

# Annual Parochial Church Meeting

(via Zoom)

12.00pm – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021



## ALL SAINTS' HIGHGATE

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## **AGENDA**

- 1. Prayer for the Parish and for the Diocese**
- 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (pg 2)**
- 3. Election of Churchwardens**
- 4. Matters Arising**
- 5. Consideration of Electoral Roll (pg 5)**
- 6. Report on Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (pg 5)**
- 7. Deanery Synod Report (pg 6)**
- 8. Election of members to the Parochial Church Council**
- 9. Election of Sidespeople**
- 10. Financial Report (pg 7)**
  - a. Appointment of Independent Examiner**
- 11. Churchwardens' Report (pg 14)**
- 12. Incumbent's Report (pg 15)**
- 13. Any other reports on parish activities**
  - a. Hall Report (pg 17)**
  - b. Fabric Report (pg 18)**
  - c. Music Report (pg 19)**
- 14. Closing Prayer**

## **2. Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners/APCM held via Zoom on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**In attendance:** Francis Birch, Andrew Brookes, Brooke, David Bulgin, Samantha Bulgin, Faith Davey, Marie Edwards, Linda Foster, Jane Havergal, Michael Hurst, Vicky Hurst, Jessica Hurst, Pamela Lighthill, Sue McKay, Marilyn Monk, Victoria Taylor, Celia Webster, Austen Worth, Louise Worth, The Revd Alastair McKay, The Revd Timothy Miller

### **Austen Worth was in the Chair.**

1. The Meeting began with prayer for the parish and for the Diocese.
2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 28th April 2019 were approved by those present, and will be signed by Timothy when possible.
3. Election of Churchwardens (Note from PCC Secretary: election of Churchwardens is by agreement between the incumbent and those attending the meeting, which may include anyone living in the parish, even if they are not on the Electoral Roll. Written nominations are necessary and were received).

Anja Barnes had been nominated by Mary Barker and seconded by Pamela Lighthill. Austen Worth had been nominated by Anja Barnes and seconded by Mary Barker. No other nominations had been received. Austen was re-elected for his 5th year and Anja was re-elected for her 4th year. Timothy thanked Austen and Anja for all their work in the past year.

4. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.
5. Consideration of Electoral Roll. Anja Barnes reported that as of the morning of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020, there were 49 persons on the Electoral Roll. Austen thanked Anja for her work on this.
6. Report on Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council. The report was accepted with thanks to Pamela Lighthill.
7. Deanery Synod Report. The report was accepted with thanks to Marie Edwards and Pamela Lighthill. Marie was on the Area Synod, and 'ex officio' on the Deanery Synod. Pamela had served for 3 years, so elections were needed this time.
8. Election of members to the Parochial Church Council. Pamela explained that the 'ex officio' members of the PCC are the Priest-in-Charge, other clergy, the 2 Churchwardens and the Deanery Synod representative, with 6 other possible places. So Timothy, Alastair, Austen and Anja are members and also Marie, 'ex officio' because she is a member of the Area Synod. An election for the Deanery Synod representative would take place shortly. John Havergal and Michael Hurst had served for 3 years, so would be standing down. There were however 4 vacancies as Dhosjan and Carolyn had had to

resign for family reasons. Timothy said that he had received written nominations for Daniela Denby-Ashe, Emma Janka, Victoria Taylor and Caroline Brookes. They were duly elected.

9. Election of representative to the Deanery Synod Elizabeth Bulgin was elected. Timothy expressed thanks to those who had volunteered to serve on the PCC, and to John and Michael for their loyal service. He also thanked Elizabeth for agreeing to be the new Deanery Synod representative.
10. Election of Sidespeople  
Vicky proposed the following people, who were duly elected: Aldena, Anja, Brooke, Faith, Jacqui, Jean, Marie, Vicky and Victoria.
11. Financial Report David expounded his written report for the year ended 31 December 2019 in detail.  
He subsequently remarked that there had been a drop in income after February 2020 due to inactivity in the hall on account of the pandemic. The amount of hall activity was beginning to build up again. There had been a drop in collection money also in 2020, although STOs had continued, and there had been some one-off donations. 2019 had been a good year however. The cut in Common Fund from £34,000 down to £24,000 had helped a good deal. The former figure was unsustainable for us.  
Both Andrew Brookes and Alastair McKay thanked David for a helpful report. Timothy remarked that the true cost of a full-time stipendiary priest was over £80,000.
12. Appointment of Independent Examiner David said that he had been trying to follow this up with someone, but the pandemic had not helped. Austen said that the situation was becoming critical.
13. Churchwardens' Report Austen said this would be circulated once it was completed. Alastair asked Timothy about the faculty for the new pews. Timothy said he was waiting for confirmation that it's granted, and then we would order the pews. Alastair thanked Austen and Anja for all they do as churchwardens. *Start here.*
14. Incumbent's Report Timothy spoke about the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the continuing need to rely on God for strength and peace in the coming months. He thanked the churchwardens for their support and care, and also thanked many others. In July 2019 we had been blessed by the appointment of the Revd Dr Alastair McKay as a non-stipendiary Associate Priest of All Saints.

For four months since the closure of churches at the end of March, our services had been moved online, being offered through Facebook Live, YouTube and Zoom. We were now back in church, but continuing to offer a 'mixed-mode' of worship and fellowship. He went on to mention the Community Pantry, and the plans to redevelop the physical spaces of the

church and garden to make them more beneficial to the community around us.

15. 'Reclaiming Our Community Space' A report was circulated and discussed.

16. Any other reports on parish activities

Anja circulated a hall report showing the regular users of the hall. Austen thanked her for getting the hall back up and running after lockdown. Francis circulated a fabric report. The boiler needed an immediate repair, but would need to be replaced soon. Anja was dealing with the other checks needed, e.g. lightening protection and asbestos. There were some questions about the price of a new boiler. Austen thanked Francis for all his work for the church.

Timothy said he thought we needed more discussion by people on the electoral roll, as well as by PCC members.

The meeting concluded with the Grace.

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## **5. Consideration of the Electoral Roll**

As of the morning of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021, there are 49 persons on the Electoral Roll.

## **6. Report on Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council**

The PCC has met twice via Zoom since the APCM on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020. At the meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> 2020, Timothy welcomed 4 new PCC members, Caroline, Daniela, Emma and Victoria, and also welcomed the new Deanery Synod representative, Elizabeth. Then everyone in turn said something about why they felt drawn to All Saints. Officers and committee members were elected, with Pamela being co-opted as PCC Secretary, and Francis being co-opted as Church Architect. Having been re-elected as Treasurer, David Bulgin said that he would like some help with the Gift Aid Reclaim now that Mary Barker had resigned as Stewardship Treasurer. (N.B. Anyone interested please speak to David or Timothy).

Concern about the church's financial position was evident at the November meeting and at the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, although David said that, all things considered, things were not as bad as they might have been. The state of the boiler was a worry, and a hall user advanced hall fees of £1000 in order to get it speedily fixed. However, despite the money spent during the winter, a new boiler is now a necessity!

At the February meeting there was discussion about proposals received for use of the hall/church and garden for children's groups. There was discussion about how the space of the church can be better used for the benefit of the wider community. Timothy also hoped to encourage links with organizations promoting fair trade and toilet twinning.

Other matters discussed at the PCC meetings included our ongoing worship via Facebook, YouTube and Zoom during lockdown, and the online course offered by Alastair for Advent (and later on for Lent), relating to paintings in the National Gallery inspired by biblical texts. The work of the choir during lockdown was appreciated, and new PCC members showed interest in the church garden, which was much welcomed.

This has been a very short church year because of the delay in holding APCMs in 2020. We hope to resume face-to-face meetings before too long!

## **7. Deanery Synod Report**

West Haringey Deanery, which All Saints' was a part of, was merged with East Haringey at the end of 2020. Consequently, in April 2021, I attended the first meeting of the Haringey Deanery Synod, via Zoom. (West Haringey Deanery Synod meetings for 2020 were cancelled because of Covid.)

Following the election of officials and standing committee members, the Bishop of Edmonton gave a presentation and led a discussion on the Diocese of London's 2030 Vision, for every Londoner to encounter the love of God in Christ. There are three ambitions: confident disciples, compassionate communities and creative growth, and also three priorities: growing younger, safer churches and racial justice. This was followed by an update on the London Diocesan Board for Schools.

*All Saints' Church N6 Deanery Synod Representative*

Elizabeth Bulgin

## **11. Financial Report - For the year ended 31 December 2020**

The COVID-19 pandemic meant that 2020 was a difficult year for the church in many ways, and this clearly had effects on our financial situation. The church and hall were closed for significant periods of the year, and activities were severely restricted at other periods. Not surprisingly this led to a substantial fall in income, particularly from the hall.

The contributions from church members in fact held up remarkably well, as many members of the congregation were already giving regularly through bank orders, and a number of others either started doing so or made additional donations. Regular gift-aided contributions only fell by about 3% (from £22,403 to £21,725), and there was actually an increase in other regular donations. We are indeed very grateful for all those who have continued to support the church in this way through the periods of closure and restricted opening. However, the income from collections at those services that were held was much lower than normal, even though some money was received through digital payments using the 'Good Box' system which is now available in church.

The hall was more severely affected by the periods of closure and limitations on use when it was reopened, and the income received was only about 60% of the previous year (£8,782 compared with £14,562) – and this in fact included £1,000 as a late payment for a hiring in 2019. In the light of the restrictions imposed, this was still quite an achievement, and we need to be grateful to Anja Barnes for the efforts she made to ensure that people were still able to use the hall to the extent that they did.

Despite the period of closure, ongoing expenses were not greatly reduced, although there was some reduction in the use of gas and electricity. The expenditure from the General Fund was £40,215 compared with £45,068 in 2019. Maintenance work on the church included repairs to the arch near the west door, and £2,805 was spent to return the boiler to working order. Despite this expenditure, however, the boiler has since failed again, and we have now been advised that it is beyond repair and we will need to look at the provision of a new heating system for the church and hall before next winter, which will naturally be a considerable expense.

In view of the reduced income from the hall, which normally provides much-needed support to the church finance, the overall figures show a significant fall in the overall balance of funds from £21,815 at the start of the year to £15,901 at the end. This is disappointing following the improvement in our financial position which we saw in 2019 following the agreement to reduce our Common Fund payment to the diocese from £34,000 to £24,000.



Overall, 2020 was a very challenging year, and we are grateful to all those who have continued to support the church and, when possible, to make use of the hall. We face further challenges to recover the situation as we go forward.

*All Saints' Church N6 Treasurer*

David Bulgin

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2020 £	2019 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Incoming resources from donors	1(a)	31,328	75	31,403	34,951
Other voluntary incoming resources	1(b)	-	-	-	7,868
Incoming resources from operating activities					
- to further the council's objects	1(c)	9,195	-	9,195	14,934
- to generate funds	1(d)	-	-	-	1,161
Income from investment	1(e)	40	15	55	54
Other ordinary incoming resources	1(f)	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>40,563</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>40,653</b>	<b>58,968</b>
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>					
Costs of generating funds	2(a)	-	-	-	64
Grants and donations	2(b)	480	75	555	1,447
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	2(c)	39,244	-	39,244	41,328
Support costs	2(d)	5,348	-	5,348	4,992
Church management and administration	2(e)	1,420	-	1,420	1,613
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>		<b>46,492</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>46,567</b>	<b>49,444</b>
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) resources		(5,929)	15	(5,914)	9,524
Gains and losses on investment assets		-	-	-	-
Gross transfers		-	-	-	-
<b>Net Movements in Funds</b>		<b>(5,929)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>(5,914)</b>	<b>9,524</b>
<b>Balances Brought Forward at 1 January</b>		<b>13,306</b>	<b>8,509</b>	<b>21,815</b>	<b>12,291</b>
<b>Balances Carried Forward at 31 December</b>		<b>7,377</b>	<b>8,524</b>	<b>15,901</b>	<b>21,815</b>

The notes on pages 3 to 5 form part of these accounts.

(APCM 30 May 2021)

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets		0	0
Investment assets		0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stock		150	150
Debtors	5	5,080	2,637
Short term deposits		7,504	10,504
Cash at bank and in hand		4,512	10,618
		<u>17,246</u>	<u>23,909</u>
<b>LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	6	<u>(1,345)</u>	<u>(2,094)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>15,901</u>	<u>21,815</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		15,901	21,815
<b>LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR</b>	7	0	0
<b>NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>		<u><u>15,901</u></u>	<u><u>21,815</u></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted	4	7,377	13,306
Restricted		8,524	8,509
		<u>15,901</u>	<u>21,815</u>

The notes on pages 3 to 5 form part of these accounts.

(APCM 30 May 2021)

For the year ended 31 December 2020

1 INCOMING RESOURCES

	General Fund £	Hall Fund £	Restoration Fund £	Restricted Fund £	TOTAL FUNDS	
					2020 £	2019 £
<b>1(a)</b> Incoming resources from donors						
Regular donations by gift aid	21,725	0	0	0	21,725	22,403
Other planned giving	1,268	0	0	0	1,268	188
Donations	3,000	0	0	75	3,075	2,842
Income tax recoverable	5,080	0	0	0	5,080	6,744
Other collections	255	0	0	0	255	2,774
	<u>31,328</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>31,403</u>	<u>34,951</u>
<b>1(b)</b> Other voluntary incoming resources						
Diocesan grant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diocesan Loan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donations, appeals etc	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legacies	0	0	0	0	0	7,868
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,868</u>
<b>1(c)</b> Income from operating activities: to further the council's objects						
Church hall lettings etc	0	8,782	0	0	8,782	14,562
Fees	413	0	0	0	413	372
Magazine	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>413</u>	<u>8,782</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9,195</u>	<u>14,934</u>
<b>1(d)</b> Income from operating activities: to generate funds						
Fetes, bazaars, other fund-raising events	0	0	0	0	0	1,161
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,161</u>
<b>1(e)</b> Income from investment						
Interest	25	15	15	0	55	54
	<u>25</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>54</u>
<b>1(f)</b> Other incoming resources						
Insurance claim	0	0	0	0	0	0
Building work licence	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>3</b> Recovery of exceptional losses						
Insurance claim					0	0
Bank repayment					0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Incoming resources</b>	<u>31,766</u>	<u>8,797</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>40,653</u>	<u>58,968</u>
Transfer from Hall Fund to General Fund	2,500					
	<u>34,266</u>					

For the year ended 31 December 2020

2 RESOURCES USED

	General	Hall	Restoration	Restricted	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£		
<b>2(a) Costs of generating funds</b>						
Fetes, bazaars and other fund raising events	0	0	0	0	0	0
Costs of stewardship campaign	0	0	0	0	0	64
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>64</u>
<b>2(b) Grants and donations</b>						
Overseas mission and relief agencies	0	0	0	0	0	344
Charities	480	0	0	75	555	1,103
	<u>480</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>555</u>	<u>1,447</u>
<b>2(c) Activities directly relating to the work of the church</b>						
Diocesan parish share	25,200	0	0	0	25,200	24,000
Assigned parochial fees	211	0	0	0	211	190
Clergy expenses	524	0	0	0	524	965
Vicarage expenses	614	0	0	0	614	380
Church running expenses	3,503	0	0	0	3,503	3,260
Cost of services	1,150	0	0	0	1,150	1,239
Choir & Music	75	0	0	0	75	75
Organists' fees	760	0	0	0	760	2,715
Sunday school	0	0	0	0	0	50
Church & garden maintenance	3,604	0	0	0	3,604	5,045
Church Hall running costs	0	3,603	0	0	3,603	2,889
Church Hall maintenance costs	0	0	0	0	0	520
Sound system	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>35,641</u>	<u>3,603</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>39,244</u>	<u>41,328</u>
<b>2(d) Support costs</b>						
Insurance	2,674	2,674	0	0	5,348	4,992
	<u>2,674</u>	<u>2,674</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,348</u>	<u>4,992</u>
<b>2(e) Church management and administration</b>						
Printing and stationery	225	0	0	0	225	405
Postage and telephone	715	0	0	0	715	665
Photocopier	0	0	0	0	0	0
IT expenses	420	0	0	0	420	443
Lotteries license	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank and other charges	60	0	0	0	60	100
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>1,420</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,420</u>	<u>1,613</u>
<b>3 Exceptional costs</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Resources Used</b>	<u>40,215</u>	<u>6,277</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>46,567</u>	<u>49,444</u>
Transfer from Hall Fund to General Fund		2,500				
		<u>8,777</u>				

Staff and other costs

Other than the fees payable to the organist no staff costs are incurred.

There were no other disclosable transactions in respect of PCC members, persons closely connected with them, or other related parties.

For the year ended 31 December 2020

**4 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Fixed assets for church use	-	-	-	-
Investment fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	8,503	8,743	17,246	23,909
Current liabilities	(1,126)	(219)	(1,345)	(2,094)
Non current liabilities	-	-	-	-
Fund balance	<u>7,377</u>	<u>8,524</u>	<u>15,901</u>	<u>21,815</u>

**ANALYSIS OF FUNDS**

	2019 Total £	2019 Total £
General fund	4,332	10,281
Hall fund	3,045	3,025
Restoration fund	8,054	8,039
Restricted fund	470	470
	<u>15,901</u>	<u>21,815</u>

**5 DEBTORS**

	2020 £	2019 £
Income tax recoverable	5,080	2,637
Legacies receivable	-	-
London Diocesan Fund	-	-
Other	-	-
	<u>5,080</u>	<u>2,637</u>

**6 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2020 £	2019 £
Accruals of utility payments	220	250
Creditors	1,125	1,844
	<u>1,345</u>	<u>2,094</u>

**7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR**

2019 £	2019 £
Nil	Nil

## **13. Churchwardens' Report**

Given the much shorter than usual period of time between APCM meetings, and the enforced second lock down between the two meetings, there is much less than usual to report.

### **Boiler**

Emergency repairs were carried out on the boiler which allowed it to (just) last through the winter. Now however further repairs will be prohibitively expensive and challenging, and a new boiler needs to be bought. This will have significant cost implications, and will require a fund raising program.

### **Church Hall**

Despite the significant challenges of the past 14 months, we still have an active series of bookings for the Church hall and our income stream has once more increased as activities have started to return to normal. We are optimistic about maintaining and even increasing this income stream

### **Garden**

Maintenance of the garden remains a challenge. At present volunteer work from members of the parishioners have kept maintenance ticking over, however we are carefully monitoring how feasible this will be in the long term. Many thanks to Carolyn, Danille and Jessica for all their hard work on this. At present funding needs to prioritise replacing the boiler, and as such paying for professional help with the garden is unrealistic at present. For anyone interested in helping please contact Carolyn, Austen or Timothy.

### **Church Maintenance**

Structural work to the column immediately to the right of the entrance to the church was successfully complete. No other emergency repairs are currently needed. The long-term Church maintenance program has been put on hold until our income streams are more certain.

*All Saints' Church N6 Churchwardens*

Austen Worth  
Anja Barnes

## **14. Incumbent's Report**

At our last APCM, I began by writing,

*'This past year has been a year unlike any one that we have ever lived through. With the global pandemic (COVID-19), the shape of our lives, both individually and communally, has changed dramatically from where we were twelve months ago. As I write this report, I am mindful of just how much extra weight has been on each and every one of us, and I am humbled and grateful for your faithfulness, prayers, support and resilience. No matter what the coming months will look like, we will only get through them if we continue to rely on God for strength and peace. We must lean on each other and be gracious with ourselves and each other as we navigate ever changing guidance from our government and the Church of England. May God give us strength, wisdom and resilience for all that lies ahead.'*

Little did I know that, seven months later, these words would still ring true.

Since our last APCM, the church has been closed on two more occasions (moving back to online services): in November 2020 due to Government regulations; and, from the beginning of January 2021 until the beginning of April 2021 as an attempt to play our part to slow down the spread of the UK Variant of COVID-19. It has been a trying time but, thanks be to God, we were able to be in church celebrating Christmas and Easter!

In this time, I have also been appointed and licensed as Interim Priest-in-Charge in our neighbouring parish, St Augustine of Canterbury, and I've been grateful for your prayers and support during this time of transition. It was a joy to be able to celebrate joint services online, from January to April, and also to have joint in-person services on Easter and Pentecost. Long may our shared life of worship and service continue.

As well, since our last APCM, the vaccine rollout in the UK has been incredible and we can see, in the gathered statistics and reports, that we are slowly growing into a new normal with some of our 'old' norms back into action. We give thanks to the incredible work of the NHS (since the beginning of the pandemic and throughout the vaccine rollout) and to all the volunteers making the rollout possible. May we grow from strength to strength and offer this same help and support to the vulnerable and needy of our world.

I always I want to say a big thank you to our Churchwardens, PCC members (special thanks to Jessica Hurst as she steps down this year), Music Directors and Choir, Vicky Hurst (organising the Sides Rota), our flower ladies, and thanks to you all for your patience and support in a turbulent year.



At our last APCM, we launched an ambitious plan for our internal and external spaces, which have been at a standstill (for a number of reasons) over the past months. As we look ahead to this coming year, I have been encouraged to see this past year, and months, as a time for learning and to catch our breath. We've been (re)learning ways to develop relationships and fellowship when all our usual ways were taken away. We have had to step away from some of the business of the day-to-day of church life and responsibilities to see where our time, energy and resources need to go. My prayer for this coming year is that we would be able to tend and reap the harvest from all the work that has been done and all the seeds that have been sown in the past fifteen months.

*All Saints' Church N6 Priest in Charge*

*Revd Timothy Miller*

## 15. Any other reports on parish Activities

### **a. Hall Report:**

Our regular users are as follows with the amount of times they hire:

Zumba	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Wednesday evening – 4 hours
Homeschool choir	Monday 2 hrs, Thursdays - 1.5 hours
Judo	Tuesday, Friday – 5 hours
Chomeley Choir	Back in June Thursday – 3 hours
Kumon – Tutoring class in Maths and English	Monday and Wednesday - 3 hours
Colourstrings – Music classes for babies, toddlers and school age children	Saturday – 4.5 hours
Despina – Ballet School	Sunday, Monday Thursday, Friday – 7 hours Sometimes more
Enjoy-a-Ball – a activity for children age 5-12	Tuesday 45 min
Stephen Hadley - Horn player	1-4 times a month for about average 40- 60 min.

Because of COVID some of the classes are more often now during the week because of social distancing. I have placed signs with guidelines up in the hall, to assist the users of the hall.

We have a holiday club that has booked in for the rest of the year and next year – they are called Little Supernovas.

There is a Creative movement class on the first Sunday of every month, and we also have a lady who gives Gong Baths once a month. We use the key safe next to the hall to give these people the keys. And I change the code regularly for safety reasons.

We charge all the regular users £20 an hour, except the Homeschool choir £10. Zumba and Colourstrings are storing some equipment at the back of the little chapel and the judo instructor storing some mats in the accessible toilets.

We have started booking for parties again, and we have got our first one on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July.

Judo will also be giving some holiday camps at the hall, but this will be after the drama class.

- b. Fabric Report:** \* This is the report from last year and the only note to make is that the boiler has packed in and we are in process of getting quotes organised as it looks like we will have to move the boiler into a new room of the church instead of just replacing it.

**Summary.**

All Saints Church last Quinquennial inspection report dated 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018 made a number of recommendations for further maintenance & repairs. The work completed this year 2019-2020 is summarised as follows:

**Roofs.**

- As recommended in the report annual roof tiling maintenance was carried out in February 2020 to replace missing plan tiles from the pitched roofs to the Hall & the Vestry roofs. Some lead repairs were carried out to the main valley gully between the Hall & Nave.
- The small section of rotten rafters in the south eaves to the main vestry was inspected & would be scheduled for repairs in 2021.
- Replace defective lead flashing to west gable end to main vestry roof was inspected & would be scheduled for repairs in 2021.
- Annual roof gutters & downpipes cleared & any loose gutters fixed as recommended in the report.

**Main Elevations.**

- Repointing to South Aisle buttresses, vestry corridor toilet block stonework & North Vestry entrance was inspected & would be scheduled for repairs in 2021.
- Boiler room steps blocked drain gully cleared.

**Interior.**

- North Chapel cracks in the external walls & rising damp were inspected & would be scheduled for repairs subject to funds being available.
- Arch South Nave – stone voussoirs movement - s/s ties drilled as recommended by structural engineer to make safe. Work carried out in July 2020
- Main church parquet floor re-lacquering to be carried out as part of the future pews replacement in the Nave.

**Services.**

- PCC to instruct replacing defective valve to main gas boiler so that the Hall heating can be maintained.
- Annual test of lightning protection tapes.
- Electrical lighting & power test.

**Exterior.**

- Rear terrace to Hall now cleared of builders rubbish & sundry loose materials & debris removed from area behind existing timber storage shed.

### **c. Music Report**

The onset of the COVID19 pandemic in Q1 of 2020 was as disruptive to music in church services as elsewhere. It is sad too that, even now, as from 18 May 2021, congregational singing and amateur choirs exceeding 6 people are prohibited indoors in our churches because of the perceived danger of COVID19 droplets created during singing and loud talking. We particularly appreciate the frustration of the congregation who cannot join in the hymns yet<sup>1</sup> Nonetheless the last year has taught the choir a great deal.

During the first lockdown from March 2020, when churches were shut down overnight, parish priests were tasked from a standing start with online offerings. They turned to Zoom and Facebook for transmission of their services; and the All Saints' YouTube channel is a record of the rich tapestry of services and prayers undertaken with grace since then by Fr Timothy, as well as his beautiful prayer sessions.

So what of the music? It has been a silver stream throughout, albeit occasionally hidden in a culvert.

During the first lockdown, as well as acting as our spiritual guide, Fr Timothy formed All Saints' very own von Trapp family singers with his wife Meagan and daughter Zahrya, raising spirits and enriching online services with their beautiful singing.

And during this period, the choir was silenced, together with the church itself, and rehearsals were suspended for some months. Zoom was initially seen as unfit for purpose for choirs because of the cacophony caused by singing from different locations at different internet speeds.

When we came to easing of lockdown in the summer, government guidelines limited singing indoors and some of the choir and the organist were shielding. We experimented with a virtual choir for hymns intended for live services, mixing audio files of online organ tapes with audio files of individual voices, on the model created by a nearby church music director and head of RSCM London. However, it is difficult for a little choir of 8-9 to compete with the advanced techniques of the recording studio in these areas, and live singing remained the goal.

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<sup>1</sup> The battle has begun: a petition to Parliament has been started to lift these narrow restrictions which do not apply to professional singers. If signatories exceed 100,000 it will be considered for debate in Parliament. The petition was submitted in the week ending 19 May and as at 27 May it has gained 41,540 signatures from choirs all over the country. Over 2 million people in England sing in c 40,000 amateur choirs and the level of signatures reflects this.

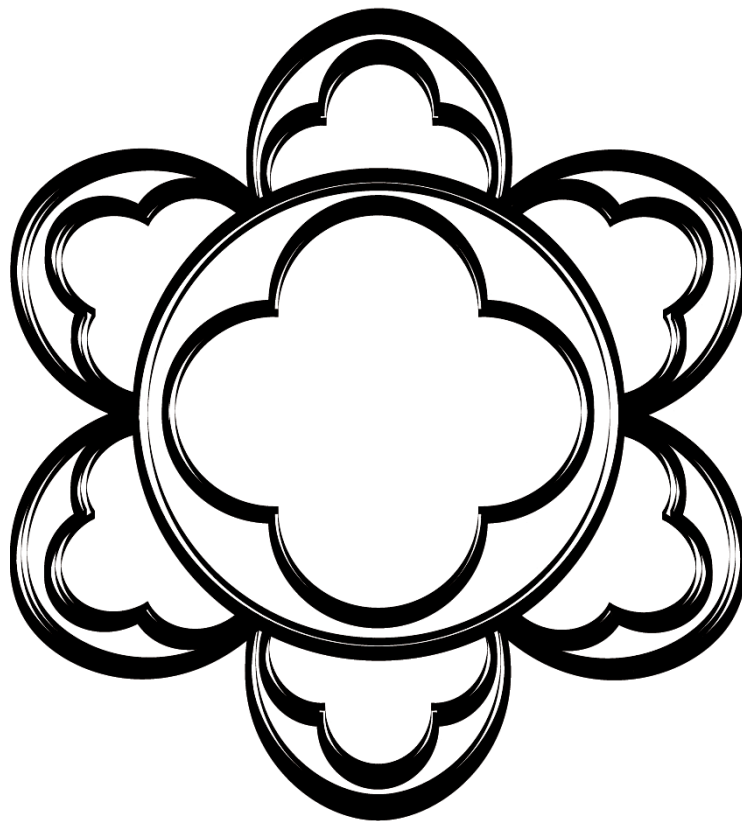
In September 2020 the choir started up our choir practices again, by Zoom despite its limitations. Overseen by Brian McMillan, our patient and gracious Music Director, we practised for the Carol Service by Zoom during the Autumn and sang live hymns for Zoom services from our houses, alternating with a bubble a week, singing in turn rather than together, to mitigate the Zoom effect. We were accompanied by organ tapes from John Keys, who sets a brisk pace for all our hymns and we have to be careful to keep up! St Augustine's also participated.

For the 2020 Christmas Carol Service, Fr Timothy filmed us (socially distanced in bubbles) singing favourite carols in the church, which he skilfully wove into a Zoom Carol Service, including a lovely version of the Christmas Hallelujah sung by Meagan, and a virtual audio tape of little Zahrya and her contemporary Hunter singing Away in a Manger to the organ, with Samantha playing a flute obbligato.

In the New Year we started to practise pieces from Faure's Requiem and three versions of Pie Jesu (Faure, Rutter and Lloyd Webber) on Zoom. We were delighted to regroup "live" in the church recently to sing together in a socially distanced way, and particularly enjoyed a lovely joint Ascension Day service reunion including Margaret Rizza's dreamy Sanctum nomen with flute and cello accompaniment by Samantha and Hannah. We are looking forward to Chris Harris's return to the organ on Trinity Sunday with joy.

We have great fun making music especially in these times - and even with the vicissitudes of Zoom and the reinstated rule of six.. We thank Father Timothy and Alastair for their support in keeping the flag flying and helping us keep in play as a team. We hope and pray the congregation will be allowed to sing with us again soon.

**Love and blessings from Brian, Jane, Val, John, Jessica, David, Samantha, Hannah and Marie**



**ALL SAINTS' HIGHGATE**

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