

# St Mark's Annual Church Meeting



Sunday 22 April 2018, 11.30 am

Held at St Mark's Church

Followed by Lunch in the  
Church Hall

St Mark's Annual Church Meeting, Sunday 22 April, 2018, 11.30 am

St Mark's: The Church at the Heart of Wimbledon

**Our mission statement, purpose, and reason for being here:**

To be enriched by the love of God  
To extend the welcome of God  
To express the compassion of God

**Agenda**

1. Opening prayer: Vicar
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting.
4. Matters arising.
5. Presentation of electoral roll.
7. Election/Confirmation of officers:
  - Wardens
  - Deputy Wardens
  - Treasurer
  - Church Committee members
  - PCC representatives
  - Electoral Roll Officer
  - Church Committee Secretary
8. Reception of the Annual Report
9. Comments from the Vicar
10. The impact of the new data protection laws (General Data Protection Regulation): Becca Wright
10. Safeguarding issues: Kathy Pring (our Safeguarding Officer)
11. AOB (to be notified to the Vicar by Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April at [clivegardner@outlook.com](mailto:clivegardner@outlook.com), 020 8944 0184, or 55 Alwyne Road, SW19 7AE.)
12. Closing prayer: Vicar

## St Mark's ACM Minutes

Sunday 23 April 2017, 11 30am

Agenda Item	Comment	Action for
1. Prayer	Revd Clive Gardner (Team Vicar)	
2. Apologies for absence	<b>Apologies:</b> Gerald Dorman, Crystal David, Celia Macleod, Gloria Bone, Rebecca Wright.	
3. Approval of minutes from last meeting	Approved unanimously	
4. Matters arising from minutes.	None	
5. Presentation of electoral roll	This now stands at 134 with 16 added and 3 removed compared to 121 last year. Thank you to Andrew Edgar who stepped forward to act as Electoral Roll Officer	
6. Election/ Confirmation of officers	<p>Proposal to allow Church Committee members who have served three consecutive years up to April 2017 to serve one further year:</p> <p>Clive explained that St Mark's Church Committee's Governing Document requires Church Committee members to be elected every year up to a maximum of three consecutive years. This proposal is to allow the two members who have just completed their third year to stand for a fourth year (for 2017/18).</p> <p>The background to this proposal is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Team Rector intends to set up the parish as a team based on districts, with each district having its own District Church Council (DCC), rather than the current arrangement of Church Committees. In contrast to Church Committees there is considerable legislation that govern the operation of DCC's. So a DCC structure has much more clarity especially regarding accountability, responsibility and governance. The Team Rector intends the new system to begin in April 2018.</li> <li>• The Church Committee are deeply grateful for the contributions that the two members who have served three consecutive years have made to the Committee.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given that it is unlikely that we will fill all the vacancies for this year’s Church Committee, the Committee would like the opportunity for these two members to serve for a fourth year.</li> <li>• This proposal will only be effective if the Annual Church Meeting is unanimous.</li> <li>• The two Church Committee members this would affect are Sandy Blewitt and Liz Aram. It will be up to them to decide whether they wish to stand for a fourth year.</li> <li>• Should they wish to stand for a fourth year, they will need to be voted in unanimously by the Church Committee.</li> <li>• Under the new DCC arrangements, the length of tenure of DCC members has yet to be decided.</li> </ul> <p>Proposed – David Jennings  Seconded – Charles Esdale  Unanimously agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wardens (2 vacancies, 1 nomination)  Express thanks to Vanessa and James for what they have contributed and he is grateful to them. Vanessa accepted token of thanks.  Nomination is Charles Esdale so he is duly elected</li> <li>• Deputy Wardens (2vacancies,0nominations)  Clive was very grateful for what Andrew and Jane, who stepped down earlier, have contributed. Andrew will be an acting warden on Sundays. Clive had a token of gratitude for them. No nominations</li> <li>• Treasurer (1 vacancy 0 nomination)  Sarah is stepping down and Clive very grateful for what she has done – gave a token of gratitude. No nominations, so that role is vacant.  There are 4 vacant roles, which are important so we will be looking at other ways to fill those roles. Hayley does day to day work on the finances, but they will be active in recruiting replacements for those jobs</li> </ul>	
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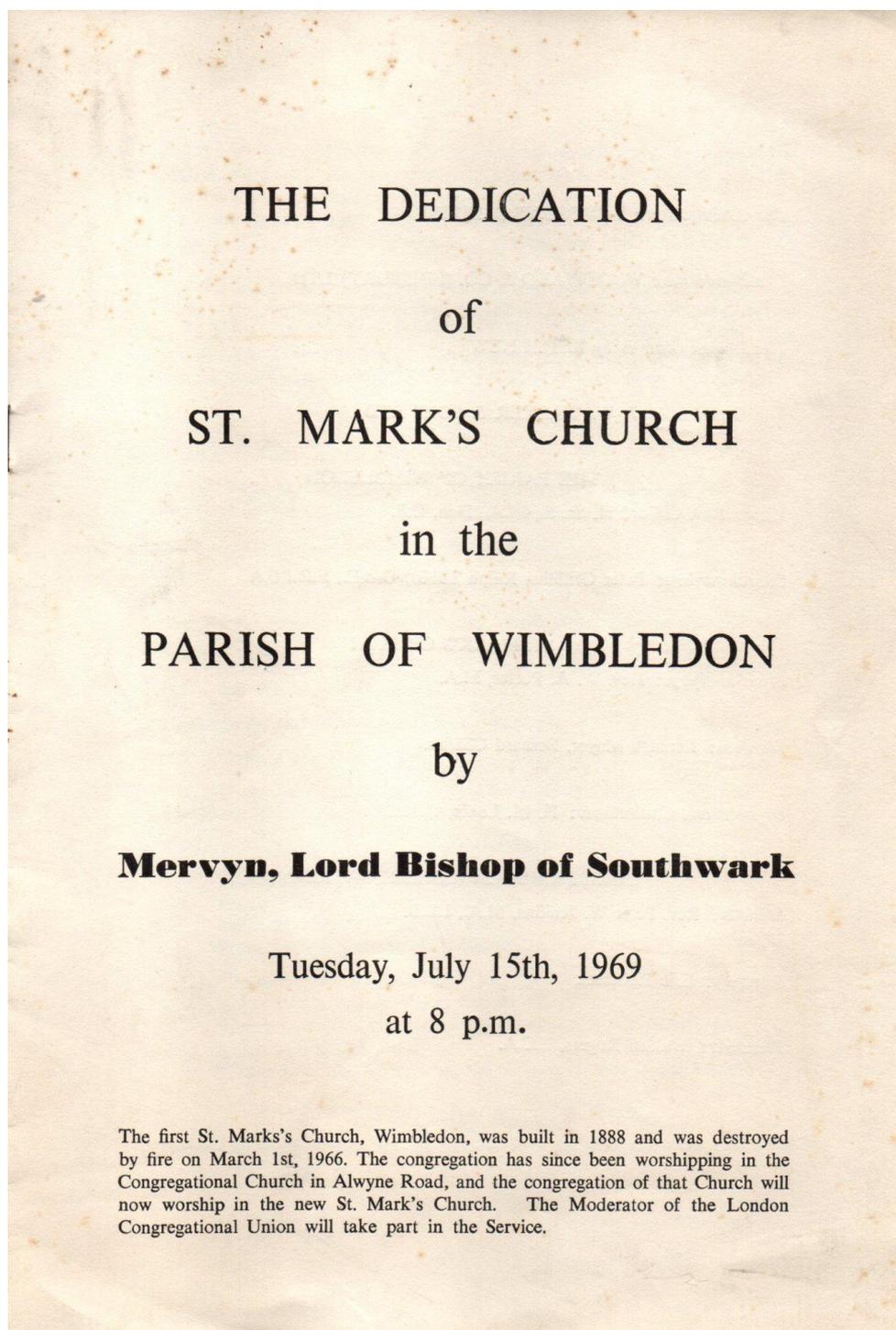
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church Committee Members – Rene Reed, Rebecca Broadley, Liz Aram, Sandy Blewit and Kate Richardson were stepping down and Rebecca Wright, Leigh Terrafranca and Giannalde Salvo have agreed to stand and are duly elected. Liz and Sandy may stand again which will make the church committee at capacity. There was also one nomination, which was received after the deadline.</li> <li>• PCC representative This will be Charles Esdale and the other warden.</li> <li>• There are 2 nominations for Deanery representative, David Jennings and Paula Thorvaldsen and so they are duly elected.</li> <li>• Electoral Roll Officer - seeking someone to fill that position</li> <li>• Church Committee Secretary - They have someone in mind that should be elected at the church committee meeting</li> </ul>	
<p>8. Reception of the Annual Report</p>	<p><b>Bible Study Group</b> meets periodically and always open to new members. Meets Friday morning.</p> <p><b>Deanery Synod Report</b> - thanks to David Jennings</p> <p><b>Film Club</b> - everyone is welcome and we have good films coming up</p> <p><b>Home Group</b> continues to flourish – Charles – We meet once a fortnight, moving from home to home or possibly the pub, everyone is welcome.</p> <p><b>Men’s Group</b> – see report, thank you to Andrew</p> <p><b>Music and Choir</b> - successful year. Clive said that we are very fortunate to have such a great Director of Music. We have just put the order in for the new piano.</p> <p><b>Servers and Chalice Assistants</b> - grateful to those that help, always look for more volunteers</p> <p><b>Treasurers Report</b> Sarah has produced one for this meeting, there were copies at the back. No one had questions. Grateful to Sarah and Hye-Jung and Adrian who helped with this.</p> <p><b>Warden’s Report</b> – grateful for the report and the work they have done</p> <p><b>Youth and Children’s Report</b> – has been challenging, we could do with more volunteers. Grateful to all especially Charlotte, Beccy and Kate for coordinating it.</p>	

9. Comments from the Vicar	Talked about this in the sermon	
10. Safeguarding issues	<p>Kathy Pring - she is the safeguarding officer and has been for many years. She does DBS certificates for volunteers. The diocese has a document, which forms the basis for policies and procedures. She attends updating conferences and meetings to keep abreast of the issues. She has started a safeguarding surgery, which she will continue with over the next year.</p> <p>Clive – grateful for her help. Remember that you have to have at least 2 adults for any children’s group.</p>	
11. AOB	None	
12. Closing prayer.	Clive	

St Mark's Annual Report, 2018

Vicar's Report

*"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"  
(Isaiah 43:19)*



On November 16<sup>th</sup> 1968 the foundation stone was laid for the current St Mark's Church building. Eight months later the first service was held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1969

That was almost fifty years ago and so we are going to start eight months of celebrations this coming November. The Church Committee decided to base these celebrations around the three parts of our mission statement, purpose, and reason for being here:

- To be enriched by the love of God
- To extend the welcome of God
- To express the compassion of God

So the current plans are to have the following:

*Purpose One: To be Enriched by the Love of God*

- Spirituality Day (summer 2019)
- Songs of Praise service (spring 2019)
- A string of services with special guest speakers including The Dean of Southwark, and those who have a special link with St Mark's (eg previous ministers) (from November 2018 to July 2019)

*Purpose Two: To Extend the Welcome of God*

- Celebratory concert (summer 2019).
- Exhibition on the history of St Mark's (November 2018 to July 2019)
- Freshening St Mark's interior (deep clean, entrance area, area at back of St Mark's) (throughout 2018)
- Merchandise and keepsakes (eg mugs, tea towels)

*Purpose Three: To Express the Compassion of God*

- A special carol service for the whole of central Wimbledon (in association with the Wimbledon Guild). (December 2018)
- A 60's party inviting the local community (eg Residents' Association, other users of the buildings) (Spring/Summer 2019)
- Update website
- Hosting a Christian play

You can see the foundation stone in the entrance area of St Mark's. The text on it reads:

This foundation stone of the new St Mark's Church was laid by men and women of different church traditions but of one faith in Christ as Lord.  
November 16th 1968

There are two things that strike me about these words. Firstly, it says 'men and women'. In the male dominated 1960's it would have been unusual to include women in this description.

It also says that it was laid by people “of different church traditions”. Again, in those days there wasn’t much work done between Christians of different traditions, so our forebears must have been quite the trail blazers.

Right from the very beginning of this building, then, we have this theme of inclusivity running through the church. At its heart it is about the inclusivity of God: that his love is for all. No ifs, no buts. All. That is grace. Grace means that there is nothing we can do to make God love us more and there is nothing we can do to make God love us less. I hope and pray that we can continue what our forebears started and enable this place to be somewhere where God’s love is experienced by everyone who comes through our doors, shown by our community—Christ in us.

Looking back over the past year our All-Age services have gone from strength to strength, especially with the contributions from *Cantores*, the Bishop Gilpin Choir, ably lead by Emily Jones. Our own choir is thriving too and we continue to be blessed with Ian’s excellent leadership as Director of Music. 2018 also saw the purchase of our new piano, generously donated by a large number of parishioners, and a great asset to the musical side of our worship.

Our Sunday Club is flourishing, and I’m grateful to Char and Beccy for co-ordinating the groups, and also to the many leaders and helpers. It is always a pleasure to welcome our children up to the front during the notices to discover what they have been learning about that morning.

St Mark’s couldn’t run without our Administrator, Hayley Rheinlander. She continues to provide consistently excellent work. Another key person in the life of our church is Beccy Broadley who co-ordinates our church bookings and regular hall bookings. As well as raising a huge amount of money (and it was an all-time record in 2017), her ministry is also vital in fostering good relationships with outside groups, for whom we might be the only contact they have with the church. I am extremely grateful.

Other volunteers that many church goers may not be aware of are Francis who looks after our website so well, Sandy who co-ordinates our flowers (and has introduced the very successful innovation of sponsored arrangements), and Sheila Dunman our Planned Giving Officer (watch out for in the next few weeks as we approach Stewardship Sunday on 20 May!). Then there are the members of our Church Committee (especially Liz Aram, Wendy McTernan, Becca Wright, and Sandy Blewitt who are standing down), servers, intercessors, readers, welcomers, choir members, and members of all our other groups.

We continue to be blessed with the ministry of our SPA (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary)—our Pastoral Minister, Paula Thorvaldsen. The sheer variety of ministry she undertakes for St Mark’s is incredible: she preaches regularly at our Wednesday services, visits parishioners in need, works tirelessly in our church school, is behind most of the social events that are so enjoyed by St Mark’s folk

(ably assisted by Morgen), and also graciously fills in the gaps of various rotas including wardening on a Sunday and leading intercessions. She also continues to be a huge support to me personally for which I am enormously grateful.

Zhikai Xai has done a fantastic job in his first year as Deputy Warden. I'm delighted that he will be standing for a second year. As well as the Sunday morning wardening duties, he has worked conscientiously on a number of projects to improve the fabric of the building.

He is, of course, deputy to Charles, who similarly became a warden last year and is going to serve for a second year, as well as maintaining his role as Reader. I want to say a special thank you to him for all he does. He continually crops up in my Gratitude Journal (*Thank you, Lord, for Charles*). As well as organising a phenomenal amount of work about the buildings, he has maintained his good humour and never forgotten that the purpose of the buildings is for the building up of the body of Christ. He is an inspiration to me.

*I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:18-19)*

*Revd Clive Gardner, Team Vicar, April 2018*

### **Book Discussion Group**

The book discussion group has been going since the end of 2012. To date we have met on twenty nine occasions.

We meet at roughly 6-8 weeks interval in the evening at my home. We discuss the book for over an hour, giving it a rating from 1-5 at the end of the discussion. We then decide on the next reading with a date all the while chatting and socialising over drinks and nibbles.

There are a few core members who generally attend most discussions, but we welcome people who can only come on an occasional basis or who are just interested in the particular book selected.

We mainly read novels, both from established writers and also from more modern ones. The books chosen are recommendations from individuals, either because they have read other books by the same author or because one or other titles and reviews have interested them.

Members in the group all bring a different twist to the discussion and even if the book has not been particularly enjoyed by one or more members, it is interesting to hear how the book has been received by others. Some of the titles

chosen have been 'outside' what people might choose to read, which is part of the interest of the group.

All are welcome to attend and it is not even necessary to have read the book. The discussion generates quite a lively cross exchange of thoughts and views.

*Kathy Pring  
April 2018*

### Deanery Synod

Merton Deanery Synod has met a number of times during 2017/8. At the first meeting in May a number of appointments were made, including Martin Osborne of Emanuel, Wimbledon was appointed as the new Lay Chair. At that meeting there was a presentation on the current prayer initiative, "Thy Kingdom Come", which is promoted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is intended to be a global prayer movement for the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost. The Deanery now has a website, written by Bruce Rickards, up and running - [mertondeanery.com](http://mertondeanery.com), and please do take a look at it.

At a meeting on 19th October at Holy Trinity on The Broadway, Bruce Rickards introduced himself as the new Area Dean. We had a presentation of the work undertaken by the Schools Christian Resource Centre, including school visits, and creative interaction in and out of school. This was followed by a presentation from Anne Deering, the chair of the Diocesan Lay leadership and Lay Ministry Advisory Group. This group has been tasked with finding ways to encourage the growth of lay ministry, to affirm laity and to develop its potential further. Its work overlaps with the National Church initiative, 'Setting God's People Free'.

Following on from that, we met a few months' later in small groups to discuss the Diocesan Lay Leadership and looked examples of lay leadership and ways in which we can respond by affirming and growing lay leaders and ministers.

*Paula Thorvaldsen  
Pastoral Minister*

### Electoral Roll

Our electoral roll now stands at 120. This compares to 134 at this time last year. We have added 10 people to the electoral roll and removed 24 people.

*Clive Gardner  
Shelagh Nicholls (Electoral Roll Officer)*

## Film Club

We continue to meet on the first Wednesday of every month (except January and August) at 2 pm in St Mark's Chapel. This year we watched:

- Sully
- Lion
- Untouchable
- Viceroy's House
- The Zookeeper's Wife
- Hampstead
- Hidden Figures
- Victoria and Abdul
- Lala Land
- Paddington 2

We normally have 7-10 people come and enjoy the afternoon's entertainment, preceded by tea and cakes. Although it's called a 'Club' everyone is welcome, and people bring their friends. There is no charge, but you can give a donation if you wish.

We are grateful to everyone who provides refreshments, and to Hugo who helps set up the projector and screen.

The DVD's that we have purchased during the year will be on sale at the Annual Church Meeting priced £3 each.

Films coming up for the rest of 2018 include:

- Murder on the Orient Express
- Inside I'm dancing
- Early Man
- Darkest Hour

*Clive Gardner*

## Home Group

The St Mark's Home Group covered a wide range of subject in the year. Its opening topic was Tyrants of 1st century Palestine looking at emperors, kings, tetrarchs and governors, each outdoing the last in bloodiness. In contrast the group looked at a series of Jesus' parables with each member leading us through different interpretations. Another subject that brought the group together was the Christian founded medical colleges of India, now under threat from the Indian government's Hinduisation agenda, but fighting for their right to stay independent through the courts.

The group closed in the autumn after studying some of the sayings of St Augustine of Hippo which drew out plenty of debate, before reopening in early 2018.

*Charles Esdale*

### Music

It has certainly been a productive year in the choir of St. Marks. I am proud to say that we have been able to take on some impressive works this year, especially some of the more complex and polyphonic renaissance and baroque music.

Since the last report, I am thrilled to say that we have taken delivery of our beautiful new piano. It has been noted (pun intended?) that the difference it has made to the music at St. Marks has been phenomenal. My wholehearted gratitude for all the support and donations that made this purchase possible.

I have been delighted with the sound from the Bishop Gilpin choir, Cantores recently - they are now singing complex pieces in three parts and have really developed in sonority as a choir. As always, it is a pleasure to work with Emily and the choir.

I am really looking forward to the next year's worth of repertoire, and also the arrival of a new potential, very young chorister; congratulations Jo and Francis!

*Ian Parker*

### Pastoral report

A healthy Christian community is one in which we seek to share Christ's love with all people so they know that they are loved, visitors are welcome and all people, young and old alike are valued and feel safe. In delivering pastoral care at St Mark's, both at times of crisis and in everyday life we try to ensure that pastoral care is an active proclamation of God's love in Christ for all the world.

In addition to administering care on a Sunday Morning, between Clive and me we visit many parishioners frequently who are ill or infirm at home or in hospital, and take Home Communion to those who are not able to attend church regularly. We also deal with day-to-day situations and emergencies as they arise. We are always keeping an eye out for visitors and new members of the congregation, whilst also looking for those who have not attended Church for a while either through illness or just not managing to get to the services. But we need your help too, and please let us know if you hear of anyone who is unwell or has not been to services for a while.

Another important part of our ministry is coming alongside those who are bereaved. At these times we offer prayer, a listening ear and very often, practical help.

All that we do is undergirded by prayer at our weekly pastoral care meetings, where Clive and I discuss church life and pastoral situations that have arisen.

It is important that we acknowledge that a lot of love, welcome and care is extended by members of the congregation in an informal way. If you wish to help, there are many ways you could get involved including meeting up with someone who is new to St Mark's, visiting those who are feeling isolated, are ill at home or are in a care home or hospital. It is very rewarding work and a parishioner I visit whose memory is starting to fade recently said: "Thank you for coming to see me, Paula. It is always so lovely to see someone who remembers me from when things were normal". I believe that all of us at St Mark's, hold something special in this respect, because so often we may be the only ones who knew that person before they became muddled or confused, and we may well remember details of their families, home, hobbies etc., and the part they played in church life and that can sometimes make someone feel really valued and jog their long-term memory. Maybe God is calling you and you could be that person to make a difference in someone else's life.

I would like to say an enormous thank you to Clive and Charles who are both so grace-filled and do much to support me in ministry, and also to all of you who contribute time and effort to enable St Mark's to thrive as it does. We have much to be grateful for and I thank God from the bottom of my heart for each one of you.

*Paula Thorvaldsen*  
*Pastoral Minister*

### **Servers and Chalice Assistants**

A big Thank You, as ever, to our dedicated team of servers and chalice assistants, many of whom have served St Mark's for a considerable number of years. Their contribution adds so much to the smooth running of our services.

I'm particularly grateful to Hugo who turns up to serve at the 10 am service almost every week, and also to Brian, Gerald and Michael who serve at the 8 am service. It is they who also do a lot of the unseen preparatory work for the 10 am Eucharist.

The group is growing with Leigh Terrafranca now firmly established, and Valerie Topp about to join the Wednesday team. It would still be lovely though if we could recruit a few more people to the role of server. It means helping out once every 4-8 weeks, and involves arriving at about 9.30 am, with about fifteen

minutes at the end of the service to tidy up. If you are interested, please let me know – don't be slow in coming forward!

*Clive Gardner*

### Treasurer's Report

I'm extremely grateful to Alice Feldwick for performing the role of the Treasurer of St Mark so effectively in 2017. Hye-Jung Park has also taken the minutes of our Finance Committee meetings very ably, and Adrian Johnson gave up his time to chair these meetings in a very professional manner. All three have stepped down now for different reasons. We are currently looking for a new Treasurer, and are considering employing someone in this role, as many other churches do.

The Finance Committee produced the following report for the Church Committee relating to the 2017 accounts:

We are very grateful that the Parish Treasurer, Fiona Hills, prepared the 2017 accounts. She kindly stood in for Alice Feldwick after the birth of her baby at the end of December.

The accounts show a surplus of £35,732 for 2017. This compares to a budgeted deficit of £35,394 (a difference of £71,126). The main reasons for this large difference are:

- The budgeted estimate for property maintenance was too high (by £23,431).
- Donations were higher than expected (by £13,876; including Gift Aid). This was mainly due to an unexpected one off donation of £12,500 (including Gift Aid).
- Rental income (church and hall) was higher than expected (by £12,459). Particular thanks to Beccy Broadley who deals with our church bookings and regular hall bookings!
- The amount paid to the parish was less than expected (by £8,806).
- The budgeted estimate for utilities costs was too high (by £8,056). Thanks to Hayley for sorting out a long standing problem of erroneous billing by our energy provider!
- The budgeted estimate for church running costs was too high (by £3,856).

Other things to note about the accounts are:

- On 31 December 2017 our total funds stood at £122,360.
- The classification of income and expenditure has changed from previous years at the request of the Parish Treasurer.

- This has meant that the 2017 budget and 2016 have had to be restated according to the new classifications, which has meant that sometimes direct comparisons are difficult (for example 'Church rooms rental').
- For the first time, the accounts were prepared using the accounting software Quickbooks.

*St Mark's Finance Committee*

*Clive Gardner (Vicar), Charles Esdale (Warden), Sheila Dunman (Planned Giving Officer)*

*7 March 2018*

<b>St Marks</b>				
<b>Financial Activities</b>				
<b>January - December 2017</b>				
	<b>Total</b>	2017 Budget	2016	Notes
<b>Income</b>				
<i>Church Hall Lettings</i>	70,981	48,375	61,119	Includes one off and regular rentals, and garden Main body of the church. Previously, church rental, chapter room, ark and vestry rental had been shown together. The 2017 figure sum of church rental and church rooms rental is £38,755.
<i>Church Rental</i>	21,141	44,111	43,024	
<i>Counselling Rooms</i>	5,209	10,000	4,686	
<i>Church rooms rental</i>	17,614	0	0	
<b>Total Church &amp; Hall Lettings</b>	<b>£114,944</b>	<b>£102,485</b>	<b>£108,829</b>	
<b>Collections</b>	5,031	4,356	4,009	Regular collections at services
<b>Donations</b>	44,559	35,211	61,969	Planned giving, one off donations, donations at Film Club and at Little Tots. 2106 figure includes £15,000 from Galustian flat income (2016 was the last year for this income) and a one off diocesan grant of £500. Removing £15,500 from the 2016 figure gives £46,469.
<b>Fetes, Bazaars, Fundraising, etc</b>	0	0	0	
<b>Investment Income</b>	1,285	500	1,254	Interest received.
<i>Other Incoming Resources</i>	62	0	6,005	Photocopier toner sold on ebay. 2016 figure is parish income.
<i>Unrealised investment income</i>	1,736	0	0	
<b>Total Other Incoming Resources</b>	<b>£1,798</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£6,005</b>	
<b>Rents Received</b>	12,282	12,706	12,260	Car park.
<b>Special Appeals</b>	32	0	0	Committee Day and Carrotty Wood
<b>Special Appeals - Restricted</b>	1,693	887	1,515	Donations for piano, famine appeal, Christian Aid
<b>Tax Recovered - Gift Aid</b>	14,957	10,429	12,916	
<b>Tax Recovered - Gift Aid Restricted</b>	360	222	188	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£196,941</b>	<b>£166,796</b>	<b>£208,942</b>	Total for 2017 budget agrees with budget approved by PCC on 5 Dec 16.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£196,941</b>	<b>£166,796</b>	<b>£208,942</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<b>Charitable Contributions</b>	6,386	5,110	5,661	10% of unrestricted voluntary income given to charities nominated by the congregation.
<b>Charitable Contributions - Restricted</b>	3,750	0	0	New piano.
<b>Church Hall Expenses</b>	81	673	858	
<b>Church Hall Utilities</b>	3,007	7,035	6,003	Electricity & gas, waste collection, water.
<i>Church Mission Expenses</i>	2,429	2,660	1,426	Social events, donkey for Palm Sunday, Film Club, sacraments, Vicar's Discretionary Fund (mainly food for homeless).
<i>Children's Ministry</i>	398	965	221	
<b>Total Church Mission Expenses</b>	<b>£2,827</b>	<b>£3,625</b>	<b>£1,647</b>	
<i>Church Running Expenses</i>	20,400	28,866	23,567	Including cleaner, insurance, flowers, bank charges, music expenses.
<i>Accounting software</i>	90	0	0	Quickbooks subscription
<i>Correcting entries from prior years</i>	-652	0	0	
<b>Total Church Running Expenses</b>	<b>£19,838</b>	<b>£28,866</b>	<b>£23,567</b>	
<b>Church Utilities</b>	3,007	7,035	6,003	Electricity & gas, waste collection, water.
<b>Diocesan Quota</b>	72,256	81,062	78,114	Includes the amount given to the Diocese and also to the parish.
<i>Fundraising Activities - Restricted</i>				
<i>Special Appeals</i>	646	0	0	Includes Christingle and Christian Aid collections.
<b>Total Fundraising Activities - Restricted</b>	<b>£646</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	
<b>Major Church Repairs</b>	2,832	3,000	3,656	
<b>Property Maintenance</b>	31,046	54,477	18,636	Includes work on Lantern and fire regulation works.
<i>Salaries, Wages and Honoraria</i>	15,066	11,307	35,767	Administrator and Director of Music. (Previously Director of Music was 'Church Running Expenses'; 2016 figure included Youth and Children's Worker)
<i>HMRC costs</i>	436	0	0	Mostly for Administrator. (Previously included with parish quota.)
<i>Pension costs</i>	32	0	0	(Previously included with parish quota.)
<b>Total Salaries, Wages and Honoraria</b>	<b>£15,534</b>	<b>£11,307</b>	<b>£35,767</b>	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>£161,209</b>	<b>£202,190</b>	<b>£179,913</b>	Total for 2017 budget agrees with budget approved by PCC on 5 Dec 16.
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>	<b>£35,732</b>	<b>-£35,394</b>	<b>£29,029</b>	

<b>St Marks</b>	
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	
<b>As of December 31, 2017</b>	
	<b>Total</b>
<b>Fixed Asset</b>	
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>	
<b>Investments</b>	
Satchell F - Fixed Interest	10,646.97
Satchell S - Investment Fund	21,245.42
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>£ 31,892.39</b>
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>£ 31,892.39</b>
<b>Total Fixed Asset</b>	<b>£ 31,892.39</b>
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>	
Cash at Bank	13,954.47
Deposit CCLA	55,620.67
<b>Total Cash at Bank</b>	<b>£ 69,575.14</b>
<b>Total Cash at bank and in hand</b>	<b>£ 69,575.14</b>
<b>Debtors</b>	
Debtors	566.52
Invoiced Debtors	25,185.75
<b>Total Debtors</b>	<b>£ 25,752.27</b>
Intercompany - Parish	-429.03
<b>Total Debtors</b>	<b>£ 25,323.24</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Other Debtors</b>	
Income Tax Refunds	4,473.89
<b>Total Other Debtors</b>	<b>£ 4,473.89</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>£ 4,473.89</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>£ 99,372.27</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	
<b>Trade Creditors</b>	
Accounts Payable	1,543.63
<b>Total Trade Creditors</b>	<b>£ 1,543.63</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accruals	7,361.14
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>£ 7,361.14</b>
<b>Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>£ 8,904.77</b>
<b>Net current assets (liabilities)</b>	<b>£ 90,467.50</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>£ 122,359.89</b>
<b>Total net assets (liabilities)</b>	<b>£ 122,359.89</b>
<b>Charity funds</b>	
Retained Earnings	86,627.78
Retained Earnings - Restricted	0.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	35,732.11
<b>Total Charity funds</b>	<b>£ 122,359.89</b>

*Clive Gardner, Acting Treasurer*

### Warden's Report

The year has seen an encouraging growth in numbers of worshippers and in members of the congregation willing to offer their time and talents. In particular it has been good to see the Sunday Club take an ever more prominent role in services and many now look forward to learning what the groups have been up to as the Club's members grow more confident with the PA system and sharing their growing faith.

Also connected with Sunday worship, the flower displays goes from strength to strength thanks to the leadership of Sandy Blewitt. Thanks are due too to post service hospitality of the coffee team, now led by Morgen Thorvaldsen, not to mention the many times meals and even fireworks have been set up for us by the many involved in hospitality. And of course we have our splendid choir, which each year grows in skill under our Director of Music, Ian Parker.

In April 2017 the church said goodbye to its former team of wardens. One of the outgoing team's last acts was to engage a local firm of surveyors to estimate for major works that could be undertaken. This provided a basis for the essential works of the year. 2018 will be the next rigorous inspection of the buildings of St Mark's by external architects, the "Quinquennial Inspection". In preparation we have carried out maintenance to the roof and steeple of the church – the "lantern" – and worked on reducing the risk to safety from fire. Our thanks to David Ainsworth for his level-headed expertise in describing the works needed to the competing building firms who tendered. As a church we praise local builders Cuddingtons who carried out much of the work to such a high standard and for a reasonable cost. My thanks too to Deputy Warden, Zhikai Xie who has taken on so much over the year and has kindly offered to support us in 2018-19.

Hall management has been carried out with the quiet and efficient skill we have enjoyed for some years of Rebecca Broadley. Rebecca has not only managed the premises smoothly but increased rental income with the same assiduous and painstaking thoroughness. This has resulted in a substantial growth in income which will ensure we are well set up to make the important decisions on what premises improvements to take on after receiving the Quinquennial Report.

Sadly the play area with its climbing towers had to be declared unfit for use in late summer. Repairs we hope will be carried out in 2018.

The whole congregation will join me in appreciating the work of Ken Cooper who has carried out a wide range of repair and maintenance works for us this past year. Jobs that have been outstanding for years have been sorted out. Ken has repaired the windows facing St Mark's Place, sorted out plumbing, repaired the roof and dealt with countless pieces of wood, metal and plasterboard

problems that would otherwise render the buildings unsightly, unsafe or unwelcoming.

A second area where the congregation will join me in thanking people relates to our finances. Alice Feldwick took on the role of Treasurer bringing a new calm and determination to the role. She addressed two areas that had caused worry and uncertainty in particular both by claiming outstanding Gift aid from HMRC and in organising repayment of a large intra-church debt that had grown over a number of years and pulled together the budget for 2018 which will see us through on a sound financial footing.

In addition Alice forged a new bond with the Parish Treasurer Fiona Hills which was the foundation for our accounts being in such good order at the end of the financial year when some of the reporting work had to be shouldered by Fiona. We are most grateful to both for this.

Lastly readers will join me in thanking Rev Clive Gardner, our vicar, for leading us this year, assisted by the interesting range of fellow clergy who have visited, mentioning in particular Canon Truss who now we look on as very much part of the St Mark's family and whose Advent sermon complete with the biggest tackiest chrome alarm clock prop will stay in memories for many years.

Together we now have a sharp focus on making 2018-19, our 50th year in the current church building, a year of outward mission, welcome and worship, with a united and sprit-filled Committee to guide us and a strong sense of purpose inspired by the love of God setting hearts on fire.

### Women's World Day of Prayer

This year the Women's World Day of Prayer was held on Friday 2 March 2018, which was a freezing cold and snowy day, but that didn't stop many people from coming to the morning service at Sacred Heart on Edge Hill, and the evening service at the Salvation Army on Kingston Road.

Women's World Day of Prayers is a worldwide Christian movement who come together to observe a common day of prayer and over 5000 services are held in England and Wales, uniting with over 170 countries in praise and worship. This year the service was written by the women of Suriname and the theme was "All God's Creation is Very Good". It was a challenging theme about our misuse of God's creation through selfishness and thoughtlessness and asked questions on how we can be better stewards of our earth. These are especially important questions for the people of Suriname as more than 90% of that country's population lives 2 meters or less above sea level, and as sea levels rise and extreme weather conditions become more frequent, much stands to be lost.

We look forward to next year's service on the first Friday in March.

*Paula Thorvaldsen*  
*Pastoral Minister*

## Youth and Children

2017/18 marks the second year that St. Mark's Youth and Children's ministry has been coordinated by volunteers. We are very grateful to all those members of the congregation who help support the Youth activities.

We are pleased to report that our regular Sunday Club groups continue to flourish. Sadly, yet understandably, the last mid-week pre-school playgroup session, Little Tots, took place in July 2017. Given its reliance on week-day volunteers, the viability of the group was an ongoing topic of discussion at our Youth and Children's meetings in the Summer term of 2017/18 and we concluded to end the sessions for the time being. We pray that Little Tots may resume at some point in the future as week-day helpers are able to come forward.

### Sunday Club

Sunday Club meets in two age-specific groups: Doves (Nursery and Reception aged children) and Eagles (all other ages) every Sunday during our 10am service (with a break during the main school holidays – Christmas, Easter and Summer). Over the last year we have continued devising the Sunday Club syllabus using the Urban Saints platform as well as other online resources. We have enjoyed adding new themes to the syllabus this year and our topics have included Encounters with Jesus, Miracles and Bible Characters. Our older children have been able to explore some less well-known Bible characters in their sessions and the younger children sang their hearts out in January, inviting the whole congregation to sing a song from Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat. This year we have also focussed on aligning our syllabus to events through the period and all the children have learnt about the religious significance of saints days and Remembrance Sunday.

It is now common practice that the children share their Sunday Club learnings with the congregation during the notices. This continues to be well received by members of the church and the confidence that it inspires in the children is so rewarding to see.

At Christmas we attempted our first "all-children" nativity performance with costumes, readings and a song. Thank you to Ian who accompanied us on the piano and a huge well done to all the children for delivering a joyous performance for us all to share with only two sessions' practice. We hope to repeat this in the future.

We have 28 registered children for Sunday Club, of which c.18 regularly attend.

### Other events

We held another hugely successful Fireworks Party in November 2017 which was extremely well attend (over 200 people) by members of our congregation as well as many families from our local community. We raised c.£730 at the retiring collection which covered the cost of the fireworks display and the food and drink organised by our hospitality team (big thanks to Andrew, Rupert, Paula and Morgen) with a fantastic remaining c.£280 which we hope to be put towards the repair of the children's climbing frame in the church garden. For the Christingle and Mother's Day services we thank members of the Youth team and the congregation for arranging and preparing all the Christingle and Posies.

*Charlotte Edgar & Rebecca Cox (with thanks to all those involved in St. Mark's Youth and Children's work).*