



# The Parish of Kingswood

*We are a church family that seeks to share the love of Christ with the community here and worldwide.*

## Reports to the Parish of Kingswood Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 8 May 2022

### Statutory Charity Commission Information - Charity No: 1172427

Those who served as Trustees since 1 January 2021 were:

Chairman:	The Reverend Christine Colton
Vice Chairman:	Mr Ron Searle
Reader:	Mr Ron Searle
Churchwardens:	Mrs Anne Bennett, Mr Graeme Hopkins
Deputy Warden:	Mrs Jane Hollington,
Treasurer:	Mr Frank Foxen
Deanery Synod:	Mrs Alison Knibbs, Mrs Abigail Robinson (from November 2021)
Elected Members:	Mrs Pia Chamberlain, Mrs Linda Utting, Mrs Susan Mitchell, Mr Peter Temperton (until 15 November 2021)

The Trustees of the church present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021. The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Accounting Regulations set out under the Charities Act 2011, and with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with FRS102 effective 1 January 2015.

### Structure Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council for the Ecclesiastical Parish of Kingswood, Southwark, known as Parish of Kingswood is a registered charity number **1172427**. The method of appointment of Parochial Church Council members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll, to take part and assist in the activities and to stand for election to the Council.

The following five committees report to the Parochial Church Council:

Standing; Finance and General Purposes; Activities, Church Hall; Children and Young People.

### Parish Safeguarding

The council has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

### **Public Benefit**

The Parochial Church Council has embraced the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit. It aims to promote religion within the parish. The Wisdom of God church is used by local schools for their services and School visits. The hall is available to church groups, local associations and others.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent to promote within the parish the whole mission of the church - pastoral, evangelistic, ecumenical and social. It also has responsibility for the maintenance of both the church and hall and to provide the physical and financial resources to achieve the mission of the church in general and the parish in particular.

### **Achievements and Performance**

The Parochial Church Council strives to offer a range of services that attract all age groups from our community who find attendance both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. Families are attracted to our church by the Family Services, Wisdom Stories at Tea Time, JAM Club Roots Church and Youth Club, termly Family Fun Services. Due to the Coronavirus some of these groups have not been able to meet, but a number of Wisdom Stories services were held via "Zoom".

Because of the Coronavirus pandemic Holy Communion has not been taken to those at home or in hospital either by the clergy or by Mr Ron Searle as a Reader.

### **Meetings**

During the past year the Council has met in person on 1 occasion and via Zoom on five occasions and the average attendance rate was 76%. Various committees manage and develop the various activities and their reports are discussed by the Council and authority given where necessary. The Standing Committee, which comprises the Chairman, Churchwardens, Secretary and Treasurer, meets when necessary to deal with any urgent matters which may arise between ordinary meetings of the Council. The composition and responsibilities of committees are kept under review in order to create better control and an improved reporting system. Matters requiring immediate attention were dealt with during 2021.

### **Risk Management**

The Council is aware of its responsibilities for assessing and managing this church's risks and continues to implement plans to deal with these.

The principal risks financially and to continuity are the buildings. Both churches are over 130 years old and the hall is over 80 years old. The quinquennial inspection of the church (but not the hall) was carried out during 2017 by a diocesan approved Architect.

Terrorism was considered by the Council to be of minimum risk and has not been insured.

Succession and temporary cover of officers is discussed.

## Clergy and Readers

The Priest in Charge, The Reverend Christine Colton, is supported by a licensed Reader, Mr Ronald Searle.

## APCM Churchwardens' Report for 2021

Both churches were closed for several months during the Coronavirus pandemic, which severely curtailed activities, services were put online which enabled people to view them on the parishes YouTube channel. However, the churches reopened finally in August and services have continued almost as normal since that time, Broadband was installed at the Wisdom of God and this allowed us to live stream the services so those who were unable to attend in person could still take part. However, finances have inevitably taken a backward step during the lockdown period.

During 2021 the Parish sadly lost two much loved members – Ken Cook and Lady Janet Hill – both had been very long- standing contributors to the life of the Parish and are much missed.

There has been ongoing maintenance work at St Andrew's during the year, both to the inside and outside of the building and to the churchyard. We are grateful to Richard Wells for kindly offering to supply two new trees for the churchyard after the removal of three dead ones. During 2021 we have employed a different firm of garden contractors for the St Andrew's churchyard, who offer a cheaper and more flexible service.

Both Churches managed to open for the heritage days in September and had a good number of visitors

The gutters and down pipes at the Wisdom of God and St Andrew's have been rubbed down and had a nice new coat of paint.

Anne Bennet and Graeme Hopkins  
Churchwardens

## Electoral Roll

On 31 December 2021 the number of names on the Electoral Roll was 77. Of this figure, 70 are resident within the parish and 9 are outside the parish boundary.

Susan Mitchell  
Electoral Roll Officer

## SPA links

Linda Utting (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary) was also able to join the Zoom meetings organised by the local Deanery SPA group to keep up to date with SPA work in other parishes.

Linda Utting  
SPA

## Wisdom Stories at Teatime

We had to continue with Wisdom stories being available for half an hour every Wednesday in term time on Zoom throughout the majority of 2021 which Rev'd. Chris prepared every week. Although we had a small but regular number of families able to attend this it was very well received by those who were able to join in. Apart from the video stories and songs the children particularly relished the opportunity to see and speak to their friends from the school.

Rev'd. Chris also prepared Easter gift packs which we were able to deliver to the families. These were very much appreciated. She also distributed material for families to do the Lent challenge including walks with their children.

We were able to restart meeting in person from the 15th September much to everyone's delight. Thanks to Jo Anderson, Kate Love, Jayde Davies, Abi Robinson, Angela Robertson, Brenda Avery, Amanda Lill, Faye Miles and Chris Day for all their help in covering the walking bus from school, preparing and serving the food each week, setting up and clearing the tables in the church, hoovering, organising the registration and paperwork for each family and generally being a massive support.

As the Covid-19 infection rates began to escalate again before Christmas, particularly amongst the children, we took the decision to finish the weekly sessions early in December. Rev'd. Chris again organised Christmas gift bags for all the children and she, Brenda and I were able to hand these out at the church door to all the families at the end of term. We were also able to hold the Christingle crib service in the grounds of the Wisdom on Christmas Eve which was well attended - despite the damp conditions!

Linda Utting  
SPA

## Coffee Morning

Due to the risk of infection we were not able to restart the monthly coffee mornings until the 1st of September in the church hall but these took place in October, November and December 2021. The local community were delighted they were reinstated and it was good to see everyone well and able to attend. Although numbers were a little lower than before, an average of around 20 attendees were also able to hear an update from our local councillor Rod Ashford who also attended.

During the year I had been able to keep in contact with those attendees by phone and we also included the coffee morning attendees in the distribution of flowers and cake which Jane Hollington and I had prepared and distributed to parishioners around our whole parish in March 2021. This was quite a mammoth task taking a couple of days of preparation and over 5 hours for myself and my daughter (thanks to Sophie Ellis) to distribute. I know Jane also had a similar workload for distribution to the other half of the parish. Although this was a lot of work it was very much appreciated by everyone - especially moving for those who had been isolated during the pandemic and had very little contact with anyone.

Thanks to Liz Richardson, Sharon Childs, Gill McMaster and Brenda Avery for stepping into becoming the helpers each month to set up, bake cakes, serve teas and clear up without whom the coffee morning would not be possible

Linda Utting  
SPA

### Foodbank

During 2021 Parishioners have continued to make monetary and food donations to St Matthews foodbank Redhill.

Food is a basic need, yet there are people in in the locality who are going hungry because they just don't have enough money to feed themselves and their families. The foodbank at St Matthew's aims to provide local families and individuals with essential food supplies to keep them going until a longer-term solution is found.

On average the foodbank supports 75 individuals and families equating to approximately 175 people per week both.

Thank you to all those who have donated in this way – it makes a real difference.

Alison Knibbs  
PCC Member

### Other pastoral work

The phone calls allocated for contacts in our parish kept me busy during the lockdown phase and when the restrictions allowed I was able to drive a few parishioners and coffee morning attendees for doctor appointments, hospital appointments and vaccinations. All of these assistances were gratefully received.

Linda Utting  
SPA

### Cross Ways Magazine

Thank you to all those who have contributed articles, photos, letters to the editor and other material over the past year. Including 'home grown' material is what makes the magazine 'The Parish Magazine' and as editor I have actively sought local material. I am always interested in contributions from the congregation or ideas of topics that might be of interest.

I really hope that you have enjoyed 'The Lock down Files' series of articles and more recently the 'Why I go to church' articles.

I hope that you have enjoyed trying to work out where the 'Parish places' photos are but also found them a source of inspiration for praying for our parish.

The content of the sidebar is an eclectic mix of more light hearted and humorous content. There are also book reviews that cover a wide range of topics on which we might want to explore in greater depth. It is well worth a look as there are often some hidden gems there. In the email look out for the 'clickable' links (usually blue and underlined) that link to related web sites or there may be items that can be downloaded e.g. parish accounts.

If you like to receive the email version of the magazine, please use the link on the Parish web site magazine page to subscribe.

A paper copy is still available, if you require one, please contact the parish administrator. It has not been possible to place additional copies in our two churches through the pandemic but this may be restarted now that restrictions are being removed.

If you missed out on one of this year's issues back copies can be found via a link on the magazine page of the parish web site.

I look forward over the coming year to publishing your news and views on what is going on around the parish as well as thoughts and ideas about Christian life in a post-modern increasingly secular society. I would especially like to hear from anyone with ideas about topics that you would like the magazine to cover.

Finally, I would like to thank Alison who each month has proof read the magazine and laid out the print version, a very labourious task that makes you cross eyed!

Graeme Knibbs  
Editor

## Deanery Synod Report 2021/2022

Deanery synod lay members:

Alison Knibbs and Abigail Robinson

The meetings themselves for those who don't know are a way of lay people and clergy keeping in touch across the Parish – sharing positives and what has worked across all areas of the church, what doesn't, and asking for help or guidance from others and promoting and evolving ideas into action.

The first Deanery synod meeting of 2021 focussed on drawing people to our faith. We discussed the **Reigate Deanery "Mission Action Plan (MAP)"** and defined the purpose or mission objectives as:

"Reigate Deanery provides a supportive framework for Churches to connect with each other.

We collectively develop and share ways to proclaim the love of God, to grow as disciples of Christ Jesus and see the Holy Spirit transform lives.

We aim to be creative, exciting, fun and welcoming with servant hearts."

Three main "action areas" agreed upon were:

1. Connecting Local Churches
2. Christ Centred Disciples
3. Being creative in our Mission

Break off groups, to discuss drawing people to our faith threw up many ideas, such involving friends in the community side of things such as food banks and community lunches.

**Part of the DS area for discussion is the Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus (RASJF)** – Chris Elliot is our Deanery champion for this. This area includes:

Raising awareness of County Lines drug dealing, modern slavery, teenage mental health and working to improve the lives of the exploited.

Central to this is linking up services including the police with representatives from the Church.

The second meeting of the year Oct 2021 was Anita Colpus's final meeting as Area Dean. This centred on the Environment and climate crisis. The strong trends of climate disruption are being hailed as a code red for humanity by the UN.

Focussed on 2 reasons why the church wants to act:

- 1) To show God our love and gratitude
- 2) To show love of one's neighbours and reduce the impact on the poor

Practical things we can do as a church community:

Reduce our own clutter

Eat healthily, reduce meat and dairy, (vegetarian meals for messy church)

Holiday locally,

Dress fresh – meaning repair and buy 2<sup>nd</sup> hand

Travel well – use public transport/ cycle or walk

Change the system – reward green companies from energy to financial institutions, supermarkets with your business.

Move the pressure onto larger organisations by writing to them and asking them to take more action especially your MP. But most of all don't be overwhelmed by the big picture as an individual. Individual steps all count and that includes talking to others about climate action.

- There was an update on the renewed Hope Trust and a 4<sup>th</sup> person being employed post pandemic. Updated on the process of the house bought for 4 homeless men in the parish.
- Living in Love and Faith course was positive and enjoyable with over 100 participants.
- Deanery synod finances were approved with no queries or concerns.

The last meeting involved Rev'd Martin Colton being Commissioned as the new Area Dean.

Each Parish shared what they had done on an Environmental basis. Some churches are ahead of the curve in all that they are doing and were able to share advice and contacts to others to help them along. A good way to start for a few was for them to look into the green awards.

Finally, the Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus have recently developed an Anti-Slavery Partnership pledge. The pledge is aimed at small and medium businesses and has recently been launched with churches in East Surrey and London Borough of Sutton. It asks for a commitment to three or more actions raising awareness of modern slavery. It will be brought to the business community in Surrey later in the year.

Rev'd Christine Colton  
Priest in Charge