underneath has not been damaged. Following a detailed examination of the roof last year, it has been established that corrosion means these sheets are not securely fixed. There is now the danger that during stormy weather, the whole roof could lift and it is only its weight that prevents catastrophic destruction. Our insurers have informed us that they expect its repair to be done with little delay, as they will not pay out for its repair!

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

This will follow in the parish magazine.

VICAR'S COMMENTS

Simon Foster again expressed his heartfelt thanks to all who help in the life of St. Matthew's, and remarked how fortunate the church was to have so many able members of the congregation willing to give their time and skills to its many and varied activities. He thanked everyone for their support over the year. He also thanked Mary – his wife – for her support.

CHURCHWARDEN'S COMMENTS

The wardens remain completely reliant on the commitment of all the loyal and hard-working people for the well-running the church. We could not undertake our duties without the work done by all those who give their time and talents to the life of the church community

Terry miraculously is still our administrator but regularly threatens to resign as the pressures of work increase. We thank him and all those who carry out our Christian mission to Park Hill, especially those who contribute to the Parish Magazine, organise our social events, our fairs, the Christmas Tree Festival, the Floating Shelter and the Food Bank.

Throughout 2019, an aging and reducing army of volunteers worked during services and as team-members on the fabric, finance, kitchen, pastoral needs, social events and communications teams. We have seen some demanding changes in 2020 and hope 2021 will see some recovery of our activities. Michael Strange continues as our excellent director of music, which is an essential element of our ministry and our services. We are performing world premieres of his music.

During 2019, the premises continue to be used by numerous other organisations including the Bach Choir and Croydon Philharmonic, the Alzheimer's help group, Pilates, the U3A, dance groups as well as the Guide and Scout Groups and Archbishop Tenison's School. For most of 2020, these activities have ceased.

Simon our vicar has been through a difficult period in his life and is on the slow road of recovery supported by Mary his wife. He was appointed as the Area Dean and has been supported by Linda Fox, our deputy Area Dean, Richard Hinder and our readers Alison and Paul. Darius, our curate has moved to Holy Saviour in West Croydon. We thank them all for their ministry and pastoral support to all in the parish.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Thanks were also given to Jon Highton and the ministry team for all the work on the online services which have been greatly appreciated.

CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting closed at 11.38am with the grace.

Chair Date:

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH CHURCH OF ST MATTHEW, CROYDON**
Registered Charity No. 1132508

**Annual Report and unaudited
Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31st December 2020**

Principal address:

St Matthew's Church of England Church
Chichester Road, Croydon CR0 5NQ

Incumbent:

The Reverend Simon Foster
The Vicarage
7 Brownlow Road
Croydon, CR0 5JT

Bankers:

(Current & Deposit Account)
CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent, ME19 4JQ

(Deposit Account)
CCLA Investment Management Ltd
The CBF Church of England Funds
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London, EC4V 4ET

Independent Examiner:

Chaweevan Williams FCCA
Verdant Accountants Limited
167 Clarence Avenue
New Malden
Surrey, KT3 3TX

Trustees Annual Report

St Matthew's, Croydon Parochial Church Council

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Aim and purposes

St Matthew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The vision statement of St Matthew's is:

Sharing the love of God.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church complex of St Matthew's and the two church bungalows in Chichester Road, Croydon.

Objects and activities

The PCC, a charity governed by the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and Church Representation Rules 2020, is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community of St Matthew's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the Incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Matthew's church complex and the two bungalows.

Achievements and performance

The Vicar

We thank the Revd Simon Foster for all his work in both the church and the community. Revd Richard Hinder, previously our Assistant Priest, who has the Bishop's Permission to Officiate helps on an occasional basis. Revd Darius Weithers, who joined St Matthew's as our new Curate in July 2018 moved to Holy Saviour, Croydon in March, although he remains licensed to St Matthew's. Revd Simon Foster continued as Area Dean and Revd Linda Fox who is licenced to St Matthew's as Assistant Area Dean, took over as Priest in Charge at St George's, Waddon during their interregnum beginning in September 2020.

Worship and prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community finds both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

We welcome families into our church and provide a crèche and classes for children during the Sunday 10:00 am services. The said Eucharist at 08:30 am on Sundays and the Morning Prayer services during the week offer quieter more thoughtful services, while Evensong and Taizé services provide strong musical themes. Special services are held to celebrate the seasons of the church year such as Christmas and Easter. Prayer and bible study and Lent groups are available, offering more informal environments. All are welcome to attend our regular services. During the year we held a number of Healing Services on the first Sunday of the month and All Age Services on the second Sunday. However, due to the Corona virus the church has followed Government and Church of England Guidance and access to the building has been very limited or non-existent. Worship has continued online as have bible study and lent groups and coffee mornings.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. During the period, we have celebrated two baptisms and one funeral in church and five funerals taken at the crematorium.

Membership and attendance

There were 117 members on the Electoral Roll on 31st December 2020. The average Sunday attendance is eighty five adults and ten children under sixteen years of age.

Diocesan/Deanery Synods

Two lay members of the PCC are members of the Diocesan Synod and three lay members of the PCC are elected members of the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The Church complex

Normally our church is open to the community for worship, prayer, study, social and other functions. We use the facilities to welcome people who are not necessarily regular members of our congregation to events such as Saturday coffee mornings and the shelter for the homeless during winter. The hall and other rooms are used by a wide range of groups as the Community Centre of Park Hill and the wider Croydon community. However, with the rise of the Corona Virus pandemic these were curtailed during the lockdowns.

Our Fabric Team monitors the state of the church buildings and ensures that they are appropriately repaired and maintained. During the period, the main work that has been carried out on the church complex included the updating the lighting in the church and investigation by professionals into the state of the church roof – more details are contained in the Fabric Committee Report.

Pastoral care

During the year our Saturday coffee mornings have continued to provide a meeting place for the community – virtually throughout the Corona virus pandemic. The reserved sacrament is taken to communicants in local care homes. Regular parcels of food and toiletries collected through the “Lord’s Larder” were sent to the West Croydon Refugee Day Centre. St Matthew’s hosted Croydon Churches Shelter for the Homeless.

Mission and evangelism

The small committee that St Matthew’s set up to consider the future giving for mission and evangelism recommended that St Matthew’s continued to support the Egyptian Diocesan Association. We have made a donation for the development of teaching for young people within Egypt. We continue to pray for that country.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community that it is. In particular we want to mention our Churchwardens Rohini Abhayaratne and Stephen Collingwood who have worked tirelessly on our behalf. While there are too many people to name everyone individually, Terry Mitchell must also be mentioned and thanked. As can be seen from this report, his work as Treasurer is an onerous one, and he has done it with great thoroughness and care. David Williams has continued as PCC Secretary and Electoral Roll officer and Steve Tucker has continued as Magazine Editor and is a member of the Communications Team. Jon Highton has been instrumental in his production of online services during the pandemic.

Income	2020	2019
	£000s	£000s
Giving by church members	62	74
Tax recoverable through Gift Aid	14	16
Hall lettings	8	34
Bungalow rent	30	30
Roof	24	2
Fundraising (net)	1	9
Other income	6	16
Total income	145	181

Expenditure	2020	2019
	£000s	£000s
Parish Support Fund	42	34
Repairs	5	27
Depreciation	4	4
Wages:	11	12
Printing	17	17
Utilities	7	10
Service Costs and Clergy Expense	3	3
Insurance Church	3	3
Curates Housing Costs	22	22
Other expenses	6	16
Bungalows	7	6
Total expenses	127	154
Surplus for the year	18	27
The bungalows are let commercially and we receive a regular monthly rental from both. They are managed by a local Estate Agent on our behalf.		

In 2016 Southwark Diocese is changed the way that parishes provide funds. Instead of a quota system they moved to the Parish Support Fund where parishes pledge money. St Matthew's traditionally had given the diocese more money than it receives and this has now changed, in part due to providing housing for a curate. St Matthew's pledge for 2020 was gratefully received by the diocese after discussion with the Archdeacon.

Reserves Policy

At 31 Dec 2020 the PCC's reserves were: unrestricted reserves £146,506 (2019: - £169,372) designated fund £73,766 (2019:- £58,666) endowment fund £800,000 (2019 – £800,000); restricted fund £28,398 (2019 - £7,277). The PCC has free reserves, comprising unrestricted funds, less fixed assets of £141,327 (2019 - £155,357). The PCC has agreed a policy of maintaining a minimum reserve of cash, so that we can pay our bills as they arrive and to provide a cushion against any unexpected expenses. If the cash balance falls below £75,000, (agreed by PCC) no avoidable expenditure will be undertaken until the reserve has been restored.

Endowment Policy

The investments held are two freehold properties and cash and short term deposits. The Freehold properties are valued on an annual basis. Trustees having regard to the liquidity requirements hold surplus funds on short term interest bearing deposit accounts set to achieve a rate of return at least equal to the cost of living increase as measured by the retail price index. Due to wider economic circumstances, deposit rates have been depressed and so this aim was not achieved. The investment funds held on deposit achieved an average rate of 0.5% compared to the retail price index of 1.2%.

Risk Management

The principal risks faced by the PCC are concerned with ensuring that the Health and Safety, Employment and Safeguarding of Adults and Children's policies of the Church are maintained. We also through the Finance Team ensure that all aspects of the finances of the church are dealt with in compliance with the rules of the Charities Act, SORP and Charity Commissioners. The Fabric Team reviews the repair and maintenance of both the church and the bungalows. All policies are reviewed by the PCC on a regular basis.

Plans for the future

The decision-making of the PCC is shaped by our Mission Action Plan (MAP). A Mission Development Group has met with the aim of seeking ways we can more effectively reach out to the community.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Matthew's the membership of the PCC consists of our Vicar (Incumbent),

Churchwardens, Readers, SPAs and members elected by those on the electoral roll. The Treasurer is ex-officio member and the Secretary is an elected lay member. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the electoral roll.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met 9 times during the year, with an average attendance of 75.5% and the Standing Committee met once. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These committees are:

The Standing Committee, which is the only committee required under church law and is empowered to conduct the business of the PCC between meetings.

The Finance Team, which monitors our income and expenses, makes recommendations to the PCC concerning significant items and matters of policy.

The Fabric Team, which advises and oversees all matters relating to the buildings and grounds. This spawned the Roof Team to consider matters related to replacing the church roof.

The Pastoral Team, whose objectives include hospitality, visiting the sick and bereaved and arranging events for the elderly and housebound.

The Social and Fellowship Team organizes a wide range of events with the aim of bringing fellowship and enjoyment to the community of St Matthew's.

The Fundraising Team organizes a wide range of events with the aim of raising funds for St Matthew's.

The Communications Team handles publicity and communications with the community and more widely through our website www.stmatthew.org.uk

The All-Age Worship Team organises the all-age worship services of St Matthew's.

The Young Church Leaders Team handles worship for the young of the parish.

All these teams report regularly to the PCC.

PCC membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting, or co-opted in accordance with Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

Revd Simon Foster	Revd Darius Weithers
Revd Linda Fox	Rohini Abhayaratne
Abosedede Akadiri	Suzanne Collins
Stephen Collingwood	Laura Easton
Christopher Grayson (until June 2020)	John Ingman (until October 2020)
Terry Mitchell	Dorothy Onyekwe
Paul Parmenter	Jane Passfield
Alison Radford	James Reid
Jane Smaldon (from October 2020)	Carolyn Tweed
Jan Williams	David Williams OBE

Thank you

None of what we do would be possible without the generous giving by members of our church which enables us to offer “the love of Christ” to the community. We are most grateful for all you give to us: in terms of your time, talents and money. God bless you all.

The Trustees’ Report has been approved by the Trustees at their meeting on 4th May 2021

Revd Simon Foster
Chairman of the PCC

and

Stephen Collingwood
Churchwarden

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	TOTAL
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	FUNDS	FUNDS
		£	£	£	£	2020 £	2019 £
Income							
<i>Donations & Legacies</i>	2a	80,061	100	22,750	-	102,911	97,343
<i>Other trading activities</i>	2b	2,764	-	-	-	2,764	17,287
<i>Income from Investments</i>	2c	29,823	-	-	-	29,823	30,126
<i>Church Activities</i>	2d	4,201	-	-	-	4,201	36,456
Total Income		116,849	100	22,750	-	139,699	181,212
Expenditure							
<i>Raising funds</i>	3a	330	-	-	-	330	1,721
<i>Church Activities</i>	3b	125,556	-	458	-	126,014	152,261
Total Expenditure		125,886	0	458	-	126,344	153,982
Net Income/ (expenditure)		(9,037)	100	22,292	-	13,355	27,230
Gains on Investment assets					-	0	41
Gross Transfers between Funds	10	(13,829)	15,000	(1,171)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(22,866)	15,100	21,121		13,355	27,271
Total funds brought forward at 1 st January 2020		169,372	58,666	7,277	800,000	1,035,315	1,008,044
Total funds carried forward at 31st December 2020		146,506	73,766	28,398	800,000	1,048,670	1,035,315

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020	2019
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5	10,470	14,015
Investment Property	6	800,000	800,000
Total fixed assets		810,470	814,015
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	11,222	27,402
Deposit Account		148,888	131,265
Cash at Bank and in hand		86,557	72,151
		246,667	230,818
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	8,467	9,518
Net Current assets		238,200	221,300
Total assets less current liabilities		1,048,670	1,035,315
Funds			
Endowment funds	10	800,000	800,000
Restricted funds	10	28,398	7,277
Designated Funds	10	73,766	58,666
Unrestricted funds	10	146,506	169,372
		1,048,670	1,035,315

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 4th May 2021
and signed on its behalf

Revd Simon Foster
Chairman

T F Mitchell
Treasurer

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

1. Accounting policies

a. Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the current Church Accounting Regulations together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice FRS 102 (effective 1 January 2015).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and under the going concern basis. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

b. Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds - general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Designated funds - monies set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds - a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest;

b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Endowment funds - funds the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the purpose set out in the terms of the original endowment.

c. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Donations and legacies

Collections are recognised when received.

Planned giving receivable is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies are recognised when the PCC is legally entitled to the amount due, and an inflow is probable.

Income from investments

Interest is accounted for as it accrues.

All other income

All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold.
Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation at 31 December each year.

d. Resources used

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and are accounted for gross.

Church Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for when due. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

Support Costs

Support costs are allocated to church activities within the SOFA

e. Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed properties of any kind are excluded from the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. All such expenditure is written off as it is incurred.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Individual items acquired since January 2000 have been capitalised in the accounts and depreciated over their useful economic life.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items under £4,500 are written off in the year they were incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

Plant and Machinery	10% straight line
Fixture, fittings and equipment	10% straight line

f. Investment Property

In accordance with the SORP, the Church's freehold are held for long-term investment and are included in the balance sheet at their open market value. The surpluses or deficits on revaluation of such properties are transferred to the endowment fund. Depreciation is not provided in respect of freehold investment properties.

g. Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other Income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

2 Income	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2019 £
2a Donations and Legacies						
Giving (Gift Aid)	54,009	-	-	-	54,009	57,715
Giving (Non Gift Aid)	4,953	-	-	-	4,953	7,667
Legacies	0	-	-	-	0	2,000
Tax Recoverable	13,825	-	-	-	13,825	15,471
Gift Aid Donations	65	-	-	-	65	1,750
Services (Plate etc)	1,519	-	-	-	1,519	6,515
Donations (Non Gift Aid)	1,651	-	-	-	1,651	1,873
Charity Vouchers	1,039	-	-	-	1,039	1,871
Floating Shelter	-	-	1,002	-	1,002	440
Deanery & Diocesan	-	-	-	-	0	1,250
Christmas Grant	-	-	120	-	120	549
Compassion(UK)	-	-	510	-	510	0
Mother Day Daffs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Income	3,000	100	21,118	-	24,218	242
	80,061	100	22,750	-	102,911	97,343
2b Other trading Activities						
Sundry Income	1,429	-	-	-	1,429	6,926
Fundraising	1,335	-	-	-	1,335	10,361
	2,764	-	-	-	2,764	17,287
2c Income from Investments						
Interest & Bungalow rents	29,823	-	-	-	29,823	30,126
	29,823	-	-	-	29,823	30,126
2d Income from church activities						
Church Hall lettings etc	3,073	-	-	-	3,073	34,052
Fees from weddings etc	223	-	-	-	223	1,023
Parish Magazine sales etc	905	-	-	-	905	1,381
	4,201	-	-	-	4,201	36,456
Total Income	116,849	100	22,750	-	139,699	181,212

Income received in 2019 totalling £2,381 was attributable to restricted funds. £2,100 Designated and No Income was attributable to the endowment fund.

No income was attributable to the endowment fund.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

3 Expenditure	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2017 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2016 £
3a Raising Funds						
Fundraising, Expenditure (Social Events)	330	-	-	-	330	1,721
Communications	-	-	-	-	0	0
	330	-	-	-	330	1,721
3b Church Activities						
Missionary & Charitable giving						
Compassion (UK)	-	-	387	-	387	360
<i>Ministry Costs:</i>						
Parish Support Fund	42,295	-	-	-	42,295	34,013
Clergy Costs	627	-	-	-	627	1,498
Upkeep of Services	814	-	-	-	814	1,139
Church Running expenses	40,004	-	-	-	40,004	67,882
Youth	0	-	-	-	0	228
Churchyard Upkeep	2,010	-	-	-	2,010	1,472
Sundry Expenses	0	-	-	-	0	3,908
Printing Costs	16,515	-	-	-	16,515	16,703
Bungalows	7,059	-	-	-	7,059	6,347
Fees	-	-	-	-	0	245
Floating Shelter	-	-	41	-	41	59
Mothers Day Daffs	-	-	30	-	30	0
Depreciation	3,545	-	-	-	3,545	3,545
Examiner's Fees	650	-	-	-	650	600
Wages and Salaries	10,828	-	-	-	10,828	12,000
Admin Expenses	1,209	-	-	-	1,209	1,234
Deanery & Diocesan	-	-	-	-	-	1,028
Christmas Grant	-	-	-	-	-	-
	125,556	-	458	-	126,014	152,261
Total expenditure	125,886	-	458	-	126,344	153,982

Expenditure in 2019 totalling £1,447 was attributable to restricted funds.
No expenditure was attributable to the endowment fund

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

4	Staff Costs	2020	2019
		£	£
4a	Wages and Salaries	10,828	12,000

During the year the PCC employed an organist and a cleaner, both part time. The PCC also employed a Parish Administrator. None of the salaries attracted employers national insurance contributions.

4b Payments to PCC members

The Parish Administrator was employed and paid a salary and is also a Trustee. This appointment was agreed by the Charity Commissioners. No other Trustee received any form of remuneration.

5 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant & Machinery	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	TOTAL
Costs	£	£	£
At 1 January 2020	29,036	172,103	201,139
Addition	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	29,036	172,103	201,139
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2020	29,036	158,088	187,124
Charge for the Year	-	3,545	3,545
At 31 December 2020	29,036	161,633	179,669
Net book value			
At 31 December 2020	0	10,470	10,470
At 31 December 2019	0	14,015	14,015

6 Investments

	Investment Property
Cost	
As at 1 January 2020	800,000
At 31 December 2020	800,000
Net book value	
At 31 December 2020	800,000
At 31 December 2019	800,000

The freehold of the bungalows, situated in Chichester Road, is recorded at the open market value at the year end. The bungalows were valued by local estate agents who are managing agents of the bungalows therefore know their condition and rental yield. There was not believed to have been an increase in value of the bungalows during the year. The bungalows are let commercially. The bungalows are owned by St Matthew's. The South London Church Fund and the Diocesan Board of Finance act as Custodial Trustees. The assets cannot be sold by the PCC without the prior consent of the South London Church Fund & the Diocesan Board of Finance. The Parish is responsible for their upkeep although any income they generate is unrestricted.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

7 Debtors	2020	2019
	£	£
Income Tax Recoverable	1,520	4,597
Prepayments & accrued income	8,158	19,644
Other debtors	1,544	3,161
	<u>11,222</u>	<u>27,402</u>

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2020	2019
	£	£
Accruals	5,711	7,949
Other Creditors	2,756	1,569
	<u>8,467</u>	<u>9,518</u>

9 Analysis of Net assets by fund	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2020
	£		£	£	£
Investment Properties	-	-	-	800,000	800,000
Fixed assets for church use	10,470	-	-	-	10,470
Current assets	141,408	73,766	28,317	-	243,491
At 31 December 2020	151,878	73,766	28,317	800,000	1,053,961
At 31 December 2019	154,372	58,666	22,277	800,000	1,035,315

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

10 Statement of funds

	Balance b/fwd 1 st Jan 2020	Income	Expenditure	Gain on Investment	Transfers	Balance c/fwd 31 st Dec 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	169,372	116,849	(125,886)	-	(13,829)	146,506
	169,372	116,849	(125,886)	-	(13,829)	146,506
Designated funds						
Roof repairs	58,666	100	-	-	15,000	73,766
Restricted funds						
Mothers Day Daffs	-	510	(30)	-	-	480
Chairs	525	-	-	-	-	525
Compassion (UK)	83	120	(387)	-	184	0
Floating Shelter	1,963	1,002	(41)	-	(200)	2,724
Window Repair	410	-	-	-	-	410
Roof Repair	2,574	-	-	-	-	2,574
Christmas Grant	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500
Deanery	222	-	-	-	-	222
Other	-	21,118	-	-	(1,155)	19,963
	7,277	2,750	(458)	-	(1,171)	28,398
Endowments						
Property	800,000	-	-	-	-	800,000
	800,000	-	-	-	-	800,000
Total funds	1,035,315	139,699	(126,344)	-	-	1,048,670

The restricted funds for the chairs comprise the donations and grants received to purchase the assets, which are released to the general fund over the useful life of the asset, in line with the charities depreciation policy.

Compassion (UK) - Members of our Young Church raise funds to support Maria who lives in Indonesia. The funds are sent through Compassion (UK) with the shortfall being met out of the general fund.

The floating shelter - set up to support the Croydon Churches Floating Shelter project for the homeless in the local area.

The roof repair fund consists of legacies received, that have been designated for replacement of the church roof.

The window repair fund consists of donations and expenditure on necessary repair work to the church windows.

The Endowment Fund comprises the two bungalows Numbers 1 & 3 Chichester Road, Croydon.

11 Other Financial Commitments

As at 31st December 2020 the PCC had annual financial commitments as set out below:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Equipment – Photocopier lease	15,648	10,448
Within less than one year	0	0
Between two and five years	15,648	10,448

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

12 Comparative Statement of Financial Activities Year Ended 31 December 2019 by fund type

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	FUNDS
	£	£	£	£	2019 £
Income					
<i>Donations & Legacies</i>	94,962	2,100	281	-	97,343
<i>Other trading activities</i>	17,287	-	-	-	17,287
<i>Income from Investments</i>	30,126	-	-	-	30,126
<i>Church Activities</i>	36,456	-	-	-	36,456
Total Income	178,831	2,100	281	-	181,212
Expenditure					
<i>Raising funds</i>	1,721	-	-	-	1,721
<i>Church Activities</i>	150,814	-	1,447	-	152,261
Total Expenditure	152,535	-	1,447	-	153,982
Net Income/ (expenditure)	26,296	-	(1,166)	-	27,230
Gains on Investment assets	41	-	-	-	41
Gross Transfers between Funds	(16,300)	-	(16,300)	-	-
Net movement in funds	(10,037)	-	15,134	-	27,271
Total funds brought forward at 1 st January 2019	161,436	41,566	5,042	800,000	1,008,044
Total funds carried forward at 31 st December 2019	171,473	41,566	20,176	800,000	1,035,315

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent examiner's report to The PCC of St Matthew, Croydon (Charity no 1132508) on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020, which comprise the statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes 1-12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent examiner's statement

Where the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified Fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that:

- (1) In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect:
 - the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
 - the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
 - the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Report) Regulation 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.
- (2) I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chaweevan Williams".

Chaweevan Williams FCCA

Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Verdant Accountants Limited

167 Clarence Avenue, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3TX

Date: 9 May 2021

Blank Page

Vicar's Report - 2020

2020 was a year which most of us would want to forget, but is likely to live long in the memory! The challenges to the church presented by the pandemic were unprecedented, and I am extremely grateful for the way people came forward to help us through this very difficult time in both practical and prayerful ways.



When the first lock-down was announced in March, straightaway we were able to record the services and broadcast them on YouTube, and a daily email was sent out to keep us in touch and encourage us through those early dark and difficult days. We also circulated a flier around the neighbourhood offering practical help to anyone who might be struggling. Although we only had one call for help which we were able to respond to, I felt it was very important that the church should be active in supporting our community. Other community groups were also involved, but given the nature of Park Hill, it is not surprising that we were not overwhelmed by demands. We have a strong and supportive community, with many multi- generational households.

While the pandemic has affected everyone across the globe, each person's experience has been unique. An analogy I have found helpful is that we've all been in the same storm but each in different boats. My prayer throughout this time has been that God would use the pandemic to draw people back to himself. That as we have had to confront the reality of death in a way not seen since World War II, this would encourage people to seek the Lord. Our loving Father is able to turn the worst of circumstances around in order to bring about his loving purposes and the growth of his kingdom. In spite of all the difficulties we as a church have faced, our God has been faithful in watching over us and keeping us close to himself.

2020 was a year of lament: lament for lost freedoms, relationships, opportunities, education, and of course the loss of members of our family and friends. St Matthew's lost one of our key members, Sue Collins. We will miss her for a long time to come.

Another loss was the move to Holy Saviour's of Revd Darius Weithers. In the time he was with us, he brought a real energy to the ministry team. We wish him and his family well as they look to move on to the next stage of his ministry in the not too distant future.

The massive impact Covid-19 has made on all our lives will take a long time to recover from, and there is still some way to go before the life of the church can begin to return to a more normal pattern. Until then, we continue to rely on the expertise of people such as Jon Highton, who deserves a special thanks for his dedication and hard work in enabling our online presence to be of such high quality. Others who deserve particular thanks are: David and Jan Williams, who have been invaluable in dealing with the

minefield of keeping us Covid safe, and introducing all the risk-assessments required. Jan has also worked extremely hard on our “Keeping a Roof Over our Heads” appeal; we are hopeful that this work will soon bear much fruit. Thanks also to all those who kept in contact with our most vulnerable members, by phone and when safe to do so, in person. Many thanks to Maureen Sareen who has been delivering service sheets etc to those who are without the internet. Special thanks to Steve Tucker who always manages to produce a stimulating and entertaining magazine. Thanks also to our churchwardens, Steve Collingwood and Rohini Abhayaratne, who have been working very hard in supporting the church in so many ways.

Huge thanks to Terry Mitchell, our Administrator and Treasurer, who has as usual gone above and beyond to keep as many of the wheels turning as possible! I know he is looking forward to a well-earned retirement in 2021.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to Mary and my family, without whom this year of pandemic would have been so much harder to endure.

We look forward to better times to come in faith that our God will never fail us, in the hope of returning to a greater degree of normality, and knowing that in the midst of everything, we are constantly held and kept in the love that never ends.

Revd Simon Foster

Churchwardens' Report

For most of 2020, COVID-19 has almost completely closed down all activities within the walls of St Matthews. A Drama Group have managed to continue some activities which have been limited by the constraints from their risk assessments.

Hiring of the hall and other community activities have been seriously curtailed by the pandemic during 2020 and we are hoping as the lockdowns are eased we will see a return of the Bach Choir, the Croydon Philharmonic, the Alzheimer's Society, Pilates, the U3A, dance groups as well as the Guide and Scout groups and Archbishop Tenison School.

Progress on renewing our roof is continuing but funding targets are becoming harder to meet. Members of the congregation as well as other neighbours of ours, not necessarily connected to St Matthews have already donated quite substantial sums. We are continuing to hope that during stormy weather, the whole roof will not lift and be blown apart before work starts.

After so many years as our administrator, Terry has reluctantly decided to retire at the end of the year. For decades Terry has been here as a Scout leader and a Churchwarden before being the administrator. He is continuing as our Treasurer, and providing support for our new administrator, Penny Goswell.

The commitment of all the loyal and hard-working people for the well-running the church is the backbone of our community. We could not undertake our duties without the work done by all those who give their time and talents to the life of St Matthews.

We thank all those who carry out our Christian mission to Park Hill, especially those who contribute to the Parish Magazine, organise our social events, our fairs, the Christmas Tree Festival, the Floating Shelter and the Food Bank and our army of volunteers who help during services and work as team-members for the fabric, finance, kitchen, pastoral needs, social events and communications teams. They are all ready to relaunch their efforts during 2021 as the lockdowns are lifted.

We are delighted that Michael Strange continues as our excellent director of music. This is an essential element of our ministry and our services.

Our ministry team, has managed to maintain regular services at St Mathews and with Jon Highton's magic mouse, we have been moved and delighted by their on-line services. We thank them all for their ministry and pastoral support to all in the parish and especially we thank Simon's wife Mary and their family for their time and tireless work.

Stephen Collingwood Rohini Abhayaratne.

Finance Team

This is the last report I am writing as I have decided that the time is right to hand over the chair to someone else. The Finance Team met during the year and was chaired by Richard Tweed. The Team is required by the PCC to monitor all aspects of the church's finances, including in particular the annual budget, the periodic accounts and the Annual Accounts and the financing of capital projects and advise accordingly. The Team also organizes the annual Stewardship Campaigns.

Richard Tweed

On behalf of the Team I would like to thank Richard for all his help and guidance he has given us and to me in particular as I learnt the rules of the game of being a Treasurer.

Terry Mitchell.



Gift Aid Report

In the calendar year 2020 people gave regularly to St Matthew's by Gift Aid, and Free Will Offering. The amount of tax recovered on the Gift Aid donations during the year was £13,825 and this made a very significant contribution to the income of the church. St Matthew's can claim back twenty five pence in the pound.

giftaid it

St Matthew's are most grateful to all who have made donations either through the Gift Aid scheme or through Free Will Offering during the year. If you would like to start giving in a way that will enable St Matthew's to reclaim the tax or you wish to increase your existing giving then please have a word with me.

Terry Mitchell

Fabric Report

The building has not been used a great deal this year so there has not been much wear and tear. Unfortunately, the leaks from the roof continue unabated which damaged the flooring in the main foyer and has been repaired by Simon Roberts.

Our underground drains taking waste from the church building and the bungalows have been cleared, revealing damage from tree roots and rats in the inspection chamber near the footpath in Chichester Road. This will need addressing during 2021.



Our boundary wall behind our bungalow at 3 Chichester Road collapsed as a result of damage from a tree growing beside the wall. Work to rebuild the wall starts early 2021.

There have been improvements to the hearing loop in the church and we would like to install a ceiling mounted screen to display services.

Luckily, we do not have a great deal of costly work to be done following our quinquennial inspection except works relating to the roofs and gutters. Jan Williams repaired our bell-ringing rope, which will be good for the next fifty years.

It is our plans for the renewal of the roof that overshadowed 2020. We have agreed the levels of insulation in the renewed roof and the possible installation of solar panels. We will be pressing the DAC to accept the use of an elastomeric covering as a cheaper and more durable material than a metal covered roof. Financing the roof will probably continue for many years after it has been installed.

We do look for another member to join our small fabric team. It is a group that achieves tangible results, which is very satisfying.

Stephen Collingwood

A Safe Church

We aim to create safe environments, where children and young people are nurtured and protected; and where all people, and especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety.

We follow the national legal and procedural framework for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, and Church of England policy and practice.



Our two safeguarding officers are:

- Carolyn Tweed
- Judith Spencer-Gregson

If you have any concerns then please contact one of our safeguarding officers. They can be contacted via the parish office.

Our safe-guarding policy and the guidelines “A Safe Church” are held in the parish office.

Carolyn Tweed Judith Spencer-Gregson

Magazine

I have edited the bi-monthly magazine for ten years with the current issue, April/May, my 64th. The distribution network has been extended so that over 450 copies are printed for each issue, with most going to homes within the Parish and 50 large print copies given to the local Care Homes and Sheltered Accommodation. With grateful thanks to those who have provided excellent material during these last twelve months.

Stephen Tucker



Deanery Synod Report

The Croydon Central Deanery Synod met on 26 November 2020, and 9 February 2021. The meeting scheduled to take place on 17 June 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our guest speaker at the November meeting was Raewynne Whiteley, Director of Discipleship and Lay Ministry, with a particular brief to develop authorized lay ministries in response to the Lay Leadership & Lay Ministry Advisory Group's report.

What we do as the church is to gather people together whether it's into our building or in another space, and go through a process of transformation where our hearts, minds and actions are transformed to live our identity and our purpose as followers of Christ. This happens through worship, time together, and education processes. We are transformed by our own service through outreach and stewardship, etc. All those things contribute to shaping us in the images of Christ. We are then sent into our families, work lives, society and into the church.

The Lay Ministry Data Project was a survey of Dioceses trying to write down the people involved in all sorts of roles. It found there are approximately 100,000 people engaged in some form of Lay Ministry across the country and almost 90% are on a voluntary basis. These range from administrators to worship leaders.

About a month ago, a report on the idea of vocation called Kingdom Calling was published. There is a tendency for people to think about vocation as a calling that just happens to clergy. But in fact every one of us is called, and there is a diversity of ministries that are important.

Our theme for February's meeting was Christian Perspectives on Secondary Education and Richard Parrish, Headteacher of Archbishop Tenison's school in 2005 was our speaker.

There has been a huge shift in Croydon since then and many improvements have been made. Simon remarked that it's good we have given Richard the opportunity to speak to us because it has allowed him to express the value for the faith schools we have and what we do. We have lost St Andrews and Virgo Fidelis; now Archbishop Tenison's remains the only faith school in the borough. The school is responding by increasing their planned admission number to 150 from next September. 60% of those places will be foundation places. 20% will be given to the 10 Church of England primary schools in Croydon and Sutton, and the remaining 20% will be allocated to those geographically close to the school.

The 300th anniversary of Archbishop Tenison's has given them the opportunity to look closely at the school curriculum. The next step is the quality of teaching, and then pupil learning. There has been great emphasis on finding specialist teachers rather than an existing teacher who can merely "fill-in". 90% of what they do is the same as every other school, so what does the faith side do and how does it make a difference? The Church of England nationally has come up with an answer about a Christian vision which can be summarized in four words:-

- Community
- Wisdom
- Dignity
- Hope

Richard likened the other 10% to the parable of the leavened bread. The prayer at the start of each day, the collective worship the pupils have and looking at the Scriptures in leadership team meetings make a disproportionately huge difference to the life of the school. Their vision can be summed up in five different areas:-

1. We learn together and the people of God are one people.
2. Tremendous work is put into those who are disadvantaged. It is important to educate the whole person; mind, soul, body and spirit.
3. Each segment of the curriculum is given an equal importance.
4. Teach in a human way. We need to take into account where our pupils come from and what their home circumstances are. It's important for young people to have the space to regulate themselves in the classroom.
5. Our processes and attitudes are equally important. It's not just about outcomes.

So how do we together in our churches help to create a climate where this vision is talked about and valued? How does the church engage with government and society? Author and academic Leesa Wheelahan, talks about the importance of trust underpinning any real learning. Psalm 37 talks about anxiety; "Do not fret it leads only to evil". And so as the church, we have something to say about trust in God and one another as the basis for people to thrive and succeed. The future is really the present continued.

The Bible talks about being reborn; Richard emphasizes to his staff that they must be ready and willing to embrace change.

In conclusion, the church more than ever has a great opportunity to contribute to the educational thinking in this country and those of us who work in schools are continuing to work out what that means. But it needs the church more widely to tell them what it means to be human and we have to work out how we do this in schools.

Richard thanked the Synod for the invitation to speak, and also for the various ways we have supported the school both through prayer and practical support over the years.

Our next Deanery Synod will be on Thursday 17th June 2021 at 8pm. The theme will be 'Dementia Friendly Church' and our guest speaker will be Andy Gilbert from the Prama Foundation. The meeting will be held on Zoom.

All Deanery Synod meetings are open to the general public, so if you would like to join us, please send an email to jamesrobertsonreid@gmail.com and we will add you to the invitation list.

James Reid
Deanery Synod Secretary, Croydon Central

Roof Fund raising committee

This committee was set up in April 2020 – It's aim being "To secure funding for the repair of the roof of St Matthew's church". It reports in to the Fabric team, which is managing the roof repair project.

With lockdown having just started the normal idea of fund raising events based on socialising and enjoyment to creating funds was not going to be possible. We have a challenging amount to raise rounded up it is £500K, which is a lot of money. The amount was identified by architects who had investigated the problems with the roof and come up with options for the repair and the PCC in December 2019 decided on the approach they wanted to take.

The committee began by creating a very stylish donation form thanks to the help of Richard Hinder. This was distributed to all members of the congregation. All advice was that those who use and benefit from the church would be the ones to most likely to make donations towards the repairs. We had been very fortunate that we began with monies from some legacies left by members of the congregation in their wills.



The times were very difficult for everybody so to ask for money in uncertain times is difficult but fortunately the congregation realised that we had to help ourselves if we want to save the church. The Diocese would not be giving us any money nor was the National Lottery fund which had in the past been a good source for this sort of cause. Somehow the money started to come in and by December the amount totalled £83,415.99. Terry particularly likes to keep and report on the 99p!

We have drawn up a list of trusts to whom we could apply for funds but most required that we had reached certain criteria before they would consider an application, These application forms are several pages long and require a great deal of information. Some obvious sources of funding were looking to support those having difficulty during the COVID crisis and not giving for building or repair projects so we have had refusal to our applications.

We created a questionnaire for those who regularly rented space in the building asking if they planned to return when things got back to normal and whether they could make a donation. We also wanted to know if we could use their details when appealing to trusts. During the summer we worked with some of the groups on their risk assessments to enable them to return in the middle of the year.

The work goes on in 2021 and we still have a long way to go – all contributions will be gratefully received.

Thank you. Janet Williams

ZOOM Coffee Mornings

From lockdown last March, we moved our Saturday Coffee Mornings on line using Zoom as we were no longer able to meet in person. This was not ideal as some people are not able to access the internet so not all our usual visitors were able to join us. However, we have



had fairly consistently good attendance and indeed some people who joined us might not have come to the church coffee mornings in person even before lockdown. We moved the start from 10.30 am to 11 am after a while, as we realised people found that a better time to join us and we now finish at 12.30 am. It has been helpful to have three leaders - Simon, Laura and Alison - who

have taken it in turn to host each week. This has meant that it was not too onerous on any one person.

Alison Radford

Communications Team

The Communications Team is responsible for all aspects of communication both between church members (via Pews News, the Weekly Link email and the Parish Magazine) as well as the wider community (primarily through social media). The last 14 months have been dominated by our response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and the need to move our services online in the light of lockdown restrictions on public gatherings. This has included YouTube recordings and livestreaming of religious services (technically the latter have been particularly challenging).

We are extremely grateful to Jon for all his hard work here and we are also grateful to Richard Hinder for his technical support and expertise. We also acknowledge the excellent work of Simon and Alison and all the members of the parish who contributed recordings of readings and prayers throughout this difficult time.

The pandemic has both highlighted the need for the renewal of the Church website and delayed its implementation (as the technically savvy amongst us have been stretched to cover the online service offerings). We have applied for a grant not just for the website but for IT and general livestreaming. If this is approved, we will move ahead swiftly to complete this project in as short a time as possible.

Social media (Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp) continues to be a growth area for the team's work and we are currently looking at how we will advertise the events that we hope to hold face-to-face later this year. We are very aware that we have not been able to

engage with our younger parishioners as much as we would have liked to and we are in the process of addressing this.

The Weekly Link email continues to work well (thanks to Terry) and we would encourage anyone who hasn't opted in to this to contact Terry and opt in. We would also encourage all of those who have opted in to open the email when they receive it. Steve Tucker remains the editor of the Parish Magazine and (together with Terry Mitchell's able technical assistance) he continues to produce a very engaging publication that offers information and entertainment in equal measure.

The Communications team includes Simon Foster (Chair), Terry Mitchell, Steve Tucker (Parish Magazine editor), Jon Highton, and Jane Passfield. We usually meet on Wednesday evenings (once every two months) via Zoom. If you are interested in the work of the Communications Team, please consider attending (albeit virtually) one of our regular meetings. Alternatively, if you have skills in the fields of marketing communications or art and design but you are unable or unwilling to join the Communications Team as a full member, please do have a word with Simon about any ideas that you have. We are happy to accommodate anyone wishing to work on a specific project or who is able to offer any other form of time-limited support. We would particularly welcome support with our social media presence i.e. Facebook and Twitter.

Paul Eden



6th Croydon (St Matthew's) Guides

We said goodbye to our Leader, Zoe at the end of 2019. Debbie continued running the unit the support of Leaders from the county. When lockdown first hit the unit decided not to run virtual meetings due to not enough leaders and there was already enough zoom sessions for the girls with school work.

Over the summer period the leader team with the help of Judith, have been sorting through our outdoor equipment in the garages.

At the end of 2020 Ellen Mitchell joined the unit and has taken on the role of unit leader. Ellen is a previous youth



member of all 3 Girlguiding units at St Matthew's and also runs a local Ranger (ages 14-18) unit just around the corner at Radcliffe hall.

We are now in the process of restarting our meetings in a face to face capacity and look forward to welcoming our members back.

1st Central Croydon (St Matthew's) Rainbows

At the end of 2019 we said goodbye to Zoe and new leaders in training Jess and Carla joined the unit. During lockdown the unit had suspended their meetings but in September 2020 we joined forces with a unit in South Croydon to run our meetings virtually.



15th Central Croydon Brownies

The Brownies are a small unit consisting of approx. fifteen 7- to 10-year-old girls that meet every Wednesday night during term time.

This last year has been a weird, tough one for both the girls and the adults. Since March 2020 we carried out the meetings via Zoom. We all learnt quickly what we can and can't do on zoom, how to mute individuals if they became too noisy, how to write things on a white board and share the necessary screen. During these meetings, we met the girl's family members ranging from their older and younger brothers and sisters to the family pets including hamster and dog. Girls (along with help from other family members) have learnt

how to measure out and use the microwave during some cooking zoom sessions.



One of the main events during the year is the sleepover, due to COVID Brown Owl adapted this so this still occurred. The weekend involved the girls and the leader meeting on zoom at particular times during the weekend so they could take part in activities including making salt dough shapes, baking them and decorating them. The adults did not have the late night waiting for the girls to

stop talking and fall asleep or the difficult bunkbeds to sleep on.

We are slowly getting back to normal (well normal for the 21st century) and every other week meeting face to face in the out-door space no matter what the weather

If interested in joining whether as a youth member (5+) or as a volunteer please register your interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus



1st Croydon (St Matthew's) Scouts

This past year for the Scouts has, like the rest of the country, been a particularly hard year. The last face-to-face meeting we held was in mid-March 2020, and since then our scouting has been entirely virtual. We finished the spring term by creating activity sheets for the Scouts to carry out. These included games, badge work, quizzes, tasks from the TV series Taskmaster, and activities provided by the Scout Association.

We were fortunate enough to receive a Zoom account, arranged for by the Scout Association, which meant that for a good deal of the summer we were able to meet virtually. The leaders arranged for the Scouts to take part in a wide range of activities, many



that would help with scouting knowledge. We quickly realised that, although the Scouts may have been attending school in some form, they were missing the contact that they were used to having with their friends. Therefore we made the decision that throughout the summertime the scout sessions would be primarily focused on fun activities that would enable the Scouts to interact with each other. We also took part in two

virtual camps. One was an overnight camp, where the Scouts and leaders cooked an evening meal, told stories round a virtual campfire, and created dens indoors to sleep in. The second was organised by the Scout Association, and included a camp opening and closing ceremony held by Bear Grylls, many fun activities, a campfire streamed live from Gilwell Park, and a bedtime story told by a children's author amongst many other things. More recently we have been doing such things as first aid and cooking over Zoom. One of the Scouts even took part in the district bake off and received a badge and certificate. One particular activity that we have found to work well is virtual escape rooms as it gives the opportunity for everyone to take part at the same time.

There was a very brief opportunity for the Scouts to start meeting face-to-face at the end of last year, however further lockdowns meant that we didn't get around to doing so. More recently the Scout Association has started allowing face-to-face meetings to start happening again. For obvious reasons there is quite a bit of paperwork that the leaders have to complete first, but we are hoping that we will be back doing so as soon as possible, although it is envisaged that we will start off meeting outdoors before moving back to indoor activities in the Autumn term.

Michael Smaldon

1st Croydon (St Matthew's) Beaver Scouts

During Lockdown I quickly started running Beavers online using Zoom (30mins each week). On one hand it gave me the freedom to do activities we wouldn't normally be able to do at the hall (backwoods cooking, making a trebuchet/slingshot using pioneering, etc.) but equally I had to come up with ideas of what we could make and do with just the materials parents had at home. Although numbers are low (some children did not cope well psychologically with Zoom or lockdown and sadly they simply withdrew from Scouting), those attending do so regularly and clearly enjoy the activity programme a lot. Upon request I continued running Beavers throughout the Easter & May half-term holidays and into the summer holidays – 5 months of non-stop Scouting (including two online investitures)!

Leaders Tic Tac Beaver and Cycling Beaver continue to be assisted in 2019 by Swimming Beaver who has now completed his Silver Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) award as our Young Leader; he's now taking a break due to GCSE exams looming (summer 2021) but we may have another DoE volunteer helping out for 3-6 months (November 2020 onwards). With our parent helpers we continued to learn Skills For Life, hold termly Log Chews (You-shaped Scouting) and have Fun and Friends. In 2020 TicTac Beaver will be hanging up her scarf after many years (decades!); we are delighted that she will continue Scouting as an Occasional Helper.



In 2021 we hope to again try school assemblies for Founder's Day (22 Feb) or St George's Day (23 April), as well as stalls at any school fairs. We also hope to mount an online recruitment campaign but we need **more adult volunteers** to be able to cope with a surge in membership. So if you have enjoyed your time helping at Beavers (on the parent rota) or have any specific skills you can bring to Scouting (web design, marketing, project management, cooking, DIY, gardening, etc.), please consider becoming an Occasional Helper; this merely means you're helping more than once a month, so how regularly you help is up to you. Getting dressed up in RNLI kit is optional!

Tracey Hague
Beaver Leader

