

Electoral Roll Report

There are 78 persons listed on the electoral roll as regular and habitual worshippers at St. Mark's.

Safeguarding and Children's Provision at St Mark's - 2020.

Due to government restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic, all children's services were stopped from March 2020, and have not been resumed since. Any children attending Sunday worship at St Mark's have been accompanied by their parents and have been required to stay within their household bubble for the duration of the service, which obviously puts them at the lowest possible risk for safeguarding concerns.

There has been no Sunday School or Little Lions playgroup during this period, and hence no active safeguarding requirements for these.

Whilst indoor children's activities are now allowed under the easing of government restrictions, there have not yet been sufficient numbers of interested children and carers to support resuming Sunday School or Little Lions.

"SMHT Gardeners began meeting by ZOOM in April 2020. We gather every month and share photographs of our plants, discuss problems we encounter through the activities of squirrels, foxes, slugs and snails, and get advice about pruning and feeding our plants. We have followed the seasonal changes and lovely blossoms in St Mark's delightful garden. Most of all, we enjoy each other's company and look forward to visiting each other's gardens in person. Some members, however, may not manage that given one lives in the Highlands and one in Berwick-on-Tweed".

St Mark's Women's Book Club

The St. Mark's Women's Book Club is still going strong. It has met every 4-6 weeks for the last almost four years. There are now almost sixty women on the mailing list and an enthusiastic, fluctuating group participates in each gathering with considerable fellowship exchanged online between meetings. The Book Club moved onto Zoom over the last fifteen months, which has enabled regular participation from various geographic quarters including Canterbury and Lagos. The Book Club switches between fiction and non-fiction and always aims to read books that celebrate the experience of womanhood in all its richness.

Report on Fabric St Mark's Church

The COVID19 pandemic and resultant government guidelines have dictated much of the activity in respect of the church buildings. Most significantly, the church hall has been broadly unused meaning that this community asset has not delivered the usual income, except for a few weeks when lockdown lifted, and the church itself has only been attended sporadically, although it has remained open for private worship when the guidelines have allowed. On the upside, this has provided an opportunity for the PCC to consider the right strategy for the use of the church hall and attend to some necessary repair works in the buildings.

The Church Hall

The church hall, as mentioned above, has been broadly unused during 2020, by its multiple regular and incidental users. This has significantly reduced the PCC's income in 2020. In particular, the Vestry Preschool gave vacant possession of the church hall annex on 30 November 2020. This has

delivered an opportunity to reconsider the letting strategy for the church hall. Gerald Eve has been consulted to provide a proposal for maximising the income from the church hall asset and provide market intelligence.

The Cottage

Westminster City Council served a notice of improvement deeming the cottage hazardous and requiring us to carry out repair works within 12 weeks of the date of the notice, being 16 November 2020.

The nature of the works required included most importantly, electrical works, replacement windows, a new airtight front door, repairs to the bathroom, and the roof, and some repairs to the front gate. The most important works have been done, namely, the electrical works and the repairs to the roof, such that the electricians are now certified and the leak from the roof has been fixed.

The Church

Necessary repairs to the church boiler and leaking pipes in the chapel have been successfully undertaken. (TO BE CONFIRMED)

Deanery Synod Report

During a period of unprecedented anxiety and dislocation, caused by the pandemic, the Saint Marylebone Deanery Synod considered the best response from the Church of England to present and future challenges. As Zoom meetings began to replace live sessions, the synod discussed 'The 2030 Vision', to consider how to take forward this vision with a focus on how the ministry will look after the pandemic. Presented by Bishop Sarah, 'The 2030 Vision' had involved interviewing 6,000 people in London to establish vision and priorities,

Another key report was 'From Lament to Action' from the Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce, with a list of proposed moves to begin bringing about a change of culture in the life of the Church of England. This was accompanied with a warning that 'failure to act could be the last straw'.

This period also saw the presentation to the synod of 'Living in Love and Faith' by the Rev Dr Chris Wright, an Old Testament scholar. This report had been commissioned in 2017 by the then Archbishops.