



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21 ST JOHN'S, HURST GREEN



Rector's Report

'And the Word became Flesh and made his dwelling among us'
John 1:14

These words are written on the John Hayward painting by the font in church. Underneath in fading letters is written 'St John's Church'. For me, no words better express the kind of church we have been over this last year living as the body of Christ in amongst our community.

This painting is located at the physical and spiritual place of welcome to the church family and also our sending out into the world after worship together.

'Blended' is a word we now use to mean a mix of the old and new ways, of online and in person. Blended education, work life, and now church, both in and beyond the building.

In our worship, Jesus has definitely dwelt among us, in our homes and lives perhaps more than ever. This really came home to me not just with our weekly online services but when we took the nativity out from the church into Hurst Green via a wonderful, contemporary online production with singing and prayers and involving all sorts of local people and organisations - over 1000 people viewed all or some of it online. We also delivered a creative 'nativity in a box' to families at home. I wondered at the time if in these ways a sense of the incarnation of Jesus in our lives was more tangible this year, in homes, hearts and family celebrations.



As the body of Christ, we have also journeyed with compassion alongside those in need, those who have been ill, those who lost loved ones. Jesus has been made known in our community and people's lives. We made

sure we were easily available and contactable for any needing help, and I spoke to so many people I did not know or had never spoken to before.

Despite the struggles of this year, the sense of positivity, warmth, encouragement and joy I have received in gratitude for what St John's has shared, has been truly heart-warming. The joy of the Gospel, Christ himself, seemed to come alive.

Now we are gradually easing back into the church building. But many have said 'we cannot go back'. We have learnt so much, tasted too much of what it means to be the Word made flesh today as we live out our faith beyond the building as well as in it. A blended approach will continue. New ways of worship online will need to continue - there are just too many people 'on the edges' who have experienced God's presence in this way for us to stop. New kinds of worship which we have enjoyed will come *into* church and there will be greater variety and breadth of generations who help to lead. Our missional life will become more relevant and engaged and to this end Lotwina is leading our investigations into setting up a Food Bank or similar. And I believe St John's will move more to the heart of Hurst Green with our new project to 'lower' the threshold and help people and groups step inside the church for worship, mission and community.



There are many more than usual to thank and I cannot do so by name. But I am so grateful for everyone who has risen to the challenge. The ministry team (clergy, our SPA Monica and Readers Wendy and Fiona from St George's) has been so mutually supportive and now meet together regularly via Zoom. And it has brought great joy to us all to welcome Lotwina as our curate (and her family). I know her ministry, enthusiasm, warmth and passion for the Gospel has really been appreciated and will help spur us on!

The pandemic could have brought the beginning of the end to church life. But instead, I believe somehow God is working his purpose out and I feel hopeful and excited for a new era for the church and the Gospel. I pray you're feeling hopeful too and excited to share in this wonderful adventure of living, breathing and sharing Christ and his love with all!

Revd Canon Anna Eltringham, Rector Oxted Team

Assistant Clergy Report

Charles Bradshaw

I have spent the last year largely reading, and have got through 75 books. This includes a mixture of theology, biblical history and the arts. I have also taken to listening to the BBC Radio 4 religious output, and have got a great deal from the various offerings. It became clear after one broadcast that as a Christian church and community we need to look at the question of the serious growth of poverty in our country, and our need to ask deep questions in a post pandemic world.

Neville Jacobs

As a family we have been relatively fortunate, so far in this epidemic. For us, it has been the youngest generation most hit, but I can't wait for it all to be over. I am quite surprised how much it is beginning to affect me. All of us have used our phones a great deal as a means of keeping in touch. I have enjoyed reaching out to former parishioners of mine, and have made contact again as far back as the late 1950s. It has been great taking up the threads again after so long.

For my own welfare, the online Retreats and Courses organised by St Augustine's College of Theology are being an absolute boon. They find me taking up the discipline of 'Journaling' (recording our thoughts and insights on paper) again. In our often distracted state, simply taking up a pen and noting down what you are thinking about is a huge balm to the spirit. All this is available to anybody who wants it. A courtesy seat on Anna's informal Staff Team keeps me up to speed and in touch with what is going on.

Mary Seller

I have enjoyed this year of enforced isolation - but then, I am one of the lucky ones, I have kept well and have no money worries. Every day,

unless the weather is really bad, I walk around the village, and in the process always meet someone to talk to and find out how they are. I may knock on someone's door and have a socially distanced chat on their doorstep. This augments the other part of my lockdown ministry that I began right at the outset, that of phoning church members on a regular basis to keep in touch.

It has been sad not having church services, but it has been a delight to contribute to the on-line services that the Oxted Team Ministry has been providing. How odd it is to stand in an empty church in the mid-week, with your smartphone before you balanced on a support, while you video your contribution to the service. Times are indeed strange. But what a joy these services are as they enable us to get to know our neighbours in other churches, allow ingenuity to flourish, and talents to be shared and enjoyed by all.

I continue to try to keep the churchyard tidy, as litter does appear and we seem to have more visitors during the lockdown. It is also surprising how often people who use the Memorial Garden seem to think that dead flowers go in the dustbin rather than the compost heap, and that the paper that new flowers are wrapped in goes on the compost heap rather than the dustbin!



Curate's Report

Joining the Oxted Team Ministry during lockdown last year was, like most occurrences in lock down, very strange indeed. Hopes of meeting everyone were dashed as Church at that time was solely online. However, the disappointment of not being able to meet people quickly dissipated due to the wonderful welcome we received through the online welcome video that many of you kindly contributed to. As our family watched the video comprising church members with welcome banners outstretched, photographs and encouraging words of welcome, our hearts felt full

knowing that our new Church community was receiving us well. This made leaving Wallington, our home of 20 years, to move closer to our new church community much easier. After much searching we found a family home in Lingfield where we currently reside. Benjamin has since started University at Warwick while Jemima is now settled at Reigate College where she is undertaking A levels and David has continued to work from home.



During the last year, together with the team, I have been enjoying regularly putting together services, leading, editing, preaching, intercessions and bible reading. Sometimes this has been in Church when Covid restrictions have permitted, and the rest of the time online as part of the team.



Being involved in 5 minute Sunday schools, Christingle, Advent and Lent calendars together with Kelly our Communications officer, dramatic online and outdoor readings for Palm Sunday and Easter involving brilliant actors from our church family, has been a joy.

It has also been an honour to work on important missional projects including a feasibility study for a Hurst Green foodbank which has involved discussions with the Trussel Trust, East Grinstead and Caterham Foodbanks and many interested local people who have been very supportive. I am happy to report that St John's Hurst Green has now become a referral centre for the latter foodbank. This is as an initial step forward into foodbank provision and means that St John's can issue food vouchers to those in our local area that are in need. This initial step also allows us to collect food from East Grinstead and Caterham foodbanks on behalf of those in need and distribute food packages to them. Going

forward, as Covid restrictions permit, our aim is to do more for our local community as we continue to investigate local needs and how we can best meet them.

Revd Lotwina Farodoye, Curate, Oxted Team

Churchwardens' Report

When we wrote our report for 2019, we said that this was a year that we were unlikely to forget in a hurry (on account of Anna's illness) and perhaps it's just as well that we had no idea what lay ahead as 2020 has also been very memorable but for all the wrong reasons.

Some people have suggested that it may have been an easier year as a Churchwarden as the building has been closed for such a large part of the year, but you may not be surprised to learn that we think somewhat differently! Over the year, we have had to learn to develop new skills and new ways of working to keep everything going. A year ago, none of us had heard of 'furlough' and 'Zoom' just meant that you moved very quickly! But, we've adapted and have found some benefits to the new ways of working - although we are all now pretty fed up with using Zoom, there are some advantages to connecting to a Zoom meeting rather than having



to turn out on a cold, dark evening! And another unexpected benefit has been the online streamed services allowing us to collaborate closely with the other Oxted team churches and to get to know better this wider church community.

Some projects were able to continue such as the development of the new church website. If you haven't seen this yet, please take a look on www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk. Many thanks to Sue Farrell and Kelly van den Berg in getting this off the ground.

And other exciting news included the appointment of Anna as an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral and Honorary Chaplain to the

Queen and we welcomed Lotwina Farodoye as the new curate to the Oxted team of churches.

Despite the restrictions, 2020 was a full and varied year and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who does so much work on behalf of St John's. Not only Anna, Mary, Lotwina, Charles, Wendy and Monica but the unsung helpers who stand on the PCC, look after our church admin and finances, sorted out the recording for our online services, clean, arrange flowers, provide us with beautiful music, provide refreshments, prepare the church for services, look after the grounds, fundraise, the servers, the crucifers, the sidespersons, the intercessors and many more. And while we may not have been able to do all of these things throughout 2020, we will again soon, so thank you for all that you do.

Finally, Chris is standing down as Churchwarden at the APCM in May but will continue to oversee all fabric related work. He will be sorely missed but promises to be around to help!

Cathy Booth and Chris Johns, Churchwardens

Lay Ministry

Monica Fenton was commissioned as a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary (SPA) in 1994. Monica's role is of a pastoral nature, as indicated in the title SPA. Wendy Hewitt was licensed as a Lay Reader in 2018 and is commissioned to preach, teach and take non-Eucharistic services at St John's or other parishes.

The pandemic has inevitably impacted both of these roles. For Monica pastoral care has been telephone calls to those she is aware of, to see how they are, or any situation of concern that she hears about, plus others known personally to her. A listening ear has proved welcome to those she has called. Monica has also kept in touch with those she knows who have been bereaved in the last few years. Baptism visitor role has been in name only and lay chaplaincy at East Surrey Hospital has not been permitted since lockdown.

Wendy's work (Rhyme Time with Toddlers at Windmill Manor, services at David Gresham House, visits to Wolfe House and lay chaplaincy at

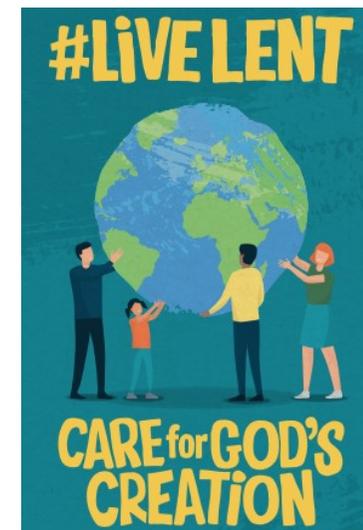
Croydon University Hospital) stopped due to COVID restrictions. These cannot currently restart in the same way as before. Wendy is praying for guidance perhaps into a new direction. She is chair of Churches Together Oxted and District. Lent Groups this year used Live Lent booklets 'Care for God's Creation'. This inspired a good deal of discussion in all of our local churches about treading lightly on Creation, to turn the tide of Climate Change.

Frustration has crept in for both Wendy and Monica since lockdown restrictions and all activities have been curtailed. Looking forward is difficult, as returning to a degree of normality is still an unknown, but we hope and pray activities can begin again by July. Both Wendy and Monica look forward to returning to their normal roles, and pray for God's guidance about new ideas for the future.

CTOD

Churches Together have continued to meet for Fifth Sunday Services on Zoom to pray for all our churches and community. All events, Easter Walk of Witness, Carol Singing etc. were not able to take place. Assistance for THEIR VOICE the local charity supporting the victims of modern slavery continued. From July CTOD will support an Oxted One World project overseas.

Monica Fenton and Wendy Hewitt



Headlines for 2020

The restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic hit hard our revenue earning activity from hall and room hire, events, and the income normally received at services. However, we are very grateful to the continued generosity of our regular givers, whose donations continued almost unaffected, and some kind one-offs received during the first lockdown. The government's Job Retention Scheme (furlough) helped mitigate the cost of salaries, and with some reductions in other expenditure, the PCC was able to restrict the deficit to only £(5)K, or £(10)K if you disregard the receipt in December of the Children's Worker Croydon Episcopal Area grant that will not start to be used until autumn 2021.

For the full accounts please see the Appendix at the back of this report. But read on here for a summary of 2020 and what we can expect for 2021...

Overall income was £136K, down £28K on 2019, though only by £6K when taking into account that 2019 included £22K for the church lighting project.

The biggest single fall was, unsurprisingly, St Agatha's income, down £8K to £10K, while Church Rooms and Hurst Green News saw declines of £1K to £1K and £4K respectively. With the restrictions on weddings and funerals in church, Statutory Fees retained fell by £3K to just £1K.

Regular Giving was down just £1K to £69K, while non-stewardship income was up £4K (disregarding the lighting project) to £16K, including £1K from the closure of Aggies on the Green coffee shop. Also on the plus side, £8K was received for Furlough.

Expenditure overall fell by £10K to £141K, but if the lighting project is excluded then that represents an increase of £12K, accounted for with £9K for Church Fabric repairs (though the heating pump cost (£3K) was covered by an insurance claim) and £14K was for St Agatha's cloakroom refurbishment, which was committed to before the pandemic struck.

We also pledged, and delivered, a Parish Support Fund increase of £1K to £63K, while we reduced other Church running costs by £4K to £13K and salaries (before furlough) by £1K to £15K.

The PCC's net assets therefore fell by £(5)K to £108K at the end of 2020, comprising £45K in current accounts, £57K in CofE deposit fund and Boom credit union and £9K investments, less £3K in timing adjustments in amounts receivable and payable. This was represented by £64K in Restricted funds, £9K in funds for Designated purposes and £35K unrestricted. We therefore did not need to dip into Reserves / Restricted to fund the 2020 deficit.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Alison Richardson as St Agatha's Treasurer and for doggedly pursuing Hurst Green News advertising invoices in the face of difficult times for businesses in the face of the pandemic.



Also, welcome and thanks to Lisa Hall for taking on the bookings and invoicing for St Agatha's and Church Rooms (though again sadly curtailed) and to Barbara Forrest for taking over as Independent Examiner for our accounts. And a farewell to Stephanie Foster after administering our Regular Giving and Gift Aid for the last couple of years.

Looking forward to 2021

The uncertain duration of Covid restrictions made it difficult for the Finance Committee to be certain of the accuracy of our 2021 budget. We assumed a gradual reopening from April and a return to normality by the autumn, leading us to predict a deficit of £(3)K for 2021.

We have pledged the same Parish Support Fund as 2020 but given the proviso that this will need to be revisited if finances suffer through longer than anticipated restrictions.

Also included within the expenditure is £6K for York Rooms roof repairs and decorating (the former now completed) and £6K for Church repairs, servicing, and statutory inspections. We assume an increase in salaries of £2K for the Church and £3K for St Agatha's as normality returns. The Children's Worker will be covered by the grant for this.

On the income side we have taken a conservative view, keeping St Agatha's as 2020, Church Rooms up just £1K to £2K but an increase of £2K to £6K for Hurst Green News, assuming a full 12 months of publishing. In respect of Giving, we assume an increase of Regular Giving by £4K to £73K, helped as more donors subscribe to Parish Giving Scheme, and in part offset by a reduction of non-stewardship of £2K to £9K.

We rely on your kind donations for ¾ of our total income, and regular giving is very valuable to us and helps give us certainty. If you feel able to give to us regularly and have not signed up to the **Parish Giving Scheme**, I strongly urge you to do so.

See more about it at <https://bit.ly/StJHGGiving>

Or go straight to sign up at: <https://bit.ly/StJohnsPGS>

Thank you!

Julian Taylor, Hon. Treasurer

Formalities

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC is the legal governing body of a parish and, together with the Rector, makes decisions on every aspect of church life: mission, worship, children and youth, finances, buildings and grounds.

When the PCC met on 9 March 2020 we had no idea that meetings for the foreseeable future would be on Zoom - something we had hardly heard of! The next meeting was in July. Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs) in 2020 were not permitted to take place online. We seized a brief window when the virus had reduced and held ours on 13 September 2020, with our first PCC meeting back on Zoom just four days later.

Covid has become a regular agenda item with discussions on its effect, government rules and decisions made about new ways of doing the things churches do, such as worship and pastoral care. Each meeting now ends with the question: 'How did we do?' a recommendation of online training on effective meetings. A different member takes notes and offers a reflection, which has been useful.

By the date of this year's APCM we hope to have returned to worship in church. The pandemic has given church members, unable to remain in their own building, a reason for outreach into the local community, offering practical help and also providing online worship, which can be less threatening than entering a building.

A major area for PCC consideration going forward is likely to be the potential for the church building to be used for wider community use, bringing the public into the church. To join the conversation, please consider standing for one of the four 3-year vacancies. For the forthcoming year, there will be five evening meetings, on different days of the week.



Electoral Roll

In 2020 a figure of 142 was reported at the APCM. This had reduced to 141 by March 2021 and an update will be given at this year's APCM.

Tandridge Deanery Synod

A Deanery is a group of Church of England parishes in a geographical area. Deanery Synods are its formal meetings, forming a link between parishes, the Diocese and wider Church. Tandridge Deanery Synod is led by Area Dean, Revd Michelle Edmonds; Assistant Area Dean, Revd James Ashton (both commissioned during lockdown in May 2020); and Lay Chair, Sue Mallinson.

The first meeting following the lockdown in March was on 8 December 2020, a significant date when the first person in the UK received a vaccine.

Bishop Jonathan joined us to reflect on the current situation and encouraged parishes to have hope for the future.

In March 2021 the main speaker was Nicola Thomas, Southwark's newly appointed Head of JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation). Nicola's remit within the mission team seems to cover just about everything: climate change, the environment, social and financial justice, working with the most vulnerable and excluded. Her role is part of Southwark's commitment to the Five Marks of Mission <https://bit.ly/31H322D>

Meeting on Zoom may continue in the darker months, with advantages for both members and visiting speakers with some distance to travel. It also allows other household members to hear some excellent speakers.

All parishes should have elected new lay Deanery Synod members at their 2020 APCM. However many have yet to hold this meeting, which can be as late 31 May 2021 - followed immediately by the 2021 meeting! At St John's APCM in September only one representative was elected, leaving three vacancies unfilled. These will now be for a term of just 2 years. It would be good for St John's to have some more representatives!

Janet Harman, PCC Secretary

Legalities

Safeguarding

Although we have had very few services in church throughout the year, Safeguarding has not been forgotten, and with new online ways of meeting we sought the advice of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor about rules for children's groups meeting by Zoom etc. In addition, for the brief time we were able to hold services in church whilst filming, we had to seek written permission from parents for their children to be included in any recordings.

Online Safeguarding training has continued during lockdown, with PCC members asked to complete the basic level of training. New volunteers to help on the Sunday School rota and crèche now also have to complete basic online training before being added to the rota, although because of Covid we have not been actively seeking volunteers and we have had only one person go through DBS clearance and training this year.

We hope to continue bringing a Safeguarding "culture" to St John's and making the congregation generally more aware of all aspects of safeguarding as we return to meeting in church.

Sue Fox, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Health and Safety

Covid-19 has completely dominated all health and safety considerations over the last year resulting in numerous documented risk assessments which are constantly being updated to reflect latest government and Church of England requirements. It is anticipated that this will continue to be the case for the remainder of 2021.

Cathy Booth, Health and Safety Officer

HR

St John's currently employs 5 people - Parish Administrator / Hurst Green News (Janet Harman), Communications Officer (Kelly van den Berg), Church Rooms and St Agatha's Hall Booking Coordinator (Lisa Hall who started in April 2020), Director of Music (Hilary Dilnot) and Caretaker for St Agatha's Hall (Terry Daniels who started in October 2020). All other posts are voluntary and not paid. During the last year, we have been able to take advantage of the government furlough scheme for some of these positions which has been enormously helpful.

Cathy Booth, Churchwarden

Assets and Maintenance

Thanks to the following: Cathy Hyde (Aggies), Mary Seller (grounds), Barbara Richards (church rooms) and Sue Fox (cleaning).

St Agatha's Hall

2020 has been a year like no other (we hope!). St. Agatha's was celebrating its 125th year and after a successful start we were obliged to close the hall in March due to the lockdown and the Covid 19 pandemic. One silver lining, we were able to renovate the toilet facilities to bring them into the 21st century without inconveniencing anyone!

The hall was made Covid secure with new terms and conditions in accordance with the risk assessment to cover the difficult situation. We opened cautiously in August with a fuller calendar of events in September and October for our regular hirers. Events moved fast and November and January saw further lockdowns and consequent closures. It is hoped the hall will break even as it did receive a one-off grant of £500 from Tandridge District Council as well as a government grant via TDC of just over £1,000. We were also able to furlough our booking secretary, Lisa Hall, who began her contract in September and unfortunately we were obliged to cut the hours of our new caretaker. We now look forward to another cautious reopening in April with children's classes, followed in May by exercise classes for the older members of the community.

Unfortunately our community café was obliged to close its doors in March 2020 and we have hopes that another community based initiative will take its place.

Church grounds

The church grounds are extensive, and take a lot of work to maintain and keep looking tidy. We employ a gardener to do the most arduous and regular work of grass cutting, tending the Memorial Garden and trimming hedges. We appeal for volunteers to take on some of these recurring jobs to save us money. We are extremely grateful to those who do look after specific areas:



Brenda Batchelor oversees the north side; Sue Fox, the rose bed; Barbara Richards, the shrub bed above the Memorial Garden; Mary Seller, the pots by the main door and the flower bed opposite; and the November Saturday ad hoc leaf clearing team. We are glad that so many people visit the Memorial Garden and enjoy the peace and beauty of the church grounds.

Church Rooms

Although we were allowed to hire out the York Rooms commercially from April 2020, because of the various lockdowns and other restrictions, we did not have any hirers until October. From then until early December we

hosted yoga and pilates classes as well as the North Downs Community Orchestra for their practices. The classes will resume in May. We have also had interest from one of the local WI groups and the Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired who hope to start using the rooms in the summer. Others, such as Hurst Green Singers and the Oxted Band, will be back in September.

Our new bookings secretary, Lisa Hall, started work in September but has been on furlough during lockdowns.

Cleaning

We are very grateful to those who were able to clean the church at the beginning of 2020. Once we were into the first lockdown, I made sure that the toilet areas were kept clean and gave the main church a vacuum to keep the dead insects at bay. We were just about to welcome back our volunteers on the cleaning rota allowing entry via a keysafe into the York Rooms, when the second lockdown prevented us from doing this. Hopefully it won't be too long before our valued volunteers can return to their cleaning tasks!

Fabric

We might not have been in church as much as we'd have liked during the year but the church buildings still required their usual amount of attention! The major issue was the worsening leak through the ceiling of the York Rooms and, potentially linked to this, the deteriorating rendering



on the outside wall. After getting several specialist opinions and to-ing and fro-ing with faculty submissions, remedial work commenced (and was completed in Spring 2021). This appears to have solved the problem. Other roof work was

Worship

undertaken, including re-leading the 'valley' area between the two gable roofs above the Lady Chapel and applying water-resistant treatment to the stonework above the St John's Room.

Outside, some tree-work was necessary and an area of paving slabs at the back of church was re-laid/replaced, a manhole cover on the patio was replaced and new border planking set in place to stop the grass from coming onto the path.

A major calamity occurred in December when the cellar below the tower flooded and wrecked the electrical pump that circulates the central-heating water around church. The pump was replaced and repositioned out of harm's way at head-height in the cellar. On the electrical front, slight fettling of the new church light system was undertaken and 2 new fittings added. An external weatherproof light switch was installed so that lights in the church grounds can now be operated by users of the York Rooms. The vestry light needed repair and a new control box for the church heating was fitted.

Work took place in the York Rooms to allow them to be hired out; this included improving storage of the children's toys, installing a new cork noticeboard and fitting a keysafe outside the entrance door. Electronic hand sanitisers were installed in the lobby and the main church porch area. Titsey Rotary arranged a wonderful repair and reinstallation of the St John's sign at the Woodhurst Lane crossroads (thanks Roger Fox and Roy Pope!), and Dan Roberts did a brilliant job strengthening the beautiful brass door handles on the main church entrance doors.

Then there were the regular inspections and servicing, including checking electrical equipment, the lightning protection system, boilers and heaters, the fire alarm system, emergency lights, fire extinguishers etc, plus clearing gutters and fitting a new halyard to the flagpole.

There are often things to do so if you'd like to help, please let me know!

Chris Johns, Churchwarden

COVID-19 hasn't stopped our worship. Although it was daunting at first, a vast array of people rose to the challenge and for 3/4 of the last year we have produced online services created by people from all four churches in the Oxted Team. Some unexpected delights have been the variety of music, singers and musicians and the extra special moments such as the clever editing of Nigel Bates and Ed Gaut which enabled virtual choirs to come together for special times of the year. Also, so many different people have helped with readings and intercessions including lots of children and families which has been a joy. There have also been some particularly notable services such as Easter Sunday 2020 at dawn in the vicarage garden accompanied by glorious bird song; a Hurst Green Nativity involving lots of local actors and some special all age moments such as



Mothering Sunday. We also dabbled in Zoom Café Church and daily prayer, Outdoor All Age services and then of course a period of in-church (streamed) worship which finally enabled people to come

back together despite some very difficult restrictions like masks, social distancing and no corporate singing that certainly felt at odds with the usual trademarks of pastoral and participatory worship together.

There have been some unexpected blessings of worshipping differently. Firstly there was no rule book and people discovered ways of worshipping that they may not have tried in ordinary circumstances that were fulfilling and of great comfort. Over time we also realised that those who were 'attending' included those who haven't attended for a while as well as other local people and friends and relatives from all over the world. Messages of gratitude poured in during the early weeks. God really seemed to use this new medium to touch people's hearts and bring great comfort.

In it all we realised that church is not the building. It is the people of God meeting together somehow, worshipping together and reaching out with God's love to others. Worshipping in these new ways has helped us fulfil this calling more rather than less.

Thank you to all those who have made such wonderful contributions. In particular thanks should go to Nigel Eltringham who put so much work into filming and editing especially in the early weeks, after which many others joined to assist, to whom we are also very grateful. And also to our Sacristan Jane Smith who faithfully kept a sense of worship going in the church by changing the altar frontals in accordance with the different colours of the church year. And thanks be to God who has taught us so much about ourselves and enabled so many to use and share their manifold gifts. There is a lot we have learnt and must hold onto as we return to worshipping together again in church.



There is also one job which has been completed during the lockdowns following some grant funding a few years ago and that is to produce a new 'St John's Song Book' to accompany our orange hymn book with some more recently written songs and hymns. It was no mean feat and thanks must go to Hilary Dilnot, Sarah Belton and Cathy Booth for hours and hours of hard work! We look forward to learning and using some new music to complement the hymns and songs we already know and love.

Fellowship and Mission

One thing we have really, really missed over the last year is seeing each other and being together. I am painfully aware that the loss of gatherings like the coffee morning, art group and YoYos baby and toddler group has been keenly felt by those who would normally attend. 2020/1 has been such a challenge and many people, of all ages and stages, have felt very much on their own.

Where we could we facilitated opportunities to get together virtually such as zoom gatherings like the beer evening for the 'gentlemen of the parish' and coffee and chat after the online services. During Lent 2021 this took

on an extra dimension of discussing how some of us were trying, with God's help, to improve our care of creation in different ways.

However, as time went on and we mourned the loss of social and spiritual gatherings, our attention turned to reaching and connecting with those most affected by the pandemic. These included: providing a phone number and volunteers on hand for any who were shielding but needed shopping, prescriptions or other errands; after a four month break resuming production and distribution of the Hurst Green News to 2800 households thanks to many local volunteers (articles always welcome!); connecting with those from the family of St John's who are on their own and/or without internet connection through regular 'packages' of spiritual resources and treats; and connecting with families who felt very distant from the church with a 'Nativity in a Box' just before Christmas - one for them and one for a friend. As with worship, where at first we felt we had lost, we discovered we had gained a greater understanding of what following Jesus and living his command to 'love your neighbour' really means.



And we still found ways to raise money for charities too such as Christian Aid at Harvest and Welcare during Advent.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and money to sharing God's love in familiar and new ways.

Discipleship and Pastoral Care

'Discipleship' means learning from Jesus how to follow him. Usually in church life we think about that as a journey from cradle to grave, marking important milestones like baptism and confirmation along the way. However this year we have only had a couple of small baptisms when restrictions allowed and no confirmations. Instead, our real focus has been 'holding' people in God's love and supporting their faith as best we can at home. In the early days this was really interesting. As people slowed down and joined worship at home, either online or following materials we'd provided to those without the internet, some people said

they found new life in their relationship with God. In some ways we returned to the spirit of the early church where believers met and broke bread together at home.

But although there have been new discoveries in faith, for all of us we have also felt times of spiritual 'acedia' - a spiritual listlessness and loss. The world felt monochrome and monotonous as well as scary and bewildering. Sometimes there is nothing that can be said or done to help, save recognise that God is there in the dark days even when we know it not. In response to such spiritual need we have called people pastorally as much as possible and there is more about that elsewhere in this report. Wonderfully this has been right across the whole body of Christ as we've reached out to connect with each other, not just ministers calling parishioners.

In addition of course there have been times of great loss and sadness where as the body of Christ we have simply 'been there' for others during grief and funeral planning. The body of Christ, wounded, compassionate, holding those who don't know where else to turn. One way this continues to happen is through the prayer chain which Diana Bush, who has done a sterling job over many years, has now handed onto Janet Harman who communicates prayer requests to a group who are faithful in prayer and in this way provide great comfort to those in need. Please use this group whenever you need to.

It has also been inspiring to learn from the many different people in our congregation who prepared something about their 'Faith and Life' for Facebook or for Advent and Lent via our online calendars.

Finally, being distant from St John's children and families has been really hard. When we reopened after the first Lockdown very few came back to church mainly because selflessly, they wanted to protect the most vulnerable at St John's. However we have continued to support them and their faith through the creative,



weekly 5-minute Sunday School films, now often produced by families and children themselves. Further, thanks must also go to John Adams and Peter Langham who committed to continue a fortnightly Sunday Munch via Zoom for those aged 9 and upwards, to help young people stay connected to each other and the church.

In unexpected and unfamiliar ways, God's Spirit has kept us all growing and loving one another.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John's, Hurst Green, Surrey
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Income and Expenditure

| | Note | Unrestricted Funds | Unrestricted Designated Funds | Restricted Funds | Total 2020 | Total 2019 |
|--|------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Income | | | | | | |
| Voluntary Receipts | | | | | | |
| Planned Giving | | 69,467 | - | - | 69,467 | 71,413 |
| All Other Giving & Voluntary Receipts | 1a | 11,070 | 4,287 | - | 15,357 | 33,666 |
| Gift Aid Recovered | | 17,406 | 561 | - | 17,967 | 13,502 |
| | | 97,943 | 4,848 | | 102,791 | 118,581 |
| Activities for Generating Funds | | | | | | |
| Church Rooms | 7 | - | 1,258 | - | 1,258 | 2,190 |
| Hurst Green News | 8 | - | 4,242 | - | 4,242 | 5,537 |
| St. Agatha's Hall | 9 | 10,379 | - | - | 10,379 | 18,487 |
| Other Fundraising & Trading Income | | 1,008 | 65 | - | 1,073 | 6,186 |
| | | 11,387 | 5,565 | | 16,952 | 32,400 |
| Investment Income | | | | | | |
| Statutory Fees Retained | 1b | - | - | 409 | 409 | 504 |
| Grants & Other Income | 1c | 1,418 | - | - | 1,418 | 3,972 |
| | | 9,063 | - | 4,950 | 14,013 | 8,721 |
| Total Income | | 119,811 | 10,413 | 5,359 | 135,583 | 164,178 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | |
| Church Activities | | | | | | |
| Parish Support Fund | | 63,325 | - | - | 63,325 | 62,540 |
| Clergy and Staffing Costs | | 12,356 | - | 2,315 | 14,671 | 16,476 |
| Fabric & Grounds | 1d | 14,689 | 4,570 | - | 19,259 | 35,316 |
| Church Running Expenses | 1e | 10,666 | - | 2,276 | 12,942 | 16,789 |
| Mission Giving & Donations | 1f | 2,030 | - | - | 2,030 | 1,357 |
| | | 103,066 | 4,570 | 4,591 | 112,227 | 132,478 |
| Cost of Generating Funds | | | | | | |
| Church Rooms | 7 | - | 1,267 | - | 1,267 | 111 |
| Hurst Green News | 8 | - | 3,544 | - | 3,544 | 2,648 |
| St. Agatha's Hall | 9 | 22,398 | - | - | 22,398 | 12,038 |
| Other Activities | | 1,158 | - | - | 1,158 | 3,564 |
| | | 23,557 | 4,811 | | 28,368 | 18,361 |
| Other Activities | | | | | | |
| Total Expenses | | 126,623 | 9,381 | 4,591 | 140,595 | 150,839 |
| Excess / (Defecit) of Income over Expenditure | | | | | | |
| Transfer between Funds | 2 | (6,812) | 1,032 | 768 | (5,012) | 13,339 |
| Investment Gains (or Losses) | 3 | 99 | - | (99) | - | - |
| | | - | - | 574 | 574 | 1,312 |
| Net Movement of Funds | | (6,713) | 1,032 | 1,243 | (4,438) | 14,651 |
| Total Funds Brought Forward from 2019 | | 41,376 | 8,029 | 63,306 | 112,711 | 98,060 |
| Total Funds Carried Forward to 2021 | | 34,663 | 9,061 | 64,549 | 108,273 | 112,711 |

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

| | Note | Unrestricted Funds | Unrestricted Designated Funds | Restricted Funds | Total 2020 | Total 2019 |
|-------------------------------|------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Assets | | | | | | |
| Cash Funds | | | | | | |
| Bank Current Accounts | | 35,370 | 2,814 | 6,935 | 45,119 | 57,886 |
| Deposit Account | | - | - | 49,362 | 49,362 | 34,302 |
| Social Lending | | - | 7,529 | - | 7,529 | 7,529 |
| | | 35,370 | 10,343 | 56,297 | 102,010 | 99,667 |
| Accounts Receivable | 4 | 4,595 | 941 | - | 5,536 | 7,056 |
| Total Current Assets | | 39,965 | 11,284 | 56,297 | 107,546 | 106,723 |
| Investments | | | | | | |
| CCLA CBF Investment Fund | 3 | - | - | 8,895 | 8,895 | 8,320 |
| Total Assets | | 39,965 | 11,284 | 65,192 | 116,441 | 115,043 |
| Liabilities | | | | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | | | | |
| Accounts Payable | 5 | 4,148 | - | 643 | 4,791 | 2,132 |
| Deferred Income | 6 | 1,154 | 2,223 | - | 3,377 | 200 |
| | | 5,302 | 2,223 | 643 | 8,168 | 2,332 |
| Total Liabilities | | 5,302 | 2,223 | 643 | 8,168 | 2,332 |
| Net Assets | | 34,663 | 9,061 | 64,549 | 108,273 | 112,711 |
| Represented By:- | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted Funds | | | | | | |
| St John's General | | 27,251 | - | - | 27,251 | 21,945 |
| St Agatha's Hall | | 7,412 | - | - | 7,412 | 19,431 |
| | | 34,663 | | | 34,663 | 41,376 |
| Designated Funds | | | | | | |
| St John's - Church Rooms | | - | 491 | - | 491 | 500 |
| St John's - Building | | - | (703) | - | (703) | - |
| St John's - Grounds | | - | (196) | - | (196) | - |
| Fundraising Events | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Community Fund | | - | 1,242 | - | 1,242 | - |
| Hurst Green News | | - | 698 | - | 698 | - |
| Boom Credit Union | | - | 7,529 | - | 7,529 | 7,529 |
| | | | 9,061 | | 9,061 | 8,029 |
| Restricted Funds | | | | | | |
| CEA 2018 - Worship Materials | | - | - | - | - | 500 |
| CEA 2018 - Cafe Church Crafts | | - | - | - | - | 169 |
| St Giles Youth Choir Leader | | - | - | - | - | 2,314 |
| CEA 2019 - Team Websites | | - | 1,153 | - | 1,153 | 2,700 |
| CEA 2020 - Childrens' Worker | | - | 4,950 | - | 4,950 | - |
| CCLA CBF Coff Deposit | | - | - | 49,362 | 49,362 | 49,302 |
| Win Marnell Flower Fund | | - | - | 9,084 | 9,084 | 8,320 |
| | | | | 64,549 | 64,549 | 63,305 |
| Total Funds | | 34,663 | 9,061 | 64,549 | 108,273 | 112,710 |

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Notes to the Accounts

1. Further Analysis of Income and Expenditure

a) All Other Giving & Voluntary Receipts

| | Unrestricted Funds | Unrestricted Designated Funds | Restricted Funds | Total 2020 | Total 2019 |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| "Let there be Light" project | - | - | - | - | 22,212 |
| Legacies | - | - | - | - | 1,250 |
| Other Donations | 11,070 | 4,287 | - | 15,357 | 10,204 |
| | <u>11,070</u> | <u>4,287</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>15,357</u> | <u>33,666</u> |

b) Investment Income

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|------------|
| CCLA CBF Investment Fund (see Note 4) | - | - | 250 | 250 | 248 |
| CCLA CBF Church of England Deposit | - | - | 159 | 159 | 256 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>409</u> | <u>409</u> | <u>504</u> |

c) Grants & Other Income

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------|----------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| All Churches & Parish Council (for Lighting project) | - | - | - | - | 2,050 |
| St Giles grant for Youth Choir Leader | - | - | - | - | 2,750 |
| CEA 2019 grant - Team Websites | - | - | - | - | 3,000 |
| HMRC Employment Retention Grants (Furlough) | 7,290 | - | - | 7,290 | - |
| Tandridge DC (towards St. Agatha's cloakroom refurbishment) | 500 | - | - | 500 | - |
| CEA 2020 Grant - Children's Worker | - | - | 4,950 | 4,950 | - |
| Ecclesiastical Insurance (for church heating repairs) | 1,773 | - | - | 1,773 | - |
| Sundry Income | (500) | - | - | (500) | 921 |
| | <u>9,063</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>4,950</u> | <u>14,013</u> | <u>8,721</u> |

d) Fabric & Grounds

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------|---------------|---------------|
| "Let there be Light" project | 504 | - | - | 504 | 22,824 |
| Ecclesiastical Insurance | 5,287 | - | - | 5,287 | 5,177 |
| Lady Chapel roof repairs | - | 3,540 | - | 3,540 | - |
| Church heating - pump move & replace | 3,030 | - | - | 3,030 | - |
| External light switch | 342 | - | - | 342 | - |
| Patio repair behind York Rooms | 2,043 | - | - | 2,043 | - |
| Grounds maintenance | 1,589 | 902 | - | 2,491 | 2,080 |
| Other church repairs & maintenance | 1,894 | 128 | - | 2,022 | 5,235 |
| | <u>14,689</u> | <u>4,570</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>19,259</u> | <u>35,316</u> |

e) Church Running Expenses

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------|----------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Sanctuary & Worship Costs | 1,104 | - | 669 | 1,773 | 779 |
| Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment | 759 | - | - | 759 | - |
| Software & system hosting fees; subscriptions | 646 | - | - | 646 | 3,262 |
| Housekeeping | 211 | - | - | 211 | - |
| Team websites project management & consultancy | - | - | 1,547 | 1,547 | - |
| Utility Costs - Gas | 2,998 | - | - | 2,998 | 2,248 |
| Utility Costs - Electricity | 1,766 | - | - | 1,766 | 1,608 |
| Utility Costs - Water | 675 | - | - | 675 | 486 |
| Utility Costs - Phone, Broadband & Comms | 873 | - | - | 873 | 580 |
| Office Supplies | 1,314 | - | - | 1,314 | 1,725 |
| Others | 320 | - | 60 | 380 | 6,101 |
| | <u>10,666</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>2,276</u> | <u>12,942</u> | <u>16,789</u> |

f) Mission Giving & Donations

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------|----------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Bishop's Lent Call | - | - | - | - | 224 |
| Clockwork Trust | - | - | - | - | 180 |
| Combat Stress | - | - | - | - | 169 |
| Tree Aid | - | - | - | - | 79 |
| Their Voice | - | - | - | - | 180 |
| SE Yorkshire Flood Appeal | - | - | - | - | 152 |
| Fairtrade 'Big Brew' (Mar 2020) | 45 | - | - | 45 | - |
| Zimbabwe mission booklets (Mar 2020) | 200 | - | - | 200 | - |
| Tandridge Voluntary Action 2020-21 membership | 20 | - | - | 20 | - |
| Action Salulaire pour le Développement Intégral de Goma (Aug 2020) | 1,066 | - | - | 1,066 | - |
| Christian Aid harvest (Nov 2020); cyclone (2019) | 465 | - | - | 465 | 124 |
| Action Aid child sponsorship | 234 | - | - | 234 | 249 |
| | <u>2,030</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>2,030</u> | <u>1,357</u> |

Identified donations direct from donors to appeals' websites (not going through our accounts) = £1050, comprising:-
£435 to Christian Aid Harvest Appeal, £615 to Welcare christmas appeal.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

2. Transfers to/from Restricted Funds

| | | | | | |
|--|----|---|------|---|---|
| Income from CCLA CBF Co/E Deposit to St John's General | 99 | - | (99) | - | - |
|--|----|---|------|---|---|

3. Win Marnell Flower Fund

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--------------|---|--------------|
| Income from CCLA CBF Investment Fund | - | - | 250 | - | 248 |
| Investment Gains (or Losses) during the year | - | - | 574 | - | 1,312 |
| Purchase of Flowers | - | - | (90) | - | (248) |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for year | - | - | 764 | - | 1,312 |
| Fund Brought Forward from last year | - | - | 8,320 | - | 7,008 |
| Fund Carried Forward to next year | - | - | 9,084 | - | 8,320 |

Value of Investment: CCLA CBF Investment Fund

8,895 8,320

4. Accounts Receivable

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Gift Aid claim | 4,259 | 561 | - | 4,820 | 6,556 |
| Church Rooms invoices | 155 | 155 | - | 310 | 500 |
| Hurst Green News Invoices | - | 225 | - | 225 | - |
| St. Agatha's Invoices | 67 | - | - | 67 | - |
| St. John's Office Invoice | 114 | - | - | 114 | - |
| | <u>4,595</u> | <u>941</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>5,536</u> | <u>7,056</u> |

5. Accounts Payable

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Expense claims to pay | 851 | - | 163 | 1,014 | 1,538 |
| Provision for repairs | - | - | - | - | 180 |
| Provision for utilities | 1,352 | - | - | 1,352 | 15 |
| Diocese fees and funeral expenses to pay | 1,015 | - | - | 1,015 | - |
| Mistaken receipt to repay (Fairalls) | 930 | - | - | 930 | - |
| Provision for Song Book printing | - | - | 480 | 480 | - |
| | <u>4,148</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>643</u> | <u>4,791</u> | <u>2,133</u> |

6. Deferred Income

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|----------|--------------|------------|
| Church Rooms deposits | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hurst Green News advertising for next year | - | 2,223 | - | 2,223 | - |
| St. Agatha's deposits | 350 | - | - | 350 | 200 |
| PCC share of statutory fees received in advance | 804 | - | - | 804 | - |
| | <u>1,154</u> | <u>2,223</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>3,377</u> | <u>200</u> |

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

| | Unrestricted Funds | Unrestricted Designated Funds | Restricted Funds | Total 2020 | Total 2019 |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 7. Church Rooms - Summary Income and Expenditure | | | | | |
| Hire fees (Apr 2020 onwards); Donations (2019 to Mar 2020) | | 1,258 | | | 2,190 |
| Total Income | | 1,258 | | | 2,190 |
| Wages & Salaries, administrator | | 668 | | | - |
| Care & cleaning | | 59 | | | 111 |
| Routine repairs & maintenance | | - | | | - |
| Major repairs | | 540 | | | - |
| Publicity & consultancy | | - | | | - |
| Total Expenses | | 1,267 | | | 111 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for year | | (9) | | | 2,079 |
| Fund Brought Forward from last year | | 500 | | | (1,579) |
| Fund Carried Forward to next year | | 491 | | | 500 |
| 8. Hurst Freen News - Summary Income and Expenditure | | | | | |
| Advertising Fees | | 4,242 | | | 5,537 |
| Total Income | | 4,242 | | | 5,537 |
| Printing | | 1,846 | | | 2,648 |
| Wages & Salaries | | 1,698 | | | - |
| Total Expenses | | 3,544 | | | 2,648 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for year | | 698 | | | 2,889 |
| Fund Brought Forward from last year | | - | | | (2,889) |
| Fund Carried Forward to next year | | 698 | | | - |
| 9. St. Agatha's Hall - Summary Income and Expenditure | | | | | |
| Hire Fees - Regulars | 9,511 | | | | 13,447 |
| Hire Fees - One-off bookings | 134 | | | | 4,024 |
| Tandridge District Council grant towards cloakroom refurbishment | 500 | | | | - |
| Other Income | 234 | | | | 1,016 |
| Total Income | 10,379 | | | | 18,487 |
| Wages & Salaries, administrator | | 826 | | | 4,057 |
| Care & cleaning | | 1,276 | | | 701 |
| Routine repairs & maintenance | | 1,488 | | | 3,866 |
| Major repairs | | 14,528 | | | - |
| Insurance premium / (claims) | | 1,179 | | | 925 |
| Utilities | | 1,851 | | | 1,995 |
| Publicity & consultancy | | 1,250 | | | 494 |
| Total Expenses | 22,398 | | | | 12,038 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for year | (12,019) | | | | 6,449 |
| Fund Brought Forward from last year | | 19,431 | | | 12,982 |
| Fund Carried Forward to next year | | 7,412 | | | 19,431 |

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP, using the historical cost convention on the accruals basis.

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent Examiners Report to the Parochial Church Council

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 to 5, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective Responsibilities of PCC and the examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(1) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the Regulations.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity commission under section 145 of the Act to be found in the Church Guidance, 2011 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. 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 the 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 to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and to prepare statements which accord with the accounting records and 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.

Barbara Forrest
17 Orchard Way
Hurst Green
Surrey
08 March 2021

B Forrest

Accounts Approval

Submitted for approval by the Parochial Church Council at a meeting held on 11th March 2021

Reverend Canon Anna Eltringham

Anna Eltringham

Julian Taylor ACMA
Hon. Treasurer

J Taylor



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