



FLEET ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2020-2021

Prepared by Claire Holt
PCC Secretary
March 2021

PCC

Our Parochial Church Council 2020-2021 comprised of:

Incumbent: Revd Mark Hayton Chairman

Churchwardens: Michael Benham Vice Chairman
Antony Jones

Deanery Synod

Members: Sally Hastings
Jane Jones

PCC Elected Members AS:

Amy Canham (3)
Jean Carr (3)
Jean Hawkins (3)
Jenny Thorne (2)
Lynda Hix (2)

PCC Elected Members P&J:

Karen Kite (3)
Richard Buller (3)
Paul Allen (2)
Nick Doran (2)
Rogier Wieffer (1)
Liz Whiting (1)

Co-opted PCC Members:

Mike Ford (Treasurer)
Claire Holt (PCC Secretary)
Elizabeth Waller
Darren Wood

The PCC has met via Zoom 7 times during the year.

Following a very challenging and strange year the PCC has continued to meet and help the parish to keep moving forward:

- The DAC gave support to the plans for the re-building of All Saints Church. At the May meeting the PCC passed a resolution to apply for a faculty for the building project.
- Approval of the purchase of new camera equipment to enhance our online worship.
- The November meeting saw the PCC resolve to phase the building project in two stages. Fundraising has been severely affected by COVID-19.
- Resolved to apply for a faculty regarding the grave markers.
- The PCC has enjoyed welcoming Tracey Brunton – Headteacher of All Saints school to their meetings and hearing how they have managed to continue teaching throughout the last year.

Claire Holt

Electoral Roll

The 2021 revision of the Electoral Roll as follows:

Names on roll 159

Representing 116 Households

Forms for membership are available all year round from the Parish Office. New details will be accepted at any time to be included in the 2022 revision of the roll. Please inform Pamela Pimm of any change of details.

Pamela Pimm

Safeguarding

New developments since the last report are as follows:

- PCC members are now eligible for enhanced DBS checks. This is not mandatory but is recommended by the Charities Commission for all charity trustees where the charity sponsors or approves activities involving children and/or vulnerable adults. This recognises the PCC members' responsibility and accountability for implementing best practice in safeguarding.
- A new safeguarding training pathway is now being implemented; core modules can be completed on-line as before, whilst the more specialist modules are being delivered virtually via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Refresher training remains a 3-year requirement.
- There have been significant changes to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, including the appointment of Jackie Broadfoot as Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and Fran Pyatt as Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer.
- There has been no recruitment of new volunteers during the last year but DBS renewals have continued throughout where applicable, with validation checks being carried out in Covid-secure ways.

Finally, a reminder that any safeguarding concerns should be reported to the Vicar or to me without delay. Please note the email to be used for safeguarding purposes is now safeguarding@parishoffleet.org.uk in line with GDPR and confidentiality requirements.

Sheila Buller
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Parish Office Annual Report for 2020

2020 was, unsurprisingly, an unusual year with the Parish Office being closed to visitors from the middle of March. The office continued to be functioning throughout lockdown though, providing a contact point for any who needed to ask for support, keeping our website updated and maintaining the news sheet as a key means of communication.

Hall hiring has been more challenging this year with a constant need to try to understand what is/isn't allowed under the restrictions and a lot of work was needed to draw up the Covid-secure related risk assessments and guidelines for hirers. Most hirers have been unable/unwilling to meet for various reasons so our income stream from this area has been from P&J Playgroup. Looking ahead we have some new hirers looking to do music & movement classes for young children and it will be good to have our buildings filled with life again.

As always we are very thankful for everyone who helps and supports all the office functions in various ways and were sad to say goodbye to our faithful friend Jim Burke.

A personal note from Elly on leaving her role as Halls Manager & Part-time Administrator at the end of February 2021: "It has been a privilege to work in the office over the last 7 years. I have enjoyed it and been helped along by many lovely people. I am sure I will miss it as I move on to grannyhood and more potatoes!"

Chantelle Gardner & Elly Wilson

Churchwarden Reports

All Saints

Another year on and here we are once again continuing to plan for the rebuilding of All Saints Church, this has been a long, long process but there is light at the end of the tunnel.

No one could have predicted the global pandemic which began in March 2020 and would have such an impact on the world!

The faculty was finally granted by the D.A.C and the tendering process concluded with the appointment of Buxton's. Due to the lack of fundraising events, this is subsequently being re-tendered as a two-phase project.

Everyone involved has given an extraordinary amount of time, in-order-to bring us to the present position. We are well on the way to achieving our fund-raising goal of £1M (currently ~550K), but more time will be needed in the coming weeks and months in-order-to achieve our goal to rebuild the Church.

Numerous fundraising events are still planned or have already taken place.

We are constantly reviewing our running costs; the current financial climate presents us all with on-going challenges, due mainly to COVID-19.

The Sunday services continue to come exclusively from S.S P&J at 10.00 AM, both restricted attendance in Church and livestreaming via Facebook.

Once again, special thanks go to everyone who volunteer their time to the running of All Saints & P&J during 2020-2021.

Mike Benham Church Warden

S's Philip and James

While the committee hasn't been meeting formally this last year, we have kept in touch on our WhatsApp group.

During the summer everyone put a great deal of work into preparing 38 Oasthouse Drive for tenancy following the departure of the previous occupants. The property is currently let until March 2021. Additional thanks to Peter Riches for his Stakhanovite labours in the bathrooms and elsewhere.

New cameras were installed at P&J along with other electronic equipment to facilitate on-line streaming of services during lockdown. Special thanks to Graham Hix who masterminded all of this.

The F&M also repainted the outside of the hall and the sides of the church with wood preservative.

Three sets of new doors were installed at the hall, partly in keeping with the quinquennial review recommendations of 2019.

A temporary faculty (permission) was sought and received from the diocese to install a new balcony rail in the choir loft to raise the height to approved health and safety levels. We are grateful to Paul Bodiam for his design and installation of the new rail. The increased height now means that any visitor to the choir loft is covered by our insurance policy should an accident occur. Heaven forfend.

Our thanks go to the Brian Meere's legacy for purchase of the new cameras and the new hall doors.

Antony Jones Church Warden

Finance and Administration Committee

- Although a difficult year for fundraising, the All Saints Building Fund grew by £42K in 2020, thanks to the efforts and generosity of many people.
- Insofar as our general funds are concerned, we incurred a cash loss of about £29K in 2020 (£42K in 2019; £33K in 2018). COVID -19 had a significantly adverse impact on income from Church and hall Lettings (partly offset by income from letting 38OHD), social events and fees. There was also a decrease in planned giving and collections. However the fall in income was partly offset by lower expenses, for example by not replacing the Associate Vicar and a decrease in other expenses such as utilities, halls and social expenses and salaries.
- Our disposable cash for general purposes now stands at £132K. We also have an Investment Account (£110K). Our projected budget losses for the next 3 years are £10K, £12K and £35K respectively. These losses are clearly not sustainable and remedial measures are necessary.
- We now have over £649K in cash, much of it committed to the rebuilding of the church. To ensure the monies are protected, we now have 8 deposit accounts.
- Most of our planned giving is now done through the Parish Giving direct debit scheme which offers many benefits, from almost instant tax reclaims (with no admin work for us) to the opportunity to 'index link' our giving with optional automatic annual increases following the national RPI inflation index. It is also the scheme which incurs the least costs to us. If you are still on the standing order system you might like to consider switching over. If you donate by any other method you also might like to switch over.
- We are fortunate to have a first class Treasurer (Mike) and Administrator (Chantelle). Elly also provided excellent support and managed halls lettings and she will be missed, as will Judith Astles who prepared the accounts for examination and provided much appreciated financial expertise. We have not been able to replace Judith and this has placed much extra work on Mike. Nevertheless

Mike also found time to launch a new valuable initiative of publishing regular insights into our finances in the Parish magazine. We will also miss Rogier Wieffer who has moved to Devon.

- I should also like to thank Tim Kite for being the Independent Examiner of our accounts. Also thanks to Juliet Worthington for managing the PCC's payroll obligations and to Jean Carr and David Worthington for managing the planned giving arrangements and to other members of the committee Mike Benham, Antony Jones, Rogier Wieffer, Nick Doran and Mark.

R.F. Buller March 2021 Chairman of Finance

Christian Aid Report 2020

Our basic requirement for raising money during Christian Aid Week has always been human contact. Whether through street or station collections, house to house visits or our plant and cake sales, the interaction of people has been paramount. With no contact permissible we had to improvise.

So in May we set up an online plant swap/sale. This was popular with seed and plant-hungry gardeners until garden centres were allowed to open. Some of our contributors also set up plant stalls at their garden gates. We are very grateful to all those who took part. At the end of Christian Aid week one of our committee members held our 2020 version of the plant and cake sale outside her house. Our regular cake makers contributed cakes many of which were spoken for even before they reached the actual sale.

In addition to the hard work of our other supporters we would like particularly to thank Alan Wilson who gave the proceeds of his immensely successful tomato plant sale to Christian Aid and to his son Simon who made delicious bread which was an added bonus for his Dad's tomato customers.

The total for plants and cakes came to £1,320.74, and Christ Church Crookham raised an additional £1,253 so at least £2,573.74 was donated.

We cannot know the amount of direct donations to Christian Aid from our two parishes, but we know your generosity from experience in past years and we thank you.

We are hoping that 2021 may see the return of The Carol Concert in addition to the sale of plants and Cakes and Alan Wilson's tomato plants.

Jenny Thorne and Peter West

Fleet and Church Crookham Christian Aid Group.

All Saints Choir Report

This year's report will be necessarily brief! We started 2020 in a fairly normal way with the choir singing at all the Parish Communion services, but then in March came the very sudden pandemic crisis. Since then, we've been locked down/locked up/locked in/locked out and have hardly sung a note. In September we made up a socially distanced gallery choir at two funerals in P&J, but have been silent ever since.

With the improvement in COVID infection rates we just hope it will not be too long before we are able sing again for Sunday services. We have missed the fellowship at All Saints although we have kept in touch with each other by E-mail and telephone and look forward to meeting up again in the not too distant future.

Anthony Cooper