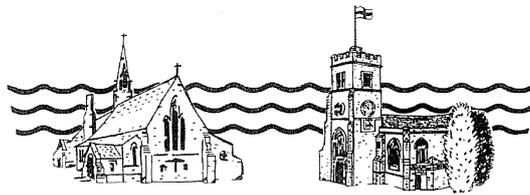


**THE PARISH OF PUTNEY
St. Mary's AGM**



The Parish of Putney
St Mary with All Saints

18th March 2018

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

2017-2018

AGM Reports

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THE PARISH OF PUTNEY

St. Mary's Church

Sunday 18th March 2018

AGENDA

- Introductory Prayers
- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of 19th March 2017
- Elections of:
 - a) 2 District Churchwardens
 - b) 2 Assistant District Wardens
 - c) 1 Treasurer
 - d) There are no Deanery Synod representatives to be elected
 - e) 1 PCC/DCC member for 3 year term
 - f) 1 PCC member only for 3 year term
 - g) 3 DCC members for 3 year term

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

APCM Meeting: Monday 23th April 2018, 7:30pm

PARISH OF PUTNEY
St. Mary's AGM
Minutes of the meeting
held on Sunday, 19th March 2017
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 40 members of the Parish.

Apologies: Richard and Angela Holman, Caroline and Jeremy Donne, Alexis Chapman, Martin Watts, Margaret Yearsley and Michael Bull

Minutes of AGM 13th March 2016. There were no matters arising:

Minutes approved:

Proposed by Annette Watson

Seconded by Alan Pates

Passed unanimously.

Matters Arising: No matters arising

Elections:

a) Election of District Wardens:

Two District Wardens were nominated:

Angela Attah (proposed by Sally Holdsworth-Hunt and seconded by Peter Land) and Andrew Grocott (proposed by Andrew Sternberg and seconded by Richard Holman).

There were no other nominations and both were duly elected.

b) Election of Assistant District Wardens:

Two Assistant District Wardens were nominated: Katherine Diamond (proposed by Jed Hyde and seconded by Martin Watts) and Christiana Vitale (proposed by Jed Hyde and seconded by Martin Watts). Katherine Diamond and Christiana Vitale were 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 felt very privileged to have them.

c) Election of Treasurer:

Andrew Sternberg was thanked by Rev. Newby for his highly valuable contribution in looking after St. Mary's finances this year and over the past 8 years together with Richard Holman. Andrew Sternberg was content to be nominated to continue in this

role (proposed by Michael Bull and seconded by Andrew Grocott). There were no other nominations and he was duly elected.

d) Election of Deanery Synod Representatives for 3-year term:

This year the number of representatives has been increased to 6. The following were nominated: Richard Holman (proposed by Angela Attah and seconded by Andrew Grocott), Kate Gibson (proposed by Angela Attah and seconded by Richard Holman), Maggie Wentzel (proposed by Martin Watts and seconded by Kate Caseley), Jane Morley (proposed by Ellen Ley and seconded by Peter Tuppen) and Jeremy Donne (proposed by Neil Vass and seconded by Angela Attah). There were no other nominations and they were duly elected.

e) Election to Parochial and District Church Councils for a 3-year term:

Two nominations were received: Tangwena Nelson (proposed by Zoe Coakley and seconded by Alan Pates) and Zoe Coakley (proposed by Alex Lowe and seconded by Samuel Fletcher). As there were no other nominations they were duly elected.

f) PCC membership for a 3-year term:

One nomination received: Chris Garnett (proposed by Paul Donnelly and seconded by Charles Roberts). As there were no other nominations he was duly elected.

g) DCC membership for a 3-year term:

Two nominations were received: Alex Lowe (proposed by Charles Roberts and seconded by Paul Donnelly) and Adrian Weed (proposed by Rachel Brett and seconded by Charles Roberts). As there were no other nominations they were duly elected. Pam Smith was co-opted onto the DCC and PCC.

The Rev. Newby welcomed all new members and the fresh perspectives they would bring to the management of church affairs.

Appointment of Sides-men and women:

The list of names can be found on page 27 of the 2016-17 report and was duly accepted. Paul Donnelly recorded his warm thanks to the volunteers for all the help they provide at services.

Electoral Roll Report:

The number of people on the Electoral Roll is currently 389. The Rev. Newby commented that this was likely to rise to 400 by Easter.

Presentation of the Church Finances:

Andrew Sternberg (Treasurer) provided highlights from his report:

Following a historic deficit he was pleased to report that looking forward finances had stabilised with an operating surplus of £8,000 (ahead of budget and last year). Total income is over £300,000 although there is still an outstanding debt of £128,000 (reduced from a high of £152,000 in 2013). Income of £316,000 is made up of planned giving, property income, a fixed income bond, grants from the Brewer Trust, associated income and donations and lettings from church space. Expenditure was £308,000 made up of payment to the Parish Support Fund, Pastoral Assistant, lay staff that help to run the church, light, heat and insurance, audit costs and parish office costs. Church costs have remained stable for the past six years. The 2017-18 budget forecast is on a breakeven basis. Building on the surplus built by our predecessors we have now turned a corner in financial terms and are on a much

sounder footing. For the church to grow further however we will need to increase our income.

The Reverend 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 Reverend Newby thanked Andrew Sternberg warmly for his highly competent handling of the accounts. These were approved: proposed by Andrew Grocott and seconded by Peter Land.

Report on Giving

The Reverend Newby thanked Angela Holman for the enormous amount of work she continued to do in checking and recording the names and addresses on yellow envelopes so that the tax could be reclaimed.

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

All aspects were said to be covered in the report.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:

Confirmations, admissions to communion, weddings and funerals were as reported.

Buildings and Maintenance:

The report was taken as read. The Rev. Newby commented on the challenge being faced in relation to the 18th Century drainage system. Andrew Grocott reported that the installation of hand-dryers was being investigated to relieve this situation. The Reverend Newby took the opportunity to thank Berni Griffiths for his contribution both in providing a warm Christian welcome to visitors and significantly increasing rental income.

Safeguarding:

This has been overseen by Isobel Vass and Libbit Osborne. The Rev. Newby highlighted the importance of reporting any concerns in this area.

Children in the Parish:

The reports on Sunday School, The Creche, Godly Play and St Mary's Playgroup were taken as read. The Rev. Newby noted that there were now 45 DBS checked volunteers working in Sunday School with 21 volunteering in the crèche. Huge thanks were due to all those involved particularly those in a leadership role.

Youth Groups: The report provided by Tom Dumbell was taken as read. Volunteers to help with this Group would be very much welcomed.

Parish Action: The comprehensive report provided by Zoe Sherbrooke, as Chairwoman, was taken as read. The Reverend Newby commended their excellent work with charities; the Women's Refuge and The Night Shelter being their main focus this year. Over £70,000 was raised in 2016-17.

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 Selina Meikle and taken as read.

Ale Mary: The report provided by Carrie Myers and Mark Leadley was taken as read.

Every Little Helps Stall: £1,600 has been raised this year – more jam jars are needed!

Flowers: Sofia Paleologo has taken over from Hayley Argles-Grant. More volunteers would be welcome.

Ringing Report: A report was received from Paula Greenwood and taken as read. New volunteers would be very welcome. There will be a commemorative peal rung in August 2017 to mark the 100th Anniversary of the St Mary's bell ringer who died at Ypres in 1917. Paula requested that she be informed of Church bookings on Monday evenings to avoid clashes. **Action:** AN to speak to BG.

Servers: Tom Dumbell is co-ordinating training for servers.

Chalice Assistants: The list was confirmed.

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.

Breathing Space:

The report was taken as read and Rev. Newby recommended the benefits of this group and 'being present with God.'

St. Mary's Church of England school:

The report by Sally McGeachie, Chair of Governors was taken as read.

Putney Debates: The report by Sue Rolfe was taken as read.

Parish Magazine: The report by Silvia Macchia Riley was taken as read.

Social Media: The report by Julie Craig was taken as read. The Rev. Newby highlighted the daily photos on Instagram.

Pastoral Assistant's Report: Tom Dumbell's report was taken as read.

Curate's Report: Laura Fawcett's report was taken as read.

CHARGE 2016:

The Rev. Newby encouraged us to appreciate 'life in all its fullness' which we experience at St Mary's and to be aware that this is always 'work in progress'. Paul Donnelly thanked the Rev. Newby for doing a wonderful job in driving forward a vision for the church, setting challenging goals and for 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 the AGM of the Parish would take place on 24th April 2017 at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 12.05p.m.

ST MARY'S DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL 2017-2018

Ex-Officio Members

Clergy

Reverend Ailsa Newby
Reverend Laura Fawcett

Churchwarden

Paul Donnelly

District wardens

Angela Attah
Andrew Grocott

Assistant District wardens

Christiana Vitale
Kath Diamond
(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*)

Richard Holman
Kate Gibson
Alexis Chapman
Maggie Wentzel
Jane Morley
Carrie Myers

Treasurer

Andrew Sternberg

Lay Members elected to serve on DCC

Charles Roberts
Peter Land
Sally Holdsworth-Hunt
Rachel Brett
Zoe Coakley
Tangwena Nelson
Alex Lowe
Adrian Weed

Lay Members elected to serve on both DCC and PCC

Zoe Coakley
Tangwena Nelson
Rachel Brett
Pamela Smith

Lay Members elected to serve on PCC alone

Mark Leadley?
Sarah Brearley?
Julian Lee?

Secretary's report of the DCC proceedings

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 continued emphasis on giving. A leaflet on legacies has been launched.

Regular training sessions on safeguarding have been organised and will continue to be available.

Other issues discussed have included staffing, the purchase and refurbishment of a new vicarage and technology to support our activities.

Pamela Smith, Secretary

Electoral Roll (for the period April 2017 to March 2018)

As of 1st March 2018 the number of people on the Church Electoral Roll is currently 408.

During the period March 4th to April 8th the current Electoral Roll list will undergo a full revision. The current lists will be displayed in both churches to enable them to be updated/revised. During this period members of the congregation are invited to complete the necessary forms if they wish to be on the current Church Electoral Roll.

The updated / revised Church Electoral Roll numbers will be reported to and ratified at the APCM at the end of April 2018.

Angela Holman, Electoral Roll Officer

Financial Report

The highlights are:

- **Total net income for the year is £23,000. This is after recording a one-off legacy income of £12,000. Before this legacy, the operating surplus was £11,000.**
- **This £11,000 operating surplus is ahead of both budget and last year and continues the improvements made in recent years.**
- **The £11,000 operating surplus is c4% of the total expenditure. We cannot be complacent.**
- **Although the last four years have all seen modest surpluses, historically St Mary's Church has an accumulated deficit of £97,000.**

Summary income and expenditure account

St Mary's Income and Expenditure Summary		
Year ended 31 December 2017		
	2017	2016
	Income	Income
	£'000	£'000
Planned giving (incl tax recoveries)	193	189
Loose plate collections	15	14
Returns on investments	27	28
Grants and donations	37	38
Lettings and other income	42	47
Total income	315	316
	Expenditure	Expenditure
	£'000	£'000
Parish Support Fund	201	201
Pastoral assistant	12	10
Lay staff	43	38
Light, heat and insurance	14	22
Church expenses	22	23
Governance	6	6
Parish office	9	8
Total expenditure	304	308
Operating surplus	11	8
Legacy income	12	-
Unrealised investment gains	-	7
Net income	23	15

2017 - Income £315,000

Category	Percentage
Planned giving (incl tax recoveries)	61%
Lettings and other income	13%
Grants and donations	12%
Returns on investments	9%
Loose plate collections	5%

2017 - Expenditure £304,000

Category	Percentage
Parish Support Fund	65%
Lay staff	14%
Church expenses	7%
Light, heat and insurance	5%
Governance	4%
Pastoral assistant	2%

Income

Planned giving via standing orders has increased by a very creditable £4,000 (2%) to £193,000. The planned giving report provides further details on this.

Income from investments includes net rental from three 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 £103,000 last year. This includes the employment costs of all the staff who provided invaluable support to Ailsa and Laura and the team and ensures that the Church continues to serve the community.

Pastoral assistance costs have increased following the decision of the Parish wide PCC, supported by the individual Church DCCs to recruit two parish assistants to support Laura and Chris, especially through the interregnum.

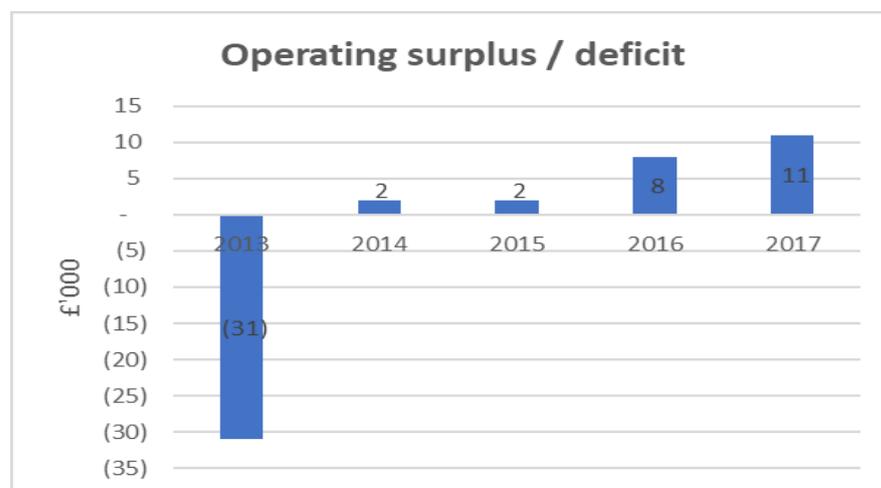
The power costs were substantially lower in 2017 due to (i) a one off £2,500 rebate; and (ii) agreement with the Brewer Building trust to share the joint electricity costs for the whole site on a fairer basis, leading to St Mary's bearing less of the overall cost.

Operating surplus

We recorded a surplus of £11,000 in 2017. This is less than 4% of our total income and means that we must continue to focus on stewardship through 2018 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					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Operating (deficit) / surplus	(31)	2	2	8	11
Legacy income	-	-	3	-	12
Unrealisable gains / losses on investments	8	2	-	7	-
Net (loss) / income	(23)	4	5	15	23
Accumulated deficit	(145)	(141)	(136)	(121)	(98)



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

Andrew Sternberg, Treasurer

Report on Giving

- We started 2017 with 218 regular givers, paying by regular standing order.
- During the year 18 people, who had been giving in total £802 per month, stopped contributing, mainly due to moving away from Putney or to changes in personal circumstances.
- Another 12 reduced their gifts - a total of £619 per month.

- However, 8 new donors set up standing orders, worth £445 per month.
- And, crucially, 24 people were able to increase their monthly payments, improving our income by £641 per month.
- So we ended 2017 with 208 regular donors - 10 less than at the start of the year - and net 'losses' of £335 per month, the full effect of which will be felt in 2018.

Despite the net loss, total giving by standing orders in 2017 increased marginally (1.33%) over the 2016 total, due mainly to the timing of the changes. Tax recoveries under Gift Aid, which include £2,000 claimed in relation to loose plate donations, dropped by 3.4%.

		Standing Orders	Baptisms	Gift Aid tax	Total
Year	2017	152,469	1,725	36,419	190,613
	2016	150,464	2,080	37,709	190,253
Movement	£	2,005	(355)	(1,290)	360
	%	1.33%	(17.07%)	(3.42%)	0.19%

Richard Holman (Parish Treasurer) / Angela Holman (Gift Aid manager)
25 Feb 2018

Report from Church Wardens

We are very happy to report that St Mary's Church and buildings, for another year running, 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. Every room is booked every day. 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. It makes the church look even more open and welcoming.

2018 is the seventh 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 based on King's Road that helps the homeless in West London and is a resounding success.

We are all very excited about the arrival of our new team rector, Revd John Whittaker. We look forward to welcoming John and his family as he begins his ministry in September.

The Archdeacon's Visitation (annual church inspection) took place on February 24th. We were delighted that St Mary's, once again, came through with flying colours. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all who help this happen, year after year.

Angela Attah, Andrew Grocott & Paul Donnelly

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Many thanks to Sophy Jubb for her many years of being Parish Clerk. It is a pleasure to take over from her.

Baptisms: 14 children under the age of 1 year, 10 children between the ages of 1 and 4 years, and 2 children between the ages of 5 and 12 years were baptised at St Mary's in 2017; 2 adults were baptised at St Mary's

Confirmations: 9 adults from the parish were confirmed at St John, Kingston Vale and a further 2 adults were confirmed at Southwark Cathedral.

Admission to Communion: 24 children were admitted to Communion.

Banns of Marriage: 38 couples had their banns read at St Mary's prior to being married elsewhere.

Weddings: 1 couple was married at St Mary's

Funerals: there were 7 funerals in St Mary's Church in 2017. 12 funerals were conducted at a crematorium.

Antonia Wainman, February 2018

Buildings and Maintenance Committee

During the past 12 months the Buildings and Maintenance Committee has met on a quarterly basis to discuss and deal with issues of regular maintenance and ad hoc repairs as they have arisen. Investigative reports have been commissioned to ascertain the cause of water leaking in through the Church roof and repairs are being scheduled for summer this year. The ongoing problem with drain blockages are still occurring however regular manhole checks have proven useful for monitoring and maintenance especially when these indicate the system needs preventative flushing that can be actioned. The committee organizes half-day working parties to carry-out routine maintenance, deep and 'up high' cleaning, clearing the gullies and downpipes. The committee welcomes participation in any of its activities by all parishioners, we are particularly keen to promote increased gender-diversity amongst our membership.

Berni Griffiths, Verger & Premises Manager

Community Activities in the Brewer building and St. Mary's church

In addition to the regular services, weddings & baptisms in Church, the building is also used by a variety of 'community groups' such as: National Childbirth Trust, Diocesan Safeguarding meetings, Wandsworth Police and Local hustings. For the third year we were a 'hub venue' for the Wandsworth Arts Fringe Festival featuring over 25 international acts and installations. The year has seen the development of the First Class Learning tutorial classes and the Little Voices drama classes also continue to grow, we also host the English National Ballet School Juniors, Dance Grooves 'street dance' as well as adult ballet with Alice Crawford, Ballroom and Latin for children and adults with Kevin & Karen from 'Strictly Come Dancing'. There are a variety of well-being offers from various Pilates sessions, Yoga and Boxing / Exercise classes, we also have counselling sessions and language courses, Sing & Sign, Little Acorns and NCT classes continues to provide a valuable service for new mums and toddlers.

The Church space is also occasionally used for hosting larger local council and political gatherings such as hustings, planning presentations and consultation events for local politicians etc. This year there has been an increase in the number of musical events and concerts in the Church with a diverse program ranging from lunch time Cello recitals during the week through to the 50 strong choir of the Fulham Camerata and the South London Jazz Orchestra, all with a focus on raising money for local charities and Parish Action. The Wandsworth Symphony Orchestra continue to rehearse every Wednesday night and will perform their Christmas Carol Charity event here again this year.

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. This year we installed a wooden picket fence around the playground area which has significantly improved the aspect from both sides of the fence.

Glassdoor Night Shelter are enjoying another successful season with around 50 guests for dinner and 35 homeless men staying in the Lancaster Hall and half a dozen women sleeping over in the Cromwell Room every Monday night from November through to Easter.

The continuing development of the Arches may see the installation of a music studio in the former storage area at the back of the Sunday School Arch for a drum workshop, there are also early plans to convert the old Boiler Room underneath the Church for similar use offering one to one tuition in guitar and saxophone. We recently started managing and administration of bookings for the Old Manual Room which is a stand alone building on the grounds of All Saints School used by the Scouts, classes from the Putney Art Academy, Go Create ceramic workshop, Pilates and children's parties are already regular features.

St Mary's Church is open all day, seven days a week and whilst we are making good use of the extensive facilities for the benefit of the congregation and the wider community, our objective remains to keep the Church open to all visitors for peaceful prayer and quiet reflection whenever people need it. This year has also

seen an increase in pastoral outreach through the Parish Office due to increasingly difficult circumstances on the streets, utilising the Pantry to provide warmth and comfort to those in need we are also able to successfully connect people in need with the relevant agencies for care where appropriate.

Berni Griffiths, Verger & Premises Manager

Safeguarding for adults

The Church of England aims to share its good news with all including those who are among the most vulnerable in society. Implicit in this is a willingness to maintain the value and dignity of each individual and the trustworthiness of those with responsibility.

Safeguarding is underpinned by legislative framework and Government guidelines, which set out responsibilities, duties and best practice.

The Church of England safeguarding policy statement contains core principles of welfare, respect, integrity transparency, accountability, collaboration with statutory authorities, a commitment to the prevention of abuse, management of risk, promoting a culture of informed vigilance and regular evaluation to ensure best practice. They apply to all Church Bodies and Church Officers whether clergy, lay or volunteers.

Through 2017-18 there have been a number of causes of concern, mainly in the area of mental health among members of the church several of whom are occasional visitors. I can report that our system of reporting has been active and there has been a fairly frequent level of written contact both to report and to air concerns. This remains confidential as far as possible usually between the reporter, the vicar and myself. Our pastoral assistants have been especially vigilant and do much to offer support to those who are troubled. Berni is often on 'the front line' and is diligent at noting and sharing problems. Members of the volunteer Pastoral Team are constantly alert to issues that may become worrying.

In addition to these matters we have been advised by the Diocese about the way to deal with terror alerts which is a new threat to all public places. A discussion is to follow about the best way to disseminate this information without causing unnecessary alarm.

As ever we promote a culture of trust balanced by vigilance but never complacency and sharing whenever there is concern.

Isobel Vass, Safeguarding Officer for adults

Safeguarding for children

The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in church activities remains the responsibility of the whole Church. At St Mary's there are two Safeguarding Officers, one for Children (me) and Isobel Vass is Safeguarding Officer for Vulnerable Adults. Part of our role is to receive any suspicions or allegations of abuse which may arise and to inform and liaise with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. Our photographs and emails are on the church noticeboard and website and all are encouraged to communicate any concerns however small. We keep a log of incidents and concerns which arise. The file 'A Safe Church' is

updated regularly in line with new policies and practice guidance sent to us from the Diocese.

It is now compulsory for all volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults for the Parish of Putney to undertake basic safeguarding training. A series of training sessions have recently taken place at All Saints' and we are grateful to all those who have given up their time. For those new volunteers who wish to attend Safeguarding training this can be arranged via the All Saints' church office.

In September I attended Leadership in Safeguarding Training. We continue to seek to promote a safer culture and it is reassuring to see so many new volunteers have now attended Safeguarding Training, helping us ensure Safeguarding is embedded in all aspects of the life and ministry of the church.

Libbit Osborne, Safeguarding Officer for children

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). We currently have 42 DBS checked volunteers (including 6 specialists in Godly Play), who taught 108 Sunday School sessions in 2017 to the 100 or so children that regularly attend Sunday School at St Mary's. It's a pleasure and a joy to work with the children and teach them about 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 5 new volunteers. Caroline Donne has temporarily stepped into the role as first contact for new volunteers Sunday School, while Jessica Cooper takes a break for maternity leave. Sally Eltringham and Hannah King continue to responsible for new teachers' 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 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. It's no small job and our thanks go to Adrian and Rachel for all their time and dedication.

Finally, thanks go to Julie Craig for (cheerfully) sorting out the administrative side of things, including DBS checks and keeping the registers up to date.

Hannah King and Sally Eltringham

St Mary's Sunday Creche Review

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

We have an active team of 29 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 per quarter. We rota 3 volunteers per session with occasionally 2 running the session. For child protection reasons we never run the crèche with only 1 volunteer present.

The crèche is run in the Clergy office (Laura's office) upstairs behind the lift and can easily accommodate demand for space. We have around 35 children currently under active registration with the crèche of which around half attend on a regular basis.

During the time children spend in the creche, they engage with volunteers, eat simple (allergy free) snacks, play with toys stored in the Cromwell Room, read books and take part in a short religious service of prayers and hymns.

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 the register of new children/volunteers.

Sophie Holdcroft (Sunday Crèche leader) - February 2018

Godly Play

WHAT IS GODLY PLAY? Godly Play is a creative and imaginative approach to Christian nurture based on Montessori principles which enables adults and children to explore the Bible and the Christian faith in an open way. A typical session will include a time to get ready, a story from the Bible using 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, 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 for Godly Play teachers by the Diocese of Southwark and Godly Play UK. The stories are used in the annual course to prepare children to receive Holy Communion.

THE TEACHING TEAM: Ali White, Sophy Jubb, Kate Caseley, Anne Burfitt, Sarah Brearley, Paula Greenwood and Caroline Donne (also appointed as a South West Godly Play advocate to promote Godly Play more widely). Our numbers have been reduced this year and we are keen to recruit and train new teachers. There was a "drop in session" for enquirers in December 2017 and three people have expressed an interest in training (3 days). Godly Play is now being used in many contexts from schools to care homes. It is contemplative, imaginative and a way of deeply engaging with the Christian faith. We very much hope that others will come to join our teaching team. More details from Caroline Donne via the Church Office Julie.Craig@parishofputney.co.uk or visit www.godlyplay.uk

SCHOOLS: St Mary's school, years 3 to 6 have one session per term in half year groups lead by a member of the teaching team above. Stories are chosen to meet the RE and school assembly themes and the feedback from children and staff has been really positive. We are so pleased to be able to offer this to St Mary's school and it is only possible because our volunteer teachers make time around their work and regular commitments to lead the sessions. Our vision is to train more teachers so that we can offer this to other schools in the area.

LENDING STORIES: The diocese of Southwark now runs a Resources Exchange in the Cathedral to support and enrich children and young people's work. This includes the loan of Godly Play story equipment.

<http://southwark.anglican.org/cypmm/resourceexchange/>

However, we continue to loan our stories to careful users. In this way our resources have enabled other parishes to benefit from Godly Play. The Richmond team regularly borrows stories to take into their local primary schools.

USE OF THE ROOM: In 2008 the PCC made it possible for Godly Play to be established at St Mary's by allocating resources for the room to be equipped and dedicated to Godly Play. A wonderful vision! Since then it has been necessary to use the room for other purposes in order to help with the finances of the Parish but the room is hired on the understanding that it is a quiet and contemplative space with respect for all the stories and equipment on the shelves. Thanks to Berni for ensuring that this is the case. Berni reports that it is an attractive room for clients who prefer a calm space. They observe the "no shoes, no food or drink rules". Regular users are: 'Sing and Sign' baby signing classes, 'Simply Knowing' for one to one counselling sessions, Black African Asian Therapy Network, National Childbirth Trust.

Caroline Donne, February 2018

St. Mary's Play group

Toddler Group at St Mary's meets every Tuesday morning from 9.45am until 11.00am. 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.

We provide a space for young children to listen to and interact with other children and adults and for their parents and carers to rest and build relationships with each other. The story time gently introduces them to the ancient stories from our faith tradition, and the craft allows them to express themselves creatively as well as having something to take home and treasure.

We have a steady attendance of 15-20 children with parents or carers and plenty of others who attend occasionally. We are grateful to all our volunteers who help to make this provision possible.

Steve Emerson, Pastoral Assistant

Youth groups

An important part of our ministry as Pastoral Assistants has been to continue growing the UNDERGROUND Youth Group that we inherited from our predecessor

Tom Dumbell. The sessions that we held towards the end of 2017 were successful, but we discerned that, although we were providing a fun environment for the young people to enjoy, we were missing an opportunity to provide a spiritually enriching experience.

Following a period of reflection, we re-launched in 2018 with a new programme of events aimed at Year 6 children which has gone from strength to strength: our last session had double the number of students that we began with in January. Each UNDERGROUND event now has a specific theme linked to the liturgical calendar and offers children a fun and thoughtful way of engaging with each other and the Christian faith. UNDERGROUND is in good shape to be handed over to our successor at the end of this school year.

James Hughesman and Steve Emerson

Parish Action Group

Overview

This committee was established 12 years ago with the intention of raising parish awareness in social issues relating to health, justice and poverty both locally and globally. It provides the vehicle for practical action by assisting nominated charities working in some aspect of these areas, however we have widened the field of interest to include charities who provide hope through provision of food, education and shelter. Selection of our chosen charities is made in consultation with the congregation via a parish-wide survey every three years, the most recent being in 2017. Each selected charity is assisted through fund-raising at dedicated events during the year for a period of three consecutive years, although some have had a longer tenure. Charities where volunteering opportunities are possible are particularly encouraged.

The Parish Action committee has a minimum of two representatives for each charity one based at each church. Heartfelt thanks to the members of the committee and to all those who have kindly given money, time, donations in-kind and volunteered and helped in numerous un-sung ways.

Charities

Bishop's Lent Call last year supported the theme 'I was hungry...I was thirsty'. Funds raised in our diocese helped with food security in Zimbabwe, Matabeleland, Masyingo and Manicaland through projects addressing gathering of water, donating seed, training in market gardening at local schools and training in farm responsibility, sustainability and diversity. Locally the Lent Call supports Faith in Action which operates the Homeless Drop-In Centre in Merton for the homeless and vulnerably housed; Deptford Reach which is a crisis intervention centre and the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation which works to stop the damage done by drugs to young lives

Christian Aid works globally to eradicate poverty and provides practical and effective assistance to tackle the causes and effects of it. The charity works pre-emptively in areas identified as being in great need to try to avert emergencies but also reactively during traumatic times and offering longer term support and help to find solutions for the local people in the aftermath. Christian Aid believes in life before death and is part of a global movement for change. Our parish works together with churches of all denominations in Putney to support this charity with a door-to-door envelope

drop. We additionally organise a car wash, a concert and collection buckets at tube stations and our church schools. We have possibly supported this charity since 1947! Diocese of Southwark Fairer Share Scheme supports churches and communities in deprived areas of South London. This enables every parish to have clergy when they might not otherwise be able to finance this.

Glass Door is London's largest emergency shelter and provides a safe, warm place to sleep for more than 100 homeless people per night every winter in St Marys' and other churches. Glass door also provides longer term assistance to help guests build more stable futures giving them time and space to develop relationships and trust. The charity promotes respect, dignity and the ethos that all people have value. The bonfire and firework display at All Saints' and the annual sleep out on the streets of London provide funds for this cause.

Hestia provides refuge from domestic abuse and also works to combat human trafficking across London and the South East. They run three refuges in Wandsworth for women and children. Last year, Hestia provided a safe home and empowering support to almost 9000 people. The charity also assists older people to stay active and healthy, ex-offenders to make a new start, people with physical disabilities to live independently, young people to access advice, education and training, and also provides recovery support for drug and alcohol dependency.

Home-Start Wandsworth provides invaluable support to our local vulnerable parents thereby giving young children a better start in life. Families suffering from mental or physical illness, social isolation, debt, bereavement, domestic violence or addiction are all eligible for support and training to help improve their confidence in creating better lives and empowering them to make positive choices and a more promising future for their children.

Hestia and Home-Start came to the end of their tenure in 2017 and we have introduced a new local charity Regenerate.

Vulindlela Guardians is a charity based in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe and cares for the orphans of AIDS victims and children who have nobody to pay their school fees. The money we raise goes to pay their school fees and to finance a feeding scheme for the children at the Vulindlela Centre in Bulawayo. The Parish Picnic is the main additional event that supports this charity but individuals may also sponsor an orphan via a mydonate page. The parish started to support this charity in 2007 and they are in their last cycle of tenure to end in 2020.

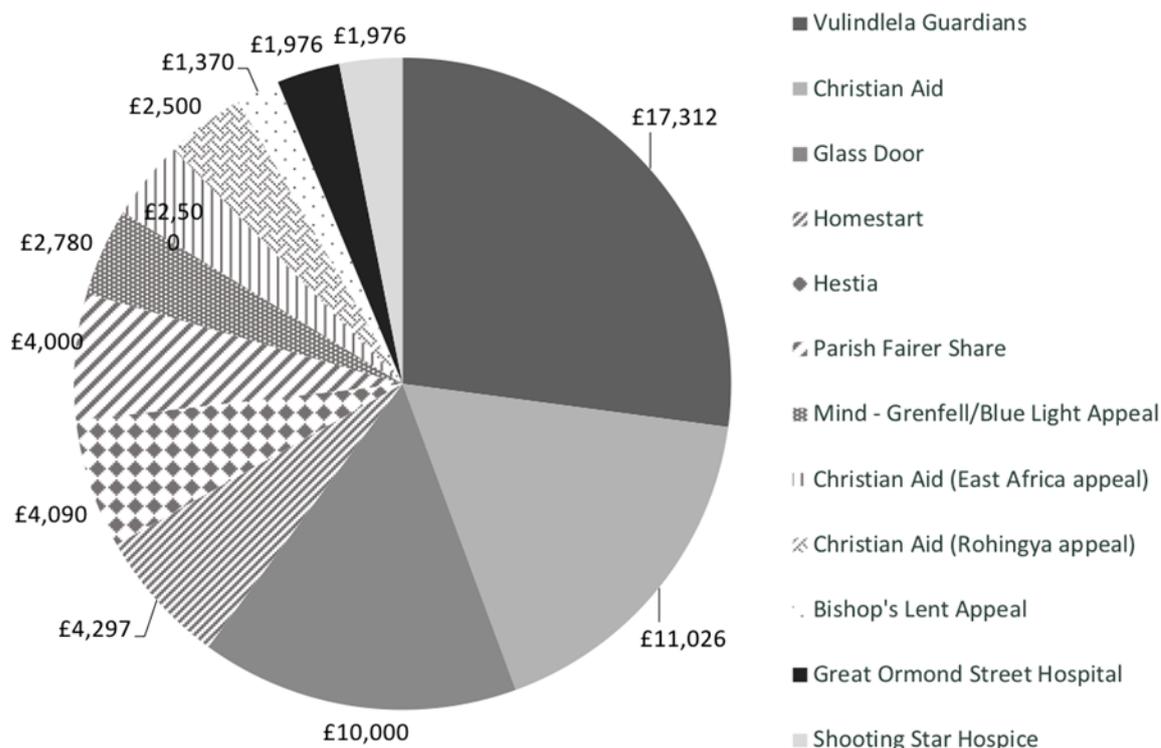
Regenerate is a local youth and community-based charity that fosters positive transformation in the lives of young people, 8-25 years, and their families. It supports people who may be experiencing financial hardship, behavioural or educational difficulties, unemployment, antisocial behaviour or being at risk of involvement with gangs and crime. The people who run this organisation are from within the Putney and Roehampton community that they are now supporting. It is anticipated that the main fundraising event for this charity will be the Christmas Fair, but we will be discussing other ways to support this fantastic charity from the beginning of their tenure and will be assessing imaginative ways in which to do this.

Fundraising and Finance

The Parish Ball sported the lively theme of Moulin Rouge last November and raised £25,000 for the Parish Action charities. Enormous thanks are due to Linda Hayllar

and her team, and especially Nikki Cornfield, Andrew Grocott, Vanessa Gibson, Madeleine Hardiman, Sarah Binder, Lucy Denyer, Camilla Lewis, Laurent Gibb, Will Blake, Paul Jessop and Isabella Chaloner for their unstinting service at this event which raises the majority of the funds that Parish Action can allocate. Whilst ticket sales cover costs it is the silent auction and other activities that provide us with the much needed finance for our charitable work. Thank you to all of you who so kindly donated prizes and supported the event by attending on the night and may I encourage you all to come again!

Parish Action - 2017 totals donated - £63,126



Rosie Taylor-Davies (Chair) and Richard Phipps (Treasurer)

Pastoral Care Group

Much of the pastoral work within the parish is performed by the clergy and the pastoral assistant. A number of volunteers also offer time, recognising that some of our parishioners carry a heavy emotional load, whether through illness, bereavement or other sadness, rendering them lonely or deeply sad.

Having begun with periodic evening meetings most volunteers have found it more workable simply to stay in touch with Laura, Steve or Isobel Vass. This ensures that confidentiality is maintained, and any concerns can be responded to appropriately.

All are DBS checked (a list is maintained by Julie Craig, Church administrator) and recently Safeguarding training has been strongly recommended so that or any situation that could potentially put the visitor or the visitee at risk is anticipated and avoided. Each volunteer is reminded that our role is simply one of befriending and that we cannot offer Social Worker or medical skills. We also encourage irregular visiting schedules to avoid any chance of creating dependence.

There is an accompanying meal provision service, a one-off gesture for anyone who is struggling with difficult circumstances such as care of a sick member of the family. Almost certainly more people would enjoy an occasional visit and we ask that people refer names to us. We are always happy to have more volunteers who inevitably get more out of giving their time to befriend someone than receiving.

Isobel Vass

Supper Circle

The Supper Circle continues to be a popular choice for volunteers and now has a healthy number of people signed up. We have provided a fair few meals for one family in the first half of the year.

However, in recent months we have had no requests for meals. Hopefully this is a sign that everyone is ok! But it is probably time for me to do some notices in church to remind everyone, and inform newcomers, that home cooked meals are available.

Selina Meikle

Social Activities

Events@St.Mary's is a fun way to be involved in the social and fundraising activities of St. Mary's Church. We are always looking for volunteers to help run our array of wonderful social events throughout the year, as this could be something as little as helping run a cake stand, manning a BBQ, serving drinks and helping set up and tidy away.

We often work together with Events@AllSaints in the planning of the parish events, such as our summer BBQ and Toy Service and we are there to not only organise the logistic and refreshments at our social gatherings but also to assist our Parish Action team in putting together the fundraising events which raise money for the charities we support.

We would welcome all involvement, no matter how small or sporadic so do get in touch with Amber at ambermaxine@hotmail.com or text me on 07748 982 806.

Amber Raine

Ale Mary

With high rents and house prices, Putney has a regular turnover of young adults. Ale Mary provides a chance for 20 and 30-somethings to get to know each other, socialise, build relationships and talk about life, faith and anything else. It's entirely informal, very friendly and meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month, in the Rocket pub behind St Mary's after Caritas. It started in mid-2016 and is coordinated by members via a WhatsApp group.

Carrie Myers and Mark Leadley

Every Little Helps Stall

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, 426.90.

Jan	Medicine Sans Frontiere	£131.70
Feb	Children On The Edge	£160.30
March	Bishop's Lent Appeal	£124.00
April	DEC (Famine Relief)	£116.50
May	Canine Partners	£101.00
June	GOSH	£200.00
July	Books for St Mary's children's library	£133.70
Aug	Holidays!	£0.00
Sept	Paul's Cancer Support Centre	£110
Oct	Demelza Hospice Care For Children	£120.80
Nov	The Cinnamon Trust	£101.20
Dec	WaterAid	£127.00
	TOTAL	£1, 426.90

Mike Bull and Peter Tuppen

Flowers

We have a small team who continue to create wonderful displays every week; we would however welcome new members to the group, no prior experience is needed. I am immensely grateful to Mike Bull for his invaluable help and support with the preparation for Christmas, Easter & Remembrance Day, and to Ellen Ley for joining us and sharing the work.

We will continue to provide arrangements in memory of loved ones on request. The Easter lilies are another way of remembering loved ones. If you would like to sponsor one of our Sunday pedestal or join the team please contact me on 07951 811325.

Sofia Paleologo

Bell Ringing

The bellringers at St Mary's 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 continue to improve their skills. We would love to attract more learners, particularly with the campaign to recruit 1,400 new bellringers to honour the 1400 who lost their lives during the Great War – more information below.

A centenary commemoration service and peal in memory of George Honeyball, a bellringer at St Mary's before WWI, who died in action during the Third Battle of

Ypres, was held on 16th August. A talk of George's life in the church was given by Alan Regin, Steward of the Central Council of Church Bellringers' Rolls of Honour of Church Bellringers Killed In Battle. After the talk a full peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major (5,000 changes) was rung on St Mary's bells by a band of Putney Bell Ringers.

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. Next weekend 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.

Under Michael Uphill's wing as new Tower Secretary the ringers and visitors are undertaking a monthly programme of ringing quarter peals, to enhance the skills of current members and keep ringing vibrant within our Tower.

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 Tower Captain, 2018

Sides-persons and welcomers

St Mary's Church sidespeople 2018	
Carmen Asare	Jamie Martin
Diana Bailey	Tali Mbangwa
John Blake	Raffaella Mengoni
Sarah Brearley	Liz Meehan
Ran Chen	Simon Merrett
Deborah Chittenden	Ian Parramore
Jeremy Cole	Jolyon Parsons
Kath Diamond	Alan Pates
Jane Farrell	Quentin Ricks
Sam Fletcher	Charles Roberts
Kate Gibson	Michael Rotteveel
Alison Guest	Cherry Steward
Jed Hyde	Kate Umney
Barbara Kessie	Simon Upton
Michael Kyrin-White	Neil Vass
Peter Land	Ruby Vincent
Kenneth Leung	Cristiana Vitale
Maya Lojoo	Martin Watts
Kevin Maddick	

St Mary's Church welcomers 2018	
Linda O'Riordan	Neil Vass
Rupert Scott	Isobel Vass
Tammy Mackay	Celia Blake
Libbit Osborne	Jolyon Parsons
Lea Dixon	Cristiana Vitale
Maggie Wentzel	Jamie Martin
Alex Escobar	

Servers

Tanya Sonachan is delighted that Antonia Wainman has joined as a support in organising and managing the Serving Rota, Antonia will be doing this in her capacity as the Parish Clerk. Currently the serving team consists of 30 servers – 11 Adults (12 - 2017) and 19 children (17 - 2017). 6 of the 12 adults have one or more children serving and the majority of children are aged between 9 and 11, spread across years 5 – 7. 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, although we have found that the majority step down during the first term of Year 7 after the secondary school transfer - 7 of the children are currently in year 6/7.

The Admission to Communion classes at St Mary's continue to provide a very good foundation for serving and finding new recruits and we actively try and recruit both children and parents from these classes - with this in mind it would be very helpful to mention serving opportunities as part of the training if appropriate.

Steve Emerson currently trains both child and adult servers once they have been recruited with the help of Mark Leadley and Tanya Sonachan.

Tanya Sonachan

Chalice Assistants

Angela Attah	Mark Leadley
John Blake	Katharine Martin
Sarah Brearley	Jane Morley
Kate Caseley	Carrie Myers
Stephen Clarke	Ruth Pates
Jeremy Cole	Helen Pope
Bethan Deakins	Rob Riley
Kath Diamond	Charles Roberts
Caroline Donne	Tanya Shaw
Paul Donnelly	Cristiana Vitale
Alex Escobar	Antonia Wainman
Christopher Garnett	Ted Wainman
Andrew Grocott	Martin Watts
Jed Hyde	Annette Watson

Julie Craig

Music

The major development in the music department has been the appointment of Assistant Director of Music - Katy Silverman. Katy brings valuable experience from her previous posts at Guildford Cathedral and St. Mary's, Battersea, and is currently completing her Masters in Performance at The Royal College of Music. Katy works with The Harmonic Minors and plays regularly for Sunday services - we welcome her to the team and look forward to a successful collaboration.

We also welcome Richard Quesnel to the 'organ loft' - Richard works intermittently with the adult choir and plays the organ for Sunday services. From my perspective, it's wonderful to share the music amongst a strong team.

The adult choir has had another busy year - in addition to weekly Sunday contributions, it prepared large scale works including in *To Every Season* (Chilcott), for Harvest, excerpts from Rutter's *Requiem* for All Souls', plus music for the Advent carol service and the Christmas services. As we look to Easter, the choir are working towards Stainer's well known oratorio, *The Crucifixion*. We've welcomed several new members to the adult choir and enjoyed some terrific social events throughout the year.

We are looking to grow and develop the *Music by the Bridge* series by incorporating choral events alongside the organ recitals - perhaps two choral events and two organ recitals in one season. We would like to see the series establish itself as an important contribution to the musical life at St. Mary's, and, more broadly, London. I'd like to thank Bethan Deakins for all her time and effort she so willingly injects into maintaining the series.

Finally, I'd like to thank Laura for supporting the musical life at St. Mary's, our team, and all that we're trying to achieve.

Travis Baker www.travis-baker.co.uk

Harmonic Minors

The Harmonic Minors and Ensemble joined with the Adult choir for the Harvest and Advent services in 2017 and more recently they provided all the music for the Christingle All Age Eucharist. They continue to sing a range of music and are working towards singing examinations, with one exam taking place in spring 2018 and more planned for the summer. The group has a core membership of around 10 and recruitment is ongoing; during 2017-18 the main events were singing workshops at St Mary's and Brandlehow primary schools, and 'Bring a Friend to Choir Night'. I am very grateful to Travis and Helen Bradshaw for all their help and support with the choir, and for everyone at St Mary's for making me so welcome since starting here in September 2017.

Katy Silverman - Assistant Director of Music

Breathing Space: Christian Mindfulness

In a world full of stimulation, busyness and noise, we extend an open invitation to join us on Tuesday evenings at St Mary's, in the words of Psalm 42, to "Be Still and Know that I am God". Meditation has been an important part of Christian practice

for many centuries, largely lost in the West. Meditation is rooted in our understanding of the indwelling God who is closer to us than we are to ourselves. In recent years there has been a growing interest in mindfulness and meditation in other traditions, so why not in our own? Initiated two years ago by Ailsa Newby, we continue offering an opportunity to learn to be still, to put aside all the cares and concerns of daily life, for a short time, and to sit in silence in the presence of a loving God. We do not promise the miraculous but over time you will notice a difference in your daily life if you are willing to give time to simply be present to God and to yourself.

We meet in the lovely candle lit Sanctuary at St Mary's on Tuesday evenings from 9.30pm, we close the doors at 9.45pm when we begin the meditation, with a short prayer, 20 minutes silence and end at 10.15pm. We take the silence home with us as we end our day. Do join us for this very different prayer experience. You would be most welcome, please just turn up.

Jane Morley and Kate Hampton

Contact and Discussions with a Local Muslim Community

Last summer, the Ahmadi Muslims (from their Mosque at Southfields and the Baitul Futuh Mosque in Morden) staged a demonstration against terrorism (after the London Bridge and Borough Market attacks) at Church Square in Putney, at which our then Team Rector Canon Ailsa Newby was invited to speak. At that event, one of the Ahmadis present approached members of the St Mary's congregation proposing a joint discussion group to be held at St Mary's.

We soon responded favourably to this idea, and joint guidelines for the running of the Group were agreed, based on equal numbers of men and women from each faith community, an agreed agenda on matters of faith, culture and history, and acceptance of diversity, with no attempt by either side to proselytize.

The first formal meeting took place in August 2017, and after that took place roughly monthly, sometimes taking the form of social gatherings over a meal. Most recently (in February 2018, after a gap in meetings because of the busy Christmas period), the St Mary's group were invited to and attended an Open Day at the Ahmadis' huge and beautiful Baitul Futuh Mosque in Morden. We were made very welcome, shown round the impressive facilities by an expert guide, provided with delicious food, and were fascinated by the evident deeply-felt spiritual life and liveliness of the worshipping community there.

Overall, we are continually surprised at how little we really know of each other's lives and ways of believing and worshipping; yet we also keep discovering how much we have in common. Fundamentally we agree that the basis of faith for both our communities and for our contact with each other is and always will be the love of God and love of our neighbour; in the words of the Ahmadis' motto: 'Love for all; hatred for none'.

Ian Yearsley, Peter and Anne Tuppen, and Jane Morley

Report from St. Mary's Church School

St Mary's is one of two church primary schools in the Parish, with thirty places in each year group from Reception (ages 4-5) to Year 6 (ages 10-11). We also have a thriving nursery offering a combination of full-time and part-time places.

Together with All Saints', our sister school, we remain a first-choice school for Putney families. Each year St Mary's offer 20 foundation (church) places and 10 open places in our Reception class and this ratio is maintained in all year groups throughout the school, if places become available.

Rated outstanding by Ofsted, we were delighted to receive an outstanding grading by the Statutory Inspectorate of Anglican & Methodist Schools last term. The school was described as "outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners [...] providing an education of the highest quality, shaped by a deep Christian faith."

Head teacher, Cheryl Payne, is supported by a dedicated and experienced staff team, with specialist teachers for art, music and PE.

We aim to instil a thirst for knowledge in our pupils teaching the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) alongside the National Curriculum. The IPC offers a topic-based approach to learning, teaching a range of subjects through a single theme such as Time Detectives, Inventions and Machines or the Rainforest.

We support our class-based learning with termly class-trips to museums, churches, temples and other places of local interest such as Kew Gardens or The Wetland Centre. Our choir takes part in the Thames Festival for Kids and sang at the O2 in January as part of the Young Voices event.

Sport has long been an important feature of St Mary's and we continue to offer football, gymnastics, tennis, basketball and netball. We also have before and after school running clubs for budding Mo Farahs. The school competes in local sports competitions and has a pretty impressive collection of trophies acquired over the years.

Pupils do well at St Mary's, our attainment is consistently above both the national and local averages. But above all our pupils enjoy being at school. Here are some of the comments from our latest pupil survey:

"I like the amazing education we get at St. Mary's, we are all special and our school is different to others. We learn together and get along. We include everyone in everything. Everyone is friendly, the teachers are nice – they make lessons interesting, my peers are nice and they make break time fun."

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

Putney Debates

The Foundation for Law, Justice and Society, in association with the Oxford Faculty of Law, returned to St Mary's on 6 February for the second in its series of modern-day constitutional conventions. Over 100 people attended the Putney Debates 2018, which addressed the constitutional challenges raised by Brexit, focusing on the case for a federal system to address the pressures on the Union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the need for electoral reform. The debates were chaired by Denis Galligan, Emeritus Professor of Socio-Legal Studies at Oxford, and were

opened by Margaret Kelly, former public servant in the Cabinet of Australia, and Robert Hazell CBE, founder of the Independent Commission on Proportional Representation and the Constitution Unit at UCL. Video of the Debates will be available shortly on the FLJS Video and YouTube channels.

Sue Rolfe

Parish Magazine

The goal of the Parish Magazine is to provide different perspectives that will stimulate, challenge and resonate with everyone, reminding readers that despite our many differences, we share common values.

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 which helped towards the cost of the magazine. The magazine is thus largely self-funded.

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 continues to increase its social media presence with the aim of improving awareness and increasing attendance for events at St Mary's and across the parish. We always welcome suggestions or comments about any of the above social platforms. Let the parish office know; pick your format!

Twitter: [@StMarysPutney](https://twitter.com/StMarysPutney) We now have over 664 followers, including our Archdeacon who regularly retweets our tweets.

Instagram: [@PutneyPilgrim](https://www.instagram.com/PutneyPilgrim) Each week a different parishioner manages our account and publishes a daily photo showing why they are thankful and more recently focusing on where they pray. If you are interested in having a go please contact Revd. Laura laura.fawcett@parishofputney.co.uk

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 Church Mouse 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. We will be upgrading and improving this facility in the coming months to ensure that it is a focused and relevant communication point so keep your eyes peeled.

Contacting the office:

We have upgraded our IT system and we all have new email addresses so please make sure you have the right contact details for us!

Revd. Laura Fawcett	laura.fawcett@parishofputney.co.uk
Revd. Canon Richard Truss	Richard.truss@btinternet.com <i>(remains the same)</i>
Pastoral Assistant Steve Emerson	steve.emerson@parishofputney.co.uk
Safeguarding at St Mary's:	
Libbit Osborne	ChildSafeguarding.stmarys@parishofputney.co.uk
Isobel Vass	AdultSafeguarding.stmarys@parishofputney.co.uk
Parish Admin, St Mary's	Julie.Craig@parishofputney.co.uk
Premises Manager (Berni Griffiths)	Bookings@parishofputney.co.uk
Weddings/Baptisms (Antonia Wainman)	weddings.baptisms@parishofputney.co.uk

Julie Craig

Theology in the Pub

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

What am I doing here? A discussion
Service in the Community
Prayer Worship in the Community
Creation and Evolution
Is the Cross at Cross Purposes with Christianity?
Cressingham Gardens and the reality of social housing
Kierkegaard's "Fear & Trembling"
Preparation Course for Children to receive the Holy Communion
Collective and Individual Security
Lay presidency at the Eucharist in the Anglican Church
The Importance of Judaism for a Christian
Report from Synod
Man creates God in his own image
A view on The Book of Revelations
A Common Word - Discourse with Two Muslim communities
The Spirit of Pentecost
The Spirit of Prosperity
Reflections on "Called or Collared?" - What does vocation look like in 2017?
Transubstantiation - The Protestant View
The Situation of the French Church during the French Revolution
Understanding today's unloved and unwashed youth
Hell is where the action is
The Christmas Miracle ...and the Word was made Flesh
Ecumenism
Faith and Mental Health

A Grief Observed. How should children be involved in funerals?
Mediatisation in Prisons
A report from Synod
Christians in the Middle East - resilience, hospitality and reconciliation
The Role of a magistrate in the local community with a focus on the youth
Forgiveness "Forgive us our Sins as we Forgive Them"
The Knights Templar

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. I will continue organising the group until a successor is found.

Nigel Wright, March 2018

Pastoral Assistant

I am grateful to all at St Mary's for welcoming me warmly after the significant change in lifestyle required to leave my job, move to London and join the parish team.

During the week I start each day with morning prayer at All Saints' and then I am based in the office here at Mary's where I help with the general day-to-day running of the church. I run the Tuesday morning toddler group and assist at the Wednesday lunchtime Eucharist. I support Laura and Chris whenever and wherever I can with whatever is in need at any particular time.

I spend time at St Mary's school, leading assemblies, running a lunch time club, sitting on the faith group committee and joining in with running club! I have some involvement with St Cecilia's secondary school, I helped to run year 7 retreat days and I support Laura in hosting them for 'Communion in the Community' once per term.

On Sundays and special occasions, I am involved in the planning, preparation and delivery of various liturgies, particularly those involving children and not least the 10am and 6pm celebrations of the Eucharist. I look after the vestry and try to keep it well stocked and tidy.

I am involved in the pastoral life of the parish, meeting with people who drop in for a chat, formally or informally, either as a one off or regularly. I visit sick and housebound parishioners at home or in hospital and sometimes I take home communion to them.

I am involved with preparing people to receive the Sacraments of the church, particularly baptism and Holy Communion. This can be in the form of organised classes or less formally one-on-one.

James Hughesman (Pastoral Assistant All Saints') and I run a youth group at St Mary's for Y6 children across the parish and we have recently launched a parish wide men's group.

It has been my privilege to serve the Parish of Putney in the first half of my time here and I look forward with excitement to the rest of my time.

Steve Emerson

Curate's report

Ailsa's leaving in June 2017 means that this year has been full of new challenges and learning opportunities. Thank you to everyone who has been so supportive, especially to Chris, the pastoral assistants and office staff as I have sought to manage St Mary's Church day-to-day during the interregnum period.

Moving to the parish property in Deodar Road in August has helped significantly in my ability to manage my time and workload. Great thanks go to Chris Eyden, Clemency Gordon-Martin, Kate Innes and Richard Holman and who worked so hard behind the scenes to make this move possible.

As well our usual Sunday worship and mid-week services we have had a significant number of Weddings, Baptisms and funerals this year. Midweek pastoral opportunities have increased. In addition to the toddler groups and Wednesday Lunchtime Eucharist we have experienced a growing number of vulnerable people coming into the church midweek for food, shelter, prayer and a listening ear. This has also identified just how vital our work with Glassdoor is in providing a shelter in the winter months.

Both with Ailsa and since her leaving, we have developed creative worship and special services in the Parish including the prayer campaign for "Thy Kingdom Come" and services for Healing and Reconciliation at Caritas. Additionally, this year saw the start of Advent Contemplative Eucharists (following in the pattern of our Lent Contemplative Eucharists) and a service for those with experience of baby loss in January. It has also been important to be able to extend a monthly service this year to Mount Court sheltered accommodation. These special services could not have run without the additional time, help and expertise of our pastoral assistants and volunteers.

It has been a joy to be further involved with St Mary's Primary School, becoming an ex-officio governor during the interregnum and seeing the school gain Outstanding in its SIAMS report which remarked on its "distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a Church school with a strong Christian ethos... deeply rooted in Christian values". It has been a privilege to work with Cheryl and the team. Leading assemblies, Communion services and the new Tuesday lunchtime club for year 6s have all been wonderful opportunities to nurture and encourage the children of St Mary's as they continue in their adventures in faith.

Discipleship has been an area Ailsa led us to grow in, outlined in our MAP. This has been supported by the Lent Book Sermon Series and additional small groups including our confirmation group and a new midweek bible study group at All Saints. There is still more potential for us to meet together midweek for fellowship opportunities to encourage us in our Christian lives together. No doubt Discipleship, Mission and other aspects of our development will continue to be strengthened under the leadership of our new team Rector, Revd. John Whittaker.

I have been able to learn and be supported by so many during my curacy at the Parish of Putney. I am currently asked several times a week when I might leave, however those asking usually to reassure me that this is because they'd rather I didn't! The nature of Curacy is that it is only temporary, but who knows how long this adventure has left - God is with us, I'm enjoying it, and it's good to know others are too! **Revd. Laura Fawcett**

Charge 2018

On 4th June 2017 we celebrated Pentecost, the morning after the terrorist attack at London Bridge and in the shadow of the tragedy at Manchester Arena only days before. We came to God, Father Son and Holy Spirit as One; whose diversity unites and does not divide, whose name is love. As members of one church we shared in over 15 different languages the message, "Peace be with you". This was all on the cusp of Ailsa leaving and marked a transition where we would be asking this year important questions about who we are in Christ and the things that have united, and continue to unite us, as a church family in our mission in God's world.

Through a sermon serious and through various meetings and groups in the Autumn of 2017 we asked the question together of 'who are we?' and 'who is the leader we want to journey with us?'

Overwhelming you said we are a people who are inclusive and welcoming. A people for whom the Eucharist matters. That everyone belongs. That we can debate and question, but where no one pretends to have all the answers. That our building is a place for community, where we can be busy with many activities, but also a place that also provides quiet prayer and sanctuary.

We shared some home truths: we want someone who will lead us prayerfully, who will lead us to be effective in ministry but also someone who will not be afraid to challenge our busyness. We want a leader who will speak into the political landscape of our age with engaging sermons that challenge and inspire but equally a good listener with a pastoral heart, someone who is prayerful, a priest.

Rev. John Whittaker comes to us this year as all those things, but also as a human being! We pray for him, for his wife Helena and their family as they prepare to move from Hinckley

We give thanks for all that Rev. Canon Ailsa Newby gave us in her leadership, organisation and prayerfulness. We give thanks for the way she transformed the parish finances, brought Godly vision and enabled our community to flourish. We have every confidence she will continue to bring her diligent leadership and pastoral wisdom to her new position as Canon Pastor in Ripon Cathedral and pray for her in this role.

We also pray for ourselves that we might all be open to the adventure that is ahead of us. Yet ultimately, we know that who we are today is not just because of the leadership of gifted priests and lay leaders – though we have been blessed with many. We are who we are today because of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as we have said goodbye to Ailsa and look forward to welcoming John, we know that nothing is placed on hold. No one is 'left waiting'. Because we have been tasked every day to welcome, to make room, to prepare for Christ *today*, in our lives, in this church and in our community.

We know that the presence of Christ doesn't always make things easier. Sometimes the presence of Christ messes up our busy ways of working, our neat priorities, our efficient systems and sparkling appearances.

The Gospel reminds us that as we welcome Christ, we welcome one who 'does not give as the world gives' (John 14:27) but one who 'comes to give life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). We welcome a God who takes whatever we offer and transforms it into glory: water to wine, fishermen to disciples, loaves and fishes to a feast.

In Luke 22 Jesus takes his friends' willingness to serve him and transforms it. This basic willingness to follow simple instructions is transformed into the earliest Christian community. Jesus sends Peter and John to an ordinary guest room. They have no idea that what they are preparing for is a meal that would change the world. They have no idea that following Jesus' instructions will lead them to a place where they will share the first Eucharist, hide in fear after Jesus' death and then witness the resurrection. They have no idea that the wine they pour out and the bread they prepare will be the body and blood of Christ that rescues them from their deepest fears and from death itself.

These friends of God simply show up and follow some strange instructions (as often follows in church, especially in the liturgical tradition): "Listen" Jesus tells them, before explaining that they should simply find the person carrying the water jug, follow them and ask for what they are looking for.

In the Parish of Putney, it is inconceivable to us that the disciples would not have asked more questions: "How will I know it's the right jug?" "Are we doing a run through first?" "Whose guest room is it?" "Are we catering for extra dietary requirements?" It is an incredible thought that the commands of Jesus, inviting his friends to prepare this world changing feast are so painfully simple: listen, follow, ask.

It seems the preparations required for following Jesus, even at the most important meal in the history of the church are minimal: the room is "already furnished".

Taking Jesus at his word, sometimes involves doing less rather than more. Certainly, as we find here, it involves *listening* to Jesus, *following* Jesus (discipleship) and *asking* (praying). This is the basis of transformation. The basis of the Christian life.

We can easily complicate our faith, make it busier and demand far more of ourselves than Jesus demands of us.

All the things we prepare at St Mary's as Jesus' disciples in 2018, in this guest room (and many other rooms), are wonderful. Indeed, I don't know how we quite manage them all! Yet in the midst of our preparations and organisation Jesus is saying, come break bread and drink wine with me, in this place that is already prepared for you. Don't worry about all there is to do, or all the table you may or may not have perfected. The room I'm inviting you to is "already furnished"

It was an incredible journey ahead of the disciples after that Passover meal. A journey that we prepare to remember next Sunday and in the events of Holy Week and Easter. There is an incredible journey ahead of us too. We do not know what it will hold for each of us, but in every Christian journey there is crucifixion and there is resurrection of some kind. On this journey let us remember Jesus' instructions to listen, follow, ask. As we prepare for our future together, let us prepare today a place for Christ here at St Mary's that we may welcome him into each of our lives.

Rev. Laura Fawcett