



**All Saints'
All Inclusive
All Welcome**

**The Parish Church of
All Saints, Staplehurst**

**Annual Reports
2019/2020**

Annual Vestry Meeting: 7th October 2020 Agenda

1. Election of Churchwardens
2. Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting of 30 April 2019
3. Date of Next Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: 7th October 2020 Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 30 April 2019
3. Matters Arising
4. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
5. Election of Members to the PCC
6. *Annual Reports:*
 - Rector
 - Church Administrator
 - Church Warden
 - PCC Secretary
 - Buildings & Grounds
 - Churchyard Liaison
 - Electoral Roll Officer
 - Bellringers
 - Charities & Social Responsibility
 - Children & Young People
 - Churches Together
 - Deanery (Weald) Synod
 - Diocesan (Canterbury) Synod
 - Flowers
 - Friends of All Saints
 - Fun'd Raising
 - Health, Healing & Support Prayer Group
 - Holy Dusters and Brass Cleaners
 - Magazine
 - Music
 - Servers
 - Sunday Teas
 - Worship
 - PCC report
7. Treasurer's Report and Report from the Independent Examiner
8. Election of Sides people
9. Any Other Business

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All Saints' Rainbow Covenant

Christ is the vine, we are the branches,
He calls us to bear fruit.

Central to our call in Staplehurst is
God's love for us and ours for God.
God's love nourishes us and calls us
to share the love of Christ generously.

We are called to be a joyful people,
manifesting respect for
and tolerance to others,
generous with: our time,
listening, words, forgiveness,
resources and help.

We reach outwards as inclusive agents
of God's hospitality and welcome.
God shall be revealed through us.

We commit to love God
by learning how to love one another
and by extending God's love
to the communities in which
we live, work and witness.

Chris Cochrane

**RECTOR'S REPORT
FOR
ALL SAINTS CHURCH STAPLEHURST
2019/2020**

In my report I am reflecting on the year from May 2019 June, July, August, September, October, November, December, to January 2020, February, March & April 2020.

Our last APCM was on the 30 April 2019 and John Parsons-Smith did his last year as electoral roll officer in compiling a completely new electoral roll according to the 6 year rule and handed over the task to Bill Scott duly elected at the APCM as new electoral Roll officer. Before the Archdeacons visitation to make Churchwardens and sides people legal, 19 of us took ourselves off to a trip to Rostock in Germany. We were blessed with sunshine and an enjoyable time, if I may say so myself, having organised the trip to my home town in the North of Germany.



Not long after our return from Germany we came together again in celebration of Monica's 80th Birthday, kindly hosted by Shirley Skinner in her garden. The whole summer was a delight with several events that brought us together, but also helped to raise funds for All Saints, like the Wine Tastings, All Saints Choir Concert, the Summer Fete, the Church Cream Tea & Swim, St. Swithuns Day Challenge, All Saints Film Nights and it carried on into the winter with the Christmas Crafts & Carols by Candlelight and all interspersed with Raffles winnings. Not to forget the annual Ride & Stride for churches and the Invicta Jazz orchestra. Thank you to all involved in the organising, particularly to Angie and her team.



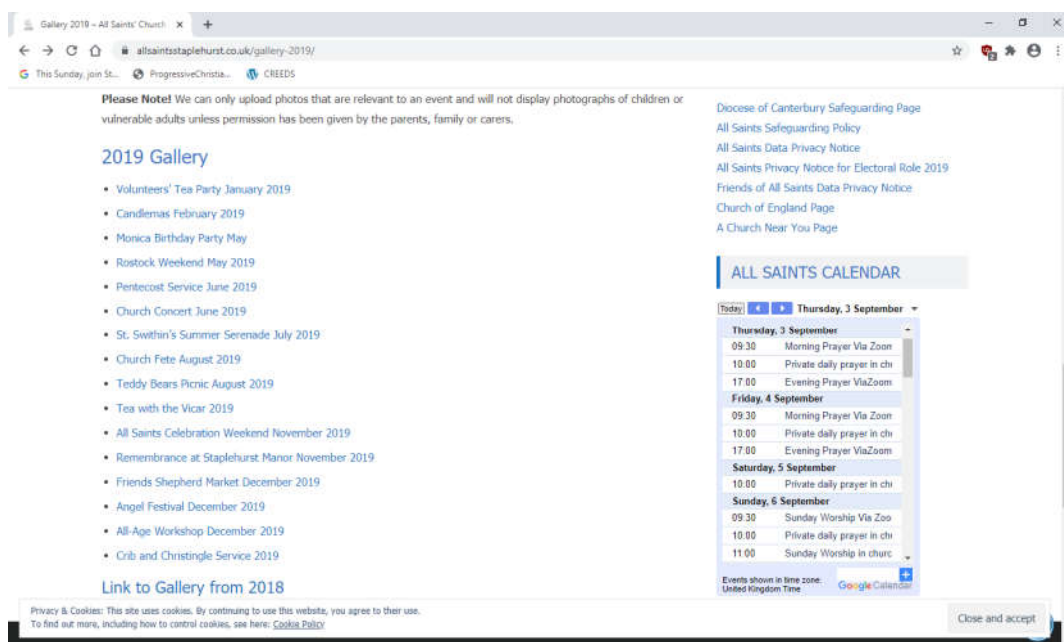
Helen Grant MP at the Summer Fete & the Mayor of Maidstone

Thank you!!!!

The Sunday Teas for All and the Tea with the Vicar are also much enjoyed get together as much as the tea after the Wednesday Communion Service in order to enjoy each other's company.

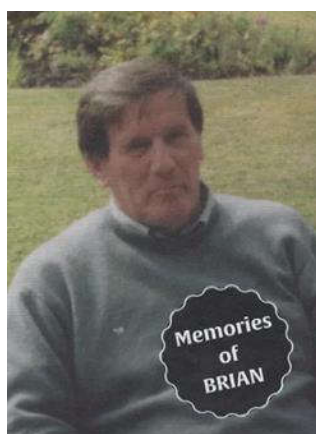


Please have a look on All Saints Church website for a more comprehensive capture of all events.



We know the funds are never enough as we are always made aware by our treasurer Caroline, who juggles all the ins and outs. Caroline's work has been made much harder with no bank left in Staplehurst and also the methods of payments with online giving varying more widely. It takes great diligence to track and trace.

We also had some sad news from Brian Barnes who wrote to All Saints around the 19 May to let us know that that he developed a second, but different, kind of Lymphoma. Brian succumbed to the illness and died, which was indeed very upsetting to many of us. The Parish Magazine collected tributes in words and pictures about Brian and published a double page in Memory of Brian. I have sent a copy of the Magazine to Una together with a letter and I know some of you are still in touch with Una.



We also said goodbye to Janet Powell, and Caroline Veall who worshipped at All Saints Church and Jean Andrews who received Home Communion for many years.

Three members of our congregation are now in Care homes; Des Liddicoat, Delphine Wass and Edeltraut Marks. We have a great team of people who visit regularly and send letters and Parish Magazines.

The Church is the epicentre of life and death and many have worked hard to maintain the beauty of the church and yard by doing some valuable tidying, cleaning and maintenance work of the churchyard and the building. A lot of time has been given to organise, clear and clean.

In order to study and to look deeper into the word of God we met for monthly bible studies at the Henley's house where we studied with the material from the Bible project.

Each month was a mixture of study, celebration and administration (Committee meetings). We successfully marked All Saints Celebration Weekend. Just as a reminder, shown below is a little clip from the flyer that went to every household in Staplehurst. The team who prepared the flyer worked extremely hard to get the publicity and the weekend off the ground.

I do hope we can build on the message sent with the flyer in the future. It's great and I love it, because it reflects All Saints Church vitality in all spheres of life.



We are always revising and learning and going with new facilities to give access to information about the life and worship of All Saints Church. The pace of updates and new innovation is fast. The online facilities would not have been accessible without our Webmaster Andrew, who raised the All Saints Church profile by arranging the websites with an always updated look and Tony's investigations into Parish buying suggestions working out the nitty-gritty aspects to find out what is suitable for us to use.

The Henley's name has not come off any page in the Church's life, because of the sheer amount of responsibilities the two have dealt with in regard to the church building but really all of church life. No thank you would be all encompassing the time and effort you have invested in monitoring and supervising all of the Building and Grounds saga with the sanctuary and so much more. Please let me tell you how grateful I am for all you have done. This is not to say others haven't worked hard,

but Tony and Mary have stirred us through important and tricky decision making times such as the appointment of a new church architect & the sanctuary project and the lockdown.

My thanks and appreciation also go to my lovely colleague Monica who is always willing to share in taking services and to take part in all of church life and also to Julia Page our administrator, who is invaluable to the running of the church and office, always happy to help by walking the extra mile and dealing with the administration efficiently and impeccably.

Church life is always changing by people moving in and out of Staplehurst, those who have sadly died and by new people joining the congregation.

Even with all the comings and goings, we retained a good number of people on the church electoral roll.

It has been an intensive year with the national debate of the Brexit affair and eventual vote and negotiations, of which many are still outstanding.

All Saints is enriched by people, lay and ordained, that exercise various ministries. Thank you to you all. I am delighted that Andrew Edwards' years of discernment finally led him to ordination training whilst continuing to live in Staplehurst and occasionally to pop in on us.

I am grateful to our musicians, organists, the band and the choir.

Thank you to all on the ministry team visiting the care homes on a monthly and bi-monthly basis and for extra services and communion to individuals. My thanks go also to Chris and Jane for keeping the book of remembrance up to date and opened on the right page. Thank you to all who clean in church, and look after St. Georges chapel and keep the churchyard tidy.

The church continues to be of communal value to a lot of people in the village, especially for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and Burials, of which we had many this year again. Thank you to Val Wallis in doing her verger duties impeccably and to Norman and Robin's assistants.

It has been a joy to meet so many new families that have moved into Staplehurst. Events like the Teddy bears' picnic enable new friendships amongst families with small children. It is nice to see a new generation of young families congregating at various church services and becoming part of the community.

But we are in a gap year so to speak with children old enough to join their parents in church services, although the weekly assemblies have continued. Liz Furner headed up a Children breakfast club and when all was in place, funding and helpers, Covid 19 bulldozed the initiative to the ground. So we hang in there and see what the next year will bring.

I enjoyed the work with the ecumenical minister's team. Sadly Dhenis Stafford did not work out for the Free Church, but Clive has stepped in part time from his retirement and does what he can. Together with Father Barry and Andrew Royal we are a good team and the Churches Together work flourishes thanks to all committee members. I very much enjoyed our ecumenical Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday in the Parish room. The Top Tosser winner was the URC Church.



Spirituality is not an afterthought at All Saints, again we kept going with a Bible Study Course. We enjoyed all seasonal celebrations and provisions: the Harvest celebration, the Advent Services and Course, the Lent Book club and the Holy Week services and other devotional offerings.

So many people have been so supportive and could not have been kinder by going out of their way to support and help wherever help was needed.

I am also grateful for the insightful charity talks to point us beyond ourselves to the need of others.

When I thought now we can celebrate Easter, than I will go on holiday and come back getting ready for the next round, we didn't know what would hit us come the beginning of March 2020 when Covid19 suddenly took over our lives. From trying to be cautious and to reduce the danger of infections, by the 23 March we were in lockdown and the church building was shut. From then on we zoomed our services, prayed together daily. The APCM got postponed and the PCC members and churchwardens remained in situ. In that regard I am very lucky to keep the team for a bit longer, because they are really good in what they are doing and I am very grateful for all their hard work.

On the other hand we all have to put our thinking cap on and discern Gods will for our church in all areas of church life as life is very different now and we need to respond to the new normal.

ALL SAINTS PARISH CHURCH, STAPLEHURST

DAILY PRAYER



Please join us in daily prayers, from wherever you are, when we say prayers in church during the week on

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
at 9.30am and 5.00pm
and on
Sunday at 9.30am.



Lord, you called your first disciples
to follow you.
Help us to deepen our walk with you and
renew our discipleship.
Kindle in all our hearts a longing
to see you more clearly,
love you more dearly
and follow you more nearly
day by day.
Amen

Yours Silke

**AND A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DOES SO MUCH TO KEEP THIS CHURCH
COMMUNITY THRIVING AND FLOURISHING:**

Fund raisers,

Flower arrangers,

Organists,

The Band ,

The Choir,

The Children's Choir

People who pray quietly at home,

The Healing Team and Prayer Group,

Washer-uppers,

Sidespeople, Welcomers,

Practical people,

People who change light bulbs and more,

Brass polishers,

Baptism visitors,

Intercessors,

Readers,

Worship committee, hymn choosers service leaders

Everyone who gives financially

Those who keep the Cupboards tidy,

People who just quietly get things done Churches Together members,

The Lent team,

Treasurer,

Cake-bakers, biscuit bringers

Coffee makers & Servers

Volunteers in the village

Cooks & servers at social events,

All Committees & members

Those who look after St.Georges Chapel and Hoover regularly

Those who set the church clock

Care Home visitors

Home Communion Visitors

Social event organisers

People who look after the churchyard,

Worship Leaders,

The Finance Team

The PCC members,

PEOPLE WHO PREPARE NOTICE SHEETS AND PRINT THEM,

Church Wardens,

Parish Magazine Team and volunteers who deliver

The Friends of All Saints,

Bereavement visitors

People who take the minutes at meetings,

Photographers and Film people,

Invite people to church,

Everyone who prepares the church for services,

People who say 'yes' when asked to do something at the last minute,

Building & Grounds Maintenance team,

Those who preach & teach,

Card senders,

The Bell ringers ,

People who clear up,

Those who light, extinguish and renew candles...and clear up the wax

Poster makers and displayers

Star and tree team

People who listen

Crib and Calvary constructors

Those who unlock and lock the church

Those who nudge our giving to charities

Technical trouble-shooters

Holy dusters

Webmaster

Flag flyers

Poppy and posy makers

People who find time

Linen washers and liturgical colour changers

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Everyone who assists at services

THANK YOU!

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

It has been another busy year in the office with plenty of new administrative challenges. The office computer decided earlier this year that it was too tired to carry on but, with the timely help of our resident Staplehurst IT expert, we were furnished with a new hard drive and a revitalised pc.

The new external back up system that we invested in last year came into it's own (hurrah and phew!), with 99% of data that had been lost in the breakdown being restored and saved, apart from a few emails which fell into the black hole left by an interrupted cloud. Thankfully people, as always, have been very understanding as we rebuild our email address list back to full capacity and retrieve the few lost missives. Thank you everyone!

The online services for DBS checking and Statistics for Mission continue to facilitate administration with data input and results being possible at the touch of a button. Thank you to all who have made the journey to the office, braving the weather and clutching your ID documents to ensure the continuous Safeguarding of our Church community.

The Deanery Administrators have again been working in collaboration to ensure good working practices in each of the Parishes and providing help and support to each other with regard to the new and updated Safeguarding Policies. There has also been the challenge of a changing Deanery, with two of our number facing an interregnum for the first and second time respectively.

Thanks as always to the people I work most closely with: to Silke, Mary, Monica and Angie - your ceaseless hard work and constant good humour are a source of inspiration and keep me going, especially when machines fight back or indeed, just stop working!

Julia Page, Administrator

CHURCHWARDENS

Shirley and Mary have continued to enjoy their role as Churchwardens this year, valuing Angie's support and help as Deputy Warden. We continue to appreciate Silke's leadership as Rector, and we value our regular meetings with her and Monica.

This time last year the PCC had made the decision to appoint a new Inspecting Architect. We were fortunate to have a strong group of professionals interested in the post, and our shortlisted candidates were put through a rigorous process to enable the appointment panel to assess the best person for the job. The PCC approved the appointment of Dan Martin, who is proving clear, direct and purposeful to work with.

As you will read in the Buildings and Grounds report, progress is now being made to draw up a detailed scheme for the Chancel Floor repair, which will enable grant applications to be made. However the building is very needy of care in all sorts of ways. Stonework, heating and most recently after the storms in February, the turret roof, all need attention. The PCC have difficult decisions to make about the priorities of the areas of work. Please do share your thoughts with members and support them in prayer.

It has continued to be a great pleasure to us as churchwardens that many people visit the church throughout the day, and we appreciate Norman's valuable work in ensuring the building is always open. The delivery of free Parish Magazines to all the owners of newly built homes in Staplehurst offers the opportunity to welcome new residents to the village and to let them know about All Saints' church. The 'Here for You' flyer distributed with the generous help of the congregation reminded all residents that All Saints' church is here to serve the whole community.

We recognise the seriousness of the situation of being unable to pay all of our Parish Share contribution in 2019, and would encourage anyone who is able to contribute more to All Saints' church. However this is also an opportunity for us to consider and pray about what we stand for, why the church is important and how, as a Christian presence, we should best be serving the village.

Our Fun'd Raising team have continued to work extremely hard to organise occasions to delight all and engage wider participation in church events (and of course raise much needed church funds). Fresh ideas keep bubbling up!

Another real social event 'high' was the trip organised by Silke to visit her home town of Rostock in North Germany last May. It is always a privilege to be guided by someone local, thereby gaining personal insights and experiences: however those of us who went were extremely touched by the care, attention to detail and the desire to both inform and entertain us which Silke devoted to the trip. We all had a wonderful time together, returning with a wealth of happy memories.

An area of church life which has really flourished this year is initiatives to provide opportunities to support the wellbeing of individuals throughout the parish. 'Sunday Teas for All' started in July, and offering a monthly opportunity for talk over tea and cake has proved a real success. Minisaints has re-opened under new leadership. Monday Music is now held in the church, and we have the prospect of running a breakfast club during the Easter holidays.

During this year we have been sad to lose a few members of the regular congregation but are delighted to see some new faces now becoming familiar ones. We can be sure that this year will bring more changes to All Saints, and we pray that we can all be open to God's direction in our lives as we work together as a Christian presence in Staplehurst.

Mary Henley & Shirley Skinner, Churchwardens

PCC SECRETARY

The PCC has met 8 times this past year and many PCC members act as conveners for sub committees involving further work for the church.

Andrew Edwards left the PCC as he begins his work training in the ministry and we also said farewell to Margaret Thornton and Dominic Lundberg, however, we happily welcomed Dermot Budd, Bill Scott, Margaret Ashby and Petra Ashdown as members.

*Angie Lucas
PCC Secretary*

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

The Buildings and Grounds sub-committee has met regularly and faithfully during the year, ensuring the regular maintenance of the church building and parish rooms, as well as considering larger projects beyond the scope and skills of volunteers.

The PCC's appointment of a new Inspecting Architect, Dan Martin, enables the Building and Grounds subcommittee to work with a clearer trajectory on larger projects so that progress can now be made.

Routine maintenance, testing and servicing

During the year, maintenance has been carried out as follows by volunteers:

Church:

Regular monitoring and clearing out of roof valley drainage, hoppers and guttering.

Repair to choir vestry door and to key safe after slight vandalism by intruders
Chandelier lightbulbs changed as needed, using LED bulbs which are now available, and will last longer
Lightbulbs changed in Rector's vestry
Autumn and Spring cleans organised in liaison with Holy Dusters
New extension wire supplied for clavichord, following advice from electrical appliance testing
Cleaning of internal glass of Rector's vestry
Temporary repair to cracked pane of glass in ringing room Church
Star lightbulbs changed to LED
Heater supplying hot water to kitchen and toilet taps repaired

Parish Room:

Small spotlights fitted to side walls of Parish Room to enable more flexible lighting (on request from Photographic society)
Side storage shed cleared out and swept during summer holidays
Shelf fitted to cupboard under kitchen sink
Draught excluders to doors from side storage
New mouse bait supplied (in storage room not accessible by children)
Down pipe from roof cleared out
Gate catch repaired
Cleaning of skirting edges, radiator pipes, behind radiators and tiles in disabled toilet. Cobwebs cleared from storage room and high ceiling in main room
Fluorescent lights replaced as necessary
The committee appreciates the support of owners of neighbouring properties to keep boundary hedges trimmed, dead trees cut down and fences repaired.

The PCC is aware of the need to maintain the Parish Room to appropriate standards to comply with requirements from the different groups which hire the hall.

For some other items of maintenance, it has been necessary to employ specialist firms:

Yew Tree (under guidance from Inspecting Architect):

Temporary door fitted to Tower roof required due to existing structure attached to failing stonework).
Permanent repair to be made.

Repointing to East Wall

Fairs and Green:

Further repairs to Boiler 2. However this boiler continues to work intermittently.

EHV

Repair, descaling and service to water heater in kitchen (for hot drinks)

Squirrels!!!

JMH Flooring

New carpet fitted to Parish Room back room (old carpet had become stained and ripped)

The church field has received an annual mowing.

Annual maintenance and testing has been carried out as follows:

PEAT testing: successfully carried out in Parish Room, Church and Parish Office.

Fire safety testing: successfully carried out in Parish Room and Church.

Annual boiler servicing carried out in Church and Parish Room.

Church clock serviced.

Lightning protection system inspected, repaired and compliance certification received.

Larger projects

North choir and Chancel Floor

Since taking up post as our Inspecting Architect in July 2019, Dan Martin consulted with professionals already involved (Paul Bennet Archaeologist, Edmund Harris from the DAC, and Ed Morton from the Morton partnership) to inform drawing up a permanent solution to the problem which PCC voted for. This will cost in the region of £100,000. Dan Martin attended the PCC meeting in November to answer questions from the PCC and he has presented the PCC with a clearly scheduled timeline for work.

The PCC is grateful to the Friends for their decision to pay for professional fees. This enables the PCC to have a clear and costed plan, essential for grant applications. A small team has formed to lead the process.

Stonework

Work identified in the 2015 Quinquennial Report has been reappraised by our new IA, and over time some issues have become a higher priority.

In order to proceed, Dan Martin advised that the PCC should commission a Petrology Report. We had an exciting moment when our amazing archivist Anita Thompson was able to provide the document 'All Saints Stones', written in the 1950s. However what the document did not offer was information on how appropriate stones can now be sourced, so a reduced scope report was commissioned and has now been received. (Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in reading either report, both are now held electronically).

Estimates, and a schedule of priorities for stonework repairs to the east wall and tower turret, are now being sought.

Regular clearing of guttering, hoppers and downpipes has ensured that water flows away into the ground, and means that the East Wall is no longer waterlogged.

Church boilers

As the worshipping congregation will be aware, some Sundays were rather chilly during the winter months. One of the two working boilers has been only working intermittently, and we are advised that it is nearing the end of repair options. Building and Grounds committee are looking into different options to ensure that the heating is more reliable for next winter. This is not a straightforward matter as our current system is verging on obsolete, so installing a replacement boiler may not be possible.

New systems raise many challenging questions: Should we install a more environmentally friendly system? How can we get the heat generated to warm the congregation more? Would a new system encourage consideration of reordering the church? How much would it cost?!

Finally

Appreciation must go from us all to the small team of volunteers who do so much maintenance work. We also are most grateful to the Friends who provide funds to enable the PCC to carry out necessary larger works and maintenance to the Church building.

Mary Henley

CHURCHYARD LIAISON COMMITTEE

All Saints' Churchyard continues to bring pleasure to the community and many find it a place of peace and tranquility.

The churchyard liaison committee, two Parish Council Representatives and two appointed by the Parochial Parish Council (PPC) meet regularly and hold the responsibility for maintaining the Churchyard. The PCC receives a grant from the Parish Council for undertaking this.

The grass and hedges are kept very neat and tidy by Graham Smith, and Cecil Scarf keeps both the bonfire and rubbish under control. My thanks to them both.

There was some tree work done on the south side of the Church and further work is planned for at the Frittenden Road end of the extension. This area of Churchyard is classified as an area of Special Scientific Interest by Kent Wild Life Nature trust and we feel privileged to have the care of this area. This area is under a very specific management plan and I am delighted to report that having had the right care and attention in recent years there are many rare grasses and herbs now growing. My thanks to Terry Standen for his diligence on this area of the churchyard.

We were fortunate during the several storms this winter not to suffer any damage from falling branches.

Both the kissing gate on the east boundary and the gate into the extension require some maintenance work which should be done in the better weather.

Val Wallis

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

The total roll number over recent years as follows: -

YEAR	ROLL
2013	136
2014	112
2015	115
2016	116
2017	117
2018	115
2019	110
2020 (as at 20/09/20)	107

The final total roll number will be reported at the 2020 APCM. A new electoral roll is required every 6 years the next roll is required in 2025.

Anyone considering themselves to be part of All Saints Staplehurst on an ongoing basis and is not on the electoral roll, please find an application form in the entrance hall of the church or contact the Electoral Roll Officer.

William Henry Scott- Electoral Roll Officer

BELLRINGERS

For our band of ringers as a whole the past year has been one of consolidation rather than progress. We have again rung for most services during the year and our practice nights continue to be well attended although we have become increasingly reliant on visiting ringers to advance our ringing repertoire. That said, there has been progress by several of our less experienced ringers, two of whom were awarded their

Stage 2 ART Certificates and remain keen to progress into other areas of ringing. Our philosophy continues to be that adequate training is an ongoing need and, indeed, we now have four new ringers at various stages of learning.

It is however somewhat worrying that the age profile of our band continues to rise year on year. Alas Staplehurst is not unique in this general decline of public interest in learning to ring at a young age combined with the years of commitment needed to ring well. It is vitally important that we pass our skills and expertise on to future generations before we become too old to do so.

As mentioned in last year's report it has been necessary to replace the ground pulley rollers which over many years have become worn. Replacements have now been purchased and are in the process of being fitted. The Friends of All Saints have kindly agreed to reimburse the Ringers for the costs of the new rollers for which we sincerely thank them.

We entered three bands in the Maidstone District Striking Contests at East Malling, one in the method competition and two in the called changes competition. We won the method competition for the seventh time in the last eight years but unfortunately were unable to go forward to the County-wide competition as the date clashed with other commitments, including the wedding of former Staplehurst ringer Richard Barclay. In the called changes competition our two bands came a very creditable second and third respectively.

At the other end of the matrimonial spectrum long-time Staplehurst ringer Shirley Norfolk and her husband Tony celebrated their Golden Wedding on 16th August and our ringers rang a new method, composed especially for the occasion by Daniel Brady, to celebrate the event.

On the social side we held our Christmas Dinner at the Hawkenbury Inn, which was enjoyed by around 30 ringers, partners and friends. We also held our usual New Year's Eve Ringers' party, before ringing in the New Year in the usual style with party-poppers and champagne. The annual outing in May 2019 was to the Kent/Sussex border, where we enjoyed a variety of bells, good ringing and a pub lunch.

An exciting new project during the year has been the establishment of a Staplehurst Handbell Group. This is a new community group supported by the Staplehurst Bellringers and we held our first Handbell Workshop on Saturday 22nd February. This first session was led by three experienced handbell ringers who brought along some simple music for us to try out and gave us a basic grounding on what is involved. Anyone interested in joining our handbell group can contact Sue Bassett on 01580-891917 to find out when and where the next practice will be. No previous experience is necessary!

We continue to enjoy a good relationship with the church and we hope that our ringing continues to be appreciated by those who hear it.

Roy Barclay, Tower Secretary

CHARITIES AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Thank you to those of our congregation who support our church's charitable giving. Many of you have your own personal charities which you support as well as the church ones, and so we thank you for your generosity.

The charity financial report is elsewhere in this APCM booklet.

The list of charities which we are supporting this year is on the charity notice board in the coffee area in church.

In October we will ask the congregation to suggest charities which may be chosen for 2021.

Because we are handling money given by our congregation for the chosen charities, the committee does try to see that we use those whose running costs are least astronomical. I will quote from an email which I had following various phone calls and emails to the supporter group of one of the charities. He said "I think charities should be accountable for the money they spend on areas like marketing, materials and overheads, and I am happy that we have people in the world like you, (meaning the charity committee) who care enough to ask these questions."

Do please read the thank you letters we receive from our charities. They are in a folder in the coffee area by the charity notice board.

We continue to ask those who have small change to have one of our film pots to fill. This helps increase our charitable giving.

Charity Sunday is usually the second Sunday of the month. This year, because Easter Day falls on the second Sunday, we have moved it to the third Sunday. Because of Remembrance Sunday on the second one in November Charity Sunday is the first Sunday of the month.

If you would like orange charity envelopes, to make your giving easier, please speak to Caroline Highwood or Tony Henley. Thank you.

The Social Responsibility items often overlap with the Charity business. We continue to collect food and various commodities for Maidstone Homeless care. We do this three times a year at Easter, Harvest and Christmas and people are most generous. Thank you for all you give.

We have been asking people to save and cut up their clean plastic to fill a large lemonade bottle which when full should weigh 666g. These are used, among other ways, in the building trade. Do please see the instructions on the board in the coffee area.

We have a representative on our committee who, together with Mary Henley, is looking at how our church, and we as individuals, may become more eco aware and how we can change even small things to collectively make a difference.

Audrey Bullock, Charity and Social Responsibility Chairman

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:

MINISAINTS

Minisaints has now been running for a term and a half.

We have had donations of toys, mainly for the babies of the groups, there is a surplus which we'll pass on to Silke. The monies for the group are based on voluntary contributions as I want this to be a place that is all inclusive and everyone is welcome. Postnatal depression is a real battle and this is a good hub for families run by the church.

Silke's enthusiasm and support has been a breath of fresh air. Julia's efforts are always most helpful. Mary Henley's efficiency has improved the quality of the hall, although the cleanliness of this could sometimes be improved. There are still old pool/snooker tables and a 1950's play house that really need taking to the tip!

Janet Mardel and Debbie Godmon have been volunteers now since the group started. They are also now both DBS checked so that if I have an emergency with one of my toddlers we are covered. More volunteers wouldn't go amiss! I would like to thank my Mother, Susannah Rayner, for making this all possible: helping me get ready for the opening (a massive task) and looking after my children whilst the group is in progress.

Since starting I have organised a format that works for the group, which the parents have assured me they are happy with, the kids can play and socialise with other children, while the mums and dads have a cuppa tea with biscuits. It's controlled free play for the children rotating the toys that are put out. Towards the end everyone helps to tidy up and we get ready for story time and a sing-a-long before departure. Now that I have the crafts that belong to Minisaints (although most of it is not age appropriate for the current cohort) I will work towards introducing a little craft such as Mother's Day cards/ Easter theme/ and like I did at Christmas, a Christmas craft etc. We contributed to the village stars at Christmas. The majority of the children that attend (10-15 children) are around 2 years old or younger.

If anyone would like to come and volunteer as a one off or on a more regular basis (once a term or month) please do get in touch. potierach@hotmail.com

Rachel Antikatzidis

ALL AGE WORKSHOP

During the last year, three Workshops have taken place. Good Friday/Easter, Celebration of the Patronal Festival and Christmas. As I write this report another is being prepared for Good Friday/Easter.

The numbers attending vary. On Good Friday 2019 we had over 40 taking part, the Patronal Festival saw about 20 and at Christmas only eleven. If the numbers continue to dwindle in this way, we will have to review whether this is a viable activity to pursue.

I am hugely grateful to those who regularly give up their valuable time to assist with the activities, refreshments, taking names on the door, and helping to set up and clear up. It wouldn't be possible without the support. Many thanks to all involved.

The activities as usual vary according to the workshop. Biscuit decorating and woodwork are always on the list as these remain very popular. Others include sewing, bracelet making, flowers, cards, wreaths, angels, badges, Easter Garden, Easter Tree, fridge magnets and stained -glass window pictures.

If anyone would like to see what we do, please do come along. You might like to observe, take part in a craft – or even help! You will be most welcome.

Marion Whatmore

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Joyful Voices, AKA Sing! The Children's Choir at All Saints, has been running for over a year now, practising during term times on Friday evenings 6-6.45pm at the back of the church, finishing in time for the adult choir to start. Jacqui Veitch and Caroline Bay are in charge and this past year the children have performed several times at various events. They got a resounding reception at The St. Swithun's Summer Serenade in July alongside other musicians and singers, ensuring a wonderful afternoon was enjoyed by all at Lime Trees.

They also performed some super songs at the Annual Church Fete in the pretty gardens of Staplehurst Manor in August and gave a wonderful rendition on Saturday 2nd November for the All Saints Celebration Weekend, after which they enjoyed the activities (and prizes) namely a fun Treasure Hunt and Quiz.

Again, this year the children performed with the adult choir for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service, and also sang at the Parade Christmas Tree Festival as part of the Advent Carol Service.

Angie Lucas

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Gail Bacchus and Helen Wilkins have continued to be your representatives on the Churches Together committee for 2019-20.

The current members of CTiS are: - Alison Alderson, Catherine Bowen, Tom Burnham, Peter Jeffery, Clive Jones, Margaret Marriott, Matt Stonely, Linda Dawson, Tony Norfolk, Andrew Royal, Fr. Barry & Reverend Silke. (FYI we are seeking a third member from All Saints)

Thank you to Tom the secretary and Peter the treasurer for their leadership and contribution of this report. The committee acts as a liaison point between the churches, to coordinate our various activities and try to avoid diary clashes.

Easter and Christmas Cards

Churches Together again arranged the production and distribution of cards to every house in Staplehurst at Easter and Christmas, listing what's on at our various churches thanks to Tony Norfolk. Particular thanks are due to Matt for his invaluable help with design and printing. URC were grateful that a flyer for the Open House event was delivered with the Easter card. At the joint witness on The Parade on the morning of Good Friday CTiS members spoke to passers-by and handed out hot cross buns.

Christian Aid

The committee organised the house-to-house collection for Christian Aid in May 2019, which raised £2780, about £220 less than in 2018.

Community Picnic

The Staplehurst Community Events Group organised a community picnic on Surrenden Field on Sunday afternoon, 9th June, and Churches Together supported this new venture with a short act of worship (led by Andrew) and a paper plane making activity for children. Thanks to Maureen for her unstinting work at the community Picnic.

The expenses of Churches Together in Staplehurst activities are mainly covered by contributions from the four member churches, but we raised additional funds by running a refreshment stall at the village Fête on 29th June, and wish to thank all those who helped serve and provided cakes for sale.

Unity Service

We again arranged a combined service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St Dunstan's, Cranbrook, on Sunday 19th January 2020, in which people from churches in Cranbrook and Staplehurst took part. Although there was a reasonable congregation, it was noticeably less than in 2019, and we will consider what we can learn for next year.

World Day of Prayer

We made arrangements for the World Day of Prayer service on Friday 6th March 2020. Churches Together is working on an information pack for new residents (both of new estates and moving into existing houses) which will give details of the four churches we represent, and also the Providence Strict Baptist Chapel. This is currently out in the churches for consultation and feedback before going to print.

We believe that Churches Together in Staplehurst offers a visible and practical witness to our churches working together to spread the word of Christ Jesus, and also enables us to be aware of and remember in our prayers the challenges faced by our sister churches in this community.

Thank you, Helen Wilkins

DEANERY (WEALD) SYNOD

Deanery leadership

- Area Dean Rev: Ann Pollington, to 31st December; now: Father Rodney Dreyer, Vicar of Hawkhurst
- Lay Chair: Graham Codling,
- Secretary: Brian Woodgate,
- Treasurer: Tony Staples, Retires May 2020

Clergy developments

- Revd. Pete Deaves installed as Rector of Sissinghurst/Frittenden on 27th February 2020
- Revd. Ali Duguid, Marden, retiring on 9th February 2020;
- Revd. Hugh Nelson of Goudhurst will be leaving soon to become Bishop of St Germans

Deanery Activities

- **1. Deanery Planning Working Group** – The deanery plan is intended to address the challenges and changes that were being experienced and look at ways in which churches can work together to support one another. Previous reports recognised that the synod members felt they were passive, not responsible or accountable and circumvented by the clergy. It was also unclear what the deanery was actually for. The work is ongoing.
- **2. Fresh Expressions Working Group** - the Weald Greenhouse was launched at a meeting in Benenden School attended by 40+ people. Key issue -How do we share the Christian message with the 95-97% who don't attend church. We have to think of different ways of church. We may have to work together across the deanery to make it work. Ongoing
- **3 Weald Family Hub** This began in the summer of 2018 in response to rising concerns about mental illness in children and young people. Working across the villages of the Weald, it connects the needs of local communities with people, projects and organisations that can provide positive, practical support to young people and their families. The Weald Family Hub has brought local churches together to recruit volunteers and to raise funding which initially enabled every local school to receive heavily subsidised, on-site counselling.
The Hub is working in partnership with Fegans, a highly respected charity that specialises in working with children and young people struggling with mental illness. Fegans works with families holistically, counselling children in addition to giving 1:1 parent support. Staplehurst School now benefits from the Hub.
- **4 The new Bishop of Dover**-Rose Hudson-Wilkin will spend a day 'exploring the deanery' on 18th November. She is keen to see the real deanery, so ideas wanted. She is also planning to spend a week in each Deanery next year.
- **5 Success** Significant improvement in the sharing of event details across the deanery

Discussions topics at deanery meetings

- Some discussion about clergy working hours, with the then dean suggesting that clergy should have two days off a week. This was not widely supported but the issue of workload for Clergy and volunteers especial Church Wardens has been forwarded to Diocesan Synod for consideration

- Charlotte McCaulay, Assistant Diocesan Stewardship and Funding Adviser spoke about facilities for Cashless Collections. The scheme involved the use of a Card Reader for Credit/Debit Cards. The system is called SUM UP and works via a 3G signal. All Saints is now operating such a facility.
- CM also said that Weald was in the top 5 in the Diocese for receiving legacies, the total for the diocese being about £630,000 p.a. Packs were available for churches to enable them to set up a legacy policy.
- Archdeacon Stephen, within the Changed Lives – Changing Lives theme, explored the objectives of the Diocese, its vision and what we are hoping to achieve

Selection of Activities by Deanery communities

- “Blend – Sandhurst” an after school club —financed by a couple of grants, attended by youngsters aged 7-9 years, it was hoped to start a similar club in Benenden with support and guidance from St. Mary’s, Goudhurst.
- Prayer initiative! (Prayer Group, Prayer Ministry, Prayer Cards, Prayer Requests)
- “Hello. How are you? Club” - Drop-in time and space for anyone, but particularly those who can’t afford to go to a café or pub.
- “Leave what you can. Take what you need.” Came out of food sharing at harvest. Expanded to include toiletries, clothes, shoes, etc. Looking to expand to include vouchers redeemable at village community shop.
- Fulfil Christ’s mandate in “Gossiping the Gospel”, which we find less threatening, with varying results. This is in line “Weald Greenhouse”, recently launched in the Deanery.
- The 2nd Annual ‘St. Laurence Lecture’, the speaker, Robert Hardman, a leading writer on the Monarchy.
- A concert in church by ‘Show of Hands’, building on the concert last year by Fairport Convention. The Town Micro pub provided the bar
- A weekend of events with A Fashion show on the Friday evening, a Lecture on the Saturday evening and on the Sunday, Bishop Richard Llewelyn. The Cranbrook Town Band involved and teas provided
- Cranbrook has raised, and spent on new lighting, £130,000 over the last 18 months
- The major restoration and reordering begun in 2014 at Frittenden for the nave, roof and stained glass windows, as well as moving the organ and creating a kitchen, 2WCs, storage and a new Upper Room, were all completed.
- Frittenden “Upper Room” is used for meetings, prayer, meals and church groups, and can also be hired by other church or community groups
- Weald School of Theology, held at St. Mary’s on behalf of the Deanery, provides lectures from the St Paul’s Theological Centre in London, for individuals to explore the bible and their faith.
- BLEND is held weekly and provides a drop-in Cafe for Secondary school teenagers after school. Young people from various schools attend and mix well whilst having drinks and food.
- St. Mary’s held a conference in May that involved a number of speakers from across the country. This day explored solutions and answers to the question - How do we raise our children and young people with a robust and strong faith?
- Marden noted the impact of new housing. They are working hard to engage with the new residents
- Also running a dementia Café, Youth café on a Friday and Sunday Lunch groups
- ‘Open the Book’ has been running successfully in the Frittenden and Sissinghurst schools for 5 years. It involves taking Bible Study to schools and provides 33 stories a year based on the Story Teller Bible. The story is performed in costume to give some meaning to the story.
- Bible Study in After School Clubs- Goodly play: The children sit in a circle with the leader in the centre, and a story is told, as if from the leader, with the use of models and props. Children are curious and are encouraged to ask questions and are free to use the story in their own way. There is prayer time and time for wondering.

- In Staplehurst, Mini- Saints, the Thursday afternoon mother and toddler group has restarted There is also a Sunday Afternoon, 'Tea for All', as a low-pressure Christian focused get together. Choir and Jazz concerts

Tony Henley

CANTERBURY DIOCESAN SYNOD

The Canterbury Diocesan Synod met three times during 2019.

In March Bishop Trevor licensed the Ignite Leadership Team which included Andrew Edwards who was now part of the St Martins, Maidstone Ignite team.

The keynote speaker was the secretary to the Church Buildings Council and Cathedral Fabric Commission. The highlights of the speech were:

Church Buildings should be a visible symbol of God's presence in every community and should be seen as a mission Tools

It was sad that Church buildings much beloved by the community were a burden to manage and the cost of keeping the building running took away resources, both human and financial, for mission.

The National Archbishops Council had approved a stream of National Renewal and Reform program, entitled Building for Mission.

This was to simplify and improve the legal system, to support innovative uses of church buildings.

Encouraging visitors and secular use and to look at a National role in Capital fund raising arrangements Improve skills, training and best practice sharing.

The Diocesan Environmental Officer, Tessa Redfern, spoke concerning Climate change and the Christian response to it. As a diocese we were committed to comply with all government legislation.

We should examine our use of the Earth's natural resources. Recycle and reuse to reduce waste. Apply ethical procurement using fairly traded and environmentally friendly produce. Pray about the Environment Campaign.

It would be Bishop Trevor's last Synod and a fond farewell and thank you was said.

The July Synod was a business meeting to agree the accounts and shaping the budget for 2020 – 2022 with a debate concerning Parish Share. The Diocese is on a very tight budget forecast and every possible cost cutting exercise has been undertaken.

In November Rev. Canon Dr. Margaret Whipp spoke on Ministerial Wellbeing. She acknowledged a growing concern on the complexity of people's lives in Society as a whole. Her focus was on a text from Proverbs "above all guard your heart" for spiritual wellbeing.

Archbishop Justin expressed "we had to deal with life as it was today very different from 50 years ago. The church was not "a refuge for Saints" but "a home for sinners" He asked that we should accept differing approaches and opinions, it was important that we could do "disagreeing well "and deal with conflict without letting it destroy relationships.

Encourage the seeking of help in times of difficulties, as sign of strength not a weakness.

Accepting help to unloading deep seated burdens from our past that effected our ability to be the person God wanted us to be.

There was help and support available in the Diocese, ministers both Ordained and Lay should seek help when needed.

The session was much appreciated by all present.

Whilst Diocesan Synod has business to deal with the open sessions are most valuable.

Do look out for invites to “open” Diocesan Synods when non-elected persons are invited to attend, some of the topics covered are very interesting

Val Wallis

FLOWERS

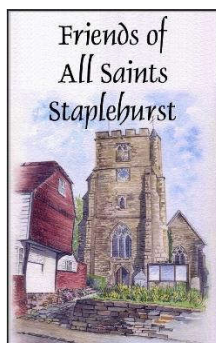
Since taking over with some trepidation from the long-standing Church flower organiser, Audrey Bullock, things are going very well. We have a meeting twice a year in January and July to catch up, discuss ideas, and make up the rota for the following 6 months.

We have had 7 weddings this year, 3 requiring our flower arrangers. We were fortunate to have a December wedding that greatly added to the Christmas flower displays, they lasted amazingly well into January.

There are 14 arrangers in all, but there is always room for anyone who would like to join us.

Marion Christie, Convenor

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS



Registered Charity No. 1037964

We held several successful events throughout 2019/2020 to raise funds to meet our objective of supporting the PCC in maintaining and improving the fabric of the Church. In this regard, the Friends met in full, two requests from the PCC seeking reimbursement for the costs of routine and general maintenance works. Routine works included clock servicing, organ tuning, PAT testing and central heating system repairs. We also reimbursed the PCC for the ground penetrating radar scan of the chancel floor, masonry work to the East Wall and door surround to the bell tower roof, repairs following pest damage and associated professional and architect fees. These reimbursements totalled £11,508.33.

Since our last report, we have held our AGM in May 2019 with 30 members in attendance. This was almost double last year so a pleasant increase in turnout. Andrew Brady, Frank Page and Tony Norfolk were re-elected onto the committee.

At our fundraising BBQ in August, we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon when Elaine and Brian Summers kindly opened their house and garden again. I would like to thank everyone who took part in the event which raised £3,527, an unbelievable amount, the ever-popular “donations for dining” contributing hugely to the success. Aside from the fundraising it proved to be a great social and community event. We also had a stall at the Church Fete which resulted in 4 new members.

Our next event was at the London Beach Hotel with 45 enjoying a very nice afternoon tea which raised £663, courtesy of the hotel’s charity arm, The Savannah Trust.

We took part in the Parish Council 125th Anniversary Event which resulted in one new member and two donations as well as making villagers aware of our work. My thanks to Chris Mahoney for supporting me on our stall that day.

A new event this year was an Audio-Visual Evening, Colour Splash, kindly presented by the Staplehurst Photographic Society to raise funds for the Friends; a mix of photography and some animation set to music. This was very well received by all who attended, and we were presented with a cheque for £284, so a big thank you to Frank Page and his team.

Our Shepherds’ Market was a great success raising £1,533, a bit up on recent years, the kitchen, as ever, keeping the whole thing going. We welcomed Mayor, Cllr. Marion Ring, who kindly came along to open the event and who took time to speak to all the helpers and stallholders and had a chat with Father Christmas. This was very much appreciated. We also thank Father Christmas and his elves for taking time out from their busy schedules to visit us.

While writing, the final preparations are being made for the 2020 Brain Game on 21st March and our AGM will be in the church on Wednesday the 13th of May. If you are a paid-up member of the Friends you are eligible to attend, 7.30pm for refreshments with the meeting starting at 8.00pm. We will have at least one vacancy on the Friends Committee this year and, if you are a member of the Friends, you can put yourself forward to be voted on at the AGM.

Other events in the planning stage are:

- Walk & Lunch on Bank Holiday Monday 25th May. This is a gentle walk around the Sissinghurst Castle Estate followed by a lunch at the Knoxbridge Inn. All are welcome to join in either or both.
- Afternoon Tea at the London Beach Hotel – Friday 17th July.
- (25th) Celebration Fund Raising Party – Sunday 13th September.
- Valuation Evening with John Sandon in the Parish Room – Saturday 3rd October.
- The Photographic Society are holding a second Audio Visual Evening on Saturday the 24th of October in the Parish Room.
- Shepherd’s Market in the church- 5th December.

Our fundraising focus remains on working with the PCC with the ongoing Chancel floor project. These works will enable the church to return to functioning normally and the Chancel be restored to its former glory. We have pledged to cover the professional fees of the Inspecting Architect (the Project Manager), the Structural Engineer and Archaeologist which will enable a plan of works to be prepared and tenders to be sought. Once this is done the PCC can start to apply for grant funding. The Friends do not have sufficient funds to cover the estimated cost of the Chancel works, so the project can only progress beyond the preparation of a workable scheme with external grants and dedicated fundraising by the PCC engaging the community.

At our January 2019 meeting we pledged to support remedial repointing work identified in the last Church Quinquennial Inspection Report. This work to the church exterior has been quoted at in excess of £11,000, so again a significant project. We also agreed to support the Bell Ringers with a maintenance project by meeting the cost of purchasing and fitting new bell rope pulleys. This has now been completed and feedback from the ringers is that they are a marked improvement.

I would like to thank the Friends committee for their hard work during the year. The committee members are Honorary Treasurer Mary Shaw, Secretary Tony Norfolk, Maureen Brice, Sue Elwell, Ann Fulcher, Janet

Pink, Elaine Summers and Frank Page with Tony Henley the PCC Liaison Representative, the important link between us and the PCC.

Membership is currently 99 and, as always, we are on the lookout for new members. So, if you are interested in joining us, please contact me for information. Whilst welcoming some new members in the year, we also fondly remember those who sadly have died, Janet Powell and Jean Andrews, both staunch supporters of the Friends; may they rest in peace.

The Committee are always pleased to receive suggestions for new events or for merchandising ideas. We have a new Friends pen available, these proving very popular.

Thank you for supporting us through membership and attending events. We couldn't do our part without funds from members subscriptions, profit from events and from donations and legacies.

Friends of All Saints Staplehurst – Registered Charity No. 1037964

Telephone: 01580 891840

Email: friends@allsaintsstaplehurst.co.uk

Look us up at www.allsaintsstaplehurst.co.uk/friends

and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/friendsofallsaintsstaplehurst

Please note that this information is provided prior to the production of our full audited accounts which will be presented at the Friend's AGM in May 2020.

Andrew Brady, Chairman & Membership Secretary

FUN'D RAISING

A busy year – starting off with the **Spring Coffee Morning** at Lime Trees in March.

In May we celebrated **Monica's 80th Birthday** in style in Shirley's beautiful garden, where we had the Musical Band of 3 singing some brilliant songs and enjoyed some amazing cakes, baked by our happy team. We hosted **The Interest Group** in church in early June, all learning some history of All Saints Church.

The All Saints' Choir Concert, also in June was well attended by many, including people from the community and surrounding villages, who enjoyed themed refreshments while listening to some beautiful singing, thanks must go to Ian Turner for inspiring and organising his team of choir members so wonderfully.

In July we launched the annual **St. Swithun's Challenge** (which always raises significant funds merely 'Watching the Weather' and pledging a few coins for 40 days.) with **A Summer Serenade** in Monica's garden. Music was provided by local Staplehurst young musicians, All Saints Junior Choir, Margaret Friswell, The Amazing Nick Stephens and a truly memorable violin performance from William Davidson.

Our annual **Church Summer Fete** was another great success in August, held in the pretty grounds of Staplehurst Manor and officially opened by the Mayor of Maidstone, Cllr Mrs. Marion Ring. We had numerous stall holders, bar b q, ice creams, games such as welly wanging, hook the duck, Holy Frogs and fun for all the family plus a prosecco kiosk. The Band of 4 performed some classic and modern hymns and musical treats inspiring Helen Grant MP to attend and also Paul Bohill from the TV programme 'Can't pay we'll take it away'. Many funds were raised, aided by sponsorship from local estate agents Radfords.

A Cream Tea and dip in a pool rounded off August, thanks go to Alison Round for hosting this in her stunning garden.

In October **we enjoyed an Italian Evening**, featuring an amazing array of delicious Italian food and shared a film.

The Annual Bike Ride and Stride raised a healthy amount and thanks must go to all who helped, volunteered and contributed.

Marion Christie's mind inspiring Quiz – as always – made much needed funds.

In November many people from the community explored the church during **All Saints Celebratory Weekend** coinciding with an **All Age Workshop** on the Saturday, there was singing from the Junior Choir, A Quiz with prizes and some super refreshments.

The wonderful **Invicta Jazz Band** also made a welcome return at the end of November and lots of villagers from miles around attended and enjoyed mulled wine, pizza and refreshments while enjoying some great tunes, raising funds for All Saints and IJO's chosen charity – Demelza Hospice.

We joined forces with the **Symbol Trust** early in December and manned a Church Stall at **Spilshill Barn** for a Crafts and Carols afternoon. Thanks to all who helped out, members of the choir who came to sing, everyone who supported the event and of course the Symbol people for making us feel so welcome. Many people and businesses displayed Angels (cardboard ones, dolls, knitted ones) as part of **The Angel Festival** in December.

We hosted a **Burns Supper at Spilshill Barn** to celebrate the Ayrshire Bard – Robbie Burns in January 2020. It may have been cold in the barn but we kept warm with Scottish dancing, a wee dram or 2 and some traditional Neeps, Tatties and Scots Mince. Special thanks to Bruce for his interesting Tam O Shanter Talk and all who supported us in this event by turning up. A **Bring n Buy Coffee Morning** was kindly hosted by Monica in February, and this year we launched an Annual **All Churches Together Pancake Party** where CTIS all enjoyed light hearted competitions, quizzes, fun and games in order to win the coveted trophy.

Don't forget easy fundraising which remains a simple way in which we can all contribute to church funds while shopping online, ensuring that funds trickle in all year long. So easy to set up and costs nothing.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allsaintschurchstaplehurst/>

As always thank you to our small team of Fun'D Raisers. Why don't you think about coming along to our next meeting? New ideas are particularly welcome and we always strive to have fun while involving and including everyone.

Angie Lucas, Convener, Fun'D Raising Committee

HEALTH, HEALING AND SUPPORT PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group support, with our prayers, those who ask and those we know who are ill or having other difficulties with their lives. The group meet when we can, and are able, as often as possible. We need people to join us in this mission, particularly some younger blood to continue for the future. Anyone interested in putting themselves forward to be approved and trained for the Laying on of Hands should contact me.

The work of the group continues as reported in previous years and Laying on of Hands with prayer occurs during the Holy Communion evening service on the first Sunday of each month, when Barbara and I, as the only approved ministers for Laying on of Hands, provide the service.

We still operate 3 Prayer lists. The Church Prayer list, which is updated and published as part of Church Notices, is controlled by the Rector and requires both Christian name and Surname of the person who needs prayer and has no problem giving both names. Total confidentiality is provided for this list. Not even I know why some people are on the Church Prayer list. The Confidential list is for those who want total confidentiality and is controlled by me and those people are only known to the Prayer Group. The 3rd list is the Support list, controlled by me, and is for those who have other problems in their lives such as bereavement, long term illness, family problems, etc. etc. For the moment I or Barbara remain the main

contact within the group for those in need of Prayer for any reason. Please keep us updated with the latest situation for those you have requested prayer, which enables us to direct our prayers appropriately.

You will be surprised and thankful for the amount of help and comfort the Lord provides to those who ask. Please ask me, or any member of the group, for help and Prayer when you, or someone you know, is in need.

Ron Dear

HOLY DUSTERS AND BRASS CLEANERS

A big thank you to my small band of volunteers. We had our usual spring clean and an extra clean-up before the Remembrance Day Service. This year the spring clean will be just before Easter. I do need more people to help with pew dusting and brass cleaning please. Thank you.

Margaret Friswell

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Following the resignation of our cleaner, Esther Brazil, at the end of December 2019, the PCC was delighted to appoint a new cleaner, Johanna Foster, who started work in January. We wish Esther every success in her new employment and welcome Jo as her replacement. The committee continues to keep the roles of our direct employees under review and have also started looking at the roles of our volunteers.

There is a separate Safeguarding report.

Sheila Brooker

MAGAZINE

Thanks to our editor Michele Godden we are still receiving compliments from our residents for the colourful magazine front cover. They are also pleased that the Church is always featured here.

We desperately need more articles to improve our magazine and can only print what is sent to us. Our editor is always open to new ideas.

Last year our distribution numbers were up thanks to the residents of the Redrow Estate. When a house is purchased they are given a free magazine, and as soon as they move in a free magazine is put through their letter box. Hopefully they will then decide to pay to have the magazine delivered regularly.

The cost of the magazine remains the same for 2020 that is £1.50 per copy which can be purchased at Made by Kent or £14 for the year delivered to the door. Advertisers have had a slight increase in their fees.

We are always grateful to our many distributors who deliver the magazines in all weather. More help is always needed so please contact us if you need details.

As always we hope you enjoy reading the magazine and will continue with your subscriptions in the future.

Anne Brenchley (Secretary)

MUSIC - CHOIR

The choir has continued to develop both repertoire and confidence, on a regular basis relying less and less on those external to the church, which is generally the right position in which to be. At the Summer Concert both the Messiah extracts in the first half and the lighter music in the second were well received.

The Lighting the Star (Advent Carol Service) ultimately proceeded well and the 9 Lessons and Midnight Mass services offered some challenging but very competently sung items. It was a joy, once again, to have members of the Junior Choir with us, and that relationship we wish to nurture and develop. Christmas Day attendance was better but, again, problematic; however, that is all but inevitable after a full Midnight service and given the demands on various members on Christmas Day. We continue to work on that.

Full choral evensongs have been presented on third Sundays, the only exceptions being on the evenings of the 9 lessons and of a storm. A new setting is in progress and anthems appropriate to the lectionary are sung, alongside the appointed psalm and the responses. The choir is often joined by parishioners unable to commit to regular services but willing to join us occasionally.

At the time of writing the choir is preparing to sing the Allegrì Miserere (supported by a small number of its friends) on Maundy Thursday and the last hour service on Good Friday, as well as some lively music on Easter Day. It should be remembered that, whilst preparing for these services, the choir is also maintaining its commitment to regular services- no small ask in the circumstances.

The choir is well accompanied by the 2 dedicated organists, Daniel Brady and Robert (Bob) Chapman, as well as, on occasions, the Tonbridge School Chapel organist, David Williams. These friends work tirelessly to support both services and practices, and it would be difficult to see how music at All Saints would proceed without them. Although strictly not relevant to this report, it is also appropriate to thank the Band for their immense and well-rehearsed contribution to our church worship.

A real focus has been on the role of the choir- to support the leadership and depth of worship, and to regard their work as worship itself, to be enjoyed in an atmosphere pertinent to that role. Members work hard- in cold conditions not conducive to singing at practices in winter- and I may only thank them for that outstanding commitment. It would be ideal to have larger numbers involved, and new occasional members have been most welcome. Working with those with commitment both to the music and its purpose is, of course, the most rewarding.

Finally, thank you to all those who offer support and encouragement- we don't always know when we have helped worship appropriately, and it is good to be told sometimes!

Ian Turner, Choir Director

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The PCC continues to hold Safeguarding awareness as a very high priority throughout the parish. PCC members are now required to complete the two hour Church of England National Safeguarding training course 'Basic Awareness' (formerly C0). A group training session was held for PCC members and others interested last June; the course can also be completed online.

If any member of the parish is interested in the training, details can be found at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/promoting-safer-church/safeguarding-training or contact one of our Parish Safeguarding Officers as follows:

Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Coordinator – Audrey Bullock

Parish Disclosure Officer – Rev Silke Tetzlaff

Deputy Child/Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Coordinator – Mary Henley

The above names and contact details are displayed on the Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement in the church porch, and in the Parish Room.

During the year Marion Whatmore stepped down from the role of Child Safeguarding Coordinator, due to family commitments at this particular time. We thank her for her hard work and dedication.

Parish Safeguarding Officers attend training refresher courses as required. One of our Safeguarding Officers and a member of the PCC attended the annual safeguarding conference, which highlighted the importance of our awareness of Modern Day Slavery.

DBS checks are made on new volunteers and those holding paid posts in the parish. The Parish Office holds a list of all those who have DBS checks and alerts those whose checks are due for renewal.

Our Safeguarding Policy has been revised to take account of new safeguarding guidance and has been adopted by the PCC. The policy is available both electronically and as a hard copy from the Parish Office and can be found on the church website. Hard copies are held by Safeguarding Officers, named leaders, and at the following parish locations: church, by the First Aid point in the coffee area, the Bell Tower, Parish Room, Parish Office.

SERVERS

A team of servers help at the Sunday communion services; one at 8.0am and two to four people at 10.0am.

We prepare the altar before the service, ensuring that the wafers, wine and relevant books etc are available. During the service we assist the priest as necessary. Afterwards things are cleared away.

All Saints is very fortunate to also have a separate team of servers who assist at the 9.30am Wednesday morning communion services.

If you would like to find out more about the role please speak to Silke or one of the servers. If you would like to come and join us, you would be made very welcome.

Sheila Brooker

SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEAS

We started our monthly teas in July 2019. They are held from 4.30 to 6.00pm in the Parish Room on the first Sunday of every month. The afternoon is free, and open to anyone and everyone. There is a brief reading, always plenty of tea and cake, and lots of conversation.

Numbers average about 20 people each month, with quite a few people making it a regular date. They are also taking ownership, by bringing cakes to add to the table, and by helping with the washing up and clearing away. Good friendships develop over the t-towels!

All in all it makes for a very enjoyable way to pass a Sunday afternoon. If you haven't yet done so – why not give it a go?

Caroline Highwood, organiser

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT 2019/2020

Our calling is to foster healthy relationships with God. For this we continued to offer a variety of worship styles.

Thank you to the band, the organists, Choir director and choir members and worship leaders and children choir leader.

In our revision of aspects of worship we decided to change the evening services to two services per month, namely Choral Evensong and the Slow Down Service. After Andrew Edwards, our Slow Down service coordinator and leader started his ordination training and had to leave All Saints Church, Dermot Budd took

on that responsibility and let and coordinated a couple of services, renamed "Looking Forward Service" together with Revd. Monica Taylor. After it became apparent that attendance remained very low, we stopped the service and focused our energies on where people are.

At Choral Evensong, thanks to the choir we are now beginning the service by listening to an introit and after the sermon to an anthem. Choral evensong has not attracted the number of people we were hoping for, but those attending enjoy it very much.

Due to bad weather conditions we had to cancel an Evensong Service in February 2020 and in November 2019 we changed Evensong to a Memorial Service for the bereaved at which the choir sung.

The whole aspect of the Healing Ministry with the anointing with oils, the laying on of hands and one to one prayers in St. George's chapel needs to be rethought. We have not got in the rhythm of this aspect of the service as we need people that are trained for this ministry. We will look at the ministry of healing next year.

Thank you to all; your commitment has been and is much appreciated. I would like to extend my appreciation to the servers who have kept going with All Saints serving tradition and thank you to all involved with the various aspects of the services.

We have changed the way of choosing Hymns, namely allocated each month to one person of the Hymn choosing group to suggest hymns. Our aim to establish a close relationship between the theme of the Sunday, the readings and the style of Service and hope that has been accomplished.

In terms of the 8.00am and 10.00am services on the fifth Sunday of the month we have changed to a Parish Communion Service without any having to get used to it.

We have now completed the Order of Service for Ordinary time we have used it in worship.

We have trialled the Order of Service for Ash Wednesday and for Lent. We will look at the comments by the congregation and continue to work towards a final version of each of the services.

Baptisms have continued to be a strong link with the community. We had a numerous Funerals in church and at the crematorium. Weddings have picked up again and we have bookings for the next couple of years.

The Bible crafts at the back of church for the children during the service work well, and is enjoyable for the children. The attendance of children various considerably and often we are without children.

Although not part of worship, but Rachel Rayner has successfully run Mini saints in the Parish room. Thank you to all who helped with supervising the children and giving them a hand with the crafts.

I organised the "Across the Church" initiative that looked at aspects of worship with raining provision. Some people came along to refresh their knowledge and for others to learn new skills, like serving interceding and reading in church.

Until we reached the 1st March 2020 and everything changed with the first health guidance how to reduce your risk of coronavirus infection. From then on we followed the practical measures in worship issued by Bishop Rose as the infection rate shot up worldwide. By the 23 March we were in look down and issued Daily Prayer "Worship while you wash" Worship books for Morning and Evening Prayer and Sunday Worship via Zoom. My particular thanks go to Mary and Tony Henley for their support and their tireless help they have given to so many of our congregation that were able to join the online services.

All Services in church stopped, but we delivered little flyers and posies to no less than 69 households for Mothering Sunday as an effort to brighten up peoples day in a very scary time of not knowing what Covid 19 all means.

Easter was Zoomed and VE 75 Commemoration with a genius interception of Debbie and Andrew Brady filming Ray Mann into the Zoom Service dipping the standard outside his house. It's those moments that are unforgettable.

In all of this we had three key aims, with all worship in church being suspended "the church isn't closing, the church is changing, worship with All Saints to keep well, keep praying and keep connected."

Thank you to you all for your commitment and inspiration, *Revd Silke Tetzlaff (Convenor)*

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS, STAPLEHURST

Administrative information

All Saints' Church is situated in the High Street, Staplehurst. It is part of the Diocese of Canterbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The New Rectory, High Street, Staplehurst, Tonbridge, Kent. TN12 0BJ.

The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commission – No 1132851 and has the responsibility for promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Staplehurst the whole mission of the Church. It also has the responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the ancient Parish Church and the Parish Rooms.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year, the following members served on the PCC:-

Incumbent	Rev Silke Tetzlaff (ex-officio)
Assisting Priest	Monica Taylor
Warden	Mary Henley (ex-officio), Shirley Skinner
PCC Secretary	Angie Lucas
Treasurer	Caroline Highwood
Representatives on Diocesan Synod	Doreen Braganza and Val Wallis
Representatives on Deanery Synod	Val Wallis, Tony Henley and Doreen Braganza (all ex-officio)
Elected Members	Vice Chair – Andrew Edwards Anne Brenchley, Audrey Bullock, Sheila Brooker, Andrew Edwards, Adam Houghton, Angie Lucas, Shirley Skinner, Helen Wilkins, Bill Scott, Petra Ashdown, Margaret Ashby and Dermot Budd co-opted)

PCC members are elected for a period of three years at the APCM, which may be extended by another three years, if they are re-elected. After serving six years they cannot stand again for election for at least a year. Nomination forms are provided at the back of church before the APCM, with an explanation of voting procedures in our weekly pew notice sheet. The Rector or Vice Chair advises newcomers as to their role and responsibilities after election. The PCC met eight times during the year.

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between the full meetings of the PCC. Particular tasks are given to sub-committees by the PCC and in turn these committees inform the PCC of work they are doing on behalf of the church and, where appropriate, bring to our full council items for discussion and decision. The committees are as follows:

Standing Committee This is the only committee required by law. It meets to formulate the agenda for PCC and, as necessary, to discharge functions referred to it by the PCC and to deal with such matters as may be necessary in the case of an emergency.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

This committee attends to the general maintenance and upkeep of the church building, churchyard, Parish Rooms and associated grounds, including negotiations with outside bodies. It also liaises with the Finance Committee on expenditure in these areas.

Finance Committee

Oversees the general financial position by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting, coordinating the review of planned giving (at its monthly meetings), recommending levels of voluntary fees paid to PCC and hire rates and terms of condition for hire of the Parish Rooms. It also represents the parish's decisions on what percentage of deanery diocesan share the parish pays each year, by sending representatives to the Annual Deanery Bidding Day, together with the Rector.

Magazine Committee

Has the responsibility for the production of the monthly Parish Magazine, together with other publicity matters, and provides accounts for magazine production, distribution and advertising.

Human Resources and Employment Committee

Established in order to provide a strategic and coherent approach to personnel management.

Fun'D Raising / Social Events Committee

Plans and coordinates social events during the year, initiating new style events which welcome and involve a wide range of people, including those attached to our wider church community and making links between those attending different services.

Social Responsibility and Charities Committee

Social responsibility – bring to the attention of the PCC matters of social responsibility on both a global and local scale, the development of schemes (with other bodies and churches as appropriate) that respond to identified needs, and to raise awareness of issues on a global or local scale.

Charities – deals with the PCC's charitable giving, both at home and overseas and development of links with other agencies for charitable relief. Also arranges for speakers to attend on the Charity Sunday. Charities for the church to support each year are selected by this committee from congregational suggestions.

Worship Committee

Is responsible for the development of worship and related items within the framework of services and times agreed by the PCC; and development of the range of services and other activities for outreach to those on the edge of the church and beyond.

The PCC also sends representatives to the Diocesan and Deanery synod and links are maintained with the Friends of All Saints and Churches Together in Staplehurst.

Activities

Our activities are:

Regular public worship open to all

The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation

Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved, and local care homes.

Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups

Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings and distribution of literature

Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other special needs groups.

Welcoming other village groups (e.g. the primary school, Interest Group) to use the church building.

Church Attendance

There were 108 people on the Church Electoral Roll for 2019.

Review of the Year

All Saints Church stands on the hill at the heart of the village of Staplehurst and continues its ministry to members of the church and village.

Although having a central church tradition, we also try to provide helpful acts of worship for those used to other styles. Three times a year we celebrate a High Mass. Our other forms of worship involve Family Service with a band, Holy Communion with Healing, Choral Evensong, and Looking Forward Service.

We have an Authorised Lay Minister trained in leading worship, pastoral care, and Funeral Officiant. Collaborative ministry is an important hall mark of our church and, as more people sense a call to a variety of ministries, we are becoming less dependent on the pyramid style of ministry, where a paid incumbent at the top makes all the decisions.

Members of our ministry team and congregation are involved in many village clubs and associations, as well as in our school, at our residential homes, medical centre and on our Parish Council.

Our youth groups span the ages 0-18 years. Children's Activities in church are led by volunteer adults every Sunday at the 10 o'clock service. Minisaints in the Parish Rooms on Thursdays has restarted, a Breakfast Club is commencing for 5-13 year old children during the school holidays and we have a Children's Choir that practise on Friday evenings and often sing on Sundays.

From 04.04.2019 – 12.03.20 there were 37 funerals, from 21.05.19 – 27.02.20 there were 21 Baptisms, and from May 19 – 27.02.20, 7 weddings.

Advent: the total number of people attending special services held for congregation and local community (1st Sunday of Advent, 9 Lessons & Carols) was 179 and the total number of people attending worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was 540. Total no of communicants was 153 (Midnight service, 8am and 10am on Christmas morning)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS, STAPLEHURST

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting

Tuesday 30th April 2019

Parish Rooms

1. Welcome from the Rector, who thanked everyone for attending. Silke went on to explain the purpose of the two meetings: that this meeting can be attended by anyone living in the village, and is for the purpose of electing church wardens. At the following meeting (APCM) only those on the Church Electoral Roll will be eligible to vote.

2. Prayers were led by the Rector, for a purposeful meeting, seeking the will of God.

3. Election of churchwardens Silke thanked Mary Henley and Shirley Skinner for their work as churchwardens during the past year. Mary Henley was nominated for the post of churchwarden: proposed by Angie Lucas and seconded by Andrew Edwards. All voted in favour, no one abstained, no one against.

Shirley Skinner was nominated for the post of churchwarden: proposed by Angie Lucas, seconded by Andrew Edwards. All voted in favour, no one abstained. Silke then requested support for Angie Lucas who is

going to act as Assistant Warden – does not need to be elected. Andrew Edwards was sincerely thanked for his sterling work over past year in that post.

4. Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting held on April 18th 2018 were proposed to be a true record of the meeting. This was agreed by all raising hands in favour - the minutes were then signed off by Silke.

5. Date of the next Annual Vestry Meeting and APCM was set for Wednesday 22nd April 2020.

Silke closed the AVM officially at 7.45PM and opened the APCM

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Tuesday 30th April 2019
Parish Rooms**

1. The meeting was attended by 39 parishioners.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Shirley Norfolk, Marion Christie, Jane Scarfe, Roy and Sallyanne Barclay.

3. Minutes of APCM 2018 The minutes were agreed and signed off by Silke.

4. Presentation of the Electoral Roll and Election of Electoral Roll Officer Silke formally thanked John Parsons Smith for his 6 years as Electoral Roll Officer, now sadly standing down. Bill Scott has offered to take on this role and an update on this will be forthcoming. JPS thanked all for their completion of forms as we had a total revision of the Electoral Roll for 2019, and went on to explain the process. He then wished his successor best wishes and accepted a gift presented by Mary Henley.

5. Election of members to the PCC Silke thanked all PCC members for their work during the year. An explanation was given by Silke of the complex structure of the PCC, with ex officio members, co-opted members, elected members (of which All Saints' PCC has agreed to have 15) and Deanery and Diocesan Synod representatives. She drew attention to the 'hand out' The Diocese of Canterbury. Silke recognised the work of Dominic Lundberg who was standing down, and also Margaret Thornton who wasn't seeking re-election at the end of her 3 years - thanking them both. ST queried if Val Wallis wished to enjoy a fallow year as was healthy to have and was due. Val confirmed that as ex officio she would prefer to remain on the PCC. A table, filed with these minutes, had been circulated showing the following nominations received:

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Dermot Budd	Mary Henley	Angie Lucas
Bill Scott	Angie Lucas	Shirley Skinner
Petra Ashdown	Mary Henley	Andrew Edwards
Adam Houghton	Angie Lucas	Andrew Edwards
Margaret Ashby	Mary Henley	Val Wallis

It was agreed to vote for these candidates en bloc and votes were in favour with 3 abstentions. They were voted in and co-opted accordingly. There was some confusion as to whether the newly proposed members had been on the electoral roll for the previous 6 months as is required, reassurance offered that the forms received would be rechecked with JPS and whether people would be prepared to therefore co-opt members on to PCC if it's found that they have not been on the roll for long enough. A show of hands indicated that all were prepared to accept this. Silke expressed her gratitude to everyone for embracing our new members to the PCC. Sheila Brooker then took the microphone to express her discomfort with the preceding 5 minutes, confirming that we make sure that we conform to the legalities involved in electing new members. Audrey Bullock pointed out that her name was missing from the 2019 PCC member list and with an apology she was then added.

6. Annual Reports Silke expressed gratitude to all who submitted reports and specific thanks to Audrey Bullock for all her years as flower co-ordinator. Mary Henley presented Audrey with champagne, flowers and a Bistro Garden set and Audrey said a few words, thanking all her helpers, stating that the flowers bank account remains sound and that there is always space for new flower arrangers to help. Silke then thanked Stephen Pooley who would like to continue as Independent Examiner, pointing him out to audience. She then commenced listing the reports, inviting any comments as she read through.

Page 27, Magazine Report – mentioned that 3 free editions of the magazine will be delivered to all the houses in the new build developments in and around the village and on the 4th month residents invited to subscribe. This is an amazing mission opportunity, as well as being a great way of welcoming new people to the village. Volunteers appreciated to help with this distribution.

Page 27, Mothers Union Report – confirmed that the Staplehurst branch is no more, due to lack of members but the Marden branch continues and they would welcome anyone who wishes to join.

Page 28, Servers Report – Margaret Holdaway stated that there was no reference to servers from the 8 AM services in the report and Silke advised that the servers from Sunday 8am and Wednesday 9.30am should be requested in future to complete a report.

Page 29, Worship Report – Val Wallis read out her notes relating to dropping numbers attending services and less services occurring, and perhaps the Worship Committee could look at new ways to go forward with outreach and mission. Margaret Thornton expressed her sadness at Val's address and Adam Houghton drew attention to the positivity of the numbers attending The Remembrance Service, Tony Henley agreed that it takes time and energy and everyone should feel warranted to do something to improve attendance, Mary Henley then pointed out that this year's Easter Services were also extremely well attended, both The Sunrise Service with 26 people and the 10 AM service at 86 people. Silke confirmed that there were all ages, children, plus new people who came along, she agreed we should look at ways of attracting the village to attend and hopefully this PCC will embrace some fresh ideas together. Shirley Skinner pondered that this low attendance is in all churches. Petra Ashdown wondered if there was a Suggestion Box whereby people could contribute ideas.

Silke reiterated that she circulates the meeting dates of subcommittee meetings so that people can approach the conveners, churchwardens or herself with thoughts, ideas and suggestions. She thanked everyone for feedback on the Order of Service and confirmed that the final draft will go to the Worship Committee at the next meeting.

Page 30, PCC Report – Sylvia Lade expressed disappointment that the work on the chancel floor and choir pews remains slow. Mary Henley responded by apologising for the delay in gaining a solution and expressed frustration within the Building and Grounds Committee at the situation, and that the PCC had

decided to appoint a new church architect. Silke agreed and reassured that once s/he is in place, hopefully things will move forward more swiftly.

Silke then thanked Caroline Highwood for all her work and passed microphone to her.

7. Treasurer's Report

CH directed the meeting's attention to the Financial Review, which summarised the position for the year 2018. She then took them through the details of the figures, drawing attention to some specific issues. On income, she highlighted the two legacies totalling £15,326 without which we would have been in serious deficit for the year. She also explained the one-off bank error and compensation figure, and reducing transitional basis of the fees grant from Diocese. On expenditure she highlighted that the church field maintenance figure would be lower in future years, as this figure contains an element of catch-up. Finally, she drew attention to the various funds that are held, and the specific purposes that they are for.

Caroline then proposed we accept the financial report, Audrey Bullock seconded and all voted in favour. Audrey also wanted to thank Caroline for all her hard work and expertise.

Caroline wanted it recorded that we thank Stephen Pooley in his role as Independent Examiner as he has indicated he'd be happy to stand again. Caroline therefore proposed, Margaret Thornton seconded and all voted in favour.

Tony Henley then talked about Gift Aid.

8. Election of Sidespeople: the secretary read out a list of 15 sidespeople. Angie Lucas proposed and Mary Henley seconded that the list be accepted. Unanimous agreement. Invitation offered for anyone else who'd like to join as sidesperson, no one accepted the invitation.

9. Any other business:

Pat Sherlock offered a huge vote of thanks to Margaret Friswell and the Holy Dusters who work so hard to keep the church looking good. All agreed and applauded.

Mary Henley then formally thanked Silke for her sterling work and recognising her continued commitment in spite of her recent bereavement.

The meeting ended at 9.07pm with The Grace.