



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

of

St. Martin's Parochial Church Council

Prepared for the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
17th May 2022

St Martin's Church
Ockham Road South
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1/2022. LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Diocese	Guildford
Deanery	Leatherhead
Location of church	Ockham Road South, East Horsley, Surrey, KT24 6RL
Registered Charity Number	1128274
Electoral Role Numbers	168 persons (171 in 2020)
Bankers	Lloyds TSB
Solicitors	Wellers Hedleys, Bishopsmead Parade, East Horsley, KT24 6SR
Independent Examiner	Hayley Smith

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) Membership

The clergy, Churchwardens and lay representatives on the Deanery Synod are members of the Church Council ex officio. In addition, others are elected in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During 2021 the following served as members of the PCC:

Rector	Rev. Renos Pittarides	<i>Chairman</i>
Associate Minister	Rev. Rosemary Durward	
Curate	Rev. Dr Stephen Mangar (from July)	
In attendance	Rev. Sandy Conway	
Churchwardens	Andrew French Chris Jany	<i>Lay Vice-Chairman</i>
Deanery Synod	Robert Barnard	
Lay Representatives	Kate Ryder Paul Whaley	
Elected Members	Peter Channing Ali Bullman Sara Dean Amy Douthett Tessa Hulford-Funnell Helen Lawrence Harry Talboys	<i>Secretary</i>
Co-opted Members	Michael Gibbs David Godwin Matthew Young	<i>Treasurer</i>
PCC Correspondence		
Rector	Reverend Renos Pittarides, The Rectory, Ockham Road South, East Horsley, Surrey, KT24 6RL	
Secretary	Sara Dean, Whisper Hill, Green Dene, East Horsley, Surrey, KT24 5RE	

2/2022. AIMS AND ORGANISATION

The aim of the PCC is to cooperate with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. This is summarised in our Mission Statement: To build Faith, Hope and Love.

At the PCC level, scheduled meetings of the full council are normally held every two months. A Standing Committee which includes the Rector, PCC Secretary, Churchwardens, Treasurer and two PCC members meets bi-monthly as needed.

Members of the PCC are also ex-officio Administrative Trustees of the Charity for the Ecclesiastical and Educational purpose of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Martin, East Horsley, in the county of Surrey.

PCC officers are responsible for reporting on and delivering various functions within the Council.

Throughout this, the participating congregation, whether online or in-person has been maintained and outdoor services, where the restrictions were easier to manage, proved particularly popular.

None of this could have been achieved without the creativity, ingenuity and determination of our clergy team to meet the spiritual needs of the St Martin's community, notwithstanding the challenging conditions. From behind masks or online, the warmth and friendliness of St Martin's continued to grow.

On behalf of the St Martin's community, we as Churchwardens would like to take this opportunity to thank Renos and the clergy team for continuing to work so hard to deliver the Christian message and to provide spiritual guidance and assurance to so many of us during such turbulent times. Hopefully, there really is light at the end of the tunnel as we move into 2022 and as the COVID-19 restrictions gradually fall away, it will be possible to spread the message of Faith, Hope and Love even wider in the year ahead.

3/2022. FOREWORD

Andrew French and Chris Jany

Little did we expect that 2021 would present similar challenges to St Martin's and the wider community as we experienced in 2020. The year started with another lockdown and more online church services, followed by various worship restrictions and a limited ability to conduct the outreach work that forms such an essential part of the life of the church.

It is, therefore, a huge tribute to Renos, Sandy, Rosemary and Steve that they were able to keep the community of St Martin's alive and thriving. Their work included live, online services delivered via Zoom, children's activities delivered remotely with Ali's support, socially distanced and masked service indoors and several outdoor services, including one interrupted by rain halfway through!

4/2022. THE CHURCH & ITS MINISTRY

Rev. Renos Pittarides

The year 2021 saw the church continue to be affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, we were able to meet in person much more regularly and despite many restrictions we can be thankful for the many opportunities we had to be together.

I begin my report by thanking my colleagues Reverend Rosemary Durward, Reverend Sandy Conway and Reverend Dr Stephen Mangar for the significant contribution they made to church life in 2021. Each of them has a distinct ministry and yet we work closely together not just in terms of holding services, but equally important, reaching out pastorally to members of our parish and beyond. I cannot thank them enough for their support and I know that you do too.

Dr Steve Mangar was ordained Deacon last summer. Steve is licensed as an Ordained Local Minister to our parish. Due to COVID-19, numbers at his ordination were limited but the wonderful service was streamed live from Guildford Cathedral on YouTube. We hope that more people will be able to attend the service when Steve is ordained priest, this summer.

Members of our preaching team also included our occasional preachers, Robert Barnard and David Godwin. Ben Hulford-Funnell is also able to preach from time to time, having completed the *Young Preacher Course* at the Diocese.

I am very grateful to Gareth and Fiona Pont for ensuring that the quality of our music in 2021 was maintained and developed. Gareth has been our organist for over 30 years and together with Fiona and the choir they enhanced our worship, recruited new members to the choir and provided both online and in-person music when we needed it. One of the key features of our worship last year was worshipping outdoors and we plan to do so occasionally in the future - not because of COVID-19, but because it is an enjoyable thing to do.

Throughout the year we were able to livestream most of our services thanks to the commitment of Tim Williams. I would like to thank him for ensuring that those who are not able to join us in-person were and are able to remain connected via our YouTube channel. Thanks to Nick Bullman and David Godwin who were also involved.

We are very grateful to several people who contributed readings and prayers for both our online services and in the church. My thanks go also to those who assisted during in-person services, to Lynda Williams and Joy Campbell for managing the rotas and to Noreene Weir for ensuring that we had flowers to enjoy throughout the year. In 2021 we recruited Harry Talboys, Tim Sindall and Fiona Mangar to our Serving team.

I am grateful to our Churchwardens, Chris Jany and Andrew French, for all that they do to support me and the rest of the parish. It is easy to forget how challenging 2021 was, but with their support, St Martin's continued to thrive.

I am sure they would wish to join me in thanking Matthew Young, our Treasurer, and Sara Dean, our PCC Secretary, for their contributions. The PCC worked hard to lead our parish and I am grateful to those who joined and those who continue to share their wisdom, leadership and practical help.

In 2021 Ali Bullman completed her training and was licensed as our Children's and Youth Minister. Ali has brought great enthusiasm and is doing a fantastic job nurturing the faith of our young people which was evidenced in November when we took a group of our young people to the *Deanery Confirmation Service*. Smarties met on Zoom and in-person and our thanks go to Ali and her leaders for making this possible.

In 2021 we held a successful Garden Safari on one of the best weather weekends of the year. My thanks to Carry Kirk and her team for organising that. The proceeds will help fund the design costs for our new stained glass window project which will, in time, go in the North Transept as a memorial to the Pandemic. We hope it will not be too long before those designs are available.

Chris Jany continued to look after our two halls and keep in touch with regular hirers. He also managed our excellent team of volunteers who keep our church grounds looking splendid. A key feature of 2021 was our occasional Saturday morning churchyard tidy initiatives, something we also look to continue.

Post-lockdown, Nicky Owens arranged a group of volunteer church cleaners and together with weekly input from Gabor and Beata, the church is looking splendidly clean.

Horsley Care, the transport service, was not able to run in 2021, but we recruited new leaders (Peter and Fiona Armitage) and they are in the process of preparing for a re-launch in 2022.

In Kate Lane we have one of the best Parish Administrators available! In 2021 Kate continued to do great work with our publicity, manage our weekly mailing and assist with the general running of the parish.

Church Attendance

During 2021 we began to see attendance at all our services increase. In addition, we livestreamed services most weeks. Compline on Zoom was very popular and Morning Prayer in the church resumed later in the year.

Occasional Offices

We held three weddings and six baptisms, eight people were confirmed and we took twenty-three funerals.

Community Outreach

I am very grateful to the parish for the support we were able to give to the community throughout this challenging year. We collected vast amounts of food for the Foodbank, provided fish and chip lunches to St Martin's Court, (thanks largely to Margaret Read) and Christmas hampers to isolated people in the community. You will read more about these activities in the following pages.

Personal

I continued to act as Local Vocations Advisor for the Diocese of Guildford and joined the Racial Justice Focus Group. I was also very honoured to be invited by the Bishop of Guildford to become the Area Dean for Leatherhead Deanery.

Thank you

All that we have managed to achieve at St Martin's to date would not have been possible without the generous giving of a significant number of people. I am very grateful to those

who made additional contributions to help us maintain our ministry throughout 2021. Matthew Young, our Treasurer, gives more detail in his report, but I take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank you for your generous giving.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participates in the life of the church. There are always too many to mention. More people have come forward to help and we can be confident that as we reach a new 'normal', there will be a lot to look forward to.

In the reports that follow, you will see that St Martin's is fully alive and despite the challenges of the past couple of years we are still on our journey to serve God, building Faith, Hope and Love in our community and beyond.

5/2022. REVIEW OF PCC ACTIVITIES

Sara Dean

During 2021 there were six planned PCC bi-monthly meetings and three Standing Committee meetings. Most PCC meetings were held on Zoom but from September onwards, they were held in-person in the church following Compline.

Each followed a standard agenda that included approving Minutes from the previous meeting, a report from the Chairman, an update from Finance and where applicable from Premises, Safeguarding and the Deanery Synod too. A rolling programme of updates from other areas such as events and fundraising, was also covered. One-off projects requiring research, discussion or decisions were raised as required.

Still adapting to COVID-19

In 2021 we held three additional urgent meetings following Government changes to COVID-19 restrictions. The purpose was to formulate our practical response to running

the church and services, keeping any specific Church of England guidelines and the needs of the parish, fully in mind. These meetings often took place at short notice and because of their nature specific Agendas were not always set, but Minutes were taken and approved in the usual manner.

At these key points in the Pandemic the PCC had to thoroughly debate challenging options and vote on resolutions that often impacted the physical opening of the church and how parishioners could worship. Mask-wearing and singing were often 'hot' topics. Renos pulled in suggestions from neighboring churches, but the safety of St Martin's parishioners was always paramount and quite rightly guided our decision-making.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 27 April was less affected than in 2020. However, it took place over Zoom again during the evening as opposed to in-person on a Sunday afternoon. Unusually, it had only been six months since the previous one in October 2020, however attendance was strong with over 27 households taking part and it was a very positive event.

Open and accessible whenever possible

The lockdown from mid-December 2020 through to April 2021 is frequently dubbed as 'the hardest' by many people. Missing Christmas, the bleak news headlines and increasing accounts of personal tragedy on our doorstep and across the globe made for a very sobering time. Gatherings were strongly prohibited but Renos remained categorical that where possible, St Martin's should be open for solace and private prayer.

A team of PCC Members helped to enable this by cleaning the pews, card machine and other 'touch points' at the end of each open day to ensure safety guidelines were met.

Beacons of positivity

As spring rolled into summer the first outdoor service brought joy to many. It was an

especially emotional reunion for some of our vulnerable parishioners who had isolated alone for so long. And it involved singing! Watching a wedding live on Zoom and a funeral service on YouTube two days after the event, I appreciated how far St Martin's had come in using technology to reach people. The Pandemic forced us all into many things, but this newfound ability in the digital age is a vital skill that we parishioners and the church will benefit from long past COVID-19.

Of all the PCC meetings we held via Zoom during the past two years, only one or two are distinct for me. However, the PCC meeting in September last year when we met up in-person in North Transept of the church (with a couple joining by Zoom), stands out by a mile. Seeing and communicating with people in the same physical space, even wearing masks, really was a tonic.

That sense of community and togetherness continued to thrive for the rest of 2021. When the cloud of the Omicron variant hung over us, people were still determined to attend weekly services, to remember in November and give thanks at Christmas. The beautiful Christmas Tree Festival was no exception to this. Running for a week it provided an opportunity for the people of East Horsley to visit St Martin's, bask in the twinkle of all those fairy lights and look forward again, with hope.

6/2022. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Matthew Young

I am delighted to report that once again, despite the considerable challenges facing the parish in 2021, our finances improved over the past year. As is so often the case, the parish responded well to the cry for help and dug deep to keep income coming in despite the disruptions, COVID-19 restrictions and periodic closures.

General Income, our key 'financial health' indicator, rose by 4% to £133.1k. This was still well ahead of the increased General Expenditure figure which was up 7% to £124.1k as we gradually returned to normal. This gave us a running cash surplus of £9.1k which was not as high as last year's figure but meant a promising second year of surplus after many years of running with a small and growing deficit.

Added to this surplus we saw modest increases in investment income and the Fixed Assets revaluation which boosted our General Funds value by over £27k. There have been positive signs in the gradual return to a good level of lettings in the Community Hall, the increased use of the new giving options via the website, text giving, and in-church card reader and good returns from our investments. However, the bulk of the increase in General Income is accounted for by a COVID-19 Business Interruption grant from Guildford Borough Council, given to offset our lost Halls income. This was a one-off payment and we will have to find new opportunities to increase our income in 2022 as expenditure will rise once again and could quickly erode our surplus position.

2021 Headlines

- Overall income has remained above expenditure, standing at £176.6k (+17%), against total costs of £162.3k (+29%).
- Expenditure was boosted by a return to normal activities – especially in relation to project work and building repairs/maintenance which were largely on hold in 2020.
- Investment funds performed very well in a recovering market and grew in value by 14% to £253.2k.
- Our Total Assets (Fixed and Current) grew by 4% to £1.22m.
- Again, our year ended 'in the black' in our General Cash position.

The accounts have continued in the accruals-based accounting format which complies with

the requirements of both the Diocese and the Charities Commission for a charity of our size and turnover. The accounts are presented as a Statement of Financial Activity (SOFA) and Balance Sheet, with accompanying notes and appendices to add detail and explanation.

Income

Overall, our income (General, Designated and Restricted) rose 17% to £176.6k. This was largely due to specific fundraising and donations. Planned Giving shows a 4% improvement. However, this is somewhat misleading as the new Parish Giving Scheme (which now forms part of our Planned Giving figures) pays the Gift Aid at the time of donation which instantly boosts the donations but consequently means that the Gift Aid recovered further down the line will be lower. A better comparison is to look at combined Planned Giving and Gift Aid (which is, after all, the total value of Planned Giving donations) and the analysis shows that in 2021 we received 1% less than in 2020. This represents the vast bulk of our voluntary income and we need it to grow alongside the growth of our activities and costs, therefore this area will need even more focus in 2022.

Investment income dropped by 3%. But this was offset to an extent by an increase in investment fund returns of 4% (on top of the fund value growth of 14%). Income from the Halls has recovered partially with a 33% jump to £13.8k (plus the £6k grant). But there is still some way to go to meet the pre-pandemic levels of £20k pa.

Expenditure

Not surprisingly, overall spending grew in 2021 to £162.3k. This was driven by a return to normal activities and services for at least part of the year and the re-ignition of our project spend – the installation of new boilers funded by the Friends of St Martin's, Vestry improvements, initial work commissioned on the proposed new transept windows and the installation of a streaming service. The Parish Share was held at the 2020 level of £82.2k but

will rise in 2022 by 9% to £89.5k (the equivalent of needing to find a whole extra month of Parish Share payments each year). Charitable donations rose 7% to £6.7k. From this, the direct donations made by the PCC to our 13 selected charities increased by 10% to £4.6k.

Assets

Fixed Assets comprise the Community Hall and Church Rooms which are valued at £770k, based on the 2021 insurance value of both buildings. Our Investment Funds stood at £253.2k, based on market value and showed a 14% improvement on 2020, driven by a recovering investment market. The value of our fixtures and fittings increased overall with the new boilers offsetting the depreciation on existing F&E. Our total fixed assets were therefore £1.06m at year end, up 4% on last year.

Current Assets comprised of Debtors of £20k owed to us by the Tax Office for Gift Aid, cash in our current accounts of £33.6k, and cash in our deposit accounts of £113.1k. This gave a total value of £166.8k for current assets, up 5% on last year.

Liabilities totalled just £1,000 for governance costs for the 2021 accounts examination.

Total Assets of the PCC (Fixed plus Current Assets minus Liabilities) therefore stood at £1.22m, a modest 4% improvement on our 2020 end-position.

Outlook

Uncertainty remains, perhaps now at the time of writing more than ever. However, we can be certain that our expenditure will rise significantly in 2022 largely driven by the increase in Parish Share and the rising costs of utilities so we can be equally certain that we need to find ways to boost our General Income. Whilst we are always able to find funds for special projects (and more will be available in the year ahead), we must be sure that we can generate the basic level of income

required - around £11k each month - to keep the church running with a full clergy team so that they can continue to deliver their excellent work across the parish.

Thanks

As always, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those involved in our continuing efforts to secure our finances: To Chris Jany for managing the Canterbury Rooms, Hall rentals and most importantly in 2021, for securing the Business Interruption Grants; to Hayley Smith, our Independent Examiner and especially to Michael Gibbs, for managing our tax recovery each year. However, the biggest 'thank you' must of course go to our parishioners who continued to give so generously throughout the year. The past two years have shown that our church is strong and relevant despite the numerous challenges it has faced and that we are blessed with an extraordinarily generous and committed parish.

7/2022. FINANCE & PLANNED GIVING

Finance Andrew French

The role of the Committee is to review overall church finances and ensure that resources are in place to help St Martin's fulfil its mission and purpose. In addition, it monitors general fundraising and discusses how to fund new projects. Our key aim is to increase the number of regular givers and their average contribution which is relatively low compared to many other parishes in the Diocese.

During the last couple of years, we are grateful to have been able to extend our funding base as more regular givers switched to standing order contributions. However, lockdowns and restricted attendance at church made it difficult to bring in new members of the congregation and restricted our opportunities to further increase our funding base. Nevertheless, at a time when fundraising was challenging, we are very grateful to our regular givers for the additional contributions they made over this period.

On a positive note, Chris Jany worked hard to bring back many of the regular hirers at the Canterbury Rooms and Community Hall from late summer onwards and this brought a welcome income increase.

Having a regular and a stable income helps us plan and manage our regular expenditure more easily and engage in greater outreach work in the local community. So, in 2022, as restrictions are eased, we plan to increase our fundraising activities with a campaign to help people understand how generous giving helps fulfil God's purpose for our church.

Planned Giving Michael Gibbs

In 2021, donations eligible for gift aid came to £87,369 and tax recovered will total £21,842 which together with non-gift aided donations of £3,437 gives a total of £112,648.

This compares with a total of £117,402 in 2020.

During the year, 91 subscribers used standing orders. Of these, 26 transferred to the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) giving a total of 42 members in the PGS. We therefore gained several new members but also lost seven, through death or moving away.

The PGS is organised for us by the Diocese. Gift-aid is claimed monthly on our behalf which assists with cash flow and reduces administration. Furthermore, there is the facility to allow an automatic increase in donation in step with inflation. Transfer to the scheme is very much encouraged.

The card reader by the main South Door of the church has been used regularly. It is a popular facility for occasional visitors to donate to church funds and has convenient gift aid capability after a first donation.

Virgin Money Giving has been discontinued and replaced with a similar service from Charities Aid Foundation.

DONR, the text giving system, is used occasionally. It also has a useful gift-aid capability.

The Gift Aid Small Donations scheme (GASD) allows plate collections and similar receipts to be treated in the same way as identified gift aided donations. The 2021 cash plate collections were minimal due to lockdowns and the decision to discontinue offertory collections.

8/2022. FABRIC, GOODS, ORNAMENTS, HALLS & CHURCHYARD

Chris Jany

The Church

The past year was primarily one of general maintenance and 'behind the scenes' renovation in the church. The normal annual health & safety audits took place at all premises, as well as the statutory five yearly electrical system tests.

The church boiler was replaced with two smaller gas boilers. This is a more efficient and cost-effective method of heating and is easier to maintain.

A kitchen was installed in the Flower Room. The Choir Vestry was overhauled with new storage for the altar frontals and additional cupboard space and power points. The ceiling was also replaced.

Externally, the church guttering was cleared and repainted and the water leaks were plugged. A buttress was also repaired.

Over the festive period we had Broadband connection issues which affected the ability to livestream services and accept donations via the card reader. As a result, an overhanging cable connection between the church and the Canterbury Rooms was replaced with an underground one.

The Canterbury Rooms

We took the opportunity of lockdown to replace the gas boiler. It had been identified as on its 'last legs' for some time.

The Community Hall

Throughout lockdown we were delighted to welcome the 'Frying Squad' fish and chip van on Tuesday evenings. This proved very popular with the immediate community and many of us from St. Martin's. We look forward to them returning in due course.

A Broadband connection was introduced early in 2021, making the venue more attractive to hire.

Although we lost some of our regular hirers during the year, new hirers have nearly made up the shortfall and we are back in full swing. There are between 15 and 20 regular hires a week during term time, making the Community Hall our second largest source of income.

Churchyard

I would like to thank all churchyard grasscutters for their continued support in keeping the churchyard looking trim. A special mention and thanks to John Franklin for his regular contribution each week. We introduced occasional Working Party days during 2021 and were delighted at the turnout and enthusiasm. Our grateful thanks to those of you who gave your time.

9/2022. MUSIC & CHOIR

Gareth Pont

When the full lockdown ended in spring 2021 and services started again, music was restricted because of the fear of increased virus transmission through singing. Humming hymns underneath masks was initially allowed and then, to everyone's delight, congregational singing without masks was allowed from mid-August for those who felt comfortable.

Set back from the congregation and socially distanced from one another, our choir was able to sing throughout the phased easing of COVID-19 restrictions and a particular highlight was when they performed 'Rest in Peace' on Remembrance Sunday, the reflective anthem by Peter Skellern. They also sang a range of pieces for our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Another highlight were the outdoor services. These were very well received and Renos is considering some outdoor services this summer, COVID-19 or not!

Tenors Unlimited gave us a very well-received Christmas concert. Attendance was good considering that so many were trying to stay safe from the new Omicron variant.

Understandably our numbers were down for our Christmas services (although we had a well-attended family service on Christmas morning). The Crib Service took place with a quarter of the people we would usually expect; however, the YouTube version gave many more the opportunity to enjoy it.

Fiona and I were very grateful to our small music group who supported the church throughout the year, taking turns to sing when numbers had to be limited. Despite difficult circumstances, we worked well together and are very grateful for everyone's support.

We ended 2021 looking forward to a relaxation of the restrictions and the opportunity for everyone to sing and enjoy making music together again in 2022.

10/2022. WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Ali Bullman

Marty's Friends

It was our playgroup's fifth year. We returned in September 2021 after a break of 19 months due to the Pandemic. We met every Wednesday morning during term time and had

babies as from six weeks old to children of four years old attending with their parent or carer. Our numbers peaked at around 20 each week with about 35-40 regulars.

I was concerned that these numbers would drop and that some of our regulars would not return when we re-opened, but this could not be further from the truth. In addition, we gained many new mothers and those with small babies which were in a minority previously. It proved that that these new mums needed more support than before, following the isolation of lockdown. I am delighted they are now able to come to us for friendship and support.

I run the playgroup with Tina Hobb, my assistant. Tina is a nanny and childcare provider. She did our shopping, ensuring a choice of food and drink was always on offer to accommodate the many dietary requirements (which is no easy task). Tina also delivered our stories and Bible exploration.

We were supported by a network of mums, nannies and grandparents - everyone who is a part of the Marty's Friends community feels passionately about our playgroup. The nanny community quickly became very involved, regularly helping with planning activities and packing up. They are a huge support and driving force.

We ran a varied programme of weekly activities, inside and outside. Before the Pandemic we had day trips and celebrations and were successfully nurturing a relationship with St Teresa's Effingham, who invited us to participate in their Forest School sessions on several occasions. We hope to pick this up again in 2022.

We keep in touch with families through regular updates on our Marty's Friends Playgroup Facebook page and email communication. It is great to see some of our playgroup attendees back in church and beginning to engage with other elements of church life. A growing

number are interested in Baptism; many have joined St. Martin's mailing list.

My thanks in particular go to Tina, for her dedication, passion and input.

Family Film Club

Before the Pandemic, Family Film Club was a growing success with regular attendees bringing along friends and parents to enjoy pizza and a suitable film. Sadly, we were unable to restart it in 2021 but look forward to doing so in April 2022.

Thanks go to Heather Ayton and Mary Hollier for previously providing the refreshments and to Tim Williams and Renos who took care of the technical aspects. A team of parent volunteers will be taking over from them.

Family Quiz Nights

At points throughout the pandemic, we ran Quiz Nights on Zoom. They were well attended and fun for all involved. I am looking forward to reintroducing these in-person in 2022.

Assemblies

We provided weekly assemblies for the Raleigh School throughout the pandemic. These brought religious teaching into the school and provided an opportunity for us to engage and build relationships with the students and teachers. Renos and I wrote, presented and edited online videos for these and at the end of the 2021 Spring Term we delivered an in-person assembly to Year 2. Since then, we have offered four, in-person, whole school assemblies, per term. We also held a Carol Service for Glenesk School at St Martin's.

Confirmation

During the Autumn Term we prepared nine young people for Confirmation with regular classes. It was a wonderful experience and the group worked incredibly well together.

The service took place on 30th November at St Andrew's, Cobham but unfortunately, three of our group missed the occasion due to COVID-

19 isolation. However, we look forward to reuniting everyone and supporting these three as they prepare for their confirmation on Easter Saturday 2022 at Guildford Cathedral.

It is my aim to create a Youth Group in 2022 with this Confirmation Group acting as the founding members.

Smarties

Smarties started back in the Summer Term 2021 when social distancing, masks and many other restrictions were still in place. We were delighted to see that this didn't put the children off and had a good core number coming every Sunday. Attendance dipped in the Autumn Term, probably due to rising COVID-19 cases, other activities restarting and an emphasis on family and friends 'catch up' events following the lockdowns. Despite attendance and commitment being low, it was clear that our young people and their parents still felt involved, connected, welcome and a part of the church family.

Our children's church involved a dedicated team of Katharine McPhillips, Rachel Holloway, Sarah Godwin, Sally Carpenter, Edward Craft and Charlotte French. We also had a teen helper, Elise French and a Youth Volunteer, Ben Hulford-Funnell. The group met every Sunday, apart from the 1st Sunday of the month, for games, craft and other fun activities related to the Lectionary readings.

A particular highlight was the 2021 Crib Service film. We decided early on that a film was a good plan as we could share it at a live, in-person church service or online if we were thrown into another lockdown. We were able to meet in church for the service and the film has been separately viewed 164 times online!

All our children's activities were supported by thorough safeguarding policies and procedures, thanks to the dedication of our Safeguarding Officer, Kate Ryder.

Ed Craft previously led the development of risk assessments for all church activities, including Smarties, which I have now taken over as part of my Children and Youth Minister role.

I am pleased with the offering we provided to our St Martin's children and families during the ongoing, difficult times. I am excited to think about how much more we can do and will achieve in 2022 as we emerge from the Pandemic. As you might expect, I have plenty of new and valuable plans in the pipeline. Thanks to everyone who was involved in and supported our Children's Ministry.

11/2022. OUTREACH

Rev. Rosemary Durward

Outward Giving

In keeping with decisions made in 2018 by the Outward Giving Committee, St Martin's continued to donate to charities working at local, national and international levels.

Once again, Leatherhead Start, Home for Good and the Mother's Union received larger amounts. Smaller, equal sums were donated to Guildford Cathedral as the Mother Church of the Diocese, Home-start Guildford, The Grange in Bookham, The Trussell Trust (see Foodbank below), Refugee Action, Seeability, the Leprosy Mission, the Church Mission Society, the Garden Route Children's Trust, South African and the United Society Partners in the Gospel.

In 2020 the Remembrance Sunday service was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions but in 2021, St Martin's welcomed a full congregation and raised funds for the Royal British Legion through donations and poppy sales. The Christmas Tree Festival in December was a successful fund-raising event and the resulting proceeds were shared between St Martin's and Home for Good.

In December the Outward Giving Committee met to discuss options for outward giving

between January 2022 and December 2024. For the first time St Martin's Church worshippers were invited to select their preferred charities via an online poll. These results then formed the basis of the committee's chosen charity decisions. It is hoped that this practice of involving parishioners will be repeated in due course to increase engagement in St Martin's giving and fund-raising and to encourage their own fund-raising initiatives in support of these charities.

Fundraising

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings this was again more of a challenge than in previous years, but we were still successful in many ways:

The Children's Society

Led by Jean Bayliss, St Martin's organised three activities and raised a grand total of £1749.64 for the Children's Society through the efforts and generosity of church members and other supporters.

Jean wishes to thank all who had collection boxes in their homes which contributed £656.89. If you are interested in hosting a collection box in 2022, please contact Jean on 01483 282264 for more information.

Children from the Church and the 1st East Horsley Brownies took part in the Christingle Service on 5th December. Thanks go to those who organised the service and made the Christingles. It was a very joyful occasion and raised £647.00.

In addition, Children's Society Christmas card sales raised £445.75.

Christian Aid

Due to the COVID-19 risk of door-to-door collections, fundraising during Christian Aid Week, 10th – 16th May 2021, was again prompted by Renos's weekly newsletter which directed people to the Christian Aid website to make online donations.

The World Day of Prayer

Due to COVID-19 restrictions this took place on Zoom in 2021 and was considered successful.

Cobham Area Foodbank

Donations to the Cobham Food Bank remained steady throughout 2021 and peaked in response to specific appeals and particular kinds of food, for instance during Harvest Festival and the Christmas season, when additional food hampers were prepared.

In addition to regular worshippers, the East Horsley community and beyond donated supplies. St Martin's donated just over 14% of the total amount (4123.14kg out of 28092.21kg) donated to the food bank in 2021.

Christina Van Roest, Trustee and General Manager thanked St Martin's donors. In 2021 they had fewer clients than previously (2,000), probably due to an additional £20/week of Universal Credit granted by the Government. She emphasised the need for more donations in 2022, in response to the anticipated cost of living rise.

COVID-19 Outreach

Thanks to all those who volunteered to keep in contact by telephone with church members who were most affected by lockdown isolation. Spring brought with it a sense of newfound freedom with the option to visit peoples' homes without restrictions on numbers.

Normal church services resumed on Sunday 4th April, Easter Day and with that, live services were filmed and watched at home by housebound people or those wary of gathering. In this way the need for coordinated support and regular telephoning across the Parish became less pressing, although a few continued to receive such support throughout 2021 and into 2022.

Community Margaret Read

Once again, our activities were curtailed by the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions:

Hear Here

No clinics were held locally during 2021. Instead, the Royal Surrey County Hospital introduced a successful system whereby patients could obtain supplies and get repairs posted back for free by emailing or telephoning the Audiology Department.

Songs of Praise

Once again, the shutters came down at St Martin's Court on 16th December due to the national wave of Omicron infections. Shortly before that we held a special Christmas Carol Service. It was led by Renos and Sheila Mellstrom, the organist from Ockham church plus Geoff Read provided live music. The community bus brought in a few local guests and St Martin's ladies made and served afternoon tea.

Name That Tune

This popular activity could not take place during 2021 as the residents were frequently locked down. However, we delivered wool to one resident who knitted hats, scarves and gloves for the Blythwood Care shoebox appeal and was very grateful for the diversion.

St Martin's Film Club

There were no screenings in 2021.

Beehive

There were no meetings because sadly, many of our loyal attendees passed away during the Pandemic. In 2021 we lost Ray Amery, who had moved to a nursing home but a few of us kept in contact and Irene Stewart, who died aged 101 in St Martin's Court.

Despite the COVID-19 difficulties, over 100 shoeboxes were made up for Blythwood Care and destined for Eastern Europe. The remaining Beehive members contributed as usual but this time, families, individuals at home and members of the congregation made the majority. Thanks to all who took part and gave their time to bring some much-needed Christmas cheer to those less fortunate.

Once again, Hannah Pittarides put together emergency toiletry bags for the Royal Surrey County Hospital. Examples were displayed around our entry for the Christmas Tree Festival. Thank you to everyone who helped towards this project, especially Katy Sprankling for her beautiful miniature knitting.

Also, thanks to those who knitted twiddle muffs for dementia patients, also at the hospital.

St Martin's Court

The residents here were particularly affected by the enforced isolation of the Pandemic and most were confined to their flats for much of the year with limited residential support. Sadly, some of our regular St Martin's supporters passed away.

We did manage to organize complimentary Fish & Chip lunches for St Martin's Court residents in January and August. We used the dining room for the summer event, but fear of mixing still meant that most participants were served in their flats. We also delivered a few lunches in the community. Thanks to Renos and Hannah Pittarides, Debbie Springfield, Heather Ayton, Elaine Howard and others for their support and to the wonderful Frying Squad also, for their continued generosity and help.

Christmas Gifts

A donation of ten hampers meant that some of the residents at St Martin's Court and elsewhere in the Parish, received a surprise Christmas gift!

12/2022. PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Kate Ryder

The PCC and the incumbent have a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in their church community. In compliance with the Diocesan policy on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, I am the combined

Safeguarding Officer and Safeguarding Validator for St. Martin's Church.

Once a year, the PCC formally adopts the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy. The PCC have complied with their duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy entitled *Promoting a Safer Church*.

All clergy, readers and volunteers in the parish need to be aware of good practice in safeguarding and the Diocese provides excellent and relevant training for all those in the church community who are supervising children or vulnerable adults. (See Appendix A: Charts.)

13/2022. COMMUNICATIONS

Rev. Renos Pittarides

Our main form of communication in 2021 was through an online weekly mailing using a platform called Mailchimp. We now have 279 subscribers and a far greater reach than a conventional, printed newsletter. In addition, Kate Lane, in the office, provides a large-print version for our notice boards.

We continue to have a presence on Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor and Instagram and I continue to write an article for Horsley Directory, often with the help of Sue Stratford, and Horsley Info (the Parish Council newsletter).

Thanks to Kate and Andy Fairweather for looking after the website.

I am very grateful to Kate for ensuring that our noticeboards remained informative and attractive throughout the year.

14/2022. TRANSPORT

Community Bus David Godwin

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions of lockdown and social distancing, the scheduled Sunday

morning Community Bus service to transport parishioners to and from church was unable to restart in 2021.

Horsley Care Renos Pittarides

Following Alastair Rutherford-Warren's retirement from managing Horsley Care's transport service in 2020, the PCC was delighted to find and appoint a new management team in 2021.

Peter and Fiona Armitage spent the latter half of the year setting up the new service. This included defining a fresh offering to meet client needs and establishing new management methods and paperwork requirements in-line with new regulations, plus recruiting and DBS checking a team of 15 volunteer drivers.

Peter and Fiona intend to launch the service in spring 2022, starting with essential medical visits and expanding into transport for shopping and attendance at clubs and societies in due course.

If you are interested in driving voluntarily for Horsley Care, please contact Peter or Fiona via the Parish Office.

15/2022. FRIENDS OF ST MARTIN'S

Kate Ryder and Joy Campbell

Due to COVID-19, the past year has been another very quiet one for the Friends of St. Martin's, although the membership has remained stable which has enabled funds to be available for the preservation of our church buildings for future generations.

Again, there was less opportunity for member events. However, two talks by Dr Philip Marazzi, one on Zoom and another later in the year, back by popular demand, in the Canterbury Rooms. We had the opportunity to marvel at his amazing wildlife photography from some of the many countries he has

visited. A Quiz Night also took place on Zoom earlier in the year.

There are more events in plan for 2022. Details will be sent out as soon as possible.

16/2022. MU4ALL

Lynda Williams

Due to COVID-19 and changes in circumstance for several of our Mother's Union members, there have been no meetings since January 2020.

In May 2021 our free Community bank account from HSBC changed to a Charity account incurring significant charges and it was agreed that this should close. It was also acknowledged that the branch was not currently able to continue in a sustainable way. Following email, letter and telephone consultations with all members, additional face to face discussions with several members and Renos, plus advice from the Diocese, the decision was taken to suspend the branch. Consequently, MU4ALL will remain in name only and will no longer function in any other respect.

Individuals who wished to remain members have done so by becoming a Diocesan member or joining centrally via the head office at Mary Sumner House.

17/2022. CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HORSLEY & OCKHAM (CTHO)

Rev. Sandy Conway

Sadly, the impact of COVID-19 restricted – or rather demolished – our plans for 2021! Both the service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the Good Friday service by the shops fell victim to the Pandemic, although Celia did take the large wooden cross to display. Our thanks go to Robin from Quaich for his help.

Thank you also to Stephanie who faithfully circulated prayers for inclusion on the second Sunday of each month.

The last two years of enforced separation and distancing has shown how easily we can slip into the habit of keeping ourselves separate from one another. Let us pray that we can break that habit, by reinvigorating our shared commitment of working together in a spirit of unity!

After all, we are called to reflect the mutual joy and delight of Father, Son and Holy Spirit in God's dance of Creation. Once we take the first steps, who knows what God may work in us.

18/2022. LEATHERHEAD DEANERY

Robert Barnard

The Deanery Synod met in person for the first time since the onset of the Pandemic at Reed's School in Leatherhead on 20 October 2021. Renos was commissioned as the new Area Dean and Charleen Hollington as Assistant Area Dean.

Charleen proposed a resolution advocating the requirement for age-verification to access pornography websites to help protect young people better. The resolution was approved by Deanery Synod and forwarded to the Diocesan Synod. Given the Government's support of this initiative it is hoped that the resolution will be put before the General Synod.

It was agreed that the *Living in Love and Faith* (LLF) course that took place mid-2021 should be extended to the Deanery parishes. This will be taking place at St. Martin's as a Lent course.

The next meeting of the Synod will be 23 February 2022 where the focus will be on how our local borough councils and churches are welcoming refugees.

APPENDIX A: CHARTS**Diocese of Guildford Training Pathways for Safeguarding**

(Also see Report 12/2022, page 14)

**Who needs to do what training...**

✓ = Mandated X = Not Mandated					
Role	Core Training			Safer Recruitment and People Management Required for all line managers or if involved in recruitment	Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse
	Basic Awareness	Foundation	Leadership		
Licensed Clergy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Permission to Officiate (Clergy and LLM)	✓	✓	✓ (PTO version)	X	✓
Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM), OLM and Chapter Members	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Parish/Cathedral Safeguarding Officer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Churchwardens	✓	✓	✓	✓ (if in vacancy)	✓
PCC Members	✓	✓	X	X	✓
Employed Youth, Children's, and Families Workers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Operations Managers and DBS Validators	✓	✓	X	✓	X
Pastoral Workers, Spiritual Directors, Occasional Preachers	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Employed Worship Leaders and Director of Music	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Church Administrators, Activity Leaders and Helpers, Bell Ringers and Home Group Leaders	✓	✓	X	X	Recommended for Leaders
Valid: January 2022 to December 2024	All Core Training must be refreshed once every three years at the highest level			Refreshed every three years	

✓ = Required training