



Annual Report

2020

Archers Road, Southampton SO15 2LU

www.stmarkschurch.uk

Sharing God's love in word and action

St Mark's Church, Archers Road, Southampton SO15 2LU
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR
ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2020

How the church is organised

General information

St Mark's Church is situated in the Banister Park part of Southampton, Hampshire and is part of the Southampton Deanery of the Church of England, in the Diocese of Winchester.

Correspondence address: St Mark's Church, Archers Road, Southampton, SO15 2LU

St Mark's Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2020 until the date this Report was approved are:

Vicar

Kathy Hicken

Associate Priest

Mary Nicholson (until December 2020)

Churchwardens

Annie Clewlow (until May 2020)

Andrew Coombs (from October 2020)

Paul O'Neill

Representatives of the Deanery Synod:

Sophie Baker

Liz O'Neill (from November 2020)

Matthew Read (until July 2020)

Elected Members:

Lizzie Barlow

Chris Clarke

Kirsty Coombs

Claire Heyes

Jenny Pike

Leah Pike

Richard Seed

Derek Willis

Helen Willis

Treasurer

(until October 2020)

PCC Secretary

(until March 2020)

(From October 2020)

Lay Deputy Chair

Structure, governance and management

Recruitment, induction and training of PCC members

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) has set the number of elected members at 9, with a minimum of three places to come up for election each year.

All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

New PCC members are encouraged to obtain a copy of Practical Church Management: A Guide for Every Parish and to attend training events run by the diocese.

PCC Organisation

The **Standing Committee** is empowered by law to conduct PCC business in between meetings of the full Church Council. It also acts, when required, as the financial planning group. Its members are the Church Officers plus three ordinary member of the PCC.

Day to Day Management

The Churchwardens, vicar and office team manage the day-to-day business of the Church and the office staff oversee the administration associated with the hiring out of our premises.

Financial Report

St Mark's PCC Financial Report – prepared by Chris Clarke (PCC Treasurer)

Independent Examiner - Stuart Wrighton, Southampton Solent University.
Bankers - Nat West & Barclays.

Risk Management

Procedures are in place to ensure that all activities are carried out with an awareness of potential risk to health, finance and reputation.

During the Covid-19 pandemic we have followed the Church of England guidelines and produced and implemented a risk assessment to mitigate the risks of meeting in person in our church building.

Church Attendance

There are 56 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll (last year 58), of whom 40 are not resident in the parish.

Average in person attendance 1st January to 15th March inclusive

Adults	47
Children	7

Services held during Covid-19 lockdown

22nd March to 6th September 2020 (Recorded Services)

The number of times the video was loaded	106
The number of times the video was started	30
Average % watched	56%

Average in person attendance 13th September to 20th December inclusive (excluding the four weeks in November lockdown when small team of 4 in person in actual church)

Adults	23
Children	4

13th September to 25th December 2020 (Watched Live & Recorded)

Watched live	11
Watched recorded afterwards on YouTube	40
Total watched live & recorded	51

Vicar – Rev'd Kathy Hicken

2020 must rank as one of the strangest years in our church's history! At the start of the year, our church's life seemed pretty normal, and some of the highlights of the months of January and February were being the hosts of the Winter Night shelter one night per week in January, and also Rev'd Mary and her team running the Recovery Course to encourage those with addictions towards freedom.

On February 4th, we held a wonderful evening of celebration as Bishop Debbie came to take a special service which changed my role from being priest-in-charge to being Vicar of St Mark's. This was a time of real thankfulness to God for all that he has done among us since I started here 3½ years ago.

However, by mid-March, we were in a national lockdown because of the coronavirus pandemic with almost all of our church's activities on pause. We were not able to use or even go into the church building for some months, and therefore all bookings also ceased. You'll notice that there are many fewer reports this year than we would normally have, and that is because many of our events and groups simply haven't been able to happen.

We responded quickly to the need to host our services online, and people stepped up to the task of video recording bible readings, prayers and sermons. Hosting our Holy Week, and Easter services online was a challenge that gave us the opportunity to develop all kinds of new and creative skills.

During the time of lockdown, our pastoral team sought to provide care and support for all those within our church family and also our Haven family. We arranged for regular phone calls for those who would benefit from that support, and many of our groups, such as Craft Club, have made use of social media platforms to enable us to keep in touch, inspire and pray for each other.

We were very aware of the challenges that our nursing homes and also our school were facing through the lockdown, and although we weren't able to visit them much in person, we did our best to keep in touch with them and show our support through provision of boxes of treats, drinks, chocolates and sweets. I have continued to keep abreast of developments with school through my connections with our headteacher and staff and through the governing body, and we've offered collective worship and RE input via video recordings and zoom.

Although our Baby and Toddler group hasn't been able to meet for a year now in its normal way, Christine Seed has been emailing out a weekly message to families with creative ideas that families that do at home, and this has been a brilliant way of keeping in touch with our families and showing them that we are thinking of them.

In the summer holidays, we had the privilege of providing 'Bags of Hope' to some of our school families who were struggling with the cost of feeding their families over the holidays. Every week we delivered bags of food, with

a message of support, a toy or game and some ideas from Christine Seed for simple and cheap activities to do together. This was very gratefully received by the families concerned. We were incredibly grateful for the generosity of the church family in supporting this project financially.

Also over the summer period, we undertook a project to review and update our AV equipment, in order that we would be ready to provide hybrid services with smaller numbers of people in church, live-streaming out to those at home. We are grateful to Andrew Coombs for his work on overseeing this project, and again to the church family for donating so generously towards it. The equipment was installed temporarily ready for its test run for my first wedding held at St Mark's on 12th September, with its full install due to happen after we had received the faculty permission.

We held our first in-person hybrid service on 13th September, with our technical team doing an excellent job of stepping up to the plate to learn how to operate video cameras, and live-streaming equipment.

During the autumn term we also went live with our new website. An update to our site was long overdue and so we were delighted for this to happen – again many thanks to Andrew Coombs for his work on this.

We were joined in September by Reuben Humphreys, as our Ministry Experience Assistant. It's been a real joy getting to know him and sharing our mission and ministry with him over the past few months, and he continues with us until July 21.

In November, we entered a second lockdown, and this time we hosted our services from the church building with only the minimum essential staff present. As Advent went on and we drew towards Christmas, it was not an easy task to consider what we might be able to safely offer in terms of Christmas services and events. It was becoming clear that COVID numbers were rising and there was concern around the risk of new variants. We were pleased to be able to host a Nativity Puppet Praise event for around a dozen parents and children, and also under Reuben's leadership, we hosted a Virtual Nativity service on 20th December, at which various members of our community demonstrated their acting skills! Our Christmas Eve reflective service and our Christmas Day communion service was held online.

We hugely value our staff team, and there have been a few changes during the year. Our caretaker, Wayne, has been furloughed much of the time since

the start of the pandemic, and we are hoping to bring him back as soon as we're able to re-open for hirings. Our admin team has seen some changes too – our bookings administrator, Sharon, was furloughed, and Jenny, our main administrator continued in her role but working from home. She has since felt that God has led her to step back from the role, and we were blessed to take on Jayne as our new administrator at the start of December. In November last year, we also took on a part-time worship leader, Kez Beckerleg, with a view to developing a new worship band, and she has been a great blessing to us during this time. In December we said goodbye to Rev'd Mary – we pray for and bless her as she establishes a new chaplaincy charity for recovery called the Acorn Chaplaincy.

I am so thankful to God that he has enabled us to come through what has been a challenging year, that he's blessed us with some great new team members, and that we've been able to adapt to the changing environment. 'Returning to normal' presents all sorts of questions, challenges and above all opportunities to seek God, and to see what he wants us to learn as we move forward into a new era of mission and ministry together.

PCC Review of the year – Claire Heyes (PCC Secretary)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the governing body of the parish church. The PCC is responsible for the overall wellbeing of the Church, both spiritually and practically. Despite the ongoing COVID pandemic the PCC has continued to operate (more or less!) as usual. The full PCC met via Zoom 6 times during the year. The Standing Committee and other more ad hoc groups met (also via Zoom) between the PCC meetings and the notes of their work were received by the PCC, and action taken where necessary.

A wide range of matters was dealt with during the year. Most of these are covered under the subject headings that follow. Matters of general interest are recorded in this section.

The PCC wishes to record its thanks to Chris Clarke again for continuing as Treasurer and maintaining the financial position of the church in such difficult and unusual times. We have continued to be informed about the Church's financial position – monitoring income and expenditure against the Budget set by the PCC and are pleased to note that we were able to make the full contribution to the Common Mission Fund as requested by the Diocese. We have

also agreed to increase missional giving to various causes, including Youth for Christ, based in Burundi and local causes, including the missionary work of the son of a member of the congregation.

As usual, issues considered by the PCC in the year included Church Centre Maintenance and Development and working towards a Vision for developing our Mission in the community. The PCC reviewed the Schedule of Works set out for maintaining the Church Centre in good order, being mindful of the need to keep the Church Centre both as a place of worship and a developing potential resource as the centre of the community in the parish when we are allowed to reopen. The PCC agreed to necessary expenditure to allow the church to improve its audio-visual facilities in order to record and stream its services during the pandemic so it can reach as many people as possible.

Even though the building has been closed we have also continued to oversee the upkeep of the building in line with Health and Safety requirements.

Obviously, there has been no use of the church building by most of our service users during the majority of the past year but the PCC continues to consider when and how it might be appropriate to reopen the building in line with both the wishes of the users and Government and Church of England guidance.

If you are interested in being more involved in the life of St. Mark's Church and being able share your gifts, ideas and experiences as part of the PCC, please speak to one of the PCC members for more information.

Churchwardens Report – Paul O'Neill & Andrew Coombs

The year began with talk of the Coronavirus. We were told to lock away all of our cups, plates and cutlery. Little did we know that a year on, they are still locked away. The Pandemic has made us look at doing church in new ways. We started off by videoing the service, readings and prayers, editing them together and watching the service from our homes. We learnt how to do zoom video meetings.

In September, churches were allowed to re-open with a limited number of people, we could accomodate upto 30 people, a booking system was put in place, extra deep cleaning every time the church was used, a new one way system was set up for the toilets and social distancing, all has meant we couldn't stay and chat in the church. We were able to broadcast the service live

on YouTube. The service was also recorded, edited and added to our YouTube channel later that day. It was a steep learning curve for all those involved. This only lasted for 8 weeks when we had to close again.

In November the services were shown live from church with the minimum of people needed to run the technology and music to broadcast live on YouTube. The Christmas services were recorded.

Overall the past year has been a time of many challenges with all of us facing new restrictions, and for some, mourning the loss of loved ones.

Even so, there have been positive things to report. Last summer during the school holidays teams of volunteers from St Marks delivered weekly 'Bags of Hope' to local families struggling to provide food. More recently members of St Marks have received 'Bags of Love' to show our love and commitment to each other.

Although the closure of the church building prevented us from meeting in person we have been active in meeting wherever possible over the internet. This has included Monday morning prayers, Connect groups and during Lent the Wednesday evening Lent meeting. We have also updated our Facebook page and website.

To be able to stream our services over Zoom and YouTube we decided to invest in new technology to upgrade our audio visual systems and also installed video cameras. As part of this we also replaced the old projector screen with wall mounted TV screens which we will benefit from when we can meet again in the church.

Although meeting on the internet is never the same as meeting in person, these new facilities will last long after the pandemic has passed, and will give us opportunities to reach out to new members of our community.

Thursday Home Group – *Derek and Helen Willis*

At the beginning of the year, we were meeting fortnightly for prayer, share and bible discussion usually using DVD presentations, kindly hosted by Pat Hebdtich in Shirley. When the Covid pandemic struck we were unable to meet in person so we found a way of meeting on Zoom on a weekly basis. We keep the meeting to 40 minutes as this makes the time most comfortable for anyone who is less keen on video chats. We have found this to be a good way of being

able to continue sharing our lives and journey together. The Zoom meetings are at 7.00pm, which means they do not take up a whole evening. We base our time around the express version of the preceding Tuesdays Bible in One Year (BIOY) content which is an App that has great material for every day of the year. We use this to stimulate our brief discussion. We use the Tuesday content, so all have an opportunity to prepare a little if they wish, it only takes about 10 minutes to listen to it or to read it but preparation is not essential. We have more spaces available, if you would be interested in giving this a try please let us know and we can send you the links. We are looking forward very much to being able to meet together in person again just as soon as the lock-down rules permit.

Music – *Kez Beckerleg*

What a year it has been! 2020 certainly was not what we expected but in the worship team we couldn't be more excited for all God has done and all He is continuing to do. We had three wonderful months of in person worship where we sang together at the beginning of the year prior to the first lockdown. As church moved online we had to rise to the challenge of doing services completely pre-recorded and this comprised a mixture of worship videos and members of the worship team recording themselves. In September, Lizzie stepped down as the worship team coordinator and we want to take the opportunity to thank and honour her for her commitment to the vision of worship at St Mark's, as well as the many years of service she has given us. Thank you Lizzie for bringing us to where we are now! Will and Tracey also decided to take a step back from worship so we want to thank and honour them as well for their dedicated service to this church. Thank you to all three of you for your integrity and perseverance in leading our church in worship, we are excited to see what God calls you into next.

I started as our worship coordinator officially in November and led worship in the building for the first time in months. We are thankful for all God has done and all He will continue to do as we focus our eyes on Him and are open to His use of us for His glory.

This has been a year like no other but it has not been all bad. We have returned to simplicity in worship and God has been teaching us through this that it's all

about Him and He is in control. As we hopefully move past a time of Covid, let us not forget all we have learned. Let us earnestly seek the face of God through our worship and yearn to be in His presence. We prayerfully consider the next steps towards in-person worship and would appreciate your prayers and support at this time as we navigate the new and ongoing challenges the last year has presented.

Safeguarding – Sophie Baker

The year began, if you can remember that far back, with preparations for ensuring everyone stayed safe whilst we were hosting the Winter Shelter. It passed remarkably smoothly, thanks to the dedication of those involved in welcoming our guests.

Through the remainder of 2020, Safeguarding concerns have been relatively few, as being in lockdown removed almost all opportunities for human interaction. I did help to develop the risk assessment for the Bags of Hope appeal over the summer, which was the one exception.

Most of my efforts have gone into making sure that our new PCC members, Reuben, Kez and our new administrator, Jayne, all got their DBS checks completed. This was made a lot easier by the move to an electronic system for submitting their details. Without that, it would have been very challenging to check all the necessary documents.

I'm very glad that as we move into 2021, Jayne will be helping with some of that DBS and training admin, to help keep everything up to date.

Church Centre Maintenance – Andrew Coombs

Not a lot happened with the church maintenance during 2020. But we did have some upgrading of our electrical system with two new consumer units (fuse boxes) fitted to comply with the latest wiring regulations. A few issues were reported during the upgrade and the electricians returned to fix them.

Pastoral Team - Helen & Derek Willis

With the beginning of the Covid pandemic in March 2020 the Pastoral Team aimed to maintain contact with all members of our church family throughout this very challenging time.

This has been via phone or zoom calls, and social distanced walks when allowed.

The team consists of 5 members Kathy Hicken, Jenny Coombes, Liz O'Neill and Helen and Derek Willis.

We are very keen to support our church family in any way needed and can always be contacted via Helen.

We are available for prayer, support visits or calls as appropriate and meals if somebody is unwell.

Deanery Synod – Sophie Baker

The Southampton Deanery was disrupted by more than just Covid in the first half of 2020, as we were without an Area Dean. This meant it was difficult to achieve much progress.

However, fortunately Rev'd Sheena Williams was eventually found to take on the role, with the help of two Assistant Area Deans, one for the West, and one for the East of the city. We are very privileged that Kathy is one of those, so as a church we are really tied into the work of the Deanery very closely.

Meetings continued via Zoom, which I found very helpful as I could eat dinner at the same time! Liz O'Neill took over from Matthew Read as the second Deanery Synod rep.

For our October meeting we were also joined by Annie to talk about Communicare, and Reuben dialled in too, so we were very well represented.

One really good thing the Deanery is supporting is children's work, with funding for additional training (once per term) and support made available. I think there will be a lot more activity in 2021.

St Mark's Church, Southampton
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020

Receipts and payments account

	Notes	General	Designated	Restricted	Total 2020	Total 2019
Receipts						
Activities for generating funds	3	5,825.63	1,204.64	570.00	7,600.27	26,317.01
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	557.99	469.88	-	1,027.87	3,076.66
Investment income	5	1,145.53	-	-	1,145.53	1,185.15
Voluntary income	6	54,101.38	3,049.39	1,480.00	58,630.77	45,235.55
Total Receipts		<u>61,630.53</u>	<u>4,723.91</u>	<u>2,050.00</u>	68,404.44	75,814.37
Payments						
Administration	7	1,952.35	73.78	217.96	2,244.09	2,416.48
Capital Expenditure	8	4,830.29	8,802.27	-	13,632.56	22,559.17
Charitable giving	9	5,391.67	-	-	5,391.67	5,923.70
Ministry	10	18,782.21	1,225.00	681.33	20,688.54	18,485.43
Outreach and activities	11	-	-	-	-	820.38
Running expenses	12	19,353.23	-	-	19,353.23	27,177.53
Total Payments		<u>50,309.75</u>	<u>10,101.05</u>	<u>899.29</u>	61,310.09	77,382.69
Receipts less payments		<u>11,320.78</u>	<u>(5,377.14)</u>	<u>1,150.71</u>	7,094.35	(1,568.69)

Statement of assets and liabilities

	Total 2020	Total 2019
Cash	133.16	28.57
Current account	18,000.93	8,923.25
CBF Deposit account	18,080.80	16,949.56
Pass-through funds	(241.11)	(241.11)
Premium account	18,822.82	18,043.53
Total monetary assets	54,796.60	43,703.80
Debtors/prepayments	52.86	1,936.09
Creditors/accruals	(7,801.49)	(5,391.52)
CBF Investment Fund	37,683.27	35,249.22
Total Net Assets	84,731.24	75,497.59

Financial review

As with everything the most significant impact on the church finances in 2020 was the consequences of COVID 19. This is perhaps best illustrated by the income we received from letting out the building spaces was £4,367 in 2020, over £20,000 less than in 2019.

Despite this we have managed an excess of income over expenditure of £7,094. In part this has been due to some savings in running costs, although many of our costs are not reduced significantly by lower levels of activity, and some benefit from the Governments Furlough scheme. The main contributor has been the significant generosity of the Church Family with voluntary giving of £58,630 being over £13,000 greater than in 2019. For this positive response from our Church Family the PCC is extremely grateful.

The upshot of this is that having anticipated that the consequences of COVID might significantly diminish our monetary assets (cash and bank balances) we have finished the year with monetary assets of £54,796, up £11,000 from 2019.

No legacy gifts were received this year. If anyone associated with the church would like to consider making a gift in their will, please speak with the Treasurer.

There have been no specific fundraising events undertaken during the year although included in the voluntary giving referred to above has been some fund raising via our website for specific activities. Most notably is the £3,000 raised towards the purchase and installation of the new audio visual equipment.

COVID has provided a real strain on the rest of the Diocese but the PCC has again kept a close eye on expenditure during the year and have been able to meet the requested payment towards the Common Mission Fund of £13,785 in full.

Whilst the results for 2020 are encouraging we enter 2021 with continued uncertainty. The PCC is optimistic the generosity of those who donate to the Church will meet our regular operating costs. We look to God for His provision with regard to finance to enable the ministries which operate both in the church and in the community at large to continue and grow. We would encourage every member of the church to practice regular giving as part of their ongoing Christian discipleship and consider reviewing the level of their giving at regular intervals.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on general funds, which equates to approximately six months budgeted payments for the following year, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The PCC Budget for 2021 reflects our continued desire to develop and enhance the mission of the Church and indicates we will make payments which total £92,000 resulting in a target balance to hold on general funds of £46,000 at 31st December 2020. The actual balance on general funds (including investments) at that date was higher than this at £58,222. The PCC recognises that as custodians of the congregations funds we are responsible to spend these reserves in an appropriate manner for the glory of God but with the ongoing uncertainty of COVID consider it prudent to hold off any further spending of these reserves at this time.



Chris Clarke
PCC Treasurer.

Approved by the PCC on the 8th March 2021
and signed on their behalf by Kathy Hicken,
Chair of the PCC and Chris Clarke, the PCC
Treasurer.

Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.

The following assets, where they exist, are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

2. Payments to PCC members

During the year, no members of the PCC received remuneration for church activities unrelated to membership of the PCC. Members of the PCC received refunds of expenses incurred in carrying out church activities unrelated to membership of the PCC. A small immaterial proportion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to her services as chairman of the PCC.

3. Activities for generating funds

	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	Total 2020	<i>Total 2019</i>
Other income	1,458.04	1,204.64	570.00	3,232.68	1,422.39
Hall Lettings	4,367.59	–	–	4,367.59	24,894.62
	<u>5,825.63</u>	<u>1,204.64</u>	<u>570.00</u>	7,600.27	26,317.01

4. Incoming resources for charitable activities

	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	Total 2020	<i>Total 2019</i>
Banns & Funerals etc	557.99	–	–	557.99	532.00
Event fees & donations	–	–	–	–	–
Sales	–	–	–	–	–
Sales baby and toddlers	–	257.99	–	257.99	961.44
Haven	–	211.89	–	211.89	1,583.22
	<u>557.99</u>	<u>469.88</u>	<u>–</u>	1,027.87	3,076.66

5. Investment income

	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	Total 2020	<i>Total 2019</i>
Dividends	1,052.32	–	–	1,052.32	1,026.91
Interest	78.94	–	–	78.94	158.24
	<u>1,145.53</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	1,145.53	1,185.15

6. Voluntary Income

	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	Total 2020	<i>Total 2019</i>
Collections and other donations (non gift aided)	5,233.89	–	–	5,233.89	7,353.45
Collections and other donations (gift aided)	390.00	–	–	390.00	–
Vol giving via website (GA unknown)	814.90	3,049.39	1,480.00	5,344.29	–
SO donations	1,107.86	–	–	1,107.86	240.00
Gift Aid donations via Parish Giving	36,626.48	–	–	36,626.48	31,192.18
Non gift aided via Parish Giving	772.00	–	–	772.00	–
Tax recovered	9,156.25	–	–	9,156.25	6,368.60
Sundry income	–	–	–	–	81.32
	<u>54,101.38</u>	<u>3,049.39</u>	<u>1,480.00</u>	58,630.77	45,235.55

7. Administration

	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	Total 2020	<i>Total 2019</i>
Bank charges	–	–	–	–	20.00
STRIPE fees	15.72	73.78	37.72	127.22	–
Photocopier and other admin exp	481.00	–	–	481.00	75.58
Stationery and postage	–	–	–	–	147.37
Hospitality	78.91	–	180.24	259.15	372.77
School	–	–	–	–	77.44
Telephone	766.48	–	–	766.48	1,015.88
Church services	188.83	–	–	188.83	299.00
Admin sundry	35.60	–	–	35.60	213.11
Admin software	385.81	–	–	385.81	195.33
	<u>1,952.35</u>	<u>73.78</u>	<u>217.96</u>	2,244.09	2,416.48

8. Capital expenditure

	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	Total 2020	<i>Total 2019</i>
Equipment	131.31	–	–	131.31	224.00
Admin Equipment	–	–	–	–	172.55
Office equipment	110.00	8,802.27	–	8,912.27	338.97
Decoration/major repairs	4,588.98		–	4,588.98	21,823.65
	4,830.29	8,802.27	–	13,632.56	22,559.17

9. Charitable giving

	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	Total 2020	<i>Total 2019</i>
Home missions	291.67	–	–	291.67	348.70
Churches together in Shirley and district	–	–	–	–	75.00
Tithe	5,100.00	–	–	5,100.00	5,500.00
	5,391.67	–	–	5,391.67	5,923.70

10. Ministry

	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	Total 2020	<i>Total 2019</i>
Dioncesan quota	13,785.74	–	–	13,785.74	12,586.90
Home groups - Alpha	–	–	–	–	373.09
Publicity and outreach	210.00	–	–	210.00	999.77
Outreach church services	–	–	–	–	28.19
Subscriptions and membership fees	471.36	1,225.00	–	1,696.36	483.27
Training and conferences	1,606.40	–	–	1,606.40	429.23
Upkeep services	161.00	–	–	161.00	460.00
Working expenses of incumbent	2,357.92	–	–	2,357.92	1,341.37
Young church	–	–	–	–	1,188.04
Ministry schools	–	–	681.33	681.33	–
Ministry sundry	189.79	–	–	189.79	595.57
	18,782.21	1,225.00	681.33	20,688.54	18,485.43

11. Outreach and activities

	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	Total 2020	<i>Total 2019</i>
Activity costs	–	–	–	–	717.89
Cost of sales	–	–	–	–	102.49
Event costs	–	–	–	–	–
	–	–	–	–	820.38

12. Running expenses

	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	Total 2020	<i>Total 2019</i>
Cleaning	470.93	–	–	470.93	1,393.94
Electricity, gas, water	4,280.03	–	–	4,280.03	5,592.92
Insurance	1,234.75	–	–	1,234.75	1,119.06
Minor maintenance	713.82	–	–	713.82	2,346.76
Organ, piano and sound system/software	1,699.05	–	–	1,699.05	152.50
Staff costs	16,209.38	–	–	16,209.38	16,035.85
TV licence	154.50	–	–	154.50	150.50
Health and safety	144.00	–	–	144.00	386.00
Sundry and general	41.27	–	–	41.27	–
Furlough	(5,594.50)	–	–	(5,594.50)	–
	19,353.23	–	–	19,353.23	27,177.53

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mark's, Southampton

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages above, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of Regulation 3(3) and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Stuart Wrighton
Independent Examiner
23rd February 2021

St Mark's Church, Archers Road, Southampton Meeting of Parisioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting via Zoom

Monday 26th October 2020

Meeting of the Parishioners 26th October 2020 via Zoom

1. Election of Churchwardens – Andrew Coombes and Paul O'Neill

Kathy Hicken thanked the outgoing Churchwarden, Annie Clewlow for all her service

Nominations for Churchwardens have been received from Andrew Coombs and Paul O'Neill

All appointments had been properly proposed and seconded and were therefore unanimously approved.

Minutes of APCM held 20th October 2020 via Zoom

1. Opening prayer

2. Apologies for absence

No formal apologies for absence had been received.

3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting 19th May 2019

Proposed: Pat Hebditch

Seconded: Richard Hicken

The minutes were therefore agreed and approved.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. The reports

It was noted that the following reports could be read in detail in the Annual Report:

- a) Electoral Roll
- b) PCC report

- c) Activities of the parish
- d) Financial statement
- e) Fabric Report
- f) Deanery Synod

There were no questions about the reports but Chris Clarke, the Treasurer, wished to acknowledge the immense generosity of the congregation in their continuing financial support of the church in such difficult times.

Approval of Annual Report

The Annual Report was unanimously agreed and approved.

6. Elections and appointments

a. Deanery Synod

Kathy thanked Sophie and Matthew Read for their service as Deanery Synod representatives. Sadly, due to work commitments Matthew is unable to stand for re-election as Deanery Synod representative but Sophie Baker is standing for re-election.

Sophie was unanimously elected as Deanery Synod representative.

There is still a vacancy for a Deanery Synod representative, so please speak to Kathy if you are interested in this.

b. PCC

Kathy Hicken thanked Jen Pike and Kirsty Coombs for their service on the PCC over the past year.

There were 2 members of the PCC who were standing for re-election/election, all nominations had been properly proposed and seconded.

1. Derek Willis

2. Leah Pike

All members were therefore unanimously elected to the PCC.

Chris Clarke had been co-opted by the PCC during the year to be Treasurer and now sought to formalise this appointment. His nomination had been properly proposed and seconded and was agreed unanimously at the meeting.

c. Independent Examiner

The PCC noted their thanks to Stuart Wrighton for being the independent examiner for the previous year.

It was proposed that Stuart Wrighton be appointed as the independent examiner for the forthcoming year.

Proposed: Dick Seed

Seconded: Claire Heyes

The appointment was therefore unanimously approved.

7. Any other business

None

8. Update from Rev'd Mary Nicholson

Mary thanked the meeting and the congregation for giving her the chance to minister with St Mark's. The ministry she felt called to do was with people with addiction and she became the lead for policies and procedures for the cross-church Southampton Winter Shelter and write the handbook. This was seven churches working together who opened their doors for 4 weeks. At the end of it the majority of guests had been found more permanent accommodation. The project has now also obtained a £5k grant for the winter shelter. During lockdown Mary had been reflecting on her minis-try going forward and she felt that she should step back from the winter shelter to enable her to focus on ministering to people with addictions. She ran a recovery course in partnership with the Waterfall Trust which started in Feb and delivered five or six sessions but then we went into lockdown, Since the sessions restarted, she had seen a tangible growth in building relationships and spirituality. Mary has therefore decided to develop a chaplaincy role with those in addiction and in recovery and building links with other charities. It is possible that her role may change in connection with St Marks but at the minute it isn't clear what that might be.

There was a question as to whether more people have come forward with addition problems during isolation?

Mary responded that on the course they have had 12 out of about 20 guests even without food and having to maintain social distancing. Those who have been coming have said how challenging it is with the isolation of lockdown. Mary sees this ministry as an ongoing function to pick up people who may be struggling with issues related to addiction.

9. Rev'd Kathy Hicken

Kathy had been thinking about the differences between when we were preparing for APCM in April and now, holding the APCM via Zoom. She was grateful to God for us to be able to continue to worship together, as well as for the love and care from the team of people who have got involved. Back in March she wanted to share the pMap (Parish Mission Action Plan) and is sharing it now. Some things have been stopped by COVID but others we have been able to move forward. We never thought we would be live streaming our services or running the bags of hope project that we launched in the summer which provided food and activities to families. We have brought Reu-ben into our church to work with schools and families. As the school redevelopment continues we are aware of the potential that gives us to minister and ask ourselves the question: how can we create a joint school/church community?

There have been some changes within our church: Whilst Will and Tracey have stepped down from leading worship leaders, Kathy has approached Kez about being a part time worship group leader. She has agreed and have already seen her in action. Jenny has been working for us for two and a half years setting up bookings systems and administration but the time has come for her to step back from the administration and Kathy thanked her for all her hard work in this area.

Kathy concluded by commenting that we don't know exactly where God is leading us to but we know that God knows us and his favour is upon us.

10. Prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer.

