



St James
Hampton Hill

**Annual Parochial
Church Meeting 2019**

**Reports
for 2018**



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Ark Playgroup Team

This group for under-fives and their carers ticked over nicely in 2018. Average numbers have dropped slightly, which I think is because more such groups are now up and running in the area. We are lucky to have so much available for under-fives here.

We have continued with the tried and tested formula developed over the nine-plus years we have been in existence. This consists of plenty of books and toys, delicious refreshments, art & craft and singing & rhyme. Derek, Karen and Coryn all visited regularly.

We finished the Summer term with a picnic in Bushy Park and the Autumn term with our legendary Christmas Party. We donated £300 to St James's and £285 to Welcare.

Thank you very much to my loyal and fun team: Carol Bailey, Ria Beaumont, Jennifer Clay, Lou Coaker, Sarah English, Mary Gray, Linda Webb, Liz Wilmot and Caroline Young.

Debbie Nunn

Bell-ringing Team

We currently have 12 adult ringers and 5 young ringers. Bells have been rung for 6 weddings, every Sunday at 9:15 and for the Christmas Midnight Service and at New Year. We also joined bell-ringers throughout the country on 11 November, ringing to mark 100 years since the end of World War I.

As usual, on Open Spire day during our St. James's Day celebrations in July, members of the bell-ringing team were at both ringing and bells levels to talk about our bells and to help visitors to try their hand at ringing.

New ringers (from the age of 10 years) are always welcome to join the team. Once trained, the only commitment is to ring before the 9:30 service about 7 times a year.

Susan Horner

Charity Support Team

2018 was the first full year where we asked the congregation to support our chosen charities as the church was not able to if it was to balance the books. So the church was asking for 'new money' to support our charities and the congregation is to be applauded and thanked for a very generous response.

At the start of the year the Lent Appeal raised £2,733 for the Church Mission Society (for David and Shelley Stokes in northern Argentina), and Welcare. During the year various events including the wine tasting, St James's day activities, including the raffle and auction, plus Nick and Genevieve's Anniversary concert raised a total of £2,512 for our chosen four charities: Bishop Wand School, London Churches Refugee Fund, Tools with a Mission (TWAM) and ALMA (Angola London & Mozambique Association).

Then the Harvest Appeal raised £1,152 for The Upper Room project in Hammersmith. Except for Christian Aid and the Children's Society, which were always separate and specific appeals, the total raised from the congregation for charity in 2018 was £7,897. This

compares quite well with 2017 where £10,000 came from church funds and £2,925 from the Lent and Harvest Appeals.

In 2018 Christian Aid raised £3,733, up about £100 on 2017, although there is an increasing difficulty in recruiting collectors, with some resistance to knocking on people's doors. The Children's Society raised £1,155 from the collection boxes, Christingle candles and the plate collection, about the same as in 2017.

With the necessary church cutbacks last year it was quite refreshing for a large personal donation to be able to be made to Milo hospital in south west Tanzania and so continue our support there. In late November we were honoured to be visited at the church by two doctors, Adrian and Hilary Murray from North Wales, who at the invitation of local Bishop Mathew Mhagama are to work as volunteers at Milo for at least a year starting next August. This was an inspiring visit and they already have plans to make Milo a maternity centre of excellence, also a centre of excellence for the treatment of HIV, and to fundraise for X-Ray equipment.

The Personal Touch

It was almost certainly not a coincidence that the Charity Support team met the very next day after the Murray's visit and wholeheartedly decided to make Milo one of our main charities to support again in 2019 and beyond.

This visit by the Murrays, also by David and Shelley Stokes, even recently a guest speaker, Dave Farris, a Diocesan President for the Children's Society, have all shown that personal involvement can make all the difference and enable the congregation to better understand the charities we support and so hopefully be more generous.

Already this year there have been two formidable personal donations for CMS and Milo hospital and another is anticipated.

A More Charitable Future

Some good news is that the PCC has set aside £1,500 in the 2019 budget for Bishop Wand School and Welcare, two local C of E charities that we have supported for a very long time.

Dennis Wilmot

Children and Families

Youth Socials

Our core group of young people have met together monthly when they've enjoyed playing card games, team trivia, going ice skating at Hampton court palace, and attending the Unity project worship/game nights with area churches and youth groups. They've even completed an escape room where they solved puzzles together to open a box with a secret message.

The secret message allowed us to talk together about things that make us feel trapped or isolated, and how God is always there for us. Our next youth social is *Minute to Win It* themed when they will complete small challenges mostly using dozens of ping pong balls and will have a short discussion on perseverance. This group helps the young people grow in

fellowship together with food and games; and also, spiritually as we take the time to pray and chat about God's relevance in our lives.

Three members of this group and I are attending the Kensington Area Youth Weekend Away at the end of April where we will worship, play games, roast marshmallows over a campfire and listen to speakers as they build community with each other and other youth from the area.

Shell Seekers

Working with and learning from our dedicated Shell Seekers leaders over the past few months has been a delight. We continue to use the ROOTS Bible materials which provide great resources for lessons, activities, prayers, and thoughtful discussions. We may throw in a game or two here or there, but mostly we facilitate a meaningful encounter between the children/young people and God. We've seen them grow in their understanding of the Bible and the community of believers.

We've experienced a slight decline in attendance due to sports activities, educational commitments, and relocations, but we stay dedicated to teaching and loving every child who comes to Shell Seekers, even if one is all we get in a week.

Together at Eleven service

Crafts have been on my brain constantly over the past several months as they are my main responsibility for the Families' Service. We've made Sarai & Abram finger puppets, a serpent from the Garden of Eden, a creation bookmark, a rainbow to remind us of God's promises, and so much more! I never give the children a craft that I, myself am not excited about. Yes, my job does sometimes include colouring! The craft is so important because it is a piece of the Bible that they take home, maybe hang on their wall, and reminds them of the Bible story they've heard and what they've learned about the people of God.

I've also had the pleasure of giving the story, talk, reading, and prayers during the Families' Service. This is such an important ministry because we are able to tell parents, come just as you are. If your child needs to wander around during the service a bit, that's fine. If they need to hold on to the shakers a bit longer, well we celebrate their zeal for worship. If the parents just need five minutes for a cup of coffee, we we'll do some crafts with the children while you drink that cup.

Visiting

I've tried to make visiting a priority as I believe it is one of the best ways to show God's and the church's love for people on a more personal level than Sunday mornings can sometimes allow. One little boy was very surprised to see me at his house because as far as he was aware, I live at the church! I've enjoyed bringing some crafts to children while they were home ill and having a nice chat with some of our *Together* families over a cup of tea. Not everyone is too keen on a home visit, but I think more people are warming up to the idea. I try to catch all our children and young people around their birthday with a nice card just letting them know how much St James's loves them.

Training

Over the past few months I've had the opportunity to sharpen my skills through several avenues of training. Scott and I attended the Youth Ministry toolkit training at St Saviours Sunbury where we met with other youth leaders and volunteers to brainstorm about how to better communicate with our young people. I've also attended the Safe in Faith Conference run by the Borough where I refreshed my training of how to best keep our children and young people safe while in our care.

A new Faith in Schools program has offered hands-on opportunities for me to learn what teaching Religious Education lessons in a primary school setting looks like. My favourite training so far has been the Godly Play intro day which filled my head with new ideas of storytelling, and resources that can aid in communicating more effectively with children and young people.

Schools

Accompanying Derek in his ministry to local school has helped me to learn and grow as a Children's Worker. I used my slide-clicking skills to assist Derek at a school assembly and enjoyed welcoming the Reception class from Jack & Jill during their visit to our church.

This ministry to local school has grown over the past few months and has resulted in 90 Year 1 children coming to our church over a three-day *Easter Experience* event. Many volunteers helped us bring the Easter story alive and share the love of God with children who might not have experienced it before.

We are already looking forward to how we might do a similar event around Christmas time, and how we might facilitate more than one school coming though. We also have plans for INSET day clubs, and a summer holiday club at the end of August.

Other

I've really enjoyed supporting some of our other ministries like the Ark and the pop-up cinema. These are fabulous and I'm very glad that those who run them have allowed me to come along, have a chat with parents/carers, and learn some amazing British nursery rhymes.

*Dani Robertson
Children and Families Worker*

Church Flower Team

Another year over! Nothing much has changed since our last report - we have three church members who regularly cope with the flowers, except for festivals and special occasions when we have a few, kind and helpful people who help as well.

The church funds the costs, which are very reasonable, and we aim to have one arrangement each week with an additional arrangement by the Book of Remembrance .

This is manageable for us, but we would always welcome anybody who could sign up for a week every so often - even once a year would be helpful.

We continue to traditionally have no flowers during Lent and Advent, otherwise we try to ensure the flowers are changed or refreshed weekly. The exception to this is the small vase of flowers by the Book of Remembrance which is always there – maybe somebody would like to take on this part of the rota?

Please chat to one of us if you are interested to help out: Linda Cargill, Jenny Wright and Coryn Robinson

Coryn Robinson

Churches Together Around Hampton

Chair: Rev Vicci Davidson (Hampton Methodist) *Re-elected at AGM in Jan 2019*

Vice-Chair: Anne Starkie (St Francis de Sales Church) *Re-elected at AGM in Jan 2019*

Secretary: *Position vacant*

Treasurer: John Latham (United Reformed Church) *Re-elected at AGM in Jan 2019*

Our parish reps: Catherine Gash, Ann Peterken

Nine churches belong to Churches Together Around Hampton (CTAH): four Anglican, two Roman Catholic, one Baptist, one Methodist, and one United Reformed.

Clergy from the member churches meet together during the year. Forum meetings with lay representatives from the churches are sometimes arranged, but there have not been any since the secretary's position became vacant.

Following the AGM at St James's Church in January 2019, there was a *Songs of Praise* service with favourite hymns chosen by a representative from each of the churches. It was a lovely way to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The World Day of Prayer service is held on the first Friday of March. It is written by women from a particular country (Slovenia in 2019) and used throughout the world on the same day. The service is held in one of the CTAH churches, with active participation from all the churches. This year it was lovely to host the event at St James's and a highlight of the service was the handing out of beautifully made paper red carnations. Please talk to Catherine Gash or Linda Webb if you would like to be involved in the organising group for this annual service.

Clergy from the member churches are on a rota for services at Laurel Dene and Marling Court and they always appreciate it when others can join them.

Hot cross buns have been handed out to morning commuters at Hampton and Fulwell railway stations on the Tuesday in Holy Week. This lovely outreach worked well for a good many years, though it was not always so easy to get people to accept the buns or to find helpers. As no new organiser has come forward, there will be no distribution this year.

Churchyard Team

Conservation Measures

In 2018 the churchyard grass was left uncut for the majority of the summer to ascertain what natural plants were growing and where. As a result, areas of wild flowers were left to grow, seed and increase. Also, several species of butterfly not previously seen were noted, (the Small copper – sorrel and dock egg layers, the Meadow brown and the Speckled wood –both various grass egg layers). Juvenile crickets were found in two separate locations and a thriving nest of the small bumble bee *Bombus pratorum* was observed in long grass in the area outside the hall kitchen window.

In 2019 only two specific areas of grass will be left uncut, but they will be cut if and when they become too untidy. These are: a single strip parallel to the north-side holly hedge where considerable work has been done by the Gardening Club to clear brambles and saplings thus ensuring the strip will be tidier and, a rectangular area to the east of the hall which will include the site of last year's bees' nest.

The grass 'nature walkway' will be maintained between the Lych Gate and the Park Road gates, parallel to Park Road and, where possible, further local wild flowers will be introduced into this area.

A considerable quantity of seven-spot ladybirds waking from hibernation in the church tower were swept up at the end of March and released outside.

Four stag beetles were seen during the summer and a stag beetle grub disinterred during gardening activity was safely reburied in the rotting beech stump near the war memorial.

Wild flower seeds were planted by the Cubs in the wild flower meadow area in the late spring but, owing to the summer drought, these failed to germinate. Also, as a result of the severe conditions caused by the drought a pair of nesting blackbirds in the north-west churchyard and their nestlings were lost despite uncovering two discarded rectangular stone urns from a shrubbery and installing them as bird baths in the blackbirds' foraging area. These two water resources are, however, being maintained and evidence of small bird use, including a wren, has been seen.

Three of the wooden nest boxes donated by parishioners and used by blue tits were predated by the greater spotted woodpeckers which inhabit the churchyard. However, a pair of Nuthatches nested successfully in an old woodpecker nest hole in the sweet chestnut tree in the car park. Future nest boxes will need to have metal ring guards fixed at the nest box entrance holes.

Unwanted saplings have been regularly cut back and, where possible, removed. Various clumps of the invasive broad- leaved sedge have also been dug out.

During the summer drought new trees and vulnerable plants were kept watered by volunteers from the congregation.

The designated wild flower meadow area was rotovated in the autumn and twice hand weeded by the Gardening Club and sown in early November. Any bulbs disinterred by the rotovator were replanted in situ in early January.

Trees and Tree Care

The regular monitoring of mature tree health continues. A new inspection by the Council's tree officer has been requested and is being pursued. The Canadian Maple which marked the Canadian War Graves died in the early spring of 2018. The cause is unknown. The church is in liaison with the Canadian War Graves Commission regarding replacing the tree and a new site has been agreed but this is largely dependent upon more light being created in the area to help preserve the immaculately maintained grass on the war graves. A request to the tree officer has been made to pollard an unruly sweet bay to the south-west of the war graves which is cutting the light. This is being followed up together with a request to trim back the Norway Maple which has begun to infringe upon the Ginkgo biloba.

Churchyard Maintenance

Two critical areas of eroded pathway were repaired by the Council with tarmac in early November in time for Remembrance Sunday.

The tilted base of the Honourable Henry Bligh monument (Vicar at St. James 1881 – 1893) located outside the boiler room, was reset level. This needed to be done in order to remove and replace the broken paving slabs there. The work was done by Bryan Basdell and John Daly of the Properties Committee rather than the Council as the paving was considered part of the church courtyard and not the churchyard.

Burials

There were nine ashes interments within the given period: seven in the Garden of Remembrance and two into existing family graves in the churchyard.

In Memoriam

A grass area on the south side of the Reverend Brunt memorial flower bed has been identified and set aside for the planting of memorial rose bushes with memorial plaques. The first such rose bush was planted there on 28 June and the memorial plaque installed during All Souls on 28 October.

Following an enquiry in August regarding the installation of a memorial bench in the churchyard six suitable sites for memorial benches were mapped and presented to the PCC and approved. All of any such benches will be uniform in style and timber-type and will be two-seater size only to discourage sleep-overs. A maintenance fee will be payable and a

reasonable 'life-time' for each bench will be set dependent upon manufacturer's guarantee period and an allowance for reasonable durability.

Plants and Gardening

The newly planted shrubbery to the south of the West Door has been regularly weeded, tended and watered by those in the original planting team. The new garden construction on the north-west corner of Park and St. James's roads is moving towards the first stage of completion. A low-cost development budget was approved by the PCC. The area has been rotovated and subsequently hand weeded and dug over on several further occasions by the Gardening Club.

Border flower beds have been landscaped in and these have been planted with various plants donated to date by the congregation. A request for more plants will be made as we approach the autumn. The church office ordered a 50 plants shrub pack, provided gratis by the Mayor of London's greening initiative and these were planted in November to form a mixed hedge against the St. James's Road iron railings and the Park Road wall. The grave of Reverend Richard Coad-Pryor (vicar at St. James 1914 – 1923), located within this new garden area, has been cleared of scrub and weeded.

The new lawn will be laid after Easter once all danger of frosts has ceased. The donated garden bench will be installed and the original stepping stones relaid as a path to the seat from the West Door and on round into the grass walk way on the church's north side.

The gift of a small electric lawn mower has been offered and an initial team of mowing volunteers created. Less turf than was budgeted for will be required (owing to the landscaped flower beds) and so it is hoped the original budget will cover the purchase of some suitable chippings with which to dress the Coad-Pryor grave.

The Church Gardening Club and/or various members of the planting team carried out work in the churchyard on some fourteen separate occasions during the given period.

On 12 June a tall standard Hibiscus (pink flowered) was given by the local council and planted at the gateway to the West Door. The plant was watered and maintained throughout the summer by the Council and the gift was arranged by the Council's Tree Officer (who also arranged for the gift of the beech bench sited at the approach to the South Door).

Ongoing and Various

Regular care and maintenance of the Garden of Remembrance, the War Memorial and Remembrance Sunday wreaths continues. Litter is removed on a weekly basis. Following a request some twelve months ago to the Council for 'dogs on leads' signs these have recently been installed. It is hoped this will help reduce the amount of dog mess which has occurred when dogs were allowed to run out of sight of their owners and will keep dogs off the graves. The 'pooper scooper' signs continue to remain mostly effective.

Looking Ahead

To move forward with achieving 'Designated Local Wildlife Area' status for the churchyard more particular information on wild plants, toadstools and lichens, insects and birds as well as any small mammals, amphibians and reptiles, needs to be logged. A simple scheme to achieve this will be created during the coming year and members of the congregation interested in wildlife conservation will be asked if they would like to help observe and gather information.

Ros Daly

Connections

We have been running this newly formed group for about a year now and are beginning to get a feel for what best suits those who come!

We have settled on always enjoying a cuppa with one of Zena's homemade cakes and we reliably have an ongoing jigsaw puzzle, card or table top game, carpet bowls and the chance to sit and chat. Additionally, we have had craft activities, speakers on a range of interests, hand massage, gentle exercises, book and magazine swaps and local history discussions.

We have also tried a couple of extended sessions which have been popular and included a simple lunch. We will continue trying these and may be able to have a chance to listen to longer talks - it is encouraging that a few people have recently offered to do this in the coming year.

We have also just begun to provide an excellent hearing aid support service, provided by the NHS, and this is going to be regularly held within our monthly sessions.

Not only church members have come along - it is good to see increasing interest from members of the local community, some of whom have become 'regulars'.

There is no cost and no membership expectations - it is great to see anybody who is passing, even if just for a quick drink and cake!

Please come along if you are interested. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month from 11am-12.30pm (with occasional extensions) and there is usually a reminder on the weekly pew sheets in church.

Coryn Robinson

Deanery Synod

Hampton Deanery Synod is the synod (or council) that is made up of clergy and lay representatives from the 15 parishes in Hampton, Teddington, Twickenham and Whitton. It meets three times a year and there are 30-35 people at each meeting including Derek and the three of us from St James's - Moya Meredith-Smith, Lesley Mortimer and Clive Beaumont. The Area Dean is the Revd Joe Moffatt from St Mary with St Alban in Teddington.

24 May 2018 – St Philip & St James, Whitton

Deanery Appeal for St Richards, Hanworth

Synod was asked to consider how they could help St Richard's Hanworth who needed another £150,000 to urgently fix a very leaky roof and carry out some urgent building work. Joe Moffatt, the Area Dean, commented that he felt it imperative that the Deanery responded to this crisis. With 16 Parishes it would be an average of £10,000 per Parish. *[Following this appeal, St James donated £10,000.]*

The Reverend Craig Holmes, Vicar at St Richard's, explained that the building work was a long-term project but the immediate issue was to make the building habitable. The Church had raised £200,000 to date.

Capital 2020 Vision

The Area Dean reminded members that Bishop Graham had asked the Kensington Area to work with four priorities over the next two years and four Deanery Champions had been appointed:

- Vocations – Cara Lovell, St Mary's Hampton
- Community Action – Derek Winterburn, St James Hampton Hill
- Youth – Ben Lovell, St Mary's Hampton
- Sharing Faith – David Cloake, SS Philip & James Whitton

Sharing Faith – the Reverend David Cloake, St Philip & St James, Whitton

David started by reminding everyone of the three Capital Vision 2020 themes:

Theme 1: Confident in speaking and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Theme 2: Compassionate in Serving Communities with the Love of God the Father

Theme 3: Creative in Reaching New People and Places with the Good News.

The central discipline of 'sharing faith' runs through each of these themes.

Introduction to 'Youth' – The Reverend Ben Lovell, St Mary's Hampton

'Youth' would be the main topic of the next Deanery Synod meeting in October 2018 and Ben Lovell said a few words to set the scene. He explained that one target in the 2020 Vision was to double the number of young people in the Parish by 2020. Ben added that we need to really believe and be confident that God will move in this area.

Update on the AA Recovery Course - Peter Mumford

Peter Mumford explained that the Recovery Course was hosted by St John's Hampton Wick. It is a 16-week course where the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous are worked through with a Christian perspective. If anyone wanted more information, they could call Peter on 079 3037 2918.

18 October 2018 – St Mary's Hampton

Capital Youth: Reverend Ben Lovell, Sam Donoghue and Levi Phillips

Sam Donoghue gave an overview of Capital Youth, which was launched in 2017 with the aim of creating a diocese where young people thrive. The target was to double the number

of 11-18 year olds engaging with existing or fresh expression of the church - from 2,000 to 4,000.

The current position was:

- 297 parishes had completed the survey and just under 70% of churches reported that they had between 1 and 10 young people between the ages of 12-18.
- Many parishes reported that the youth work was not going well.
- The average age that young people leave was 14.5 years old.
- Most churches have less than 10 young people.
- Less happiness with youth work than with children's work.
- A shortage of volunteers to work with young people.

The solution was to change the culture of the Diocese so youth work can thrive. Youth Advocates have identified 4 key areas where we can act to change the culture: Listening, Hospitality, Leadership and Community. We will know that Capital Youth has succeeded in changing the culture when young people feel listened to and are advocating for themselves, when they feel welcomed in our churches and want to remain in our church communities into their teenage years. Senior Leaders will be demonstrating through what they say and do that young people are a priority.

Nick Neilan, MTV Youth leader, updated everyone on a St Mary's Hampton youth project. He described how he had helped start and maintain the MTV Youth Hampton, which was still very successful. Further information can be found on the website <http://www.mtvhampton.org.uk/who-s-who.html>

The Reverend Ben Lovell finished this session with some comments:

Parenting young people is hard – he is trying to run sessions on how to parent youth
Equipping 'lay' people to do children and youth work (half-day training session)

Five youth champions in the area – they are happy to talk to you about your youth work.

Update on the Deanery Appeal for St Richard's - The Reverend Craig Holmes

Craig Holmes started by giving a massive thank you to all the churches who had responded so far - offering money now or pledging funds amounting to £26,000 including: St Mary, Hampton; St James, Hampton Hill, St John's Hampton Wick and St Michael & St Johns, Fulwell. St Mary's, Twickenham had made St Richards their charitable cause. St Richards' were applying to Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity for a £50,000 grant. All the money and pledges leave them about £30,000 short for re-starting on the roof.

Diocesan Synod elections

The Hampton Deanery had 5 Lay places and 3 Clergy places on the Diocesan Synod. The elections in June 2018 had not filled all the seats – there were currently 3 lay vacancies and 1 clergy vacancy. The Area Dean commented it was important for the Hampton Deanery to be fully represented. The Diocesan Synod was interesting, challenging and was not an onerous task.

Kensington Area Council

The Area Dean explained that the Kensington Area Council, the Bishop of Kensington's PCC had positions for 2 clergy and 4 lay representatives across the six Deaneries. He commented that it would be good to have representatives from the Hampton Deanery since this was an important Council, looking at strategies for re-organisation and finance.

Appointment to the position of Hampton Deanery Representative at Archdeacon Cambridge's CE Primary School

The Area Dean explained that he had received a nomination of David la Bouchardiere for the appointment to the position of Hampton Deanery Representative at Archdeacon Cambridge's CE Primary School. The Area Dean asked if all were in favour of this proposal and it was unanimously carried. David la Bouchardiere's was elected as the Hampton Deanery Representative for the Archdeacon Cambridge's CE Primary School.

Thanks for Common Fund pledges

Tony Dixon (St Stephens Twickenham) thanked everyone for their generosity for the Common Fund pledges. He explained that the 2018 the contribution was 101% and the pledge for 2019 was 102% even after the proposed contribution had gone up by 2.5%.

28 February 2019 – St Mark's Teddington

Growing Vocations: Developing a Culture of Calling – The Reverend Cara Lovell

Cara Lovell commented that everyone was called by God. She introduced Judy Barrett, Ordinands and Vocations Officer for the Diocese of London. Judy explained that by 2030 70% of the current clergy would have retired and it takes 8-10 years for someone to "discern a call". There was therefore a target of a 50% increase in numbers starting training.

Statistics showed:

- Nationally 476 started training in 2016 and the aim was to increase this to over 700 per year in 2021. In 2018 580 had started training - a 20% increase;
- In London the growth was from 46 in 2016 to 69 in 2018 ;
- 12% of the people starting training last year were women.
- There were a large number of churches putting forward people but there was still more we could do.

The starting point was the clergy: a Clergy Conference on Vocation had been held in 2017, and the next event was a Women's Vocation Event in October 2019. Cara added that you could make churches a place of nurturing and she asked everyone to have a think about how they could regularly talk about calling in their church.

The Reverend Karen Wellman (the Kensington Diocese Advisor for Spirituality) commented that, in encouraging vocation, you have to think about prayer - listening to God. There were many ways of praying and she encouraged everyone to explore different ways of praying.

Preview of Topics for June Synod and other updates

Focus of June Synod meeting

The Area Dean explained that previous meetings had been following Bishop Graham's four priorities for Vision 2020; the final one to be covered was *Community Engagement*. This would be the focus of the June 2019 meeting and would be led by Derek Winterburn.

Community Chaplains

The Area Dean updated members on Community Chaplains and developments in Richmond. Bob Kimmerling had addressed the clergy on this topic a couple of months ago. The first training session had been held for potential chaplains: it equipped lay people to carry out community ministry (e.g. visit people, respond to need) which helped take the burden off other agencies, such as the Police.

Community Projects

The Area Dean highlighted some community projects:

- Bushy Park Sports Ministry - for people who gather there for sport and recreation. There had been a small start with a few meetings so far.
- Working with young offenders in Feltham Prison – the Reverend Chris Kennedy (St Richard, Hanworth), a diocesan cricketer, had persuaded the British Cricket Guild to work with young offenders while in prison to help them experience cricket.
- Working with and supporting refugees – Derek Winterburn asked if anyone who was working with refugees could contact him so he could give a full picture in June.

Helping Hanworth's Project Grow

The Reverend Craig Holmes (St Richmond, Hanworth) gave a massive thank-you to everyone who had given or pledged funds so far, which amounted to £50,000. He had been blown away by the generosity and had been deeply moved.

Training event for Youth and Children Leaders

Ben Lovell explained that the Bishop was hosting a training event for Youth and Children Leaders on 21 September 2019.

Clive Beaumont

Hampton Fuel Charity

How it helps local people

Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity, which dates from 1811, provides financial support to individuals and families on low income to help with the costs of gas and electricity. It also provides grants to voluntary sector organisations which offer services and activities to people in need. The Charity's area of benefit covers these six areas within Richmond: Hampton, Hampton Hill, Hampton Wick, Teddington, Twickenham and Whitton.

Awards in 2017/18

During the financial year ending 30 June 2018, the Charity provided 1,512 fuel grants to the value of £730,350. The grant money is sent to the relevant fuel company, to be credited to their customer's account.

The Charity also awarded 69 community grants to the value of £1,183,450. This supported the work of the charitable sector, providing a range of services and activities for local people in need.

Fuel and other grants to families

You may qualify for help with your gas and electricity costs if any of the following conditions apply:

- You work part time or are on a low wage
- You receive state benefits
- You receive help with your rent or council tax
- Your children receive free school meals
- You live in one of the six areas of benefit listed above.

In addition during 2017/18, many households on low income benefitted from essential white goods and furniture to the value of £28,073. The Charity also awarded school journey grants amounting to £3,453. Increasingly, Hampton Fuel is supporting families who are in work but on low income.

Some recent community grants

During 2017/18 several charities benefitted from a capital grant including: Addiction Support and Care Agency, The 3rd Hampton Scout Group and St Francis de Sales each received £10,000 towards the replacement of their dilapidated kitchens.

A £50,000 grant for Kingston Hospital Charity contributed towards a total of £440,000 for the refurbishment of Blyth and Kennet Wards to make them dementia friendly. This transformation will help provide an enhanced quality of care that is additional to that which NHS funding alone can provide.

Richmond and Kingston Accessible Transport received £35,000 towards the cost of a new minibus in addition to a regular grant of £12,000 towards salaries.

The Mulberry Centre provides a range of services free of charge for people living with, and affected by, cancer. Hampton Fuel awarded £20,000 towards the reconfiguration of its premises to prove the space and facilities for beneficiaries and staff; and an additional £8,000 towards an IT infrastructure update.

Citizens Advice Richmond (CAR) gives advice on welfare benefits, debt, housing, immigration, consumer and employment issues. CAR's main office recently moved from Twickenham to Hampton Hill due to high rents. Hampton Fuel's £20,000 grant paid towards essential refurbishment costs for the new premises. Our regular grant of £60,000 covers the costs of the outreach of the Hampton Office 3 days per week; and contributes towards staff, rent and administration costs for the main office in Hampton Hill.

A house for the homeless in Hampton Hill

Hampton Fuel has recently bought a house for the homeless which is being managed by

Spear, a charity specialising in working with homeless people in and around Richmond. The house, which is currently being refurbished, is in Hampton Hill.

How Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity is run

The Charity is run by a board of up to 12 Trustees comprising:

The permanent ex-officio Trustee is the serving Vicar of St Mary's Hampton.

Three Trustees are nominated by the Parish Church Councils of All Saints, St Mary's and St James (currently Clive Beaumont) – all in Hampton.

Three are nominated by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Up to five Trustees are co-opted from the local community on the basis of the skills and experience required by the Charity.

In addition, the Charity has three employees: David White, Director; Carole Swinburne, Grants Manager; and Jan Webb, Community Grants Manager

St James's application to Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity

Last year St James made an application to Hampton Fuel for half the cost of the Wygram Hall refurbishment, but this was turned down because of the size of our reserves. We understand that the Charity will look sympathetically at a future application when we have spent more of our legacy.

History of the Charity

Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity was established by an Act of Parliament in 1811, when land owned by King George III in the ancient town of Hampton was donated to the parish of St Mary's Church. The land was rented out, and the money used to buy fuel for the poor of the parish.

By the mid-1980s income had significantly reduced. However, the Trustees made the decision to sell land owned by the Charity. In 1989 St Clare's Nursery was sold to Sainsbury's for £21.6m. The sale significantly revived the fortunes of the Charity. The money was invested, with the income providing support to those in need. The Charity has since been able to extend the area of benefit beyond Hampton residents to Twickenham, Teddington and Whitton. The Fund currently stands at around £60m.

Contact Details

Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity, 15 High Street, Hampton, TW12 2SA. Tel: 020 8941 7866. The office is located near the river, almost opposite the Jolly Coopers pub. It is open to the public Monday to Thursday 9.30 am to 12.00 am.

Clive Beaumont

Hampton Parochial Charities

There are a number of small charities that are grouped together under this title, and St James's had nomination rights for one trustee. John Meredith-Smith took up the role this year. I had been co-opted as a trustee for a number of years.

The **Hampton Parochial Charity** manages the sheltered accommodation Jubilee House in Ashley Road, and is able to make small grants for 'relief in need', usually household items. The **War Memorial Charity** manages the Hampton War Memorial Cottages in Oldfield Road, and the adjacent area for wreaths. The **School of Industry Charity** makes grants to young people to support their further education.

Following a legacy the Charity made substantial improvements to the War Memorial in Oldfield Road, as well continuing with a rolling programme of 'refits' as units fell vacant. The charity is well run, and supported by the board of trustees which meets four times a year. A part-time Clerk is employed to manage the day-to-day running. It is affiliated nationally to The Almshouse Association.

Derek Winterburn

Life Groups

We began running two midweek 'small groups' after last year's APCM. I generally led the Tuesday groups (Julian stepped in when I have been unavailable) and Scott took the Thursday group. We met in members' homes. As well as being together to reflect on the Bible, the groups had the opportunity to get to know each other better, and to pray together.

After Easter 18 both groups took the next two months to reflect more widely on the impact of Resurrection had on our life, the church and the world. In the autumn both groups read through the Letter to the Hebrews, shadowing the Sunday lectionary readings. In the New Year the Tuesday group reflected on some of the Book of the Proverbs and our 'frontlines', and the Thursday group studied Exodus.

The groups made way in Lent for our Lent Course, but will recommence in May. Anyone is welcome to join either group at any point.

Derek Winterburn

Music and Worship

Immediately after Easter 2018 our organist and choirmaster, Mark Blackwell, took retirement as a full-time church musician. Martin Hinckley again stepped into the breach and took responsibility for directing the choir and liaising with the visiting organists. Since that time the choir has grown in size by attracting new members, some from the congregation and also other singer friends. Initially this was for the St. James's Day service in July, but we are fortunate in that they are now regular members of the choir. As well as on the usual monthly 'choir Sundays', the choir acquitted itself very well at the Carol service, which included an introit composed by Martin.

We appointed Thom to be Choir Director and Organist in January and he began working with the choir in February, and playing for services in March. He was very grateful to the choir and especially to Martin for advice, encouragement, and welcome.

The choir enthusiastically prepared for Holy Week, including psalms (set to plainsong and to Anglican chants), and works by composers from the 16th to the 20th centuries.

Martin Hinckley / Thom Stanbury

Parish Visitors' Team

In the past year the Visitors met more frequently to monitor the church's pastoral care. We worked with Jane Newman to draft a *Risk Assessment for Visitors* (for the safety of both visitor and visited) and established a simple way in which the visitors could make a brief record of their visits - for our own coordination. As well as keeping in contact with those who were sick or housebound, we were able to offer Home Communion to those who had missed coming to church.

I am grateful to our team, and the time they give to support those in most need.

Derek Winterburn

Parochial Church Council

This was Derek's second full year as vicar and it remained a busy one, with ongoing discussions about church growth, building development and paying our way top of the agenda.

The PCC had 20 members, including the curate and one churchwarden, and three Deanery Synod representatives, who sat as ex-officio members. It met eight times and attendance averaged 13 people or 65%. PCC members are trustees of St James's, which is a registered charity, and can serve a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms of office without a break, either starting or standing down after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April. Only churchwardens have to stand for re-election every year and can serve a maximum of six consecutive years without a break.

The year began with a meeting that focussed on the budget, which had originally projected a loss of £18,000, but had been reduced to £9000 as a result of an increase in donations, mainly through the Planned Giving scheme, and budget cuts. Worked continued on bringing the building up to standard, and in January the electrical wiring was upgraded to meet statutory requirements. Following an incident during the Ark Playgroup the radiators and pipes were being covered with low surface temperature guards.

In February, the PCC held an Away Day at St John's, Hampton Wick, to discuss uses for the legacy from Betty Stewart. It had already been agreed that the money should be used for church growth, and the first major commitment to this had been the appointment of a children and families' worker, who had started at Christmas. Members highlighted other areas that fitted the remit of growth, including making better use of the space in church, making it more accessible to wheelchair users, installing a kitchenette to serve as a café for the Ark Playgroup, Connections, and post services and concerts, and floodlighting the building. Other ideas included establishing a Youth Club, creating groups for Mums and Dads, repositioning the St James's Day weekend as a community event, and making better

use of the churchyard. It was agreed to set up a Building Development Team to shortlist ideas.

The March meeting agreed to refurbish the hall, replacing old radiators, cleaning and resealing the main floor, new vinyl on the stairs and in the Upper Room, and renovating the toilets. The Charities and Links Committee was reborn as the Charities Support Team under a new chair, and a stewardship campaign was backed up with talks by members of the Finance Team. The Eco-church Team was working towards an award as part of plans to become a Local Wildlife Conservation Area. The newly-established Gardening Club would be creating new wildlife areas as well as maintaining existing areas, in conjunction with the local council, who remained responsible for the general upkeep. The Children and Families' Worker had begun an after school club at Hampton Hill Junior School as well as working with other churches locally to offer events to youth members. The upcoming General Data Protection Regulations had generated work and Derek, Nick and Gwynneth had been on training to ensure the church was compliant. The ongoing organ restoration reached another hurdle.

In April the PCC's minds turned to the annual accounts that were being prepared for the Annual Meeting. After the spending from the legacy was taken out, the church had recorded a loss of £9000. The hall refurbishment came a step closer, and the church bought a card reader to take payments and donations using credit and debit cards.

At the Annual Meeting all five PCC vacancies were filled, but Gwynneth remained the only churchwarden, the second post went unfilled. Derek reported that attendance had increased from 65 to 105, helped by the *Together at Eleven* service, the Pop-up Cinema was growing in popularity, and several one-off social events had helped get the church used outside of services. There would be more prayer through meetings, plans to bolster pastoral care, extra fundraising events to replace money from the PCC, developing *Life Groups*, splitting St James's Day into two days, with a focus on the community on the Saturday, and plans for a youth club for our teenagers.

May's focus was safeguarding. As the new PCC met for the first time, Jane Newman, our Safeguarding Officer, reported on her review of our procedures, including risk assessments, training and centralisation of records. The meeting also adopted the diocesan safeguarding statement for another year. This year's St James's Day would be split into two days, with the Open Church element (bell ringing, climbing the tower) moved to Saturday. An organ recital was planned, as well as guided tours, a tombola, refreshments, and a film would be shown to close the day.

In July the PCC our search for a new organist began in earnest. With a deficit forecast, members decided to make a smaller than requested rise in our Common Fund payment for 2019. It did, however, agree to make a £10,000 payment from the legacy to St Richard's, Hanworth, towards a new roof. Lou Coaker was appointed Children's Champion in place of Linda Webb whose term had come to an end. The hall refurbishment work was approved.

By September, the Finance Team had managed to reduce the forecast deficit. Income, particularly from Planned Giving, was higher than budgeted for, as was that from hall hire. The organ renovation was on budget. The Children & Families' Worker had decided to leave, and a decision would be made about a replacement. The Children's Ministry Team were preparing a Vision Strategy about how the needs of children and families could be met. Nick had been appointed Lead Recruiter under a diocesan reorganisation of how Disclosure and Barring Service applications were carried out. The hall refurbishment was completed on time and on budget. A strategy for future development of the churchyard was drawn up, and Derek clarified when he or the archdeacon was required to consent to work. Elsewhere, new notice boards were being installed outside the church and changes were planned to Sunday morning refreshments, with new teams created and trained, and new coffee makers in the hall and vestry. The Parish Visitors Team had grown, as had its work. There was increased demand for copies of the Spire magazine in High Street shops, particularly the Post Office in WH Smith (up 50%).

As the year neared a close the 2018 budget was the focus. Relative to the budget our income continued to remain strong, mainly due to the success of the Planned Giving campaign. And although spending was higher too, the gap had narrowed and the deficit was now £7000, well down on the previous year's loss of £18,000. Work on completing the north-west corner of the church garden was imminent. A new Children and Families Worker had been appointed part-time and the young people were promised a trip to Hampton Court Palace for ice skating. Members also heard about Capital Growth, the diocese's plan to double the number of young people aged 12-18 in churches on Sundays. Currently 70% of churches had fewer than 10 young people worshipping.

*Nick Bagge
PCC Secretary*

Properties Team

Responsibility

The Properties Subcommittee has the responsibility to the PCC for the maintenance, upkeep and care of the church, the hall, the vicarage, the garage, the shed and all other structures; apart from the moveable items that are the legal responsibility of the Churchwardens. The churchyard is maintained by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, overseen by the committee.

The Church - Summary State & Quinquennial Survey

The Church building is considered to be in generally good order. The latest Quinquennial Survey was conducted in August 2017. Whilst the architect reported favourably on the general fabric and regular maintenance of the Church the survey listed 9 items in Category I (Items of utmost urgency) and 29 items in Category II (Essential within 2 years). Of the Category I items 7 have been completed and the final 2 items relating to the roof are the subject of competitive quotations from local roofing contractors. Work is progressing on Category II items with 14 items complete, 2 items included in the roof quotations whilst 3 relate to ongoing monitoring.

Routine Maintenance and Works

Heating, electrical services, fire appliances, lighting, the clock, the bells, and the lightning conductor all have regular professional inspections and maintenance, and these have been done on schedule. All records of inspections and certificates are recorded and filed in the Church Logbook held in the Office.

Regular maintenance activities have been undertaken as required, including repairs to the Church gutters, light fittings and various items of furniture. Whilst the paintwork on the brick walls remains in a poor state of repair because of the earlier ingress of water, particularly in the south aisle and Chancel, redecoration is being deferred to spread both the cost and disruption. The date for the complete internal redecoration is yet to be established and will entail closure of the building for an extended period. Damp within the external fabric of the church remains a concern and is the subject of regular monitoring. As in recent years, the church spring cleaning is to be conducted over a two week period 30th March 2019 – 13th April 2019 whilst the annual leaf-sweep and gutter clearance was undertaken on 8th December 2018 with the support from the Scouts.

In addition to the regular maintenance a number of material activities have taken place during the year. A major upgrade of lighting in the tower and spire has taken place, including the provision of emergency lighting. In line with the H&S assessment, access to the tower is now key controlled. Damaged tiles in the Baptistry have been temporarily removed, replaced by levelled screed, whilst its long term use is reviewed and prospective restorers of Victorian tiles identified. The ambience of the Vestry has been improved by the installation of a toughened frosted glass window. New notice boards have been erected throughout the building to give a consistent style. Lights are subject to regular review and wherever feasible failed components are replaced with the latest energy efficient components. In line with this policy the failed high level floodlight in the Chancel has been replaced with an LED unit.

Church Roof

The state of the Church roof is the subject of ongoing monitoring particularly with respect to minor repairs effected in previous reporting periods. Whilst there continues to be minor ingress of water during periods of heavy rain it is not considered sufficient to warrant major investment in complete refurbishment that would not guarantee resolution of the intermittent problems. However, repairs to address the Cat I observations listed in the Quinquennial Survey are to be undertaken for which competitive quotations have been received from two roofing companies that are currently the subject of review by the PCC.

Church Hall

The Hall has undergone a major refurbishment. The main hall floor has been sanded and resealed whilst new vinyl flooring has been fitted throughout the remainder of the building. The central heating system has been upgraded with high level wall mounted fan assisted radiators replacing the original floor level radiators. All toilets have been refurbished, including the installation of improved lighting throughout and the installation of emergency facilities in the disabled toilet. A new cupboard has been built on the north wall and all walls and skirting boards have been repainted. As in the Church, new notice boards have

been erected. All external lighting has been reviewed, including for improved security, resulting in the replacement of all old units with new energy efficient units each with built-in sensors.

Membership

The committee meets four times a year, with routine work being undertaken as required outside these meetings. With an average age of members well over 60, the Committee needs to recruit new, younger members, particularly those with an interest in the maintenance of old buildings, some special knowledge or expertise.

Bryan Basdell

Safeguarding Team

Children's Champion

Lou Coaker was appointed as Children's Champion in May 2018.

The Children's Ministry Team and Parish Visitors Team

Both these teams have now established regular meetings at which current practice is discussed, along with future planning and any safeguarding updates.

Risk Assessment Reviews

All Risk Assessments for church-led activities involving children were reviewed and updated in March 2019. The CSO and Derek, with input from Parish Visitors, have now drawn up a Risk Assessment for Parish Visitors. Risk Assessments for one-off church events are now being produced, including event-specific RAs for the exciting activities organised for young people in the parish by Dani Robertson, our Children and Families Worker.

Photo Permissions Policy

A new Under 18s Photo Permissions Policy and Procedure, with revised consent form, has now been finalised and is currently awaiting PCC approval. The Policy and Procedure Statement explains clearly how photographs are taken and used by the church. It will be displayed on the church website and in the office. The new consent form is designed to be clear and unambiguous and will be sent to all parents of under 18s involved in church-related activities for signing, so that the office records can be checked and updated.

Disclosure and Barring (DBS) checks and online training

Nick Bagge has now been trained as a Lead Recruiter, in addition to his role as Evidence Checker, and is now informed directly of the outcomes of DBS applications. The office system for processing DBS applications for PCC members, new employees and volunteers working with young people and vulnerable adults is working very well, with applications processed more speedily than in the past.

In January 2019 the London Diocesan Safeguarding Team switched from the e-learning course provided by the Diocese of Chelmsford to courses provided by the National Church. Nick has details of the links to the new courses, which should be completed by all

PCC members and volunteers working with children and adults at risk who have not yet completed online training.

Safe Recruitment

Two new appointments have been made in the period since the last APCM, both following the safe recruitment process established in 2018. Dani Robertson is our new Children and Families Worker and Thom Stanbury was appointed to the role of Organist and Choirmaster in February 2019.

Safeguarding Self-Audit

The annual Parish Safeguarding Self-Audit was carried out in March. It is encouraging to note that although there will always be a need for a robust Action Plan, there has been very significant progress in addressing outstanding safeguarding issues in the parish. My thanks go to Nick, Derek, Gwynneth and Dani for all their help and support with this in the past year.

*Jane Newman
Church Safeguarding Officer*

3HH Scouts' Group

April 2018 to March 2019

The leadership team of the 3rd Hampton Hill Scout Group continued to deliver a fun packed and excellent range of activities – backed up by the Group Executive Committee, Young Leaders and adult helpers – and all done on a voluntary basis. The Group meets up at our headquarters at the George Stanley Hall, adjacent to the Recreation Ground in School Road Avenue and comprises: 2 colonies of beavers (both meetings held on Friday evenings), 2 packs of cubs (meetings held on Monday and Wednesday evenings) and 2 scout troops (meetings held on Tuesday and Friday evenings). Between the groups we had over 120 children taking part in activities every week.

Our Year:

Over the past 12 months we have continued to run a full programme for all of our people. Highlights always include our camps away which are very well attended, borough competitions and getting involved in the work of our local community. Over the last year:

- We have held very successful Easter camps for our Cubs and Scouts including a bouncy-hopping Robin Hood themed competition for our cubs!
- We have taken over 40 of our young people to borough camp held at Walton Firs in Cobham



Cub camp, Easter 2018

- The scouts enjoyed the summer sunshine to their summer camp in the New Forest, including a hike that took in the sunrise.
- We have entered teams of Scouts into the district night hike and day prowl competitions – we were the winners in the Day Prowl.
- The cubs have continued to perform brilliantly in the borough events including swimming and the Ian Goddard Challenge (a day long map-reading and challenge-based adventure) entering multiple teams into each event. They were amazingly the winners of both of these competitions.
- Our beavers continued to learn their initial scouting skills and enjoyed building up their confidence and making new friendships.
- Continued to run a very successful air rifle shooting training programme and taken part in relevant camps and competitions
- Joined with the Church on key services including Harvest Festival, the Remembrance Service and Christingle.
- Our Scouts have also swept up the leaves up in the churchyard ahead of the Remembrance Service as part of their community work.



A well-earned rest on a long hike!

Looking forward to 2019

Next year we have already firm plans in place to keep our young people busy and active with Easter Camp and Borough Camp already in the diary. We continue to review our activities, work in partnership with other local groups and ensure that our young people get the most they can from their Scouting experience. We are also busy planning our next International adventure as we will be taking around 40 of our young people to Switzerland in July 2019 to experience the jamboree atmosphere at Kandersteg International camp.

To **contact** our group in the first instance please contact our Group Scout Leader, Rich Moody on:

(020) 8286 6918 or moodyric@msms.com

We have a number of opportunities within the group from helpers at Beavers if you like 'Fun & Friends', to a secretary to our Executive Committee, people to join our HQ maintenance team, helpers at Scouts if you fancy a bit of adventure, or maybe you like to help with the admin side of our shooting activities. If you are interested in Volunteering with us please use; Vacancies3HH@btinternet.com

Rich Moody

Servers' Team

Eleven servers were available for regular duty for the majority of the year. Alongside the servers, David Hetling and Mary Gray continued to provide support with the administration of the chalice. Mary has now stood down and we thank her for her many years of steadfast service.

The servers have covered two services most Sundays in addition to mid-week festivals. We have managed to provide three servers (crucifer and two acolytes) for the 9:30am service almost every week.

Four servers share 8:00am Sunday Communion duties. Seven serve at 9:30am only and at other occasional services, as required. A new addition to the 8.00am team this year has been Moya Meredith-Smith, replacing Clare Ryan, and Jack Bourne now serves regularly at 9.30am.

We are looking forward to Emma Bagge and Scott Robinson joining the rota after Easter, along with Will Baglin who is returning to duties after several years away at university.

Sandra Winterburn now has a licence to administer the chalice and will soon be joined by Scott and Dani Robertson. This will enable them to support the occasional Communion at the *Together at Eleven* service, as well as the usual Sunday Eucharist.

St James's is fortunate to have a very reliable and professional group of servers - my thanks to all of them for their work throughout the year. However, we are always seeking new servers to add to the rota. The more of us there are, the easier it is to fit serving duties around people's other commitments. I would be pleased to speak to anyone who feels that they would like to offer their services by assisting at the altar on a regular basis.

Lesley Mortimer

The Spire Team

SPIRE COMMITTEE – 2018

Committee: Janet Nunn – Chair and Editor
Nick Bagge – Design and Sub-Editor
Rev Derek Winterburn
Susan Horner – Around the Spire, Proof-reader and Distribution
Dennis Wilmot – Distribution to new areas
Prill Hinckley

This year has been very successful and the number of copies distributed has risen with some months running out. With the PCC approval we now have an extra 50 copies making 700 for our usual distribution and in church and another 100 just for this year to complete the distribution to every house in the parish. Dennis Wilmot is masterminding this with several volunteers. Susan Horner continues her dedicated work over so many years taking the *Spires* to distributors each issue.

We are very grateful to the PCC for funding the *Spire* so readily. Our annual appeal raised £1,800 with Gift Aid towards the cost and we are very grateful to all those who supported our work.

Our printers, Paul and Julie Venn who run Peter James Printing Limited, in Shepperton, have proved to be an excellent choice by Justin Hollingsworth our previous printer, who retired. Paul and Julie are a joy to work with and always very prompt with printing and delivering the *Spire* to Susan Horner nine times a year.

We are a small team and we meet every month either to plan the next edition, or three times a year when we produce a double issue, we still meet to plan ahead for the next six months. We are so lucky to have Nick Bagge who does all the layout, sources photos if necessary, and uses his journalist experience to very good effect.

We also have some very talented people in the congregation who are prepared to write articles for us. Special thanks are due to Julian Reindorp, Laurence Sewell and Dani Robertson who regularly produce an article for each edition and always keep to the deadlines. We try to plan well ahead to give people time to write their articles and Nick has produced guidelines to help with planning articles. We are always open to any suggestions for articles and love it when people actually offer to do one for us!

The *Spire* team works well together and appreciate all the comments from parishioners and the wider community. We enjoy co-ordinating each edition – some a bit more stressful than others – but we always aim to produce a good quality, balanced, and interesting magazine for the church parishioners and the wider community.

Janet Nunn

Traidcraft Team

The Traidcraft stall runs independently of parish accounts, but given its place in parish life it is important to report on its progress and to thank everyone for their support.

Traidcraft was founded nearly 40 years ago in 1979 to help some of the world's most marginalised producers build sustainable businesses and thus give people dignity and a future. Like many other companies, it has been finding trading conditions very difficult in the last few years.

In September 2018 it announced that the trading arm of its business (Traidcraft plc) would close, while its charity Traidcraft Exchange would continue. Following a period of consultation with concerned supporters, Traidcraft plc continues to trade with a reduced number of staff and products. In particular, they will be selling very few craft items. We continue to buy from Traidcraft for our monthly stall and hope the slimmed down company will do well.

Our purchases from Traidcraft over this time period were about £4200. This includes all the food, crafts, cards and seasonal goods such as Advent Calendars and Easter Eggs.

Continuing good sales are for several reasons:

- Regular purchases by everyone who visits our monthly stall (*thank you very much*).
- Use of the products for our parish refreshments (*thank you to the hospitality team*).
- Extra stalls during the year e.g. at the World Day of Prayer service in March, the Rock Choir in November and Hampton Hill Junior School Christmas Fair.

Please continue to support the monthly stall for some of your needs, while buying products with the Fairtrade Mark wherever you shop.

Many thanks to Julia and Janet and anyone else who helps Catherine and me with the stall. Do let us know if you would like to help in any way.

Ann Peterken

Welcome Team

April 2018 to April 2019

During the past year the Welcome Teams have been providing a welcome to worshippers at our 9:30 services and special services, especially during the Christmas period and Holy Week.

The Welcomers have offered a friendly face and helpful information to newcomers and established members of the congregation alike.

As the *Together at Eleven* service has consolidated, several of the existing team have continued to act as Welcomers for the I I am service whilst members of its growing congregation have expressed a willingness to help provide this role when their circumstances allow. They are identified by asterisk* in the list below.

Thank you to all members of the team who play a vital role in the life of the church and contribute to the experience of all who worship here.

I request that the APCM appoint as Welcomers for the year 2019-2020:

Wendy Baker	Ria and Clive Beaumont
Alan Cammidge	Christopher Carson
Ann Collins	Emma Healing*
David Hetling*	Nicky Hetling*
Sue Horner	David Lloyd
Gwynneth Lloyd	Rita Malyon
John and Moya Meredith-Smith	Anna and Andrew Mhando*
Ann Peterken	Anne and Pip Rowett
Annalea Severn*	Penny Sewell
Martin Symons	Janet Taylor
Dennis and Elizabeth Wilmot	Jenny Wright

We would like to add new members to the team. If you are interested to know more about the Welcoming role please speak to me or to a member of the clergy.

Janet Taylor