

## Churchwardens' Report to the APCM – 29 March 2020

### Articles of Enquiry

These have been completed in preparation for inspection by the Archdeacon during the Spring of 2019.

### Church Inspections (Saturday 20 May 2019)

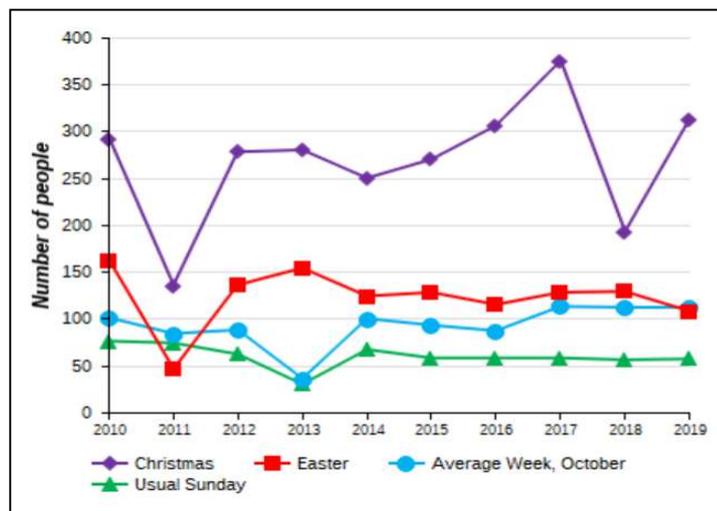
Revd Anita Colpus inspected both churches on the morning of 20 April 2019. There were no adverse issues raised.

### Congregational Count (Statistics for Mission)

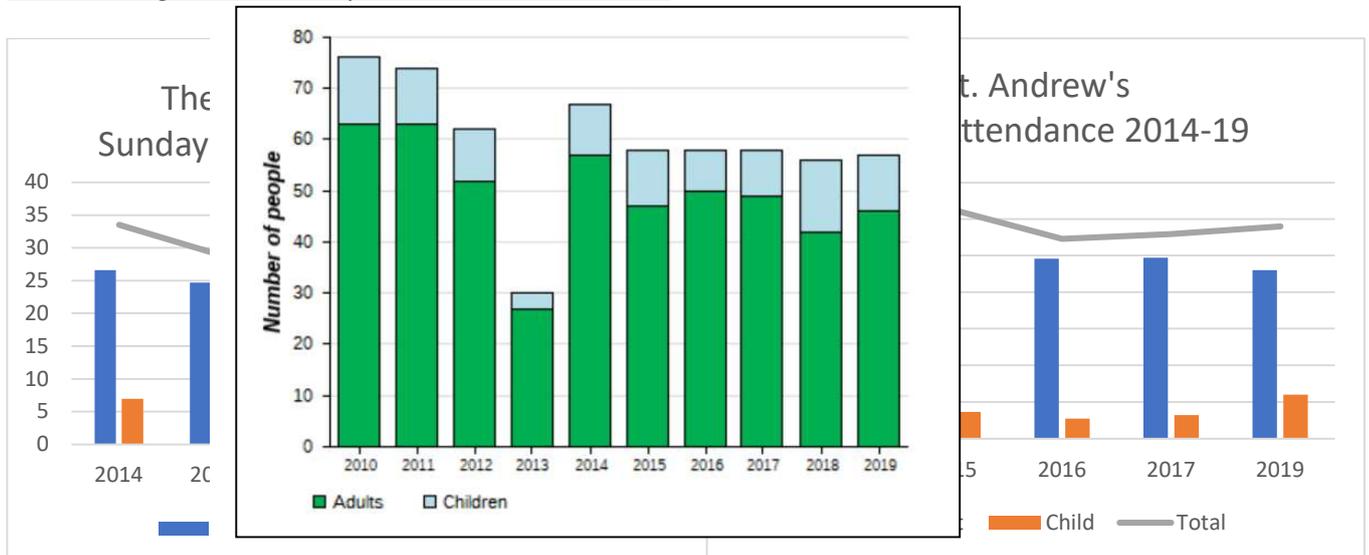
The returns for Statistics for Mission have been made to the diocese. With the exception of Christmas services which appear to fluctuate over time, the weekly attendance at our churches on Sundays has remained fairly static over the past 9 years, although there appears to have been a significant dip in 2013. Over the past 5 years congregational numbers have stabilised at between 50 and 60 on any given Sunday.

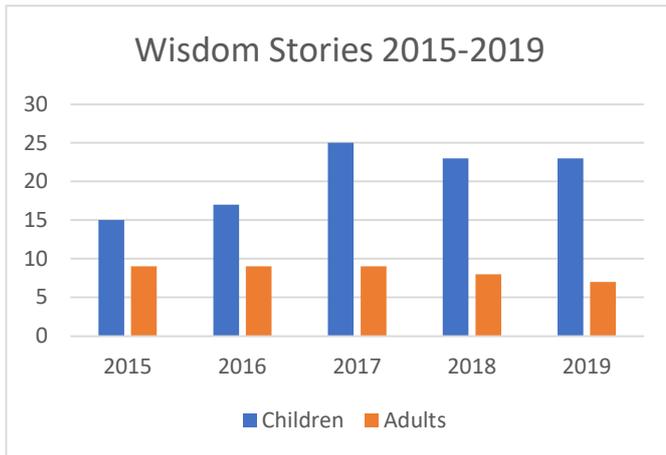
It is to be noted that the weekly attendance at Wisdom Stories has been maintained since 2015 and currently accounts for almost one third of the attendance at services in the parish. Several of the young people attending Wisdom Stories were amongst those baptised and confirmed this year. There were 6 baptisms recorded in 2018 compared to 21 in 2019.

### Parish of Kingswood - Attendance 2010 to 2019



### Parish of Kingswood - Sunday Attendance 2010 to 2019





Services in Holy Week and Easter were well attended this year, with small gatherings from both churches attending the three services of Compline, the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday and the Easter Vigil on Good Friday. The Easter Family Fun service at The Wisdom of God, held during the morning, was especially well attended and Jackie Cox and Anne Martin-Burns were occupied in clearing away after the activities until well into the early afternoon.

Easter Day services saw a high turn-out at each of our churches with 61 people attending St. Andrew's and 48 at The Wisdom of God.

The numbers in attendance at the Crib Services rose at both churches in 2019. Christmas Eve Communion at The Wisdom of God saw a decline in numbers, which may be attributable to the high turnout at the Crib Service, whilst there was an increase in attendance at Midnight Mass at St. Andrew's. Christmas Day attendance at St. Andrews remained stable.

	Crib Service		Christmas Eve Communion Midnight Mass		Christmas Day	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
St. Andrew's	57 Adults 26 Children	63 Adults 29 Children	40	54	33	34
The Wisdom of God	47 Adults 79 Children	56 Adults 91 Children	40	22		

**Mission Action Plan (2019-21)**

A summary of the key achievements from the 2017-18 Mission Action Plan (MAP) is presented below:

## Key Achievements

- ✓ Increase in weekly parish attendance of around 50% due to the participation of children at the Fresh Expressions (fxC) Wisdom Stories at Teatime, award winning Roots Youth Group and Roots Church.
- ✓ Record number of baptisms and confirmations in 2019.
- ✓ Licenced Lay Minister in Training.
- ✓ Increased support of the food bank, primary school, nursing homes.
- ✓ Upgrades in Church Hall accommodation.
- ✓ Stability in finance over the 3 years of the Plan.

## Aspirations

- ✓ The provision of an annex equipped with toilets, a meeting room and office to provide additional facilities for the congregation, parishioners and visitors at The Wisdom of God.
- ✓ To recruit a wider range of parishioners to voluntary work within our churches.
- ✓ To extend Roots Youth Group to running fortnightly with Youth Worker support and Youth Discussion Group.
- ✓ To embed wider pastoral visiting in homes, nursing care
- ✓ To increase giving in the parish through a stewardship campaign in 2021.

The Mission Action Plan of the Parish of Kingswood for 2019 -2021 has been drafted with close reference to the following:

The Anglican Consultative Council's 'Five Marks of Mission';

The 'Five Values for a Missionary Church' set out in 'Mission Shaped Church';

The five goals of the Diocese of Southwark, set out in its vision for mission 'Hearts on Fire with the Love of Christ'.

The Mission Statement of the Parish of Kingswood.

The Key Priorities for 2019-21 are as follows:

Grow community participation

Develop the practice and culture of worship and prayer

Develop within the parish a fuller knowledge and understanding of the Gospel

Address the needs of our wider community

Ensure the financial security of the Parish and its ability to contribute generously to the Parish support fund.

The full MAP is available on request from the Churchwardens or Church Administrator.

### **Maintenance and Quinquennial Works**

Since the last APCM, gutters and downpipes have been cleared, boilers and fire extinguishers serviced, and PAT testing undertaken at both churches.

At St. Andrew's, urgent roof repair work was completed during the summer, and work has been undertaken to repair the roof where water ingress was taking place. The boiler house roof has been renewed and the drainage problems solved, which is expected to alleviate damp in the south transept.

On 2 November, Frank Foxen arranged a working party, the members of which toiled throughout the heavy rain and the lure of the Rugby World Cup final, to bring about a transformation in the appearance of the churchyard.

At The Wisdom of God the door handle repair has been effected at no cost.

### **Visit from Bishop Jonathan (Mothering Sunday, 31 March 2019)**

Bishop Jonathan's visit to The Wisdom of God, was very successful with good attendance, especially from those children and families who attend Wisdom Stories at Teatime and the uniformed organisations.

### **Lower Kingswood Village Fete (Monday 6 May 2019)**

Jackie Cox, Casey Foulkes and Anne Martin-Burns represented the parish at the Lower Kingswood Village fete on Bank Holiday Monday, 6 May 2019, running a bottle tombola, which appeared to have been well stocked by donations from members of the parish.

### **Parish Fete (Saturday 7 September 2019)**

The Parish Fete was well attended by the local community and the Punch and Judy show was a great draw for the children. Drinks and barbeque food sold out during the afternoon and the wide range of stalls including that run by Kingswood Court were popular.

The net income from the fete was £2,735.00, a very pleasing increase on the £1,845.99 raised in the previous year.

### **Harvest Festival (Sunday 13 October 2019)**

The Harvest Festival services at each church drew reasonably large congregations, with many children and the uniformed organizations being present. Donations to the food bank were significant and we are grateful to Alison Knibbs for her work in arranging the delivery of these to St. Matthew's, Redhill.

### **All Souls' Evensong (Sunday 3 November 2019)**

This was a very moving service, augmented by the choir and offering comfort to those present who were either recently bereaved or remembering loved ones whom they had lost over the years, through an inspiring sermon from Chris.

### **Remembrance Service (Sunday 10 November 2019)**

The Parish gather around the War Memorial on Sunday 10 November for the Remembrance Service, with the Uniformed organizations laying poppies before the main congregation followed suit. Sound was provided by Marcus Martin-Burns, to whom we are grateful for his efforts.

### **Rejoice and Wassail (Friday 13 December 2019)**

Although reasonably well attended, the Rejoice and Wassail concert saw a dip in attendance in 2019 and this conforms to an emerging pattern in respect of its fundraising:

2016	£ 930.00
2017	£ 804.60
2018	£ 788.54
2019	£ 643.28

The choir has carried out a review of the event, the format of which it intends to refresh for 2020. It is felt that the concert should continue, given that it is the parishes second biggest fundraiser after the annual fete.

### **Churchwarden Succession Planning**

Ron Searle will complete his 6<sup>th</sup> successive year as Churchwarden at the APCM. Although this constitutes the limit for service in the role, the Archdeacon of Reigate has agreed that, in the absence of a candidate for the role, he may continue for one further year. Graeme Hopkins has agreed to stand for the post of Deputy Churchwarden at The Wisdom of God, for which the current churchwardens are most grateful.

Anne Bennett has agreed to stand for a further year. There is currently no candidate for a future Churchwarden at St. Andrew's and it is essential that we carry out some significant succession planning in the coming year to ensure that these posts are filled at the next APCM.

**Anne Bennett and Ron Searle**

## **Church Hall Committee**

### **Appointment of Treasurer**

The Church Hall committee was very sad to say goodbye to Casey Foulkes this year, having served as Treasurer for 13 years, her sense of humour and sound advice are be greatly missed. The committee is grateful to Colin Miles, who has assumed the role on Thursday 9 May 2019. Colin has lived in the village for many years and was treasurer of the Scouts for many years.

### **Church Hall Committee Membership**

Tracey Milbourn, Secretary of the Committee, also stood down from the committee this year and the team is keen to express its gratitude to her for her work over many years.

The Hall continues to be well used and at our next committee meeting we will be thinking about a plan of jobs / renovations that need doing in the next few years.

Alison Newman, who has served the Church Hall Committee so diligently as Chair for the past 10 years, has signalled her intention to step down from the committee at the end of 2020. The committee is seeking a replacement.

### **Church Hall Accounts**

The Church Hall Committee reports to the PCC regularly on the Hall's financial accounts.

The parish's registration with the Charity Commission had required reporting to be arranged in a slightly different fashion than hitherto and Frank Foxen is working with Colin Miles to ensure that Church Hall finances are reported so as to assist in presenting the parish returns in the newly compliant form.

### **Maintenance**

The floor was last treated in 2016 at a cost of £500 and it is necessary that it is waxed again this Summer. The committee will arrange for this work to be completed.

There has been significant expenditure during 2019. The kitchen was fully refurbished at the beginning of the year.

The toilets have been refurbished to a high standard at a cost of £18,734.80, c.£4,234 above the original estimate. The increased expenditure was in respect of upgraded doors, hand driers, kick plates, and a new consumer unit with circuit breakers/trips and RCDs to accommodate the new facilities.

The radiators in the main Hall space are badly chipped and will need to be refurbished in the near future to maintain the overall attractive appearance of the accommodation. It would be desirable that the hall should be fully redecorated when this work is carried out. It was decided to defer this re-decoration of the Hall, the cost of which is estimated at £9,963.00.

It was agreed that the pothole at the entrance of the Church Hall car park would be repaired at a cost of £900.

**Alison Newman**

## **Safeguarding Report**

### **Health and Safety Officers**

Having served as Health and Safety Officer at St. Andrew's since the resignation of Richard Wells, Michael Hannah has decided to stand down from the role. We are hugely grateful to Michael for his service.

**General Update**

There have been no safeguarding incidents since the last APCM.

**Past Case Review**

The parish has made a nil return submission to the Bishop of Southwark's Past Cases Review.

**Safeguarding Policy**

The policy was reviewed and re-adopted at the meeting of 4 September 2019.

**Safeguarding Office**

Lizzie Searle has agreed to act as the Parish Safeguarding officer, following the APCM, if agreed.

Ron Searle

## Health and Safety Report

**H&S Policy**

A copy of the revised policy was adopted at the meeting of the PCC on 4 September 2019.

**H&S Audits**

Health and Safety audits have been carried out for both Churches. There are currently no concerns and regular checks are carried out and recorded.

**H&S Officers**

Jim Hewitt has kindly agreed to stand as Health and Safety Officer at St. Andrew's. We welcome him warmly to the role. Ron Searle will continue as Health and Safety Officer at The Wisdom of God and to have oversight of the two churches, during Jim's settling in period.

**Fire Drill**

Each church should carry out an evacuation practice during September 2019. Ron Searle will arrange this.

**Accident Reporting**

No accidents have been reported since the last meeting.

Ron Searle

## Wisdom Stories

This has been an exciting year as the Wisdom stories worship continues to thrive with attendance generally form 25 to 30 children. We have a supportive band of helpers who attend virtually every week, organising the preparation of food, setting up and clearing of all the tables and serving the children. Thanks to Jayde Davis for organising the food rota, to Kate Love, Jo Anderson, Amanda Lill and Sarah Dixey for all the food provision and the organisation of the walking bus from school. A large thank you also to Alison Knibbs and Angela Robertson who do a wonderful job every week in setting up serving and clearing up as well as supporting Chris in leading worship.

In September a few of the leaders were able to attend the diocesan day on Refreshing church which stimulated many of us.

## Monthly Coffee Circle

Again this continues to be valuable pastoral work in the parish as we have a regular attendance by senior members of our local community. It is our chance to connect with these local people and they are able to hear about events in our parish. We have also formed good links with Rod Asford our local councillor who promotes the church events as well.

Thank you to Lindsay Cole, Val Bays, Judy Parfitt, Shirley Eason and Sharon Childs for all their beautiful cakes and tireless help in running the coffee mornings. Thanks also to Brenda Avery who has been able to help from time to time despite her responsibilities as a full time carer.

## Family Fun Sessions

We ran 3 of these sessions in 2019, Sunday 20th January - Topic Epiphany, Good Friday - Topic Easter and Sunday 17th November - Topic Celebration.

The first two were well attended the third less so but the children enjoyed crafts, cooking and games at all the sessions.

Thanks again to all the parents involved in preparation and who attended as well (Dads included!) and in addition thanks to Faye Miles, Jackie Cox and Anne Martin-Burns who commit to helping at all these sessions too.

## Pastoral visiting

This continues to be done in a limited ad hoc way with no resource to form a structured visiting team. This remains an aspiration for the future.

On 19/02 Chris and I attended a carers' conference organised jointly by both Southwark and Chichester Diocese in Reigate. A very interesting and informative day and useful links were established within the deanery.

On 16/03 Jackie Cox and I were invited to a tea with Bishop Jonathan to celebrate Youth work within the south of the diocese. Again a useful networking event with lots of information on youth work. This was our first exposure to the CSI program developed by Christ church Purley and was an inspiring experience. Something we hope to develop within our parish in 2021 with local schools.

**Linda Utting**

## Deanery Synod

The role of Deanery Synod Representative is to act as an intermediary between the local PCC and the synod, representing the views of the parish at the synod meetings and feeding the issues raised by the Synod back to the PCC. Jane Hollington and I were elected to be the parish representatives for 3 years in April 2017.

There are three meetings each year with the venue rotating around the churches in the deanery.

The meetings always include an act of worship.

The deanery has focussed on the following areas over the past three-year term.

### Refugees

Reigate & Banstead started in 2015 to help refugee families from Syria and it was felt that the Reigate Deanery would like to support this initiative. It was agreed by Synod that television and wi-fi would be something that Reigate Deanery could supply.

Currently the deanery has provided 10 televisions and wi-fi for 6 families and this has been very successful and much appreciated. Other refugee families are to be supported by R&B moving forward and this is something the Deanery may well continue to support.

### **Social Justice**

Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus (RASJF) has come together and incorporates representatives from Reigate Deanery, Tandridge Deanery and Sutton Deanery. They currently focus on 3 main areas of Social Justice needs: 1. Modern Slavery, 2. Youth Violence & 3. County Lines. A forum was put on to cover the 3 issues above. It became clear that there were crossovers in these areas and also with domestic violence and teenage mental health, so these have been added to the areas to be focused on by RASJF.

### **Thy Kingdom Come**

Thy Kingdom Come has been happening across the Deanery for the last 2 years and has four elements to it: The Ascension Day service; A prayer space for the public all week in Redhill Tabernacle; A prayer walk and Pentecost in the Park. See below for dates for 2020

### **Conferences**

Conferences have been run which have enabled relationships to grow between the church and local authorities (and other volunteer agencies) and those without church affiliation. It is realised that individual churches can no longer meet the full needs of others in isolation and that working together is more beneficial. Conferences can be very powerful. Bringing together people from both sacred and secular backgrounds to focus on wider community issues and discover a common passion to make life better for people.

The Deanery have run 3 conferences (2 @ St. Matthews, 1 @ St. Bede's School). Churches have done this working together and been the enabler to bring people together, which has proved really valuable and important.

There was also a Carer's Conference and more recently the Social Justice Forum

### **Quiet Days**

Reigate Deanery hosts a Quiet Day on the Saturday before Palm Sunday (this year Sat 4<sup>th</sup> April) at Wychcroft, near Bletchingly.

Wychcroft is a Southwark Diocesan Training Centre set in a Victorian country house which is an ideal place for a Quiet Day and generates an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. The day is from 9.30am – 4pm with 3 sessions, Eucharist and an appointed speaker. There are quiet times in between for reflection or wandering around the beautiful grounds. It provides a lovely time to be peaceful. Refreshments & lunch are provided. A quiet day is an excellent way to lead into Holy Week. Speakers always give everyone lots to think about and take away.

### **Youth & Children – Parish Reps**

5 years ago Southwark Diocese decided to have Parish Reps and a "Deanery Champion" for Youth & Children working together.

Active Parish Reps for children and young people from all churches is really useful. The meetings and community are very valuable to enable joined up and focused work.

### **Deanery Financial Support of Youth Trips**

The Deanery supports trips for children within the wider church family an example of which is seen below. Amy is a youth worker at St. Margaret's, Chipstead. Last year the Deanery helped fund a youth group sailing week to the Norfolk Broads, led by Amy. The Deanery funded the mini-bus so they could all travel up together and paid for two of the young people who otherwise couldn't afford to go.

Twelve young people went along for sailing and did lots of fun activities and shared worship. Was a great learning and growing weekend for the everyone involved. The trip is happening again this year with 9 booked so far and hopes for 2 more.

### **Wholeness & Healing Services**

In 2015 a small group of interested people within the Deanery explored the possibility of a Healing Ministry. They wanted to offer periodic services within the Deanery to churches where healing services were not necessarily part of what they would do.

The first service was held at All Saints, Merstham in July 2016 and since had many other services. The services are described as "a time to rest and worship in God's presence".

They involve music, bible readings, sometimes eucharist and each service has a time for quietness and reflection and bringing hurt and pain to God. A major part is seeking (and receiving) individual prayer at a prayer station.

Next Service is at All Saints, Merstham - 29<sup>th</sup> March – “Come and See!”

### **Courses**

A course was run 2 years ago which arose out of Synod discussion around the 5 marks of mission.

The course was around “How Can I Tell?”, which is sometimes quite difficult, but important. The course had two parts: 1<sup>st</sup> part – “What should we tell?” and the 2<sup>nd</sup> part – “How should we go out and tell people?”

People tend to attend courses run in their own church – so it is anticipated running courses in different churches to draw in different people to learn together.

### **Forthcoming events**

#### **Make Lunch**

The deanery is exploring how to respond to holiday hunger. It is anticipated that Make Lunch will happen this coming Summer 2020 to provide lunches for those in need. Anybody interested should speak to Alison or email on: [alison@stlukesreigate.org.uk](mailto:alison@stlukesreigate.org.uk) – It is important that lots of people are involved physically, through prayer and financially. Any ideas or offers of help would be great.

#### **Thy Kingdom Come this year:**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May – **Ascension Day Service** - Reigate Hill, Wray Lane, 6.30pm picnic, 7.00pm service

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May – **Prayer Space** - Redhill Tabernacle, Station Road, Redhill, 8.00am-6.00pm

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - **Prayer Walking** (more details to follow)

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May - **Pentecost in the Park** - Redhill Memorial Ground, London Road, 3.30pm-5.00pm

**Alison Knibbs**

## **Evening Home Group**

The Evening home group has continued to meet fortnightly throughout the year either at the home of Alison and Graeme Knibbs or other member’s homes.

The evenings centre around bible study sometimes including listening to recordings of talks etc on a particular bible passage. Over the course of this year we have completed our studies of the Acts of the Apostles and moved on to study the letter of James. James has sparked questions which we have explored of what prayer means to us, how we should respond to temptation, should Christians be angry, faith vs works amongst many other challenging questions. We have enjoyed debating key issues and it is of great benefit that we don’t always agree but that we are able to listen to others views and extend our own knowledge of and response to God’s word.

At Christmas we also shared communion over a meal which Chris kindly facilitated for us.

As a group we continue to enjoy encouraging one another through sharing our experiences of God and growing in prayer for each other, the life of the parish and other things that are inspired by our discussions. We would very much welcome anyone interested in joining the group. No qualifications needed, just an enquiring mind, a desire to grow in faith and a lively sense of humour 😊

**Alison and Graeme Knibbs**

## **Events Committee**

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June we had a very successful trip to West Wycombe Park, the vast estate of the Dashwood family, in Buckinghamshire. Our first destination was St. Lawrence's Church, where parishioners warmly welcomed us with tea, coffee and scrumptious cakes. Armed with guidebooks, we toured the elegant church, rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> c. to match the style of the main house, then on to the nearby Mausoleum, an extraordinary roofless flint building containing several memorials to the Dashwood family. Lunch was taken down in the valley, in the picturesque village of West Wycombe, now looked after by the National Trust. The afternoon was spent visiting the main house on the other side of the valley. It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sir Francis Dashwood (of 'Hell Fire Club' fame) who remodelled the original Queen Anne house into a fashionable Palladian style villa. We were taken round the eight state rooms open by the public by excellent guides, who entertained us with stories of the flamboyant Dashwood family.

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October our coach was full to the last seat for a visit to the Playhouse Theatre in London, where we attended a performance of 'Fiddler on the Roof'. Traffic in London had been brought to a standstill by a vast climate change protest. Fortunately, our driver managed to dodge all the road closure and got us to the theatre in good time. In Trevor Nunn's much acclaimed production the stage was filled with a realistic recreation of a Jewish 'shtetl', where crooked wooden houses were hunched against a backdrop of bare trees. The seating in the auditorium had been reconfigured in such a way as to allow the cast to move among the audience. Well-loved tunes, lively choreography and many a moving moment made for a truly memorable evening.

Pia Chamberlain

## **Junior Church at St Andrew's**

This year Junior Church has continued to run on the first and third Sundays of each month during term time. I continue to be extremely lucky to have such great support as another leader from Jenny Mama. We have been very fortunate to have Kate, Jane and Friede as helpers as well as our children when they are around. It is sometimes difficult due to holidays and other commitments so we do really appreciate the time and effort everyone gives. We are still a very small group, but we always have fun and are pleased to see visitors!

Even though we are just a small number, I feel that Junior Church is an enjoyable and welcome part of St Andrews. I have gained so much myself from being involved even though I may have had a tiring work week! The children are always inquisitive about all the bible stories we tell, lively and interesting to teach.

I am also so lucky to have older children happy to come along and help - especially at Christmas and Easter.

Alison Boote

**Parish of Kingswood**  
**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Priest in Charge Report**

Out of necessity, this report is for the Calendar Year 2019 because this is when our Financial year runs and to meet the requirements of the Church Representational Rules and Charity Commission requirements.

**Worship**

I'm grateful to the Church Wardens for the comprehensive information provided on worship attendance in their report.

At the Wisdom of God, Wisdom Stories at Tea Time on Wednesdays continues to maintain its strength and is the best attended service in the parish with regularly up to 30 children and up to a dozen adults. A "Walking Bus" continues to operate from Kingswood Primary School organised by parent helpers using WhatsApp. My thanks go to the many volunteers whose support for this Fresh Expression of worship is invaluable. A number of them were Baptised and Confirmed in November 2019 and we hope to do more to help this continue to nurture a lasting faith when the children move on to Secondary School and through our youth work.

ROOTS Church, on the second Sunday of the month, no longer has the help from Rev'd Anna Moore and Archdeacon Moira Astin. However, my husband, Rev'd Martin Colton, Vicar of St Mark's, Reigate, has helped me continue with Roots since September. Roots Church is a service provision for those in school years 6 and above. This begins with food and then have craft and drama activities which feed in to their closing act of worship. More helpers are needed to facilitate this further Fresh Expression of worship in the parish if it is to be sustainable.

Sunday Family Fun continues to run once a term on a Sunday afternoon. This gives the children and their families an opportunity to spend time reflecting on the biblical theme for the worship that day. It is well attended and I'm grateful for those who support this by helping prepare and facilitate the activities.

I continue to hold a monthly Communion Service at Furze Hill Lodge and at Kingswood Court with the addition of services of Hymns and prayers for Harvest and Christmas at Kingswood Court. At Warrengate Care Home I am extremely grateful to Anne Bennett who comes to play the piano for the monthly service of Hymns and prayers.

**Remembrance Sunday**

Remembrance Sunday was, by popular demand, again held entirely at St Andrew's beginning with an act of commemoration and two minutes silence at the War Memorial. The service then moved inside the church and young people from the uniformed organisations, having paraded their flags, were provided with age appropriate activities in the St Andrew's room and the vestry during the formal worship. They joined the congregation again for the blessing and National Anthem. My thanks go especially to Marcus Martin-Burns who provided the sound system at the War Memorial and to those who provided the activities for the young people.

### **All Souls' Service**

Our Annual All Souls' Service was well attended. Many of those who had expressed a wish to be invited back came along with others from the parish.

### **Occasional Offices**

Over the year, it has been a pleasure to Baptize a record 21 children. 12 Young people from the parish were confirmed in November at St Mark's, Reigate.

I have had the privilege of officiating at 11 Funeral services during the course of the year. There was just 1 wedding.

### **Ministry Team**

I have been meeting with two others for prayer in church early most Wednesdays. These regular prayers greatly support the life and ministry of the parish.

Graeme and Alison Knibbs run the Wednesday evening study group. I am very grateful to them for their contributions in this. I look forward to Ron Searle being Licensed as a Reader next year and am thankful for the help he is already giving me in the parish. I am grateful to Linda Utting for all that she does to support me in my ministry in the parish and in conducting her ministry as SPA in her own right.

### **Safeguarding**

Jane Hollington and Ron Searle have been Safeguarding Officers for the parish in 2019 for which I am very grateful. Jane has now stepped down from this role and Ron will be stepping down shortly. I look forward to working with Lizzie Searle as Parish Safeguarding Officer in the new year. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). A nil return was sent for this parish in the Church of England Past Cases Review.

### **Other Ministry**

The ROOTS Youth Club: A Youth Worker from Surrey Clubs for Young People has been engaged on a sessional basis and a number of grants have been made to the club to fund this. My thanks to Jackie Cox, our Children's and Youth Champion and all the volunteers for their work with this.

### **Uniformed Organisations**

Links with the local uniformed organisations are healthy and the parade services include an opportunity for the young people to bring their flags and contribute their own prayers and poems as part of the worship.

### **Schools Work**

Various classes have visited as part of their Religious Education curriculum and it's always a pleasure to meet with them. I regularly visit Kingswood Primary School to take assemblies and receive a great welcome from the children who all seem to know me. Once again we welcomed the school into The Wisdom of God for their annual Nativity Plays and this offers such an opportunity to bring in parents and carers from the community who otherwise might not enter the church.

There continued to be a steady stream of groups visiting the Wisdom of God where special arrangements were made to welcome them. I would like to thank Judy Parfitt, Lindsay

Cole, Alison Knibbs and Ron Searle for accommodating these visits when I have been unable to attend myself.

### **Social Media**

Our Website: [Parishofkingswood.org.uk](http://Parishofkingswood.org.uk) appears to be a helpful way for people to glean information about the parish as many enquiries come to me via a link there or via the website 'A Church Near You'. Statistics show that our Facebook Pages: 'Parish of Kingswood'; 'Church of the Wisdom of God'; and 'St Andrew's Church, Kingswood' are also a very useful way of informing people of our worship and events. As mentioned before, contact for the co-ordination of our Youth Work mainly takes place using WhatsApp.

### **Parish Magazine**

I would like to thank Graeme Knibbs who, with help from his wife Alison, edits and publishes the Parish Magazine both online and in print form.

### **Potential Development**

During the course of the year the PCC have seeking Pre-planning advice for Reigate and Banstead Council with a view to progressing the vision for an Annexe at the Wisdom of God. As and when there are plans and further details to discuss, the PCC will hold a presentation to our members and the community for wider consultation. If anyone is keen to support this project by pledging funds towards it, please speak to me or our Treasurer, Frank Foxen, about it.

### **Looking forward**

Our Mission Action Plan is being continually reviewed. My thanks go to Ron Searle for his work on this.

There are so many people who do so many jobs, often quietly in the background, and I would like to thank all of them for giving of their time, talents and energy, and by naming some, I am bound to forget others. I apologise in advance if this is the case but want to extend my special thanks to Ron Searle and Anne Bennett as Church Wardens. Thanks also go, to the Deputy Warden, Jane Hollington. My grateful thanks also go to Lindsay Cole as Parish Administrator and PCC Secretary; to Frank Foxen as Treasurer and Organist; to members of the PCC and Deanery Synod who undertake more than just the governance of the parish but many other roles in addition. Thanks also go to those who clean both our churches, those who arrange flowers, arrange social activities and fundraising events. Thanks also to our Choir and to David Fishwick who plays the organ on occasions. To all those who act as sidesmen, read lessons, lead intercessions, make coffee, or serve at the altar, I am very grateful.

I thank everyone who has submitted a report for this meeting and may you continue to find joy in facilitating the mission and ministry in this parish.

Rev'd Christine Colton  
Priest in charge. March 2020.