

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS, CHELSFIELD

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2020

For the majority of 2020, the role of PCC secretary was ably filled by Mary Tozer. Having expressed her wish to retire from this position, I was appointed at the delayed 2019 APCM held in October 2020. For much of this report, I am therefore grateful to Mary for the information she has passed over to me.

In spite of the difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and resultant lockdowns and restrictions on social distancing, the PCC managed to operate effectively to meet its responsibilities, as set out in the Annual Report and Accounts. In normal times, there is a meeting of the full PCC every second month, with necessary business in between meetings being delegated to a smaller group of members, the Standing Committee, which meets in the intervening months. Details of the membership of the PCC, the Standing Committee and other subgroups is given in the Annual Report and Accounts.

The full PCC met on 5 occasions during the year, omitting the March 2020 meeting which was cancelled due to the government lockdown. The January 2020 meeting was held in person, but all other meetings during the year were held electronically on Zoom, as was the APCM, which, due to the pandemic restrictions, was delayed from the usual date in April until October. Attendance averaged 86% at PCC meetings during the year, and the APCM was attended by 30.

It has been possible both to conduct the business of the church and to continue with regular worship through embracing technology, with extensive use of Zoom, YouTube and Facebook. This has meant that the church has managed to reach and support as many parishioners as possible during the restrictions.

Our grateful thanks in this respect must go to Philippa Rooke for her IT skills in hosting Zoom meetings and services, Barry Foale for keeping the church website updated and for producing an online version of the church magazine, Rev'd John, Ken l'Anson, Jonathon Sargant, Val Hemmings and others for recording regular services of prayer for the various social media, and to many others.

We shall be very sad to have to say goodbye to our Rector John and Janet, who have been such an important part not only of St. Martin's, but of the wider activities in Chelsfield and Well Hill. We wish them a very happy and well-deserved retirement.

We look forward to being able to welcome more fully our new Rector, Susan Atkinson-Jones, who was appointed as Priest in Charge at St. Mary's, Green St. Green only a couple of months before the pandemic and lockdown. After Rev'd John's retirement, she will be the Rector of the new united benefice of St. Martin's and St. Mary's, incorporating All Souls at Pratts Bottom and Well Hill Mission Church. We also look forward to the appointment of a new Associate Rector in the fullness of time, who will take up residence in the Rectory in Skibbs Lane.

Anne Ireland - April 2021