



Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Sunday 29 April 2018 following 10.00 am Service of Holy Communion

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Apologies for absence
2. Acceptance of minutes of previous APCM
(approved by PCC, and displayed previously in South Porch)
3. Matters arising
4. Election of 2 churchwardens
5. Any other business

1. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Acceptance of minutes of previous APCM
(approved by PCC, and displayed previously in South Porch)
4. Electoral Roll officer's report
5. Election of PCC members
6. Election of Welcome Team (Sidesmen)
7. Financial report
 - a Approval of examined Church accounts (inc. Hall accounts)
(Full accounts are available at the back of the church or from the Parish Office)
 - b Appointment of examiner for 2018 accounts
8. Churchwardens' report, including report on church fabric
9. Consideration of reports previously circulated
10. Any other business
11. Chairman's Closing Remarks

If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting but would like to use your vote, you may apply for a postal vote (forms are at the back of church). **These need to be returned by Saturday 28 April.** If there is a contested election, a ballot will be taken at the Annual Meeting, and voting forms will then be supplied within 24 hours to those registered as postal voters. These papers should be returned to the Presiding Officer (Hilary Hart) within seven days. After that the result will be announced.

1 PCC Report 2017/2018

The summaries below highlight main items only: full minutes of PCC meetings are available in the South Porch.

Generally, meetings will receive reports from the Treasurer and from the Leadership, Health and Safety, Premises, Hall and Mandimba teams, as well as news of St Mary's School and MTV plus any special items.

3rd May 2017

Appointments to the PCC leadership team and posts of vice-chair, treasurer and secretary were made or renewed. Archdeacon Stephan Welch presented to the PCC plans drawn up by the Diocese for the development of the former vicarage at no.5. The amended St Mary's Safeguarding Policy was formally adopted by the meeting. The new organ scholar was announced. Plans for the induction of Rev Ben Lovell were discussed and it was confirmed that the new St Mary's website was ready to go live once he was in office.

4th July 2017

This was the first meeting of the PCC with new incumbent Ben Lovell. He introduced himself and invited members to speak on their own passions for the parish. He presented a paper to the meeting outlining the purpose and function of the PCC and the Leadership Team. Nally Fernando gave the results of an audit of our safeguarding processes. Mary Collins was elected Children's Champion for the parish, and Yvonne Lincoln was elected deputy Safeguarding Officer. It was confirmed that work was to start on the organ refurbishment in July. Enhanced permission for MTV's use of the bungalow on the school site was set out in detail.

16th September 2017

A half-day meeting beginning with Holy Communion was followed by early breakfast. Jo and Dan Adams gave a presentation outlining their plans for home groups, which they will now co-ordinate. Study materials will follow the Sunday Sermon series. The aim is to promote growth in the number of groups, and also spiritual development and strong supportive relationships within each group. Ben spoke on establishing God's vision for our church and asked the PCC to discuss what we must do to grow in God's will: a working list of priorities was drawn up. Ben expounded his plans for strengthening the structure of church administration, streamlining teams and bringing the Hall into line with other premises management. New chairs of teams will be appointed following the APCM. It was confirmed that one of the church boilers had been deemed unfit for use following inspection.

15th November 2017

John Winterburn circulated a draft policy concerning St Mary's use of social media, including communications by email. This was formally adopted by the PCC. Yvonne Lincoln was elected as Vulnerable Adults' Champion. Hilary Hart outlined the proposed budget for the coming year, designed to embrace a growth in evangelistic outreach. Governance of funds was debated (the difference between having one central resource versus a number of separate projects). The appointment of a Youth Pastor for young people aged 11 – 18 was discussed and agreed. A central file containing risk assessments for all parish activities is to be established.

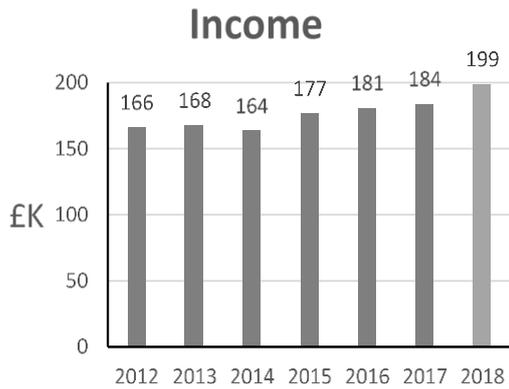
18th January 2018

A recruitment panel was confirmed for the post of Youth Pastor. Adjustments were made to the election procedures for new PCC members: there will be six vacancies at the end of this term. A new category of Deputy Warden is to be created. Sidespersons are to be re-named Welcomers, although their role will remain much the same for the present. Changes in data regulation (GDPR) were discussed, to ensure our full compliance with the new law coming into effect in May 2018. Andrew Parish and Kel Razza were elected Governors to St Mary's School. Ben presented a paper outlining some immediate actions as a start to the Vision plans previously shared with the congregation. These detailed new courses starting or about to start, standardisation of services, and updating of facilities (full details in minutes).

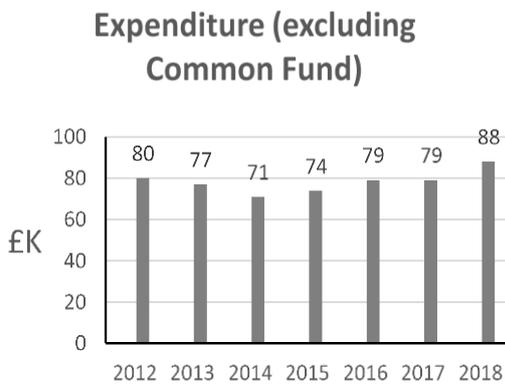
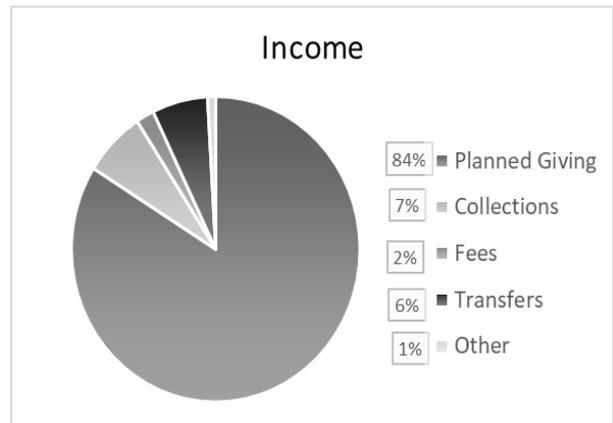
22nd March 2018

A data audit is in process to ensure our compliance with GDPR. Parishioners' consent to the storage of their data will be sought through the use of Church Suite. Nick Neilan, having been appointed Youth Pastor, has made a strong start with activities and plans that have already been widely welcomed by our 11 – 18 year olds. Cara Lovell and Helen Shaffelburg have completed an Access Audit of the Church, the Hall and grounds, which offers some recommendations to make our premises more accessible for all users. Helen Shaffelburg is to be our Accessibility Champion and the Premises Team will deal with the implementation of changes. Ben conducted an exercise with the PCC based on Isaiah 54: 2-3. "Enlarge the place of your tent...for you will spread out..." in order to identify the current challenges or obstacles to our growth. A list of 15 such challenges was drawn up for further consideration. A vote of thanks was recorded for Paul Revis, standing down after 14 years of unstinting service leading the Premises Team. John and Jenny Winterburn were named as Worship Pastors for the I I am service.

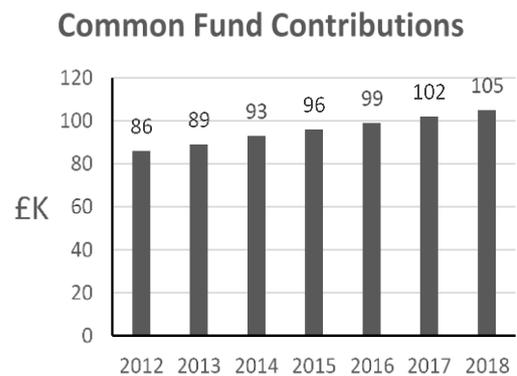
2 Finances – The Simple Facts



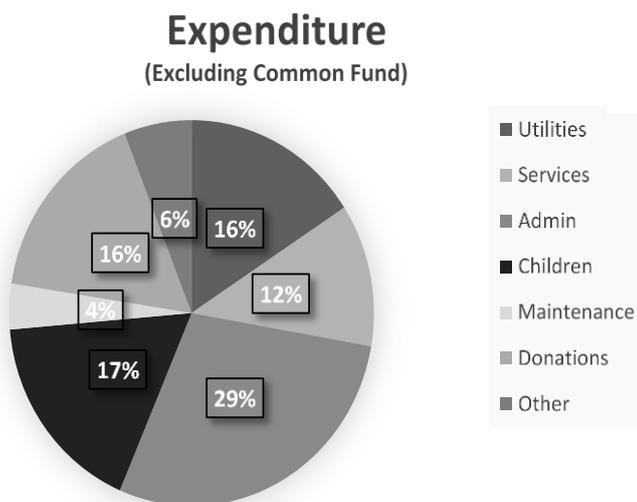
(Budget estimate for 2018)



(Budget estimate for 2018)



Common Fund is our contribution to the costs of the diocese – we receive over 50% directly back and also help out poorer parishes.



3 Premises Team

The Premises Team consists of Mary Collins, Pat Felstead, Nally Fernando, Nigel Francis, Martin Hart, Michael Harris, Ben Lovell, Kel Razza, Paul Revis and Pat Stancliffe and I would like to thank my colleagues for all their work during the past year.

Community Hall

Little work has been done on the hall this year other than minor maintenance items. The rear stairway area was redecorated last summer, and it is proposed to redecorate the front stairway this coming summer. The Fire alarm system has been upgraded and the escape procedures in the event of fire are currently being reviewed

Church

The church organ underwent the repairs to the wind reservoir and replacement of the internal electronics during the summer. This involved the removal of the screen in the north aisle to give access. The work was all successfully accomplished.

In the summer the servicing of the heating boilers provided a nasty shock when they were condemned as no longer fit for service. This, together with the problem of asbestos present in the boiler room and the boilers led to extensive work to replace the units. This meant we were unable to start heating the church until the beginning of December. I would like especially to thank Nally and Kel who took the lead in sorting out this problem. We still are using the same radiators, and these are also near the end of their useful life. When finances allow it would be sensible to replace these with modern radiators which will also be more efficient.

Discussions concerning the redecoration and reordering of the Vicar's and choir vestries continue. Also, under review is the welcoming area at the rear of the church.

The redecoration of the church, and associated works, advised under the Quinquennial Survey of 2013 is still outstanding and with a further inspection due this year becomes ever more urgent.

Churchyard

We continue to monitor the churchyard for any signs of subsidence due to collapsed vaults. I would like to thank Pat Stancliffe for organizing the maintenance of the churchyard gardens and also for liaising with the council over the cutting back of some of the trees

I would like to formally record our thanks to the team of grasscutters. Richard Felstead who has organised the rota for many years is now standing down from this role and I would like to thank him for all his years of work on the rota. Martin Hart is now taking on this role and would be delighted to add new volunteers to the rota (only 2-3 hrs. a year)

In Conclusion

This is my 14th and final report to the APCM as I have decided to stand down as chairman of the Premises Team. I look forward to continuing to serve on the team and giving my full support to my successor, Kel Razza.

Paul Revis

4 Church Fabric Inspection

Carried out by Hilary Hart, Kel Razza and Paul Revis on Wednesday 28 March. Items in bold are considered needing early attention. Items in italics are for consideration.

General

As a result of extensive work over the past few years the building is in good condition for its age, but the need for re-wiring and internal redecoration is becoming more pressing. In several areas the plasterwork is very unstable and is crumbling away.

Vicar's Vestry

Repairs to the guttering have been effective and have reduced dampness in the walls. There is considerable peeling of paint on the walls and blown plaster on the ceiling, but the plaster appears to be reasonably sound. There has been further damage to the wall on the south east corner due to water leaks. **Redecoration of the vestry is needed when the damp problems have been sorted.**

Choir Vestry

Redecoration is needed but the air quality is better.

Sanctuary

Staining to the north and south walls is present but appears to be no worse.

Nave

The paintwork on the ceiling has deteriorated slightly as the paint peels away.

As ever there is rising damp on the south wall causing damage to the plaster. There is also what looks like water damage from the sill third from the east end.

There is some damage at the bottom of the Fraser mural due to general wear and tear.

St Luke's Chapel

In generally good condition.

Upper Room

Remains in good condition.

North Gallery

There is a large crack in the plaster in the NW corner.

There is some water damage in the north-west and north-east corners. The external downpipes need regular checking to prevent this deteriorating.

The gallery has again been cleared and tidied, but some items need to be relocated to the boiler room and there are items that need to be disposed of.

South Gallery

More plaster is falling off the walls up the staircase. The plaster on the south wall of the gallery is in poor condition.

Exterior

No work has been carried out on the exterior which remains in good condition.

Churchyard

The churchyard is in a good state, however, there is a build-up of algae/slime on some of the paths and while this is being dealt with by the Council, it needs constant monitoring due to the hazard of slipping.

Redecoration of the interior of the church, together with rewiring, and improvements to the lighting will be needed before too long.

Hilary Hart

5 Hall

Unfortunately, the central heating pump broke down in January and the temporary heating brought in did not do all that much to ameliorate the situation, so a fortnight of shivering temperatures had to be borne by our hirers. On a happier note the installation of the audio-visual equipment was completed and has been used by several hirers. In fact, 2017 was a very successful year financially and a record number of 88 invoices were issued. The resulting increase in income and the fact that expenditure was kept to the previous year's level meant that the Hall was able to transfer a record £8,000 to the PCC's General Account.

In the Summer a team of volunteers gave the Hall a good clean and during the Autumn half-term the back staircase was repainted. My thanks go to the small Hall Management Team who work very hard to keep the Hall well maintained and the finances in good shape.

Nigel Francis

6 Health & Safety Report

The PCC is responsible for complying with the substantial amount of diverse legislation coming within the area of Health & Safety. The PCC adopted a Health & Safety Policy at its meeting on 18 January, 2018, and it has a Health & Safety sub-Committee which operates under Terms of Reference approved at the PCC Meeting on 23 January, 2016 (chaired by Michael Harris and currently with seven members). The responsibilities of the sub-Committee include:

- Liaising with the PCC's Health & Safety adviser, Precision Safety Services Limited, and drawing up recommendations for improvements to the Church and Hall based on the report of its annual visit
- Advising the PCC on Health & Safety matters, including commenting on any perceived issues with statutory compliance and providing a written report in advance of each PCC Meeting
- Liaising with various PCC Teams, notably the Premises, Hall and Fête Teams (the sub-Committee is advisory only, and is not responsible for implementing Health & Safety decisions)
- Promoting an active Health & Safety compliance "culture" within the PCC and among Church volunteers

The main points on Health & Safety since the last APCM are:

- The Precision Safety Services Limited report on Health & Safety compliance based on the annual visit in August 2017 showed considerable improvement over the previous year. The Health & Safety sub-Committee has worked with relevant PCC Teams on carrying out the various compliance and "best practice" recommendations in the report, with work undertaken in the Hall in particular
- The quality and quantity of PCC Health & Safety documents required for compliance with regulations (e.g. documents about asbestos) have increased substantially
- The two main "capital works" projects (replacement of the Church boilers and refurbishment of the organ) were completed without a Health & Safety "incident". The boiler project included complying with legislation governing the correct process for the removal of asbestos
- A programme of regular facility checks of the Church and Hall has been maintained
- There were very few accidents or Health & Safety "near misses", with none being within the more serious category of incident under relevant legislation
- The Health & Safety sub-Committee reviewed the Health & Safety recommendations within the Access Audit carried out for the PCC in October 2017 (relating to access for disabled and mobility impaired people, and people with other challenges)
- Health & Safety input for the new PCC insurer has been provided as required

The main task for the coming Church year is to continue the process of carrying out the various compliance and "best practice" recommendations of Precision Safety Services Limited.

Anselm Frost

7 Hampton – Mandimba Partnership

It has been a positive year. Communication has improved, with regular emails being exchanged, giving progress reports, news and photographs from Mandimba. Some of these are displayed on the noticeboard in church.

Education – the 'Good Seeds': As a congregation we have been touched by the stories of loss and hardship these young people have experienced. St Mary's has continued to provide generous support,

enabling 100 children and young people to attend school, 30 at the Julius Nyerere Junior School and 70 at the Samora Machel Secondary School. The cost for the current academic year is £2,866. Amy Gould held a concert in aid of the Good Seeds which raised over £1000. Funding is sent in tranches, following receipt of class lists and progress reports. A highlight has been seeing Jorgina, one of the Good Seeds school graduates commence training to become a nurse. Conversely, we had the sad news at the end of March that Rebeca, a student in Grade 10, had died.

Wells: In recent years it has become clear that wells are now being sunk by statutory agencies and St Mary's no longer needs to do this. With the permission of the donors and the PCC, we agreed to transfer to alternative charities funding which had been raised for wells.

Health: The health fund has continued to give financial support to those patients referred to hospital in Nampula or Malawi, to cover the costs of travel and accommodation. Very limited health care is available in Mandimba and the nearest hospital – again with limited resources – is in Lichinga. This money is sent as a lump sum to be used by the Sao Paulo Health team at their discretion. If we are informed of individuals – young children in particular – who are in need of help with treatment costs or, for example, mobility needs, we discuss this as a team in Hampton.

A visit is being arranged to Sao Paolo's Mandimba in October 2018, with plans to meet Padre Austin, their new priest and also Bishop Vicente Msosa who has been in post for a year as well as strengthen friendships between our parishes and monitor projects. General funding in the Mozambique account will contribute to the costs of the visit.

This partnership was established and is facilitated by ALMA, the Angola, London & Mozambique Association. All funding applications from Mandimba have to have the signature of the Bishop of Niassa. Funding is transferred to Mozambique through ALMA and the Bishop's office in Niassa. Members of St Mary's attend some of the ALMA meetings held at Diocesan House in London.

Mandimba funds are:

General : £8106.62

Health: £557.07

Good Seeds: £946.86

Wells: £810.45 (to be transferred to other approved charities)

Total Mandimba Funds: £10,421.00

Fiona Rowett and Carrie Lees

8 Servers

Each member of the team gives up a small amount of his or her time in order to prepare for and assist at communion. Servers have attended all relevant services in the past Church year, with Robert Leadbetter providing the reliable backbone of coverage of the 8.00am services. (After Easter Sunday 2018 the 8.00am services are being held twice a year - Easter Sunday and Christmas Day, reducing the pressure on scheduling). Members of the team can choose on which days and how frequently each month they serve (generally once or twice a month). I would be grateful if anyone interested in joining the team would contact me or any other server.

Anselm Frost

9 MTV Youth Hampton

Friday Night Club

MTV Youth has continued to run weekly every Friday during term time for 8-14-year olds. We are thankful to Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity for providing another year's funding enabling us to run and pay for the staff team. This consists of Nick Neilan (Mentoring Lead), 20 hours a week (for 44 weeks), Penny Dimond (Programme Lead), 12 hours a week (for 44 weeks) and Natalie Blades (Youth work and

admin support) 6 hours a week (39 weeks). The club continues to be supported weekly by a team of 18 regular volunteers who each support the club when they are able.

It has been a challenging year for the club as we have continued to need to run on two venues. We have been very grateful for the support of Hampton Baptist Church who have accommodated the club on Friday nights for indoor activities. We have also used the outdoor sports courts at St Mary's School. To be able to run on two sites, Nick has taken responsibility at the school and Penny at the church and we have needed organised volunteer teams at both venues. Children have chosen which site to attend on a given evening and for the main part have 'stuck' to their chosen site over the year. We did get everyone together for our end of term awards ceremony (Jack Petchey and Club awards) in July and 6th birthday party. 112 people attended this event, mixing children with parents and supporters.

The club this year has very much been 'in maintenance' phase as we've tried to keep things going while we work towards achieving a venue on one (The St Mary's school) site, which would enable us to bring together the volunteer team and do more work with local children and teenagers.

Investing in our Young Leaders

This year we have chosen to really invest in our Young Leaders programme. We applied and were successful in gaining a Richmond Council Civic Pride Fund grant of £5,000. This enabled us to develop a Leadership programme in the Autumn Term, using the Baptist Church venue on Monday nights to run this. Ten of our young leaders (aged 13-15) attended this which involved

12 weekly group sessions including a range of topics such as: Leading when not in charge, Time Management, Dealing with Conflict and Embracing Change

An activity-based team building residential weekend

Certified First Aid training

Safeguarding training

One to one mentoring for each young person

We were very pleased to see a noticeable improvement in confidence and contribution from the young leaders attending the course. Please see the MTV website to watch a video made to capture their feedback on this. During the summer term we intend to build upon the learning with the young people, giving them a chance to use 'strength finder' to appreciate their individual strengths and how these might be used for the good of the team together with some very practical sessions to equip them to be able to plan and run sessions at the Friday night youth club.

In the Spring term we were pleased to be able to extend the Monday night sessions to young leaders for a 'Healthy Relationships Course'. Anna Harris (ex Head of Youth Work at the YMCA now working for the Crossways Pregnancy Crisis Centre) kindly ran these sessions free of charge to the club as a pilot. Designed by the 'Romance Academy' this course looked at subjects around self-esteem and confidence, sex and relationships. We've run the sessions on Monday nights and have given the young people a safe place to hear correct facts and explore the issues. The aim has been for the young people to grow in self-esteem, confidence, emotional and relational literacy and to learn and practice the tools to make positive and informed choices to benefit them and others. Nine young people aged 13-15 attended these. It is testament to the materials and open and supportive environment created that the young people felt safe to participate fully.

Supporting our Adult Volunteers

MTV Youth could not run without the ongoing commitment and inspiration of our adult volunteers.

Many of these now have six years of service behind them, and a lot of experience to help lead and run activities. We are also very grateful for new additions to the team – it has been good to see Briony Bailey and Ben Croucher join the team moving from young leaders to adult volunteers. We were also delighted to welcome Lynda Fulford and Kristy Chow to give some much-needed craft inspiration to the club. All

of our volunteers need to be reference and DBS checked and on the first week of term we always try to offer a volunteer briefing and training session. In February 2018, 12 volunteers also attended an excellent training called 'How to Motivate and Mentor Young People'. Run by Ruth Bradbrook at 'Developing Youth Practice' we gained terrific insight into this topic, including lots of practical tips to develop rapport and relationships with young people together with understanding motivation, encouraging change and raising aspirations.

Governance

MTV Youth became a charity in its own right in July 2014 and has a Board of Trustees which meets termly to monitor and direct the progress of the club. This year we have added to the Trustees welcoming Ben Lovell (now Chair) and Mamta Khanna (former Community Links Work for Richmond Council) who work alongside Derek, Nigel, Norma, Chris, Holger and Carolina.

The Governance group's main focus this year (in addition to the usual running of the club) has been trying to secure a permanent venue for the club and negotiations are now at an advanced stage with Richmond Council to negotiate a lease to rent the bungalow (the caretaker's house) adjacent to the school site. The house would be used for club night, for other MTV sessions and by other community users too.

Negotiations and work has involved planning permission and negotiating a lease (with option to buy) that balances the present condition of the property against the value of the site for development.

Once this is secured a good deal of essential repairs will be needed to make the property safe and useable. Once the work is done and the club is using the site the club will be paying 'near-market' rent

YMCA

The YMCA continue to manage the paid staff, the budget and offer professional support and expertise. The club is run by the Senior Management team consisting of Penny and Nick supported by the YMCA (now Trevor Swaby, Area Manager, Youth). Trevor is now also running Hampton Youth Project, and this provides an excellent opportunity for collaborative work with the youth provision in Hampton.

Fundraising Group.

Carolina has now taken over leading the fundraising group.

Dates in the diary include the Family Games Evening scheduled for 21 April and a Car wash at Hampton Methodist Church on 12 May

The Supporters Club continues to be a vital support for the club and thanks are given to everyone who has contributed. Anyone in the local community is encouraged to make a financial contribution to help sustain the future of the club and give it some stability. We would really like to encourage people to make a monthly contribution if possible. We have been sending out on at least termly newsletter to our supporters to keep them updated of progress at the club. The majority of the club's funding comes from a grant from the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity, but this is supplemented by the rest of the fundraising initiatives.

Penny Dimond

10 St Mary's Hampton CE Primary School

The school continues to thrive. There are 145 children registered across 5 classes. We will be recruiting another teacher in preparation for September when we will take in our next Reception class, and our present year 4 become year 5.

In April 2017 we were very pleased to welcome Mr Matt White as our new Head teacher. He had time to settle in and get to know the children and his staff, before our previously Acting Head teacher (our Deputy Head) started maternity leave, giving birth to a beautiful boy. In September we welcomed two new members of staff. As the academic year progressed, the school employed two new Teaching Assistants. We welcomed our new vicar, Ben Lovell, to the Governing Board and recently, Kel Razza as a

PCC representative. Other Church members have renewed their appointments for further terms of office.

There have been many achievements by the children and we are proud to be able to say that in their end of Key stage 1 SATs (National Standard Attainment Tests), the children once again surpassed the average for other Richmond upon Thames schools. The academic achievements that our children attain are largely due to their interest and motivation, the teachers' dedication to the children's learning and to the partnership of the children's parents and volunteers.

It is not only the academic side of the children's life for which the school can be proud. In March 2017 the school had its SIAMS Inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). The judgement given was 'Outstanding', acknowledging the children's biblical and moral learning; their behaviour; the whole school ethos; the staff's extra care and assurance of each child's wellbeing; their help in developing emotional intelligence, as well as encouraging each child's sense of the life that Jesus lived and helping them to grow in their relationship with Him. This year, Ben and Matt, prepared a special contemplative Easter activity for the children, helped by volunteers from the Church. Such spiritual activities make the school a very special place for children. We look forward to further Ben and Matt initiatives.

The Head teacher has also developed the school mission statement: 'Learning, belonging and growing together in mind, body and spirit, with Jesus by our side.' Over the year there have been many sporting activities in which the children have taken part - and excelled. The children recently took part in the annual Borough - wide singing activity. Other children have participated in local events such as visiting the nearby Care Home to sing at Christmas time and helped host a lunch for members of the community. The school has gained a bronze award for 'Healthy Schools', a London wide initiative set up to improve children's awareness and practice of healthy living and wellbeing in all aspects of their lives. We can be very proud of them all.

The children have been out and about on school visits, all connected with areas of the curriculum. The first residential activity planned for year 4 took place in the autumn. It was another milestone for the school, children and parents alike. We are pleased to report that children from St Mary's School are often congratulated on their behaviour in public places. The children participate in an impressive variety of after school clubs, organised by the school. Unfortunately, increasing demands on the budget caused by government and local authority restrictions mean that the governors have reluctantly decided to request an annual contribution from parents to support the maintenance and development of the school building.

Members of this church are represented on the school staff, whilst other people from St Mary's volunteer at school, giving time, sharing their skills and valuable expertise. The school is well supported by church members at the seasonal fairs run by the very active PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association) and parents, friends and members of St Mary's continue to pray for the school on a regular basis. It is good that so many want to be part of this growing team, to which the Governors and staff want to express their grateful thanks. Do take time to look at the school's website:
www.stmary'shamptonschool.org.uk.

Yvonne Lincoln, Revd Alan Jackson

11 Safeguarding for Children, Young People and Adults at Risk

Ben and I completed the Diocese safeguarding self-audit & identified a number of areas that we needed to tighten up on. As most will have seen we have changed the registration process for Mini-COSMOS and COSMOS on Sundays. This is still evolving, and we will see if this can be rolled out to other events we do. We are looking to run an emergency first aid course for all leaders and helpers of all groups we have.

We have appointed Children and Vulnerable Adults Champions, Mary Collins and Yvonne Lincoln respectively. Yvonne also agreed to become the deputy church welfare officer.

A key area where we are lacking in is risk assessments – we really need an assessment for all activities we do. There are some generic ones for Sunday services, but any event done under the banner of St Mary's should have a risk assessment. The forms and guide lines are available from the office or me.

More and more we live in a society that places a premium on keeping everyone safe. Being a church open to all can make this difficult, as we want everyone to be able to participate or support whatever we do in the love and fellowship of Jesus. We all have a duty of care to each other and as I have said before *everyone* is a safeguarder, not just me. No procedure can protect against every eventuality, but we must do our utmost to keep everyone safeguarded as far as possible. Safeguarding is common sense most of the time, however, we have to be aware of what is appropriate and what is not. Please take time to read our safeguarding policy, which is on the website, & feel free to contact me, Yvonne or Ben.

Nally Fernando

safeguarding@hampton-church.org.uk

12 Oasis

Oasis meets in the Church Hall every Monday afternoon in term time from 1.30 – 3.00. It's a group for babies and toddlers (0 – 4+) with their mum, dad or grandparent. We lay out the hall with toys for all the ages, a home corner, craft table and a friendly base for mums with young babies. Really important is the 'café' which is available throughout the afternoon with tea, coffee, biscuits and sometimes cake or other treats. We end the afternoon with a story and action songs before finishing with our 'goodbye' song.

Our purpose is to provide a relaxing afternoon for the carer and a fun place for babies and toddlers where they are safe to play and explore. It's good for carers to have people just to talk to, or to share anxieties and achievements with each other and the leaders. The group is run by members of our church – Mary, Hilary, Barbara Orr and Maureen. Didie or Cherie are behind the counter with a friendly face and welcome drinks. All the leaders are from our church and we pray that the love we have for God is reflected in all we say and do.

This year our numbers have fluctuated between 10 – 20. We have sadly had to say goodbye to two families who have moved house and we miss the mums who have returned to work after maternity leave. We are looking forward to the birth of two new babies in May – always exciting for the family and for us too!

We have space for newcomers so please share with anyone you know – a young parent or a grandparent with a child. We are known for being a relaxed, friendly and purposeful group where all are welcome.

We love our Monday afternoons at Oasis but the leaders are in their 60's and 70's!! It would be wonderful if a younger person could be involved as a helper/leader. Maybe you could ask God if this is an opportunity for you! You would be very welcome to come on a Monday afternoon to visit us and explore this opportunity.

Mary Collins

13 First Steps: Baby/Toddler Service

First Steps is our mid-week service for babies, toddlers and preschool children accompanied by their grown-ups. We have lots of lively songs, a Bible story, a craft activity, and refreshments (for both kids and adults). It is age-appropriate for the tiniest children and is lots of fun!

I took over leading First Steps from Sam Waako in December 2017. He had done a great job of leading First Steps throughout the vacancy and beyond with the help of a wonderful team of volunteers. The team are so passionate to see young children experience the love and presence of God through our worship and welcome. It is inspiring to work with them!

At the end of November, we held a First Steps Christmas Service and invited local nurseries and parents/grandparents to bring young children along to celebrate Christmas at St Mary's Church. The

North Aisle was packed with children and grown-ups - 63 kids and 42 adults... 105 people in total! We had a lot of fun singing Christmas songs, sharing the Christmas story, making a beautiful Nativity stained-glass window using tissue paper, and enjoying yummy Christmas biscuits. A number of parents told us that they appreciated having a service aimed particularly at this very young age-group.

We ran a similar service for Easter which was also well attended. The children were really engaged and asked lots of great questions about the Easter story. The theme was 'Happy News - Jesus is Alive' and it was great to share this wonderful news using songs, crafts, Easter objects, and hot cross buns. One of the nurseries told me later that the children were going around spotting crosses (also known as the letter 't') for the rest of the week! Another parent stopped me in the street to say that her daughter had come home from nursery telling her all about the fun they had at church.

First Steps has run on alternating Wednesday mornings for a number of years. However, at a recent team meeting we identified this alternating pattern as problematic for parents who want to find regular activities to do with their young children. So, we have decided to start holding First Steps every Wednesday 10-11am (during school term times) from 25th April. We will also be re-branding First Steps and advertising locally. After the success of the Christmas and Easter services, we will be holding another special service for Harvest and repeating the other seasonal services. We look forward to welcoming new children and their carers, as well as seeing our current members continue to grow and take their first steps in faith.

Cara Lovell

14 COSMOS and Mini-COSMOS

Children's work at St Mary's Church continues to grow, that is, if we are to go by the number of families and children that attend Church every Sunday and also other one off activities/events. On average, statistics will show that whereas we had between 5 to 10 children in Mini-Cosmos and at least another 5 to 8 in Cosmos between 2015 and 2017, currently, we have between 10 to 20 and 10 to 15 children regularly attending Mini – COSMOS and COSMOS respectively.

As a result, we have had to 'recruit more volunteers' to join the kids work team, who have been amazing thus far. But, we still need more volunteers, especially people willing to lead group sessions. Of course, this calls for more kids work training for all our current helpers/leaders and for those who hopefully will be joining the team. I suggest a summer or after summer training to be an essential requirement.

Am also happy to report back that the electronic children's registration system that we started trialling towards the end of last year seems to be picking up good pace and has been welcomed by the children, the parents and the leaders. Of course, it's had its teething problems, like slow internet, some children (especially younger ones) registering but at times not actually attending the groups, the fact that majority leaders/helpers do not know how to go about electronic registration is a problem and a few other 'small problem's.' But, over all, it's been a success and we will continue registering children, on Sunday and during midweek groups while combining it with hard copy registration, for now.

As I come towards the end of my time with St Mary's, as the children and families work leader, I just want to say, myself and my family have had a very blessed four years now since we have been here. I have seen God bless Children and families work ministry (among other ministries) and I trust we leave this ministry in a better place and we also believe it's going to continue growing and growing by the grace of God. I can't thank all the volunteers enough, they have made my work so simple, the best team I have ever worked with, I will forever be grateful.

Lastly, one thing we had started during my tenure was a mid-week children's group, which started very well but 'run out of steam' (for a number of reasons) after just over a year. The aim of the group was to be a discipleship tool for our COSMOS and Min-COSMOS kids, but also be an evangelistic tool for those kids that didn't attend Church but were willing to attend a Church after School Club. I bring this up now

because I believe the Church is in a better place now to start thinking of running something like this for our children, especially as a 'follow' up from our one off activities like the holiday club, the light party, the Christingle party and so on – Messy Church is another thought. Something to think and pray about.

Samuel Waako

15 FAB (faith and believing) - young people (11+)

Sunday FAB

Since my appointment we have had three Sunday FAB sessions on 26th February 18th March and 8th April. We had 4 young people on the 26th, 10 young people (increased number due to attendance at Abigail's baptism) on the 18th and 5 young people on the 8th. The aim of these sessions has been to come alongside the young people, hear about why they come or don't come to FAB and their hopes and dreams for it moving forward. All the sessions have gone well. The sporadic nature of FAB meetings has been due to the large amount of joint services that have taken place recently. From 8th April to 15th July FAB will run every week starting at the new time of 10.45am.

Socials

In addition to the FAB sessions we have also had a trip to an Escape Room in London which 8 young people attended on Saturday 17th March. The trip was a success and I've had some really positive feedback. Other trips are being planned to occur in June and July. The aim of the trips is to have fun and encourage a real bond within the group which is very diverse in its age range.

Youth Alpha

We will be starting Youth Alpha on Sunday 22nd April which will run for 13 consecutive weeks at the new start time of 10.45am coming back in time for Holy Communion.

Soul Survivor

We are hoping to take a group of young people to the Saturday celebration in St Alban's Abbey on 19th May. We may also take a group to Soul Survivor Watford on Saturday 16th June.

Mentoring

For those young people who are interested there is the offer of one to one mentoring. Initially these sessions will very much be about developing relationship with the young people and encouraging their personal development through active goal setting. One to one discipleship will be available to those who are willing and ready.

Volunteers and Parents

I met with both parents and volunteers on Thursday 15th March to discuss the plan for FAB moving forward. The meeting was very productive. The next parent/volunteer meeting is scheduled for 5th July. I am very keen to hear from anyone who is interested in joining the team as a volunteer so please let me know if you would like to come along and check it out for yourself.

Nick Neilan

16 Alpha

Alpha is an 8-week course looking at the basics of Christianity. It is a safe and friendly place to discuss and ask questions about faith. We have guests who have been Christians for years who want to 'return to basics', others who have been coming to church but aren't sure what they believe, and those who have never been to church and don't believe at all...and everything in between!

Penny Cavan kindly agreed to lead a daytime Alpha on every other Wednesday from Spring 2017 onwards. This particularly appealed to mums who were bringing their young children to First Steps on the alternating Wednesdays. Some lovely volunteers looked after the children and made sure that tea, coffee and snacks were available each week. At the end of Alpha, the group were keen to continue exploring

what a life lived with Jesus looks like, so I co-lead a 6 session follow-on course looking at how we pray. It's likely that this group will develop into a new homegroup in the future.

Ben ran an evening Alpha from October and I led another evening Alpha from January. Both have met in the main church and have been well-attended by a mixture of people from inside and outside the church. We have used the new Alpha film series which uses a magazine-style format to explore topics such as 'Is there more to life than this?' and 'Who is Jesus?' A number of people have commented that they have appreciated how the new films bring a range of interesting perspectives and experiences from across the world. Before the film we enjoy a meal together (thank you to all those who have prepared these tasty dishes!) and after the film we have a discussion over coffee.

We are going to be running another evening Alpha on Monday nights from 14th May. Please come along...or even better, think of who you'd like to invite to come along with you!

Cara Lovell

17 Choir and Organ

In the year in which we have been delighted to welcome our new vicar to Hampton, the choir and organ have been busy. Last Easter, we had just sung Fauré's Requiem, accompanied by Nat Keiller at the organ and had all the funding in place for major repair works to the organ.

Shortly after Ben's induction, the organ was de-commissioned for a period of seven weeks from early July for repair works undertaken by Mander Organs of Bethnal Green. It was back absolutely on schedule on 25 August in time for the choir restarting and several weddings in September and a celebratory Choral evensong and mini organ recital given by Nat and myself on 17 September. The repair works were principally to remove, rebuild with all new leather, and reinstall the massive wind reservoir that had been in place for nearly 120 years and was leaking badly despite many repairs over the decades. All other major leather work (stop motors and concussion valves) was also replaced. Due to the generosity of donors, we were also able to recondition the keyboards and install a completely new and significantly enhanced electronic 'transmission and capture' system that takes the signal from the keys, pedals and stops to the pipes. Amongst other things, this includes fully programmable pistons and stepper, which permit for much more artistic expression in choice of stops within a piece.

We had a number of 'teething problems' with the repair work in the first couple of months, impacting on the mini-recital in particular, although the Choral Evensong, including Parry's 'I was Glad' was majestic and seemed barely affected. Shortly after, the problems, principally associated with the interface between new and old elements, were resolved and since then the organ has behaved magnificently. There will likely be further repair work to do, over perhaps the next decade, to the pipe work and sound boards, which would not have made sense prior to possible works to the inside of the building. But it is wonderful to have pretty much everything in full working order.

Loss of the organ for seven weeks and a late Easter meant just one Full Choral Evensong in the summer, but we made up with three in the Autumn: the Celebration of the organ's return, a Celebration of 500 years since Luther's posting his 95 theses that kicked off the reformation in Northern Europe, and the now established Advent Carol Service.

The traditional Carols by Candlelight was a great success including new anthems (Will Todd and Cecilia McDowall) as well as some wonderful old favourites (In Dulci Jubilo – Pearsall and Quelle est cette odeur? arr. Willcocks) and the traditional carols.

The year concluded with a moving service meditating on Jesus' redeeming act on the cross, singing Stainer's Crucifixion on Palm Sunday evening, again accompanied by the organ.

A wonderful first this year has been to benefit from the full participation of our organ scholar: Agnes Miles, who has progressed her organ playing so well and contributed so much to our music and

community. We will fairly soon be wishing her well as she goes off to study music at college and to a Cathedral organ scholarship. We very much hope that it will be possible to find another organ scholar to help enrich our worship and benefit from working with us and playing such a fine organ.

Numbers in the choir are a little down, although the quality remains as high as ever. We should be very pleased to welcome new singers (aged eight and above) to help us lead God's praises week by week and develop their singing and musical capabilities.

David Pimm

18 Worship Ministry Team

This year has been a great year for the Worship Team. We have been blessed with the addition of Miriam and Tim as worship leaders; we're delighted that they are able to share their God-given gifts with us and that the team of worship leaders has now grown.

We currently have 21 active members of the Worship Team whose commitment and passion enables us to support the musical worship every week at I Iam. We are incredibly grateful for the time given by all of those involved. Recently we were joined by Callum who adds beautifully to our worship on violin, and the backing vocal section has grown substantially with the addition of Nally, and Mel and Ben Stancliffe

We continue to evaluate our song list and regularly add new songs to our repertoire. We aim to reflect the movement happening in the church and we are delighted to see how the Holy Spirit has been working through music this season.

In the coming year we are excited by the opportunity to provide worship in a new way over Christmas in the form of a new Contemporary Carols Service planned for this December.

Finally, with a change in Vicar has come a shift in the structure and leadership of our team. Following the last PCC meeting Jenny and John have been formally appointed as Worship Pastors with primary responsibility for developing the I Iam musical worship in line with God's vision for St Mary's, whilst continuing to work closely with the team of worship leaders. This is particularly important as we look ahead to the needs of the congregation plant to St Mary's School and Jenny and John will be working closely with Ben to ensure that the needs of both sites can be met.

Jenny and John Winterburn

19 Friends of St Mary's

After spending £7,600 on pew cushions in the previous year 2017 was less adventurous as we built up our reserves. During the year we helped raise funds for the church by running a stall at the Fete and the Fayre and a very successful Coffee Morning. We also opened the church on the third Sunday of the summer months providing tea and guided tours for visitors. The main event of the year was the Friends Open Afternoon in September when an illustrated talk on the history of the organ was given. This was a prelude to the celebrations for the refurbishment of the church organ. We celebrated the arrival of the new Vicar (and new President of the Friends) in June by hoisting a new pennant on the flagpole.

Sadly during the year Wendy Rhys, a committee member and a previous chair, died. Her enthusiasm for the church and her practical help will be sorely missed.

Nigel Francis

20 Men's Breakfast

A Men's Breakfast is held every other month and is open to all men in the congregation. Currently we have about 20 reasonably regular breakfasters who enjoy a full English breakfast and use the occasion to get to know one another better. 2017 did not get off to a good start as we had to cancel our January meeting because there was no heating in the Hall but otherwise the programme ran as per usual. We

made the posies for Mothering Sunday at our March meeting and helped with the churchyard clear-up after our December breakfast. We also had good discussions after interesting introductions by Ben in July, and in September by David Stancliffe. Our thanks also go to the two cooking teams, one provided by the ladies and the other by the men, who always manage to provide an excellent meal.

Nigel Francis

21 Women's Breakfast

We had an average of 40 women coming to the breakfasts this session. We had a fascinating talk from Sam Waako, our Children's Worker, with slides to show us the village in Uganda where he grew up. He also told us about his Christian journey.

We also had a very interesting talk from Matt. White, the head of St. Marys School, about his life, his journey to faith and how he came to be head of our school.

Thank you once again for the wonderful breakfasts cooked by the men, a special thank you to Martin and Nigel for all their hard work.

Pat Jackson

22 Flower Report

The flower group continues to appreciate your support with donations for flowers and for the positive response our efforts receive from you all. As coordinator I want to thank the team, Carolyn Harding, Debbie Peacock, Gentian Hodges and Maggie Revis for their splendid work over the year. We had some beautiful wedding displays over the year and the brides were more than delighted with our work. The flower festival last year, though a smaller display than previous years did show the church off to its best advantage to our Fete visitors who all thoroughly enjoyed the bridal theme. Harvest, Christmas and Easter displays captured the importance of these key times in our Church calendar and helped us all to celebrate the wonders that God provides for us.

Each team member now has their own slots for doing the arrangements which is a wonderful support to me as coordinator. We all hope you will continue to support and enjoy the fruits of our labours in the coming year.

Michael Harris

23 Hampton Deanery Synod

The year began with a joint Ascension Day service that was well attended from across the Deanery, partially aimed at marking the completion of one Deanery Synod term (of three years) and the start of another, but open to all. We will be repeating this joint activity in the coming year.

There were two other (regular business) meetings in the course of the year, one of which was held jointly with the Hounslow Deanery.

Subjects covered included:

- Deanery mapping of Church planting opportunities

- Capital Mass – presentation regarding this work focussed on helping parishes across the London to help the needy

- Appointments of lay members to Diocesan Synod and to school foundation governor

- A Rocha 'Caring for God's earth' – presentation by CEO.

There was also a meeting aimed primarily at church wardens and treasurers to discuss the Common Fund (church financial contributions to the wider Church of England).

David Pimm

24 St Mary's Drama Group (SMDG)

The past year saw a full programme of events and productions from SMDG. In April we were pleased to be 'back home' in the newly refurbished, but stage-less St Mary's Community Hall where we mounted Lesley Storm's *Black Chiffon*. Directed by Jean Wood as an 'In the Round' production it proved a great success with powerful acting and effective use of props and lighting. In May our annual performance in the Garrick's Temple was *Dashing Dalby and His Bountiful Daughter* devised by Keith Wait. Developed from 17th and 18th century historical facts and characters from St Mary's past, the performance was filled to capacity. June followed firstly with a performance in the hall by the popular 'Vamp til Ready' cabaret group then we ran the raffle at The Summer Fete. September brought a great surprise with an Arts Richmond Accolade to Jean Wood, a founder member of the SMDG, for her outstanding contributions to amateur drama in the Borough of Richmond. October saw our annual major production in Hampton Hill Theatre of *The WI Blues* by John Peel. This modern comedy was a bit of a departure from our usual style but with Jean Wood's direction it proved to be much enjoyed, especially by the local WI groups. December, we assisted with a stall at the Christmas Bazaar and we met for a Christmas meal out. Lastly in February we held our ever-popular Quiz night in the hall. This was certainly another successful year for the SMDG. However in common with many other societies it is becoming increasingly difficult to gain new members and cast new productions.

Bill Bulford

25 Fete Report

The Fete was a joyous occasion as usual with the church and wider community enjoying a sunny day in the church gardens. It was good to see so many people of all ages mixing together and having such a good time.

I am sure you join me in thanking the fete committee for all their hard work over months prior to the event ensuring it ran smoothly on the day. I must here make a plea for new volunteers to form a new committee for 2018 as I will not be available nor will a very long serving member, Sue Spraggs who wants time out after many, man years of service. It would be good if the younger leaders within our church now took the lead with fresh ideas and enthusiasm for this lovely opportunity for our church family to engage with the wider community of Hampton.

I would also like to thank any of you who volunteered to helped on stalls and games last year and encourage you to do so again this year, without this support the Fete definitely could not run.

Michael Harris

26 Teatime Fellowship

Teatime Fellowship - that is just what it is - a time of Fellowship with God and with each other starting at 2.30 pm. We are not all members of St Mary's, we vary in ages from our wonderful pianist Kathleen who is 90 and proud of it, to those who are more active. We have a varied programme and are very grateful to those who help us in so many ways - making cakes and sandwiches for our superb tea, help on the bus, and Ron and Clive Petit who help us - not least in fetching and carrying and washing up, (what it is to be tall and big and strong!). They help us in memory of their Mother who was a very regular active member so many years ago and greatly enjoyed her time with us. I know there are others who would like to be with us and while the bus can bring them there is a problem taking them home, if you could spare time to

take them home at 4.15 on the first Thursday in the month I would be very glad to hear from you - for some it would make a very valuable afternoon - thank you.

Pat Felstead

27 Christian Aid

In Christian Aid Week we raised £2,720, only marginally down on the previous year's total and the number of routes covered was 27 again slightly down. The result is a great testimony to the enthusiasm and efforts of the dedicated band who went collecting house to house come rain or shine, and 2017's Week was more rain than shine. We would dearly love to extend the coverage of the parish but to do this we need to recruit more collectors. So, if any reader is inclined to help please contact me. My thanks go to the great team of collectors, the team which counts all the proceeds and to everyone who contributed to this effort to raise money for the disadvantaged around the globe.

Nigel Francis

28 Church Bellingringing

The last year has seen another drop in bellringers. As result we do find it difficult to ring on a Sunday. Options are being discussed. We are grateful for the enthusiasm of Ben. There is some talk of repairs to the bell.

Alison M Ward

29 Parish Link

The Parish Link magazine made a profit amounting to £909 in 2017 thanks to advertisers who are keen to support the church whilst at the same time promoting their local business. This was added to the church funds. This year more advertisers have dropped out and although new businesses in Hampton have been approached, there has not been much interest. If anyone knows a friend or business that would like to advertise at a very reasonable rate, please ask them to contact me for details.

Last year the magazine was again mainly put together by Parish Office Manager Jane Holmes. Thank you to Jane who has put a lot of her own time towards the publication and thank you to everyone who has contributed some interesting articles in the past year, not forgetting Elizabeth Wait for her secretarial duties as well as Michael and Ann Fraser for counting the magazines and subsequently collating them for the volunteers to deliver. Any new ideas and contributions to the content will be gratefully received by Jane.

I would also like to thank all our volunteers who spare their time to deliver the magazine. We always need more able-bodied people who would be happy to deliver whilst enjoying the exercise at the same time! Sometimes it may only be a couple of times per year when volunteers are on holiday. Please give it a thought and contact Elizabeth in the office.

Susan Spraggs

30 Home Groups

We are fortunate to have seven Home Groups at St. Mary's.

They meet fortnightly – most in the evening and some during the day.

In September 2017 we took on responsibility for Home Groups, with a vision for:

- Creating disciples through deepening of prayerful and accountable relationships
- Identifying and meeting areas of practical need within the group and the community
- Rejuvenating personal devotional lives and passion for evangelism.

- Improving Biblical literacy and connecting scripture/preaching to everyday life
- An increased openness to - and experience of – the Holy Spirit ministering to the congregation by helping each other to identify spiritual gifts.

Our main focus and success in the past 6 months has been provision of new materials and consistent structure for Home Group leaders relating to Sunday sermons.

Home Group leaders are provided with a leader guide which gives opportunity and discussion points to explore scriptures in greater depth, with the expectation that encouraging and challenging study based on Sunday sermons will bring more cohesion to our church community, support discipleship, personal devotion and fellowship.

Having established a successful rhythm for producing these materials in collaboration with the vicar and the preaching team - and getting our leaders and Home Group attendees familiar with a new format - our focus for the rest of the year will now be on creating a sense of 'team' for the leaders.

We will build confidence to have great study discussions, to bring congregants on in their discipleship, and to taking pastoral responsibility for our Home Group members.

Our thanks go to the Home Group leaders and the ongoing support of the vicar and the PCC in establishing Home Groups as the 'norm' for a healthy church community - we particularly welcome the connection preachers can make between their sermons and 'further study' in Home Groups.

Dan and Jo Adams

31 Churches Together Around Hampton

Representatives of the leadership of the churches across Hampton meet occasionally. These provide great forums for support, discussion and generating ideas.

The Churches Together grouping have organised a hot cross bun giveaway, a songs of praise evening and the remembrance service at the war memorial cottages. There was planned an evening of discussion and debate around the theme of what it is to be a immigrant but unfortunately this was cancelled.

The effectiveness of the group has been re-vitalised by the vicar of Hampton Hill, a Rev'd Derek Winterburn, acting as secretary to the group. Churches Together in Hampton is chaired by Rev'd Vicci Davidson of the local methodist churches.

32 Book Club

A small group of enthusiastic readers meet on the first Monday of each month under the dart board in The Jolly Coopers, at 7.30pm. Members take it in turn to choose a book, which we then discuss the following month. The essence of a good book, for us, is one that promotes lots of discussion.

In general, people want to read something that they would not have selected for themselves, and this year the books have ranged from '**Flashman's Lady**', and '**Middlemarch**' to '**Northern Lights**'.

At least three books this year have been really enjoyed by everyone, which is most unusual. These are '**A Man called Ove**', '**A prayer for Owen Meaney**' and '**Conclave**'. The latter is Robert Harris's story of the selection of the next Pope, an unlikely subject for a book but a good 'page turning' yarn, and at the same time factual and interesting.

This month we were treated to Ray reading us a wonderful poem, '**Annon**', written by his undergraduate granddaughter who is studying English at Exeter University. It was excellent and when Charlotte is a published writer we will be able to say St Mary's Book Club were some of the first to read her work.

We are now reading by '**How to Stop Time**' by Matt Haig, and we will be discussing it on Monday 14th May. If anyone would like to join us, they would be made most welcome.

Barbara Stancliffe

33 Scrabble

Scrabble - do you enjoy a game of scrabble? We meet the third Thursday in the month at 2.30 - We all have different thoughts on words, whether you want to find a very academic word or the first one that comes into your head it is a very happy afternoon with tea and time to chat. Do come and join us - the newsletter will tell you which of the two venues we are meeting at.

Pat Felstead

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