

St Martin of Tours

Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs

Langley Vale

The Parish of

**St Martin of Tours, Epsom**

with St Stephen-on-the-Downs

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

# **ANNUAL REVIEW OF PARISH ACTIVITIES 2021**



**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021**

**11.00am**

**To be held in the Church  
and on You Tube / Zoom  
(details on the website)**

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## MINISTRY REPORT

Since our last meeting in October, we have found ourselves coping with lockdowns, ever changing guidance, the need to make our worship 'hybrid' – live in Church and streamed on the internet, pastoral concerns, managing funerals with very reduced numbers and a host of other issues.

I simply want to pay tribute to all my colleagues on the ministry team for their outstanding commitment, flexibility, ingenuity, fellowship and humanity.

The same is true of my colleagues on the staff team, who have kept the Church functioning throughout – administering our operations whilst working from home, ensuring we are COVID safe for our users and visitors, and accepting varying furlough arrangements. Also, our musicians, who have played live when permitted, and recorded music when not.

A special thank you to Rob Jeffrey, who has been so generous with his skill and time in making our internet-based offering happen, and to our wardens, David and John, who have worked behind (and in front) of the scenes on so many challenging aspects of our Church life.

***Nick Parish***

**THE PARISH OF ST MARTIN OF TOURS, EPSOM WITH  
ST STEPHEN ON THE DOWNS, LANGLEY VALE**

**Annual Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens  
11.30am on Sunday 18th October 2020, in the Church and via zoom**

**Draft Minutes**

The Annual Meeting for the election of Churchwardens was held in the Church and via zoom on Sunday 18th October 2020.

(N.B. Both meetings may ask for any matters to be placed on the PCC Agenda, not decision-making meetings for policy)

1     **Prayers** - led by Nick Parish

2     **Members Present** - approximately 35 parishioners

3     **Apologies for absence**

Jean Wright.

4     **Minutes of Meeting held on Sunday 28th April 2019**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday 28th April 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record.

5     **Nominations for Churchwardens**

Two nominations have been received for the two Churchwarden vacancies for the year 2020/2021.

Mr David Eggett – proposed by Richard Barrett, seconded by John Penfold.

Dr John Flower - proposed by Richard Barrett, seconded by John Penfold.

6     **Election of Churchwardens**

Mr David Eggett and Dr John Flower were elected unanimously to serve.

7     **Any Other Business**

Nick thanked David and John for their hard work in the Parish.

# ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2018

## Draft Minutes

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held in the Church on Sunday 18th October 2020.

Nick Parish chaired the meeting and approximately 35 parishioners attended.

### 1 **Health and Safety Issues**

During the past year one incident of a minor injury was reported.

At St Stephens one incident was reported and a risk assessment carried out for all future events.

Nick Parish referred one incident to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

### 2 **Safeguarding Issues**

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' Guidance on safeguarding children).

### 3 **Minutes of Meeting held on Sunday 28th April 2019**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday 28th April 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record.

### 4 **Election of Deanery Synod representatives**

a. 2 representatives for a period of 3 years

Howard Bluett – proposed by Chris Hyde seconded by Jim Wilson

Martyn Holloway Neville – proposed by David Eggett seconded by Mary Holloway Neville

### 5 **Election of Parochial representatives of the laity to the PCC**

a. 4 members for a period of 3 years

b. 1 member for a period of 2 years

c. 3 members for a period of 1 year

### ***The following members of the PCC have completed their terms of office and now retire from the PCC***

Richard Deavin

Laurence Impey

Oliver Madgwick

Meg Topley

Nick Parish thanked the above for their term of service.

4 members of the laity to be elected to the PCC for a period of 3 years.

**Richard Deavin** - proposed by Diana Deavin, seconded by John Roll Pickering

**Meg Topley** – proposed by Mabel Griffith, seconded by Judith Mitchell

**Sarah Jeffery** – proposed by Rob Jeffery, seconded by Cathy Morris

1 member of the laity to be elected to the PCC for a period of 2 years.  
Post remains vacant.

3 members of the laity to be elected to the PCC for a period of 1 year.  
Posts remain vacant.

The Churchwardens are ex-officio members of the PCC, by virtue of their office.

All nominees were elected unanimously and thanked for offering their time to undertake these roles. Thanks, was given to all members of the PCC who have worked so hard during the year.

Laurence Impey was thanked for his work as PCC secretary during the last 3 years.

**6. Appointment of Examiner/Auditor for year 2020/2021**

Tudor John were appointed as Examiners/Auditors.

**7. Electoral Roll Report 2019**

Mr John Aronson presented the following report.

The electoral roll was revised on 2 October 2020 in accordance with the required procedures.

There has been a decrease in numbers on the roll this year; we started with 183 members on the new roll and finished with 177 which is a net decrease of 6.

- 6 members died (4 resident and 2 non-resident)
- 5 new names were added (4 resident and 1 non-resident)
- There were 2 changes of address (with no change in residency status).
- 5 members moved away.

Last year of the 183, 124 members were resident in the parish and 59 non-resident being 68% and 32% respectively, the new total of 177 shows 120 resident and 57 non-resident, which is 67.8% and 32.2% respectively.

The roll is re-opened for additions or deletions from the close of this AGM, so if anyone eligible wishes to join please fill in a form (available at the back of church) and put in the "A" pigeonhole for my collection or deliver it to the Parish Office. The names and residency status of members on the roll is available for inspection at the back of church and for security, the roll with addresses and contact details is held in the Parish Office where it is available for checking. Please enter any corrections to be made on the sheet inside the front cover of the version at the back of the church.

**JOHN R ARONSON, ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER**

The Crow's Nest, Silver Close, Kingswood, Surrey KT20 6QS. 01737-832584

Electoral Roll - a question was asked to clarify if Electoral Roll data could be shared for people to be contacted. The chair clarified that details may be used and shared with relevant officials; it cannot be used for any other purposes.

## **8. Treasurer's Report 2019**

Mrs Alyson Aronson, presented the following report

2019 saw the realisation of the major projects planned the previous year: the renewal and enhancement of the church lighting and sound systems and installation of an audio-visual system. The work was funded by the generous legacies from Cecil Wiltshire and Peggy Hanley. The latter legacy also funded equipment for our Worship Band.

It seems a very long time since these accounts were approved by the PCC at the meeting on 7 April 2020 (see minutes, item 4), and recommended for adoption at the APCM then due to be held at the end of April.

It was agreed to capitalise the installations, so the tangible assets figure in the balance sheet is increased by some £210k from last year. Our investments responded to a robust performance in the market generally and were revalued at £809k, up £140k on last year, so our fixed assets showed an increase of c.£350k for the year. This was however somewhat reduced by the consequent decrease in our cash balances, although debtors were higher than usual due to the provision for an expected grant to cover the VAT element of the lighting works. Creditors were down on last year. The final net assets total was £1.765m, up £90k from last year, with ££249k held in restricted funds and the remainder, £1.516m, in unrestricted funds.

Legacies were received from Freda Elbourne, the Lay Estate and Jan Chamberlain. We are very grateful to them for remembering St Martins and St Stephens churches and for their support during their lives. Giving increased in all other areas, investment income was slightly up on 2018. Income from charitable activities improved but the gain on last year was reduced by less fees and loss of rental of 12 Worples Road. The resulting total income for the year was just £3k up on 2018.

Costs were controlled wherever possible, but there were the inevitable increases in parish share, utilities and insurance, depreciation (due to the increase in tangible assets) and property costs, which included work in St Martins church resulting from the Quinquennial inspection. Salaries and staff costs were less than expected due to the retirement of Anna Keith, our children and families leader, and other savings were recorded in clergy expenses, sanctuary and service costs, music, children and families activities and training. The overall operating deficit was £50k against a predicted £40k.

The Charity Commissioners regulate our accounts and implement a very strict set of rules on compliance, thus our accounts have to be produced to a detailed formula which is often a little confusing. All monies received have to be allocated to certain "funds" in the accounts, which can be of 3 types: restricted, designated and unrestricted. Monies where the donor specifies the use to which the gift must be put have to be allocated to a restricted fund. Unrestricted funds are where no directions as to usage have been specified. Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been put aside for a specific purpose by the PCC. (see p7 Fund Accounting). Similarly, all expenditure has to be allocated to its relevant fund. The actual money in the funds is held either in investments, deposit accounts (all with Church of England accounts) or as cash in bank current accounts or cash in hand. The rest of

the Financial Statement shows the movement in funds with comparisons with 2018, the accounting policies, revaluation of investments and notes to the accounts.

As ever, we are most grateful to the financial contributions made so generously by our parishioners, particularly to those who responded to the call to increase regular committed giving in the spring of 2019. We must continue to be aware of and monitor our financial situation constantly, be prudent in our spending and generous in our giving.

2020 to date has seen unprecedented changes to our regular activities and consequent substantial drop in income. Some areas of expenditure have also decreased, but others have remained fairly constant so continual close cashflow monitoring has been vital and will continue to be for the foreseeable future. Some projects will inevitably have to be deferred or scaled down, but we are fortunate in having a healthy balance sheet at the end of 2019. On a personal note, I am retiring as bookkeeper and acting treasurer from today and we are very fortunate to have Sarah Scott as our new bookkeeper. However, due to personal reasons David Nason has not been able to take the role of treasurer so that post is unfilled, and so will be covered by the churchwardens for the time being. I would like to thank the vicar and churchwardens for their support and assistance with financial matters over the last few years and offer my best wishes for the future.

Alyson Aronson, Acting Treasurer

Nick thanked Alyson for all the work she has done as bookkeeper and acting treasurer.

**9. Secretary's Report (in the Annual Review of Parish Activities 2020).**

Mr Laurence Impey's report as it appeared in the Annual Review was agreed. Thanks, and appreciation to Mr Laurence Impey for his role as PCC secretary.

**10. Fabric Report (in the Annual Review of Parish Activities 2020).**

The Fabric report as it appeared in the Annual Review was noted. The Fabric Committee continue to look after our buildings.

**11. Deanery Synod Report (in the Annual Review of Parish Activities 2020)**

The Deanery Synod's report as it appeared in the Annual Review was noted. Thank you to John Roll Pickering, author of the report.

**12. Appointment of Examiner/Auditor for year 2020/2021**

John Aronson has agreed to stand again as Electoral Roll Officer. John Aronson was proposed through the chair and elected unanimously.

**13. Chairs Remarks**

Nick thanked his colleagues, staff, and volunteers for all the work they do in the parish.

Nick thanked the churchwardens for their support and Richard Deavin for overseeing several large projects at St Martin's.



As Judith Mitchell is training to be ordained, she will no longer hold the office of pro warden at St Stephen's. Linda Blackwell continues to look after St Stephen's. Rob Jeffery was thanked for setting up the on-line streaming capability and running the livestreaming of services every week. The next APCM is to be held by the end of May 2021.

We do not know what the future holds with regards to Covid, but we will continue to do the best we can in the circumstances.

**14. Any Other Business**

Mary Dixson was thanked for playing the organ at St Stephens

**15. Date of next ordinary Parochial Church Council Meeting:**

Tuesday 10th November 2020 at 7.30pm via zoom

The Revd Nick Parish thanked everyone for coming to the meeting today and closed with the Grace.

# **SECRETARY'S REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC 2020/21**

The PCC met via Zoom on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The 2021 APCM will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021.

At the November meeting the PCC adopted the diocesan parish Safeguarding policy. Following the APCM on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Nicky Kelly agreed to be PCC Secretary; the Churchwardens have assumed the role of Joint Treasurers pending the appointment of a qualified Treasurer.

Sarah Jeffery, Margaret Angus and Helen Williams were welcomed to the PCC.

Nick Parish proposed a revised structure of the SFC and PCC. SFC to consist of statutory members plus Chairs of four departments. SFC to play the leadership role, offering pointers for strategy for debate by PCCV. Members of church activities to feed into the Chair of each department. Chairs report to PCC. Due to the third lockdown these arrangements will be deferred till after the APCM.

St Martin's properties will be reviewed as part of a national and diocesan programme to prepare for an expected decline in congregations post-covid.

Furlough arrangements for office staff, the Director of Music and the Verger have been continued. The national lockdown has seen changes to the church's routine and the closure of Church House to all apart from support groups.

***Nicky Kelly***

## **STANDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Church Representation Rules specify that every PCC must have a Standing Committee, comprising of the incumbent and Churchwardens and at least two other members of the Council. Since the last APCM, Margaret Angus, Richard Deavin and Laurence Impey have served in this role.

This committee is the principal committee of the PCC and has the power to transact the business of the Council in between meetings of the PCC. It also progresses the work of the PCC, plans its agenda, and monitors our finances.

We meet in between PCC meetings and 'pre-digest' a lot of material to make recommendations to the PCC, and hopefully free up PCC time to focus on the more strategic issues.

Nicky Kelly looks after our administration and ensures that we have all the papers that we need at each meeting. If you would like to know more about the issues that we have discussed, please do not hesitate to contact one of our number in the first instance.

***Nick Parish***

## CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Our report this year will be different than in previous years, not just because of the impact that the pandemic has wreaked on our Parish over the last 12 months, but also to reflect the changes introduced by the Church Representation Rules 2020, into the governance of Parishes and how APCM's are run.

The Church Representation Rules require that the PCC shall provide to the APCM five reports, including an annual fabric report. However, as Richard has more than covered all of the fabric issues in his report, we will limit ourselves to three paragraphs about issues with the letter C:

Firstly, Covid and the pandemic. Throughout this year, the governance of the Parish has continued and John, Nick and I have met every week by Zoom to plan what we need to do to enable us to respond to an ever-changing situation. Nick has put a herculean effort to keep on top of a mountain of guidance that has come out from both the Diocese and the Church nationally on what we should or should not be doing in terms of our response to the pandemic. As a result, we have been one of the few Churches that has been open for live worship in Epsom during those times when live worship has been authorised.

Secondly, clutter. In the early part of 2020, John and I started a campaign to declutter St Martin's Church; an early win was clearing all the rubbish and extraneous material from the switch room/boiler room. We then started to develop a policy for storage in Church that would locate articles used only rarely stored in the gallery above the faculty pew, whilst those that are used throughout the year will be stored in the white cupboards in the Nave of the Church. This project is a work in progress, and once the pandemic is over, we hope to return to this later in the year.

Finally, cable. I think all of us are thankful that the PCC had the foresight to install a full audio visual system in Church in 2019, which we have been able to purpose for live streaming of our services since last summer. John and I would like to particularly thank Rob Jeffrey who almost singlehandedly installed the necessary cabling and computer equipment that has given us the capability to live stream services to a very high technical standard. These services have allowed those who for whatever reason are unable to join us in Church to be able to join in our worship on a regular basis.

If you have any questions about anything in this report, please do not hesitate to contact the Churchwardens in the first instance on [wardens@stmartinsepsom.org](mailto:wardens@stmartinsepsom.org).

***David Eggett & John Flower***

## **FABRIC REPORT**

Due to the restrictions imposed during most of the year as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic many projects, including routine maintenance not justified due to low use, were put on hold.

We have selected a new roofer and the requirements of the Quinquennial inspection of July 2017 were carried out on his first maintenance visit in January. We have reached agreement with the Inspecting Architect over Quinquennial work to be carried out in the churchyard, and quotations have been received for the refurbishment of four chest tombs. The balance of the work will be carried out by the Council as routine maintenance.

Fine tuning of the new lighting system, including better lighting of the War Memorial and additional provision for visiting choirs on the dais, was completed during the year. Following an incident at night on the path on the North side we have obtained a quotation to install three additional automatic lanterns in the area of the Choir vestry.

With the support of our A/V contractor we have installed equipment permitting the streaming of services to homes. This feature, already admired by other churches, has other uses. For example it enabled Epsom Choral Society to extend rehearsals to home-bound members.

Approval is still awaited for our proposal to modify the seating for the new sound console.

We have received proposals from the Architect for improved facilities at the West end of the Church

We have commissioned a report from Everett's Estate Agents, on the condition of Church House including an estimate and suggested programme for refurbishment. This will form part of a wider study for a 5-year plan for all our properties.

We can also report that the bees in the east tower appear to have moved out.

***Richard Deavin***

## **CHURCH LIFE IN 2020**

We have, I hope, managed to keep everyone 'on board' – either through attending Church, watching our services online, or receiving an adapted newsletter at the front door – thanks to the efforts of Howard Bluett.

In Church House we have been able to host permitted support group meetings, but otherwise have had long periods when all the usual activities have ceased.

All that said, I think our Church has felt alive in spirit throughout. It was a great temptation to hibernate after Christmas! But a positive has been how many people have accessed daily prayer, study groups, and our public worship online.

We are learning what we can usefully do remotely, becoming more inclusive of those with compromised mobility, and also what is really important to do 'in the flesh' – socialisation, human contact, grieving and celebrating with others at life's key moments.

We will apply these lessons to the future.

***Nick Parish***

## **SERVICES THROUGHOUT 2020**

We have kept public worship going throughout. At various times this has been recorded, live, livestreamed, or a mixture. We have had to put a lot into service preparation which, whilst hard work, has enabled a creativity which has, I hope, made our services as meaningful as they can be for people. I think many of us have learned about the value of 'spiritual' communion, when we cannot be present at the Lord's table, but can receive him in our hearts as we watch the Eucharist from home.

We have all missed singing in Church, but I trust everyone has sung along at home. We have also had the opportunity to experience music from a wide range of sources, none of which is as good as having it live in Church but has exposed us to sources and styles we might not have met before. One constant has been our organ music, and we are all indebted to Iain (and, at times, Richard) who have played at all our live, or recorded, worship. Also Richard and our Choir, who have put magnificent effort into pre-recording music together for our services.

***Nick Parish***

## **WEBSITE REPORT**

Over the course of the previous 6 months the website has undergone a complete redesign and has migrated to a new web and email hosting. We have employed the services of a web designer to complete the bulk of this work and have retained her on an ad-hoc basis to do any future updates that we might require. The aim of the new website was to improve our virtual window to the church and our activities.

To give some context, in the past quarter St Martin's has been searched 34,814 times and within the last month 1,182 times. This time period does obviously cover the Christmas season, but even still we should be aware that our online presence is something that we should be developing over the coming months.

Currently an integral part of the website is providing a window to link to our YouTube channel where we stream all of our services. Since we started doing this in April 2020 we have had in excess of 9,500 views of the videos that we have put up there, in the beginning these were pre-recorded and since July, our services have been live streamed from St Martin's. At the moment we get a regular 30-35 viewers live on a Sunday morning and this generally rises to 75-100 views as the services are watched back during the week. Over time our videos are continued to be watched with the most currently coming from the Nine Lessons and Carols, currently at 235 views.

Our newly designed website looks great at the moment, however to keep the website looking fresh and alive it relies on two main things,

1. Uploading current and relevant information
2. Regularly changing the photos to keep them relevant and up-to-date.

Thank you to everyone who provides me with content for the website and thank you for putting up with me trying to creep around during services and take 'action' photos of what happens at St Martin's.

Finally, a huge thank you to Rev. David Candlin for being the driving force behind getting a new website agreed with the PCC and linking us to the current (and very affordable!) web developer who is helping us out behind the scenes.

***Rob Jeffery***

## **ECO CHURCH REPORT**

A commitment to Eco Church within the parish is still seen as an important part of our mission. In the early period of lockdown it seemed that Eco Church slipped from the forefront of our priorities, but it was relaunched with vigour with our Creationtide services in the early Autumn.

The second lockdown put paid to many of the interesting activities planned alongside worship and it is to be hoped that we can promote these again in the future. In December we received our Bronze Eco Church Award from A Rocha International and we have a small wooden plaque declaring this that we can display.

The Eco Church initiative needs to move forward and in the coming year we have the following aims:

- to run an Eco Fair in the church and Church House in the autumn;
- to embed on every church committee or group someone who will see that due consideration is given to environmental issues and that informed choices are made - this will enlarge the group of people in the congregation actively promoting environmental issues;
- to run a Creationtide service series;
- to promote a responsible attitude to the environment across the congregation.

***Graeme Lodge***

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN EPSOM REPORT**

Sadly, our plans for Good Friday 2020 were not able to proceed due to the pandemic, nor have we been able to run our Taste and See stall in the town centre. However, real progress has been made with the Hope into Action project, with Epsom Methodist Church becoming the supporting church for the first house. In 2020 our meetings and monthly prayers transferred to Zoom enabling those who are unable to travel to church to join us from their own homes. Our website ([www.ctie.org.uk](http://www.ctie.org.uk)) has also been redesigned, with good links to the different churches and their activities. At our AGM in February Chris Shaw stepped down as Chair, with Jane Williams, former Vice Chair, taking on the role. I have continued as Secretary, with Glenys Scadden representing the parish.

***Judith Mitchell***

## **CHURCH HOUSE REPORT**

The start 2020 Church House had our regular hirers booked and then on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March we had to close Church House due to the first lockdown.

We managed to re-open from the 4<sup>th</sup> September and had bookings from support groups, teaching French, children's activities and some training groups.

Church house then had to shut from the 3<sup>rd</sup> November to the 2<sup>nd</sup> December when only support groups could continue their hire.

Church House has continued to operate within government guidelines since the APCM in October 2020.

As lockdown is lifted hirers will be returning to use space in Church House. There has been a positive response from hirers who wish to move their classes and businesses off Zoom and return in person to run their groups. From April 12<sup>th</sup> activities involving children have returned to Church House. There are some limitations due to present room capacity limits but these are set to be eased hopefully in June 2021.

We look forward to welcoming back our regular hirers and being open so people can once again hold children's birthday parties, family celebrations, a Christmas fair and church events as and when restrictions are lifted.

***Nicola Kelly***



## **ONLINE GIVING REPORT**

Stewardship Giving saw many changes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The church was closed for services for several months meaning that one-off plate donations ceased immediately and have not returned. The weekly envelope giving scheme also suffered as people were not coming into church, however a number of people on the scheme continued to send in their donations to the parish office, but the huge reduction in the number of people on the scheme for 2021 means that this way of giving will cease at the end of this year. If you are on the scheme you will be contacted in the autumn and other methods of giving to St Martin's will be offered to you.

As a result of the lack of cash giving through the plate and weekly envelope scheme, we needed to work quickly to find an alternative way of increasing our giving .

The diocese provided information on the various providers of online giving and so I carried out some research and produced a report of my findings, which was passed on to the vicar and churchwardens for their input and approval. A decision was made to go with CAF online giving as this provided everything we needed and at a competitive rate, also we had been in discussions about migrating our bank account in the future to CAF and so this seemed the best option.

In June, once the initial set up was done, I created and a fundraising campaign for Giving to St Martin's which we were able to promote on our website via a link and also in our newsletter using a QR code. This method of giving is quick and easy to use and we can put QR codes on publicity in the church for people to donate when they attend one of the services.

The other benefit of the online giving platform is that we can create several fundraising campaigns for various seasonal activities. In 2020 we had one for Harvest for which we sent £753 to Farm Africa and one at Christmas for which we sent £250.64 to The Children's Society.

Giving to St Martin's via the CAF Online giving platform raised £3141 for 2020.

With the way people give changing and the fact that less and less people carry cash these days, the QR codes will be a great benefit to our giving at St Martin's, especially when life cycle services such as Baptisms and Weddings resume.

***Gina Ciesco***

# **BAPTISMS, FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS REPORT**

## **Baptisms:**

During the first few months of 2020 we baptised 3 children in St Martins and then all baptisms were put on hold due to the pandemic and so 7 families had their baptisms postponed.

We were able to resume baptisms in September and October and managed to baptise 3 children whose baptisms were postponed, before the 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown commenced.

Since November baptisms have again been on hold and with the recent “Road Map” announcement we can again start to plan to carry out the remaining postponed baptisms and follow up on new enquiries.

All baptism families have been contacted and we hope to commence baptisms again in June with numbers limited to 30 for families that are happy to go ahead and then from July when hopefully the restrictions on numbers will be lifted.

## **Funerals:**

Between January and March 2020 we carried out 6 funerals. When the first lockdown commenced at the end of March funerals in church were put on hold. We had our first funeral booking at the end of April and this took place at a crematorium. It wasn't until later in the lockdown that funerals could take place in church.

From April to the end of December 2020 we have arranged 9 funerals, 5 at a crematorium, 2 at Epsom cemetery and 2 at St Martin's. All the funerals were restricted by numbers and the restriction of numbers still remain at 30 and this is set to remain until the restrictions are lifted at the end of June.

## **Weddings:**

Due to the lockdown earlier in the year the 2 weddings we had booked were postponed. One wedding that was due to take place in May was then able to be re-scheduled to take place in August with restricted numbers and the other has been moved until 2021.

Although it has been a turbulent year for the wedding couples, they are still wanting to book dates at St Martin's and St Luke's Chapel at Epsom College. During the course of the summer we took 2 new wedding bookings for 2020, one which took place at the end of September with restricted numbers and the other which was booked for the end of December but then needed to be postponed until April 2021 due to the 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown. We have also had 5 new enquiries for weddings for 2021, 2 of which are at St Martin's and 3 at Epsom College. In total for 2021 there are 6 weddings and 1 wedding blessing booked and for 2022 there are 2 weddings booked for St Martin's.

With the restriction in numbers hopefully lifting in June the weddings we have from July onwards should be able to have unlimited numbers and the church can return to welcoming people to celebrate the marriage of their families and friends.

***Gina Ciesco***