

## **ARK PLAYGROUP**

The Ark continues to be a fun, well-supported and successful playgroup for carers and under-5s, which meets on Monday mornings in school term times in the church.

We can accommodate up to 30 adults per session, which means 40 or so children. The £2 entry fee, unchanged since the group started in 2009, covers unlimited refreshments and all that we provide to occupy our small guests. We have many toys, an art & craft activity and singing during the 2 hours we are open.

We donate money to the church and Welcare when we have a cash surplus. Our visitors also donate baby supplies and equipment to a local scheme called Baby Basics.

Derek came to our Christmas Party. The children were given envelopes each containing part of the Christmas Story, which had to be put in order. He then read them the story from a big picture book. The activity was topped and tailed with a carol. Food, singing and presents completed a fun morning.

We currently have 10 full and part time helpers, to whom a huge thank you is owed for their time and commitment.

*Debbie Nunn  
March 2017*

## **BELLRINGING**

We currently have 12 adult ringers and 4 young ringers. Bells were rung for the 9:30 service throughout the year. In addition, we rang for 11 weddings, for the Midnight Service at Christmas and rang in the New Year.

Bells were rung on 3 occasions to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday: on the actual birthday, the date it was being celebrated throughout the UK and to start the St James's Avenue street party.

There was the usual Open Spire as part of our St. James's Day celebrations, when many visitors came up to see the bells and try their hand at ringing.

*Susan Horner  
April 2017*

## **BROWNIES**

We said goodbye to our older Brownies last summer and welcomed some new girls between September and November last year. We also said goodbye to Peter and welcomed Derek our new vicar. Derek came and introduced himself to the Brownies and joined in with one of our art activities where we had a very pleasant evening.

The Brownies chose to have their Christmas Celebration in the church hall in December, where some of the parents and I prepared a Christmas roast dinner, which was a lovely evening for all.

More recently we have held a Circus Skills workshop which was great fun and the Brownies were able to gain their Circus Skills' Badge! Before the end of term the Brownies made some lovely Easter wreaths.

I am looking forward to planning the next term and finding out what ideas the Brownies are going to come up with for the months ahead.

Sarah Beer  
Brownie Leader.

## CHARITIES AND LINKS COMMITTEE

April 2016 to March 2017

Ann Peterken (Chair),  
Gwynneth Lloyd  
Lesley Mortimer,  
Laurence Sewell (ALMA Rep)  
Linda Webb (Christian Aid)  
Elizabeth Wilmot (Christian Aid & Mission Partner Link)  
Dennis Wilmot (UNA link)

Each year the PCC aims to allocate 10% of parish income to charitable donations and it is very good to report this target was met in 2016. Full details of parish giving for the year are displayed on the charities notice board in church.

Donations amounting to **£10,000** were given direct from parish income. The Charities and Links Committee proposes which charities to support, obtains PCC approval and then ensures the money is forwarded throughout the year. It allocates the money as evenly as possible between charities in the UK and charities overseas, trying to maintain continuity for many of the recipients and giving priority to church agencies.

In addition to these direct parish donations, special appeals through the year raised **£5148**. They included a very successful Lent Appeal (£3034) for persecuted Christians in Iraq and Syria, plate collections for The Upper Room at Harvest and The Children's Society at Christingle, and excellent donations from the **Shell Seekers** for the Lent Appeal (£141) and Release International (£330).

Donations from **Children's Society collecting boxes** increased again, delivering £695. The plate collection at Christingle came to £375 with gift aid. Both of these totals are included in the above £5148. Please do speak to David or Nicky Hetling if you would like a collecting box in your home.

During **Christian Aid Week 2016** parishioners raised **£3604** from street collections and personal donations. At **Harvest Festival** we collected food and toiletry goods for the Upper Room in Hammersmith, together with a plate collection of £389 with gift aid.

**Awareness and prayer** are as important as the money and goods that we give. In April, we enjoyed a visit from Rachel Parry who told us more about the work of USPG. The Spire, our website and intercessions all help to foster a better understanding of the charities we support.

Our collective giving is an important part of our Christian witness and fellowship and of great importance to those we support. The knowledge and friendships we gain contribute so much to our own Christian journey.

*Ann Peterken  
March 2017*

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER AROUND HAMPTON**

April 2016 to March 2017

Chair: Revd Vicci Davidson (Hampton Methodist) *Elected Nov 2015*

Vice-Chair: Duncan Macpherson (St Theodore's Church) *Elected Nov 2015*

Secretary: *Position vacant since Sep 2016*

Treasurer: John Latham (United Reformed Church) *Re-elected Nov 2015,*

Our parish reps: Catherine Gash, Ann Peterken

Nine churches belong to Churches Together Around Hampton (CTAH):

4 Anglican, 2 Roman Catholic, 1 Baptist, 1 Methodist, and 1 United Reformed.

The clergy meet together five to six times a year. Forum meetings, with lay representatives from the churches, are typically held about twice a year and there is an AGM in the autumn. Forum meetings have not taken place since the secretary's position became vacant, but hopefully this situation will change.

### **Outreach through worship**

A shared service at Hampton Methodist Church in September followed on from the AGM. A Songs of Praise service was held at St Theodore's in January to mark the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Women's World Day of Prayer is held on the first Friday of March. The order of service is devised by women from a particular country (the Philippines in 2017) and is used throughout the world on the same day. A service is held in one of the CTAH churches (Hampton Hill URC in 2017), with active participation from all the churches. Please talk to Catherine Gash or Linda Webb if you would like to be involved in the organising group for this annual service.

Ministers from all the member churches are on a rota for services at Laurel Dene and Marling Court.

### **Other Outreach**

On the Tuesday in Holy Week, 800 packages are handed out to early morning commuters at Hampton and Fulwell railway stations. Each package has a hot cross bun and a leaflet showing all the Easter church services in CTAH member churches. Help with the packing is always most welcome.

*Ann Peterken  
March 2017*

## 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 the three of us from St James's - Ann Peterken, Moya Meredith-Smith and myself.

### 25 May 2016 - All Hallows Twickenham

#### The Common Fund – facts and challenges

The Archdeacon introduced the main topic of the meeting by stressing the achievements of church plants and overall growth in the Hampton Deanery. This effort embodied the three key elements of Capital Vision 2020: confidence, creativity and compassion.

He then handed over to Mary Spredbury, the Area Finance Adviser, to provide the annual presentation on the Common Fund. The headline points of Mary's talk were:

- The Diocese of London's total annual costs are around £32m Shared between all the churches in the Diocese, the so-called "*Parish Standard Cost*" for each parish in 2017 will go up by 2% to £78,300. This is made up of three main elements, as follows:
  - Clergy Stipendiary Costs - £38,400:
  - Clergy Housing Costs - £13,600:
  - Training and support - £26,300
- The aim is for the Kensington Episcopal Area to cover 100% of costs by 2020, moving up from 95% in 2015. This will enable the Diocese to use its investment income, which currently is used to make up the shortfall, for new initiatives such as the 20 proposed new worshipping communities, new churches presence, and double-glazing in vicarages.

#### Parish Giving Scheme

Mary explained the new Parish Giving Scheme which is being trialled in a few London parishes after a successful roll-out in 8 other dioceses. It is designed to improve the cash flow of parishes, and make the giving process easier for donors. [It is now available at St James's.]

#### Legacy Toolkit

Mary also alerted Synod to the diocesan policy and approach on encouraging individuals to make churches and parishes beneficiaries in their wills.

### 5 October 2016 - St Peter and St Paul, Teddington

#### St John's Hampton Wick becomes a separate parish again

The proposal to make St John's Hampton Wick a separate parish again and to re-draw the boundary between that parish and St Mark's Teddington was supported with no objections.

#### Fostering

Head of Fostering, Laura Demetriades, gave a short presentation explaining the facts about fostering in Richmond and Kingston:

- Fostering is used where children are not safe with their birth family.

- 124 children are currently on the list, of whom 25 are unaccompanied asylum seekers.

### **Foster carers**

Foster carers receive an allowance - £135-£170 per week; some receive an additional payment. More carers are required especially for teenagers and sibling groups needing more than one room. The NE of Richmond has a particular difficulty in finding carers.

If you would like to apply to become a foster carer, contact a member of Fostering Services on 0800 085 7072 or [fostering.info@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:fostering.info@richmond.gov.uk)

### **Refugees**

Caroline Sherrard described the Holy Trinity Brompton-sponsored initiative to engage directly with refugees from UN camps in Syria. The main aim has been to find landlords willing to let houses at the local authority rate rather than the market rate, with the rent paid by the Council. The objective is to secure long-term rental agreements for self-contained properties.

Just two properties have been found in Richmond, and the Council is employing a housing support officer to lead on finding houses, schools and GPs.

The local group “*Refugees Welcome in Richmond*” is affiliated to Citizens UK. The website is [www.refugeeswelcomeinrichmond.org](http://www.refugeeswelcomeinrichmond.org)

Parishes are urged to publicise the initiative in their Parish magazines and seek to help find more landlords. They are also looking for volunteers to help teach English to asylum-seekers.

## **21 February 2017 - St John’s Hampton Wick**

### **What do we want from the new Bishop of London?**

Following small group discussions, the following key points emerged:

Challenges we face in churches

- \*Recruiting and retaining young people
- \*Diversity in society
- \*People moving away from faith
- \*Gender issues
- \*Balance between rich and poor
- \*Mixture of faiths in London

### **What will we be looking for from the new Bishop?**

- \*Overt support for women’s ministry
- \*Ability to operate at state and local level
- \*Building on the growth to date, and reflecting in their ministry the diversity of people and wealth of resources in London

### **Deanery mapping**

Bishop Ric explained he was only the second Bishop of Islington; his predecessor one hundred years ago had been instrumental in creating new parishes and churches in North London. There is an objective in Capital Vision 2020 to create 100 new worshipping communities, and his role is to lead that process.

Bishop Ric then described the various options for growth:

- New church buildings.
- Re-opening closed churches.
- Small groups “planted” to gather larger groups.
- Within existing churches, new forms of worships for previously unreached groups.
- Network churches.
- Home churches, normally with lay leaders.
- Churches in “3<sup>rd</sup> spaces” e.g. coffee shops, notably Costa Coffee.
- Churches for international groups, including liturgies in other languages.
- Workplace churches.
- Missional communities.

Members then reviewed the deanery area on a sketch map and discussed ideas for growth, and reaching out to new communities. A long list of ideas was produced.

*Clive Beaumont  
March 2017*

### **FLOWER ARRANGERS**

For many years we have had a wonderfully stalwart team of volunteers who have reliably kept the church decorated with lovely displays of flowers. We have reduced the number of stands to one or two a week and we have no arrangements during Lent or Advent.

Sadly, our numbers are depleting and we have a much smaller team nowadays. There have been occasions when the emergency displays made of silk flowers have been used and though these are most attractive, we would only use them when there is no other alternative.

We all enjoy our contribution to enhancing the worship at St James's but have some concerns as to how sustainable our present system is.

**We would welcome any additional help or suggestions as to how we might continue the long tradition of having floral displays within our church.**

The flowers are financed through church funding and the budget is always kept at a very reasonable level.

*Coryn Robinson  
April 2017*

### **MUSIC**

#### **Organist**

2016 held some special memories for me. For the majority of the year I had the real pleasure of working with Julian and Jacky through the interregnum; an experience which taught me an awful lot about the format of services – thank you both for this. As in previous years I must thank Martin for his invaluable support during 2016 and into 2017; this has been especially invaluable recently for various reasons.

## **The Choir**

The choir has had a good year providing accompaniment to the liturgy once a month, as well as for special services. During 2017 we are going to try and increase this to twice a month. The rehearsals and services are well attended by choir members, even though attendance is purely voluntary. The choir continues to sing to a high musical standard and indeed, pieces which are normally tackled by larger forces of professional singers are successfully taken on by the choir. We are in real need of new singers in all voices – there is no audition but members need to be able to read music.

## **Special Services**

At our Harvest Service last year we welcomed members from other local choirs to sing a full Choral Evensong which was very successful. On Palm Sunday last year we performed a scratch performance of Stainer's Crucifixion at which we had 52 singers as well as two soloists. This year (2017) there are plans for a large concert on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017 to celebrate my 40 years as a parish organist. Can I please take this opportunity to thank the "hospitality" committee for the unwavering support for providing refreshments at these events?

## **The Organ**

Following a full report from Bernie Windmill, our organ builder, the PCC approved the monies to commence work on the organ for two thirds of the work; thanks to the generous donation of 2 parishioners the remainder of the work can now be completed. Most of the work is internal and cannot be seen or even heard by the congregation but it is essential if the organ is to continue to operate. One that can be seen and definitely heard is the re-positioning of the trumpet stop that was at the front of the chamber in the North Transept; this has been moved further back in to the chamber and raised up which is where it should be to allow that rank, and the rest of the organ, to breathe.

## **St James's Players**

A big thank you to our loyal members. Over the past year the Players have continued to provide the music in the main parade services including Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Christingle. This coming year sees the trialling of an extra new informal service on Sunday aimed at families and it is at present unclear as to the way the Players might be used in the future. New members who play (virtually) any orchestral or band instrument are always welcome at any time but please contact Martin Hinckley in advance.

*Mark Blackwell  
April 2016*

## **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

The year was dominated by the search for a new vicar following Peter Vannozzi's departure in November 2015, but it would be wrong to presume that the PCC treaded water until Derek Winterburn's arrival a year later. Far from it, its work continued apace with major works to the building and development of church life.

The PCC had 16 members, including the curate and the two churchwardens, as well as three Deanery Synod representatives, who sat as ex-officio members. It met nine times and attendance averaged 12 people or 75%. PCC members are trustees of St James's, which is a registered charity, and serve three-year terms of office, either starting or standing down

after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April. Only the churchwardens have to stand for re-election every year and can serve a maximum of six years.

The year began with a meeting in January, known as a Section 12, attended by the Bishop of Kensington and the Archdeacon of Middlesex, which signalled the start of the process to appoint a new vicar. In February members approved a budget towards the refurbishment of the vicarage, the bulk of the expenditure coming from the diocese. Plans to install toilets in the church were also discussed. In March it became apparent that urgent repairs were needed to the organ. The PCC pledged to use money from Betty Stewart's legacy to enable work to go ahead, subject to a faculty (the church equivalent of planning permission), with fundraising to pay the balance. At the same time a faculty was granted to replace the sound system and install a big screen and camera to enhance services and events in church. It would be installed in May.

In April Don Barrett announced his retirement as treasurer after seven years. Nick Harris agreed to become interim treasurer until a permanent replacement could be found. Carol Bailey continued to manage the day-to-day accounts.

At the May meeting we formally renewed our Safeguarding policy. The PCC also appointed a new administrator and extended the office opening hours, making the building more accessible. In June, Jacky Cammidge was to be ordained priest, marking the culmination of three years' training.

July brought big announcements. Firstly, the search for a new vicar reached a happy conclusion with the appointment of Derek Winterburn. The building loomed high in PCC business with plans for the toilets advancing. There was also a discussion about the pressures of paying our way through Common Fund.

In September plans for a vestry sink and the new toilets in the west porch were advanced. Members also decided to silence the church bells overnight following a complaint from a neighbour.

November's meeting was the first chaired by Derek, who began to set out his plans as well as reminding PCC members of their important role as trustees, as well as beginning to examine church policies, beginning with those concerning weddings and baptisms.

*Nick Bagge  
March 2017*

## **PROPERTIES' COMMITTEE**

### **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.

### **Quinquennial Survey Actions**

The latest Quinquennial Survey was conducted in September 2012. Whilst the architect reported favourably on the general fabric and regular maintenance of the Church the survey



listed 11 items in Category I (Items of utmost urgency) and 28 items in Category II (Essential within the next eighteen months). Of the Category I items all have been completed with the exception of the Vestry lobby external door which is not considered to be in need of replacement. Monitoring activities listed as Category II items have continued throughout the year.

The next survey is due later this year and in advance of this a visual inspection of the Church was recently conducted by the Vicar, a Church Warden and the Chairman of the Committee; no major issues were identified.

### **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, tiling and various items of furniture. Wiring reviews have taken place that have recommended re-siting of some switches in the Chancel and the installation of power outlets in the south aisle and additional outlets in the vestry. Whilst the paintwork on the brick walls, particularly in the south aisle and Chancel, are in a poor state of repair because of the earlier ingress of water redecoration is being deferred to spread both the cost and disruption. Complete internal redecoration is expected to be undertaken within 2 years, entailing a further closure of the building. Damp within the external fabric of the church remains a concern and is the subject of regular monitoring. The replacement of the underground pipe to the soakaway in the NW corner of the church has rectified the major local issue. As in recent years, the church spring cleaning is being conducted over a two week period 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017, resulting in a more thorough clean than can be achieved in the more compressed timeframe. The annual leaf-sweep and gutter clearance was undertaken on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 with the support from the Scouts. Other significant activities undertaken during the year include the further refurbishment of the clock and urgent repairs to a clock face. An investigation relating to the major renovation of all clock faces is in hand. The sink in the vestry will be installed before Easter whilst plans to install toilets in the west porch have been formally approved and appointment of the contractor is expected shortly. Bespoke fixtures for the communion rail to allow ease of (de-)installation to support the PCC's objective of widening the use of the church building are being sourced locally.

### **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 further repairs or extensive inspections, neither of which are not guaranteed to resolve the problem.

### **Churchyard**

Whilst the Council has managed the grass and hedges within the Churchyard the Committee has convened regular working parties to clear undergrowth encroaching on graves and undertake more general maintenance. Prior to the clearance of the badly overgrown area in the NW corner around the copper beech the fungal growth that lead to it being felled was very evident.

## **Membership**

The committee meets three times a year, but routine work goes on outside these meetings. With an average age of members 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, and anyone with enthusiasm. If you feel that you could contribute, please contact

*Bryan Basdell  
March 2017*

## **SAFEGUARDING**

### **Disclosure and Barring (DBS) checks**

Our Parish Administrator, Nick Bagge, is now our evidence checker for parish DBS applications. A checklist has been set up on the office computer to simplify the process of checking and updating DBS records. At the last review, 27 church workers were identified as needing new or renewed DBS clearance; almost all these have now been processed. Volunteers have been encouraged to register with the Update Service, which will make future renewals more straightforward.

### **Risk Assessment Reviews**

All risk assessments for church-led activities involving children have been reviewed and updated. These now include a reference to minimum staffing requirements as there were growing concerns that, due to a shortage of volunteers, staffing levels for running our activities were in danger of falling below the minimum requirement. The Shell Seekers Risk Assessment now also defines their hours of supervision – from when the children are taken into the hall at the start of the service until they are returned to their parents at the end – to clarify when they are, and are not, responsible for the children's safety. Following an accident in the Upper Room after a service recently, when children were playing without supervision, the Upper Room is now closed during post-service refreshments in the hall. Most parents were contacted to explain the situation and there is now a box of games available in the hall after the service.

Following training, Parish Visitors will be producing a Risk Assessment to ensure safe practice.

### **London Diocesan E-training in child and adult protection**

So far, the take-up of the e-learning training packages has been disappointing. It provides excellent basic training for all those working with children and adults at risk, and should be completed by all volunteers who work with children and adults at risk, PCC members and churchwardens. Volunteers who have completed the training are requested to bring a copy of their certificate(s) to the office for our own records. Derek Winterburn, Nick Bagge and Jane Newman have all attended day-long Safeguarding training/refresher courses this year.

### **Review of volunteer recruitment and training**

There is to be a review of the structure of volunteer recruitment and training, in order to clarify the roles of volunteers within the parish and to provide a clear and consistent recruitment process.

*Jane Newman  
March 2017*

## SCOUTS

The leadership team of the 3rd Hampton Hill Scout Group continues to deliver a fun packed and excellent range of activities – backed up by the Group Executive Committee, Young Leaders and adult helpers – all done on a voluntary basis. The Group meets at our headquarters, 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). As a group we have over 120 children (lead and supported by more than 30 adults) 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 members. 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
- Taken over 40 of our young people to borough camp held at Walton Firs in Cobham
- Celebrated 100 Years of Cubs with a special centenary camp
- Taken the Scouts on a “back to basics” summer camp involving Youth Hostels, hiking and hammocks
- Entered teams of Scouts into the County night hike
- The cubs have won three Borough events this year: swimming, football and the Ian Goddard Challenge (a day long map-reading and challenge based adventure).
- Our beavers have enjoyed sleepovers and the annual beaver fun day preparing them for full involvement in scout activities as they move up the sections.
- 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.
- Attended the annual St George’s Day Parade in Twickenham
- Continued with our specialism of airgun shooting, training 12 new Scouts and taking part in numerous competitions including the National Scout Rifle Competition where we came away as team pistol champions, our juniors were 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and our seniors 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. This performance resulted in three invitations for members of our Squad to join the National Scout Squad, quite an achievement.
- Updated our kitchen in our Scout HQ thanks to funding from Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity
- Recruited new Beaver Leaders to run our very popular youngest sections

### **Looking forward to 2017**

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. Looking further ahead we are already planning our next visit to Kandersteg International Scout Camp for 2019. 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.

*Rich Moody  
March 2017*

## SERVERS

Thirteen servers were available for regular duty for the majority of the year. Ros Daly, who joined us in April 2016, has proved a worthy addition to the team. Jennifer Greville-Giddings resigned in October 2016 and we owe her a huge 'thank you' for her years of service from her teenage years at college through university and into employment. A second loss was David Taylor who stood down in March 2017. We are immensely grateful for his many years of unfailing commitment to serving duties at St James's. Alongside the servers, David Hetling and Mary Gray have continued to provide support with the administration of the chalice.

The servers have covered two services most Sundays in addition to mid-week festivals. We managed to provide three servers (crucifer and two acolytes) for the 9.30am service almost every week throughout the interregnum.

Only four servers now share 8.00am Sunday Communion duties which has placed a considerable burden on the three who also serve at the 9.30am Parish Communion. A further seven serve at 9.30am only and at other occasional services, as required. With the doubling of choir Sundays after Easter, the team will inevitably be stretched. However, St James's is fortunate to have such a reliable and professional group of servers - my thanks to all of them for their work throughout the year.

We are always seeking new servers to add to the rota – none of us are getting any younger! 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  
March 2017*

## SIDESPERSIONS

Members of the team of Sidespeople are present at each Sunday 9.30 service and at many of our special services throughout the church year. Our key role is to meet and greet members of the congregation as they arrive in church and most importantly, to welcome newcomers and infrequent visitors. We support them with practical information about the church, the service and encourage them to come to the Hall for refreshments afterwards. For many people who attend St James's we are the first point of contact and as such we make a vital contribution to the whole experience of worship.

The members of the Sidesperson team work very well together and I hope enjoy their contribution to our important task. I thank everyone for their commitment and goodwill.

In the months of the interregnum before welcoming Derek as our new incumbent St James's has had many visitors, both clergy and in the congregation. The positive feedback about the warmth of the welcome they received has been a recurring theme, reflecting how well the Sidespeople carry out their job. In the coming year we will be looking to provide practical support to the plans to "grow" our church and raise our profile in the local community.

The following are currently in post and will, I trust, continue to serve in the coming year.

Wendy Baker  
Alan Cammidge  
Linda Cargill

Anne Collins  
Susan Horner  
David Lloyd  
Gwynneth Lloyd  
Moya and John Meredith Smith  
Ann Peterken  
Anne and Pip Rowett  
Penny Sewell  
Janet and Rodney Taylor  
Linda and Darrell Webb  
Liz and Denis Wilmot  
Jenny Wright

The Sidespeople for the coming year are appointed at the annual parochial church meeting. During this year we have been joined by **Rita Malyon** who has been a very enthusiastic contributor. For the coming year we are very pleased to welcome **Christopher Carson, Martin Symons** and **Nick Harris** who have all agreed to join the team. We request that their names be added to the list above. We are always pleased to welcome new recruits, please speak to Janet (details below) or Derek if you are interested in joining or would like to learn more about the role.

*Janet Taylor  
April 2017*

### **SPIRE**

Committee: Janet Nunn - Chair and Editor  
Nick Bagge - Design and Sub-Editor  
Revd Derek Winterburn  
Susan Horner - Around the Spire, Proof-reader and Distributor  
Prill Hinckley - Young Spire  
Dick Wilde - Proof-reader

We have had another successful year with the Spire and each month 650 copies are printed by Justin Hollingsworth who does such an excellent job at very reasonable prices and always delivers on time.

We continue to be grateful to the PCC who have agreed to fund the Spire as part of our mission in the parish. Our Spire Appeal for 2016 raised over £2,000 with Gift Aid and thank you to everyone who supported our appeal.

We are very grateful to all our contributors, particularly Julian Reindorp, Laurence Sewell and Ann Peterken who regularly produce articles for us. We have continued with our Favourites on the back page as they have proved so popular.

Each year we try to make a few amendments to the layout to keep up with modern trends and we are so lucky to have Nick Bagge's talents at display and also he is excellent at picture research for any articles or covers for the Spire.

We are now writing an article three times a year for the Hampton Hill Association and share the page with the URC. We are pleased to be able to have an article in their magazine as once a year it is delivered to everyone in Hampton Hill.

Susan Horner continues to receive the Spires from Justin in bulk and delivers them to the street distributors nine times a year. Our thanks go to Sue who has done this task for a considerable number of years. The spare copies are distributed around the church and in the hall for all to take.

Copies of the Spire are delivered to many of the shops in the High Street and we are always looking for new places to put them. We review our postal list every year as it is costly to send copies through the post but now also a lot of people receive their Spire by email which Prill organises each issue.

When we have a double issue three times a year we still meet to plan for the future and look at distribution, finances and likely articles. We are very lucky to have talented members of the congregation who, with a gentle nudge, are prepared to write articles for us. We always try to give people plenty of notice so that they can fit their writing in around other duties.

The Spire Committee works well as a team and we are lucky that we have the support of the PCC to enable us to produce a church magazine that we are proud of. In November we welcomed Derek Winterburn to The Spire Committee and are looking forward to working with him, sharing our ideas and using his talents as a photographer.

*Janet Nunn  
March 2017*

## **ST JAMES'S HOSPITALITY**

**St James's Hospitality** has continued to provide parish breakfast/refreshments after the 09.30 a.m. Sunday Service for parishioners in The Fitz Wygram Hall. As well as serving tea, freshly brewed Fairtrade coffee and cold drinks for the children, there is always a tempting selection of biscuits, mini sausages, hot sausage rolls, hot Welsh pancakes and other savoury snacks. The parish breakfast has, traditionally, been well attended and it is hoped that more of those who have not yet come across to the hall for morning coffee can be encouraged to do so.

**The Hospitality Group** is headed up by Clare Ryan who puts in considerable hours to keep everything running smoothly. Kirstie Girling provides the main support for the catering operation and also kindly bakes a Sunday cake on a regular basis. In addition, there is help from various members of the congregation including Daryl and Josh Webb and, more recently, assistance has come from our younger members Emma Bagge and Melon (Melissa Panesar).

**Particular Church Events** at which St. James's Hospitality has provided the catering over the past year include:

**St. James's Day**, Sunday 3 July 2016: There was a selection of salads and various savoury and sweet contributions from the congregation. Our thanks go to Scott Balfour for providing a large, especially prepared dish of hot pulled pork which was eagerly consumed.

Hot dogs were also served as a new introduction at the behest of the PCC. In retrospect it was agreed that the hot dogs did not work well and hot dogs as a main dish is not likely to be repeated in the future.

**Bring & Share Lunch**, 2 October 2016: This is an annual community lunch served at Harvest Festival. As usual it was well supplied and well supported. It is hoped that Bring and Share Lunch can become a repeated event for parishioners and their guests throughout the year as a new initiative in the near future.

**All Souls**, Sunday 6 December 2016, 4 pm service: Tea and cakes was served to all those taking part in the All Souls remembrance service.

**Induction of the new Incumbent**, Tuesday, 8 December 2016, 7.30 pm service: An enthusiastic welcoming party was held for Derek Winterburn and Sandra Winterburn to celebrate Derek's induction as our new vicar and to welcome Derek and Sandra to our parish. Kirstie made a cake for the occasion.

**Annual Leaf Sweep**, Saturday 3 December 2016: Hot drinks and hot sausage sandwiches were served to parishioners and Scouts taking part in the leaf sweep and gutter clearing operation. (Jack Gostling's famous bread and butter pudding was sorely missed!)

**Christingle**, Sunday 4 December 2016: Mulled wine was served after the Christingle Service.

**Lessons and Carols Service**, Sunday, 18 December 2016, 6.30pm service: Mulled wine, homemade mince pies, Tradecraft pantone and Christmas cakes were served in the hall after this popular service.

**Palm Sunday**, 9 April, 2017, 4 pm scratch performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion*. Tea and sandwiches and cakes were served for the singers at 3.20 pm after the rehearsal.

**Good Friday**, 14 April, 2017, 9.30am All Age Worship: Hot drinks and hot-cross-buns were served in the hall after this service.

**Easter Sunday**, 16 April, 2017, **Sunrise Service** 6 am: A sit-down English breakfast was served in the Fitz Wygram Hall following the service. We are pleased to thank Clare's son, Brendan Phelan, for cooking this for the third year running. 9.30 am **Parish Communion**: Tea, coffee and Simnel Cake, once again made by Kirstie, was served for everyone after this service.

St. James's Hospitality thanks everyone who helps serve, cook and clear up at both regular and special events and we look forward to the coming year and the many opportunities for celebration and outreach to come.

Ros Daly  
April 2017



## **TRAIDCRAFT**

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.

As a pioneering fair trade organisation (founded in 1979), Traidcraft goes the extra mile. It works with some of the most marginalised producers, helping them to build sustainable businesses that give people dignity and a future. The company is however finding it increasingly hard to balance the books, all the more so since the fall in value of the pound. It has had to raise prices and knows it must find additional markets for its products.

Our purchases from Traidcraft came to over £7500. This includes all the food, crafts, cards and seasonal goods such as Advent Calendars and Easter Eggs.

Continuing good sales are for several reasons:

1. Regular purchases by everyone who visits our monthly stall (*thank you very much*).
2. Products are used for our parish refreshments (*thank you to the hospitality team*).
3. Some people buy and order craft items (*benefitting from a 15% discount*).
4. We take food and craft items to the Women's World Day of Prayer service in March.
5. We do a stall for the Rock Choir in November, with coffee and nibbles.
6. Hampton Hill Junior gives us table space at their Christmas and Summer Fairs.

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 everyone who helps Catherine and me with the stall. Please don't hold back from letting us know if you would like to help or even perhaps to manage it.

A good way to see all the crafts in the Traidcraft catalogue is to attend the London Roadshows held each February and September (the dates go in the pew sheet and Spire).

*Ann Peterken  
March 2017*

## **ST JAMES'S VISITORS GROUP**

The visitors group was formed in 2003 with the aim of supporting the incumbent visiting members of the congregation who are now housebound, or almost housebound, those in hospital, the bereaved, and families who have brought their children to St James's to be Baptised.

We are a group of five and we visit the housebound on a regular basis for a chat and a cup of tea. We also visit all families who have arranged to have their children Baptised at St James talking through the Baptism procedure and answering any questions they may have. The visitor then attends the Baptism acting as a link between the family and the church.

*Elizabeth Wilmot  
March 2017*



