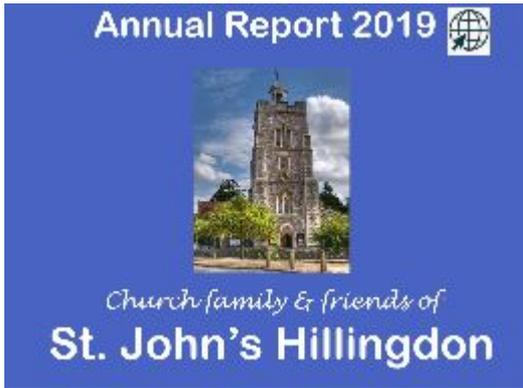


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*The PCC is a Registered Charity.
Registered Charity Number: 1128058*

Members of Parochial Church Council:

Vicar

Alan Bradford

Churchwardens

David Durston

Rick Williams

Elected Members

Carol Williams

Roy Munday

Caroline Reed

Mark Robson

Henry Slamaker

Kevin Clark

Deanery Synod Representatives

Diana Iller

Keith Lunn

Lucy Pike

Associated Officers

Nikki Bell (Secretary)

Carol Toombs (Treasurer)

Di Newman (Stewardship Officer)

Richard Bell (Safeguarding Officer)

Independent Examiner

Alan Rix



Dear Friends & Members of St. John's

As I write this, the whole world continues to go through hard, sad and trying times due to the coronavirus outbreak which has spread around the world in 2020.

There has been a significant loss of life and many are suffering through missing loved ones, ill health, the loss of regular income and the loss or impending loss of their job. There is an ongoing effect on mental health and the cancellation or postponement of important medical operations and treatments. The economy is taking an incredible hit which will take years to recover from. Numbers who can attend worship services have had to be restricted nationally, and worship centres have had to be closed. Yet, within this, St. John's is still very much active and alive!

Although this annual report is usually written in the spring, and would primarily report on the events and mission of the Church for the year before, I am writing this in October due to the postponements of AGMs as a result of coronavirus. We have been forced to have our AGM later in the year, online, with many parts of the country living under tight restrictions again, and with coronavirus cases rising again locally, which might mean we come under more restrictions in Hillingdon soon too. Our building has also had to remain closed. So our AGM this year is to be held in these unusual circumstances on Sunday 18th October at 10.30am, using video conferencing software known as 'Zoom'. If you haven't become familiar with using this you can still join us by phoning in.

An AGM is a time to look back on the year that has gone before, and therefore the reports here mainly refer to 2019. However, in my report here I also include some things that are more current for the sake of continuity, so everything doesn't feel too detached.

In all of the difficult circumstances that we have found ourselves in this year, we have still managed to adapt and surprise ourselves with what is possible. The Church remains very much alive and active across the land and also here at St. John's, that's for sure! We have been meeting as a church community for Sunday services using 'Zoom' so that we can take part and continue to be with one another as a community, sharing in communion together. We have also had fun times together on a Wednesday morning with prayer too. Two of our home groups have also been meeting online. Our technical team, musicians and those who have preached have been on a learning curve, all doing a great job in adapting to the new online surroundings!

Of course, not everybody has been able to get online, although the numbers who have has been encouraging. We have also held five outdoor services in the Memorial Gardens. We have developed our weekly newssheet into a an online weekly mini-magazine, 'The Online Link', now up to its 30th edition. This is not only very well received electronically but also hand-delivered to those who can't access this via a device. There is also a phoning network so that we can enjoy chatting with one another, particularly if internet access is not available. It is wonderful that so many have volunteered to make all of these things possible.

It has been a joy working in partnership with Nikki our Administrator who is always so calm and efficient, with a smile! We are certainly blessed by Nikki as our Administrator, and her role is vital to our functioning together. It has also been good working in leadership with our Churchwardens David and Rick; thank you, gentlemen, for all you do in your important office.

Thank you to EVERYONE for your contributions and for what you do to serve in the body of Christ in and through your connection with St. John's. I won't attempt to mention anybody else by name by way of thanking, so A BIG THANK YOU to you all for the part you have played. So consider yourself thanked here, for if I try to thank everyone individually it will be a long list indeed, and I will still miss people out!

Looking back to 2019, we put on a wonderful welcome and spread for curate Jacque Shalloe following her ordination in the summer of 2019. I had a short-notice phone call from the Bishop in the late summer of 2018, asking me if we'd be willing to take on a curate as their planned curacy had fallen through. I accepted, and it was great to have Jacque for the year until she was later able to move on when something nearer to her home became available which was more in line with her spirituality.

Our 'own' Caroline Reed has over the last two+ years been patiently and more intentionally testing further a call she has sensed for a good while to the ordained ministry. We praise God for his call and that this calling has been affirmed and encouraged through all Caroline has had to do, including assessments and a 'Bishop's Advisory Panel' selection weekend. It's wonderful news that Caroline has now started training to be a priest with St. Mellitus College, and as an Ordinand with us! Congratulations Caroline!

We are really pleased with the appointment of Alex Veal as our Qualified Inspector (QI) and he inspected our building and grounds as part of the five-yearly inspection report which we received early in 2020. As expected, the building has a good many areas that need significant attention in terms of repairs or replacements. Following advice, we have had our building placed on the English Heritage 'at risk' register. This enables us to apply for certain grants. We have firstly prioritised in our grant applications the cupola which is in a very poor condition, and we have recently heard that we will receive a grant of £24,00 to help stabilize it, and to enable a full structural survey to take place. Generous gifts from members of our congregation have made up the total amount necessary to go ahead with this and other key works, and the work on this is due to start imminently at the time of writing.

In order to enable us to access grants to help us finance all the external works necessary, which includes the roof, dormer windows, roof of Grundon Room etc. we need to show how we will develop internally too, and enable greater use of the building for the community. Grants are awarded on the basis of external **and** internal developments. In July 2019 we met with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) to share draft plans for reordering part of the building to create more flexible space within, and the DAC positively encouraged us in writing with these plans. We want to allow for greater flexibility inside, such as worship 'in a round', café church and youth events. Building on what we have done in the past, we want to hold celebrations and festivals where we can easily accommodate a good number of stalls. We want to enable whole school years to visit and be seated around tables, and we need to allow for growing numbers at our Parent 'n' Toddler and 'All Stars' children's events. This is to name just a few of the many ways we would like to see the building used. As part of investigations, and in looking at practical feasibility, we have recently had under floor investigations within the church for this ongoing process.

Financially, 2019 was another testing year due to extra outlays that included regular expenditure on our deteriorating building, some of it needed intermittently to keep the rain out. We were £5,000 down for the year. In years gone by, larger legacies and larger one-off gifts have helped us to be in the black, although this hasn't been the case for 2019. In line with many churches, our incomings have taken a hit in 2020 due to the building being closed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. This has affected our income from hires, weddings, baptisms, funerals and general giving in church. We have reduced our contribution to the diocese accordingly.

We introduced contactless giving in church in 2019, as less people carry cash on them, and this

was starting to make a difference to our incomings in the autumn of 2019. This year, the introduction of card giving via a 'Donate' button on our website has enabled many members who don't normally give solely by standing order to keep up on their giving, and this is helping.

We have continued to worship and engage in missional ways, keeping before us our eight word mission statement: "**Loving, Growing, Sharing, with Jesus to transform lives**". A small group of us continued to attend the 'Church Growth Leadership Community' training days held at the Gregory Centre for Church Multiplication in London, so that we can continue to help improve our thinking and what we do practically to bring about our vision.

As part of our mission we continue to support Hillingdon Foodbank, and contributions here are more needed than ever. We have continued to support and conduct regular service in Parkfield House, thanks to our team that goes in for this. They have built up good relationships with staff and residents.

We continue to serve the community in their life events through the baptisms, weddings and funerals. Mary and Stuart Hughes, our Verger and Technical Verger respectively, provide much needed help and support in the organisation, and in the highs and the lows of our weddings and funerals. We again hosted a Memorial Service in December for those who had lost loved ones and the church was absolutely packed out for this.

A really significant undertaking in 2019 was the Alpha course which we held in church with often over 30 people attending for a 2-course meal, video, discussions and prayer. The chef did a magnificent job. The Away Day was also received very well with a good uptake.

Our children's ministry was seeing increasing numbers over 2019 across our main ministry areas of 'Let's Go' Parent 'n' Toddler, All Stars Monthly Children's event in church, and the monthly 'King's Kids'. We were awarded a grant of £20,000 to help in establishing Elevate Church at John Locke Academy School within St. Andrew's Park, and we were encouraged with the partnership we were developing with the school, The monthly services were starting to be established there. Sadly coronavirus has cut across all these initiatives since March this year.

The Churchyard and Memorial Gardens have continued to be improved in so many ways including good management of what grows, grass planting and the repair of a number of tombs. A cherry tree and buddleia bush was planted in memory of Tony Sheffield and a Dedication Service held on 27th October 2019, Well done, team!

We also remembered Evelyn Tinsley, our late Flower Guild Leader, on Robbie Burns Night in January 2019. A plaque was dedicated in Evelyn's memory, followed by a suitable meal together and the sharing in memories.

Our Eco group have continued to meet and help to encourage, educate and challenge us to do what we can for our planet. In 2020 they were asked to be a resource for other churches in the Hillingdon Deanery who are seeking to be more eco friendly, and who wish to work towards an Eco Award such as we achieved a couple of years back.

2019 was a significant year for the start of the development of Deanery Mission Plans and this has continued into 2020. These plans include the development of youth work across the Deanery, the reinvigoration of St. Anselm's Hayes, and the development of church plants in St. Andrew's Park (i.e. 'our own' Elevate Church) and within St. Laurence primary school in Cowley. Last autumn we said goodbye to our much loved and retiring Archdeacon, Duncan Green, and this summer we welcomed our new Archdeacon, Catherine Pickford, into the Diocese.

We continue to be thankful and amazed at the many visitors who again came through our doors at Christmas, especially the school carol services and the Christingle services which were teeming

with families again.

Let's continue to live in faith not in fear, and continue to encourage and support one another. Let's keep stepping out for God, not fearing trying and failure. Faith is expressed not solely in what we believe, but in what we do with what we believe. It is in testing circumstances that God can use us greatly, often in more fruitful ways than when the circumstances around us are good.

Here's a great Bible verse from the apostle Paul, who we have been learning from in our preaching series:

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. (Romans 12:11)

Do have a good read of the reports that follow, and bear in mind that they were written ready for our postponed AGM earlier this year.

In God's love & service,

Alan

Revd Alan Bradford

Vicar of St. John's

Churchwardens *Rick Williams & David Durston*

During 2019 the Churchwardens have continued to provide support to Alan, in his pastoral mission at St John's. New worshippers have joined our family at St John's throughout the year, and it is hoped this trend will continue. New invitations to increase attendances are in hand, which we hope will bear fruit during 2020. Solutions to increase the flexibility of the space within the Church are being developed in conjunction with the Diocese but, regrettably, progress is frustratingly slow.

Support has also been given to the development of Elevate Church, our outreach initiative at St Andrew's Park. Regular monthly services now take place and the significance of this project has been recognised by the Diocese through the award of a funding grant to enable further expansion.

Both Churchwardens are members of the PCC and contribute to the regular review of the activities within St John's. They act as a sounding board for comments and observations on life at St John's from the congregation and worshippers.

We wish to express our continued thanks to the many anonymous parishioners and worshippers who help to keep St John's functioning. Without the continued efforts of these individuals the Church could not exist. Very many thanks to you all!!!

Our Parish Administrator, Nikki Bell, works hard to provide an efficient and excellent support to St John's – always with a smile and a cheerfulness and willingness to help. Much of what Nikki does goes unnoticed, but her efforts ensure the many practical aspects of life at St John's are progressed and resolved as necessary.

Rick continues to have prime responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric of St John's and our three residential investment properties. Regular reports presented to the PCC underline the accumulated repairs required to the church itself. The recently received Architectural Report underlines the problems we face. Of major immediate concern is the condition of the timber cupola on top of the tower. This is the subject of a Faculty Application to the Diocese.

Work is currently in progress with our Architect to produce a programme of necessary repairs covering the next few years. There is currently a Faculty Application awaiting approval for work to make the Grundon Room weatherproof following the lead theft.

Following damage caused to the large cedar tree in the churchyard last summer work, agreed with Hillingdon Council, to reduce the spread of the tree has been put in hand. Crowd funding within the congregation has substantially covered the cost of this outlay. This support is much appreciated.

The Churchwardens are satisfied with the provision of suitable and meaningful worship at St. John's.

Nikki Bell Administrator

I work two mornings each week in the church office/vestry.

Well it's been almost three years, since I was appointed as the Administrator of St. John's and I am still learning new things every day! I love the variety of my role and working in such a beautiful church with so many amazing people.

One of those amazing people I'd like to thank is Alan for being so encouraging, supportive and such a great boss.

I continue to meet up with other church administrators in the Willesden area led by the Archdeacon's team, this is a great opportunity for us all to learn new systems, innovations and share ideas. I always come back with lots of ideas and energy from the meetings.

At St John's we are always looking at ways that we can be more effective and proactive if you have any thoughts, ideas or feedback please contact me via email or in person. I am always open to new ideas and love a new project!

Special thanks to Rick and David our Churchwardens for all your support to my role and tireless effort and commitment to St John's.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who has a role at St John's or volunteers their time to make St. John's such a lovely, warm and welcoming place. Without all of you the day to day running of the church would not be possible. I have had so much support from everyone, your kindness and patience has not gone unnoticed. I am looking forward to the busy year ahead and many more years to come.

Mary Hughes Verger and Stuart Hughes Technical Verger

Booking and arranging weddings continues to be very enjoyable. It is also rewarding to help to arrange funerals and memorial services, helping people come to terms with their loss.

During 2019 our brides have all looked very elegant (and the grooms scrubbed up pretty well too). We very much enjoy being with the wedding couples during the planning of every stage of their service.

It is nice to keep in touch with many of my former brides and grooms, sometimes meeting up for a coffee and often having a little chat on Facebook.

We are still finding doing God's work in our roles very rewarding, although this year 2020 has been very challenging for us, especially not being able to be there for those that have lost loved ones. We have been in contact with our wedding couples offering our support as unfortunately they have had to postpone their weddings.

We would like to thank our choir, led by Carol and Rick Williams, our bellringer's team, David and Stephen Gamble for playing the organ at our services. Thank you also to Alan.

Carol Williams *Commissioned Minister*

In my role as a Commissioned Lay Minister, I have continued to lead services on a monthly basis. I have also given Communion by extension on a few occasions when Alan has been elsewhere..

Last year I mentioned that we had attended a Diocesan initiative on Church Growth. We have since attended a further two sessions up in London (these take place on a Friday evening, and a full day on the Saturday). We are finding it very interesting, useful and motivating - we come away from each session with various targets to achieve within a six-month period. The sessions themselves provide valuable insights into what struggles and problems other churches in the Diocese face.

Richard Bell *Children's Safeguarding Officer*

The PCC have once again approved my role as an 'appropriately experienced' Parish Safeguarding Officer at St John's.

The PCC recently agreed to adopt and implement the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Church' and as such approved the St John's Safeguarding Policy Statement for 2020 which is available on the noticeboard.

I have conducted and reported upon the annual safeguarding audit to the diocese and PCC with only a couple of minor outstanding actions that I am working through with the PCC.

During the last reporting period, I received a historic safeguarding concern report. The concern was reported to the Diocese Central Safeguarding team. The matter is resolved and there is no outstanding risk regarding any young person or vulnerable adult.

Safeguarding is a fixed agenda item and I regularly provide written updates at each PCC meeting. I am always available to attend in person if requested.

The PCC have received a specific awareness session on its safeguarding responsibilities.

I can confirm all persons that have direct contact with children have the appropriate checks and safeguarding training in place.

I continue to monitor and review all church activities to assess and address any identified safeguarding issues immediately and always make myself available to provide advice to Alan, The Churchwardens and the PCC when required.

I'd like to thank Lucy our Children's Champion for her continued support, I will be working closely with her over the coming months as we look to improve everyone's understanding of what safeguarding means.

Please contact me via childsafeguarding@mail.com if you wish to talk about the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

Kay Sweetman *Archivist*

Despite the increasing popularity with genealogy (or family history for the un-initiated!) with more and more resources online, I have still received quite a few parish record enquiries this year. The Churchyard Team are still keeping busy in the churchyard, making the place tidier and more appealing for everyone, as well as updating a document that was prepared over 30 years ago, showing the rough locations of burials. Photographs of all the memorials have been taken and some memorials were found that were not included in the original document! Some of the

photographs that were taken have already proved useful and have been passed on to family historians.

Since my last report, 2 people from the West Middlesex Family History Society have undertaken more work recording the memorials, which is another source I can use; see Christine Bartlett's Churchyard report for more details.

I'm hoping that the greenery clearance that has been undertaken will continue, so that the churchyard can be enjoyed by future generations.

Kay Sweetman *Sacristan*

Many thanks as usual go to all the servers and chalice assistants who support me.

Things are pretty much the same as last year, except for a small change in the number of people on the team.

One big change is that we now have gluten free wafers, so if you or anyone you know would like to have one instead of the usual bread, please let Alan know.

If there is anyone who would like to help out with laundering the occasional altar cloth or the weekly smaller items of linen, please let me know.

Electoral Roll *Nikki Bell*

At the time of producing this booklet the Electoral Roll stands at 153.

Groups & Church Activities

Bellringers Captains Report *Mike Palmer*

2019 was another good year for our band. We organised a number of training sessions on bell handing and method ringing during the year which helped both our novice and experienced ringers. We now have a number of ringers progressing from the basics and starting to learn methods.

We had a number of ringers who rang their first quarter peals on 6, 8 and 10 bells and one ringer Matthew who rang his first peal (over 3 hrs of ringing!) and a number of quarter peals on 10 bells. He was awarded the Learners Cup for all his achievements during the year.

We continue ringing at St Johns on Sunday mornings and at other significant times. We also ring at many other churches within the area including Uxbridge, Hayes, Cranford Park, Harlington, Iver and others. We have reinstated our Sunday 'tour' where each 3rd Sunday morning in the month we ring at as many churches as possible.

Our social activities have grown this year. On our annual outing we visited churches in the Aldermaston area and had a very good attendance from ringers in the area. We also had a number of social evenings with meals organised in local pubs and restaurants. Finally, a big thank you to all that have supported the bell ringers during this year.

Charities

Over the year we donate and raise money for various charities.

In January, Steve came to talk to us about the work of COMPASSION UK. Several children were sponsored. Compassion UK is a non-profit Christian charity working to help release children from poverty, and provide education, healthcare and basic needs.

For more information on the work of Compassion UK, please speak to Rodney George or Anne Bradford.

In May, we watched the film 'Mary Poppins Returns' and raised money for DEMENTIA AWARENESS WEEK.

Our Cake Sales raised £248.02 for MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT and raised £201.08 for COMIC RELIEF RED NOSE DAY. Many thanks to Gill and Alyson for organising these.

At Harvest and with our Harvest Lunch donations, we collected for HILLINGDON FOOD BANK, WATER AID and CHRISTIAN AID.

In November, the All Stars children's 'Showtime' event raised money for CHILDREN IN NEED.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the annual SHOE BOX APPEAL for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child.

A total of 29 Children's boxes were delivered. A simple shoebox gift packed with love and fuelled by prayer which can have a huge impact and bring great joy to children around the world.

In December we raised £1642.55 for the CHILDREN'S SOCIETY, with home boxes, candle boxes, envelope contributions and our Christingle Services.

Our church toilet is now twinned with a latrine in the Bangui District of the Central African Republic through TOILET TWINNING. The certificate is in the church bathroom and is a reminder for us to pray for those who use their latrine when we use our facilities.

Royal British Legion, Hillingdon Branch

Alan is Chaplain for the Royal British Legion Hillingdon. We continue to support their work and pray for them.

On Remembrance Sunday, we have our annual service together with the Royal British Legion and with North Hillingdon Boys' Brigade. After the service, returning to the Legion for lunch together.

The Eco Group Report 2019 *Christine Bartlett, Chris Rodrigues, Brenda Thomas*

The Eco Group continues with its calling to give help and encouragement to the community at St John's in consideration to how we live our lives. How we live on our planet earth, our home given in love and trust by God. To think about our relationship with the natural world in our daily living, the materials we use and the effect on the environment.

Eco News in The Link continues to give weekly notes and tip, with information to help with recycling and to highlight consumerism, helping us to consider what we can change and improve in day to day living. Bins continue to be used to separate materials and aid recycling.

Some of our achievements in 2019:

1. Earth Hour in March, joining with people across the world, we sat together in church in the dark for an hour playing board games!
2. In September we led the services one Sunday with hymns prayers reading and talks based on caring for the environment
3. We were inspired by our visit to the A Rocha Wolf Fields site in Southall, which is a community allotment, sensory garden and pollination project
4. We have continued to engage with national and international groups concerned with climate change, the environment and recycling.
5. We continue to encourage everyone at St John's to use "reusables" rather than paper and plastic throwaways for all catered events in church.
6. We are planning a wild-flower area in the churchyard in 2020.

We would love to have more members in the Eco Group, please speak to one of us if you would like to join.

Churches Together in Long Lane *Nikki Bell*

Along with the other member churches, St John's took part in the Good Friday Walk of Witness and the World Day of Prayer. The ministers continue to keep in contact.

The Churchyard *Christine Bartlett*

The first entry in the churchyard diary for 2019 was on 11th February and recorded that it had been a mild, very dry winter and that the snowdrops were in full bloom bobbing their cheery white heads. During the winter months, the churchyard team were all working on the northside of the footpath clearing bramble roots digging out deep rooted elder bushes and tidying broken tombs. Later that month 150 snowdrops in the green were planted and some of the shrubs in the Garden of Remembrance were given a hard prune and several shrubs which suffered in the dry summer of 2018 were removed. This gave us new planting opportunities and new hebes, heucheras and lavender were planted. By the time Easter was upon us, the weather was still very dry but the lime tree avenue and the hedge bordering the path were coming into life just the same.

In early summer box moth caterpillars were spotted in the Garden of Remembrance. Not wanting to use chemicals to deal with them, we decided to leave them to their own devices. In June, two holly trees were removed that were growing too close to the lime trees.

During mid-summer the West Middlesex Family History Society carried out a survey of all the tombstones in the churchyard. The results are available on their website and the family history website "Find My past". A full transcript of all the inscriptions, as well as those inside the church, is in the church office. Many beautiful funeral poems were discovered on the tombstones and it is hoped that a leaflet of these will be produced in 2020.

On Sunday July 28th a branch from the very top of the large cedar tree by the Uxbridge Road came crashing down during the late morning worship. It was very distressing to see such a beautiful tree so damaged.

By the end of summer, the box moths had totally ravaged the box hedging in the Garden of Remembrance, so we decided to start again with new plants, *euonymus white pillar* was chosen.

During the autumn, grass seed was sown over large swathes of ground that were formerly badly overgrown and two more holly trees were taken down as they were growing out of gravestones causing structural damage. We also managed to make safe parts of the iron fence which through breakages over many years had become a dangerous trip hazard. A *weeping prunus* and a *black knight buddleia* were planted near the Garden of Remembrance in memory of Tony Sheffield and a new gate was fitted at the entrance from the footpath to the northside with a dedication to Angela Craven, two much loved and missed church members.

Winter is upon us once again, a much wetter one this year than last. It's a time for reflection and looking forward to the year ahead. As I was writing this report the snowdrops are peeking through, a sign that spring isn't very far away.

Many thanks to those church members who donated so generously towards new plants and tree maintenance.

And finally thank you to all the churchyard team: Armel, Brian, Iain, Kay, Ken, Mark, Patrick, Robert, Sue. They turn out every Monday morning so cheerfully and enthusiastically. It's a joy to be part of such a great team. If anyone would like to come and say hello on a Monday morning, we would love to see you. We can offer coffee, cake and a short tour at around 10.30am every Monday, as long as it isn't raining!

Flower Guild *Carol Toombs*

I cannot believe another year has passed and another AGM looming. It has been a quiet year and we are still managing to keep a rota of flower arrangers arranging flowers for the church every week. We have Alison, Jayne (she has moved away but attends occasionally), Jackie, Gail,

Helen, Christine and myself. Christine Turner is our honorary member (tea maker and cake provider) always willing to help on special occasions.

We meet at certain times of the year: Easter, Harvest, Christmas, to arrange flowers and then go to The Red Lion/Vine and have lunch and a beverage of some sort and a good catch up. We are completed self-funded and are always pleased to make arrangements, for anyone who would like one for a special occasion just for a small donation. Just contact one of the ladies who will be happy to help.

If anyone interested in joining the group, please contact myself and I will be happy to have a chat.

Let's Go Alan Bradford

'Let's Go' is our community Parent 'n' Toddler group that meets on Friday mornings during term time from 10-11.30am for fun. songs. story, craft, instruments, snack time, refreshments, making friends and surprises.

We are now in into our fourth year, which is amazing. Overall, the group has continued to grow and more space is needed. Thank you to the fab team who make running 'Let's Go' so much fun!

King's Kids Alan Bradford

'King's Kids' is a service/event for children on a Sunday morning that meets in St. Andrew's Park (the old RAF base) at John Locke Academy Primary School.

In 2019 we had 8 five King's Kids sessions with encouraging numbers.
Our maximum attendance was 66 for our December special!

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Thanks to all the leaders and helpers who make 'King's Kids' possible and to Tom and DJ our tech guys!

All Stars Alan Bradford

'All Stars' is our after-school family event which happens on Fridays, roughly once a month. The children come into church after school to play games together and chill, before having all-together fun games. Then we have a meal together, usually with a baked potato from our new oven, along with fillings, and then some pudding. Then we enjoy music, singing, rhythm and 'letting our hair down' – it is Friday after all!

This year we had 9 'All Stars' events including a 'show' which raised money for Children in Need. The performances were fantastic from the children, and we look forward to doing another show.

Thank you to all the team who get stuck in!

Youth Anne Bradford

The **YOUTH BREAKFAST** is at 9:45am on the second and fourth Sundays of each month during term time in the Youth Room (aka the Meeting Room).

Over our breakfast together, we have a chance to chat and to explore our faith. We have taken part in various services throughout the year including Mothering Sunday and the recent Holocaust Memorial Day service, and we served at the Last Supper Experience. Our socials have included a camp fire and the annual pancake special.

We are encouraged by the regular commitment of our youth coming along early on Sunday mornings to spend time together as we grow in faith. We are also grateful to others of our church youth who faithfully serve in the band, with the AV, and with children's groups.

We support some students at Brunel University and local colleges through FUSION, as well as others we have welcomed into our church family. Fusion connects students with the local church network.

We also continue to offer encouragement to young refugee and asylum seekers as they seek support and a place of safety.

Thanks to Graham, Elizabeth and Beth for their enthusiasm and commitment in co-leading the group.

For more information, please contact Anne Bradford.

Words and Music Group *David Durston*

Our little group keeps going every Wednesday lunchtime and although we have lost a few who were regulars for years. We are always happy to have more visitors who may decide to join us for our varied mixture of poetry ancient and modern, intermingled with music to suite all tastes. We start at 12, finish the session at 1 and follow with refreshments and chat.

Midweek at St John's

We open our doors every day from 9am- 3pm for visitors and regular weekly events including jazz, poetry and knitting. In addition, there are several individuals who come in regularly for prayer, peace and quiet.

The Church and Grundon Room are hired out for music lessons in piano, guitar, and accordion. Mandolin Monday and the Hillingdon Youth band come in for rehearsals. Last year we also hired out the Church and the Grundon Room to a housing discussion group, A planning communication firm, The Vine and other organisations which help to bring in valuable revenue to St. John's. A weekly Morning Prayer meeting takes place on Thursdays to which everyone is welcome. "Let's Go" Parent 'n' Toddler on Friday mornings is going from strength to strength." All Stars" which takes place once a month on a Friday.

Many folks who pop in express surprise that the church is open every day and then go on to say how very grateful they are to find us open.

The Knitting Group *Wyn Anderson*

We are a group who like to knit and have a chat. We have had some new joins to our group, we welcomed two community safety officers from the borough and other new members. We are still making the twiddle blankets for dementia patients and continue to make baby blankets and other items for premature and sick babies at Hillingdon Hospital.

We very much enjoy making poppies to decorate the church, at the moment we are knitting poppies for VE Day's 75th Anniversary.

We just like to Knit and share experiences. We welcome any newcomers to our group.

Collaboration with Brunel University *Nikki Bell*

We try and keep open communication with Brunel University. Quite often Christine Bartlett can be seen delivering history talks and walks to lecturers and Brunel University students around the

churchyard.

Last year a lecturer got in contact with the office to give us a fantastic opportunity to be involved in their Being Human Festival. The theme was unlocking the secrets of slavery and abolition in Uxbridge. This was all born from Christine talking to students about former freed African slave Toby Pleasant who was buried in St. John's churchyard.

It took quite a bit of planning and organising, but finally on Saturday 16th November we opened St. John's to a unique theatrical performance, held by the students of Brunel. The performance was based on an 18th century abolitionist meeting, where people could learn about the campaign led by William Wilberforce to abolish the slave trade and heard untold stories of British Caribbean slaves in their own words. It was an amazing event attended by many. The Students were great and looked wonderful in their costumes.

We were able to offer cakes and teas afterwards with support from our very own barista's and cake makers Christine, Brenda, Chris and Lesley Thank you Ladies.

This opportunity also raised funds towards St. John's. We hope to continue to collaborate with Brunel in the future.

Update: In 2020 we have developed links with the Brunel University CU through Naomi Hollands, who works for Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship, and through our own church member Winnie Chan, who is on the Brunel CU Committee. We regularly pray for Brunel CU.

Music Group

The music group continued in 2019 to serve the church by helping to lead our sung worship. This gifted group of musicians have led and served us very sacrificially by enabling us to worship with contemporary, modern and traditional songs. This has been a great blessing.

When teams work together sometimes members do not always agree or get along together. Around the turn of the year the music group was suspended to allow for reflection and perspective. We are thankful as a church and grateful to God for all musicians who have served the church so well.

St Johns Singers *Carol Williams*

Last year when I wrote my report Marigold was recuperating after her fall and operation on her foot. This year I am pleased to say that, whilst not in robust health, Marigold is back in the St John's Singers. With Jacque moving to another parish we lost one member of the group, but Winnie arrived (all the way from Hong Kong) in the autumn and has been a great addition to the group. We welcome anyone who would like to come and sing. There are no auditions and we don't bite – come and try! We rehearse alternate Fridays from 7pm to 8pm in the Grondon Room.

We had an interesting start to the year singing unaccompanied for a few services – I was very pleased to see members of the congregation joining in with us and singing along very well!

Our current aim is to learn one or two new piece of music each month and practise them for a few weeks before including them in our Communion repertoire. Christmas and Easter always provide us with an opportunity to learn new music suitable for these two festivals!

As usual a huge thank you to the Singers for coming out to rehearsal in all sorts of weather.

Website & Social Media Anne Bradford

As well as our website, St John's is on social media on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We can also be found on 'A Church Near You'.

(*the statistics below are from 25/02/20)

We have had people visit our church, attend events and start coming to this church after seeing our presence on social media, our website and these internet platforms.

For more information on our church website, please contact Alan Bradford.

For more information on our church social media or 'A Church Near You', please contact Anne Bradford.

Website

Our church website is: www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk.

In the last 30* days, we have had 989* views. The most views were on the home page with 342*, that's 35%. Next was 'The Link' with 125* views, that's 12.6%.

Over the last year, we have had 12,079* views. Again the most views were on the home page with 4581*, that's 38%. 'The Link' had 1364* views, that's 11%. Contact & find us had 5% views. 929* views were from the London area

Out of the views, people accessed our website 47% via a desktop/laptop, 44% via a mobile, and 9% via a tablet.

Facebook

Our church Facebook Group is a positive way in linking our church community, supporting each other, as well as supporting church activities and events. All from St John's are welcome to join us.

The group page is 'St John's, Hillingdon (Group)' and the link is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/116263285313>

The group has 152* members.

The church also has a public community group page and the link is:

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsHillingdon>

The page has 305* likes and 317* followers.

The biggest reaction for one of our posts was 41,247* people reached and 9,341* engagements which includes reactions, comments and shares.

Twitter

Twitter is an open communication platform and it is like an ongoing conversation.

The church Twitter is another means of a presence within the area and an engagement with others in the local community.

We currently have 159* followers.

Our Twitter is: @SJohnHillingdon

Instagram

Instagram is a social media app that primarily started for sharing photos and videos. It is becoming one of the most popular online apps and helps to engage with a wider social network.

We have 74* followers.

Our Instagram is: stjohnshillingdon1.

A Church Near You

St John's is also on 'A Church Near You'. This website is a digital communication resource by the Church of England.

'A Church Near You' lists every church in the Church of England, with contact information, service times and events. It publishes special campaigns such as at Christmas and Easter. It is a good way for people to find local churches and services in their area.

We have had 81* views this week, 348* views this month, and 4146* views this year.

WiFi

Our church WiFi is well used. It is very useful for following the services via the "Proclaim" software which you can do on an iPad to help visibility. The WiFi is also used by various people and groups during the week.

New Wine *Anne Bradford*

Last summer, a group of us went to New Wine Summer Conference at The East of England Showground, Peterborough. We camped with a group from St Matthew's Yiewsley.

New Wine is a holiday with a difference, somewhere to relax and have fun with a group of friends, chilling out on the campsite, having a BBQ, somewhere to grow in faith, somewhere that caters well for all ages, where your children can have a great time in well-organised groups specifically for their age, where you can go to as little or as much of the full programme as you would like. There are seminars, Bible teaching, celebrations, arts & crafts, entertainment evenings, times of community, and time to relax – a great time away.

Update: This summer, as everything changed with coronavirus restrictions, New Wine was adapted to online platforms which were still thought provoking and inspirational. Some of the seminars and talks are still available online.

New Wine is hoping to be back to camping again in 2021. For more information and booking details, please contact Anne Bradford.

ALPHA & Lent Course

Last year, we ran an Alpha Course, which was well attended with between 21 and 37 over the 8 sessions. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explore faith, life and purpose. Each session started with a meal together. The course ended with our Away Day at All Saints Church at Dedworth, Windsor.

Thanks to Anne, Caroline & Jacque for co-leading.

This year, the Lent Course is 'Five Vital Keys For Your Future'

For more information, please contact Alan Bradford.

Holy Week

Holy Week is the special week before Easter.

On Maundy Thursday, we have 'The Last Supper Experience' when we share a meal together as we explore the relevance of the Passover and the significance of the Last Supper. This is followed by 'The Watch', a time to sit awhile and keep 'The Watch'.

At our 'Journey to the Cross' on Good Friday, we explored the 'Stations of the Cross' using the 'Bread Broken Stations of the Cross' images by Sister Mary Stephens.

This year, we will be thinking about 'One Day' – "the 24 hours, 14 events, one day that echoes through history"

Summer Celebration

In June, we celebrated Jacque being ordained Priest. A group of us went to her ordination at St Martin's Kensal Rise. On the Sunday, Jacque celebrated her first Communion after being

ordained Priest, and we shared lunch together. Many thanks to all who helped and contributed to the summer celebration lunch.

We gave Jacque a pewter Home Communion Set, a 'faith, hope & love' silver cross & chain, and a bouquet of flowers.

Jacque went on a placement at the beginning of September to Holy Cross, Greenford Magna. This church is nearer to her home and closer to her spirituality. Jacque will now continue her curacy training there. We thank her for all she contributed to St John's, and we wish her every happiness in ministry.

Stewardship *Diane Newman*

Now entering my 2nd year as Stewardship secretary, I am still amazed by the generosity of our St. John's family. Gift Aid is a big part of the funds we receive, and I am pleased to say many of you have allowed us to claim the tax back on your donations, which makes a huge difference. In our pursuit to be "greener" we did not issue stewardship forms at the end of last year as we have done in previous years but if you would like to make an amendment to your regular giving; check if you have signed a gift aid form or would like to find out about receiving personal "giving" envelopes, please don't hesitate to email me - diane.stjohns@gmail.com. Assuring you of my continued confidentiality.

Financial Reports

Treasurer *Carol Toombs*

Another year has passed and this year's accounts are showing a deficit of £5,321. It has been a real struggle this year as we have had many problems with the church building including, Gutter Maintenance, Inspection of Tower Roof, Repair of Church Clock, Inspection of the Lightening Conductor, Replacement of Flood Lights, Repairs to Cupola, Asbestos checks. Our income is not covering our expenses and we need to start putting on events which will help to raise funds for the church.

This year we only paid £66,000 towards the Common Fund which was £6,000 short of our target of £72,000 and next year it will be going up to £74,000 which will be quite a challenge. Hopefully we can all pull together to make this possible. I would like to thank the congregation for all they have contributed this year and look forward to a prosperous 2020. Many thanks for Nikki and Alan for all their help and also thanks to Alan Rix who audits our accounts every year.

Copies of the full examined accounts and approved accounts will be available on request at the AGM.

BUDGET 2019

INCOME	ACTUAL	EXPENDITURE	ACTUAL
Stewardship plus tax rec	59000	Parish Staff	6500
Church Collections	3779	Staff Exp	5670
Wedding Fees	3049	Vicarage Exp	351
Magazine	0	Expenses Gen	28971
Special Efforts/Donations	5992	LDF Quota	66000
Church Room Hire	3103	Vicarage Maint	0
St David Close	8640	Church Events	0
Cobden Close Restricted	0	St David	166
Pield Heath	11463	Pield Heath	979
Phone Maste	8500	School Levy	0
Childrens account	0	Cobden Cl	314
Legacies	0	HeadLeaseExt	0

Bank Interest	104	ContingencyF	0
Church Roof/Ins Claim	0	Ins Claims	0
Total	103630	Total	108951

EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME £5,321

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019**FIXED ASSETS**

Tangible Assets	772,800
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CURRENT ASSETS

Investments	134,760
Cash in Bank	151,424

Liabilities

Creditors	0
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Net Current assets less liabilities	286,184
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Total net assets less liabilities	1,058,984
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Represented by funds:-

Unrestricted	728,942
Designated	231,208
Restricted	77,559
Endowment	8,902

TOTAL FUNDS	1,046,611
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There might be minor discrepancies in the totals
as pence are not being shown

CHEQUES

Payable to:
Hillingdon Parochial Church Council
St. John's Church
Royal Lane
Uxbridge
UB8 3QP

STANDING ORDER

Set up a Standing Order with your bank or
building society using these details:
Barclays Bank, 142 High St,
Uxbridge, UB8 1JX
Sort Code: 208916
Account No: 20465615

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