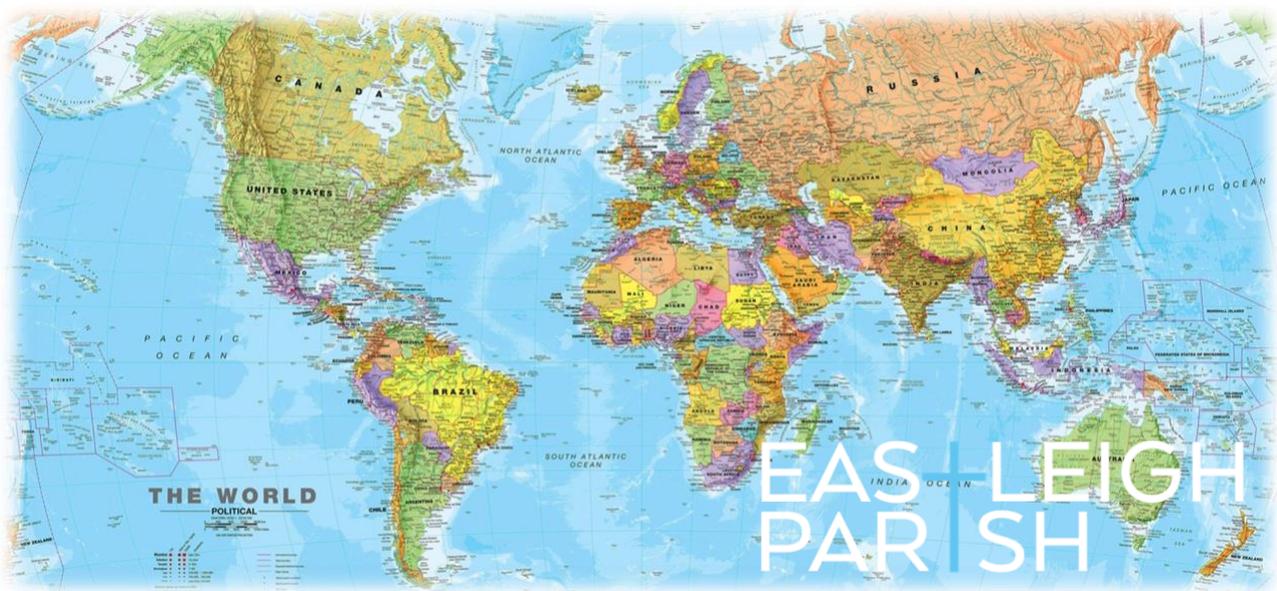


# The Report for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Eastleigh Parish Church 2021



*“Go and make disciples of all nations.”*

*Matthew 28:19*

10am Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Online via [EastleighParish.com](http://EastleighParish.com)

In Person at All Saints' SO50 5NH

*(The financial papers are available separately)*

### Welcome to the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

Alongside the legal requirement to elect wardens, PCC members, etc. every APCM provides us with an opportunity to pause and to reflect on all that has been happening and 'where we are going' as a parish church.

Owing to the COVID lockdown, the previous APCM was only 7 months ago – but a lot has happened in this time, and there is much to give God thanks for.

These are a few highlights of mine in the life of EPC since Oct 2020 (the last APCM):

- Watching Michael settle into his role as Children & Families Minister; and by extension seeing the youth ministry grow and the work with young families increase in quality & depth
- The vibrancy during times of worship; especially within our 9:30 Sunday & 9:15 Wednesday congregations
- Being a part of a wonderful Discipleship Group (DG) in which the '5Ws' are being seen more and more (worship, word, witness, welcome, width)
- Seeing 2 new DGs established – both of which are going very well
- The 2 different Christmas events on the green outside of St Francis'
- Attending the very moving Good Friday event 'The Cross on the Green' outside St Francis'
- (Personally) Being so well supported by good wardens and the MLT/PCC
- Watching Kayleigh Y, Dot C, Andres P, Keith P and many others lead services/events and/or teach so well in the life of the parish

And most of all, my favourite personal highlight in the past 6/7 months has been:

- Seeing so many people embrace the mission & vision that we laid out together at the APCM in Oct 2020 following our shared discernment process: that we would aim to *make disciple-making disciples and become a community of discipleship groups*

Remaining connected to one-another has been a challenge during these long months of lockdowns and restrictions, and there is much that we might normally enjoy doing together that hasn't been possible for the same reasons, but the life and the mission of this parish has continued to grow and develop throughout.

It is true that there are numerous people that we have not seen in many months. We have tried various ways of offering connection points, especially to older and more vulnerable church members. Each week, *Outlook* has been posted to every person we have contact details for who doesn't have easy access to email, and a team of volunteers have been making regular phone calls to all those who are not in a DG and are unable to attend the services we currently have on offer. I'm sure that I will have made many mistakes during this pandemic and will have let many people down, but I am also sure that we have tried to offer fellowship and meaningful connection with the church family to anyone who was wanting to receive such an offer.

It is possible that the end of lockdowns and restrictions is now in sight. Funnily enough, regardless of what the practical considerations of church life might look like in the months ahead, once again we will be able to say, 'nothing has really changed'. What do I mean by

## *2021 APCM Report for EPC*

that? God's goodness, as revealed to us in the person of Jesus is still the same. Our need to be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to be fruitful witnesses is still the same. The rejection by the world of the message of Jesus contrasted with our call to hold on to the word of God as the final authority is still the same. God's love of the Church and his promise to return to take us to be with him is also still the same.

It will be great to be able to sing together once again, and it will be such a joy when we can visit one-another's homes, run BBQs, and do all the things we enjoy doing as a church family. But the mission to make disciple-making disciples will always be the same until the day Jesus returns to make all things new.

*Revd Ian Fletcher  
Vicar, EPC*

### 3 Key Statements in the Life of Eastleigh Parish Church

#### Our Ethos Statement

(or 'who we are')

*"The Benefice of Eastleigh (in the Church of England Deanery of Eastleigh and Diocese of Winchester) is part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Benefice of Eastleigh professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation.*

*All activities and operations of The Benefice of Eastleigh will adhere to this ethos."*

#### Our Mission Statement

(or why this parish church exists)

*"Eastleigh Parish Church exists to make disciple-making disciples of Jesus Christ."*

#### Our Vision Statement

(or what we hope to achieve)

*"We aim to become a community of Discipleship Groups."*

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting Agenda

- 10am Welcome from the Chairman, Revd Ian Fletcher, and:
- Opening prayer
- Item 1 Opening Business:
- Appointment of Secretary
  - Record of Attendance
  - Apologies
- Item 2 Review of Minutes of 2020 APCM
- Item 3 The Electoral Roll:
- Report from Electoral Roll Officer
  - Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer
- Item 4 The Annual Report, including:
- Financial Statements for PCC (year ending Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2020)
  - Appointment of Independent Examiner
  - Presentation of Terrier Log & Inventory
- Item 5 Opportunity for Q & A
- Item 6 Election of Officials
- Church Warden(s)
  - PCC
  - Deanery Synod
- Item 7 Closing Business
- Date of next PCC meeting (7:30pm Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2021)
  - Date of 2022 APCM (*proposal*: 9:30am Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022)
  - Closing Prayer

--

*We will aim to finish by 11:30am*

## APCM Reports

The following pages contain various reports prepared by several church officers. The financial report and data are available separately. We are very grateful to all who have contributed to these reports.

### PCC

The PCC has met 3 times since the 2020 APCM in Oct 2020. The membership and structure of the PCC has been as follows (*names in italics with a \*star are non-PCC members of sub committees*):

#### Ministry Leadership Team

- Ian Fletcher (Vicar)
- Adrian Nance (LLM)
- Sue Fletcher (Deanery Synod Rep and BCM)
- Bronnie Watson
- Phil Watson (Church Warden)

#### Buildings Maintenance Committee

- Geoff Chadwick (chair)
- Keith Pickering (Church Warden, *with particular responsibility for All Saints'*)
- *\*Julie Lewis*

#### Operations

- Sue Fletcher (chair)
- Bronnie Watson (Women's Ministry and All Saints' Kitchen Supplies)
- Keith Pickering (Church Warden with particular responsibility for All Saints')
- Linda Pickering (Hall Bookings)
- Sandra Kneller (Pastoral Care and Cleaning Supervisor)
- Andres Prieto (AV and Churchsuite)
- Darryl Yates (Church Warden, *with particular responsibility for St Francis'*)
- Kayleigh Yeates (Children's Ministry)
- *\*Dave Savage (Health & Safety)*
- *\*Abi Taylor (Safeguarding)*
- *\*Dot Chadwick (Electoral Roll Officer, Flowers, Sacristan duties and Pastoral Care)*
- *\*Fran Bell (Weddings, Banns and Funeral administrator)*
- *\*Michael Weatherall (Youth and Children)*
- *\*Peta Windsor (Food Hygiene Advisor)*

#### Workforce

- Ian Fletcher (chair)
- Sue Fletcher
- Tom White

#### Finance

- Phil Watson (chair)
- Adrian (Treasurer)

- Ian Fletcher

#### Other PCC Members

- John Attenborough (Ordinand) (*John will be resigning from PCC when ordained Deacon and licensed to serve in another parish in June 2021*)

All PCC members are warmly invited to attend all sub-committee meetings, and each subcommittee has a 'terms of reference' document that has been approved by the whole of PCC to help direct their areas of responsibility.

#### Safeguarding

As Chair of the PCC I can confirm that the PCC has complied with all necessary legislation regarding Safeguarding, including the House of Bishops of Guidance under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

A copy of our Safeguarding Policy is available via our website (and is prominently displayed on our home page) and also in our church buildings.

Our Safeguarding Officer is Abi Taylor and she can be contacted on 07380 204092 or via [Safeguarding@EastleighParish.com](mailto:Safeguarding@EastleighParish.com).

*Revd Ian Fletcher*

#### Reflections from your Church Wardens

Since the last APCM in October, you now have three Church Wardens at Eastleigh Parish Church (EPC): Keith Pickering, Darryl Yeates and myself (Phil Watson). Although for most of that time we have been in some form of lockdown restriction, these are the combined reflections from the Warden Team.

We would first like to thank Ian and the Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) for the way in which they have adapted to the changed circumstances due to COVID. When many of us have not been able to see friends and family, at EPC we have been able to remain connected with each other, whilst maintaining a high level of quality services to meet people's needs with Zoom and telephone services. The return of the Wednesday and Sunday 9.30 communion services has also been much appreciated. We look forward to being able to sing congregationally again and see the 11am service return.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the AV team, especially Ashton and Andres, whose superb efforts have enabled our ongoing fellowship through these unprecedented times.

You may remember that at the last APCM, Ian presented our Mission Statement; '*Eastleigh Parish Church exists to make disciple making disciples*' and we even through the lockdown, we are thankful for the following;

- 1) The continued development of the Children's and Youth Ministry by Michael and the wonderful volunteers who have stepped up to assist him. They help to provide faith

encouraging youth and family events and services. Ian is providing scriptural and practical training for them and their ministry. A special thank you to Kayleigh for all you are doing to promote the gospel to our young(er) ones.

2) For the development of Tuesday and Thursday morning prayers using a combination of formal order of service, which can become a springboard for extempore prayer. This kind of impromptu prayer has developed due to close fellowship that has been created. This is currently a small group of people and we would value more people joining in with us as we pray for general needs in the parish and more specifically for families and individuals.

3) For the regular, monthly, 'Prayer and Fasting' days that have led to encouraging insights into God's word and deeper understanding of our mission in Eastleigh. This has also led to more individuals discovering their spiritual gifts and using them for the benefit of all.

4) The PCC meeting for prayer on a Friday morning to seek for God's path for the church family and our outreach into the parish.

We also remember our Vision statement; *'In the next 3 years, to become a community of Discipleship Groups'* and although through most of the past six months this has been restricted to meeting on Zoom, we are aware of how important these weekly meetings have been in enabling us to continue exploring our walk with the Lord Jesus and helping us in our discipleship. We would obviously like to see many more people to experience a DG for themselves and give thanks for the new DGs that have sprung up during the lockdown. We are all looking forward to being able to have fellowship back in our various hosts homes when the COVID restrictions are finally lifted.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all those people who faithfully carry out tasks in the church buildings to make their use safe and beautiful. This includes building maintenance to both St. Francis and All Saints, cleaning of both sites, dealing with the community hirers coming back to book our facilities and the flower arrangements that help to make our services at All Saints so welcoming to those who have part of the congregation for many years, as well as those who join us for their first time.

If after reading this you feel you would like to get more involved in the life of Eastleigh Parish, please get in touch with any of the Wardens and we will be delighted to point you in the right direction.

God bless,

*Keith Pickering, Darryl Yeates and Phil Watson*

#### **Building Maintenance Committee – May 2021**

The church buildings have not been used extensively during the five months since the last APCM. The buildings are in a reasonable condition and no significant defects have occurred recently. The damage to the Lounge ceiling from the water leak is now repaired, the wall

painted, with some final repainting needed in the Office. Elsewhere light bulbs have been changed, toilet seat lids replaced (again)<sup>1</sup>, a few areas of damaged walls repainted, and more work done on some door locks. Some jobs do seem to come around again and again. St. Francis will be receiving some cosmetic care in one or two areas following damage by hirers. All the portable electrical items in all our buildings have been tested and found to be safe, and we have a few jobs lined up which await decisions by the Diocese.

The gas boiler in the All Saints' Meeting Room was replaced in October with operating cost gains from the removal of a hot water storage tank and adding a remote Internet control already apparent. A major benefit is that we can alter the heat timings and temperature settings from home when there are changes in hiring. We will be adding remote controls to the St Francis' heating to achieve similar cost benefits in the near future.

This year we are due a Quinquennial Inspection (every five years) in the late summer. I expect to find, after a few large tasks over the years, that we will be in a better state than at the last one.

Geoff Chadwick

### Operations Report May 2021

Since last October we have been kept on our toes not least with but including the ever-changing Covid regulations, Christmas, and Easter to name but a few things. The Operations Committee normally has meetings in its separate Divisions rather than as a whole committee, and the vast majority of the time and this works well. Although the content of our workload remains the same as before, the distribution of duties has altered slightly. These divisions are: Admin & Comms, AV, Courses, Data Protection, DGs, Events, Facilities & Gardening, Flowers, Health & Safety, Men's Ministry, Occasional Offices, Pastoral Care & Seniors, Prayer Ministry, Safeguarding, Services, Women's Ministry Youth & Children. I will mention some of the things happening in most of the Divisions below.

The amount of administration and communications work that needs to be done continues to be extremely challenging for Ian and myself, particularly without a permanent admin assistant based in office. There is a little funding available to us from PCC for ad-hoc admin help (which has been very useful) and we have also been assisted by a few amazing volunteers. Please be patient if we are behind on some admin and comms stuff as there are only so many hours in a day and routine things sometimes have to take a back seat to arising urgent and pressing matters in the life of EPC. Our website (*EastleighParish.com*) and Outlook have become increasingly important during Covid times and lots of things and information have been able to be shared and communicated in this way both digitally and by post.

The AV team have had to work really hard to meet all the different challenges of all the different ways we operate now, and the lion's share of the work has fallen to Andres, Ashton & Ian. New equipment is continually being added to, especially with lots of outdoor

---

<sup>1</sup> Am I allowed to add "please stop standing on them!" here? [editor: yes, please do stop standing on toilet seats – this appears to have the effect of breaking them. Also, why do so many people seem determined to stand on our toilet seats? Is the view better from up there?]

## *2021 APCM Report for EPC*

services planned this summer. I was particularly impressed with the lighting and the crosses outside our buildings at Easter as well as the great lighting in All Saints' at Christmas. We have also recently gained some new lights and staging gifted by the Rainer-Guy family.

We are still without a Data Protection Officer which is far from ideal.

There are now 7 DGs; all still meeting largely on Zoom for the time being, but the odd 'in person' break out has started happening when the numbers and circumstances have been compliant with the Government guidelines. We are expecting that meeting in person will increase as lockdown eases but will also expect to keep an online presence in some way as this has enabled some folk to be part of a DG when they might not have otherwise been able to be.

We are starting to think about organising some in-person events in the future again but with cautious planning as we see what will be allowed to do and when as we tentatively emerge from lockdown. We are in the early stages of organising a street party (hopefully outside All Saints') during the August bank holiday this summer.

Our buildings have been in and out of operation with activities, services, and hall hires, which has impacted on our workload in different ways. (Lots of admin but less cleaning and tidying.) Sandra Kneller has finally been released as our paid Cleaner/Caretaker although remains as the volunteer supervisor. The paid cleaning roles have now been taken up by Jane Hawley at St Francis' and Keith Pickering for the All Saints' site. We have had a bit of respite from the busyness that is usually created but this will ramp up again as more and more will be happening in our buildings. A working party at St Francis' met on the Saturday before our first outside Summer 11 o'clock service to help bring the grounds up to muster.

Linda Pickering has now fully taken over from Margaret Howell as our Hall Bookings Administrator and is doing really well in this very important role. Richard and his helpers have been continuing to do sterling work with the All Saints' garden. Dot has been back up and running with her sacristan duties as well as brass cleaning. Keith has also been cleaning & re-waxing much of the wooden furniture in All Saints', which is starting to look terrific!

The Flower team have been back in action every week for some time and did a splendid job at Christmas and Easter as well. There are also a few more weddings coming up this summer, although less than previous years for obvious reasons.

Dave Savage has agreed to continue as our Health and Safety Officer and Geoff, and the Buildings Maintenance Team look after the practical stuff like fire extinguishers and PAT testing etc and so a joint effort between the sub committees.

Fran Bell has taken over the role of Fees Coordinator for weddings, banns, and funeral administrator. Funerals continue, some weddings are booked and going ahead this summer and we are looking forward to increased attendance numbers that are now being allowed. We now have a few Baptisms in the diary again to look forward to welcoming new people into the life of God's Church.

## *2021 APCM Report for EPC*

DGs are increasingly becoming the main agent for our pastoral care. The Covid Action Plan Team has now been disbanded, but all the work continues, absorbed in our pastoral, AV, Events, and Finance teams. Telephone ministry is still hugely important, and Dot's team is here to stay as part of our pastoral team, as is doorstop ministry and meeting people in gardens. Home communion will be resumed very shortly just as soon as the necessary paperwork and planning can be done to make sure we are compliant and safe.

Prayer life at EPC continues to grow in various ways and our prayer and fasting dates are in the calendar for the year ahead. We are likely to keep some of our weekly prayer meetings online as this has proved to be a helpful way for more people to be able to join in.

As I am sure you have noticed the pattern of our services has had to be flexible and have changed according to what has been allowed and the mood in our own camp at any given time. We have risen to the challenge and have continued to provide a mix of services in person, telephone and online either separately or in combination. Most of our weekly, Christmas, Easter and other annual services have been able to continue in some form or another whether on Zoom, Facebook or in person with lots of people reached and these have been supported by the Advent and Easter Adventure on our website along with weekly Catechesis that Ian has been presenting to us. The Telephone Service (which emerged during lockdown) has been very helpful to those folks who are housebound as well as to those with no internet access at home, so is likely to stay in operation for the time being.

We are still struggling to find enough worship leaders and musicians for the 11 o'clock service but have been blessed by those who have ministered to us in this way. Sadly for us, Sam our Organist will be leaving us this summer as he is moving to Bristol where his wife Catriona will take up a place at Trinity College for ordination training. By the time you read this, we will have also had a wonderful visit from Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali. Weather permitting, the 11oclock service will now take place outside St Francis' for the duration of the summer, assisted by our new large marquee that we have been gifted.

Bronnie has plans for some women's events including a walk and cream tea so watch this space.

Our Youth, led by Michael, Joseph and Annabelle are growing in depth and number and now meet twice a week. They are planning a 5-day camping trip to Studland in the Summer holidays.

Our Children, especially the younger ones, seem to have struggled more than most of us to keep engaged in Church life during Covid times. Michael and his team have responded brilliantly and have produced a weekly video which has helped enormously including some great crafts and contributions from Katie, Kayleigh and Max & Alice. Kayleigh has also worked very hard in lots of the children's ministry and co-leads the family DG with Michael which has been running since December 2020. A new 'Stay and Play' is starting at All Saints' after half term on a Tuesday morning with Michael Kayleigh, Kay, and Carla hosting the weekly event. Kayleigh also completed a Children's Ministry training course which has proved to be very worthwhile hopefully for her but most definitely for us. Various outdoor services at St Francis have popped up at various times for things like Christmas and Easter

where Children's ministry was available and a similar look thing will happen at the 11o'clock service throughout the summer. The Saturday Kids Family service has been running fortnightly at All Saints' since February 2021. We would love to run something mid-week for our junior school kids and younger senior school kids in the future again but are praying for more team members to come forward to make that happen.

*Susan Fletcher*

### Local Mission Partners

We are blessed to be a part of Churches Together in Eastleigh. For several years I've been acting as Secretary for this group of local churches and have been keen to try to keep shared worship *and* evangelism/mission high on the agenda. Through CTiE we have been able to connect with and support the following local partners:

- Eastleigh Basics Bank
- ARK
- Fledge
- CAP
- Street Pastors
- Recovery Course

The PCC are keen to ensure that we keep our giving to these local partners under review; wanting to increase our giving/vocal support when needed, as well as asking helpful questions when we see that need arise. All organisations have different seasons; particularly as new leaders arrive, and old ones move on. One role our PCC has is to helpfully encourage the local mission partners to hold on to the Christian roots from which all of these wonderful organisations grew – something which must never be assumed nor taken for granted.

The work that has grown out of CTiE in recent years is very impressive indeed and is something to give God glory and thanks for.

*Revd Ian Fletcher*

### World Mission Partners

In recent times, EPC has become much better connected with a few key world mission partners. Within our own congregation we have tried to support both Adrian in his role with 'Wings', and also Dot in her role with 'Friends of African Nurses'. The trips that Andrew & Kate Ross have made (in which they share their range of expert knowledge with communities in the developing world) have also proved to be helpful stimulation to many at EPC to consider how we can better serve the wider world.

In addition to the home-grown worldwide connections, EPC's relationships with Jo Blower (who works as a translator with an Israel-based mission organisation) and Naomi & Luis Aquino (who serve as medical missionaries in Guatemala) have grown considerably. Not only have we been able to give the Aquino's some much-needed financial support, but we have been able to pray regularly for Jo and the Aquinos. Interestingly, even though we have tried to support them, they have all been a great blessing to EPC. Jo has helped many of us better appreciate the Jewish roots of our faith in Christ, and the Aquinos regularly supply us

with helpful updates of what is going on in other parts of Christ's Church. Through regular news updates, finance, prayer, visits (when possible!), and many other means, I sincerely hope that EPC's commitment to worldwide mission will continue to develop in the years ahead. As it does, I'm sure that we will be as blessed as those we seek to support.

With this desire to consider new opportunities for Gospel-based partnership, the PCC have begun to discuss the possibility of connecting with a community in South West Uganda that Ian & Sue are very familiar with.

*Revd Ian Fletcher*

### Some Final Words from Ian

A wise person once said, *"If I ever find the perfect church, I won't join it. If I did, I'd be sure to make it less than perfect!"* This long period of lockdown/restrictions has exposed certain weaknesses in the life of EPC. We always knew that we weren't the perfect church, and these many months of trial have given ample opportunity for some imperfections to be seen and felt. But we are a parish who really care about trying to get it right, and I am grateful to everyone who has worked and prayed so tirelessly in order to offer a sacrifice of praise to God that would honour him. That said, as I've read through the reports above, I can't help but be encouraged. The past 15 months have been really tough; yet this parish church has continued to grow and develop in a most healthy manner despite all of the challenges we've faced.

Acts 17:26 tells us that *"it is God who has set the times and places in which we each live."* Right now, he has called you and me to be disciples who go and make disciples right here in Eastleigh – and with all those we journey through life with within our families, work settings and other relationships.

As a parish church, we have a desire to help you not only be a disciple, but for you to make disciples too. At this time, we think that the most helpful place to focus on this task is within our Discipleship Groups. These are places where we can share with a small group of other Christians whom we will hopefully come to love and trust as time goes by. Our hope is that all Sunday services, events, groups, prayer meetings and activities will increasingly resource and encourage these key meetings in the life of this parish.

Just like anything in life, in order to 'take out' we must also 'put in'. Connecting with a DG, being open and honest with one-another, and, loving and serving one-another is not necessarily easy. They are costly things to do – particularly when they can only happen at the expense of other ways to spend our time and efforts. But this is the vision of this parish: *"To become a community of Discipleship Groups"*. This year's APCM report is the first since we adopted this vision in Oct 2020, and I believe that it describes some good first steps in the right direction; and for that I am extremely grateful to every church member and to God.

*Revd Ian Fletcher, May 2021*