



Furzedown Team Ministry
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2020
for the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Monday 24th May 2021

20|20
VISION

ALL OF LIFE FOR CHRIST

empowering

ordinary people to live extraordinary lives
by

enabling

people to come to know Jesus as Saviour
and

equipping

people to live for Jesus as Lord

Visibility & Presence

Becoming more effective in enabling the people of Furzedown to know St James is here!

Welcome & Hospitality

Becoming more effective in enabling people to feel 'at home' in St James

Worship & Teaching

Becoming more effective in enabling people to encounter God in our services

Mission & Evangelism

Becoming more effective in enabling people to explore the Gospel & become whole-life followers of Jesus

Nurture & Discipleship

Becoming more effective in enabling people to grow in faith and to live out the Gospel in everyday life

Children & Youth

Becoming more effective in enabling children & young people to know Jesus and to live for Him

Leadership & Governance

Becoming more effective in ensuring that our leadership & governance enables the vision to become a reality

Buildings & Resources

Becoming more effective in resourcing the vision with finance, buildings, people & prayer

ALL OF LIFE FOR CHRIST

empowering | enabling | equipping

**Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Monday 24th May 2021**

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
2. Apologies, Minutes of 2020 APCM & Matters Arising
3. Election of Church Wardens
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Finance Report
 - Adoption of Annual Accounts to 31st December 2020
 - Appointment of Independent Examiners
6. Buildings and Fabric Report
7. Diocesan Synod Report & Deanery Synod Report
8. Elections
 - PCC: 4 members for a 3-year term & 2 members for an initial 1-year term
 - Deputy Wardens
 - Sidespersons
9. Any Questions?
10. Results of Elections
11. Any Other Business to be presented to the Chair before the start of the meeting..

Rectors Report

Dear Friends,

I guess 2020 will go down in history as the year when normal life ground to a halt in a way none of us could have foreseen or ever imagined. As I write these words we are not yet through the pandemic and out other side, but at least the signs are promising that we will be able to resume some sort of normality before too long.

As the nation went into its first lock down in March 2020, we recorded and broadcast our first ever service at St James on Mothering Sunday. At the time we assumed Covid wouldn't last too long and we would soon be back to gathering in the church building again for services and midweek activities - how wrong could we be! A sign of how devastating an impact Covid has had on our church life is the number of reports included in this booklet - so few - because most mission and ministry activities simply stopped in March 2020 and haven't yet resumed.

However, we thank God that the church is the *people* not the *building*, so whilst the *building* closed, the *church* didn't! Through our online services and weekly reflections we have sought to provide regular spiritual sustenance for the church family and we have been both delighted and surprised that a number of people beyond St James have tuned in too. Beth, our Children's Worker, has worked hard at keeping our children engaged, both those who come along on Sunday and those who attend midweek clubs. This has included a weekly Children's Page on the website plus specials in the summer holidays, at Halloween and Christmas, as well as writing personal letters to every child.

Our Building for the Kingdom project hasn't stalled either. Under the leadership of Michael White, 2020 saw the appointment of a firm of Christian architect's, JBKS, to undertake a feasibility study on the future of our buildings and, as I write, this study is nearing completion, at which point we will be able to share and consult with the wider congregation. JBKS have done a tremendous job of taking all the ideas that have been gathered from the congregation in the six years of the project and translating them into exciting proposals for the future.

Pastoral care has continued through Small Groups meeting wherever possible online or keeping in touch by telephone. Meanwhile, John Farebrother and Carol Patterson have faithfully delivered the Parish Mail each week keeping our older members in touch through the service sheet and notice sheet.

I have always known St James is a generous church, but this was highlighted so wonderfully in 2020. In a year of pandemic, social isolation, and financial challenges to personal and household budgets, church members continued to give faithfully and sacrificially to St James. This resulted in just a small deficit at the end of the year, which we had budgeted for due to the Building for the Kingdom feasibility study being paid for out of designated reserves, and we even managed to more or less hit our Advent Gift Day target. Amazing! Many of those who normally give through the envelope scheme switched to online giving or bank transfer, for which we are

enormously grateful.

I want to express my sincere condolences to those who have lost loved ones in 2020, whether through Covid or other causes. I also want to thank so many people who have worked so hard to keep St James alive in 2020, far too many to name. Special thanks though must go to Peter Neill who has generously given his time every Saturday evening to edit and prepare the service to go online, and also to Claire and Beth Powell for their unstinting dedication enabling us to produce a weekly service throughout the year.

2020 was the year the whole world witnessed the appalling murder of George Floyd on the streets of Minneapolis, USA. It gave rise to a mass movement calling for racial justice which reached our own streets in cities across the UK. The Church of England, aware of its own failings in this area, set up a task force and a commission to explore racism in the church. We recently received the initial report, 'From Lament to Action' and the PCC will be discussing it alongside the Southwark Diocese Anti-Racism Charter approved at the Diocesan Synod in March 2021.

In November 2020 the long-awaited Living in Love and Faith project reached its next important stage. Rather than a traditional bishop's report, this is a suite of learning resources designed to enable members of the Church of England to explore sensitive and controversial questions concerning gender, relationships, identity and marriage. Parishes are being encouraged to engage with the resources, probably through the 5-week course which is included in the material, and to offer feedback to the Next Steps Group which will then consider what, if any, changes should be proposed to our doctrine, liturgy and pastoral practice. The PCC is discussing how and when we could best engage with this important material here at St James.

So, racial justice, questions around identity and relationships, and, of course, the ongoing climate emergency - there are many big issues about which God is deeply concerned, for us to grapple with in the coming year.

We are determined to build back better as a church when we finally emerge from covid restrictions. Not a return to business as usual. One of the ways we will do this is by reviewing and renewing our 2020 Vision and related Mission Action Plan. This will be an opportunity to prayerfully plan our strategy for mission and ministry for the next 5+ years seeking God's inspiration and guidance for how we can continue in our calling as a church community to live All of Life for Christ.

Every blessing



**St James Church
Summarised Minutes of the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on 19th October 2020 at 8pm**

Rob welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer after explaining the reason for the postponement of the APCM from April due to COVID-19.

Apologies: Femi Nzegwu, Alan Burrows, Claire Powell, Beth Powell, Marion Bird, Liz Gibbons.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and accepted unanimously.

Election of Church Wardens

Rob thanked outgoing Church Wardens, Femi Nzegwu & Yvonne Mason, for their faithful service in the last year. A presentation was made to Yvonne and will be made to Femi at a later date.

Marcia Gordon was proposed by Yvonne Mason and seconded by Marion Bird
John Talbot was proposed by Beverly Ogilvie-Bramble and seconded by Glynis Wilkinson
Both were duly elected.

Electoral Roll

11 names were removed from the roll and 2 were added, giving a total of 171 of which 109 are non-resident and 62 resident in the parish.

Finance Report

This was presented by Rob Powell in the absence of the Treasurer, Alan Burrows and the full report is in the booklet.

The audited accounts, approved by the PCC already, were formally adopted unanimously by the APCM, proposed by Nick Burt and seconded by Johan Allen.

It was also agreed unanimously that we re-appoint Leroy Reid as Independent Examiners for another year, proposed by Glynis Wilkinson and seconded by Raphael Gordon.

Buildings & Fabric

The annual report was presented by Rob Powell in the absence of Femi Nzegwu and the full report is in the booklet.

Diocesan Synod and Deanery Synod Reports as per the booklet.

Election of Deanery Synod Members

| Nominations | Proposed | Seconded |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Alan Burrows | John Farebrother | Johan Allen |
| Liz Gibbons | Sue Allen | Yvonne Mason |
| Ailie Neill | Glynis Wilkinson | Stepheney Sulaiman |
| Glynis Wilkinson | Claire Powell | Brenda Thomas |

Election of PCC Members

| Nominations | Proposed | Seconded |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Frances Christian | Femi Nzegwu | Dan Obene |
| John Farebrother | Alan Burrows | Adam Seymour-Davies |
| Jacqueline Gray | Joanna Seymour-Davies | Adam Seymour-Davies |
| Stepheney Sulaiman | Glynis Wilkinson | Yvonne Mason |

Deputy Wardens

Kirk Douglas, Dan Obene, Nat Okoro - a successor to Marcia Gordon is needed.

Sidespersons

We have a good team which is always being added to as the year progresses.

Rector's Report

Rob explained that his original Rector's Report had been written just before lock down in March this year and he left it in the booklet unchanged, but added a postscript written in October.

Much that he was excited about in the original report had had to be put on ice due to COVID-19, but we pray that in due time we will take some of those things off the ice, defrost them and bring them back to life!

Some things had been postponed with a new date already fixed, such as the Church Weekend Away to Ashburnham, now to take place in June 2021. Others have yet to be rescheduled, such as the PCC+ Away Day when we will review our Mission Action Plan in light of the fact that our 2020 Vision has reached its culmination this year and needs to be succeeded by God's new vision for us.

Some things have gone online, such as Sunday services (now able to be viewed in church by those without internet), children's work, some small groups. Whilst we thank God for the numerous unexpected benefits of this different way of working, we do long for the time when physical, in person, services & activities can once again resume, though that will still be some time off.

Some things have continued. Building for the Kingdom - JBKS, our architect, have begun the feasibility study and their initial ideas will be presented at a meeting with

the Working Group soon & then to PCC & congregation. Giving to church during COVID-19 has been fantastic and generous and with help from the HMRC furlough scheme we have more or less kept pace with our budget, with the exception of lettings income.

The Living in Love & Faith process has continued. This is the process taking place in Church of England to explore the issue of human sexuality, gender & identity, with particular reference to same sex relationships and same sex marriage. The final report is due to be published in November this year in the form of a book & support resources, then 2021 will be a year of engagement with the resources across the length and breadth of the Church of England with any decisions about change to be made in 2022. Rob said that his view was well known at St James, that we should stick to the traditional understanding, but he acknowledged that his view is not held by everyone in the C of E or even at St James. So, there are critical times ahead in next year or so to decide the future direction of the C of E.

Rob concluded by saying that 2020 continues to be an interesting & challenging year with many opportunities to grasp and many lessons to learn for the way we do mission & ministry in the post-COVID world which we pray will eventually dawn!

Any Questions

Carol Burt expressed thanks to Rob and his family for their service during the last year.

Any Other Business

None received.

Admission of Church Wardens

Rob formally admitted Marcia and John to their new office as Church Wardens for the year 2020/2021.

The meeting closed with prayer at 9.00pm.

Summary of Accounts and Notes

PCC Meetings

The PCC held 4 meetings during the year. The average attendance was 62% (previously 69.38%).

Committees

The PCC operates through several 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 171 (previously 180) persons as members of the Church, 122 of whom are not resident within the parish.

As services were online through 2020, The average Sunday attendance counted during October and November was not possible to count (previously 85).

Review of the year

The various activity groups will highlight their activities during the year by giving reports at the APCM. The activities of the parish insofar as they impinge upon the Statement of Financial Activities have been as follows:

Summary of Accounts and Notes

The activities of the parish insofar as they impinge upon the Statement of Financial Activities have been as follows:

1. The parish's contribution to the central fund of the Diocese of Southwark (the Parish Support Fund) remains the principal item of expenditure at £78,417 for 2020 (£78,000-2019) and has been paid in full.
2. Voluntary contributions from members of the congregation remain the principal source of income.
Income from donations for unrestricted purposes including claimed Gift Aid amounted to £145,440 (£150,901- 2019). An Advent Thanksgiving gift day was held with a commitment that the first £3,000 of donations would be divided between three projects - CPAS, The Shepherd Society and Romania Action Aid. Total donations received were £15,450 including associated Gift Aid (£16,877 - 2019).
The PCC continues to encourage the congregation to give to the Church in a regular and committed way using one of the stewardship schemes. Tax efficient regular giving to the General Fund amounted to £90,490 (£94,854 - 2019) and with other Gift Aided donations, £20,879 (£20,880 - 2019) was claimed in Gift Aid for unrestricted purposes. Other donations of £12,244 (£4,899 - 2019) included restricted donations for various areas of the Church's ministry and from the Government's Covid Furlough Scheme. The PCC's commitment to supporting all aspects of mission resulted in £37,213 (£37,893 - 2019) being granted to several causes including support for the Furzedown Youth Centre by the donation of the £21,466 for rent and utility bills. A tithe on income from giving of £12,512 (£12,161 - 2019) was split equally between two Mission partners receiving a share with Furzedown Youth Centre receiving 1/3, and "Crosslinks" receiving 2/3 in support of Alun and Debbie Burt's ministry in South Africa.
Total income amounted to £214,785 (£248,336- 2019) of which £4,080 was restricted (£5,553 - 2019). Total expenditure amounted to £233,677 (£239,564 - 2019) of which £20,525 was expenditure on restricted items (£6,106 - 2019).

The generosity of the people of St. James continues to be a source of both encouragement and humility. It is encouraging that we have been able to welcome new faces into the congregation. It is hoped that newcomers will soon become full and active members of our Electoral Roll.

3. The churches of the Furzedown Team Ministry (St. James, St Alban's and St. Pauls) continue to work closely together and with Mitcham Lane Baptist Church, sharing a vision of mission in the community, especially in the area of ministry to young people both through Sunday groups and through the work of the Furzedown Youth Centre.
4. The Church continues its commitment to children and young peoples' ministry. A full-time Youth Outreach worker is jointly employed with our partner churches. Little Fishes continues to be, for many, a first introduction to church life and is currently oversubscribed. Get Set and Adventurers continue to engage with children of Primary school age during the week.
Due to covid restrictions, it was not possible to hold our regular groups in a physical way. However, we continued meeting our commitments via zoom and youtube.
5. The Church continues its commitment to the Furzedown Youth Centre and, in partnership, work to improve the facilities of both the upper and lower halls continues to be the goal of the Community Centre Management Committee. The Church views FYC as a major resource for the young people in the surrounding community.
Due to covid restrictions, it was not possible to let the Church hall or centre.
6. During the year the Church continued to consider the use of its buildings and possible developments that might be undertaken to further the mission of the Church in the future. A small working group under the Building for the Kingdom Project has been working on developing proposals and has fed back to the PCC and church members for further input during the year.

***Alan Burrows
Treasurer***

Extracted Information from the Accounts

| Various items of Income | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Gift Aided Giving via Bank Standing Orders | 69,790 | 40,665 |
| Gift Aided Giving via Envelopes | 20,150 | 38,189 |
| Non-Gift Aided Giving via Standing Orders | 4,471 | 3,073 |
| Non-Gift Aided Giving via Envelopes | 855 | 5,776 |
| Giving via Plate Collection | 4,244 | 7,971 |
| Donations to the General Fund (day to day housekeeping fund) | 903 | 3,747 |
| Gift Aid received on giving to the General Fund | 1,100 | 20,880 |
| Advent Thanksgiving Gifts | 12,478 | 16,877 |
| Legacies | | |
| Letting/Hire of Upper Hall | 8,541 | 26,398 |
| Letting/Hire of Church and Centre | 790 | 5,450 |
| Fees for Weddings and Funerals (PCC retained) | 1,087 | 3,323 |
| Bible Study Notes sales | 401 | 384 |
| Well coffee and cake sales | 396 | 3,087 |
| Rental income from 171 Mitcham Lane | 26,400 | 25,319 |
| Children's Ministry receipts (Get Set, Little Fishes, Holiday Clubs etc) | 557 | 3,266 |
| Donations to Crosslinks (from individuals) | - | - |

| Various items of Expenditure | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Fairer Share (contribution to Diocese) | 78,417 | 78,000 |
| Church Insurance | 6,528 | 6,358 |
| Hall Insurance | 1,694 | 1,628 |
| Church Utilities (heat and light) | 7,490 | 9,549 |
| Hall Utilities | 2,862 | 4,026 |
| Church Repairs & Maintenance | 5,689 | 9,665 |
| Hall Repairs & Maintenance | 1,581 | 5,392 |
| 171 Mitcham Lane Maintenance and Expenses | 2,561 | 3,615 |
| Contribution to shared Churches Youth Ministries | | 9,901 |
| Salaries and Support | 45,700 | 36,792 |
| Clergy Expenses | 176 | 226 |
| Church Catering - incl Well | 244 | 1,424 |
| Printing and Production | 1,801 | 2,600 |
| Postage and Telephone | 1,344 | 365 |
| Examination of Accounts | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| Mission Support through tithe on Regular Giving | 12,512 | 12,161 |
| Crosslinks Donations (non - tithe) | | - |

St. James West Streatham
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2020

| | Note | Unrestricted £ | Restricted £ | Endowment £ | Total £ | 2019 £ |
|--|------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 2 | 145,440 | 3,248 | - | 148,688 | 154,356 |
| Charitable activities | 3 | 32,502 | 832 | - | 33,334 | 63,198 |
| Other trading activities | 4 | 960 | - | - | 960 | |
| Investments | 5 | 26,610 | - | - | 26,610 | 3,476 |
| Other | 6 | 5,193 | - | - | 5,193 | 25,683 |
| Total | | 210,705 | 4,080 | - | 214,785 | 248,336 |
| Expenditure on charitable activities: | | | | | | |
| Church activities | 7 | 129,436 | 17,291 | - | 146,727 | 154,694 |
| Salaries and support costs | 8 | 45,313 | - | - | 45,313 | 42,941 |
| Management and administration | 9 | 4,424 | - | - | 4,424 | 4,034 |
| Mission giving and charitable donations | 10 | 33,978 | 3,235 | - | 37,213 | 37,893 |
| Total | | 213,151 | 20,526 | - | 233,677 | 239,564 |
| Net income/(expenditure) | | (2,446) | (16,446) | - | (18,892) | 8771 |
| Transfers between funds | | (9,173) | 9,173 | - | - | - |
| Net movement in funds | | (11,619) | (7,273) | - | (18,892) | 8,771 |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 113,721 | 10,682 | 100,613 | 225,017 | 216,246 |
| Total funds carried forward | | 102,106 | 3,411 | 100,613 | 206,130 | 225,017 |

St. James West Streatham
Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2020

| | Note | 2020 | 2019 £ |
|-------------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|
| Fixed assets | | | |
| Curates House 171 Mitcham Lane | 15 | 100,613 | 100,613 |
| | | <u>100,613</u> | <u>100,613</u> |
| Current assets | | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 92,588 | 115,903 |
| Investments | | 8,659 | 8,659 |
| Sundry debtors | | 17,206 | 15,851 |
| Prepayments | | 581 | 581 |
| | | 1,139 | |
| | | <u>119,592</u> | <u>140,994</u> |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Accrual Independent Examination | | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| Creditor HMRC PAYE & NI | | 6 | 151 |
| Other sundry creditors and accruals | | 12,869 | 15,234 |
| | | <u>14,075</u> | <u>16,585</u> |
| Net current assets | | <u>105,517</u> | <u>124,409</u> |
| Net assets | | <u>206,130</u> | <u>225,017</u> |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 11 | 81,438 | 78,737 |
| Designated funds | 12 | 20,668 | 34,988 |
| Restricted funds | 13 | 3,411 | 10,684 |
| Endowment funds | 14 | 100,613 | 100,613 |
| | | <u>206,130</u> | <u>225,017</u> |

Building and Fabric Report

During 2020 very little work has been possible to take place on the structures of St James church and its halls due to the impact of Corona virus commonly known as Covid19.

However, there is still much that has been considered and estimates are being sought for the following works in line with the recommendations of the Quinquennial Inspection completed in July 2020.

1. The church roof has been assessed and an action plan put in place to repair the most immediate issues, some of which has been completed.
2. Internal work including re hanging the door to the boiler in the toilet area.
- 3 Issues regarding the fire exit doors from the church on the rectory side of the building.
4. Various other critical works are under consideration.
5. All other work highlighted in the Quinquennial Inspection received

Recognition, and estimates for some of the remedial works are being sought now. Other more major remedial work is being deferred to the Building for the Kingdom Project which will incorporate those items as part of the development of St James buildings.

The Building for the Kingdom Working Group continued to meet over zoom to assess the way forward and how to progress our vision of a re-conformed building to suit our church (St James) needs for the future.

There was a great deal of excitement in the project and there is much enthusiasm to move things forward as soon as practicalities allow.

The Working Group is looking forward to moving things forward at a faster pace in 2021 once the architect's Feasibility Study has been completed.

*John Talbot
Marcia Gordon
Churchwardens*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

In line with the regulations of the national lockdown in March 2020, all Sunday and midweek children's groups were suspended. In order to stay connected with the families of St James and provide Bible teaching to the children, we created a 'Children's Page' on the church website which is updated every Friday with a Bible story video; discussion questions; teaching and application; action song video; activities and crafts. This page is used by around a dozen families and will continue to run until all clubs are able to start up again.

In July, we produced a Holiday Fun Page on the church website, due to not being able to run our usual in-person summer holiday club. This page took on the theme of the Fruit of the Spirit and included various Bible stories exploring this theme; a memory verse; a fruit aerobics workout and lots of activities and crafts. We also produced packs of craft resources and activity sheets which were delivered to some of the families in the area. We produced another fun page, similar to this one, in October as an online Halloween alternative. This 'pumpkin' page was very popular and was watched by 65 families.

In November, we delivered chocolate advent calendars to the children of our Sunday and midweek groups - around 100 children altogether. These advent calendars from The Meaningful Chocolate Company included a Christmas story activity booklet designed for each day in Advent. Many good conversations with parents were had during these visits. A few weeks later, we then delivered Christingle resources to these same families with an invite to our online children's Christingle service which, like all of the current church services, was recorded and watched virtually. Around 150 families watched this service and we received a dozen photos from parents whose children took part.

A few times throughout 2020, Claire and I have sent hand-written letters to the children of Sunday and midweek groups, enclosing a craft activity with each letter. We hope that these have helped the families feel connected to St James, despite not being able to attend groups in person. We have received a few letters back from some children, which were very much appreciated!

We hope and pray that Sunday and midweek groups will be able to start running again when it is absolutely safe to do so, aiming for September 2021.

Bethany Powell
Children's Worker

Diocesan Synod

Diocesan Synod, which is the governing body of Southwark Diocese, has only met twice since my last report, in December 2020 and March 2021. Nominations for Synod are made and members elected by the members of our Tooting Deanery Synod. This is the year when a new Diocesan Synod will be elected, with nominations in June and voting in July. This year will also see elections to the Church of England General Synod in September/October, postponed from last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. I am also a member of the Diocesan Council of Trustees, which has met 4 times, and chair the Policy and Finance Committee.

The 'normal' business of any governing body included items such as the Annual Report and Accounts for 2020 (we ended with an unexpected surplus of about £1.4M), setting a Budget for 2021 (a projected deficit of about £2.95M, on a turnover of £25.3million), reviewing and updating the Risk Register and setting and reviewing of Objectives for 2020 and 2021, together with on-going discussion and review of progress with the diocesan Strategy for Mission ('Hearts on Fire'**), which feeds down into our deanery, team and parish Mission Action Plans.

The emphasis of Synod has shifted significantly from forming the Strategic Vision for Mission across the Diocese, and working up of plans in two significant areas of development, to implementation of these plans while maintaining the financial progress achieved over the previous 3 years. The financial strategy is to maintain an annual surplus year on year, based on the generosity of parish giving through the Parish Share system, and to build up working reserves to see us through the years ahead. Clearly this has been impeded by the impact of COVID-19, and whilst the 2020 results turned out to be better than expected in the circumstances, due to some one-off items, the projections for 2021 and 2022 suggest these years will be in deficit, with a return to surplus only in 2023. Bids are also being pursued for further strategic development grants from the Church of England Commissioners.

The first area of implementation 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'. Implementation has included the formation of the Lay Council, bringing together the governance and development of the Reader and SPA ministries. Further work is centred on the recognition, encouragement and development of the work of various ministries undertaken by many lay people within our parishes and communities, including, but not limited to work with youth and children and pastoral care in all its forms.

The second area under implementation 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. Work is on-going to establish Deanery Leadership Teams in each deanery together with the appointment of Mission Accompaniers, all facilitated by a major update of the Rules and Constitution for Deanery Synods. Training is being offered for Area Deans and Lay Chairs to help them to implement the hoped-for transformation.

More recently, the Synod has agreed an Anti-Racism Charter and has begun to consider our response to the major Church of England report, “From Lament to Action”, seeking to make a sea change to the church’s attitudes to racial inequality and injustice within the church, diocese and parishes. The Synod is also encouraging parishes to engage with the Living in Love and Faith process for listening to and learning from each other in the area of human sexuality. Progress has been made towards recognition as an ‘Eco Diocese’ and ways to achieve the target for Net Zero Carbon Emissions have been discussed.

The past year has therefore been one largely of consolidation rather than innovation, made possible by the relative health of our finances despite the circumstances we are living through. For this, the diocese is hugely thankful for the continuing generous support by our parishes through the Parish Support Fund, not least St James. Looking forward, 2021 and 2022 are likely to present particular challenges as we seek to adjust our expenditure to more closely match our income. However, with the support of parishes, and the provision and grace of our wonderful God, we trust that the ministry and mission of the diocese will continue to flourish.

** 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 Holy Spirit.

Nick Burt

May 2021

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Go even further!

*A donation is worth
more with Gift Aid*



*St James Church
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a Gift Aid declaration we can reclaim the
tax on your donation. Please ask for a form.*

Registered Charity Number: 1133859

giftaid it

Bank Details:

Barclays Bank plc, Sort Code: 20-96-89

Account no: 00196878, A/c Name: St James PCC

Find out more by visiting St James website

www.stjames-streatham.org.uk

and social media



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