



Discovering a life of wholeness and purpose in Jesus Christ

CHRIST CHURCH CHISLEHURST

Wednesday 21 October 2020 at 19.30

AGENDAS for ANNUAL MEETINGS to be held by zoom

PARISH MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCH WARDENS

1. Opening prayer
2. Election of Wardens

Those who live in the parish or on the electoral roll are entitled to vote

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Only those on the electoral role are entitled to vote

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the meetings held on 28 April 2019
3. Report of the EPCM held on 24 November 2019
4. Election to the PCC
5. Approval of representatives for the deanery synod
6. Report on the electoral roll
7. Report on the proceedings of the PCC
8. Treasurer's report
9. Appointment of independent examiner for the incoming year.
10. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church (wardens' report)
11. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods
12. Safeguarding report
13. Vicar's report
14. Vote of thanks
15. Closing prayer

Item 2a. Minutes of Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2019 at 11.30 at Christ Church Chislehurst

- 1. **Prayer:** The Vicar, Rev Dave Johnston, welcomed those present saying he was pleased to see so many people; he outlined the format of the meeting.

Dave then read a passage from John 20 and spoke about the doubts and empowerment of the disciples.

2. **Election of Wardens:**

The election of Churchwardens was approved without vote, there being only two nominations:

Rob Monteith	Proposer: Simon Peerless
	Secunder: Rachel Baxter

Heather Yaxley	Proposer: Penny Russell-Ross
	Secunder: John Hemming Clark

Signed:.....Date.....

Item 2b. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 28 April 2019 at 11.45 at Christ Church Chislehurst

1 Present & apologies:

- 1.i At least 90 people signed as being present.
- 1.ii Apologies were received from Norrine Redfern and Lynda Stimson.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2018

- 2.i These were agreed to be correct and were signed by Dave.

3 Matters arising: there were none.

3

4 Election to the PCC

- 4.i Dave thanked the retiring members of the PCC: Jo Griffiths, Tim Burton, Philip Blackman and Tony Adams.
- 4.ii Four nominations were received prior to the ACPM and there were no further nominations during the meeting. Therefore, no ballot was necessary, and the following were elected unopposed to the PCC:

Amanda Coyle	Proposer: Renate Tulloh Secunder: Heather Yaxley
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Gina Ikonomou	Proposer: Rob Monteith Secunder: Sue Gilder
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Renate Tulloh	Proposer: David Harding Secunder: Angela Scott
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Philip Wearon	Proposer: Ken Newell Secunder: Robin Thorne
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5 Election of stewards

- 5.i Stewards at the 09.00 and 10.45 Services were listed within the annual report. Dave proposed they were re-elected and this was accepted by those present.

6 Election of representatives for Churches Together in Bickley and Chislehurst

- 6.i Dave Johnston, Judith West and David Jai-Persad were re-elected unopposed.

7 Report on the Electoral Roll

- 7.i Dave thanked Angela as Electoral Roll Officer for compiling the new electoral roll which has to be done every six years. Angela confirmed that twelve months ago there were 318 names on the Roll and the figure now stood at 250; several more are expected to sign. Dave thanked Angela for continuing to undertake this role.

8 Report on the proceedings of the PCC

- 8.i This was a written report contained within the annual report. Dave proposed that it was accepted and this was agreed.

9 Treasurer's report

- 9.i Gina Ikonomou took over as church treasurer in November 2018 and Dave thanked her together with Maya (employed in church office), Simon Peerless and Christopher Scott for the considerable amount of work that has been done since then. The previous treasurer, Oli Clark, has had two major traumas with which to contend in the past year.

9.ii The accounts for 2017 are now complete.

9.iii The accounts for 2018 are being prepared and a cash flow summary for 2018 is attached to the report.

9.iv Gina reported that total incoming cash for 2018 was less than for 2017.

9.v £17,000 has been raised towards the new roof.

9.vi The accounts for 2017 were approved without dissent.

10 Appointment of Independent Examiner for the coming year

10.1 Dave confirmed that Christian Mole is willing to continue as Independent Examiner. Dave asked for approval for his appointment for another year and this was agreed.

11 Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church (Wardens' report)

11.i This is a written report within the annual report. Dave thanked Sue and Heather for this.

12 Reports on the proceedings of the Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods.

12.i These are a written report within the annual report.

13 Reports of church groups and activities.

13.i There are written reports within the annual report.

13.ii Jacob Mayho, the youth minister, gave an update on the youth work. He reported that there have been 100 different young people attending various groups since September 2018. The Friday evening group is for games and social interaction, the Sunday group time is for reflection on spiritual and ethical issues, the Tuesday group is for discussion of various issues. There have been social activities too: Christmas and Easter parties, a fireworks night, and meals out.

13.iii Ken Newell, mission coordinator, reported that: Kissy and Gustav have moved back to Ghana but would like to continue with their involvement, Liz and Kyle James have moved back to the UK from Malawi, Mark Russell is leaving the Church Army and becoming CEO of the Children's Society. We support ten mission partners in Africa (Footsteps, Two Bridges School, Nsumbi Trust, Church Mission Society, Hope for Reheboth, MAF) Asia (OMF), the Caribbean (Operation Save Jamaica) and the UK (CPAS – Falcon Camps, Kintsugi Hope, Prison Fellowship).

14 Vicar's report

14.i This was a written report contained within the annual report. Dave proposed that it was accepted and this was agreed.

15 Any matters of general and parochial interest

15.i Dave outlined his plans for his sabbatical leave (from mid-May for three months) and the practical arrangements for Christ Church in his absence.

16 Vote of thanks

16.i Margaret Peerless (PCC secretary), on behalf of everyone, thanked Dave for being our Vicar and wished him and Cath a safe, enjoyable and interesting time away on sabbatical leave. Margaret also thanked the church wardens, treasurer and Cath Johnston for the huge amount of work, both seen and unseen, which they all do on our behalf.

17 Closing prayer

17.i Dave closed the meeting with a prayer and the Grace was said by everyone.

Signed..... Date.....

Item 3. Report of an EPCM held on 24 November 2019 at 12.15 at Christ Church Chislehurst

This meeting was called to present the examined annual accounts for 2018 for approval prior to submission to the Charity Commission.

Present: Dave Johnston (chairman), Gina Ikonomou (treasurer), Margaret Peerless (secretary), and thirty one members of Christ Church.

Apologies for absence were received from Angela Scott, Christopher Scott, Paul Endersby.

Proceedings of meeting

- 2.i The annual accounts for 2018 (examined and signed by Christian Mole, independent examiner) were presented and explained by Gina (church treasurer).
- 2.ii Gina (church treasurer), gave a power point presentation showing the income that had been received in 2018 and how this money is spent.
- 2.iii Dave proposed that the accounts should be accepted. In a vote, the accounts were accepted unanimously by those present. Therefore, the accounts for 2018 were declared to have been accepted.
- 2.iv Dave thanked Gina for the huge amount of work that she has done in producing these accounts mentioning the enormity and complexity of the task. Dave also thanked the rest of the financial team.
- 2.v Others present also expressed thanks to Gina.

Signed.....Date.....

Item 4. Election to the PCCItem 5. Approval of members for the deanery synodItem 6. Report on electoral roll

At the APCM in 2019 we had **250** people over the age of 16 on the Electoral Roll. This year, before February 2020, 6 additional people have signed up for the roll and 16 names have been deleted. Covid19 has meant that it has not been possible to add names to the roll as we have only recently begun distanced services. Those who have joined the church since then have not habitually worshipped or lived in the parish for six months or more! The new roll will be required in 2025.

The Electoral Roll currently stands at: **240**

Angela Scott October 2020

Item 7. Proceedings of the PCC (April 2019 – April 2020)**Membership of PCC - April 2020**

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the APCM (or at a subsequent PCC meeting) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules or are co-opted. Those listed below served on the PCC. There were eight meetings, and an awayday.

Incumbent	Reverend Dave Johnston
Wardens	Rob Monteith, Heather Yaxley
Readers	Paul Endersby, Ann Smith, Sue Gilder,
Licensed lay ministers	Angela Scott, Cath Johnston
General Synod	(Angela Scott)
Deanery Synod	(Dave Johnston), David Jai-Persad, Penny Russell-
	Ross, (Cath Johnston), (Angela Scott)
Diocesan Synod	(David Jai-Persad, Angela Scott, Dave Johnston, Cath Johnston)
Co-opted members	Becky Freame (resigned 01.20), Jacob Mayho (resigned 07.19)
Elected members	Amanda Coyle
	Barbara Huntley (resigned 09.19)
	Gina Ikonoumou (treasurer)
	Margaret Peerless (PCC secretary)
	Philip Wearon

Fabric and Finance Committee: Heather Yaxley (chairman), Dave Johnston, Gina Ikonoumou, Rob Monteith, Margaret Peerless, Christopher Scott. This committee meets about every six weeks to review and discuss the finances of the church and to oversee the maintenance, repair and care of all of the buildings and grounds connected with the church. Minutes of meetings are sent to the PCC. It has limited executive power to spend money on repairs and improvements and must gain approval from the PCC for major projects.

Giving Committee: Dave Johnston, Sue Gilder, Gina Ikonoumou, Ken Newell, Penny Russell-Ross. This committee usually meets once or twice a year to consider and suggest that money is given to charitable and missionary projects which are then put to the PCC for approval.

Ministry Team: Dave Johnston, Cath Johnston, Ann Smith, Paul Endersby, Angela Scott, Glenis Squire. They usually meet monthly.

Wider Ministry Team: those listed above and those with permission to officiate from the diocese – Sue Gilder, Colin Brown, Penny Russell Ross and David Smith.

Review of the year.

The PCC has met eight times since the last APCM; additionally, there was a prayerful and reflective Away Day in January which 14 members attended held at under the guidance of Dave and Cath Johnston. This was held at Christ Church, Orpington; time was spent in fellowship, reflection and discussion mainly relating to our lives and those of the congregation as Christians and on our mission at CC.

Our youth worker, Jacob Mayho, left us in the summer having done an excellent job and we wished him every success in his future career. The groups he set up and run are mostly still running but by volunteers.

Becky Freame, our children's worker, left us in January to take a position with Social Service, after six years (as a student initially) during which time she did an excellent job and this is reflected in the way that all the groups with which she was involved have grown enormously. Children's ministry and activities are currently being run by volunteers.

It is intended that we advertise a position for a children's, youth and family's worker in the near future.

Cath Johnston and Angela Scott are both Licensed Lay Ministers. Renate Tulloh is training for the ministry and next year will be taking up a position as a curate. Renate has been hugely involved with many aspects of church life over several years; she will be greatly missed and we wish her well in her new career

Ann Smith has started up and is leading a monthly prayer gathering focussing on different topical concerns.

Training has been given, by Cath Johnston, in safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults, to PCC members and other volunteers as appropriate and in line with diocesan guidelines for the necessity of such training. Safeguarding is a high priority and is being taken very seriously.

The major project this year has been raising money to finance a new roof for the Link; through great generosity sufficient money was raised and the new roof was completed in February. There have been various other ongoing repairs e.g. to the heating, hot water and electrical systems. The most recent Quinquennial Inspection also gave rise to some necessary work which is still ongoing, but the report was mainly encouraging for which we must be grateful to our premises manager, Dan Greenwood. Discussion and decisions made, have included the security and maintenance of the buildings and grounds, the rental of 56, Walden Road (kindly managed by Cath Johnston), our mission partners, staffing, and our commitment to youth and children's work.

Church clubs and activities include: ABC for preschool children, youth groups, Sunday school groups for children, music and worship, the website, flower arranging team, giving to the Bromley Food Bank, the Dementia Café, debt advisory service, ministry with older people, football team, pastoral care, Sunday coffee rota, community lunches.

At the last APCM in April 2019, our vicar Dave along with his wife Cath, was about to embark on three months of (overdue) sabbatical leave. We were extremely fortunate that we had just appointed two new churchwardens, Heather and Rob, who did an outstanding job keeping the church running in every respect not least masterminding the Link roof appeal along with Gina our treasurer. We are extremely grateful for their huge commitment, efficiency and organisational skills. We were also very fortunate to have other local clergy kindly taking church services for us during this time; but special mention must go to Rev Peter Morris who presided over all of the 9am communion services during this time, this was greatly appreciated. We

were very pleased to welcome Dave and Cath back again in September and to hear about their travels and ministry.

The PCC was greatly saddened by the death of Tony Adams who had been a member of the PCC until illness forced him to resign in April 2019.

Margaret Peerless April 2020

Stewards/Welcome Team

The lists below show the stewards as at March 2020 (pre lockdown)

9am Service: Lesley Harding, Ken and Lyndy Newell, Simon Peerless, Norrine Redfern, Ed Ward.

10.45am Service: Mike Anderson, Helen Cridland, Paul and Marilyn Gebbett, David Harding, John Hemming Clark, Ruth Kenward, Marilyn Kuness, Christian Mole, Penny Russell-Ross, Melvyn Shackleton, Nadine Tchaho, Paul Williamson, Heather Yaxley.

Item 8. Treasurer's report

See separate report for 2019 Year End Accounts

Item 9. Appointment of independent examiner for the incoming year

Item 10. Wardens' report

Among the various duties assigned to the Wardens is their report to the Annual Meeting concerning the ornaments and chattels of the church and to confirm that they have been looked after suitably over the year.

Even with regular maintenance of our premises, it is inevitable that things will go wrong with a building the age of ours. Dan has been fantastic at keeping an eye on things and making us aware of any works, whether it be an emergency repair or regular maintenance that needs to be carried out. After seeking approval from the F&F committee, he has appointed the various contractors and ensured the works are completed to a high standard.

One of the more notable areas that has needed attention is the Link roof. Through fundraising and your generosity as a congregation we managed to appoint a roofing firm who undertook the works to replace the roof on the link which has made this part of the building usable again. The new roof has a 15-year guarantee. Without your support and generosity, this would not have been achievable, so a massive thank you. Another thanks goes to Dan for overseeing this.

56 Walden Road is let to private tenants and is managed by an agent. We are almost at the breakeven point with regards to income & expenditure, with further investment needed to maintain and renew this property. We are considering options to make this more financially viable and provide better living conditions for our tenants.

We are very excited to have Catherine and Lydia on our team. Catherine is our finance assistant who has been working closely with Gina to help manage our finances and Lydia is our new Ministry Team Leader. Lydia brings with her a wealth of experience and she is already getting involved in many different areas.

Earlier this year we saw the Covid-19 pandemic start to affect almost every part of the world in various ways, including a nationwide lockdown in the UK. This left many of us in a very difficult position, affected by loneliness, financial worries and loss to name a few of the impacted areas of our lives. Despite not being a

technology expert, Dave adapted very quickly to new ways of leading us through an online service, this very quickly evolved into a full service. We would like to thank Claire Herriot for her amazing work behind the scenes to produce our wonderful online service each week. We have also had many people working hard to make this possible, from readers & prayers to worship leaders and preachers. Since reopening our doors in July, we have seen a good steady flow of our congregation return to a new “regular” way of worship.

On behalf of the Wardens and the PCC our thanks go to all those who generously serve through their prayers, time and skills of stewardship, welcome, hospitality, coffee rotas, flower arranging, pastoral care, life groups, Mission partners, Dementia café, Alpha, Food Bank, giving lifts, gardening, football, debt advice, and just being willing to worship, serve and pray to ensure the everyday functioning of the church ministry and mission. Our heartfelt thanks are due to everyone who has answered their particular call to serve this community – your gifts are not going unnoticed!

We would like to thank Dave for navigating us through these difficult and tricky times, your unquavering faithfulness has been an inspiration to all.

We present this report to the Annual Meeting.

Heather Yaxley Rob Monteith October 2020

Item 11. Reports on the proceedings of the Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods

Deanery Synod

14 Churches in Bromley approximately 40 people: clergy and laity. Meets three times a year (evening).

May *Ministry to families, children and young people.* A presentation from the Diocesan perspective was followed by some local examples from around the Deanery:

- Christ Church Bromley family ministry
- St John’s four o’clock church
- Christ Church Chislehurst Dads & Tots
- Bromley Parish church Holiday Club

October *Called Together - Called to Grow* Launched by the Diocese 18 months ago three areas of work have been identified: Growth, Enrich and Resource. Data shows that between 2010 – 2015, 48% of churches declined, 26% grew and 26% were static.

The characteristics of growing churches were:

- Intentional focus
- A culture of discipleship
- Lay people leading
- Redirecting time and energy
- Discerning, nurturing and equipping lay people as a high priority for clergy
- Cooperation and collaboration.

February *Social Action* - Following theological input the Diocesan Community Engagement and Social Responsibility Advisor gave a Diocesan perspective of what is taking place. E.g. Locally Deanery Churches are engaged in:

- Debt Advice
- Homeless Shelters
- Food Banks
- Modern Day Slavery

- Messy Church
- Dementia Cafes

Diocesan Synod 150+ Churches in West Kent, Bromley & Bexley approximately 120 people: bishops, clergy & laity. Meets three times a year (Saturday).

June *Safeguarding* the Diocese is currently updating on 'past cases' review, because of the lack of documentation, *Indicative Offers (IO)* a voluntary system calculated by gross income. Parishes are encouraged to see this as part of the tithe of 10% for outside giving. *Parochial Fees* are now put on the same basis as all other dioceses. 50% of the fee legally belongs to the DBF because they are responsible for paying stipends. *Report from the link Diocese of Harare* and a presentation on *the environment* from a primary 'Eco' school and the Precentor of the Cathedral. The aim is for the Diocese and each church is to work towards becoming an 'Eco' friend in 5 areas: worship and teaching, buildings, use of land, community and global relationships, and awareness and lifestyle. *Called Together* a final presentation from the chaplain of Bluewater. Three new Archdeaconry Parish Enablers will be employed from Oct 2019.

October *DBF Budget* aims to break even by 2020. *Climate Change* The diocese is gathering a body of work that parishes can access through the website. The diocese encourages churches to join www.ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk. *Called together*. See Deanery Synod report.

March *Climate Change Motion*: "This Synod agrees that the Diocese of Rochester should register as an Eco Diocese and work towards the Bronze Award, as an initial response to the General Synod report GS 2159 Climate Emergency and Carbon Reduction Target and the subsequent motion for all parts of the Church of England to work to achieve year-on-year reductions in emissions and urgently examine what would be required to reach net zero emissions by 2030 in order that a plan of action can be drawn up to achieve that target."

Sports Evangelism To receive a presentation on Sports Evangelism and our involvement with the national initiative as a pilot diocese. Synod noted the *Church Repair Fund and Diocesan Loan Fund Policies and Guidelines*.

General Synod 42 Anglican Dioceses in England and Europe approximately 450+ people: bishops, clergy and laity. Meets twice a year, with a contingency meeting in November in London.

General Synod always has Agenda Items under four heading: Standing Orders, Legislation, Ordering the Church and The Church in the World. One of the Archbishop's gives the presidential address based on the agenda for the group of sessions (4-5 working days).

July (York) Much of the *legislation* was final approval from work done previously, and before our last APCM *Ordering the Life of the Church* included a presentation on *Clergy Wellbeing*. The completed *Mission and Ministry in Covenant* report, 'On the Way to Unity', outlined the work of the Faith and Order bodies of the Methodist Conference and General Synod of the CofE as we seek greater Unity. *Safeguarding* focused on the action towards historical survivors of abuse in relations to IICSA: (independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse). There was a review 15 years on of *Mission-Shaped Church and Fresh Expressions*. Finally *Setting God's People Free* was a report on the progress of a change in culture: Encouraging and equipping the laity for mission 24/7, and affirming the complementary vocation of ordained and lay leaders. *The Church in the World* had various overseas presentations from Ecumenical guests, the Mother's Union and the Archbishop of York. *Living in Love and Faith* is an ongoing debate as the Church seeks to explore Theology, Scripture, Tradition, Culture and Biological Science in understanding what God is saying about the Church's attitude to same-sex relationships. A group of 40 diverse people are overseeing the project on behalf of the House of Bishops. *Serious Youth Violence* was debated as was the call to welcome *Professional Refugees* to help the

current shortage in the UK National Health. Finally, the Rochester Diocesan Synod Motion - *Anna Chaplaincy* which came through Bromley Deanery called every Diocese to engage in Ministry to older people, especially those living with dementia, It also calls on Her Majesty's Government to report on the progress of the PM's 'Challenge on Dementia 2020'.

February (London) Legislation included a *Channel Islands Measure* to transfer of the Channel Islands from the Diocese of Winchester to Salisbury. **Ordering the Life of the Church** *Living in Love and Faith and the Pastoral Advisory Group* The long awaited teaching materials will be published in July and will mark the beginning of whole church learning, listening and discerning God's voice. This is a community issue, not an individual problem. *Safeguarding: Response to recommendations in IICSA May 2019 investigation report:* following the IICSA in relation to Peter Ball (former Bishop of Gloucester) an important set of recommendations was presented, not previously considered by GS. The content of the amendment emphasises that apology should be followed by action and change; seeing things through the context of survivors, and working alongside them. The Church must be a safe, trustworthy and healing place for all. *Children and Youth Ministry:* in recognition that there is a decline in numbers of U16s engaging with church, dioceses are asked to consider practical ways they can support and resource churches and grow 'new' churches with U16s in mind. **The Church in the World** focussed again on *Climate Emergency and Carbon Reduction Target:* An amendment was passed that called every part of the CofE to work towards reductions of CO2 emissions to zero by 2030 rather than 2045. *Windrush Commitment and Legacy:* Synod lamented that people suffered conscious and subconscious racism from the Church, and also expressed gratitude to God the cultural contribution of the 'Windrush Generation' to the nation. Synod resolved to stamp out all forms of racism and committed the Church to increase the leadership of lay and ordained BAME Anglicans. *End to Pauper's Funerals:* with a rise in these funerals Synod called for the Church to work with other stakeholders in finding a more compassionate send off for the departed. *Through his Poverty:* called on Archbishops' Council to commission a study exploring why the CofE is less effective in communicating with, and attracting people, from more disadvantaged communities. *Legal Aid Reform:* Justice should be open and free from barriers of any kind, especially funding and lack of legal aid. Synod called on HM's Government to respond positively to the reports by Amnesty International and the Bach Commission.

Page 11 Corona Virus: Since February no Synods have met in person apart from September 23rd when a quorate distanced General Synod was called in order to pass legislation to allow General Synod members vote virtually (I was not present) in a one-off special circumstance (this may be the current planned GS's for November and February). **This passed.** At a later date this legislation will have to pass through the Houses of Parliament (currently too busy!). Also the House of Bishops' report is being held back until the July residential Synod in 2021 in the hope we can meet finally before re-elections next July. This means I am still on GS for a further year, which I will now stand down after 16 (not 15) years on General Synod. There have been zoom meetings of Diocesan and General Synods since February, but no decision making was able to take place at any of them.

Angela Scott

Item 12. Safeguarding report for APCM October 21st 2020 for the year 2019

Thank you to everyone at Christ Church who have embraced the importance of safeguarding within our church community. Thank you to all those who have attended training and offered helpful suggestions as to how we can be more aware and improve our practice. Safeguarding is a standing item on every PCC agenda and a report is given.

Safeguarding team	Parish safeguarding officer- Angela Scott Team: Cath Johnston, Sue Gilder, Renate Tulloh, (now stepped down) Dave Johnston. Added Lydia Chancellor (Sept 2020)
Diocesan officers	Janice Keen (now retired Dec 2019) and Greg Barry, Alison Jones - admin There are 2 new safeguarding advisors in the diocese.
Parish Disclosure officer	Gemma Dobbs
Safer recruitment	DBS-Gemma keeps this updated and all those who work with children and young people and vulnerable adults need to have applied for a DBS. All those working with the above must also complete an application form and seek references. This can be time consuming for the office to chase but all efforts are made to ensure that we have the correct safer recruitment process in place.
Children and youth registration forms	These need to be completed every year in September for every child or young person who takes part in activities run at Christ Church. PCC helped in Sept 2019 to ensure that these are completed by the end of Sept. This is important for safeguarding purposes to ensure that all info, including medical is up to date for all.
Disclosures/ referrals/ advice from diocese	Where needed these have been completed discretely and appropriate action taken if needed. All disclosure forms are available in the children's youth resource boxes and in the church office and welcome area.
Risk assessments	Children and youth completed. Health and safety completed by Premises team/ wardens and safeguarding team where appropriate. All church activities need to complete a risk assessment, including for church services and life groups. This is an ongoing piece of work and new risk assessments are completed annually.
Training update	Christ Church family have been proactive in taking part in training as a requirement etc by the National safeguarding team. This has been accessed online or in face to face sessions. C0 is a foundation course, C1 for those who work with CYP and vulnerable adults, A record is kept for all those who have completed their training. Training has now changed- C0 and C1 are online or face to face. A new leadership module replaces C2 and C3- CJ is a diocesan trainer for this.
Issues actioned	Website has more visible safeguarding section as required by the diocese. New posters with phone numbers, photos and safeguarding team have been amended and displayed around the building. Safeguarding Notice board in Link and church. Safeguarding documents/DBS info kept securely in office.

Cathryn Johnston

Item 13. Vicar's report

St Paul writes in the beginning of a number of letters that he longs to see the people he is writing to. In Romans 1 he says, 'I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong' but before this he thanks God through Jesus Christ for his Christian brothers and sisters. In Paul's day it was persecution, hardship and imprisonment which kept him separated from friends and congregations and he longed to be able to meet with them.

As we review 2019 it will seem a long time ago, partly because the APCM has been postponed from April but mainly because 2019 was BC, before coronavirus! These last 6 months have created more uncertainty, anxiety, sadness and frustration than we could ever have anticipated and the report for the year 2020 will undoubtedly reflect that. For now though, with a hint of nostalgia, we look back on a year full of activity and lack of social distancing. Like Paul, I find myself longing for greater connection but I also give thanks for your faithfulness and support in these challenging times.

As we began 2019 we welcomed two encouraging and inspiring speakers in January. Canon Andrew White spoke about his continuing passion for the Gospel and his ministry to refugees in the Middle East. At the Churches Together Service of Christian Unity we were delighted to have Barry & Margaret Mizen speak about their ministry in memory of their son, Jimmy, who died some years ago.

Our PCC had a useful Away Day in Stansted to consider our ministry in worship, fellowship and outreach.

We were blessed once again to welcome new members to the church, many of whom travel from outside the parish and it is particularly encouraging that each year the congregation is enriched by becoming more multi cultural. Sadly, however, in 2019 a number of our older members died and we were brought together to support one another as funeral and thanksgiving services took place. Each person contributed to the life and fellowship here in unique ways and we will not forget them.

Our ministry with seniors continued to flourish with the ongoing monthly Dementia Café and Community Lunches. Holiday at Home in August once again proved to be a great success and attracted folk from the area who we had not had contact with before. Special thanks go to Judith West, Angela Scott and Marilyn Gebbett for their leadership in these areas.

We are grateful to Jacob Mayho, our Youth Minister, who was able to continue the good work with our young people until the summer. Jacob left to join a church in Tunbridge Wells, where his family live, and we wish him and wife Rebecca well. A willing and able team of helpers sustained the ministry for the rest of the year.

Becky Freame continued to grow and build on a substantial ministry with children. Numbers at Monday and Friday ABC, Challenge, Dads & Tots, Kids Church and Messy Church events remained strong and we found more families begin to connect with other church ministries as a result.

We were blessed once again to have a lot of help from congregation members serving on teams with every age group throughout 2019.

Ann Smith put together a series of monthly prayer gatherings, and having a different focus each month turned out to be some of the most successful prayer meetings the church has had. Penny Russell Ross organized for the World Day of Prayer to take place here in March.

For Cath and myself 2019 was a truly memorable year in being able to travel and learn so much in my Sabbatical. We are immensely grateful we didn't postpone until 2020 as most of our trips would have been cancelled. From mid May until the end of August we took a number of journeys, interspersed with the weeks when Cath had to be at work. The highlights for us were a diocesan Study Tour of Israel in June and an incredible trip to Tanzania in July, returning in August. The bulk of our time in Tanzania was spent in Kondoa diocese, which has a link with Rochester diocese. We, like several other parishes in this diocese, now have a link parish called Mrijo in Kondoa. As well as visiting 12 other churches and a number of schools we spent an afternoon meeting Pastor Yohanna, his wife Elizabeth and their children. It was agreed that Mrijo should be one of our Mission Partners and we will support them as a church.

Back at home during my sabbatical a fantastic team of lay ministers, staff, PCC, Church Wardens and Rev Peter Morris took care of services and activities while we were away. They did a wonderful job and it was a great relief stepping back for three months knowing all would be fine.

The church football team in 2019 had a squad of over 40 members and under Dan Greenwood's management and leadership continued to thrive and friendships developed further through training, matches and Bible study evenings.

In October four of us attended a two day training event in Chelmsford, run by Patrick Regan and his charity Kintsugi Hope. This led to us being to plan for the church's first Well Being group being set up, creating space for folk in the church and community to discuss issues to do with emotional and mental health.

A large fabric project had to be tackled in 2019 with the replacement of the roof of the Link. It was quite shocking to discover after only ten years that simple repairs were not enough but the congregation rose to the challenge of raising and giving over £100k. Various fund raising initiatives helped a lot, including an auction of talents, gifts and items in the Spring, a Quiz night and Summer Fair. A very generous legacy from dear Bill Griffiths made a big difference too. Thankfully the bulk of the replacement was completed by the end of the year. I am very grateful to Dan, Heather and other members of the Finance & Fabric team who spent considerable time and energy ensuring the work was being done properly.

In a report such as this it is impossible to mention everyone, or every area of ministry. Much of it goes on quietly and without any fuss. Whether it be flowers arranged for services, songs practiced by the band, accounts administered, a pot of tea prepared, a trip to the Food Bank or a one to one meeting for debt advice, God sees and cherishes every act of kindness, worship, or word of encouragement done in his name. Being part of a church like this continues to be an enormous privilege and joy. Thank you so much for being part of Christ Church.

Reverend Dave Johnston

Item 14. Vote of thanks

Item 15. Closing prayer