



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 21 May 2023

Statutory Charity Commission Information - Charity No: 1172427

Those who served as Trustees since 1 January 2020 were:

Chairman:	The Reverend Christine Colton
Vice Chairman:	Mr Ron Searle
Reader:	Mr Ron Searle
Churchwardens:	Mrs Anne Bennett (until 8 May 2022) Mr Kevin chamberlain (from 8 May 2022) Mr Graeme Hopkins
Deputy Wardens:	Mrs Jane Hollington,
Deanery Synod:	Mrs Alison Knibbs, Mrs Jane Hollington (until 8 May 2022) Mrs Abi Robinson (from 8 May 2022)
Elected Members:	Mrs Pia Chamberlain, Mr Frank Foxen (until 8 May 2022), Mrs Gillian French (from 8 May 2022), Mrs Linda Utting, Mrs Susan Mitchell.

The Trustees of the church present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022. 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 4 committees report to the Parochial Church Council:

Standing; 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".

On 1 January 2022 the number of names on the Electoral Roll was 77. Of this figure, 70 are resident within the parish and 7 are outside the parish boundary.

Meetings

During the past year the Council has met in person on 3 occasions and via Zoom on 4 occasions and the average attendance rate was 96.3%. 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 2022.

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 2022 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

Articles of Enquiry and Annual Church Inspections

The Articles of Enquiry were returned to the diocese as required and the Annual Church Inspections of both churches were carried out on Saturday 14 May 2022 by Leslie Jackson, Reigate Deanery Lay Chair.

Statistics for Mission Return

The Statistics for Mission return to the Diocese was submitted as required by the diocese.

In reviewing the data it is important to note that, due to the pandemic, 'usual Sunday attendance' was not gathered in 2020 or 2021, and in 2020 there was no data for Easter, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

The data derived from the Statistics for Mission returns over the past 10 years does not necessarily present a valid view of trends within the parish. For example, the data is aggregated across both churches, and Chart 1: Attendance Summary 2013-2022, below, presents a skewed picture of the number of attendees in October of each year, since Sunday services at each church, together with Wednesday morning Holy Communion and Wisdom Stories at Teatime are included in the totals, thus double counting clergy, organist, SPA and several who attend on a Wednesday and Sunday in the same week.

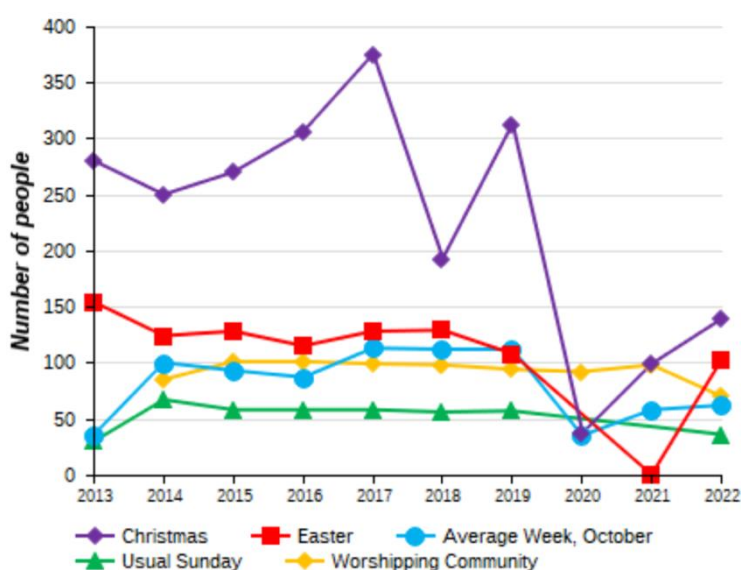


Chart1: Attendance summary 2013-2022

More accurate is the depiction of average attendance on a usual Sunday, which was relatively stable between 2014 and 2019, but which has not recovered to pre-pandemic levels. However, the number of hits on online services average around 12 per week, which may account for some parishioners who no longer attend physically since the end of lockdown.

This decline in physical attendance is more clearly visible in Chart 2: Usual Sunday Attendance (2013-2022).

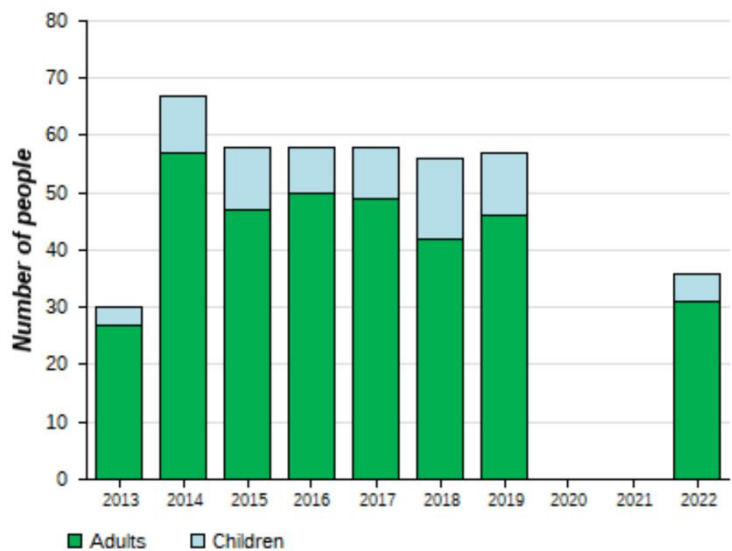


Chart 2: Usual Sunday Attendance (2013-2022)

When average Sunday attendance for each church is calculated for 2022, discounting all joint services, the Remembrance and Nine Lessons and Carol Services, which are also joint, the mean numbers attending each church are similar with a mean of 15 adults and 3 children attending The Church of the Wisdom of God and 17 adults and 2 children attending the Church of St. Andrew. The last comparative data for our churches was gathered in 2017 in which year mean attendance was 23 adults and 6 children at The Wisdom of God and 22 adults and 3 children at St. Andrew’s. Although in Chart 3: Attendance by Children (2013-2022), there appears to be slightly fewer children attending our churches for Sunday services, the average weekly attendance of children, as typified by attendance in October has risen significantly since 2014. Indeed, actual weekly attendance of Wisdom Stories at Teatime has remained stable since 2016. This might be viewed as a significant success, particularly given the recovery in the number of children attending following the end of the lockdowns.

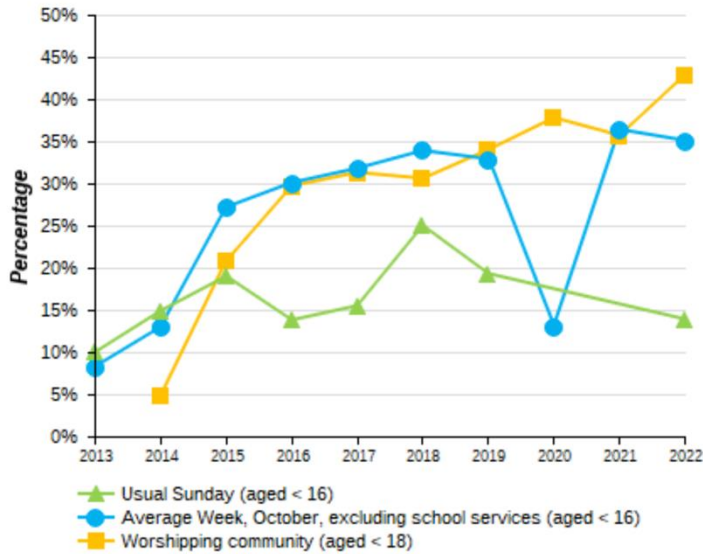


Chart 3: Attendance by Children

The number on the electoral roll has risen slightly since its reset in 2018.

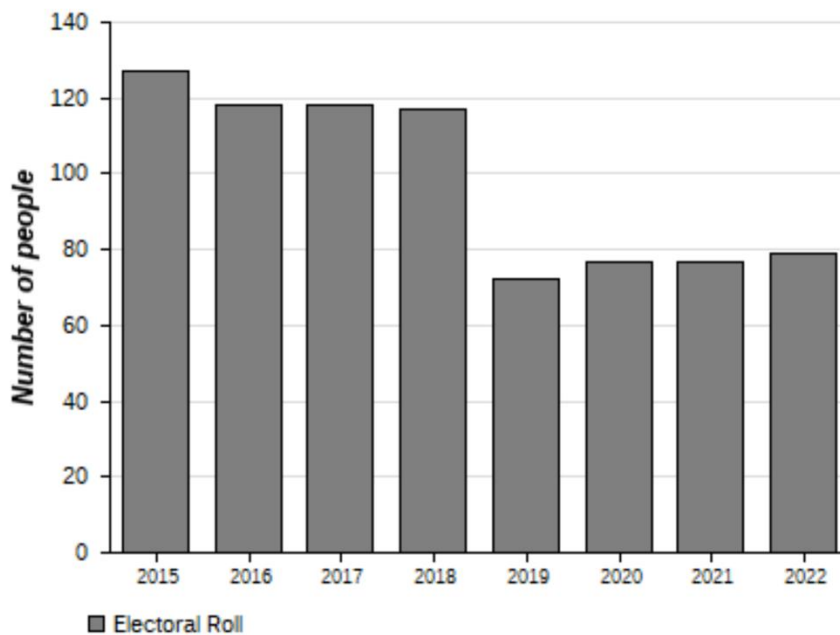


Chart 4: Electoral Roll 2013-2022

Quinquennial Inspections

The Church of St. Andrew's was inspected by Karen Butti, the diocesan approved architect on 19 May 2022 and The Church of Jesus Christ The Wisdom of God on 18 July 2022.

Repairs to the apse at the Church of Jesus Christ The Wisdom of God

In July 2022 it was noticed that there was a new crack above the apse arch at the Wisdom of God. Graeme Knibbs took photographs, which were shared with Karen Butti, the Inspecting Architect, who made arrangements for a Conservator, Tom Organ, survey the problem

which was deemed to require urgent repair work and for which there was a need to erect scaffolding.

Adrian Cox Associates, Structural Engineers ascertained that the crack was likely to be the result of minor subsidence resulting from the exceptionally dry conditions. It was concluded that repairs should be made to the mosaic of the apse and that the situation be monitored to assess the extent of any further subsidence or heave.

An interim Faculty for the work required was received on 8 December 2022 and the repairs were completed on 22 December 2022 in time for the Christmas services.

The cost of the conservator's and structural engineer's reports and subsequent repairs were covered by grants from Church Care, ASDA and support from the Woodroffe Fund.

Energy

In response to a ten-fold increase in energy costs, the PCC met on 10 October 2022 and voted to institute the following measures:

- to heat our churches only to the degree of maintaining frost settings on both boilers,
- to purchase blankets for congregants at both churches,
- to provide electric heating seat pads at each church,
- congregants at St. Andrew's Church to meet in the choir stalls rather than the nave where possible,
- to seek sponsorship for heating of churches for 'special' services.

On 16 December notification was received from the diocese that a grant to the sum of £2,456.25 has been made to the parish to support its energy expenses.

The outturn to the end of 2022 is inline with expectations, with costs being similar to 2021, despite the measures listed above.

Electrics at The Wisdom of God

The quinquennial inspection of the fixed wiring at St Andrew's was completed with remedial work being carried out as required.

Gas and Boilers at St. Andrew's and The Wisdom of God

Gas Safety Certificates were secured for both churches. Cowley's replaced the pump in the boiler room at St. Andrew's and the filters at The Wisdom of God on 19 May 2022.

Replacement of Lightbulbs at The Church of The Wisdom of God

All lightbulbs at The Church of The Wisdom of God were replaced by energy saving LED bulbs on 1 November 2022.

Tree Works at The Wisdom of God

Significant tree works were undertaken at The Wisdom of God in April 2022 to remove holly and raise the canopy of the two fir trees on the path. Trees on the perimeter were also reduced. This was funded via the Woodruffe Fund at a cost of £1,800.

Noticeboard at The Wisdom of God

This was refurbished in April 2022 at a cost of £125.00, paid from the Woodruffe fund.

Parish Fete 2022

The annual Parish Fete took place on 3 September 2022, with a 'Jungle Fun' theme. Manor Farm was contacted to provide a small animal petting area and a bouncy castle was hired for children. The weather was fine and attendance good. £2,822.66 was raised.

Harvest Festival (25 September 2022)

The Harvest Festival Services were held in both churches and a good collection of donations was received for the food bank.

Remembrance Service (13 November 2022)

There was a good turnout for the Remembrance Service at St Andrews, with members of the uniformed organisations in attendance.

Confirmation Service Sunday (27 November 2022)

The conformation service was held at Holy Trinity, Redhill on Sunday 27 November 2022. The Parish presented 6 candidates (5 children and 1 adult) for confirmation.

Due to the service being held on the first Sunday in Advent, it was necessary to cancel our planned annual Advent Service.

Parish Choir

The Parish Choir continued to perform at both churches throughout the year and gave two concerts at our churches, one for the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 2022 and the other being the Christmas Concert on 9 December 2022. Additionally, the choir took part in the local 'Tutti Festi concert at Kingswood Village Hall on 19 November 2022.

Organist

The parish organist of many decades, Frank Foxen resigned from his post at the end of 2022 and was thanked for his many years of good service.

Kevin Chamberlain and Graeme Hopkins
Churchwardens

Electoral Roll

As at 24 March 2022, the electoral roll stood at 77 persons.

Susan Mitchell
Electoral Roll Officer

SPA links

Linda Utting (SPA) has continued 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

Wisdom Stories at Teatime has recommenced live and in the Church of the Wisdom of God throughout 2022.

Thanks to Jo Anderson, Kate Love, Jayde Davies, Abi Robinson, 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.

Linda Utting
SPA

Coffee Morning

The local community has continued to attend and enjoy the monthly coffee morning reinstated in September of 2021, following the pandemic. This is an important social gathering which helps to bring members of the parish together in friendship, and which is much valued by all who attend. We are grateful to Liz Richardson, Mary McCormick, Gill McMaster, Sharon Childs and Brenda Avery for their assistance in running this event.

Linda Utting
SPA

Events Committee

The activities of the Events Committee have had to be put on hold following an ongoing problem with Barclays Bank. Back in January 2022 we tried to add Susan Mitchell, our new Treasurer, as a signatory to the account and to have some of the past signatories removed. We were then informed that Pia Chamberlain, the chair and a signatory to the account since the early 1990s, had to have her signature and identity witnessed before any other measures could be taken. After several visits to the local branch (now closed down), lengthy phone calls and repeated filling-in of forms, the situation is still unresolved. Our efforts to close down the account and having our funds transferred to the general parish account have been systematically thwarted and we have now again been sent the same set of forms as those we had already filled in in January 2022 by what appears to be an automated service, while the points raised in our numerous letters have remained unanswered. A formal complaint has been filed with Barclays Bank as per their instructions and if this matter is not

resolved within the time allowed, we propose to take it further to the Financial Services Ombudsman.

Pia Chamberlain

Home Group

The home group has continued to meet approximately fortnightly throughout the year at various member's homes.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonian Christians, 'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.' So, we 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.

During the year we have studied 'The Flood', 'The tower of Babel, Paul's first letter to Timothy and started to follow Abram's journey of faith from Ur to the land of promise. It has been fascinating to see how Abram is a man of faith also he struggled with the same issues that we do and how his faith and relationship with God grew.

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

Cross Ways Magazine

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the magazine in any way over the past year. I would also like to thank Alexia for copying and sending out the print copies of the magazine each month.

Local content is what makes the magazine 'The Parish Magazine' so I have actively sought such material. I am always interested in contributions from the congregation or ideas of topics that might be of interest.

I have tried to provide a wide range of content so that there will be something of interest to everyone in each issue. I hope that the magazine inspires us to think about how our faith affects us as individuals and as a parish. While the sidebar provides more light hearted and humorous content.

In the email there are 'clickable' links to related web sites, videos and downloadable items of interest. I have also started to make posters and photographs clickable so that larger versions can be viewed.

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 available, if you require one, please contact the parish administrator.

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.

Finally, I would like to thank Alison for her painstaking work proofreading the magazine and laying out the print version.

Graeme Knibbs
Editor

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met three times during 2022;

- 22 February
- 29 June
- 20 October

The Meetings included detailed updates on the following projects:

- Youth and children
- Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus Group (there was a particular focus on Modern Day Slavery during the June meeting)
- Welcare
- Foodbanks
- Eco Church
- Mother's Union

There has been a presentation from Sparkfish, a local, collaborative, Christian organisation that aims to inspire and encourage young people in faith, hope and love. They engage with young people in schools across Reigate, Redhill and Merstham, offering support in important areas of the curriculum and school life.

Working as a team with local churches, they lead by example, lovingly demonstrating their own faith and supporting young people in all aspects of their lives. They work across all ages in education, from early years to sixth form and seek to bridge gaps and build confidence, helping young people to grow emotionally and spiritually.

A Quiet day was held at Wychcroft on 9th April.

The meetings have provided an excellent opportunity for sharing ideas and gaining inspiration from other churches within the deanery.

Alison Knibbs
Deanery Synod Representative