

**Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 29th April 2018**

1. Welcome and Opening Worship
2. Apologies, Minutes of 2017 APCM & Matters Arising
3. Election of Church Wardens
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. PCC Secretary Report
6. Finance Report
 - Adoption of Annual Accounts to 31st December 2017
 - Appointment of Independent Examiners
7. Buildings and Fabric Report
8. Diocesan Synod Report & Deanery Synod Report
9. Elections
 - PCC Members: four for 3-year term
three for an initial 1-year-term
 - Deputy Wardens
 - Sidespersons
10. Spotlight on Activities
 - Building for the Kingdom
11. Any Questions?
12. Results of Elections
13. Any Other Business

To be presented to the Chairman before the start of the meeting.

Rectors Report

***“For the church, the skies are growing dark in the West.
But the sky is not falling in. In fact, this is a great time to be a Christian!”***

So begins a new book by Matt Chandler entitled ‘Take Heart - Christian Courage in the Age of Unbelief’. The book provides a helpful and realistic analysis of the state of affairs in the Western world with regard to attitudes toward the Christian faith, where we are seeing biblical Christianity increasingly pushed to the margins of society by a form of aggressive illiberal liberalism. Yet, far from being a pessimistic book, full of doom and gloom, it is gloriously optimistic, urging faithful followers of Jesus not to wring their hands in despair, but to lift their hands in prayer, to take heart and to rejoice that because of this marginalization, which is happening under the sovereign hand of God, the church is much closer to the form it had in the New Testament. It is once again a community of people distinct in its beliefs and values, surrounded by people who have either never heard the true Gospel or have heard a distorted version of it. What an opportunity for the church to be what it should always have been! To quote Chandler again: *“The church thrives on the margins. That’s why our cultural moment doesn’t need to be viewed as depressing but, instead, as exciting. It’s not bad news. It’s good news. We’re now back in the place where we have always flourished best.”*

I am so excited about the future of the Gospel in our country as Jesus, the Lord of the church, empowers His redeemed people to live all of life for Christ, declaring and demonstrating the life-changing good news of Jesus in word and deed wherever He has placed us. It will mean taking Jesus and His word seriously, having the courage to stand firm with winsome, humble faith, loving even those who mock and reject us, and always being prepared to give the reason for the hope that we have, with gentleness and respect.

In the Monday Home Group, we are studying the Book of Revelation and we have seen that the churches to which the book was originally written were experiencing significant pressure - from outside and from inside. The external pressure came in the form of persecution, while the internal pressure came in the form of false teaching. Both had the potential to weaken the church. So, Jesus makes a blood-earnest, impassioned plea to stand firm in the face of both kinds of pressure, trusting in His grace to sustain them under persecution and remaining faithful to His word in opposition to false teaching. The church in the West is experiencing both these pressures today, leading to our marginalization. Both have the potential to weaken the church. Yet, in the hands of Jesus, both can in fact serve to strengthen the church and make us a more Christ-like community, living in joyful dependence on His grace, willing to count the cost of following Jesus, and reaching out with the Gospel - the only hope for a lost and broken world.

St James is thriving in the midst of these challenges. 2017 was an encouraging year with much to thank God for. In November we enjoyed a positive away day where we spent time reviewing our Mission Action Plan (MAP). The PCC subsequently reflected on the outcomes from the day and revised the MAP around several key themes:

Visibility & Presence

- Revamp the weekly News Sheet & intentionally shift towards more digital communications

Welcome & Hospitality

- Re-think newcomer welcome events
- Design a new welcome pack
- Involve newcomers earlier in church life

Worship & Teaching

- Make greater use of personal testimonies in services

Mission & Evangelism

- Identify demographic groups we are not currently reaching and devise a strategy to reach them

Nurture & Discipleship

- Develop a new strategy for small groups

Children & Youth

- Employ a Children & Families Worker
- Greater involvement of children & young people in services and church life
- Increase the number of young people involved in church & the youth ministry
- Review vision, structure and staffing of youth work in Furzedown Churches and establish a fresh integrated vision for our youth provision with an emphasis on mission and discipleship

Leadership & Governance

- Greater engagement and transparency

Buildings & Resources

- Develop our corporate prayer strategy
- Recruit more volunteers for all areas of ministry
- Conduct a Gifts/Skills audit
- Better succession planning
- Progress the Building for the Kingdom Project

Please pray as we seek to implement these goals over the next couple of years.

A church is only as strong as its volunteer base and I constantly marvel at the army of willing helpers we are blessed with here at St James. Thank you so much for your faithful service. It is invidious to pick out individuals, but I do want to say a special thank you to two people who are laying down their responsibilities at this APCM.

Antony Herbert has served for the last two years as Church Warden, the second of those years on his own, and Paula Thomas has served as the PCC Treasurer for the last six years. On behalf of St James - we thank God for you both!

I commend the following reports to you as a snapshot of life at St James in 2017.

Grace and Peace,



Revd Rob Powell

Rector

April 2018

St James Church
Summarised Minutes of the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on 30th April 2017

Rob welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

Apologies: Dave & Michaela Ingram, Chris Whitely, Jenefer Spells, John Farebrother, John & Sandra Rouse, Catherine Rouse, Emily Rouse, Chris & Val Hart.

Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

Election of Church Wardens

Richard Reddie stood down and Rob thanked him for his hard work and a gift was given.

Antony Herbert was nominated by Glynis Wilkinson and seconded by Jo Seymour-Davies.

Antony was duly elected and will serve as sole Warden for the coming year.

Electoral Roll

The total number on Electoral Roll is 179 - 122 non-residents and 57 residents.

Finance Report

Given by Paula Thomas. She reported that the accounts this year were a source of encouragement and particularly mentioned the good response to the Advent Gift Day.

The PCC had approved the accounts and they were duly adopted by the APCM.

Thanks were given to Paula for her continuing hard work. Paula has decided that she wants to step down from being Treasurer after the coming year, so we are looking for a successor from 2018.

Leroy Reid were proposed as our auditors for the coming year by Paula Thomas and seconded by Nick Burt. All in favour.

Building and Fabric Report

The report was presented by the Wardens. It was also noted that Michael White is Chair of the Building for the Kingdom working group.

Election of PCC Members

Nominations	Proposed by	Seconded by
Steve Linton	Glynis Wilkinson	Claire Powell
Carol Burt	Winnie Smikle	Una Porter
Frances Christian	Winnie Smikle	Paulette Braithwaite
Grace Museve	Winnie Smikle	Stephanie Sulaiman

All duly elected.

Deputy Wardens

This was in hand and would be confirmed by the Church Wardens.
The Church Wardens also have a list of Sidespersons.

Ministry Spotlight

Rob commended the APCM booklet to the APCM and encouraged people to read it.
3 areas of ministry were highlighted in the meeting: Little Fishes, Life Explored
and Building for the Kingdom.

Rev Johan Allen then gave a biblical reflection to end the meeting.

Straight after the service a short PCC meeting was held in the Side Chapel to welcome
new members.

Summary of Accounts and Notes

PCC Meetings

The PCC held 7 meetings during the year. The average attendance was 81% (previously 69%).

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of task groups, which have met between full meetings of the PCC, to whom they are responsible and to whom they report.

Church Attendance

The Church Electoral Roll records 179 (previously 176) persons as members of the Church, 122 of whom are not resident within the parish.

The average Sunday attendance, counted during October and November was 92 (previously 86) plus 25 (previously 22) under the age of 16.

The number increased at festivals.

Review of the year

The various activity groups will highlight their activities during the year by giving reports at the APCM or in this Report Booklet.

Summary of Accounts and Notes

A summary of last year's accounts is included in the PCC members report. The full accounts are available for inspection, and I am happy to answer any questions. The major points concerning our finances during 2017 are as follows:

- The generosity of the people of St James continues to be a source of both encouragement and humility. During the year the dedicated regular giving to the day to day running costs of our church ministry was £94,235 an increase of 4% on last year despite the loss of further regular members of the Church family. There was also a generous response to the Advent thanksgiving appeal when gifts of £14,577 (excluding gift aid) were received - an increase of almost 10% on last year. There was also a significant increase in one-off unrestricted donations which totalled £21,996. Overall our total general giving was up by 5%.
- Tax recovered via the Gift Aid scheme was £26,179. This continues to be an important source of income and shows how important it is for all tax payers to join in this scheme.
- The first £3,000 of the Advent Gift Day was committed to two overseas projects - The Al Shurooq School for the Blind in Bethlehem and The Evangelical Association of the Caribbean towards the Hurricane Relief. In addition, £13,909 was allocated to the missions we support through our tithing scheme.
- Investment income of £24,306 represents rental income from the letting of 171 Mitcham Lane. This has increased significantly following its refurbishment during 2016.

- Other income includes hire charges for the Church Centre and Halls. The PCC is actively seeking to increase this source of revenue from both regular and casual lets, but unfortunately letting income fell by almost 6% due to the loss of some regular lets. However new lets for 2017 are promising for this income stream.
- The PCC's commitment to supporting all aspects of mission resulted in £40,142 (£44,115 - 2016) being granted to several areas including support to the Furzedown Youth Centre by the donation of the £21,839 for rent and utility bills.
- Total expenditure for the year decreased by 7% due principally to completion of the refurbishment of the Curates house at 171 Mitcham Lane during 2016. Excluding these costs total expenditure rose by almost 7% due to several significant repair works that were required on the Church and Halls during the year.
- Other major items of expenditure in 2017 included £72,467 to the Southwark Diocese, £43,028 for staff salaries and expense (including support for the Youth Minister), £19,624 for utilities (heat, light, water) and insurance and £30,475 on Church and Hall repairs and maintenance.
- Overall there was a surplus of £24,352 on unrestricted activities.
- After making a transfer of £5,000 to the Building Fund, in line with the Reserves Policy, the balance on the General Fund now stands at £58,862 which is much healthier than in recent years.

In response to all this, I can only say “thank you” for your continued support in this way.

So overall 2017 was another successful year financially where God has continued to provide for our needs and bless our work. The PCC has set a budget for 2018 with a deficit of £11,500 to allow for preliminary fees on the Building of the Kingdom Project, and otherwise the budget is very challenging. We continue to look for ways to reduce costs without impacting on the Church's ministry and to increase income from its assets, whilst encouraging us all to continue to examine prayerfully our regular giving and to ask God whether we should make an increase this year, not out of duty, but as a joyful response to all that God has done for, and has given to, each of us.

Paula Thomas

Extracted Information from the Accounts

Various items of Income	2017	2016
Gift Aided Giving via Bank Standing Orders	42,357	48,327
Gift Aided Giving via Envelopes	33,969	29,215
Non-Gift Aided Giving via Standing Orders	2,815	760
Non-Gift Aided Giving via Envelopes	7,422	6,543
Giving via Plate Collection	7,669	6,078
Donations to the General Fund (day to day housekeeping fund)	21,971	16,788
Gift Aid received on giving to the General Fund	22,970	23,780
Advent Thanksgiving Gifts	17,785	16,692
Legacies	-	1,500
Letting/Hire of Upper Hall	28,080	34,600
Letting/Hire of Church and Centre	6,850	2,700
Fees for Weddings and Funerals (PCC retained)	2,528	2,400
Bible Study Notes sales	425	428
Well coffee and cake sales	3,650	2,441
Rental income from 171 Mitcham Lane	24,305	5,110
Children's Ministry receipts (Get Set, Little Fishes, Holiday Clubs etc)	3,124	2,910
Donations to Crosslinks (from individuals)	710	640

Various items of Expenditure	2017	2016
Fairer Share (contribution to Diocese)	72,467	71,800
Church Insurance	6,425	6,244
Hall Insurance	1,558	1,507
Church Utilities (heat and light)	7,024	7,849
Hall Utilities	4,617	3,912
Church Repairs & Maintenance	19,439	10,389
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	8,583	1,193
171 Mitcham Lane Maintenance and Expenses	5,752	1,567
Contribution to shared Churches Youth Ministries	14,251	14,252
Salaries and Support	31,777	30,677
Clergy Expenses	645	645
Church Catering - incl Well	2,231	1,408
Printing and Production	1,631	1,753
Postage and Telephone	717	1,043
Examination of Accounts	1,200	1,200
Mission Support through tithe on Regular Giving	13,909	13,299
Crosslinks Donations (non - tithe)	710	1,875

St. James Church West Streatham
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2017

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £	2016 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	153,987	4,458	-	158,445	157,219
Charitable activities	64,644	-	-	64,644	69,694
Other trading activities	4,910	-	-	,910	4,042
Investments	24,347	-	-	24,347	5,175
Other	6,699	59	-	6,758	3,404
Total	254,587	4,517	-	259,104	239,534
Expenditure on charitable activities:					
Church activities	148,299	-	-	148,299	164,004
Salaries and support costs	43,028	-	-	43,028	41,929
Management and administration	3,109	-	-	3,109	3,392
Mission giving and charitable donations	35,799	4,343	-	40,142	44,115
Total	230,235	4,343	-	234,578	253,440
Net (expenditure)/income	(24,352)	(174)	-	(24,526)	(13,906)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	24,352	174	-	24,526	(13,906)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	72,651	10,451	100,613	183,715	197,621
Total funds carried forward	97,003	10,625	100,613	208,241	183,715

St. James Church West Streatham

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Curates House 171 Mitcham Lane	100,613	100,613
	100,613	100,613
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	95,456	79,666
Investments	8,659	8,659
Sundry debtors	23,056	10,137
Prepayments	405	2,507
	127,576	100,969
Liabilities		
Accrual Independent Examination	1,200	1,200
Creditor HMRC PAYE & NI	828	881
Other sundry creditors and accruals	17,920	15,786
	19,948	17,867
Net current assets	107,628	83,102
Net assets	208,241	183,715
Represented by:		
Unrestricted funds	58,862	38,010
Designated funds	38,141	34,641
Restricted funds	10,625	10,451
Endowment funds	100,613	100,613
	208,241	183,715

Building and Fabric Report

During 2017-18 we continued to make good progress on our 'Building for the Kingdom' project, which concerns the future development of our Church buildings over the longer term. While work progresses on this project we have taken immediate, remedial action to maintain the Church' buildings so they remain safe and welcoming for all who use them.

Despite the age of the buildings, over the course of the year we have - thankfully! - had to undertake only a limited number of actions to maintain the existing buildings. The main work carried out this year has included:

- **Electric safety lighting** - the 5-year electrical inspection of the halls highlighted a number of items that need to be addressed, including lighting in FYC, as well as work on the Lower Hall mains supply. This work was agreed by the PCC in 2016-17 but was completed this year.
- **Fire risk assessment** - following an electrical inspection, the PCC agreed to commission a fire risk assessment of both the Church and Halls. This resulted in a number of actions. Firstly, the establishment of fire safety procedures - and this is well in hand thanks to the work of Mark Pybus and Christina Contreras. Secondly, recommendations were made to install a fire detection system, emergency lighting, and the replacement of several doors in the Upper Hall, as well as installation of a fire detection system in the Office & Vestry area, plus emergency lighting in the Church Centre and basement. The PCC is in the process of obtaining quotes to carry out this work. It is anticipated that work will be carried out later in 2018.
- **Improvements to the toilet facilities** - a new basin has been installed which will hopefully help to limit water spillages, while over recent weeks the uneven floor in the toilets has also been replaced.

Antony Herbert

Building for the Kingdom Report

The Building for the Kingdom project is the way that St James PCC & congregation are trying to understand what options are available to develop our buildings (Church and Halls) to be better suited to our vision, which can be found in the 2020 Vision Statement. The Building for the Kingdom working group was formed nearly two years ago and has been working prayerfully and diligently under the authority of the PCC to try to discern God's will for his buildings.

Our agreed vision for the building project is as follows:

"The buildings of St James West Streatham, located in the diverse community of Furzedown, exist for the glory of God and the service of Christ. As a church community we want to be intentional in ensuring that our buildings both enable and support the outworking of our '2020 Vision', summed up in the motto: "All of Life for Christ". To achieve this, our buildings must be comfortable and flexible, accessible, visible and sustainable - a place where all within the community can be supported, feel respected and valued - a hive of activity where all can gather - a place that people from all backgrounds and ages can call home.

St James' must be visible to the community both physically and spiritually and, to this end, relevance is key. Our buildings must be able to meet the needs of a changing world, both now and in the future. In this way we will be able to be bold in our faith, broaden our reach, connect with more people, and grow as a community hub. Our buildings will act as a catalyst for dynamic Christian worship, mission, service and discipleship in our growing and vibrant community for many years to come."

It has been a really eventful, packed and successful year for the Building for the Kingdom working group. During the past 12 months as a group we have:

- Produced a shortlist of options for our buildings which are currently being used to engage to church family and the users of our buildings so that we can gain feedback
- Held sessions with the Archdeacon, PCC and wider church congregation to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to share their thoughts and views
- Developed a document that contains a list of frequently asked questions which will be shared with all church members
- Held weekly prayer sessions to understand and continually be guided by God's will

We expect the coming year to be challenging and exciting as we continue to seek God's will for his buildings. In the coming months we will:

- Write the Architect's Brief for the project to allow us to seek proposals for an Architectural Feasibility Study later this year.
- Develop the project's Business Case, together with a Project Mandate, which will need to be signed off by the Diocese.
- Move to a new working group structure to facilitate the undertaking of various tasks and to prepare for the wider communication & fundraising efforts as the project progresses.
- Continue to hold regular engagement sessions with the PCC and the church family

As a working group we would ask you to pray for us to ensure we take the time necessary to hear God speaking to us and that we understand and then have the courage to act on his will.

We are also really keen to hear from those of you who have skills and abilities that would help us move forward with God's grace. We are in real need of people with finance or accounting skills to help with the development of the business case, and people with project management skills or experiences of working on big projects to help develop a plan that keeps us on track, and finally we really need someone to build and then manage the communication and wider engagement strategy.

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us, if your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully” (Romans ch12 vs.6-8).

We hope you feel God calling you to use your gifts on this project.

Michael White
Chair, Building for the Kingdom Working Group

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Sunday Children's Ministry

We are so blessed to have lots of children in our family at St James. They bring such life to us and we learn so much from them. Creche, Bubbles and Splash have had a good year, teaching the Bible and helping children to feel they belong to the church family. Numbers of children attending groups can fluctuate, which is a challenge - a few one week and overflowing the next. I am in awe of their dedicated leaders and helpers and wish to thank them on behalf of the whole church.

It is a joy to see our children participating in worship, through actions songs and shakers. The recently introduced inflatable guitars and saxophones have gone down well. We have made some changes to the children's corner in an attempt to encourage more children to engage with the service and we are currently working on a plan to increase participation by inviting children to take on some responsibilities, such as welcoming and helping with the offering.

It is still the long-term aspiration of the PCC to employ a Children & Families Minister. The hold-up is funding - we don't have the money! Please join us in prayer that God might release the funds to make this hope a reality.

Rob Powell

Get Set

Get Set is our midweek club for 5-7-year olds which happens after school in term time on Tuesdays in the Centre. 17 children have attended regularly since September 2017 with more boys than girls. They are a lively bunch with more Reception children than we have had on previous years. Only 6 of the children attend a church regularly on Sundays so it is a privilege to be able to share with them stories about Jesus that they are unlikely to hear elsewhere.

On arrival the children have a drink and biscuit and can then choose to play with toys or do a craft activity. After half an hour we clear away and enjoy a story from the Bible with a short video clip, an action song and some games. We finish with small group time where we colour a picture and chat about what we learned from the Bible story before parents arrive.

During the Autumn and Spring Terms of 2018 we learned about Bible heroes Abraham, Joseph and Moses followed by the birth of Jesus at Christmas. After Christmas we focussed on Jesus life, His teaching and miracles, and his death and resurrection at Easter.

The Get Set Team this year are: Carol Burt, Bethany Powell, Claire Powell and Glynis Wilkinson with help from Joshua Nunez (volunteering for Duke of Edinburgh Award).

Claire Powell

Adventurers

Adventurers is our midweek club for 8-11-year olds running on Wednesday evenings in term time in the Centre. Currently 20 children attend regularly, with one third being boys. Around half of the children attend a church.

Sessions begin with games followed by a story from the Bible which the children then chat over in groups with a drink and biscuit. After this we enjoy a craft, a quiz, or treasure hunt, and more games. We follow the same general teaching programme as Get Set, with the children looking at Bible stories in more depth and with more involved activities to follow.

Adventurers are a pleasure to work with and it is great to see them really embracing the Bible teaching they receive. Many have learned to pray this year and sharing our needs and praying together at the end of group time have become a normal part of our sessions.

It has been encouraging to see a few Get Set and Adventurers families begin to come to Church on Messy Sundays. We hope and pray for more families of our midweek children to become a part of the St. James Church family.

We have a small group of year 6 girls who will leave Adventurers in September and need a new group to go to. This is a new situation for us. It is our hope that a new Bible-based cell group can be created for them, in order that they can continue to develop their faith.

Most of these children attend one of the Furzedown Churches on Sundays.

It is still a concern that FYC Youth Clubs have no Christian content should our young people transition to FYC after graduating from Adventurers. Please pray for these young people and for the leaders and resources we need to disciple them in the future.

The Adventurers team this year are: Bethany Powell, Claire Powell, Rev Geoff Vevers and Glynis Wilkinson.

Claire Powell

Little Fishes

We are constantly told that Little Fishes is almost unique as far as toddler groups go. Its distinctiveness comes largely from the fact that it is explicitly Gospel-focused in its aim, purpose and format. Little Fishes is a community of parents (and grandparents in some cases) and their pre-school children meeting together each week for craft, play and friendship with Christian songs and a Bible puppet show as the highlight. For some it is effectively their church, as they may not attend formal church anywhere else. For others it is a bridge into the life of St James and it has been encouraging to see an increasing number coming on Sundays, whether to Christmas services, Messy Sunday or a regular service.

Little Fishes is run by a superb team of volunteers for whom I am very grateful. Ailie, Rooley, Kat, Beth, Johan, Lucille, Lilian, Sarah, Jo, Glynis, Alan and Lisa - take a bow!

Rob Powell

Holiday Clubs

'The Totally Tremendously Terrific Transformer' was St James Easter Holiday Club 2017 which was reported on last year as it took place in the same month as the APCM. So please refer to last year's report for a fuller description of the content. There was a total of 35 children attending and a team of 15 leaders including Sam, Rob, Claire, Bethany, Geoff, June Glynis, Alan and Carol with Paul, Susan, Joshua, Hannah and Christopher helping children learn about Jesus, the real and lasting transformer of our lives as we trust Him as our Saviour and Lord.

'Peter and the Pirate's Treasure' our Summer 2017 Holiday Club was attended by 40 children with a team of 15 leaders including Sam, Rob, Claire, Bethany, Geoff, June, Glynis, Alan, Angie, Carol and Johan with *Nathalie, Pat, Jacob, and Latoya*) Snacks were again organised each day by the capable Sue.

The first teaching session presented in a most entertaining way was about a Pirate that thought he could lie and cheat people to get what he wanted. But the second session contrasted the Apostle Peter and his journey with Jesus from when he was called by Jesus to put down his fishing nets and follow Him to Peter's growing understanding of God's tremendous love, forgiveness and care for all who trust in Him. The crafts, games and other activities helped reinforce the teaching so the children attending would have a clearer understanding of what following Jesus is all about.

We are indebted to our volunteers who gave up four days for the Easter club and five for the summer one to bring this important ministry to the children in our community. We pray God uses their efforts in the lives of all who attended to sow seeds of faith that will blossom into a full knowledge of the amazing grace and love of Jesus for us.

Carol Burt

Contact with Schools

It is a joy and privilege to have an open door into Eardley School. Glynis Wilkinson runs a weekly session on Wednesdays called JAM - Jesus and Me, a lunchtime club with games, craft and Bible teaching. The JAM Club has also started taking assemblies and, in addition, Glynis and Rob go in on a termly basis to run a Bible-based assembly with both key stages. This often coincides with major festivals, such as Harvest and Easter. We also held a Carols by Candlelight service before term ended in December.

The school recently suffered the tragic death of a pupil and it was an honour for Glynis to use her training as a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary (SPA) to be involved in helping the school community work through the grieving process. She has a good relationship with many parents, built up over years of being in and around the school.

Please pray for the school as it seeks to move ahead under the inspirational leadership of Head, Emily Haston.

Rob Powell

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Sunday Youth Groups:

2017 has seen a slight increase on our numbers again.

Our Sunday morning groups have been consistent in number and we have seen real depth in understanding, both in head and heart of God's love for the young people.

Resonate

Resonate our 11-14's group regularly has approx. 15-20 young people every week. Most come about 2 or 3 times a month. We hope *Resonate* is space for the young people to take ownership of their faith and find fellowship with other Christians their age. Sam leads this group with a team of 13 others; 2 volunteers from St James, 6 from MLBC, which includes 1 young leader and 1 from St Albans, we also have the ministers from St Albans and St James. We also have Geoff who helps out.

Deeper Connections (DC)

DC our 14-18's group regularly has approx. 15 young people every week. DC has a core of regulars but there are many other young people who dip in and out depending on exam/coursework load or other commitments. DC is a time for the young people to go deeper in their questioning and understanding, filled with discussions on many themes and plenty of hot chocolate. The young people are helping to steer the topics. Sam leads this group with a team of 9 others; 1 volunteer from St James and 5 from MLBC, 1 minister from St James.

Mid-Week Youth Groups

Over the past year our mid-week groups have stopped due to a number of different reasons. We are looking at the possibility of starting up a girls group again in the autumn, but this is a work in progress and is dependent on volunteers and young people.

Other Youth Activities

1-2-1's

Some of the youth team regularly meet 1-2-1 with a handful of young people and provide opportunity where more intentional conversation and listening can take place. Pastoral care is important to the youth ministry and so we will continue making it a priority in all the provision that is offered. I am looking to increase the number of young people being mentored but this can be a lengthy process. Currently there are 5 young people being mentored. This has increased from 3 to 10 in the last year and has been a massive success. We will continue to work with the young people and look to provide more opportunities for them.

Mentoring in Schools

Within the last year I have been mentoring in Graveney but struggled to regain entry since September due to a number of issues that have been out of my control. I am close to restarting my mentoring in Penwortham, but I have been working every week in Eardley school doing behavioural support mentoring with year 3's, year 4's and year 5's. This has been successful, and I look forward to working with them in the future.

Carol Service

In December I lead and provided a short talk for Penwortham and Furzedown primary school carol services at MLBC, they were very productive.

Easter Service

Last year Penwortham school came to MLBC to do their Easter service as they don't have space to do assemblies of a large nature. My talk about Jesus and Easter went well. This has enabled me to continue to develop my relationship with Penwortham and I will be doing another Easter service in the coming weeks.

Romania

Last summer from the 5th August to the 13th August instead of Soul Survivor we took 7 young people and 3 Adults on a mission trip to Romania, we partnered with Westside church and they brought 1 young person and 1 adult leader.

The fund raising was difficult, but we managed to surpass our target. The time we spent out in Romania was hugely successful and has had a massive impact on the young people, children and families in Romania but also the young people that went. We look forward to growing our young people with future mission trips.

Safeguarding

Since Geoff Vevers was appointed to safeguarding officer we have worked closely on updating the policies and sorting out any safeguarding issues that have occurred. We are committed to safeguarding the young people and all who we come into contact with.

Thanks and Prayer

A massive thank you to everyone who is supporting the youth ministry. I am looking at different ways to give our young people an opportunity to grow in their faith and therefore empower them to have stronger foundations in Jesus

The youth team is continuing to grow - yet we are always looking for more volunteers as we carry on expanding the ministry! It is great to have the support of the churches and especially the support of parents also. Please pray for continuing discipleship and growth in the youth ministry and for the lives of all the young people and their families we have contact with.

Sam Talbot, Youth Minister

Furzedown Youth Centre

Things have continued to run pretty smoothly for the past 12 months at FYC and there have been 3 notable developments.

1) The formulation of a vision statement and an accompanying Mission Action Plan. The statement says: "FYC exists to provide high quality recreational and educational activities to young people in Year 6 to Year 12, within a safe and supportive Christian environment, to help promote their social, emotional and spiritual well-being and to maximise their leadership potential." The Action Plan sets out specific, time-limited actions we are taking to achieve this vision in every area.

2) The development of the role of Steve Matthews who now works 16 hours per week for us, helping support the Duke of Edinburgh award students who volunteer with us, and also doing outreach work, as well as managing premises and lettings.

3) We have taken the decision to undertake a thorough review of youth work across the 4 churches in the Furzedown Team in association with Furzedown Churches Limited with a vision day in March, which could result in a radical rethink of our youth provision.

It has been an expensive year financially as we had lots of premises work done, especially an electrical upgrade that was essential but expensive. Our continued thanks to all who, by their generous donations, contribute to the running of our activities.

It has been great to welcome Pete Phillips from St. Alban's on board as a new director.

FYC Statement of Accounts for the year ended 30th June 2017

		2016/17	2015/16
INCOMING RESOURCES		£	£
Grants Receivable		7,275	3,500
Donations and activities		23,124	23,652
Total Incoming Resources		30,399	27,152
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Charitable Expenditure		37,783	25,780
Total Expended Resources		37,783	25,780
Net (expended) / incoming resources		(7,384)	1,372
Total funds brought forward		48,446	47,074
Transfer between funds			0
Total funds carried forward		41,062	48,446

Rev Geoff Vevers, Chair

ADULT MINISTRIES

Home Groups

Our provision for small groups at St James is undergoing review, but there are currently five Home Groups which meet regularly, either weekly or fortnightly. Three of these meet on Wednesday evenings; and the other two on a Monday morning and Tuesday evening.

Belonging to a Home Group offers an informal setting in which to develop friendships, whilst at the same time getting to know the Bible better. They also provide an opportunity to care for one another through prayer and are a source of mutual support and encouragement. There are fun times too - plus meals together. New members are always welcome. Please speak to either Johan or Rob.

Johan Allen

Tuesday Communion

Tuesday morning communion continues to meet each week in the church during term time. The service is quiet and reflective and offers an opportunity for fellowship and prayer, in addition to teaching and reflection based on series of biblical readings from Old and New Testaments.

So far this year we have been studying the book of Judges and Hebrews which have proved both challenging, informative and encouraging, yet in very different ways!

After communion we adjourn to 'The Well' for more fellowship and chat as well as tea/coffee and toasted tea-cakes or whatever else takes your fancy!

If you are ever free on a Tuesday morning at 10:30am, you are very welcome to join us!

Johan Allen

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care at St James is monitored and reviewed by the Clergy and Pastoral Team who review our policies and procedures for pastoral care and implement changes as and where deemed necessary. The pastoral needs of vulnerable individuals in the church family are also monitored, so as to ensure that these are being met appropriately where possible. We also have links with the MacIntyre House Care Home in Anvil Close, from which two or so members attend church on a Sunday with their carers when they can.

At present the Pastoral Care Team includes the following: Rev Johan Allen (chair), Rev Rob Powell, John Farebrother, Carol Patterson, Val Hart, Chris Hart, Winnie Smikle, and Sue Allen.

Johan Allen

Dad's Breakfast

The happy sounds of young children playing together; the smell of fresh coffee brewing; the sizzling of bacon for sandwiches in the kitchen; what could be better on a Saturday morning? Throw in cereals, toast and juice for the kids, and Saturday's newspapers for the dads, with freedom to read and chat as the mood takes - it must be the best event in St James! We meet in the Centre once a month, most months, come rain, come shine for a couple of hours of heaven and friendship. Numbers continue to hold up, even in the snow, and it's a privilege to host such a great group of men and kids. Thanks to the team - you know who you are!

Nick Burt

Prayer Ministry

Over the past year the Prayer Ministry at St James has grown and developed. There are now 18 people who serve on the team, both male and female and their photos can be seen on the prayer corner wall.

We have seen numbers of people coming for prayer increase, especially with opportunities during the Healing and Anointing services, and Messy Sunday - which are proving very popular; with up to 30 people each service being ministered too.

In addition, the Prayer Ministry Team continues to offer prayer after every service in the prayer corner. People also use of the prayer corner for personal prayer and the use of written requests made to and prayed for at the 'In Touch' service.

We are also happy that people don't feel limited to 'when and where' they can pray, and people are frequently using the pews after the service to pray for each other.

We are really encouraged by how God has healed and blessed people throughout the year by using the prayer ministry team and are excited by what he has for us in the future.

Pauline Pepperrell

Men's Group

The Men's Group is a social group which meets up on the first Thursday of every month. Events include ten pin bowling, sporting events, pub nights and meals out. Because attendees come from a range of local areas (not just Furzedown!), venues now vary every month, and we never go to the same setting twice in the same year.

Attendance remains healthy, and we have formed a strong link with venues who welcome us - including one which donated money to the Wandsworth Foodbank on our behalf when we accidentally won a pub quiz!

All men are welcome to attend; we also encourage men from outside the church family to join us too. So, if you've never been I would urge you to join us; look out for details of our next outing on the church website or on our social media channels.

Adam Seymour-Davies

Ladies Group

The Ladies Night Out is a social group which meets up on the last Friday of each month usually at a local pub. Often having a meal or just drinks & snacks together.

Its early days so the attendance has varied from month to month but has been positively & enthusiastically embraced with over 40 ladies on the WhatsApp group, a few being non-St James members. All women of any age are welcome whether members of St James or not. It's such a lovely way to get to know each other, have good conversation, fun & the odd late night!!!

Ailie Neill and Jo Seymour-Davies

Solo Ladies Lunch

We go out for lunch straight from Church on Sundays. We visit local eateries which seem quite popular with us all. We go out about every 8 weeks. If anyone would like to join us, please let me know, you will be most welcome.

Marion Bird

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle has enjoyed another calendar year of activities meeting broadly once a month, either in the Church Centre or out and about in a Wandsworth Community Transport minibus in the warmer sunnier weather. Average attendance has ranged from 15 to 20 plus with in addition apologies from many of the members who could not attend for one reason or another. Total membership is now 37.

The programme has been put together as usual by a small planning committee consisting of Freda Rouse, Olga Armour, Mabs Wyatt, Beryl Hazelgrove, Yvonne Mason, Elsie Stephenson and Steve Linton. Johan Allen has continued to provide oversight of the Friendship Circle. The committee members also assisted in providing our refreshments for each meeting in the Church Centre for which we thank them.

Our year began in January with Freda testing our general knowledge while in February a joint Council and Police Team reminded us of how to watch out for a variety of scams. It was interesting to hear our members shouting out in the sketches into what trap the players should not allow themselves to fall. The Police were successful in getting their key messages across about safeguarding our security! In March the Silver Belles raised our spirits with their music and sing-a-long. In April Public Health Wandsworth came to enlighten us as to how we can keep healthy in older age and some of the problems we might encounter and where to go for advice.

In early June we started to go outdoors by visiting Kelmscott House linked to William Morris with a pleasant meal beforehand at the close by Dove Public House on the River.

In late June we attempted to have a picnic in Morden Hall Park where everything decided not to go to plan on the day and we ended up eventually with a picnic back at home on the Church Green. In late July we visited Woodcote Green for lunch and then went onto the close by Lavender Fields, Banstead where towards the end it started to rain. But we had an enjoyable time returning with many purchases. At the end of September, we joined again with Church members in the highly successful MacMillan Community Coffee Morning.

In October we had a very interesting talk by Jan King a retired missionary who only became a missionary in Sudan very late on in life on effective retirement from work. The talk was an encouragement to us all that it is never too late to become a missionary for God overseas. In November Chris Hart lifted our spirits with a musical and Christmas sing-along. We finished the year on a joyful note with our annual Christmas Lunch at the Toby Carvery, Mitcham with Rob and Claire Powell as our guests.

We welcome new members aged 55 and over whether from our or any of the Furzedown Churches or from the local community.

We have certainly had some fun and laughter together in our meetings and outings. But a number of members have not experienced the best of health during this past year with times in hospital as well as being confined to their homes for lengthy periods. Nevertheless, most of those members have been able to return to Church again after often a lengthy absence thankful for the supportive prayer they received from members.

Our strength lies in the friendship and support between members, and a willingness to help and be there for each other in times of need including prayer support. This is particularly true with temporary housebound members keeping in touch through the telephone grapevine!

John Farebrother

The Well

Another good year, busier than ever.

Lots of new people and children visiting, and often going on to other activities here at St. James, Little Fishes, Get Set and some Sunday Services.

This year we have had Bethany our Time for God Intern, she has become a great member of our team, we so value her.

The Tuesday's communion people stay after for coffee and a chat. We love to have people from the local community including staff and residents from Anvil Close. It would be great to see YOU as well on Tuesdays and Fridays 9-12 during term time.

The Well Team - Liz, Sue, Una and Bethany

Liz Gibbons

Policies and procedures for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

These are kept under regular review and are brought to the PCC annually.

Johan Allen

Mission Partners

It has been our practice for many years to set aside 10% of our general income to support God's mission elsewhere. This is a biblical principle and we rejoice to be partners in the Gospel with the Burts in Cape Town (Crosslinks), the Roches in Beirut (CMS) and FYC here at home.

It was a joy to receive the Burts at St James during their home leave last summer and to catch up on their latest news. They face many challenges in the work, not least a projected increase in their future costs of approx. £14,000 per year. We are committed to playing our part in ensuring that this essential Gospel ministry continues.

The Roches have spent four years in Beirut, ministering through All Saints church and seeing some fruit among the large refugee community. Their time with CMS has come to an end and David will take up a parish post in Winchester Diocese very soon.

We continue to support the work of FYC locally as it seeks to reach out in word and deed to the young people of Furzedown. You can read more about their work elsewhere in this booklet.

Rob Powell

Foodbank

Wandsworth Food bank opened 5 centres in 2013.

St James and our partner churches support the Thursday session at St Pauls Church by giving food, other essential items and volunteer to run the session

We believe that no one in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support is provided, to local people who are referred in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of food banks, supported by The Trussell Trust working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

<https://wandsworth.foodbank.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/149/2017/05/Summary-of-Hunger-and-Poverty-Report-2017.pdf>

We also have the opportunity to demonstrate Gods love and compassion and are able to offer prayer, and sign post our visitors to other services that can help them out of their crisis.

Comments from visitors to St Pauls:

“Really helpful volunteers, so pleased that I was able to go, as before I came, I was weak as I was so hungry as I hadn't eaten for a while.”

“It was the first time in our lives we have needed this help and the people were very friendly.”

Pauline Pepperrell, Foodbank volunteer

Social Media Report

St. James now has active social media accounts. Twitter and Instagram began around 18 months ago, with Facebook having been up and running for a year or so longer. There is also a members Facebook group for church members to interact together, share prayer requests etc.

Facebook: 115 people are following the **St. James Church, West Streatham Page**
89 people are members of the **Members of St. James', West Streatham group**

Twitter: 73 people are following **@StJamesChurchWS**

Instagram: 33 people are following **stjamesweststreatham**

Followers include church members; past members; members of other Furzedown Churches; families of children attending midweek clubs and Little Fishes; and community groups.

Our social media team post daily on Facebook and Twitter, and several times a week on Instagram. Links to the church website are included in the majority of posts with Facebook in particular directing many people to the church website each month.

St. James is a thriving church with lots going on. Social media has enabled us to:

- Give church members an insight into activities at St. James that they may not be a direct part of, to enable everyone to understand, support, and feel a part of the church's ministry as a whole.
- Give a good flavour of who we are to the local community and those looking for a church to join.
- Direct people to the church website to find out more about us and hopefully get involved.

The current Social Media Team are: Peter Neill, Claire Powell and Adam Seymour Davies

Claire Powell

Deanery Synod

The synod year started with an inaugural service led by Bishop Richard at St Mary's Summerstown, on 17th May 2017.

This was followed by a talk on the Christian responsibility to the Environment. It was a call on all of us to play our part by responding positively to the Archdeacon's Articles of Enquiry on the subject in 2015, *which can be downloaded from the Diocesan website at: www.southwark.anglican.org/downloads/resources/Environment-policy.pdf*

The Bishop expressed his concern that most churches have been slow in responding and encouraged all of us to respond now to take care of God's creation.

This was followed by two further meetings.

A vocations day was held at St Pauls, Furzedown, on 4th October 2017. The open Synod meeting was addressed by the Revd Andrew Zihni (Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands). He led a session on the topic 'Vocations', noting that renewing vocation is a key part of current diocesan strategy.

He invited synod members to reflect on the meaning of the terms 'vocation' and 'discipleship', and the key interrelationships between the two. Members then considered what vocations could be turned into valuable ministries locally. This gave rise to a number of suggestions including family work and supporting parents under pressure, fundraising, and church liaison with schools.

The most recent meeting was held on 30th January 2018 at the Ascension, Balham Hill. New 'Rules & Constitution of Deanery Synods' were adopted, and an introductory presentation was given by Vanessa Elston on "Working together to grow Mission in Tooting Deanery". Those present were invited to consider different ways in which we might collaborate on outward-facing mission within the Deanery, bringing God's love to the wider communities in which we are located.

In the ensuing discussions, suggested potential areas for cooperation included addressing issues of poverty; social action projects involving help from the local community; sharing knowledge gained from already established projects with other deanery churches, and looking at ways of improving communication to encourage the pooling and allocation of resources to those areas where they are most needed.

Glynis Wilkinson

Diocesan Synod

Diocesan Synod, which is the governing body of Southwark Diocese, has met 3 times since the last APCM. Our Tooting Deanery is represented by Sue Clarke, Rob Powell, myself and one other lay member. Sue and myself are also members of the Diocesan Council of Trustees, which has met 5 times.

The 'normal' business of any governing body, included items such as the Annual Report and Accounts for 2016 (we ended with a surplus of about £5million), setting a Budget for 2018 (a predicted surplus of about £600,000), reviewing and updating the Risk Register and setting and reviewing of Objectives for 2017 and 2018, together with on-going discussion and review of progress with the diocesan Strategy for Mission ('Hearts on Fire'**), which feeds down into our team and parish Mission Action Plans.

Beyond this business, there have been two exciting major areas of policy for discussion over this past year. The first has been following the work of the advisory group on Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry in Southwark, building on the excellent report for the Archbishops' Council: 'Setting God's People Free'. This asked the questions: "Will we determine to empower, liberate and disciple the 98% of the Church of England who are not ordained and therefore set them free for fruitful, faithful mission and ministry, influence, leadership and, most importantly, vibrant relationship with Jesus in all of life? And will we do so not only in church-based ministry on a Sunday, but in work and school, in gym and shop, in field and factory, Monday to Saturday?". The group is led by Anne Deering and will issue a final report giving recommendations for Southwark to Synod in July of this year - watch this space!

The second area studied has been the development, indeed transformation, of our Deaneries, seeking to breathe new life into their workings, in order to ensure that deaneries become viable centres of mission and ministry. A daunting task maybe, but the working group has been ably led by Adrian Greenwood, who is a member of Gary Jenkins' church in Bermondsey. As well as renewing the Rules and Constitution for Deanery Synods, the group has addressed the roles of a deanery and drafted a new Vision Statement titled 'Partners in the Gospel'. In order to facilitate implementation of this vision, the group is recommending formation of Deanery Mission Teams, appointment of Mission Accompaniers, training for Area Deans and Lay Chairs, and developing deanery links with Chaplaincies, Secondary Schools, FE Colleges and Fresh Expressions of Church within each deanery area. Again, the group will issue a final report to Synod in July, for implementation over the following three-year cycle. The newly appointed Canon Missioner, Jay Colwill, is expected to work with the implementation of the mission aspects of this strategy.

The current three-year cycle of Diocesan Synod comes to an end with the July meeting, so there will be elections to the new synod this summer. Nominations are made, and members elected by the members of our Tooting Deanery Synod, another vital role that deaneries undertake for us.

**The diocesan Strategy for Mission, *Hearts on Fire*, restates our commitment to mission, grounded in prayer, that the growth of the kingdom of God may be at the heart of all we do. In particular, we will:

- Serve our Communities;
- Share our faith with great joy and gladness;
- Be the Church: a people with hearts on fire, loving God, walking with Jesus and led by the Spirit.

Nick Burt

Contents

Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 29th April 2018	1
Rectors Report	2
Summarised Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 30th April 2017 .	5
Summary of Accounts and Notes	7
PCC Meetings	7
Review of the year	7
Summary of Accounts and Notes.....	7
Extracted Information from the Accounts	9
Building and Fabric Report	12
Building for the Kingdom Report	13
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES.....	15
Sunday Children's Ministry	15
Get Set.....	15
Adventurers.....	15
Little Fishes.....	16
Holiday Clubs	16
Contact with Schools	17
YOUTH MINISTRIES.....	17
Sunday Youth Groups:.....	17
Resonate.....	17
Deeper Connections (DC).....	18
Mid-Week Youth Groups	18
Other Youth Activities.....	18
1-2-1's.....	18
Mentoring in Schools.....	18
Carol Service.....	18
Easter Service.....	18
Romania	18
Safeguarding	19
Furzedown Youth Centre	19
ADULT MINISTRIES	20
Home Groups	20
Tuesday Communion	20
Pastoral Care	21
Dad's Breakfast.....	21
Prayer Ministry	21
Men's Group.....	21
Ladies Group.....	22
Solo Ladies Lunch	22
Friendship Circle.....	22
The Well	23
Policies and procedures for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults.....	23
Mission Partners.....	23
Foodbank	24
Social Media Report	24
Deanery Synod	25
Diocesan Synod	26