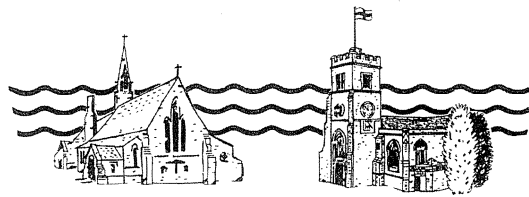


THE PARISH OF PUTNEY
St. Mary's AGM



The Parish of Putney
St Mary with All Saints

ANNUAL REPORTS
On the life of
St Mary's Church Putney

2016-2017

AGM Reports

Table of Contents

• Agenda.....	3
• Minutes of AGM – March 13th 2016 & Matters arising.....	4
• List of DCC members 2016/17.....	9
• Secretary’s report of the DCC proceedings.....	10
• Electoral Roll.....	10
• Financial Report.....	10
• Report on Giving.....	12
• Report from Church Wardens.....	13
• Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.....	14
• Buildings and Maintenance committee.....	14
• Community Activities in the Brewer building and St. Mary’s church.....	14
• Safeguarding.....	16
• Children in the Parish:	
Sunday school groups.....	16
St Mary’s Sunday Creche Review.....	17
Godly Play.....	18
St. Mary’s Play group.....	19
Youth groups.....	19
• Parish Action Group.....	20
• Pastoral Care Group.....	23
• Supper Circle.....	24
• Social Activities.....	24
• Ale Mary.....	24
• Every Little Helps Stall.....	25
• Flowers.....	25
• Bell Ringing.....	26
• Sides-persons and welcomers.....	27
• Servers.....	28
• Chalice Assistants.....	28
• Music.....	29
• Breathing Space: Christian Mindfulness.....	29
• Report from St. Mary’s Church School.....	30
• Putney Debates.....	31
• Parish Magazine.....	31
• Social Media.....	31
• Theology in the Pub.....	32
• Pastoral Assistant.....	32
• Curate’s report.....	33
• Charge 2017.....	34

THE PARISH OF PUTNEY

St. Mary's Church

Sunday 19th March 2017

AGENDA

- Introductory Prayers
- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of 13th March 2016
- Elections of:
 - a) 2 District Churchwardens
 - b) 2 Assistant District Wardens
 - c) 1 Treasurer
 - d) 6 Deanery Synod Representatives for 3 year term
 - e) 2 PCC/DCC member for 3 year term
 - f) 1 PCC member for 3 year term
 - g) 2 DCC members for 3 year term

- Appointment of Sides-men and Sides-women
- Presentation of the Church Finances
- Church Reports
- AOB

APCM Meeting: Monday 24th April 2017, 7:30pm

PARISH OF PUTNEY
St. Mary's AGM
Minutes of the meeting
held on Sunday, 13th March 2016
on the life of
St Mary's Church Putney

Meeting commenced at 11.15 a.m.

Present: The Reverend Ailsa Newby (Chair), Wardens, DCC secretary, and 36 members of the Parish.

Apologies: Alexis Chapman and Rachel Brett

Minutes of AGM 16th March 2015. There were no matters arising:

Minutes approved:

Proposed by Annette Watson

Seconded by Caroline Donne

Passed unanimously.

Elections:

a) Election of District Wardens:

Two District Wardens were nominated:

Angela Attah (proposed by Paul Donnelly and seconded by Martin Watts) and Martin Watts (proposed by Paul Donnelly and seconded by Angela Attah). There were no other nominations and both were duly elected.

b) Election of Assistant District Wardens:

One Assistant District Warden was nominated: Andrew Grocott (proposed by Martin Watts and seconded by Angela Attah). Andrew Grocott was duly elected. There were no other nominations. Rev. Newby congratulated the splendid team of Wardens who keep track of the assets of the church building and stated that she feels very privileged to have them.

c) Election of Treasurer:

Andrew Sternberg was thanked by Rev. Newby for his highly valuable contribution over 8 years in looking after St. Mary's finances together with Richard Holman. Andrew Sternberg was content to be nominated to continue in this role (proposed by Paul Donnelly and seconded by Martin Watts). There were no other nominations and he was duly elected.

d) Election to Parochial and District Church Councils:

One nomination was received: Andrew Grocott (proposed by Angela Attah and seconded by Paul Donnelly). As there were no other nominations he was duly elected.

e) PCC membership:

One nomination received: Mark Leadley (proposed by Katharine Martin and seconded by Paul Donnelly). As there were no other nominations he was duly elected.

Simon Upton has reached the end of his 3-year term and has stood down. Rev Newby recorded her thanks to him for his service. Richard Holman has reached the end of his 3-year term, stood down but is content to be co-opted to remain as Treasurer.

The Rev. Newby reminded everyone that PCC and DCC meetings were open to all and those interested in becoming involved were welcome to attend.

Appointment of Sides-men and women:

The list of names can be found on pages 26 and 27 of the 2015-16 report and was duly accepted. The Rev Newby recorded her thanks to the volunteers who provide tea and coffee after services.

Electoral Roll Report:

The number of people on the Electoral Roll is currently 360.

Presentation of the Church Finances:

Andrew Sternberg (Treasurer) provided highlights from his report:

Following a historic deficit in 2011-13 he was pleased to report that looking forward to 2016 finances had stabilised with a modest surplus of £5,000 (as budgeted) including a legacy of £3,000. Planned giving is now a major source of income rising from £187,000 to £189,000 but this must increase further for the church to thrive. Investment income was slightly lower than budgeted due to a defaulting tenant. Other sources of income were the legacy, a share of Parish Action funds and rental from church lettings of just under £30,000. Major items of expenditure were the Diocesan Quota, clergy salaries, clergy housing, church maintenance and central costs. These have been closely managed and with no increase remain at approximately £800,000. This has been helped by a 40% decrease in lighting costs. In spite of Parish Office costs of £10,000 p.a (excluding staff) and increased audit costs of £29,000, there is a small surplus of £2,015. The Parish Support Fund contribution is £200,000. This is £2,000 higher than the previous Diocesan Quota and has been covered by a projected increase in direct giving from the parish from £189,000 to £192,000; similar to the increase in 2015. A rise in planned giving will be

necessary. If this can be maintained and improved we can look forward to using our financial surplus to help us fulfil our Mission Action Plan.

The Rev. Newby urged those present to ask questions to encourage ownership of church finances by the congregation. There were no questions. The Treasurer went on to thank Rev. Newby and the office team for their help. The accounts were approved: proposed by Mark Leadley and seconded by Martin Watts.

Andrew Grocott commented that use of yellow envelopes had yielded £37,000 in tax relief for the church. To keep this up it was very important that names and addresses were added to the envelopes.

Rev. Newby thanked Andrew Sternberg for his highly professional approach in managing the finances.

Church Warden's report on the Fabric of St. Mary's Church:

All aspects were said to be covered in the report. The Rev. Newby highlighted the positive role of the Café staff in welcoming people into the building.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:

Confirmations, admissions to communion, weddings and funerals were as reported. The Rev. Newby commented on the growing pattern of adult baptism.

Buildings and Maintenance:

The report was taken as read. There will be a Maintenance Day on 16th April. Caroline Donne asked how carpets might be cleaned and was advised Berni Griffiths could help. Rosemary Hadfield asked a question on containing noise particularly for those using hearing aids in certain areas of the church. Richard Holman said that we would continue to explore ways of doing this. Andrew Simon volunteered to look for examples of other buildings where this problem had been overcome. In response to her second question Martin Watts confirmed that the choir lights would be installed in 8 weeks.

Safeguarding:

This has been overseen by Isobel Vass and Libbit Osborne.

Crèche:

A report was received from Sophie Holdcroft. The Rev. Newby thanked all the volunteers involved with the crèche.

Godly Play:

A comprehensive report was taken as read. Two training days, partially funded by the Diocese, have attracted people from other parishes. The model will be rolled out to educational establishments within and beyond the parish.

Sunday School:

This continues to go well with regular training sessions for the large team of volunteers with the next session in June.

St. Mary's Playgroup: A full report was provided by Nellie Pearce-Higgins. The Group continues to grow in popularity.

Youth Groups: An in depth report was provided by Tom Dumbell. We are working in partnership with All Saints, Fulham who like our Arch as a venue.

Parish Action: Zoe Sherbrooke, as Chairwoman, provided a very comprehensive report and Rev. Newby commended their excellent work with charities. Over £70,000 was raised in 2015.

Pastoral Care Group:

A report was provided by Isobel Vass. They would be very happy to recruit more helpers.

Supper Circle: A report was provided by Amber Raine.

Every Little Helps Stall: Celia Blake provided a report of their activities and the Rev. Newby commented that it was wonderful that it was still carrying on.

Flowers: Hayley Argles-Grant will moving on from this team as she is starting her training for ordination. More volunteers would be welcome.

Ringing Report: A report was received from Paula Greenwood. New volunteers would be very welcome.

Servers:

There are 36 servers, adults and children. Rev. Newby thanked the team for their contribution to services. A 'best practice' exchange in leading intercessions and lesson reading is to be arranged.

Chalice Assistants:

17 people serve as Chalice Assistants. The Rev. Newby commented that it was good to have so many people contributing to this valuable role.

St. Mary's Music:

Report by Travis Baker was taken as read. Rev. Newby congratulated him on the very high standard of both choirs which are going from strength to strength. She also recorded her thanks to the organist's team and Helen Bradshaw who takes over in Travis's absence. Five young people have been entered for singing exams and an ensemble for teenagers set up. People were urged to join as an inability to read music was not a barrier and it was very good fun.

Breathing Space: Jane Morley and Kate Hampton are leading this group which prayerfully uses mindfulness techniques to become centred and still holding a scriptural verse in mind.

St. Mary's Church of England school;

Report by Sally McGeachie, Chair of Governors. Rev. Newby reported that all continues to go well.

Putney Debates:

A report by Sue Rolfe was taken as read.

Parish Magazine:

A report by Silvia Macchia was taken as read

Church Mouse:

All agreed that it was an excellent communication tool and the Rev. Newby encouraged everyone to sign up.

CHARGE 2015:

The Rev. Newby emphasised how much we had to be grateful for within our wonderful church community. She urged everyone not to be complacent as we are required by God to grow. Martin Watts thanked the Rev. Newby for doing a fantastic job in driving forward a vision for the church, setting challenging goals and her dedication on a personal level to those in need in the parish over the past year.

Any other Business:

The Rev. Newby announced that

- 1) Bishop Richard would ordain Laura Fawcett on 25th September at St Mary's.
- 2) Revd Nick Todd, a serving Army Chaplain, would be joining the preaching rota.
- 3) The AGM of the Parish would take place on 25th April 2016.

Rosemary Hadfield commended the recent Women's World Day of Prayer and urged people to attend next year.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 12.10 p.m.

ST MARY'S DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL 2016-2017

Ex-Officio Members

Clergy

Reverend Ailsa Newby

Churchwarden

Paul Donnelly

District wardens

Angela Attah

Martin Watts

Assistant District wardens

Andrew Grocott

(Assistant District Wardens do not sit on the DCC *ex officio* but can, if elected separately, do so)

Elected Members

Deanery Synod Representatives (one of 4 to sit on DCC *ex officio*)

Andrew Simon (Resigned 18th July as moving away)

Gerald Allison

Kate Gibson

Carrie Myers

Treasurer

Andrew Sternberg

Lay Members elected to serve on DCC

Michael Bull

Annette Watson

Charles Roberts

Peter Land

Sally Holdsworth-Hunt

Lay Members elected to serve on both DCC and PCC

Andrew Grocott

Pamela Smith

Rachel Brett

Lay Members elected to serve on PCC alone

Mark Leadley

Sarah Brearley

Julian Lee

St. Mary's District Church Council

The Council continues to meet bi-monthly to discuss matters relating to the running of the church including the maintenance and upkeep of the building. Regular reviews of church finances and income generation have occurred with a greater emphasis on giving.

As part of building the community a number of events including a 90th Birthday Party for the Queen has taken place and fresh steps have been taken to strengthen the welcome in church.

Other issues discussed included staffing, technology to support activities and our policy on legacies.

Pamela Smith
Secretary

St. Mary's Church Electoral Roll

As of 28th February 2016 the number of people on the Electoral Roll for St Mary's Church is currently 389.

The current Electoral Roll list is being revised until April 9th April 2017. Members are requested to update/revise the display copy in the church during this period. Those members of the congregation who are not on the Electoral Roll are invited to complete the necessary forms if they wish to be included.

The updated / revised Electoral Roll numbers will be reported to and ratified at the APCM at the end of April 2017.

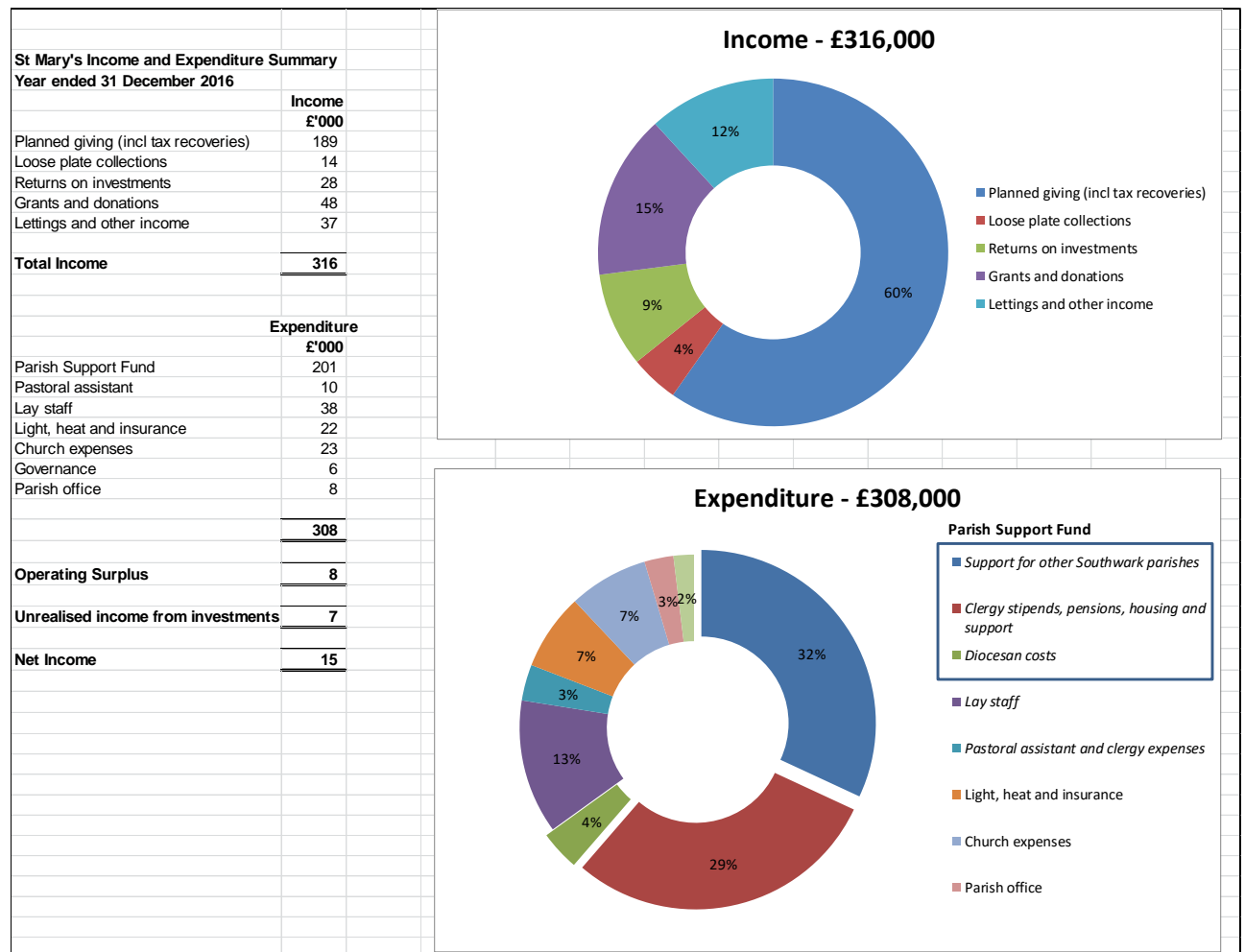
Angela Holman
Electoral Roll Officer

Financial Report

The highlights are:

- **Total net income for the year is £15,000. This is after recording an unrealised gain on investments of £7,000. Before this gain, the operating surplus was £8,000.**
- **This £8,000 operating surplus is ahead of both budget and last year and continues the improvements made in recent years.**
- **The £8,000 operating surplus is c3% of the total expenditure. We cannot be complacent.**
- **Although the last three years have all seen modest surpluses, historically St Mary's Church has an accumulated deficit of £128,000.**

Summary income and expenditure account



Income

Planned giving via standing orders has increased by £2,000 (1%) to £189,000. The planned giving report provides further details on this.

Income from investments includes net rental from two Putney based properties and dividends from a fixed income fund.

Grants and donations is income from the Brewer Trust, in which the church has a beneficial interest, donations from various Parish activities and the ground rent payable by the Brewer Building.

Lettings and other income is the rental income from letting out the Church for various community based activities and fees retained by St Mary's to cover the costs of weddings and funerals.

Expenditure

The biggest expenditure is £201,000 Parish Support Fund (“PSF”) payable to the diocese of Southwark. In return, Southwark funds the c£90,000 costs of all our clergy, including ongoing ministry training and support. As one of the financially wealthier parishes within the diocese, we have also pledged to provide financial support to our less well-endowed fellow parishes. This means the diocese can put clergy in the places where they are needed most.

The “direct” costs of running the Church were £107,000 last year. This includes the employment costs of all the staff who provide invaluable support to Ailsa and her team and ensures that the Church continues to serve the community.

Operating surplus

We recorded a surplus of £8,000 in 2016. This is less than 3% of our total income and means that we must continue to focus on stewardship through 2017 if we want to further God’s work within St Mary’s.

Five-year track record

St Mary's (deficit) / surplus five-year track record							
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Operating surplus / deficit	(28)	(31)	2	5	8		
Unrealisable gains / losses on investments	-	8	2	-	7		
Net (loss) / income	(28)	(23)	4	5	15		
Accumulated deficit	(129)	(152)	(148)	(143)	(128)		

This accumulated deficit is funded by surpluses built up historically within the wider Parish of Putney.

Andrew Sternberg
Treasurer

Report on Giving for 2016

St Mary’s receives a high proportion of its income through regular standing order giving by the congregation, with recovery of tax under the Gift Aid scheme wherever possible. Gift Aid adds 25% to the value of all qualifying donations.

Standing Order giving in 2016 showed a very small increase on 2015:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Regular Giving</i>	<i>Tax recovery</i>	<i>Total</i>
2016	150,464	37,709	188,173
2015	149,253	37,445	186,698
Increase	1,211	264	1,475
	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%

The giving figures exclude contributions made in the collection plate. The tax recovery in both years includes yellow envelopes (donations: £7,008 - tax recovered: £1,752) and £1,250 reclaimed under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme. The number of regular givers at 31st December 2016 was 217 (2015: 208).

Richard Holman

Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric of St Mary's Church

Once again, we are happy to report that St Mary's Church and buildings are in very good condition. However, like painting the Forth Bridge, work never stops. The lift constantly demands attention and warnings are in place asking people not to overload it. We never know what surprises are in store. The Maintenance Committee does a splendid job and we are extremely grateful to all those involved. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team. New recruits for this important work are always welcome. The Church looks good 365 days a year thanks to the tireless efforts of a wide group of people. The flower arrangers, to name but one group, delight the congregation every week with their floral flair.

The Brewer Building is a popular choice for functions and local groups. Premises Manager Berni Griffiths does an excellent job in marketing its many and varied facilities. A wide range of groups use the premises. This brings in much needed revenue and helps with the general upkeep. The Godly Play area continues to be utilised very well. Local schools and others within the Diocese make regular use of this very special place.

'The Putney Pantry' continues to be run with gusto by Issa Cissokho. The restaurant's reputation for delicious food and a friendly atmosphere is well known in the area and it shows. As well as being a popular meeting place for people of all ages and interests, the restaurant fulfils an important social function within the precincts of the Church.

2017 is the sixth year of the Parish of Putney helping London's homeless. Every Monday evening since early January the Lancaster Room has been put to very good use. A team of volunteers from the parish, ably led by Clemancy Gordon-Martin, have provided around 35 - 40 homeless men and women with a hearty 3-course meal and a place to sleep. The project is under the auspices of Glass Door, a charity that helps the homeless in West London and is a resounding success.

The Archdeacon's Visitation (annual church inspection) takes place in April. We are confident that St Mary's will, once again, come through with flying colours. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all who help this happen, year after year.

Angela Attah, Martin Watts & Paul Donnelly

Baptisms, weddings, funerals and confirmations

Baptisms: 20 children under the age of 1 year, 5 children between the ages of 1 and 4 years, and one child between the ages of 5 and 12 years were baptised at St Mary's in 2016; 3 adults over the age of 13 from the parish were baptised at the Confirmation service in St Mary's Merton.

Confirmations: 6 adults from the parish were confirmed at St Mary's Merton.

Admission to Communion: 25 children were admitted to Communion.

Banns of Marriage: 45 couples had their banns read at St Mary's prior to being married elsewhere.

Weddings: 4 couples were married at St Mary's, and one couple had a service of blessing after their civil marriage.

Funerals: there were 5 funerals in St Mary's Church in 2016. 7 funerals were conducted at a crematorium. 7 memorial services were conducted in St Mary's.

Sophy Jubb, February 2017

Buildings and Maintenance Committee report

During the past 12 months the Buildings and Maintenance Committee has met on a quarterly basis to discuss issues of regular maintenance and ad hoc repairs as they have arisen. A focus has been on reducing our energy consumption through the use of LED bulbs internally and above all the replacement of high energy consumption external flood-lights. Substantive repairs were necessary in Q4 2016 to the roof of the Brewer Building to remedy persistent water penetration which appear to have been successful. There have been repeated problems with blockages occurring in the drains due to "fat-bergs" which have been expensive to remedy. There is no long-term permanent solution but six monthly checks are now being instigated and where these indicate the system needs flushing-out this will be actioned. The committee organises half-day working parties to carry-out routine maintenance and deep-cleaning as needs dictate, most recently repairing and re-glazing the damaged north facing stain glass windows. The committee welcomes participation in any of its activities by all parishioners. We are particularly keen to promote increased gender-diversity amongst our membership.

Martin Watts and Berni Griffiths

Report on the community activities in the Brewer Building and St. Mary's Church in 2016

In addition to the regular services, weddings & baptisms, 2016 has once again seen a variety of organisations and individuals making use of the various meeting rooms, the Putney Pantry and the Arches under the bridge.

The Brewer Building is used by a variety of 'community groups' such as: National Childbirth Trust, The Putney Society, Diocesan Safeguarding meetings, Wandsworth Police and once again this year we were a 'hub venue' for the Wandsworth Arts Festival. The year has seen the addition and development of the First Class Learning tutorial classes and the Little Voices drama classes continue to grow, we also host the English National Ballet School junior groups and Dance Grooves street dance.

There are a variety of well-being offers from various Pilates, Yoga and Boxing Exercise classes, we have counselling sessions and language courses, musical and artistic expression groups for babies and toddlers.

The Church space is also occasionally used for hosting larger local council and political gatherings, hustings, planning presentations and consultation events. This year there has been an increase in the number of musical events and concerts in the Church with a diverse program ranging from the Fulham Camerata to the South London Jazz Orchestra.

The Wandsworth Symphony Orchestra continue to rehearse every Wednesday night and perform their summer concert and a charity carol event, this year the WSO donated the proceeds from their Christmas Concert to Parish Action raising over £350 for the Save the Children Syrian Refugee appeal. We also received donations from the Hurlingham School Christmas Concerts of more than £1,500 a portion of which will also go to Parish Action. The entire Church space and Brewer Building were once again successfully used for the Parish Ball and Christmas Fair also raising significant funds for Parish Action.

Busy Bees Nursery School continues to operate at full capacity from the Brewer Building space behind the Church, making use of the Library and Cromwell Room for their extra classes, they also have a dedicated playground area in the Church Garden which they allow us to use for special events such as Boat Race day.

The Glassdoor Night Shelter had another successful season with 50 guests for dinner and 35 homeless men and women sleeping over in the Cromwell Room and Lancaster Hall on Monday nights from November through to Easter.

The Church is open all day, seven days a week and making good use of the extensive facilities for the benefit of the congregation and the wider community, with the Brewer Building generating over £90,000 and the Church building more than £45,000 in rental income.

The building is a very busy and vibrant place which hosts a variety of events for people of all ages, our objective remains to keep the Church open to all visitors for peaceful prayer and quiet reflection whenever people need it.

Berni Griffiths

Safeguarding at St Mary's

Safeguarding at St Mary's church continues to have a very high priority. We are all too aware that churches with their mission of Christian love attract everyone, including those who are extremely vulnerable and others who may be agents of distress and harm.

A comprehensive file 'Safer Church' is updated regularly together with training for all Safeguarding officers. The file is the basis for our advice to all groups and organisers of groups that operates within the church building. All policies and risk assessments emanate from this e.g. safe numbers and ratios of young people to adults. Everyone from Berni, the verger, to Sunday School teachers and many other volunteers must appreciate risks and know the defined safe limits, whether numbers of young children per adult or what to do in an emergency. It is incumbent on us all to ensure that events and groups are always au fait with safeguarding rules. Accidents can and do happen and we must be impeccable in both prevention and our response if something untoward occurs.

In the general running of the church there are two Safeguarding Officers one for Vulnerable Adults (me) and one for children (Libbit Osborne). We report to Ailsa and in turn to the Diocesan Safeguarding officer at Southwark (Kate Singleton) if anything arises.

There have been no reported incidents this year. As safeguarding officers, we are encouraged not to turn a blind eye but to ask and to receive any information from people who are worried, concerned or simply curious to understand a changing situation. This may be as obvious, as a bruise on a child, or more tricky to assess - some difficult behaviour. In adults some disinhibited comments may signal someone not taking their medication. All members of St Mary's are most welcome to contact either of us with any concern. Our details are on the main notice board.

Isobel Vass

Children in the Parish:

Sunday School Groups

We have five Sunday School groups at St. Mary's, ranging in age from three year olds to thirteen year olds, and split into school year groups: Preschool, Reception/Year 1, Year 2/Year 3, Year 4/Year 5, and Junior Youth Group (10-13 years). In 2016, about 45 DBS checked volunteers (including 7 specialists in Godly Play) taught 105 Sunday School sessions to the 110 children that regularly attend Sunday School at St Mary's. It's a pleasure and privilege to work with the children and see them grow in God's love.

We would like to extend a big thanks to all our Sunday School teachers and helpers for their time, enthusiasm and dedication. They do a fantastic job and without them Sunday School won't be possible. We do, naturally, have a small turnover of our Sunday School teachers and we thank those who, after many years, have decided to step down from the role and those new recruits that have so ably stepped up: in the

last year we recruited and trained 10 new volunteers. Jessica Cooper continues to be the first contact for new volunteer Sunday School teachers, and Sally Eltringham and Hannah King, along with Ailsa, are responsible for their training and for keeping an eye on development generally. We are always on the lookout for new teachers, so please do get in touch with one of us or Ailsa if anyone is interested in finding out more.

Adrian Weed and Rachel Gilley tirelessly compile the Sunday School teaching rotas each term and distribute the teaching materials to all the teachers. Adrian has brought us into the 21st century with his IT sharing skills, which has greatly helped eased the distribution process. It's no small job and our thanks go to Adrian and Rachel for all their time and dedication.

Hannah King, Sally Eltringham and Jessica Cooper

St. Mary's Sunday Crèche Review

We run a crèche every Sunday throughout the year (including school holidays) for children aged 1-3 in the Parish.

We have a team of 21 volunteers who voluntarily fill in a rota on a quarterly basis. All of them are DBS/CRB checked and most volunteer for around 2-3 Sunday sessions every quarter.

In 2016 we made the decision to move to a DBS/CRB checked only volunteer rota which has taken some work but has ultimately been successful and has enhanced the safe-guarding in place for the children.

The crèche is run in the Clergy office (Ailsa's office) upstairs behind the lift and can easily accommodate demand for space. We have around 33 children currently under 'active' registration with the crèche of which around half attend on a regular basis.

In 2014, we introduced successfully a 'religious' aspect to proceedings. We now sing a short hymn, read a prayer and sing a closing prayer during each session. Feedback on this has been very positive.

Earlier this year, we decided to tighten the age guidelines by stipulating that all children must be 3 or over (as opposed to 'rising' 3) to move to Sunday School (from crèche), driven by the differing adult/child ratios for under 3's versus over 3's. This change has been broadly communicated with no issues feedback.

Sunday crèche has run very smoothly over the past year, we are extremely grateful to our volunteers without whom we would not be able to provide such a valuable service to the Parish. We would like to extend a huge thanks to them all.

I would also like to thank the Parish office, Julie Craig in particular, for extremely efficient work coordinating the requisite DBS/CRB checks and for keeping a register of new children/volunteers.

Sophie Holdcroft (Sunday Crèche leader) – February 2017

Godly Play Report 2016/17

WHAT IS GODLY PLAY? *"In most religious education children are told who God is. In Godly Play they discover who God is."* Godly Play is a story telling technique based on Montessori principles. A typical session will include a time to get ready, hearing/seeing a story from the Bible told using hand-crafted objects made out of natural materials, exploring the story with open questions and discussion, a response time with a free choice of activity (including craft making, building materials, reading, exploring other stories in the room, time to sit still and wonder). St Mary's Church Putney is very fortunate to have a specially designed Godly Play classroom which is situated on the first floor of the Brewer Building.

THIS YEAR we have continued to use Godly Play in Sunday Schools at St Mary's and All Saints churches and to host sessions for organisations within and beyond the parish. The classroom is also being used as a training venue by the Diocese of Southwark and Godly Play UK

SUNDAY SCHOOLS: at St Mary's church the teaching team is Ali White, Sophy Jubb, Kate Caseley, Anne Burfitt, Paula Greenwood and Caroline Donne. Laura Rose is Sacristan and she ensures that all the stories are in one piece and that the classroom is clean and well resourced. We are very keen to recruit and train new teachers. Please contact Caroline Donne via the Church Office for more details. parish.admin@btconnect.com

PREPARATION FOR FIRST COMMUNION: Godly play is used extensively in this course with parents and children. Stories used are: The Last Supper, The Good Shepherd and World Communion (children), The Synagogue and The Upper Room (adults)

SCHOOLS: the weekly arrangement with St Mary's school (where Years 3 to 6 have a session each term in the GP classroom in half-year groups) started again after Christmas. This was made possible by members of the teaching team making themselves available to lead the sessions along with Tom Dumbell the Pastoral Assistant both leading and acting as door keeper. Nationally schools have found Godly play to be one of the ways in which they can deliver the PHSE requirement in the National Curriculum. We welcome any enquiries from local schools who might like to consider using the classroom. Please contact Caroline Donne via the Parish Office.

GODLY PLAY ADVOCATES DAY. On October 1st 2016 the St Mary's classroom was the venue for Godly Play leaders in the South East region. This is a forum for sharing expertise, for finding ways to support local networks of practitioners and finding opportunities to share Godly Play with new audiences. Caroline Donne is the local Advocate and is happy to be contacted by anyone wishing to use Godly Play in their school, care home, play group etc.

TRAINING:

1. Extended Skills: following on from the very successful One Day Introductory Course in February and May 2016, more training days have been organised. The next one is on March 11th 2017. Details on:

<http://www.godlyplay.uk/2016/10/02/london-one-day-introductory-course/>

These days are funded by a grant from Southwark Diocese and by contributions from local parishes. The training is led by the Rev'd Stuart Lee.

2. Three day accredited training course. St Mary's will be the venue for this course on 7th, 21st October 4th November 2017. It qualifies those attending to become accredited Godly Play teachers and is recognised throughout the UK and Europe. All Teachers of Godly Play should have this qualification. More details and to **book a place, please visit:**

www.godlyplay.uk/2016/11/17/london-3-day-accredited-course/

Caroline Donne, February 2017

St Mary's Playgroup

Toddler Group at St Mary's meets every Tuesday morning from 9.45 until 11.00. We begin with a simple act of worship for very young children, consisting of a story and songs. Afterwards the children have playtime with lots of toys, and arts and crafts table and tea and coffee for the grownups. Our session finishes with nursery rhymes and songs. After a large number of our Toddler Group started to attend nursery in September, we have welcomed a new set of babies and small children which has meant that we continue to get a good attendance. At Christmas we held an act of worship in church, followed by a party. A big thanks to Gabrielle and all those who help every week to make the Toddler Group a success.

Tom Dumbell, Pastoral Assistant

Pastoral Assistant and Youth groups

Part of my Youth Work this year has been going into our two church Schools. Since September, I have been going once a week into Year Six at St Marys, and since January once a week into Year Six at All Saints. At St Mary's School, I assist in the classroom and have been getting to know the children as they do their topic work. As well as assisting in the classroom, I have helped the children write their own prayers, taught a lesson about Climate Change, and helped lead a class discussion about the Ten Commandments. Also planned for this term is a Year Six trip to a Buddhist Temple.

On a Friday morning, I help with a weekly Godly Play session. Each of the Key Stage Two Classes will have chance to come into the Godly Play Room before Easter, exploring different themes of the Bible in a child friendly way that allows them to explore their own feelings and ideas.

At All Saints School, Year Six have been looking at Art and Religion. We have been into All Saints Church to look at art and symbolism, and have created our own versions of Renaissance masterpieces.

It's from our two church schools that most of our Youth Club now comes from. We have over twenty children aged ten and over enrolled in our Youth Club, and we can have up to fifteen attend on any given session. We meet twice a month, in the Arch space on a Friday night and in Putney Pantry for pizza on a Saturday. A big thank you to Putney Pantry staff for enabling this to happen! A big thank you also to those who volunteer to help make these events successful and safe for our young people.

Tom Dumbell

Parish Action Group

Background

Parish Action was launched at the start of 2006. It set out its purpose to:

“Ensure that we in the parish are aware of the social issues locally and globally and that we take practical action to help address these issues.”

Its objectives are to:

- make things happen in church and in the wider parish to address the social issues we identify
- raise awareness of social issues in the church and in the wider parish
- raise money to help tackle these social issues
- take practical action to tackle these social issues
- work through charities and other groups who are already addressing issues of concern
- inspire people in the parish to undertake their own actions
- coordinate and focus work currently taking place

Activities in 2016

The Parish Action group met approximately every 6 weeks in 2016 to plan and coordinate the fundraising and volunteering activities.

2016 has been Parish Action's second year of its current three year cycle (2015-2017), supporting six main charities and promoting social awareness and action in the parish.

- **Glass Door (formerly West London Churches Homeless Concern) Jan-March**

This project involves opening St Mary's Church on a Monday night to feed and house homeless people for the night.

Due to the dedication and hard work of Clemancy and her team, the Night Shelter was once again a huge success and a large number of people volunteered.

- **Bishop's Lent Appeal March-April**

Parish Action ran a fundraising campaign to make a donation to the annual Bishop's Lent Appeal.

Lent brunches provided a good opportunity for the communities to come together at both churches and raised funds and awareness about the appeal.

- **Christian Aid May**

Alexis Chapman and her team arranged street collections and fundraising events and awareness raising for CA.

This involved a successful awareness raising project at St Mary's School and a fundraising Car Wash at All Saints'.

- **Vulindlela Guardians June/July**

Pays the school fees for AIDS orphans in Zimbabwe.

In 2016, their main fundraising and awareness raising event was the Parish Picnic in July which was a great success. In total, over £16k has been raised for VG in 2016. The money raised will continue to support current and future pupils.

- **Home Start Wandsworth September**

Provides volunteers to give practical support to families in the borough who are in need of additional help at home.

Harvest lunches at both churches were in aid of HSW.

- **Hestia Wandsworth Women's Aid November-December**

Runs three refuges in Wandsworth Borough for women and children fleeing from domestic violence.

The Parish Christmas Fair held at St Mary's Church in November raised over £3000 for Hestia. Kate Innes continues to offer great support to the charity, women and children throughout the year providing days out, Christmas events and donations of clothes etc.

Fundraising

The 8th Putney Parish Ball took place in November with a Strictly Come Dancing themed night of fun and raised about £33k for the Parish Action charities and the church. We were delighted with this continuing success. A huge thank you goes to Linda Hayllar and her fabulous team.

There were regular deliveries of in-kind donations throughout the year (e.g. Easter eggs, Harvest, Toy Service) to Hestia, Glass Door, Homestart, Newpin, and Wandsworth Social Services.

The committee aims to raise 10% of the church's total income for us to donate to our chosen charities and other charities. In addition, any funds raised over 10% will continue to be raised for the charities and the church. In 2016 we were able to give the church £12k, as a means of helping some of the neediest parishioners in our Diocese.

Parish Action also continues to fund a Thrive garden project in the All Saints' grounds.

Finally Parish Action will maintain 3% of funds raised to make a donation to any emergency appeals which the parish would like to support.

We are thrilled that in 2016 our accounts show that **Parish Action has raised over £70k**, which is testament to the commitment and hard work of the Committee.

Parish Action Committee

The Parish Action Committee current membership is shown below:

	NAME		Parish Action role
1	Clemancy	Gordon-Martin	Glass Door, All Saints'
2	Dianne	Bilton	Communications, St Mary's
3	Kate	Innes	Hestia, All Saints'
4	Zoe	Sherbrooke	Chair, All Saints'
5	Choong	Kwan	Bishop's Lent Appeal, St Mary's
6	Ivo	Belohoubek-Raine	Vulindlela Guardians, St Mary's
7	Richard	Phipps	Finance, St Mary's
8	Samantha	Williams	(on maternity leave) All Saints'
9	Harriet	Pleydell-Bouverie	Bishop's Lent Appeal, All Saints'
10	Linda	Hayllar	Parish Ball, All Saints'

11	Nell	Pearce-Higgins	Glass Door, St Mary's
12	Jamie	Martin	Bishop's Lent Appeal, St Mary's
13	Jackie	Davies	Homestart, All Saints'
14	Ang	Dales	Vulindlela Guardians, All Saints'
15	Alexis	Chapman	Christian Aid, St Mary's

A huge thank you is owed to all the members of the committee for their amazing dedication in 2016 and to all those across the Parish who have given money, volunteered and helped in many ways.

Zoe Sherbrooke
February 2017

Pastoral Care Group report

There continues to be a requirement for pastoral care by and through the church network, as people of all ages have to deal with various personal psycho-social, financial and medical difficulties. They may be separate or often over-lapping.

Many people wish to talk directly to Ailsa and she makes time for each person. More continuous support and befriending can often be shared and it is here that we aim to ensure a standard which neither offers too much which is impossible to sustain or too little to be valuable. Our care is complimented by the Supper Circle offering a meal to people and families who could do with a break from preparing food for themselves.

Safeguarding guidelines are embedded in the work we do so as not to fall into territory, which is arguably risky.

Some people face constant problems with deteriorating health others are temporarily upset by sudden changes at work or among family. We strive to listen well and respond sympathetically, whilst at all times recognising the limits of our position.

This may involve sign posting to other agencies – bereavement care, Social Services and GPs. Ailsa and I meet periodically to go through who is currently being visited, whether at home or in a coffee shop and work to ensure that appropriate people are matched.

Although things are running pretty smoothly we would like to encourage more people over 60 yrs to take part so that befriending happens fairly soon after a person is identified as needing support. Perhaps we should consider ourselves as an example of an 'anti-ageism group' – finding that older people have more to contribute and are therefore very welcome.

Isobel Vass

Supper Circle

"Supper Circle" is thriving, with a large number of volunteers on our list, so that no one individual is called on too often. Volunteers are mailed as requests come in and any can step forward to cook a meal. Anyone who requires meals in this way can contact Selina Meikle or Ailsa Newby or the Parish office and the message is passed on. Meals are delivered by Selina or sometimes by the cooks.

It is a great way to support others in our community. We provide meals for those recovering from operations or childbirth, undergoing treatments, or perhaps those who have suffered a recent bereavement.

Both the volunteers and the recipients report being extremely happy, in both giving and receiving meals, so it's a win-win!

Selina Meikle

Ale Mary

Ale Mary was formed last summer, after we identified that there was a space within the parishes' wide range of groups / activities, for the pre-child 20-30's age group.

We are an informal group who meet after Caritas on the second Sunday of each month, usually in The Rocket pub behind St Marys.

With this demographic often being new to the area too, it provides an opportunity to develop some friendships, put down some roots within the church, and to chat about all & sundry over a drink at the end of the week, in a relaxed environment.

Should you be interested in joining us, we have a WhatsApp group...just get in touch with Carrie Myers - carrie.m.myers@gmail.com - or speak to either of us at St Mary's, where we regularly attend the Caritas service.

Look forward to meeting & getting to know you soon!

Carrie Myers & Mark Leadley

Social Activities

Social Sunday meets on the last Sunday of the month in the main body of the Church after the 10.00 am service, and then goes up to the Lancaster Room to enjoy a coffee together. It is open to anybody who would like to make new friends within the congregation, Mums, Dads, single people, new people and children are all welcome. Our aim is to provide a welcoming environment for to encourage people to come upstairs to the Lancaster Room where they can integrate with the congregation of the Church within the safety of a group, as we know that some people can find it a little intimidating to go upstairs when they are alone. From there we can provide a warm welcome and make introductions, and help those who would like to become

more involved in Church life and the various activities get in contact with the right people. To avoid any stigma everybody is welcome.

Amber Raine

Every Little Helps Stall 2016

The ELHS was started in 1997, initially to raise funds for tower repairs. When that project was completed, we decided to continue as a way of contributing to mostly smaller/ lesser known charities, including St Mary's Christmas Fair. We believe that the ELHS is an important link with the local community, witness several regular customers both local and from further afield.

We sell homemade preserves, occasional cakes and handmade gifts of various kinds.

We have made over 400 jars of preserves this year and raised the sum of £1,582.43.

Jan	Save The Children	£128.50
Feb	Glass Door	£121.00
March	Bishops Lent Appeal	£167.00
April	The Childrens' Society (marathon run by Richard Phipps)	£62.00
May	Christian Aid	£146.20
June	Nepal Leprosy Trust	£158.78
July	Vulindlela Guardians	£137.50
Aug	Holidays!	
Sept	RNLI	£194.40
Oct	Macmillan Cancer Support	£158.6
Nov	Glass Door	£104.00
Dec	Christmas Fair	£204.45

Mike Bull and Peter Tuppen

Flowers

We have a small dedicated team who continue to create wonderful displays every week; we would however welcome new members to the group, no prior experience is needed. Many thanks to Hayley Argles-Grant for coordinating the team with such joyful enthusiasm up to September 2016.

We will continue to provide arrangements in memory of loved ones on request – the Easter lilies is one option or if you would like to sponsor one of our Sunday pedestals please contact Sofia to find out how.

Thank you to all the team and to Mike Bull in particular for all their work and creative help.

Sofia Paleologo

Bell Ringing Report

The bell-ringers at St Mary's are a varied and dedicated bunch, with 67 years between the oldest and youngest participant.

We ring for Sunday Services and accompany weddings when required. Our regular practices are on Monday nights from 7.30-9.00pm. We participate in a programme of mutual support with All Saints Fulham, boosting each other's practices on one night per month. With this support, plus some regular visitors from other local towers, we are able to keep the bells ringing at Putney for most Monday night practices and some Sunday services. Our ability to regularly ring on Sunday has been somewhat hampered by the shrinking size and ageing of our band. However, the band has been enhanced by some dedicated adult learners who are working hard to improve their skills and now are ringing on Sundays.

During the year our youngest member, Nadia Francis, began ringing more complicated combinations of numbers and she rang her first Quarter Peal in November, conducted by Michael Uphill and supported by a very strong band of ringers from ours and other local Towers. This is a tremendous feat for a 14 year old and we are justly very proud of her - not the least because she had to stay in one spot, concentrate and not talk at all for 44 minutes!

We regret to report the death of a previous Ringing Master during the year. Tony Clayton was a Server at St Mary's during 1950's with Michael Uphill's father and among many others, Mike Bull. He was our Ringing Master between 1957-61 when he taught many to ring, including Ann Martin (Tuppen), Mike Bull, the then Vicar's daughter Lucinda Pearce-Higgins and 3 future ringing masters, Chris Mew, Brian Bull and Michael Uphill. He completed theological studies at Salisbury and was ordained as a deacon in 1962, became a priest in 1963 and served his first curacy at All Saints, Tooting. He was subsequently priest in charge at Lockington, Leicestershire, Eaton w Eastwell, Notts and High Framland – a group of (5) parishes where he became Rector and Rural Dean. During his time in the Midlands he worked also as PA to Paul Taylor, the MD of Loughborough Bellfoundry, maintaining his connections there and with us for the rest of his life. Enigmatic, although often shy and awkward, he was an inspired and inspirational leader particularly of youth, spending several years as a DJ for "Northern Soul" in the Midlands where he "clicked with" and was much loved by the youngsters who attended those gatherings. He died on the 8.5.16 and his funeral here at St Mary's on the 1.6.16 was attended by a large gathering of friends from Tony's world of bellringing, music, organs, clocks and rugby. The Bishop of Grantham was represented at the service by Fr Jamie MacLeod.

Our 8 bells are relatively smooth to ring and in good condition. This has in part meant we are extremely popular to visiting ringers and most of our income derives from charging a nominal amount for access to our tower. We meet all costs which arise from wear and tear from our own funds, but a recent inspection by Taylors of Loughborough highlighted the need for improved lighting on the staircase and where the bells are hung. Six of our eight ropes have terylene tops, which makes them less likely to fray and also less responsive to changes in weather conditions. Last year

and this we are hosting either Oxford or Cambridge University ringers on Boat Race day – as are All Saint’s Fulham. Who rings at each tower is decided by the toss the crews make for their starting stations for the race and the teams of ringers will ring a Quarter Peal immediately up to the start of the race.

We continue to struggle to get ringers for Sunday morning service ringing and it would therefore be wonderful to recruit from within the church community, if possible, to enable parishioners to be welcomed by the sound of bells every week. We are constantly seeking to expand our band. If you are a minimum of 10 years old, can raise your arms above your head, have a firm grip, can manage the stairs and are willing to devote time to learning the skills involved please get in touch. In addition, Paula Greenwood has trained as and very recently been approved as an accredited teacher of bellringing under the new Association of Ringing Teachers scheme.

Paula Greenwood, February 2017, Tower Captain
paula.greenwood@hotmail.com

St Mary’s Church sidespeople and welcomers

Sidespeople	Welcomers
Diana Bailey	Charlotte Grose
Rick Ballinger	Linda O’Riordan
John Blake	Rupert Scott
Sarah Brearley	Tammy Mackay
Deborah Chittenden	Libbit Osborne
Jeremy Cole	Lea Dixon
Kath Diamond	Maggie Wentzel
Paul Donnelly	Alex Escobar
Jane Farrell	Helen Oakland
Sam Fletcher	Neil Vass
Kate Gibson	Isobel Vass
Alison Guest	Celia Blake
Andrew Grocott	Jolyon Parsons
Charlotte Grose	Cristiana Vitale
Sophie Holdcroft	Leo Martin
Jed Hyde	Jamie Martin
Bo Huang	
Barbara Kessie	
Michael Kyrin-White	
Ran Chen	
Peter Land	
Julien Launois	
Sam McMeekin	
Kevin Maddick	

Jamie Martin	
Raffaella Mengoni	
Simon Merrett	
Ian Parramore	
Jolyon Parsons	
Alan Pates	
Quentin Ricks	
Charles Roberts	
Michael Rotteveel	
Cherry Steward	
Kate Umney	
Simon Upton	
Neil Vass	
Cristiana Vitale	
Martin Watts	

Servers

Tanya Sonachan took the job of organising the Serving Rota in July 2016, Tanya took over from Katharine Martin who stepped down after a number of years in this role. Currently the serving team consists of 29 servers – 12 Adults and 17 children. The majority of Children are aged between 9 and 12 and are currently spread across years 5 – 7. The Communion before Confirmation classes at St Mary's continue to provide a very good foundation for serving and finding new recruits. There are a number of siblings currently serving on the team but less parents and children serving together – only 6 of the 12 Adult servers have children serving. With this in mind we'll actively try and recruit both children and parents from the new Communion before Confirmation classes later this year.

Servers act as acolytes, crucifers and Gospel bearers, serving at both morning and evening worship, and work hard to enable the worship of the attending congregation. There are opportunities for younger members, who serve as acolytes, to assume more responsibility as they grow older as Gospel bearers. Tom Dumbell currently trains both child and adult servers once they have been recruited with the help of Mark Leadley and Tanya Sonachan.

Chalice Assistants 2015/2016

Angela Attah	Sophy Jubb
John Blake	Katharine Martin
Kate Caseley	Jane Morley
Stephen Clarke	Carrie Myers
Jeremy Cole	Ruth Pates
Bethan Deakins	Helen Pope
Kath Diamond	Antonia Wainman
Caroline Donne	Ted Wainman
Paul Donnelly	Martin Watts
Christopher Garnett	Maggie Wentzel
Andrew Grocott	

All Eucharist Chalice Assistants need to be licensed by the Archdeacon. Ailsa is seeking approval for additional names.

Music

The Harmonic Minors and Ensemble continue to develop their vocal technique and musicianship whilst exploring new and challenging repertoire. They contribute to some of the bigger Sunday services, intermittently sing alongside the Adult choir and enjoy Pizza and Games Nights! We are now in our third wave of singing examination entries with four candidates being presented for their ABRSM singing examinations in Spring 2017. Late 2016 saw some active recruitment for this group which will continue in 2017. Robert Stoner, who worked hard with the examination candidates, left to pursue a teaching job in Dorset - he is much missed, but we wish him well!

The Adult Choir has had another busy year - in addition to weekly Sunday contributions, it prepared large scale works in Bullard's 'Wondrous Cross', for Palm Sunday and movements from Goodall's 'Eternal Light' for All Souls', (we received Goodall's good wishes for the occasion, on Twitter !) plus music for Advent Sunday and the Christmas services. We've welcomed several new members to the Adult Choir and enjoyed some terrific social events throughout the year.

Tim Clarke and Graham Hallett are hugely helpful in supporting the music life of the Parish, not only in the organ loft and accompanying the choir but also picking up additional services. The Organ Recitals - Music by the Bridge - held once a month after Caritas from September to December, continues to grow and we, once again, welcomed some high profile players including Daniel Cook (Westminster Abbey) and Christoph Bogon (Schopheim, Germany).

A big thank you to my right hand, Helen Bradshaw for all her time, effort and enthusiasm.

Travis Baker, Director of Music

Breathing Space: Christian Mindfulness – *'Be still and know that I am God'* Mindfulness meditation for Christians

A core group of 3 started meeting weekly for this practice on a Tuesday evening in September 2015, with others joining as and when they wanted.

Mindfulness is a form of meditation which, through our learning to empty the mind of thought, can promote peacefulness and control of stress and anxiety. For Christians such meditation has been practised for centuries and is rooted in our understanding of the indwelling God who knows us better than we know ourselves – the God whom we can trust and whom we worship. Through cultivating our inner silence, we listen, and so understand more of ourselves in relation to the divine. During meditation, we allow this to happen by repeatedly letting go of inner distractions and returning to our breath or a sacred word of our choosing.

We gather in the Church Cafe at about 9.30pm. At 9.45pm we lock the Church door and take our seats in the candle-lit sanctuary space behind the altar. We begin our meditation with a led relaxation exercise followed by an introductory prayer. Then 3 'dongs' introduce 20 minutes of silence, which is ended by another 3 'dongs', and a final prayer.

We welcome anyone who wishes to attend, whether regularly, sporadically, or just to try it out. There is no need to book, just turn up!

Jane Morley, Kate Hampton and Ailsa Newby

St. Mary's School

As chair of governors I am delighted to report that St Mary's continues to go from strength to strength. We remain a first-choice school among Putney parents and are heavily oversubscribed in Reception, despite the arrival of a new primary school on the common.

Cheryl Payne, now in her fifth year as head teacher, is supported by a strong team of dedicated and experienced staff who follow a rich and diverse curriculum designed to inspire and ensure that every child achieves their full potential.

Progress is monitored carefully to enable extra support to be provided when needed and the results speak for themselves. We are one of the top three schools in Wandsworth with results significantly above both the local and national averages.

However, education is about far more than results. St Mary's encourages staff to teach children outside the classroom. A West End theatre trip to see Charlie & the Chocolate Factory and a visit to Google's offices were two of the high points from the last 12 months. In addition, visits have also been arranged to the National History, Science, London and Transport museums, to places of worship such as St Paul's Cathedral, the Hindu Madir and the Sikh Gurdwara and on the natural sciences front to Kew Gardens, Wisley and the Living Rainforest.

A broad range of school clubs is also on offer before and after school as well as at lunchtimes. The programme covers sports such as football, gymnastics, tennis, cycling, cricket and running, code club for our budding IT experts, choir for the musical as well as art, French, maths and classics clubs.

We have a fantastic parent body who support the school not just in the education of their children, but through a host of fundraising and social events. To give you a real flavour of the school, I leave you with a summary of their views from the most recent parent survey.

"There is a real sense of community at St Mary's... the standard of teaching is excellentthere is a happy nurturing environment ... you feel the teachers genuinely care about the children and want the best for them... My child has always been very happy there."

Sally McGeachie

Chair of Governors, St Mary's Church of England Primary School

The Putney Debates 2017

The highlight of the year was a two day event organised by the Foundation for Law, Justice and Society on February 2 & 3. Thirty eminent academics, lawyers, economists, philosophers and others including Ailsa spoke for 5 minutes on topics concerning the future of democracy and the constitution. The debates could not have been more topical with the backdrop of travel bans in the US and the balance of power between the law and the executive changing from day to day. The event was well attended by over 300 people, many of whom were local residents. It just shows that Putney is still the centre for high level and low level debate. If you missed it you can catch the podcast on the Foundation's website.

Sue Rolfe

Parish Magazine

The Parish magazine, our free, tri- annual publication, is widely read among the congregation and within the wider Putney community.

Its glossy and colourful pages can be produced thanks to the magazine's corporate sponsors and advertisers in the community. The magazine is thus completely self-funded and not a cost on church funds.

Each issue includes a list of upcoming services and events, but it also focuses on a particular theme, and contains articles approaching that theme from different angles. Examples of themes include roots, waiting, faith, community, friendship, education, compromise.

The articles are written by members of the congregation and the permanent editorial team.

If you are interested in joining the editorial team or in writing a one off article, please contact the editor, Silvia Macchia Riley (silvia_macchia@hotmail.com).

Silvia Macchia Riley

Social Media

St Mary's is steadily growing its social media presence, improving awareness and increasing attendance for events at St Mary's and across the parish. We welcome suggestions or comments about any of the above social platforms! Let the parish office know; pick your format!

Twitter @StMarysPutney

We now have over 525 followers including our Archdeacon who regularly retweets our tweets.

Instagram #PutneyPilgrim

Each week a different parishioner manages our account and publishes a daily photo showing why they are thankful. If you are interested in doing this please contact Laura.

Website www.stmarys.parishofputney.com

This shows details of news at St Mary's and gives readers the chance to listen again to sermons or to re-read weekly service sheets and newsletters.

Emails thechurchmouse@parishofputney.co.uk

Churchmouse provides regular, targeted, email communications from the church. To sign up click on the Church mouse logo on the webpage or email the above email address.

Julie Craig

Theology in the Pub

Theology in the Pub (TITP) regularly meets in The Bricklayers Arms on a Monday evening (8-8.15pm) and has had a speaker talk on a subject of their choosing, addressing a wide spectrum of theological and moral topics/issues ranging from:

Paul and Timothy on Faith and Vocation (Timothy Chapter 10 v1:20)
An Evangelical perspective from the Inside
The Black Watch and Religion
The Just shall live by Faith (Luther on Romans17)
When does Human Life Commence? – The 14 day rule revisited

The group like many of its kind has a wide membership with the normal ebb and flow of its members, some not being able to make sessions, others moving and others joining a new. Great fun.

In the life of all such groups there comes a time for new leadership/direction and after five years I think it timely to pass the baton on. Ailsa and I are looking for someone to take on the running of the group. This change won't happen overnight and hopefully this will have been resolved by the autumn.

Nigel Wright, February 2017

Pastoral Assistant

I'm very much enjoying my second year at St Mary's. Although I work a lot with children and young people in the parish, much of my work involves pastoral work, assisting the clergy and helping out in the office.

One new venture for this year is a monthly service at Mount Court. Once a month, a service of the word is held, focused on the liturgical season. We have a bible reading,

a psalm, hymns and prayers. We then have an informal sermon, which often turns into a group discussion! We also have tea and coffee and a chance for a chat. We now have about ten residents attending, and Rose is very good at organizing everybody to get there! Ditte Donnelly has also worked very hard to organize everything. Ailsa and Laura and I will continue this work over the next few months. Please pray for our work with the residents of Mount Court, and that it continues to be a success.

As well as visiting Mount Court, I also visit people and take several people Holy Communion at home. This is one of my favourite jobs, and maintains a link between our churches and those who are now too frail to regularly attend. In this task, I am supported by Richard Truss who also undertakes visiting and home Communion across the parish. This area of our work is always changing as peoples circumstances change. If you ever know of anyone who may like a visit at home or in hospital, do please let a member of the clergy know.

As well as visiting, I help out at St Mary's in the vestry and by serving in both churches. I usually deacon at Caritas on a Sunday night, and help by training new servers. This last year, we have a small group of boys and girls from St Mary's School who have served for the first time and who are doing very well indeed! I am currently looking at training some new servers who received Communion for the first time earlier this year.

Tom Dumbell

Curate's report

After beginning my curacy with the parish at the end of June 2015, I went on six months maternity leave on 7th Feb 2016 and gave birth to the beautiful Joella. My return to working four days a week from mid-August, was shortly followed by my priesting alongside two other women from the Kingston Area on 25th September. This was the first priesting at the church for over 700 years and of course the first women ordained in the church. This historical event was made all the more special by the support and celebration we received from all in the parish.

The months from September until the end of November were largely spent covering Chris' sabbatical at All Saints. This was a wonderful opportunity for me to continue gaining experience of parish life and to begin working with All Saints School. A huge thanks go to the Church Wardens, Carolyn and others who worked so hard to make everything run so smoothly during this time. Since December 2016 I have had more involvement in leading Sunday services across both churches, and I have enjoyed developing the children's services, the youth work provision and continuing to be involved in Thursday Toddler group at All Saints and the Wednesday lunch time group at St Mary's. It has been a wonderful privilege to be able to celebrate the Eucharist with you all.

Laura Fawcett

CHARGE 2016

'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'

Say Jesus to us this morning (John 4:10)

As we reflect today on our life together in this church community I'd like to take the chance to reflect on what it is really to appreciate God's gift of living water in Jesus Christ. The core of our faith is summed up by Jesus elsewhere like this 'I come that they may have life in all its fullness.'(John 10:10b)

Life in all its fullness. We certainly have fullness here in many senses because of all that goes on. Take a little time to read the annual report, if you haven't read it. You can find it on the website and if you're on the Church Mouse email system, you'll have a copy in your in-box. The report catalogues all that has gone on in this church in the last year. All the good work that has gone on reaching out to others through Parish Action; all that goes on in this building; all our work with children; all the many people who volunteer to help make our buildings and services run smoothly.

It has been good this year to see our ministry to our young people develop this year with regular 'underground' youth evenings and now a regular Saturday afternoon slot as well. We have also this year started a monthly service at the Mount Court sheltered housing in Weimar Street enabling those who cannot get to church to have a regular service. The older Putney residents who come to our Christmas lunch enjoyed a one-off celebration in addition, a birthday tea party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

Parish Action has continued our involvement with our partner charities, locally the women's refuges, the Glass Door Night Shelter and Wandsworth Home Start. Nationally and internationally we've raised money for Christian Aid, Vulindlela Guardians in Zimbabwe and the Bishop's Lent charities as well as poorer parishes in our own Diocese. The Night Shelter has typically catered for around 35 homeless people each night through the winter and over 100 of us in the Parish volunteer to help. Overall Parish Action has raised over £70,000 for these charities and our Christmas appeal to help Syrian Refugees.

Our work with our children continues, with our regular Sunday Schools, Godly Play work with the primary schools, and towards 30 children preparing (with their parents' help) to be admitted to Holy Communion.

This means huge thanks go to all the people who enable this excellent work, helping the needy or the marginalised, teaching our children, and caring for our building and its ministry to the wider community. Our work is simply not possible without you.

So a great deal of good work has gone on. But it all only happens because of what is at the heart of our life together here: our worship of the God who loves us more than we can imagine. That is why we are here: to offer praise, thanks and worship to our creating redeeming and sustaining God. Worship made so infinitely richer through our music and the devoted work of the choir under Travis's direction and

with Helen's help. Our worship is also made possible through the smooth running of our services by our churchwardens and all who steward services, together with those who read, serve and lead the intercessions.

So our profound thanks go to Travis and the organ loft, Tim Clarke and Graham Hallett, and to Helen Bradshaw in so ably assisting Travis both with the adult choir and the Harmonic Minors. We are blessed too with a splendid team of Churchwardens who not just ensure the smooth running of services but take a leadership role with me in the direction and development of our vision for this church. They are a huge support to me and I've valued their wisdom greatly this last year. Martin Watts is taking a step back from churchwardenship this year after 5 years in post and so we thank him for all his work over the years (though he is kindly continuing involvement in the buildings committee). It is great to have the continuity of Paul Donnelly and Angela Attah and a huge pleasure that Andrew Grocott is stepping up from being a deputy warden to take Martin's place.

So life in this church is full in the literal sense as you can see on the sheet that is with your papers today listing all the ways of being involved in the church. It is there so that you can think about how you would like to be involved. However, although, we have life in its fullness in the volume of things we do, I wonder whether we really respond to life in its fullness in Christ, the living water that wells up to eternal life and transforms.

Notice how this woman at the well is transformed by her dialogue with Jesus. She goes off back to the town and tells people of her experience (even though, in that society as a co-habiting unmarried woman she would be a social outcast).

Notice too, how this story shows life in Jesus means stepping beyond usual barriers of class and race. The disciples are staggered that Jesus has talked to a WOMAN with no one else there. The woman herself is staggered that Jesus will break the Jewish religious rules and ask her, a Samaritan outcast, to help him get water.

Life in its fullness means stepping outside our petty constraints or prejudices, drinking deep of the living water. There are those in the Christian church who would limit us within false boundaries of acceptability, particularly in the field of sexuality. But just as Jesus talks to this woman without the usual taboos of his time, so too I believe he would today – for instance - talk to a gay couple who wanted God's blessing on their union.

There are challenges from within the Church of England to our inclusive faith and we need to equip ourselves to live out in our lives what we instinctively believe in our hearts. Welcoming life in all its fullness is always work in progress because it is such a great gift which we too easily constrain by false limits of our own. We always need personally and in our corporate life together to work on it. As the writer of the First Letter to Timothy puts it:–'take hold of the life that really is life.' (1 Tim 6:19)

So we need to be equipped to tell our story of life in its fullness. In our Mission Action Plan, as it is called (which gives the priorities for our development set by the church councils), as well as youth work, and welcome we prioritise strategies to build community and the enrichment of adult discipleship. This Lent we are pondering the theme of our rootedness in Christ, in our community, in our service and in our prayer. We need always in life to deepen our roots so that we can draw up and drink deep of that living water and know life in its fullness. We need to grow in discipleship.

It is important to be able to give our own perspective on the Christian faith – one of generous inclusion. One that says God made us each wonderfully and diversely different to rejoice in our diversity but to know we are all one in Christ Jesus whether straight or gay, black or white, whether we left school at 16 or have more degrees than any one person should need.

Like the woman we need individually and collectively to accept that invitation to drink deep of the water of life. And, like the woman going out from encounter with Jesus, communicate that life to others. This is not about hugging people and telling them that Jesus loves them. It's about living out life in its fullness both within the church community and beyond it.

We live in a post-Christian world where the Christian narrative has largely been lost. This was brought home to me when we had a summer holiday 'Film School' running here for young teenagers. The young British film graduates running it came into the office one day to ask if it was OK to do some filming 'in, you know, that large space with all the chairs off the café' They meant THE CHURCH – but they didn't even have the vocabulary to know it is called A CHURCH.

Life in all its fullness is passing people by. Here we have a hunch of the greatness of the gift of life in its fullness. In response to that gift of God we must give back. Give in 2 ways: financially and practically.

Financially. The church is totally dependent on what you and I give to maintain its work. But that is not the key reason for giving. We give financially, as well as practically, in recognition that the gifts of God in our lives are more than spiritual, they are material as well and it is right to give back in proportion.

And we should give practically as well in response to the greatness of the gift. In being involved we can grow, deepen our roots, draw deep of the water of life. That is how we come to understand life in all its fullness. That is why there is this piece of paper with your service sheet today. We know it isn't always easy to know how best to get involved in this church and this list gives you the opportunity to ask for more information about all the ways you could be involved. It's just an offer of more information without commitment. Fill it in and hand it to one of the stewards.

We have so much to be grateful for here in our life together. Together we can drink deep of that living water that gives life in its fullness and live it out in our community. Let us, together, take hold of life that really is life. Amen.

Ailsa Newby