

PARISH OF ST PETER & ST PAUL TONBRIDGE
with St Andrew, St Philip and St Saviour

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2021

REPORTS

- **Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council**
- **Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches**
- **Tonbridge Deanery Synod**
- **Mission Action Group**
- **Safeguarding Report**

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
St PETER & ST PAUL TONBRIDGE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2020 - 21

The PCC has met 8 times during the year from April 2020 – May 2021. Most members have attended regularly during the year with a good proportion registering 100% attendance. The APCM, scheduled for April 2020, was postponed until 12 October 2020. The PCC meeting in May 2020 was held over zoom, but the meetings in September to December 2020 were held, socially distanced, in the Chancel of the Parish Church. All subsequent meetings were held on zoom. The Standing Committee continued to meet at least each month, either on zoom, or face to face.

In November 2020 the Vicar announced his move to be Oversight Minister and Priest-in-charge of All Saint's Ecclesall. The vacancy began formally on 21 January 2021, but a pre-vacancy PCC meeting was held on zoom on 7 January 2021 in the presence of the Patron, the Church Pastoral Aid Society, represented by its General Director, the Rev'd. John Dunnett. Also present were the Archdeacon of Tonbridge, The Ven. Julie Conalty, and the Area Dean, the Rev'd. Miriam Barker. Subsequently the PCC commissioned and approved the Parish Profile at the Section 11 meeting on 6 April 2021 and appointed two Parish Representatives for the process of filling the vacancy. Three members of the PCC were co-

opted onto the Standing Committee for the duration of the vacancy to help with the anticipated extra work.

Other specific issues which the PCC focussed on during the year included:

- Full compliance with the requirements of DBS checks, safeguarding training by PCC members, and safer recruiting of employees and volunteers.
- Annual report and accounts 2020.
- Seeking contributions to fund the upgrading of AV/broadcast capability from the parish church, resurfacing St Saviour's drive and support for the General Fund.
- Operations during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown and the moves to re-open services in church.
- Receiving reports from the 'Living Questions' survey and Alpha courses.

In addition normal business included items such as:

- Regular feedback and updates from the Rev'd. Canon Mark Brown and subsequently the Rev'd. Wendy Carr on Parish activities.
- Reports from the Mission Action Group and the allocation of the tithe.
- Regular financial reports and discussions
- Reports on the youth and children's work.

Thanks to all the PCC members for their service and support.

These are just a few of the matters addressed and discussed.

If anyone would like further information at any time on PCC discussions etc please contact the Secretary (davidrobins@blueyonder.co.uk 07811 467 251)

David Robins

PCC Secretary

St PETER & ST PAUL TONBRIDGE REPORT ON THE FABRIC GOODS AND ORNAMENTS 2021 APCM

St Andrew

- Connections have been made to main drainage & water.
- The toilet area has been refurbished and a new kitchen has been installed at the rear. of the church and cupboards have been relocated.
- All the main lights in the church have been replaced with LED bulbs.
- Parts of the roof and gutter have been repaired.
- An external light has been installed above the main entrance.
- The paving has been re-laid outside the front of the church.
- New notice boards have now been installed.

St Peter & St Paul

Fabric

- A defibrillator has been fitted to the side of the boiler house near the tower door.
- The new access toilet has been installed.
- The ground floor kitchen has been enlarged and completely refurbished.
- The youth office has been redecorated and a new carpet and lighting installed.
- Wall lighting to the coffee area has been upgraded.
- All the toilets have been fitted with new hand-dryers and PIR lighting.
- A new external glazed door has been installed to the church centre.
- The churchyard team still meet on the second Saturday of the month a team to keep the churchyard in good order.
- Ongoing maintenance to the boilers for the church heating systems has been carried out. Currently one boiler is not working.
- The silencing of the clock overnight has been given a faculty and the mechanism will be fitted during May 2021.
- The provision of a handrail to the tower steps has been granted a faculty and will be fitted during June 2021.

Goods & Ornaments

- Both the organ and the piano have been tuned.
- The new downstairs kitchen has been fitted with a new dishwasher, fridge/freezer and cooker.

St Philip

Fabric

- Following a recent leak, repairs were undertaken to the roof and gutters on both sides near the front entrance of the main hall.
- A working party met after a morning service to clear out the loft.
- Several minor DIY jobs have been carried out – light bulb replacement, carpentry and painting tasks.
- Service contracts continue for the boiler systems in the kitchen and toilets.
- Julie Robertson continues to maintain a high standard of cleanliness in the building and Jane Mata oversees the relevant administration.

Goods and Ornaments.

- 80 new chairs were purchased to replace those over 25 years old with thanks to those who made a financial donation.

St Saviour

- The removal of the last of the original trees
- The upgrading of the lighting within the main body of the church with LED fittings.

TONBRIDGE DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2020-2021

The highlight of a year turned upside down by the Covid-19 pandemic was the visit of the Bishop of Tonbridge, the Rt Revd Simon Burton-Jones, to the Deanery in early October 2020. This embraced several in-person visits, involvement in services and Zoom meetings with the Clergy Chapter and with lay ministers. Bishop Simon also conducted a confirmation service in St Peter & St Paul on 4 October for four candidates.

Due to the pandemic the Deanery Synod meeting was cancelled.

At its meeting on 6 October 2020 the Synod received a presentation from the Bishop of Tonbridge as part of his aforementioned visit. Bishop Simon discussed some of the challenges to the Church's mission and some of the opportunities for the Church to re-shape its role and what it needs to do that.

Deanery Synod met via Zoom on Saturday 13 February 2021. At this meeting Graham Wilkinson, Growth Enabler for the Tonbridge Archdeaconry, spoke about his role in helping parishes to grow. The Revd Canon Pamela Ive, Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations, then talked about the journey of discipleship and discerning one's vocation. Brian Buck was elected as Treasurer and Paul Baker thanked for his work in that role.

Sally Musson

Deanery Secretary

St PETER & St PAUL TONBRIDGE MISSION ACTION GROUP ("MAG") ANNUAL REPORT APCM 2021

This report describes the activities of MAG undertaken in the 12 months from April 2020:

1. Highlights and key developments of the Parish's mission partners ("MPs")
2. Governance
3. Proposals for the overhaul of mission giving
4. Breakdown of distributions

At the outset I would like to express thanks to those parishioners who participate in MAG and also to the wider congregation for their ongoing support.

Paul White
MAG Chair

1. Highlights and key developments of the Parish's MPs

This section briefly describes the main activities of our MPs in the past 12 months. Our interactions with them have been significantly constrained during the pandemic and it has not been possible to arrange visits or events.

St Peter & St Paul – Hope For Justice (formerly known as Retrak)

- Retrak merged with the anti-slavery charity Hope for Justice, to reduce management and support costs, to share expertise and to improve both charities' impact on human trafficking.
- The review for 2020 is available at <https://hopeforjustice.org/year-in-review/>

St Philip – High Hopes

- High Hopes have developed a range of resources for local schools to use as in person events and assemblies have not been possible, these comprise
 - Bubble worship (biblical teaching for use by primary schools for their pupils)
 - Themed series of videos (Advent & Easter) available via Facebook for families and schools – these projects involved collaboration with other churches in the town including our own Youth & Children's team
- An additional donation was made to High Hopes during the year to assist in the purchase of camera equipment

St Andrew – Bishop Ken Barham

- There has been a change in the manner in which Bishop Barham operates in 2020. The charity Lawrence Barham Memorial Trust has been closed down as its trustees have retired and no replacements could be found. Bishop Barham is collecting funds via Links International (a Christian charity that offers administrative support to projects and individuals that do not have a formal structure).
- The underlying mission activity continues to be the development of the Anglican Church in Cyangugu Diocese in Rwanda

St Saviour – the Gelsthorpe Family with OMF

- There is now a dedicated church building in Hanamaki for the Gelsthorpes and their colleagues to use
- The building is being altered to create an additional meeting room
- They continue with their outreach efforts comprising English lessons and a video game club
- Once travel restrictions are lifted, they expect that 2 ladies from Singapore will be joining their team to replace colleagues who are moving to a different assignment

Parish wide - Langham Partnership

- Continues to provide training and support for clergy and scholars
- The review for 2020 is available at <https://uk.langham.org/files/2020/05/Celebration-of-Impact-2020-web.pdf>
- Rev'd Chris Wright has been one of the preachers for our weekly YouTube services

Parish wide - Kondoa

- 2 sets of distributions are made
- One to assist general funding for the diocese in Kondoa. Typically, it is used by Bishop Given to help finance his evangelism efforts (e.g. running of vehicles to travel around the diocese, helping construct new churches, famine relief).
- The second distribution is for the school and it was formally reviewed in September 2020 and extended for a 3 year term to September 2023. The economic impacts of the pandemic are very severe in Kondoa. Our money is being used to help fund places at the school for local families who are unable to meet the full fees.

2 Governance

The PCC has established Terms of Reference for MAG which set out what the Parish aims to distribute and the criteria covering such distributions. 10% of general donations received by the Parish are tithed (the “**Tithe**”) for this purpose. Of the Tithe, 80% is earmarked for MPs and 20% for other donations.

The Terms of Reference have not been changed during the year.

MAG has met four times in the past 12 months via Zoom. Minutes of the meetings are supplied to PCC and are available for review on request.

3 Proposals for the overhaul of mission giving

MAG considers that the Parish’s mission giving is spread too thinly and there is the confusion over what is meant by a parish wide MP. It is recognised that over time the number of allocations from the tithe may naturally reduce. However, such natural reduction of MPs is not definite.

In consultation with the PCC and the leadership team of St Peter & St Paul, Retrak/Hope for Justice will be replaced by the Langham Partnership as the mission partner for P&P.

The document prepared by MAG on the proposals considered for amending mission giving is available on request.

4. Breakdown of contributions

Since the date of the last APCM, distributions have been made to MPs in the following amounts

Mission Partner	Amount
Retrak/Hope For Justice	£2,894
High Hopes (includes additional one off donation for camera equipment)	£3,322
LBMT – Bishop Ken Barham	£2,895
The Gelsthorpe Family	£2,894
Langham Partnership	£2,894
Kondoa	£2,894
Kondoa - kindergarten	£2,894
TOTAL	£20,687

In addition to the above, since the date of the last APCM, donations have been made from the Tithe to the following charities/beneficiaries

Charity/beneficiary	Amount
FEAST	£1,070
Kent Community Domestic Abuse Programme	£650
The Childrens Society	£427
Connaught Palliative Care Unit (Sierra Leone)	£426
West Kent YMCA	£420
Tear Fund (Lebanon)	£420
School of the Good Shepherd (CMS project in Lebanon)	£412
Christian Friends to Seamen Society	£412
Fegans	£411
TOTAL	£4,648

No transfers have been made to the Pastoral Reserve in the past year.

St PETER & St PAUL TONBRIDGE **Safeguarding report May 2021**

The Parish of St Peter and St Paul Tonbridge take our collective responsibility for safeguarding those most vulnerable in our community seriously.

The safeguarding team include, Reverend Wendy Carr, Church Wardens; Paul White and Adam Calvert, Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) Amanda Harris and all those in leadership roles (Employed or Voluntary) across the four churches in our Parish.

All policies in relation to Safeguarding children and Vulnerable adults used in the Parish are those of the Diocese of Rochester (1).

In 'Moving forward' from Safeguarding report dated October 2020 our outstanding training requirements are highlighted. In December 2020, following feedback, the National Safeguarding team reviewed the roles that were required to undertake the new leadership safeguarding training:

“The Leadership Pathway is about leadership and cultural change, so it follows that the people who participate should be those **who play a lead role in shaping the culture of the Church body concerned.**” (2)

This interim guidance is welcome as it allows us to retain volunteers working below this level who under previously proposed guidance may have been lost if unable to undertake this comprehensive training.

Safeguarding training at Basic and Foundation level have continued to be available online (4). The safeguarding team appreciate the diligence of volunteers who have undertaken this in a timely manner demonstrating their understanding of the importance of safeguarding as a collective responsibility.

The ongoing Covid19 Pandemic led to a suspension of face-to-face activities (beyond that legislated by the government) to ensure the safety of our church community. This pause in regular activities allowed time for reflection and action to ensure those recruited into roles within the parish are recruited in accordance with the safer recruitment guidelines.

Online church activities have brought new and exciting challenges and required review to ensure compliance with safeguarding policy.

The small number of incidents that have occurred in relation to safeguarding since the last AGM have been managed by the parish Safeguarding Team with support from the diocese and relevant community support for individuals involved. No Incidents have met the threshold criteria (2) for referral.

Moving forward:

Work is currently in progress to create an electronic format for notifying the team when individuals safeguarding requirements require updating to smooth this process and prevent gaps in compliance. Thanks to Ellerby White for her support with this.

Please join me in prayers for Alison Minton and David Balcombe as our representatives for the appointment of the appropriate candidate to be our Vicar and head our Parish Safeguarding Team.

Amanda Harris

Parish Safeguarding Officer

12/05/2021