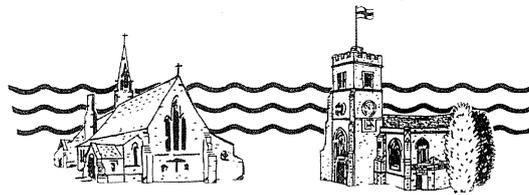


**THE PARISH OF PUTNEY
St. Mary's AGM**



The Parish of Putney
St Mary with All Saints

17th March 2019

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

2018-2019

AGM Reports

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THE PARISH OF PUTNEY

St. Mary's Church

Sunday 17th March 2019

AGENDA

- Introductory Prayers
- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of 18th March 2018
- 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) There are no PCC/DCC members to be elected
 - f) There are no PCC only members to be elected for a 3-year term
 - g) There are no DCC members only to be elected for a 3-year term
- Appointment of Sides-men and Sides-women
- Presentation of the Church Finances
- Church Reports
- AOB

APCM Meeting: Tuesday 30th April 2019, 7:30pm

PARISH OF PUTNEY
St. Mary's AGM
Minutes of the meeting held on
Sunday, 18th March 2018
on the life of
St. Mary's Church Putney

Meeting commenced at 11.15 a.m.

Present: The Rev'd Laura Fawcett (Chair), Wardens, DCC secretary, and 40 members of the Parish.

Apologies: Ian & Margaret Yearsley

Minutes of AGM 19th March 2017. There were no matters arising:

Minutes approved: Proposed by Andrew Grocott; Seconded by Tangwena Nelson; Passed unanimously.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising

Elections:

a) Election of District Wardens:

Two District Wardens were nominated:

Angela Attah (proposed by Paul Donnelly and seconded by Alan Pates) and Andrew Grocott (proposed by Angela Attah and seconded by Paul Donnelly). 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 Andrew Sternberg and seconded by Adrian Weed) and Christiana Vitale (proposed by Richard Holman and seconded by Charles Roberts). Katherine Diamond and Christiana Vitale were duly elected. There were no other nominations. The Rev'd Fawcett congratulated the splendid team of Wardens who keep track of the assets of the church building and stated that we were very privileged to have them.

c) Election of Treasurer:

Andrew Sternberg was thanked by the Rev'd Fawcett for his highly valuable contribution in looking after St. Mary's finances this year and over the past 9 years together with Richard Holman. Andrew Sternberg was content to be nominated to continue in this role (proposed by Angela Attah and seconded by Angela Holman). There were no other nominations and he was duly elected.

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

There were no Deanery Synod Representatives to be elected.

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

One nomination was received. Richard Quesnell (proposed by Jeremy Donne and seconded by Alex Lowe) was duly elected.

f) DCC membership for a 3-year term:

Four nominations were received: Elizabeth Osborne (proposed by Emily Kent and seconded by Angela Attah), Nicola Cornfield (proposed by Angela Holman and seconded by Richard Holman), George Aitkin (proposed by Richard Holman and seconded by Angela Holman) and Mike Bull (proposed by John Blake and seconded by Peter Tuppen). As there were no other nominations they were duly elected. Pam Smith was co-opted onto the DCC and PCC.

The Rev'd Fawcett 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 24 of the 2017-18 report and was duly accepted. Paul Donnelly recorded his warm thanks to the volunteers for all the help they continue to provide at services. The Rev'd Fawcett thanked DCC Members Peter Land, Sally Holman-Hunt and Rachel Brett who were standing down for their contributions.

Electoral Roll Report: The number of people on the Electoral Roll is currently 408; an increase of 11 on last year.

Presentation of the Church Finances: Andrew Sternberg (Treasurer) provided highlights from his report:

Following an historic deficit he was pleased to report that taking operating costs into account finances had stabilised with a surplus of £23,000, which included a legacy of £12,000. This shows a surplus for the 4th running. Total income is over £300,000. We have a cash reserve of £40,000. The 2018-19 budget forecast is on a breakeven basis. We cannot afford to be complacent, however. For the church to grow further we will need to increase our income and stewardship will have an increased focus in the year to come.

The Rev'd Fawcett urged those present to ask questions to encourage ownership of church finances by the congregation. Robert Riley asked if St Mary's operated a sinking fund. Andrew Sternberg responded that there was a sinking fund of £10-11,000 and if there was a major cash call other resources in the wider parish could be called upon. The Treasurer went on to thank the Rev'd Fawcett and Julie Craig in the Parish Office for their support in his role. The Rev'd Fawcett thanked Andrew Sternberg warmly for his highly competent handling of the accounts and very clear presentation. These were approved: proposed by Andrew Grocott and seconded by Richard Holman.

Report on Giving: The Rev'd Fawcett 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. Richard Holman noted there would be some significant expense required on the roof and took the

opportunity to thank the Buildings & Maintenance Committee for their comprehensive and meaningful work over the past year.

Safeguarding: This has been overseen by Isobel Vass and Libbit Osborne. The Rev'd Fawcett noted that the Parish had given very special attention to this subject and encouraged as many people as possible to attend the safeguarding courses to help protect the most vulnerable in our community.

Children in the Parish: The reports on Sunday School, The Creche, Godly Play and St Mary's Playgroup were taken as read. The Rev'd Fawcett noted that there were now 42 DBS checked volunteers on the register which is a considerable achievement. Huge thanks were due to all those involved particularly those in a leadership role.

Youth Groups: The report was taken as read. The Rev'd Fawcett encouraged those present to ask questions and to read the report.

Parish Action: The comprehensive report provided by Rosie Taylor-Davies as Chairwoman and Richard Phipps as Treasurer was taken as read. The Rev'd Fawcett commended their excellent work with charities. Over £63,000 was raised in 2017-18. The Rev'd Fawcett extended a huge thank you to Rosie Taylor-Davies as the new Chairwoman.

Pastoral Care Group: A report was provided by Isobel Vass. They would be very happy to recruit more volunteers.

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: Over £1,400 has been raised this year.

Flowers: The report provided by Sofia Paleologo was taken as read. More volunteers would be welcome.

Ringing Report: A report was received from Paula Greenwood and taken as read.

Servers: A report received from Tanya Sonachan was taken as read.

Chalice Assistants: The list was confirmed.

St. Mary's Music: The report by Travis Baker was taken as read. The Rev'd Fawcett congratulated him on the very high standard and beauty of the music at St Mary's and welcomed Katy Silverman to the Team.

Breathing Space: The report provided by Jane Morley and Kate Hampton was taken as read.

Contact and Discussions with a Local Muslim Community: The report provided by Ian Yearsley, Peter and Anne Tuppen and Jane Morley was taken as read.

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 & Contacting the Office: The report by Julie Craig was taken as read. The Rev'd Fawcett thanked Julie Craig for her outstanding support over the past year.

Theology in the Pub: The report provided by Nigel Wright was taken as read. He would like to find someone to take over from him.

Pastoral Assistant's Report: Steve Emerson's report was taken as read. The Rev'd Fawcett thanked Steve warmly for his support.

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

Charge 2018: The Rev'd Fawcett encouraged us to make room for Christ on a daily basis and to *'listen, follow and ask'*. Paul Donnelly extended thanks on behalf of the Wardens and the Congregation to the Rev'd Fawcett for doing a brilliant job both in and outside the church during the interregnum. The Rev'd Fawcett thanked the Wardens and Leaders of church activities for their support in her role and helping to make it such a joyful experience.

Any other Business: The Rev'd Fawcett announced that the AGM of the Parish would take place on 23th April 2018 at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 11.45 a.m.

ST MARY'S DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL 2018-2019

Ex-Officio Members

Clergy

Rev'd Laura Fawcett, Rev'd John Whittaker

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, Jeremy Donne

Treasurer

Andrew Sternberg

Lay Members elected to serve on DCC

Charles Roberts, Zoe Coakley, Tangwena Nelson, Alex Lowe, Adrian Weed, Richard Quesnel, Libbit Osborne, Nikki Cornfield, George Aitken, Pamela Smith.

Lay Members elected to serve on both DCC and PCC

Zoe Coakley, Tangwena Nelson.

Co-opted Members

Mike Bull was co-opted to the DCC and Pamela Smith to the DCC and PCC.

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 continued emphasis on giving including discussions on Stewardship technology.

Safeguarding has been given a high priority with an internal audit and a variety of training sessions organised. The Church Mouse has been overhauled and is now GDPR compliant.

Other issues discussed have included Ministry amongst young families and the establishment of a Youth Group.

Pamela Smith

Secretary

New Parish Electoral Roll 2019

Every six years parishes are obliged to prepare a new Church Electoral Roll (this is the Church Electoral Roll not the Government/Civil Roll). It is six years since this was last done so a new roll has now to be prepared in time for the Annual Parochial Church

Meeting on 30th April. The process is governed by the Church Representation Rules. Accordingly, from the **27th February**, all those wishing to have their names entered on the new Roll, whether they are on the present Roll or not, are requested to apply for enrolment by completing the enrolment forms. Forms will have been emailed or posted out but are also available from either St Mary's Church or All Saints' Church. The completed form should be returned to one or other of the addresses given below not later than **Sunday 7th April**.

The new Roll will be published and come into force on the **14th April**. Between that date and the date of the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Tuesday 30th April 2019** no new names may be added! The list will be open again after the close of the APCM.

Completed enrolment forms should be placed in the box at the back of the church or returned to: either The Electoral Roll Officer, St Mary's Church, Putney High Street, SW15 1SN or The Electoral Roll Officer, All Saints Church, 21 Lanford Road, SW15 1AQ.

Angela Holman, Electoral Roll Officer

Financial Report

The highlights are:

- **Total net deficit for the year is £6,000. This is before recording one-off items which reduce the deficit to £3,000.**
- **This £6,000 operating deficit is behind our break-even budget and last year's £11,000 surplus.**
- **Although our finances have deteriorated in the year, this is not surprising given the interregnum. With John's arrival, we are confident that our finances will turn around in 2019 and we will continue to invest in God's work in the Parish.**

Summary income and expenditure account

St Mary's Income and Expenditure Summary		
Year ended 31 December 2018		
	2018	2017
	Income	Income
	£'000	£'000
Planned giving (incl tax recoveries)	182	193
Loose plate collections	16	15
Returns on investments	31	27
Grants and donations	34	37
Lettings and other income	43	42
Total income	306	315
	Expenditure	Expenditure
	£'000	£'000
Parish Support Fund	201	201
Pastoral assistant	15	12
Lay staff	44	43
Light, heat and insurance	13	14
Church expenses	26	22
Governance	4	6
Parish office	9	9
Total expenditure	312	304
Operating (deficit) / surplus	(6)	11

2018 - Income £306,000

Category	Percentage
Planned giving (incl tax recoveries)	60%
Loose plate collections	5%
Returns on investments	10%
Grants and donations	11%
Lettings and other income	14%

2018 - Expenditure £312,000

Category	Percentage
Parish Support Fund	65%
Pastoral assistant	5%
Lay staff	14%
Light, heat and insurance	4%
Church expenses	8%
Governance	1%
Parish office	2%

Income

Planned giving via standing orders fell during the year by £11,000 (6%) to £182,000. The planned giving report provides further details on this.

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

Grants and donations represent 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£80,000 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 £111,000 (2017 - £103,000). 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.

During 2017, there were some one-off investment costs associated with refurbishing the offices, IT support and important staff training around mental health issues.

Operating deficit

We recorded an operating deficit of £6,000 in 2018. We are confident that with a focused stewardship campaign in 2019, we will be able to continue financing God's mission within Putney and reduce the deficit to £nil in 2019.

Heating costs

During the year and as discussed in detail in the Buildings and Maintenance Committee report, we incurred substantial costs on repairing the underfloor heating. This was funded in full by repairs fund appeal and the excess funds raised have been included in other income below.

Five-year track record

St Mary's (deficit) / surplus five-year track record					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Operating surplus / (deficit)	2	2	8	11	(6)
Legacy / other income	-	3		12	10
Unrealisable gains / losses on investments	2	-	7	-	(7)
Net income / (loss)	4	5	15	23	(3)
Accumulated deficit	(141)	(136)	(121)	(98)	(101)



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

Andrew Sternberg, Treasurer

Report on Giving

2018 was a disappointing year for regular giving – although that comment should immediately be qualified by the unexpected success of the urgent appeal for the heating and roof repairs, which was launched at short notice in July 2018. Regular giving by standing order, and also baptism donations, were lower than in 2017:

		Regular	Baptisms	Tax recovery
Year	2018	144,491	1,275	34,310
	2017	152,469	1,725	36,419
Movement	£	(7,978)	(450)	(2,109)
	%	(5.23%)	(26.09%)	(5.79%)

The number of people giving regularly as fell, from 200 to 188, resulting in the loss of almost £10K of annual income:

	People	£ per month	£ Average
Started	4	226.67	57
Increased	4	105.00	26
Reduced	(4)	(315.00)	79
Ceased	(16)	(814.00)	51
	(12)	(797.33)	66
Per annum		(9,567.96)	

Since we see new people at St Mary's every week, the fact that only four started to give regularly by standing order in 2018 shows that we need to review how we communicate information on Parish finances to the congregation.

To counteract the erosion of our income base an appeal is planned for May.

Richard Holman, Parish Treasurer, 2nd March 2019

Report from Church Wardens

We have said in previous years that caring for St Mary's Church and buildings is like painting the Forth Bridge. The work never stops. It's still true today. 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. 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.

In 2018 the church's underfloor heating packed up. This necessitated an emergency appeal in July as renewing the heating system was expensive. The job had to be done

during the summer so that the heating system would be fully functioning in the winter. The congregation responded generously to the appeal and the work was done to the highest standard. We can now look forward to cosy winters at St Mary's.

In true church tradition, St Mary's roof needs repairing. Thankfully, funds are available for that and the work will be carried out in the Summer.

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.

2019 is the eighth 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.

The high point of 2018 was the licensing of Rev'd John Whittaker as Team Rector of Putney on September 1st at St Mary's. The joyful ceremony was presided over by the Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Rev'd Christopher Chessun. Although not strictly part of the 'fabric' of the church, we would like to thank John for his excellent ministry in the Parish of Putney since becoming Team Rector. We are delighted that John, Helena, Ed and Anna have all taken to Putney like ducks to water and enjoy life here.

One of John's innovative ideas was to create clear signage outside and leading into St Mary's to announce our presence and mission. Designs and costing are in hand on this project.

The Archdeacon's Visitation (annual church inspection) will be carried out this year by the Rev'd Ian Tattum, Area Dean of Wandsworth. The date is yet to be confirmed. We fully expect St Mary's to come through, as usual, 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, St Mary's Church Wardens

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

There has been a constant flow of baptisms all year and wedding enquiries and actual weddings have increased.

Baptisms: 13 children under the age of 1 year, 16 children between the ages of 1 and 4 years, and 2 children between the ages of 5 and 12 years were baptized at St Mary's this year.

Confirmations: 2 adults from the parish were confirmed at Holy Trinity, Wandsworth

Admission to Communion: 24 children were admitted to Communion.

Banns of Marriage: 38 couples had their banns read at St Mary's.

Weddings: 5 couples were married at St Mary's

Funerals: Since March 2018 there have been 4 funerals in St Mary's Church followed by a crematorium committal. In addition, there have been 5 further funerals at crematoriums.

Antonia Wainman, March 2019

Buildings and Maintenance Committee

1. The brief of the Committee is to oversee the condition of the entire St Mary's complex and to ensure that it is maintained to a high standard. In addition it takes responsibility for security, cleaning, etc.
2. The members of the Committee during 2018 were Martin Watts, Michael Bull, Peter Tuppen, Andrew Grocott, Guy Holdsworth-Hunt, Laurent Gibb, Peter Land, Hugo Chandler, Nick Coates, Philip Lines, Alan Pates (Parish Architect), Richard Holman and Berni Griffiths (Premises Manager).
3. The Committee met on three occasions in 2018 - in January, April and November.
4. A major problem with the church's underfloor heating system, which has been in place since the rebuilding of St Mary's was completed in 1982, was identified during the summer. This came to light as a result of serious corrosion of metal piping leading to flooding in the boiler room.

The Buildings Committee and the DCC decided to proceed with repairs without delay, because the summer is the best time to carry out heating works, and we wanted to have the project completed before the Rector's institution on 1st September.

All the pipework in the church is buried under the flooring slabs, so further investigation necessitated the lifting of some slabs. This showed that while the actual heating pipework, which is plastic, was in reasonable shape, the main metal pipes that supply the manifolds which feed the plastic piping had completely corroded and would have to be replaced. Because the original plans have been lost we did not know the routes that the main pipes take, from where they enter the nave above the boiler room, to the manifolds, so we had to remove substantial areas of flooring. This led to the church having to be closed on safety grounds for two Sundays in August.

Unfortunately, the flushing out of the system, after the completion of the replacement of the piping, produced so much metal debris that the boiler was damaged beyond repair and had to be replaced.

This was achieved through the excellent work of H2 Property Services, which dealt with all the technical aspects, and Bright Seasons, which did the 'heavy-lifting' (literally) and the relaying of the slabs.

In parallel with the works an appeal was run to fund the repairs. The total cost came out at £24,114, net of VAT of £2,950 which we have recovered from the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme. The appeal has raised £30,860, including Gift Aid tax of £4,670. That leaves us with £6,746 available for roof repair works, which are now likely to be carried out in the Summer.

5. Alan Pates has specified the work that is needed on the roof and masonry and we have obtained quotes, which are in the region of £23,000 (excluding VAT). The Committee has asked Alan to commission the work in the late Spring. In addition to the balance left from the appeal we have some reserve funds earmarked for maintenance.
6. Apart from the matters described in 4 and 5 above, the general condition of the church and of the Brewer Building is good. The main issues that have been on the agenda in 2018 have been:
 - 6.1. The possibility of installing solar panels on the church roof – research at an early stage.
 - 6.2. The lift – this has already exceeded its expected life, despite much heavier and more regular use than was originally envisaged. However it is maintained regularly and we have been advised that it should last for at least a few more years. The Parish Trust, which operates the Brewer Building element of the complex, has started to build up a fund for eventual replacement.
 - 6.3. Repainting the sundial – needed, but deferred until more critical work has been completed, at which point we will review the funds available.
 - 6.4. Repainting the West Tower and South doors – work will go ahead in the next couple of months.
 - 6.5. Floodlighting – improved security, following an attempted theft of equipment. Wandsworth BC has provided additional lighting.
 - 6.6. Lancaster Room – restraint devices have been attached to the windows, for safety reasons. Investigations are progressing on the installation of air handling (required due to excessive heat in the summer) and sound baffles.
 - 6.7. Display boards on the High Street – repairs have been carried out.
 - 6.8. Signage – Paul Donnelly has designed new signs for the west (railings) and east (Putney Wharf) ends of the church, which are under consideration by the DCC.
 - 6.9. Arches – Tideway Tunnel has provided more detail on its requirements in relation a flue running through the arch closest to the river. Serious water ingress, under considerable pressure, in the southern arch is being investigated by Thames Water.
7. Berni Griffiths is responsible for routine maintenance of the building and of the main equipment - including the lift, electrical installations, lighting and kitchen. All are serviced regularly and the cost is split between the church and St Mary's

Parish Trust. We have an annual contract with Precision Safety Services Ltd for regular checks on the main items of equipment.

8. Berni is also responsible for cleaning and for health and safety. Regular cleaning of the whole building is carried out by an external contractor who we have used for several years and who is (generally) efficient. Health and safety procedures, including ensuring that hirers observe our rules, are overseen by the Committee.

Richard Holman, 1 March 2019

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

In addition to the regular services, weddings and baptisms in Church the buildings are used by a variety of 'community groups'; for the fourth year running we were a 'hub venue' for the Wandsworth Arts Fringe Festival featuring over 50 international acts and art installations. We have the addition of Create U drama class and the Ellendel School Of Speech and Drama. The year has also seen the 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 Juniors, Dance Grooves 'street dance' as well as adult ballet with Alice Crawford and Rosie Stockley. There are a variety of well-being offers from various Pilates sessions, Yoga and Boxing/ Exercise classes plus we also have counselling sessions and language courses on offer. Our own Toddler Group along with Sing & Sign, Busy Lizzie, Mini Jams, Lucy Sparkles, L'Ecole des Nuages, Little Acorns, Bach to Baby, Baby Broadway and NCT classes continues to provide a valuable service for new mums and toddlers.

Whilst the Putney Pantry is the hub for activities in and around the Brewer Building the Church space is also occasionally used for hosting larger events such as the Parish Ball, local council and political gatherings, hustings, planning presentations and consultation etc. The Putney Pop Up market held in the Church this year raised a significant amount of money for Grenfell Tower fund, this market is now an annual feature with money being raised for the relevant emergency funds of the moment.

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 and Positively Putney Activity days.

The Glasdoor Night Shelter have had another successful season with around 50 guests for dinner and up to 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.

Working with Wandsworth Council we installed new LED lighting to flood light the Church and medieval tower, this is an ongoing project that continues to see improvements to the exterior grounds and public areas.

The continuing development of the Arches has seen 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 plans to convert the old Boiler Room underneath the Church for similar use offering one to one tuition in guitar and saxophone.

St Mary's Church is open all day and in to the night, 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 for whenever people need it. This year has also seen an increase in pastoral outreach through the Parish Office, utilising Putney Pantry to provide warmth and comfort to those in need we have also been able to successfully connect people in need with the relevant agencies for care where and whenever appropriate.

Berni Griffiths, Verger & Premises Manager

Safeguarding: Adults and Children

During the past year the Safeguarding Officers have worked to maintain a good standard of vigilance and communication during the inter-regnum and to achieve the standard expected in other large national groups.

As part of this there has been a programme of basic safeguarding training for all volunteers within the Parish. Despite the obvious requirement to give up yet more valuable time there has been a high take up of this training.

In the spring / summer we reviewed our recruitment protocol and have brought this into line with the latest Diocesan guidelines. E.g. we now request and take up references of all new Sunday School teacher applicants. We also request that people have been attending church for at least 6 months (continuously) before applying. This is in line with many state organisations.

Our work continues confidentially and as respectfully as possible. However, there are occasions when it is important that we contact other agencies, especially when a person is at risk. In such a situation we have explained to the person or people at the centre of the issue that this is necessary.

No sooner had John arrived that we were required to carry out an annual audit of safeguarding practice. Happily, it did not show any glaring gaps. Although best practice suggests that we do not hold confidential documents at home. Therefore, the written notes are now stored in a locked cupboard at church.

Our in-house IT chap Andy McGuire has helpfully set up a new system into which previous and new confidential correspondence can be placed. Four secure folders correspond to areas that may give rise for concern. Access is limited: Safeguarding Officers have access to all four, vicars have access to two (the other two being about each of the vicars, which with luck will remain empty!).

We take our own training and updating seriously. John has enrolled on the Southwark day course for incumbents and a half day on domestic violence. Isobel

discovered that her prior training had lapsed so she undertook the first two modules of the Diocesan Safeguarding training again. Libbit's training is still valid and can be updated in due course.

The latest version of "*A Safer Church*", the manual of guidelines for safeguarding in the dioceses has just been issued and we have received and downloaded them for reference as and when necessary.

Isobel Vass, St Mary's Safeguarding Officer for adults
Libbit Osborne, St Mary's Safeguarding Officer for children

CHILDREN IN THE PARISH

Please see Rev'd John Whittaker's Team Rector Charge report on p34 about our plans for a new Young Families Minister (Youth and Children) Worker.

Sunday school groups

We have five Sunday School groups at St. Mary's church, ranging in age from three 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 have 100 or so children that attend Sunday School, with about half attending any one week. Teaching them are 42 DBS checked volunteers (including 7 specialists in Godly Play) over 108 Sunday School sessions in 2018. In addition, this year we welcomed children from All Saints' church who joined us for a 'super' Sunday School on Palm Sunday. It's a pleasure and a joy to work with the children and help them learn 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 4 new volunteers. Caroline Donne is the first point of contact for new volunteers Sunday School and 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 tirelessly compiles the Sunday School teaching rotas each term and distributes the teaching materials to all the teachers. It's no small job and our thanks go to Adrian for all his time and dedication. Finally, thanks go to Julie Craig for (so cheerfully) sorting out the administrative side of things, including DBS checks and keeping the registers up to date.

Hannah King and Sally Eltringham, March 2019

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 a (mostly) active team of 31 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 (John'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 crèche, 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.

In addition, we are currently 'hosting' the volunteer time of 2 secondary school students as they embark on their 'Duke of Edinburgh' award activities. We wish them the best of luck with in their journey with us.

We have recently been able to come together under John's leadership at a 'thank you' event at the Vicarage for all the volunteers helping with our children in church. It was very well attended and we are grateful to John for hosting us all.

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 2019

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. The objects in the room are mostly made in the St. Michael's Workshop, Bowthorpe which exists to help people with learning difficulties and physical disadvantages to develop their full potential. <https://shop.stmichaelsworkshop.com/pages/about-us>

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 Godly Play training venue by the Diocese of Southwark and Godly Play UK. The stories are used in the annual course to prepare children to receive Holy Communion. Caroline Donne, as a regional Godly Play Advocate meets annually with other Godly Play Advocates to share practise and learn new skills. The 2018 advocates meeting was held at The West London Family Church, Lillie Road, Hammersmith on 27th October 2018 and it was notable at this

meeting the demand for Godly Play in schools, Toddler/Parents groups and Care Homes.

THE TEACHING TEAM is Kate Caseley, Anne Burfitt, Sarah Brearley, Paula Greenwood, Caroline Donne and we are so pleased to have two new teachers Nikki Cornfield and Kate Hampton who undertook the three-day residential teacher training course at Christ Church, Ottershaw, Surrey in May 2018. Thanks to them for giving up their time to do this, for their enthusiasm and commitment to Godly Play. If anyone is interested in training to be a Godly Play teacher there are non-residential training opportunities closer to home but it was so interesting to hear from Nikki and Kate about the benefits of taking time apart from their busy lives to focus on the training and to learn about it and from it. Do ask them about it! Thanks also to the parish for contributing to the cost of their training. In the last year we said goodbye and thank you to Ali White for her many years of teaching and dedication to Godly Play.

SCHOOLS: St Mary's school, Putney 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. The feedback from children and staff has been really positive. We are very 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. Children from All Saints' school, Putney also benefit from the St Mary's church classroom. 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 built and equipped. 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; and National Childbirth Trust.

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

Caroline Donne, March 2019

St. Mary's Play group

Toddler Group at St Mary's meets every Tuesday from 9.45am till 11am during school term time. We begin with tea and biscuits for welcoming children and their parents and carers and then children have playtime with toys and crafts. Before the event finishes, we will sing nursery songs and tell a Bible story and pray together.

We provide a space for young children to play and interact with other children. For their parents and carers, we open our space to build up friendships with each other and to familiarise them with the church environment and people here. This event is the ministry of belonging-before-believing by means of building the community within the parish and making the church become their place to feel comfortable and to go.

We generally have attendance of 20-30 children with their parents and carers. We are extremely grateful to our volunteers who help to make this provision possible.

Yin-An Chen, Pastoral Assistant

Youth groups

With sadness, there has been a break in focused youth work in the parish.

This has allowed questions to be asked as to location, timing and the strongest model of leading. A small number of interested adults are now looking towards the start up of a youth group again in September 2019, probably on Sunday afternoons. Please do hold this in your prayers and watch this space.

Rev'd John Whittaker, Team Rector

Parish Action Group

Overview

Our focus is to raise parish awareness in social issues relating to health, justice, poverty, education and shelter both locally and globally by providing a platform for event ideas that support our nominated charities both financially and in partnership by promoting their work. Selection of our 6 charities is made in consultation with the congregation via a parish-wide survey every three years, the next one falling due in 2020. Each chosen charity is assisted for a period of three consecutive years at which point they can tender for one further period of tenure alongside new suggestions. Charities where volunteering opportunities are possible are particularly encouraged because we are equally interested in our journey and community as we are in the funds that we raise.

The Parish Action committee has 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 of Southwark's Lent Appeal last year supported those in need in the Holy Land as a result of years of conflict; in our linked Dioceses of Zimbabwe at a time of national transition; and here in our own Diocese, those with issues such as

homelessness, mental health and domestic violence. This event is supported by the Lent Brunches at All Saints' and St Mary's.

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. The events to promote this charity are the All Saints' car wash, collection buckets at tube stations and our church schools and a very successful new initiative, a sponsored walk in central London.

Diocese of Southwark Parish Support Fund 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. The greatest proportion of money raised for this charity is through stewardship in our churches.

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 Mary's 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.

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. Our dedicated event for this charity is the Christmas Fair.

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.

Wandsworth Foodbank is within the Trussell Trust national network of foodbanks providing three-day packages of emergency food and support to local people, and assistance to resolve the underlying causes of their crisis. Foodbank also campaigns for structural change at a local and national level to help end hunger and poverty in the UK. Our parish has partnered directly with the foodbank in Tildesley Road. Some funding was given to this charity by direct pledge through the silent auction at the Putney Parish Charity Ball and some from Parish Action reserves, however our main donation is through a collection of specifically requested groceries on the second

Sunday of every Sunday. This charity does not follow the tenure process but has been established as a permanent part of our parish outreach.

Fundraising and Finance

The Parish Ball sported the magical theme of Narnia last November and raised £16,000 for the Parish Action charities. Enormous thanks are due to Vanessa Gibson and her team, and especially Sarah Binder, Lucy Denyer, Caroline Dobson, Ang Fivaz, Laurent Gibb, Andrew Grocott, Rebecca Locke, Jessica Palmer and Alex Swift on the committee and also to Will Blake, Ivo Belohoubek, Berni Griffiths, Camila Lewis and Kathryn Hampton for helping from the wings. This event raises the majority of the funds that Parish Action can allocate and whilst ticket sales predominantly covered costs it is the silent auction and other activities that raise the much needed finance for our charitable work. This year we experimented with opening the online silent auction to the parish which was successful and is the avenue to pursue in future. Thank you to all of you who so kindly donated prizes, supported the event by attending on the night and assisted in so many other different ways; we are all truly grateful.

Distribution of donations & money raised

The total amount raised via the Parish Action group in 2018 was very similar to 2017 at £62,369.

Once again, the Parish Ball was the largest fundraiser during the year, raising an excellent total of £16,000. The ball money was allocated to six causes: Parish Support Fund, Regenerate, Vulindlela Guardians, Glass Door, Christian Aid, Wandsworth Foodbank. £1100 was allocated to the Parish Action emergency support fund to be used for disaster relief, as it is required.

A successful appeal for online donations to support the children of Vulindlela Guardians ('VG') raised over £7,500. In addition, VG received money from the Parish Picnic and an allocation from Baptism & Wedding collections that took place in the Parish.

Glass Door raised nearly £6,000 from their sleep out event, and received the money raised at the Parish Fireworks event.

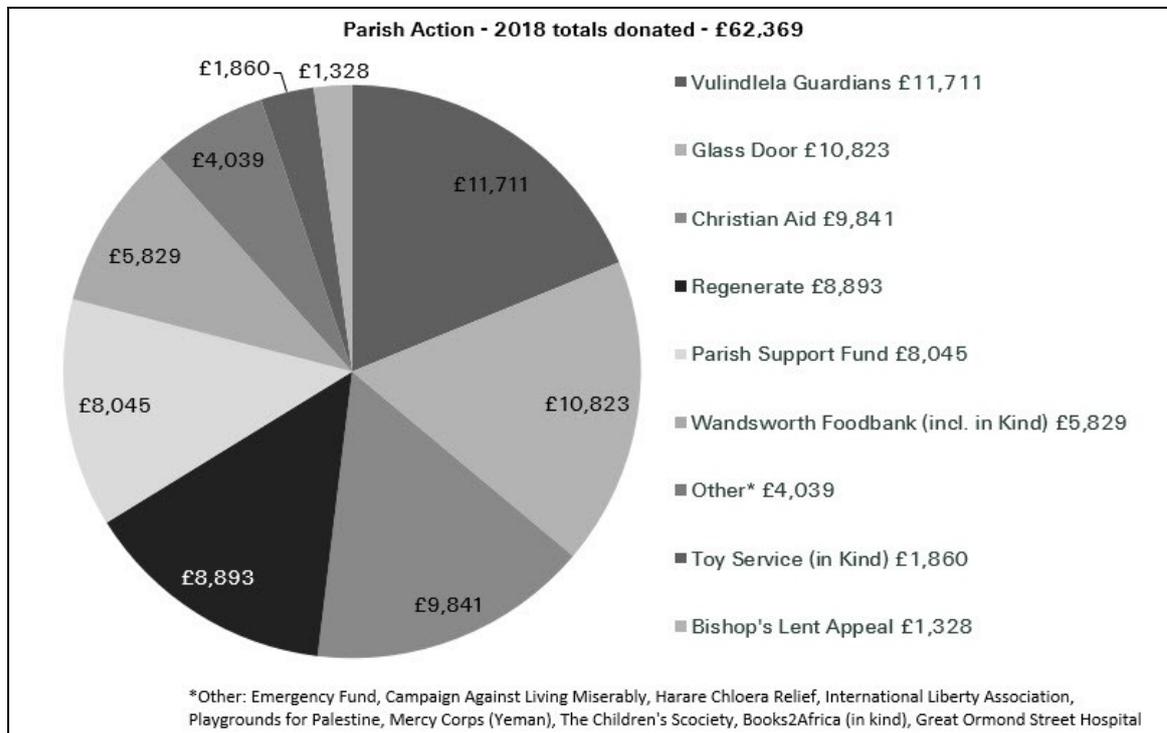
In addition to the ball distribution, Regenerate received nearly £4,000 from the Parish Christmas Fair.

2018 was the first year that the Parish supported the Wandsworth Foodbank. The regular collections of food items from parishioners were worth over £4,000.

The many toys generously donated were distributed to children via the Metropolitan Police 'Christmas Tree' appeal, and via Hestia and Roehampton Family Action.

The 2018 Bishop of Southwark's Lent appeal supported causes in Kenya, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Southwark.

Lastly, Parish Action was able to support at least eight other charities, home and abroad.



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

Pastoral Care Group

Pastoral care at St Mary's remains strong, though slightly disparate by design.

In the past we formed a team but found that meeting to discuss matters was not popular

- a) because we maintain confidentiality about people we visit, and
- b) people were already giving up their time enough.

That said I meet formally at least annually with our vicar (and Laura during the inter-regnum) to discuss who among us may need befriending during a time of bereavement, illness, sadness, confusion or loneliness and who is available to do this befriending.

Sometimes the meeting/visiting is short-lived during a particular difficulty. Occasionally it requires longer input. However, we are always mindful of our limitations, trying to avoid situations where we unwittingly create dependence. As with Safeguarding we are clear about the limits of what we can offer, being simply befrienders. Visitors are reminded that if things escalate we cannot offer more and we are unlikely to be able to solve those particular problems.

However, we can be alongside a person as they either contact or are put in touch with another agency.

We are also careful to avoid any environment or situation, which might give rise to a safeguarding concern. To this end we often meet people in cafes rather than at their homes and not at our own. We advise people not to give their home address for the same reason.

Mental ill-health is all around and among us. In early 2018 had a period during which our café seemed to attract people who came looking for solace and support with

housing or finances all with complex problems and life stories. This became difficult for those who are based in the church or office.

With Laura's input we devised a standard response which meant that anyone requesting similar support could be offered a cup of tea, with a chat / prayer and £5 on their oyster card if necessary. We have no proof whether word got round but the numbers and frequency of visitors began to decrease and I understand there are no substantial problems today.

In Autumn, clergy, office support staff, some Putney Pantry staff and congregants who assist clergy with pastoral issues attended a two-day Mental Health First Aid course helping us further understand mental health issues with practical signposting for those dealing first hand with visitors to the church and members of the congregation who have mental health issues.

Supplementing the work of visitors is done by Selina and her team of meal providers. Recently an email circulated for volunteers to cook for a family where the single mother has been in hospital a great deal over several months. This valuable service remains small scale and manageable but can bring great relief and comfort when things are difficult.

Finally, the Christmas lunch was delivered hot and reasonably on time to almost 80 older members of the congregation and local environment, on 13th December 2018. It was certainly a triumph of good humour over adversity with a number of helper cancellations and illness on the morning. Thanks to Issa for preparing the turkey and to the devoted team of cooks and servers to made it jolly.

Isobel Vass

Supper Circle

This year we had far fewer requests, a smattering in the Spring, which I did not have a strong response to, then sadly 3 came in quick succession during the summer break, when everyone was away! We had absolutely no response. I resorted to approaching individual friends to step in and a couple did. I did some cooking myself. We are presently providing meals for a parishioner and 3 volunteers have come forward, which is an improvement. I've put a notice out to update the contacts list and plan to do a couple of call outs. Unfortunately, I currently have a dislocated elbow so have been behind on my admin.

Selina Meikle

Social Activities

[Events@St.Mary's](#) is a fun way to be involved in helping to build our Church community and to bring members of the congregation of all ages and situations together.

We are so blessed to have such a wonderfully friendly, welcoming and supportive community at St. Mary's and our super social events are something to look out for, get involved with and to come along to, to have fun times with friends, both old and new. It is a great way for new members of our church to get to know people and to feel part of things.

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 group 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. Our main aim though is to bring people together, and to celebrate events in our Church calendar together.

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. We would welcome as much or as little involvement as suits you best.

Amber Raine

Ale Mary

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 and very friendly. We meet 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 380 jars of preserves this year and raised the sum of £1, 243.37.

Jan	Water Aid	£127.00
Feb	Church Housing Trust	£113.60
March	Bishop's Lent Appeal	£ 98.80
April	CALM	£116.30
May	Christian Aid	£123.00
June	Church Mission Society	£ 90.10
July	Paul's Cancer Support Group	£107.00
Aug	HOLIDAYS	£0
Sept	Church Heating & Repairs Appeal	£215.60
Oct	<i>Included in September</i>	
Nov	Christmas Fair	£251.97
Dec	Nov-Dec were done as one session	
	TOTAL	£1243.37

Mike Bull and Peter Tuppen

Flowers

We are a small team and would gladly welcome new helpers - no prior experience needed and you will be able to choose your dates.

Many thanks to the existing members for their beautiful work (so many people appreciate the arrangements) and to Mike Bull for his brilliance with the preparation for Christmas, Easter & Remembrance Day, and to Ellen Ley for sharing the work. Any help before these celebrations would also be most welcome.

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

Sofia Paleologo

Bell Ringing

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 Sunday services. Our ability to regularly ring on Sunday has been boosted by the increasing skills of our least experienced ringers and also support from ringers from other towers who kindly double-up on a Sunday.

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. We have become a regular host for 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.

A move to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 and the cost to the ringing community was a major event in the bellringing world in 2018. "Ringing Remembers" aimed to introduce the same number of new recruits to ringing as known ringers who died in the First World War. St Mary's had commemorated the centenary of the death of one of our ringers in 2017, and we were able to contribute a new ringer to the total nationally of around 1400 recruits during 2018.

We have taken part in events with other towers – most recently having a social evening with the ringers at Battersea Old Church, where we beat them at their own quiz. Our turn to host this autumn...

New ringers are always welcome, and please contact Paula Greenwood through the Parish Office if you would like to have a try – you only need to be able to get up and down the stairs and have a strong grip on the rope.

Paula Greenwood Tower Captain

Sides-persons and welcomers

St Mary's Church Sidespeople 2019

Carmen Asare, Diana Bailey, John Blake, Sarah Brearley, Deborah Chittenden, Jeremy Cole, Claudia Colombo, Kath Diamond, Jane Farrell, Sam Fletcher, Kate Gibson, Alison Guest, Camilla Hoenich, Jed Hyde, Barbara Kessie, Peter Land, Kenneth Leung, Maya Lojoo, Loma-Ann Marks, Tali Mbangwa, Raffaella Mengoni, Liz Meehan, Simon Merrett, Ian Parramore, Jolyon Parsons, Alan Pates, Quentin Ricks, Michael Rotteveel, Cherry Steward, Kate Umney, Simon Upton, Neil Vass, Ruby Vincent, Cristiana Vitale, Martin Watts

St Mary's Church Welcomers 2019

Linda O'Riordan, Tammy Mackay, Libbit Osborne, Lea Dixon, Neil Vass, Isobel Vass, Celia Blake, Jolyon Parsons, Cristiana Vitale.

Servers

Tanya Sonachan and Antonia Wainman continue to manage the Serving Rota. Currently the serving team consists of 34 servers: 10 adults and 24 children. The majority of children are aged between 9 and 11, spread across Years 5 – 7. Servers act as acolytes and crucifers, 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.

The Admission to Holy Communion classes at St Mary's should provide a very good foundation for serving and finding new recruits and we actively try and recruit both children and parents from these classes. This year has not produced any new 'recruits' however so a reminder email will be sent out to all who attended.

Antonia and Tanya are happy to train any new acolytes or crucifers, usually prior to a church service.

Antonia Wainman, March 2019

Chalice Assistants

Katharine Martin, Angela Attah, John Blake, Kate Caseley, Jeremy Cole, Kath Diamond, Paul Donnelly, Andrew Grocott, Antonia Wainman, Ted Wainman, Maggie Wentzel, Helen Pope, Martin Watts, Ruth Pates, Carrie Myers, Caroline Donne, Tanya Shaw, Mark Leadley, Annette Watson, Alex Escobar, Rob Riley, Sarah Brearley, Charles Roberts, Cristiana Vitale, Jed Hyde, Bethan Deakins, Nikki Cornfield, Yin-An Chen

Julie Craig

Music

The Adult Choir has had another busy year - in addition to preparing some exciting new music and some old favourites for weekly Sunday contributions, we prepared a sung *Passion* for Good Friday, movements from Stainer's *Crucifixion* for Easter, some

familiar John Rutter for Harvest, music by Purcell for All Souls', plus music for the Advent carol service and the Christmas services.

The Adult Choir continues to play an important role in encouraging younger voices, regularly supporting both the Harmonic Minors and the Ensemble. An exciting and dedicated group of young teenage singers, the Ensemble divides its time between supporting the Harmonic Minors and singing with the Adult Choir at larger services. Many thanks to the loyal members of our Adult Choir ... for all you do.

Music by the Bridge enjoyed one of its most successful years welcoming Richard Quesnel and the choir of St George's, Weybridge, Susanne Doll from St Leonard Kirke (Basel) and The Bromley Boy Singers who performed The Ceremony of Carols in its entirety. The format of two organ concerts and two choral concerts will remain. I'd like to thank Bethan Deakins for all her time and effort she so willingly injects into supporting the series.

A thank you, too, to Katy Silverman, our Assistant Director of Music, Richard Quesnel and Helen Bradshaw for their continued support of the music life at St Mary's.

Travis Baker www.travis-baker.co.uk **Director of Music**

Harmonic Minors

The Harmonic Minors is our choir for children age 8-11, with several of our older members going on to join the Ensemble choir for those up to 18. Highlights this year have included their performance with the adult choir at Harvest, tackling some challenging music for the Advent Carol service and leading the music at the recent All Age Candlemas service. In December 2018 the Harmonic Minors sang at the Crib Service for the first time, which was very successful. They particularly enjoyed the sense of leadership and responsibility in being able to lead the younger children through the service. It has been great to see several of our members keen to remain part of the choir after their move to secondary school and we have extended membership of the choir up to the end of Year 7 to support this, after which we would encourage them to move up to the Ensemble choir. Since September 2018 we have had five new members join us; new members are always welcome and we work with St Mary's School and the church congregation, as well as more widely online, to recruit more singers.

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, and, in the words of Psalm 42, to *'Be still and know'*. Meditation has been an important part of Christian contemplative practice for many centuries, largely lost in the West. Meditation is rooted in an 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 the secular world and in other traditions, so why not in our own?

Initiated originally by our previous Rector Ailsa Newby, we continue to offer an opportunity to learn to find stillness and silence within, putting aside the cares and concerns of daily life for a short time, and to quietly sit in the presence of a loving God. We do not promise the miraculous, but over time, when we are willing to

simply be present to God, to ourselves and to others, we notice a difference in our daily lives.

We meet in the lovely candle-lit Sanctuary at St Mary's on Tuesday evenings. We gather at 9.30pm in the Putney Pantry. At 9.45pm we close the doors when we begin the meditation with a short prayer, followed by 20 minutes' sitting in silence, and ending with prayer by 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.

Kate Hampton and Jane Morley

Contact and Discussions with a Local Muslim Community

We first met with the Ahmadi Muslims in August 2017 having agreed joint guidelines for the running of the Discussion Group, 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.

After the first formal meeting in August 2017 meetings took place roughly monthly, sometimes taking the form of social gatherings over a meal. Good relations have continued and meetings have taken place at the homes of member of the Ahmadi Muslim Community, their Mosque and also at St Mary's. We have been most impressed by the similarities and differences of our faiths.

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 Ahmadi's motto: *'Love for all; hatred for none'*.

Ian Yearsley

Report from St. Mary's Church School

This year St Mary's School celebrated its bicentenary. In 1898, having built up a successful Sunday School at St Mary's Church, land was sought to enable the church to have its own school building. The required land was donated by Earl Spencer and St Mary's School was built, *"situated in a part of the field of two acres in the back lanes of Putney"*.

St Mary's was created as a National School by the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church in England and Wales. It is the oldest of the Parochial and National schools and was founded for *'the benefit of the labouring classes of Putney'*. What is now the hall, situated on Charlwood Road, is thought to be the oldest part of the school.

A service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration for St Mary's was held at St Mary's Church on Friday March 1st, attended by pupils and teachers past and present as well as parents, governors, representatives of the Southwark Diocese Board of Education, the Bishop of Southwark, the Mayor of Wandsworth and other counsellors as well as our MP, Justine Greening.

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. The school is rated outstanding by Ofsted and also by the Statutory Inspectorate of Anglican & Methodist Schools.

Our vision is to deliver excellence while allowing **all** to flourish. The school sets out to create a culture of wonder, guided by Christian faith, while teaching our pupils the core values of endurance, compassion and thankfulness.

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

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 various events, most recently singing at the O2 as part of Young Voices. We also encourage sport through our PE lessons and a range of before and after school sports clubs, with teams competing against other local schools in competitions.

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:

*"Everyone is friendly, the teachers make lessons interesting,
we get a very good education."*

*"I like how everyone takes part in everything together
and I like how everyone can get their ideas across."*

"I like how our school welcomes people and respects each other's belief."

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

Putney Debates

The Oxford Foundation for Law, Justice and Society ran the third of their series of Putney Debates in February 2018. The debate was focused on the spirit and structure of our democratic settlement - as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland continue in 2019 to strive for unity in the face of Brexit.

The Putney Debates exhibition also serves to attract international visitors. Mike Bull greeted a couple who were able to compare aspects of the Bishop West chapel with their own in Ely Cathedral, and at Epiphany was delighted to share our church with Russian Orthodox visitors.

Sue Rolfe

Parish Magazine

After nine years, the great team of Silvia Macchia (editor) and Lee Barnes (designer) - supported by Kate Coles, Kate Harrison and others selling advertising space - has

decided to hang up its boots. The retrospective issue currently on display is their last. The Parish owes them a huge debt of gratitude for producing so many eye-catching, thought-provoking issues to an extremely high standard.

Paul Donnelly and Richard Holman are in the process of building a new team, while also rethinking the purpose and nature of the Parish magazine. A small group of volunteers has met and additional people have come forward in response to a flyer. The key gap at present is the editor and we are redoubling our efforts to fill that role. If we can do so fairly soon the next issue, possibly in a different format and aiming for a frequency of two monthly, should be ready by the summer.

Richard Holman

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 We now have over 764 followers, including our Archdeacon who regularly retweets our tweets. You can now also follow Rev'd John Whittaker **@PutneyPriest**

Instagram: @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 Yin-An Chen yin-an.chen@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 and Church Directory have had an upgrade this year in order to make our communications more focused as well as bringing us in line with GDPR regulations. We are trying to send fewer emails by grouping messages together and sending, where we can, on Fridays. To sign up to emails please register at:
<https://theparishofputney.formstack.com/forms/parishdirectory>

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. In the past year these have included:

Mary and the Catholic Church; Experiences from a Sabbatical year; Lord of The Flies; What is wealth?; Corrie Ten Boom's story ; Christ as the release from bitter insults; Church Selection; St Ignatius; Life in living cells; Why did God create - bedbugs and....?; Report from Synod; Wherefore TITP?; Pilgrims Progress; A quick history of the French Huguenots in London, pilgrims of faith; evolution and whether God is in control of it; church history and our stories: the inspiration of Elizabeth's principle of via media; In God we trust. All others bring data? But how is our relationship with

data changing and what are the implications?; In the Ring: Some Reflections on Judgment in Robert Browning's The Ring and the Book; Was Jesus a socialist?; Mental Health First Aid: the role of the church; The Godly Play story of The Synagogue and the Upper Room"; English evangelicals: Past, present and future; Theology and the political: The fundamentally political nature of our existence; The Passion of Christ; Industrial Mission - Work place Chaplaincy; Does God allow us to Eat Animals?; Does God Care the Elderly people?; What Does "Inclusive Church" mean?; Is God Male?; Is God Able to Disable?

Since September 2018 we have enjoyed the very significant and invaluable input of Pastoral Assistant, Yin-An, who has introduced many speakers on a wide range of topics and has led the discussions based the Inclusive Church programme. Very many thanks. Excellent.

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 and we look forwards to welcoming new participants

Nigel Wright, March 2019

Pastoral Assistant

I am glad to have the opportunity to join the warm and welcoming parish team and to work and live within this inclusive and vibrant community. I work between both churches in the parish.

During the week I start each day with morning prayer at All Saints' and I then go straight to different church events and ministries right after the prayer. On Monday mornings I assist Senior Social in All Saints' with other volunteers. We make tea and coffee and serve home-made cakes to our guests to welcome them in the warm vestry. On Monday evenings I contribute to *Theology in the Pub* by organising talks, inviting guest speakers and chairing the conversation. On Tuesday mornings, I help to run Toddler Playgroup in St Mary's. I tell the story to the children and build up relationships with parents and carers. On Wednesdays I assist the St Mary's mid-week Eucharist and stay for lunch with parishioners and visitors. On Thursdays I usually work in All Saints' running Toddler Eucharist in the morning and Treble-Makers rehearsal in the late afternoon. Apart from these regular ministries, I am usually based in the office at St Mary's.

On Sundays I am involved in the services of both churches and take various roles such as deacon, chalice, reader, and intercessor. I generally split my time between 10am service in St Mary's and 10.30am service in All Saints' and regularly attend Caritas at 6pm in St Mary's. I also assist the monthly Baptism service in St Mary's and Evensong in All Saints' and All Saints @4. I helped the course for Children's Admission to Holy Communion at Epiphany time. I will also help with the preparation for Adult Confirmation after Easter.

Additionally, I help to draft liturgies. I provided some materials for the Advent Reflection Group and Lent Group and supported organising Inclusive Church sermon series. I also did some creative work designing posters to promote church events.

I am involved in the pastoral life of the parish, meeting with people in the church after service or during the week. I design and lead services the theme, which is dependent on the liturgical season of the church, in Mount Court, supported housing

for older people. I visit sick and housebound parish at home or in hospital and bring Holy Communion to them and pray with them.

It is my great privilege to serve the Parish of Putney and I have learnt a lot about what the Parish does in the last six months since I arrived. I am looking forward to seeing and learning more in the following six months.

Yin-An Chen

Curate's report

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Revd. Laura Fawcett for all the hard work she did here during her curacy and we wish her all the very best in her new Ministry at Holy Trinity Dalston and All Saints Haggerston.

We are very much looking forward to the arrival of our new Curate, Jono Haynes, who will start with us this Summer. He will be ordained at 11am on Saturday 29th June, at Southwark Cathedral.

Team Rector's Charge 2019

In writing a review of 2018 for St Mary's, I write not as an unbiased spectator, but as the person possibly most affected by developments in the life of the parish during the year!

The year saw the interviews for, a long wait and the licensing of me as Team Rector on September 1st. Our prayer is that the parish vision for someone who is inclusive, welcoming, Eucharist focused, a prayerful leader, engaging preacher, pastoral listener, theological explorer and effective minister will be met, in part at least, through God's grace and our mutual support for one another and journeying with each other!

The year also saw the departure of Rev'd Laura Fawcett as she completed her curacy and took up the position of Vicar of All Saints Haggerston and Holy Trinity Dalston. It is hard to adequately pay tribute to Laura who took to the role of lead priest at St Mary's with energy, wisdom, humour and skilfulness. Laura, together with Rev'd Chris Eyden and all of you in different ways provided the ministry to and took part in the work of the parish which meant that the vacancy, rather than causing stagnation or even decline, was a time of continuing growth and life.

Whilst reflecting on departures, we also said goodbye to our two parish assistants for 2017/2018, Steve Emerson and James Hughesman, thanking them for their work, sending them on with our prayers and regard and rejoicing in Steve's move to theological college where he now prepares for ordination. It has been good to have Yin-An join us this year as a parish assistant and we are grateful for all that he contributes to our parish life.

The many other developments in our church life during 2018 have been well covered in reports elsewhere at this AGM.

We hold our church AGM on the second Sunday in the season of Lent and our reading from Luke's gospel takes us to note the growing vocational calling of Jesus. Jesus knows that if he is to remain faithful to his vocation of incarnation, the presence of God in the world, the coming together of humanity and divinity, then he is to face painful rejection and death. In our passage he is urged by some Pharisees to flee from the wrath of Herod, but as tempting as that might have been, Jesus

remains steadfast to his vocation. Some callings are so valuable and worthwhile that they are even worth dying for. For Jesus, living out the fullness of God's life and love in the world, revealing the depths and heights and widths of God's redeeming love was one of those things and so despite the inevitable calamity that was to unfold, to Jerusalem he knew he had to travel.

We are not here to make martyrs of ourselves, but it is worth asking: 'What within our life of faith and our common life within God's church is of immense importance and value? How much are we willing to give of ourselves to take part in this outworking of God's loving purposes?'

During the end of 2018 all of us were getting to know each other more and I was getting to know the church and parish more. I was discovering what is of great importance and value, I was discerning what our sense of vocation and calling as a community is, I wondered what direction God might be calling us to in the year that is to come?

Staying with the traditional Anglican three points, it feels to me that there are three areas of our common life meriting particular focus and attention!

One theme which emerged quite clearly was to refresh our understandings of what it is to be a church committed to inclusion, seeking to resonate our life with the life of God's kingdom where all are to be gathered in, where all are needed in order for there to be wholeness and completeness. We primarily have done this through our Spring sermon series and study groups on the six marks of inclusive church: poverty, mental health, physical ability, sexuality, gender and ethnicity. We need to continue asking ourselves: 'What follows next out of this time of study and reflection?'

A second theme to emerge has been the possibilities to better support all the ministry that goes on amongst our children and young people and their families. At the start of March, your DCC agreed to appoint a part time families minister to give more attention to this important area of our life. Please do pray for the recruitment process and the enrichment to our common life that will come from this expansion of ministry.

Finally, we need to revisit questions of our thankfulness to God and of our call to discipleship. Christian faith has always taught that in an attitude of deep thankfulness to God for all of God's goodness to us we are called to respond with great generosity to others and the life of God's church. Much of the teaching within scripture and indeed the recorded teaching of Jesus is about money and wealth. One estimate is that 15% of what Jesus taught was about money and possessions and there are more verses in the Bible about money than on heaven and hell combined! The reason for this focus is because it is always tempting to worship money and not God, to entrust ourselves to the security of money and not God, to deceive ourselves that money is our right and we do not need to have regard for our neighbour, whereas Jesus gives the simple but challenging command: 'love your neighbour as you love your selves.' The Church of England reflects this concern in her call for members of the church to give with generosity, realistically and sacrificially. Benchmarks are always benchmarks and there may be good reasons to go under and equally good reasons to exceed. The starting assumption, that the national church encourages, is that we give 5% of our net income to the work of the church and then generously on top of that to other charities and people in need. We

also are called to give of our time and talents, love and care. We will be having a funding programme after Easter to remind ourselves of the generosity of God, to reflect on our response in thankfulness and to share the financial needs of the church to undertake the current ministry and outreach and, by God's grace, to expand that wider and deeper.

I cannot start naming people who I wish to thank. Needless to say, a massive thanks to so many of you for your belonging to the church, your journey of faith, the work you do and the support you have given me.

Thank you for the richness and beauty of your life, for the warm and generous welcome my family and I have received in joining you and please do join me in prayer for one another as we look forward with hope and confidence in God. God who calls us to include all, God who calls us to teach and learn from our children and young people and God who invites us to discover the joy and profundity of life that comes from releasing ourselves into generous giving.

God Bless

John