

 **Parish of Putney | St Mary's Putney**

# **St. Mary's AGM**



**Date 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

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

**2020 - 2021**

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## **THE PARISH OF PUTNEY**

**St. Mary's Church, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

### **AGENDA**

- Introductory Prayers
- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020
- Elections of:
  - a) 1 Churchwarden
  - b) 2 District Churchwardens
  - c) 2 x Assistant District Wardens
  - d) There are no Deanery Synod representatives to be elected – During the year the PCC elected Sam Smith to fill the casual vacancy caused by the departure of Jeremy Donne.
  - e) There is 1 PCC/DCC members to be elected for a three year term
  - f) There are 2 PCC only members to be elected for a 2 and a 3-year term
  - g) There are 4 DCC members only to be elected. 2 for a 3-year term, 1 for a 2 year term and 1 for a 1 year term
- Appointment of Sides people
- Presentation of the Church Finances
- Church Reports
- AOB

**APCM Meeting: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 7:30pm**

### **PARISH OF PUTNEY**

#### **St. Mary's AGM**

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020 on the life of St. Mary's Church Putney**

Meeting commenced at 7pm.

**Present:** Rev'd John Whittaker (Chair), Wardens, DCC secretary and members of the Parish.

**Apologies:** Mike Bull, Charles Roberts, Caroline & Jeremy Donne, Peter & Ann Tuppen, Carrie Myers, Maggie Wentzel

**Minutes of AGM 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019:** There were no matters arising:

**Minutes approved:** Proposed by Richman Holman, seconded by Alex Lowe, approved unanimously.

**Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

**Elections:**

Paul Donnelly was thanked for his 20-year service as Church Warden. Paul gave a humorous response.

**a) Election of Church District Wardens:**

Two District Wardens were nominated: Angela Attah (proposed by Richard Holman and seconded by Andrew Grocott) and Christiaan de Lange. There were no other nominations and both were duly elected.

**b) Election of Assistant District Wardens:**

One Assistant District Wardens was nominated (the second to be nominated in due course): Cristiana Vitale. There were no other nominations.

**c) Election of Treasurer:**

Andrew Sternberg was thanked by the Reverend Whittaker for his highly valuable contribution in looking after St. Mary's finances this year and over the past 11 years together with Richard Holman. Andrew Sternberg was content to be nominated to continue in this role. There were no other nominations and he was duly elected.

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

There were four Deanery Synod Representatives to be elected. Neil Vass, Jeremy Donne, Alexis Chapman and Richard Holman. There were no other nominations and they were duly elected.

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

There were two members to be elected to the Parochial and District Church Councils. Alex Lowe and Adrian Weed. There were no other nominations and they were duly elected. There are still two vacancies on the PCC.

**f) DCC membership for a 3-year term:**

There was 1 DCC Member to be elected. Richard Quesnel. There were no other nominations and they were duly elected. Sam Smith and Mike Bull are to be co-opted into membership of the DCC.

**Appointment of Sides-men and women:**

The list of names for the morning Parish Eucharist can be found on page 28 of the 2019-20 report and was duly accepted. Sides-men and women for the 9:15am and the 6pm service are Susan Stopforth, Christopher Garnett, Amy & Ben Barker, Charlie Moore, Sarah Ashwell, Diane Bilton, Marija Spencer, Chris Carr, Tara Langley, Sally Goodman, Claudia Colombo, Cristiana Vitale, Libbit Osbourne.

**Electoral Roll Report:**

Angela Holman advised that 13 people had been added to the Electoral Roll and 7 people taken off. Total 313.

**Presentation of the Church Finances:**

Andrew Sternberg (Treasurer) provided highlights from his report. Rev'd Whittaker thanked Andrew Sternberg warmly for his highly competent handling of the accounts and very clear presentation. Approval of the Accounts was proposed by Andrew Grocott and unanimously approved.

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

All aspects were said to be covered in the report. Rev'd Whittaker congratulated the splendid team of Wardens who had kept track of the assets of the church building and stated that we were very privileged indeed to have them.

**Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:** Confirmations, admissions to communion, weddings and funerals were as reported.

**Buildings and Maintenance:** The report was taken as read.

**Safeguarding:** The Parish continues to give very special attention to this subject.

**Children in the Parish:** The reports on Sunday School, The Creche, Godly Play and St Mary's Playgroup were taken as read. Huge thanks were due to all those involved particularly those in a leadership role.

**Youth Groups:** The report on Youth Groups were taken as read.

**Parish Action:** The report on Parish Action were taken as read.

**Pastoral Care Group:** The report on the Pastoral Care Group was taken as read.

**Supper Circle:** The report was taken as read.

**Ale Mary:** The report was taken as read. Warm thanks were offered to all who are involved.

**Every Little Helps Stall:** The report was taken as read. The stall is ending after 30 years of service Rev'd Whittaker thanked everybody involved.

**Flowers:** The report was taken as read. Warm thanks were offered to all who are involved.

**Ringin Report:** The report was taken as read. Warm thanks were offered to all who are involved.

**Servers:** The report was taken as read. Warm thanks were offered to all who are involved.

**Chalice Assistants:** The list was confirmed.

**St. Mary's Music:** The Report was taken as read. Warm thanks were offered to all who are involved especially Richard Quesnel for keeping music going in a difficult time.

**Breathing Space:** The report was taken as read. Warm thanks were offered to all who are involved.

**Contact and Discussions with a Local Muslim Community:** The report was taken as read. Warm thanks were offered to all who are involved.

**St. Mary's Church of England school:** The report was taken as read. Warm thanks were offered to all who are involved.

**Putney Debates:** The report was taken as read. Warm thanks were offered to all who are involved.

**Parish Magazine:** The report was taken as read. Warm thanks were offered to all who are involved.

**Social Media:** The report was taken as read. Warm thanks were offered to all who are involved.

**Theology in the Pub:** The report was taken as read. Warm thanks were offered to all who are involved.

**Parish Assistant:** The report was taken as read.

**Youth & Family Assistant:** The report was taken as read.

**Curate's Report:** The report was taken as read.

**Rector's Charge 2020:** The report was taken as read.

**Any Other Business:** Rev'd Whittaker announced that the AGM of the Parish would take place on 29 September 2020 at 7:30pm. The meeting closed with the Grace at 7.30pm

### **ST MARY'S DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL 2020-2021**

#### **Ex-Officio Members**

##### **Clergy**

Rev'd John Whittaker, Rev'd Jono Haynes

##### **Churchwarden**

Andrew Grocott

##### **District wardens**

Angela Attah, Christiaan de Lange

##### **Assistant District wardens**

Cristiana Vitale

#### **Elected Members**

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

Richard Holman, Alexis Chapman, Neil Vass, Jeremy Donne

##### **Treasurer**

Andrew Sternberg

##### **Lay Members elected to serve on DCC**

Charles Roberts, Richard Quesnel, Libbit Osbourne, Nikki Cornfield, George Aitken

##### **Lay Members elected to serve on both DCC and PCC**

Alex Lowe, Tangwena Nelson, Adrian Weed

##### **Co-opted Members**

Sam Smith, Mike Bull

## **Secretary's report of the DCC proceedings**

Obviously it has been a very strange year given the coronavirus pandemic. The Council continued to meet bi-monthly mainly via zoom to discuss matters relating to the running of the church including coping with social distancing, Sunday school etc and adapting to the new environment. Regular reviews of church finances and income generation have occurred with a continued emphasis on giving especially during this trying time of little income from letting out the church buildings.

This has been a year of ups and downs, the church opening and closing again and therefore continuity has been challenged. However through it all the clergy have continued to maintain a community. The online courses have had a great following and this has helped keep people connected to some degree.

We look forward to moving towards normality soon given the rollout of the vaccine and the slow easing of the lockdown. Praying for a more settled future.

**Samantha Smith, DCC Secretary**

### **Church Electoral Roll Report for the period September 2020 to March 2021 (APCM September 2020 delayed due to Covid)**

At 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 the number of people on the Church Electoral Roll is currently 306. The Church Electoral Roll will be updated during the period March 21<sup>st</sup> to April 14<sup>th</sup> 2021. During this period members of the congregation are invited to check the details we hold on the current list by contacting Angela Holman (Electoral Roll Officer) at [angelaholman@btinternet.com](mailto:angelaholman@btinternet.com).

If you wish to be included on the Church Electoral Roll please fully complete a form (ONE PER PERSON), sign and return to the Parish Office at St Mary's Church. Forms can be found at the back of the church or online <http://stmarys.parishofputney.com/the-church/> The updated / revised Church Electoral Roll numbers will be reported to and ratified at the APCM on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021. **Angela Holman, Electoral Roll Officer**

## Financial Report

### Financial Report for St Mary's 2021 AGM

Summary income Statement for the year ended 31 December			
	2020	2019	
	£'000	£'000	Notes
Direct Giving (incl tax)	197	186	Generosity of congregation
Investment income	29	34	
Donations	21	24	
Letting income	34	54	Closure of St Mary's during lock downs
Other income (incl loose plate)	10	24	Fewer services / weddings
<b>Total income</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>322</b>	
Personnel Costs	(37)	(51)	Appropriate use of furlough scheme. All staff retained
Clergy and service costs	(11)	(14)	
Church Property costs	(28)	(39)	Reduced usage and deferring non-essential costs
Parish office costs	(9)	(12)	
Audit and insurance	(8)	(8)	
One-off Covid costs	(3)	-	IT equipment to support online services
<b>St Mary's operating expenses</b>	<b>(96)</b>	<b>(124)</b>	
Parish Support Fund Pledge	(201)	(201)	Maintained Diocesan support. Under constant review
<b>Operating deficit</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	
One-off items	14	(14)	
<b>Overall surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>(18)</b>	

#### Summary – 2020 result is much better than initially feared

Financially, St Mary's has not been immune to the effects of Covid 19 but due to your continuing generosity, extensive use of the furlough scheme and deferring all non-essential expenditure we have managed to contain the operating deficit (£6k) within manageable levels, retain all our staff and continue to support financially the Diocese.

#### Operating Deficit of £6k

Overall, St Mary's returned an operating deficit of £6 compared with our pre-Covid approved break-even budget. The key points to note are:

#### Income – down £31k but direct giving increased by £11k, countering the Covid headwinds

- Direct giving (including tax recoveries) was £197k (6% up on 2019). We are truly thankful that you answered our direct appeal to support St Mary's financially during the early stages of the pandemic and your continuing support through the rest of the year. Thank you.
- Letting income of £34k is £20k down versus 2019 and historical levels. With St Mary's (and the Brewer Building closed for prolonged periods) our letting income was severely curtailed. Given the 2021 lockdown, this has not recovered and we have no clear visibility on how quickly this will return to pre-Covid levels.
- Other income is principally loose plate collections (down due to limited services) and wedding / funeral fees which were both down in light of lockdowns and Government restrictions.

### **Expenses – down £28k due to using the furlough scheme, reduced activity and deferring non-essential costs**

- Personnel costs are down £14k. We took an early decision to take advantage of the Government’s furlough scheme. We have retained all our staff and made good the 20% shortfall in the furlough scheme.
- Church property costs are down £11k (28%). Utility costs are substantially reduced and, wherever possible, we delayed all discretionary repairs and maintenance expenditure. However, already in 2021 we have incurred substantial costs on maintaining the buildings – including repairing the roof. The 2020 repair cost savings are temporary and will need to be incurred in due course. This will place additional strains on 2021 financial resources.
- St Mary’s incurred £3k of specific Covid related costs. These were associated with IT equipment to support and improve the provision of online services. We have continued to invest in additional IT resources in 2021 to continue supporting remote working and online services.

### **Parish Support Fund Pledge has been maintained at pre-Covid 2019 levels**

- Working together with All Saints’, the custodians of the Parish finances extensively and repeatedly debated whether, given the extraordinary times we are living through, the Parish of Putney should maintain its pre-Covid levels of financial support for the Diocese. In conclusion, we agreed to this given:
  - i) in 2020, both St Mary’s and the Parish managed to contain our operating deficit;
  - ii) the Parish of Putney has substantial historical reserves which we feel are appropriate to draw on in exceptional circumstances; and
  - iii) we reserve the right to reduce this Diocesan commitment if we feel it’s necessary.
- We have indicated to the Diocese that we will endeavour to maintain this level of financial support through 2021. This will be reviewed regularly through 2021.

### **One-Off items – principally £12k of “book” gains on the Parish’s investments**

**Conclusion and Looking Forward:** The operating deficit has been restricted to just £6k. This is largely due to the continual generosity of the congregation, appropriately using the furlough scheme to retain all our staff, deferring costs wherever possible and other cost savings - especially heat and light, cleaning etc. In addition, St Mary’s share of “book” gains on the Parish’s investments is c£12k.

However, we should not be complacent. We cannot rely on investments to cover future operating deficits and Q1 of 2021 is likely to return more losses: continued lock-down means Church Lettings are down again and we have incurred substantial maintenance work (£10k+) to be split between the Brewer Building Trust and St Mary’s.

**Andrew Sternberg, Treasurer**

## Report on Giving

Regular giving in 2020 held up remarkably well, given the very difficult economic circumstances resulting from the Covid pandemic. Soon after the first lockdown started last March we asked members of the congregation to review their giving and, if possible, to increase it while the church was closed. This led to ten single gifts, totalling £3,425 (including the Gift Aid tax reclaim) and four temporary increases in monthly gifts, worth £1,944. In addition 19 people started or increased their giving in the year, which outweighed the 20 who stopped or reduced their regular donations, as well as the loss of baptism gifts.

	Regular	Baptisms	Tax recovery
	£	£	£
Year - 2020	158,553	475	37,333
Year - 2019	147,313	2,690	34,055
Movement	£ 11,240	(2,215)	3,278
	% 7.6%	-82.3%	9.6%

	People	£ per month	£ Average
Started	13	707	54
Increased	6	326	54
Reduced	(4)	(350)	(88)
Ceased	(16)	(631)	(39)
	(1)	52	
Per annum		624	
Note: Figures include Gift Aid where relevant			

The number of people giving regularly fell by 3 to 200. **Richard Holman, 16th March**

### Report from Church Wardens

In such a difficulty year and whilst the church along with the rest of society came to terms with the new landscape, there remained examples of the potential within what being part of St. Mary's has to offer.

The Putney Pantry adapted through the various Lockdowns, Tier Systems and the Eat out to Help Out to cater for all tastes including home delivery. There are not many places to buy coffee from in Putney High Street, and this saw it meet that demand by providing coffee and pastries in Church Square. There are plans to allow the Pantry to provide al fresco dining once conditions allow and this is another demonstration of adapting to the new landscape.

Busy Bees Nursery has continued to provide nursery care of the very highest standard and is very much seen as being part of the fabric of the church.

Finally, the activities with the church and Brewer Building restarted in a socially distanced fashion very quickly in the summer and did so again in the brief period after the second English lockdown. This demonstrates special qualities the church and the Brewer Building have to offer in terms of location, flexibility and affordability. I cannot leave without expressing our thanks to Paul Donnelly for all the work he has done as both Church Warden and Parish Warden and indeed continues to do so. It was a pleasure for the DCC to express its thanks to Paul and Ditte at one of the few in person meetings last year and his calming presence was always so welcome. **Andrew Grocott, St Mary's Church Warden**

### **Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals**

Enquiries for baptisms and weddings have been somewhat disrupted due to the virus but there has still been a steady flow of enquiry for weddings, but not so much for baptisms. We performed one wedding just before the November lockdown with a couple of days' notice.

**Baptisms:** 4 children under the age of 1 year, 2 children between the ages of 1 and 4 years. **Confirmations:** there were no confirmations due to the pandemic but there is a group ready for confirmation when we have a new date. (This took place on 21 February 2021 and 4 adults were confirmed from St Mary's)

**Admission to Communion:** sadly, the ABC course had to be cancelled, awaiting a new date for the 21 children who have signed up.

**Banns of Marriage:** 12 couples had their banns read at St Mary's.

**Weddings:** 5 couples were married at St Mary's.

**Funerals:** In 2020 there were no funerals in St Mary's Church itself. Our ministerial team conducted 11 funerals in local crematoriums.

**Antonia Wainman, Baptisms and Weddings; Julie Craig, Funerals**

### **Buildings and Maintenance Committee**

The Buildings Committee only met once in 2020 (on 27<sup>th</sup> January) before the Covid pandemic brought activities at the church to a virtual halt and restricted opportunities for the Committee to meet. The Premises Manager (Berni Griffiths) has been part furloughed as a result of the absence of lettings but he has continued to deal with maintenance issues on a regular basis. Issues arising in 2020 were mainly:

- Terrace leak - The repair of the 'small leak' from the terrace into Busy Bees Nursery, mentioned in last year's report, proved to be a larger task than originally expected. It has involved relaying much of the terrace and the replacement of the pebble edging with decking. Work has only recently been completed.
- Security – This remains an issue, mainly due to the volume of traffic (when the building is in full use). Further thefts have occurred and Berni is looking at practical ways in which the security system can be improved.
- Canopy outside the arches – Tideway Tunnel has offered funding of £7,000 for the construction of a new, permanent canopy outside the arches. This requires a Faculty and no progress has been made on this project during the pandemic.

- Lancaster Room – the Committee’s intention to find a way of improving air handling and also of reducing noise levels has been put on hold until letting income recovers.
- Health & Safety / Fire Risk – we still need to return to some of the recommendations in the report from our consultants, Precision Safety, on Health & Safety and also their Fire Risk Assessment.
- Other matters:
  - *Sundial* – repainting is still deferred, due to the heavy recent expenditure on maintenance.
  - *All Saints’ Office* – the office moved out of the Library, returning to Landford Road, during 2020. **Richard Holman (Chair)**

### **Community Activities in the Brewer Building and St. Mary’s church**

With the regular Church Services, Weddings, Baptisms and Community Bookings interrupted it has generally been a quiet year. At the start of the year we took advantage of the quiet period to relocate and upgrade the sound system; moving it from the south east corner of the balcony to the south west side of the ground floor under the fire exit stairs, this now gives the sound operator a better location to balance the sound in the room and to interface with accompanying technologies. This new operating system has worked well during the time that we have been webcasting services to the wider congregation during lockdown.

Whilst Busy Bees Nursery remains open for business to care for the children of key workers the rest of the activities around the building have *all* been suspended with the exception of out-door one to one training in the riverside garden with Fit #42 and Jack Hatt Fitness, for this purpose we erected the marquee to accommodate their social distance requirements allowing them to train safely out of doors.

Whilst the Putney Pantry would usually act as the hub for our activities this year they have been offering an ‘off sales’ collection and delivery service providing staple favourites such as Friday night fish and chips, Sunday roasts as well as the usual selection of sandwiches, salads and refreshments. We have also managed to webcast a few live Jazz evenings from the Church, in conjunction with the Putney Pantry who provide the catering for cast and crew.

Whenever possible the Church space has remained open for individual private prayer and during the restricted times when the building has been closed we offer the #Daily Bread reflections on a TV monitor by the front entrance.

**Bernhard Griffiths Verger, Premises & Bookings Manager**

### **Safeguarding: Adults and Children 2020-2021**

With Isobel Vass for vulnerable adults and Libbit Osborne for children the team remains unchanged. We have been very conscious that some people have been under considerable strain during the periods of lockdown and that this manifests itself in a number of different ways. Therefore, we have worked with our parish pastoral supporters to alleviate this and to be alert to signs of distress that may lead to harm. When issues have been brought to our attention we have tried and generally succeeded in holding a timely discussion and to take action. That said we are severely constrained by the limited availability of social and mental health services. This is not a new problem, but it has been exacerbated recently. To ensure

good communication between several members of the clergy we have extended to the use of Zoom when face to face meetings have not been advisable. Unsurprisingly this has made availability easier. **Isobel Vass, St Mary's Adults Safeguarding Officer**

## **CHILDREN IN THE PARISH**

### **Sunday school groups**

Sadly, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we've been unable to hold Sunday School over the past year. We are so looking forward to welcoming children and our Sunday School teachers and helpers back when it is safe to do so.

Meanwhile it's lovely to see children and their families at the new Sunday 9.15am services, both in church and online. Since September 2020, some of these services have incorporated elements of Godly Play, with our fully trained Godly Play team taking turns to tell the story. The stories have ranged from parables, such as the Good Samaritan, to Holy Baptism, the Church Calendar and Advent. In addition fifteen of our Sunday School teachers have kindly volunteered to lead smaller breakout groups of children and their families during these services. After some training on Godly Play techniques provided by led by Nikki Cornfield and Caroline Donne, our volunteers (whom we've nicknamed the 'Wondering Angels') have facilitated the Wondering and Response Time to the story for both children and adults. Our Godly Play storytellers and Wondering Angels, ably led by Nikki and Caroline, have shown great flexibility, adaptability and amazing storytelling, wondering, listening and reflective skills. Thank you to you all.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about joining our Wondering Angel and Sunday School team please do contact Nikki or me at [hannahking.2@btinternet.com](mailto:hannahking.2@btinternet.com) We'd love to hear from you. **Hannah King March 2021**

### **St Mary's Sunday Creche Review**

In normal times, we run a crèche every Sunday throughout the year (including school holidays) for children aged 1-3 in the Parish. The crèche runs during the Sunday 10am Eucharist service and is designed to give parents/carers a chance to enjoy this service without interruption from the children in their care.

We have a (mostly) active team of 30 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.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we ran our last crèche session on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and have been unable to re-open it since. Despite this, I would like to thank all those that have supported me during the last year especially Julie Craig in the office

and John Whittaker as well as my team of very understanding volunteers. Praying for a return to a safe church and open crèche very soon.

**Sophie Holdcroft (Sunday Crèche leader), Feb 2021**

### **Godly Play**

We are incredibly lucky to have a beautiful, well equipped Godly Play room and a handful of wonderful Godly Play teachers at St Mary's. Caroline Donne has championed Godly Play here for over 15 years and has looked after the room and our stories ever since it built and commissioned in 2008 and has recruited and nurtured the teachers during this time. Caroline's departure from Putney is a huge loss to Godly Play and to the whole of children's ministry at St Mary's. There is now a large void to be filled. Although the Godly Play room has missed having the children in it this year, Godly Play has formed a substantial part of our ministry during lockdown, and we are very grateful to Caroline for assisting us in incorporating Godly Play into our 9.15am service and for helping us train the "Wondering Angels" before she left. Adults in the congregation have never had much exposure to Godly Play before and the response has been wonderful. Many of our "Wondering Angels" have asked to continue training with the goal of becoming fully trained Godly Play teachers. If you are interested in joining the Godly Play team, please contact Nikki ([nikki.cornfield@parishofputney.co.uk](mailto:nikki.cornfield@parishofputney.co.uk)) as we will run a Godly Play introductory day as soon as restrictions allow. We won't be able to fill Caroline's shoes, but if we have a good solid team, we might come close!!

**Nikki Cornfield – Youth & Family Minister, 20 March 2021**

### **St. Mary's Play group**

This report, as with many, will be peppered with the words like 'covid', 'restriction', 'unable' &c the Toddler Group is no exception. The group continued following the suspension of public worship, but the usual number of close to 30 had reduced to 3, and lockdown closed the group in March 2020, to date (Feb 2021) the group has been unable to return to its former running style. No online provision was made for this group as it was felt we sadly did not have the resources.

With the easing of restrictions in late September 2020, 5 parents with their toddlers attended as consistent child-care group, in line with guidelines, and held socially distanced worship and play, in a slightly amended format from previous years and under the new name of Toddler Church focusing on sessions being based on a service: including opening prayer, bible story time, response time, play and song.

The group was led by someone from the clergy team or shared among those who came. The intension going forward is to roll out this new model and adapt as we are able to accommodate more toddlers, carers and parents. Sadly, under the current *stay at home* restrictions the group hasn't met since the advent party in late 2020, but Mousey, (the church mouse puppet) is planning and ready to meet new members and welcome new volunteers when lockdown rules are lifted.

For more information on joining and volunteering please get in touch with Rev'd Jono [jonathan.haynes@parishofputney.co.uk](mailto:jonathan.haynes@parishofputney.co.uk) **Rev'd Jono Haynes**

## Parish Action Group

Parish Action is a sub-committee of the PCC and our focus has been to raise parish awareness in social issues relating to health, justice, poverty, education and refuge, both locally and globally, by providing a platform for event ideas that support our nominated charities financially and in partnership by promoting their work. We are currently exploring and revisiting our remit in collaboration with the clergy, the PCC and interested members of the congregation, and we welcome participation in these discussions. Daniel has recently run a short course titled “Love your Neighbour” which has been part of this development process to keep the committee relevant.

Selection of our charities is ordinarily made in consultation with the congregation via a parish-wide survey every three years, however, we have allowed the tenure for our chosen charities this year to extend a year as it has been more complicated to assist them financially with the change in holding events during the pandemic although the committee has worked hard to be nimble and adapt to these changes. The next consultation will likely be in the autumn this year. 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 well as the funds that we raise. We welcome the promotion of new charities within the parish and if anyone would like to propose a new charity, please do let us know.

The Parish Action committee ideally has two representatives for each charity, one based at each church, however, we currently have vacancies at both ends of the parish. 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 unsung ways.

### THE CHARITIES

**Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call** In 2020 the Bishop's Lent Call supported projects within the Southwark Diocese and in the Holy Land, Nigeria and our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe. The projects in Zimbabwe included initiatives supporting food security, water supplies, training and infrastructure in our Link Dioceses of Central Zimbabwe, Matabeleland, Masvingo and Manicaland. The L'Arche community in Bethlehem was also supported as was the Kaduna Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations. The projects in the Diocese of Southwark included SparkFish, The Nicholas Stewart Project and Superkidz. Funds for the Lent Call are ordinarily raised in our parish via the Lent Brunches at All Saints' and St Mary's, but we did not run these this year, so our donation was reduced.

**Christian Aid** started in 1945 to help refugees after the second world war and continues to help those in need throughout the world. Christian Aid works with churches, individuals and local organisations in communities worldwide, supporting people of all faiths and none to rise out of poverty. The charity helps people survive disasters, deal with the impact of climate change, find shelter from conflict and have a voice in their communities. Parish Action fundraising for Christian Aid focuses on Christian Aid Week, which always starts on the third weekend in May. Churches

Together in Putney and Roehampton has been co-ordinating Christian aid week for many decades locally but are very ably helped by Parish Action for activities within All Saints' and St Mary's Churches. Last year was the first year we could not be visible within the streets of Putney for our fundraising, so we resorted to the internet. Despite the restriction of lockdown, we conducted our fundraising through a website and held virtual events in the form of a concert run by the Methodist Church and a Quiz, organised by St Mary's. We advertised on local websites and through the churches and raised £6,535.00 + £1,182.50 in Gift Aid among all the churches. This year we are hoping to be bolder with a circular Putney Sponsored Walk and Treasure Hunt, with stalls in each of the church grounds serving refreshments. The Methodists also plan to hold their online concert and there may be other virtual events to join in with. Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us, but love unites us all. Join us this Christian Aid Week (10-16 May) for a joyful celebration of our potential to change the world through our gifts, prayers and actions. **Michelle Penn**

**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 them. The greatest proportion of money raised for this charity is through stewardship in our churches, as in 2019 we had planned to hold a Boat Race Family Day, but this had to be cancelled a few weeks before the event because of lockdown.

**Glassdoor** is London's largest emergency shelter and ordinarily provides a safe, warm place to sleep for more than 100 homeless people per night every winter in local churches, including St Marys' and other venues. Glassdoor 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 usually provide funds for this cause. Glassdoor's ability to provide their traditional help and assistance has been significantly impacted and instead they have been running the 'Everyone In' scheme, offering guests beds in private hostel rooms and 3 meals a day. This scheme has helped 88 individuals per night, (compared to its usual 170+) and has cost an additional £200,000, escalating Glassdoor's need for provisions and financial help. Alongside this, homelessness is predicted to skyrocket in the coming months due to the economic and social fallout of the pandemic. Many people – a lot of them newly homeless – are turning to Glassdoor for shelter and support. Our homeless night shelter run by 84 volunteers in the Parish opened at St Mary's in January as it has for the last 7 years. However, in line with national guidance it was forced to close on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our guests were all accommodated in a hotel in Hammersmith until early July. There were no COVID fatalities among our guests. The ongoing restrictions of the pandemic has meant the shelters were unable to open again in October this year. Glassdoor has opened its own hostel and 96 homeless people will be in safe accommodation until the summer months. Glass door has also arranged for there to be a dinner service to feed a limited number of guests, all of whom are in some form of temporary housing. Four churches are open every night of the week as dinner centres, they currently feed about 60 people a night. The church for the Parish of Putney Team is Rivercourt Church in Hammersmith. It is very much hoped that the shelters will resume in November 2021. As local supporters of Glassdoor we have

suffered a loss of donations due to the current pandemic and the subsequent cancellation of the annual Fireworks Night that usually contributes a significant amount of money. We still raised an impressive £3,660 for the adapted Sleep Out, more than the previous year, and topped up with donations at the Christmas service, taking the total monetary contributions to £3,888.75. Alongside this, we ran a 'Goods in kind' collection in February where we provided substantial donations of various goods including food, clothing, books etc. **Rebecca Locke and Clemency Gordon-Martin**

**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 which the young people help to run, but this was not possible this year. Andy Smith, co-founder of Regenerate and his amazing team continue to be pro-active in their efforts with the young people they help, and in fundraising to keep the charity doing its vital work on the Alton Estate. In lockdown, they ran their Summer Unlocked Programme providing trips out and activities, and they started the Roehampton Community Box project, delivering nearly 5,000 boxes of food and activities to families living on local council estates. They raised funds by cycling from Roehampton to Brighton via Cornwall and raised over £10K. Recently Andy and others ran a lockdown marathon. They bought and built two mobile coffee units which are employing 12 previously unemployed young people. As the Parish Christmas fair was cancelled, Parish Action organised a local sponsored walk which raised over £5k towards a third mobile coffee unit. **Sarah Barron**

**The Scrubbery** This initiative was started late January 2020 to cut in-house, to sew scrubs out in the community and to deliver to frontline staff in healthcare who were unable to get scrubs at work. Originally the scrubs were made in extra small because hospital scrubs do not cater well for small sizes; this seemed a logical target where we could make an immediate difference. We now make from extra small to 3xl. Much research went into the design and cut of the scrubs using information gathered from a cohort of junior doctors from Imperial College in order to supply exactly what was needed. However, it soon became apparent that the deficit in scrubs was colossal, and production needed to be increased so with kind permission we moved into the Lancaster Hall at St Mary's in order to start bulk cutting on the floor and later moved to the squash courts at the Bank of England Sports Centre where we have been generously housed ever since.

Our volunteer team of over 200 people cut, sew, bundle and deliver kits made from new fabric and upcycled bed linen to machinists; people donate time, money, cloth and expertise and help in-house or from home, or both. The team has now supplied over 26,000 items including sets of scrubs, facemasks, mask extenders, laundry bags, headbands, scrub hats and gowns to hospitals and healthcare providers in hospitals and in the community. We have also supported military doctors and over 60 GP practices across Wandsworth and London. We have provided to almost every hospital trust in greater London, but our scrubs are also in

Arbroath, Bristol, Southampton, Edinburgh, Winchester and many other places around the country. We have sewn the rainbow scrubs associated with the vaccination clinics locally and across the country.

The newest adjunct to the work of the Scrubbery is making wellbeing bags for healthcare staff. The bags are a way of saying thank you to incredibly hard-working staff who have given so much over the past year. The bags are filled by donation from businesses and individuals. An Amazon wishlist has been set up to make participation simple. We also include a thank you card from the Scrubbery and another handwritten by a volunteer or people from the congregations of churches and schools. Grateful thanks to St Margaret's church who have partnered with us collecting donations from their parish. Our short-term goal is to sew and fill 1000 bags.

The Scrubbery is not only about making scrubs, but also just as much about helping people to help and giving purpose to people during difficult times. It has given hope and support to many and is a fine example of church in the community. We are also lobbying parliament to put in place a sustainable way of making scrubs in the UK giving work to those from the garment and costume industries who have no work. We have put questions to the House of Commons four times and have met with government and NHS officials concerned with procurement and laundry services. During lockdown when Foodbank has relied on a delivery rather than a collection service, The Scrubbery has provided more than 2,000 drawstring cloth bags made from upcycled fabric to contain cleaning and toiletry products separately from the food delivery. These practical bags can be re-used by the recipient. If you would like to get involved, please visit the website [thescrubbery.org](https://thescrubbery.org) to find out more.

**Vulindlela Guardians** Our parish has been a lifeline for this charity based in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe since 2007, caring for orphans and children without means of support. We pay school fees and supply ePap nutritious porridge for the children on a regular basis, and through the pandemic we have been providing a basket of supplementary foods like vegetables and cooking oil for them and their families. Some of the children have now completed their A levels and are in college, learning skills to equip them for the future. We encourage individual donations through our online giving page and there is more information on our website at <https://www.vulindlelaguardians.com/> **Chantry Westwell**

**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. During the pandemic emergency food gifts were increased to five-day packages. We have completed our third year of supporting our local foodbank situated on the Alton Estate in Tildesley Road. This is a joint enterprise between both churches and All Saints School. Since the start of the first lockdown in March 2020, the Tildesley Road branch had to close, and all help has been centrally focused at Wandsworth Foodbank who have been able to use huge warehouse premises at Wandsworth Bridge. The demand for help from people in crisis has been higher than ever with many families and individuals using a foodbank for the first time. It became difficult to safely collect and deliver goods so we had to re-think

how we could best help. Wandsworth Foodbank advised us to direct regular supporters to use the BANKUET service- where money donated can be directed to a named food bank - this allows them to bulk buy the goods they specifically need. We have also encouraged people to continue to donate at in-store collection points. We did decide to have a collection of goods needed at Harvest, Wandsworth Foodbank were keen for church groups to continue this tradition and between All Saints, St Mary's and All Saints School we collected 158 kg which equates to 265 meals made possible to local people in crisis. A year on there are still very many people struggling so we are hoping to restart our collection of goods using a scheme we trialled for Glassdoor and hope to have this up and running after Easter. **Catherine Dando**

### **Fundraising and Finance**

Parish Action continued to be active during 2020 despite the lockdown. The key activities included initiating and coordinating parish fundraising, maintaining charity links and distribution of funds raised during the year. A big addition was the creation of the 'Scrubbery' (see separate update), set up to make urgently needed scrubs for medical facilities locally, and across London and England. The Scrubbery raised money to pay for raw materials and equipment through an online appeal, several small events and some large donations. In total, the team of volunteers at the Scrubbery have delivered over 26,000 items to 65 organisations, with an estimated value of £344,834. Scrubbery funds raised in 2020 will continue to fund this critical work into 2021.

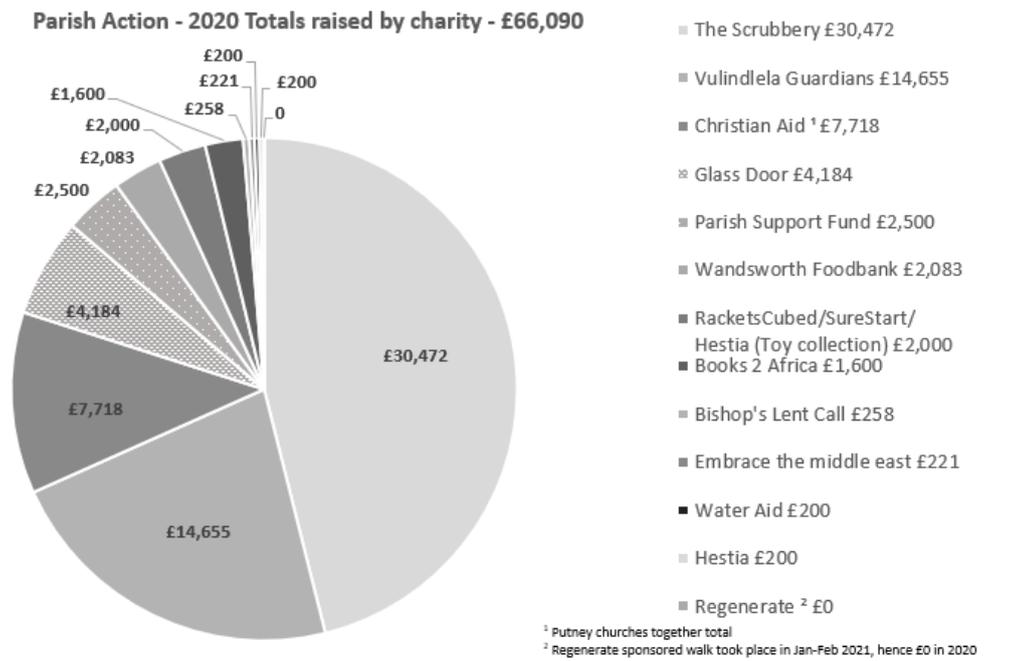
Inevitably, it was not possible to run most of the regular parish events during 2020. Positively though, it was still possible to raise significant funds for the nominated charities through online appeals, an allocation of 50% of wedding & baptism collections from both churches and the usual Christmas collections. It was disappointing to have to cancel the Boat Race event after its success in 2019, so instead the Parish Support Fund received £2,500 from unrestricted reserves held by Parish Action.

Vulindlela Guardians (see separate update) raised funds through a final web appeal (will not run from 2021 onward), Wedding & Baptism collections, and regular giving from a core group of donors. The balance of VG funds will be used to provide the continuity of support for the children over future years.

The Regenerate charity will receive over £5,000 early in 2021 from a sponsored walk in lieu of not being able to run a Christmas fair in 2020.

Between lockdowns it was possible to run a brunch event at St Mary's for the Bishop's Lent call and participate in a virtual sleepout for Glassdoor. Principal 'in-kind' donations came from the Toy collection for Christmas, Book & medicine donations for Africa and food collections for the Wandsworth Foodbank.

The Parish Action committee voted to extend the three-year charity cycle to include 2021. This extraordinary decision was taken due to the difficulty of engaging the congregation to have their say on the main charities that are supported for the next three-year cycle.



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

**Pastoral Care Group**

The core team has not met since last spring when we considered a list of those who might need support during lockdown. We allocated “visitors” to all those we knew. We welcome the addition to the team – Rev’d Dr Daniel Trott.

Pastoral care in the parish has almost certainly been going on informally during the pandemic. Our own has taken the form of walking visits, doorstep visits and phone calls. We are aware, though, of many small acts of kindness between neighbours and of local Whatsapp Groups looking out for each other.

Regrettably, the Christmas lunch for older parishioners and local people could not be held because of meeting restrictions. However, the usual lunch team, benefitted from the generosity of The Putney Relief Committee and Waitrose. The expertise of Mary Forde was a bonus. Mary sourced and ordered hampers and contents for 70 people. We met in mid-December and formed a Covid-19-safe hamper assembly line, completing the task in a single afternoon. Deliveries were then under-taken and with one or two exceptions all the former “lunchers” were located. The feedback was delightful.

As a pastoral team we continue to remind ourselves that we cannot offer professional care. This is difficult sometimes when the need for such a level of care is glaringly obvious. NHS and other agency waiting lists are long, but we must confine ourselves to friendship and a listening ear, with re-course to the Safeguarding Team if necessary.

The 2014 Pastoral Leaflet is being reviewed and updated so that all current and future supporters fully understand and accept safeguarding priorities and the recommendations for befriending. **Isobel Vass**

### Supper Circle

Our Supper Circle are exceptionally quiet year presumably driven by COVID-19. Given the lack of activity in the past year it is intended that a mailing list refresh is needed alongside inclusion in service notices/newsletters to ensure this service is known about and is meeting the needs of the Parish. **Chloe Fazackerley**

### Social Activities

Sadly, we did not meet but plan to resume our activities as soon as we can to bring new life and vigour to the social interactions of St. Mary's. **Amber Raine**

### Ale Mary

Ale Mary provides a chance for 20 and 30-somethings in the parish to get to know each other, socialise, build relationships and talk about life, faith and anything else. It's entirely informal and very friendly. Co-ordinated by members via a WhatsApp group, we would usually meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month, in the Rocket pub behind St Mary's after Caritas. As a result of the pandemic, Ale Mary has not met since early 2020, but once it is safe and easy to do so however, it can hopefully be resurrected. **Carrie Myers and Mark Leadley**

### Every Little Helps Stall

The stall was able to operate from January to March prior to Covid 19 and lockdown from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. During that period we raised:-

January	Glassdoor	£136.00
February	Centrepont	£100.00
March	Paul's Cancer Centres	£105.00
March	Bishops Lent appeal	£32.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£373.00</b>

The remaining float and cash totalling £148.00 was donated to Regenerate (Roehampton) for their February 2021 appeal.

The stall had been operating since July 1997 when it became a regular event every month. During the period of its operation it raised an average of £1,500 to £2,000 a year, for many charities and groups, large and small.

We would like to thank all those who have supported us in the Church and the people of Putney who came to the stall on the first Saturday in the month, also many who have given assorted items to sell. We would like to thank all those who helped with selling and people with talents and craft skills making items for the stall. This gave a changing variety of goods and, of course we are not forgetting the regular jam, chutney, and marmalade makers. For the future we will now have to wait to see what it holds for us all. **Anne and Peter Tuppen, Celia and John Blake, Michael Bull.**

### Flowers

We are a small group and greatly enjoy the process of creating arrangements in our beautiful Church. I will ask the team to choose dates on which to start arranging flowers again after Easter. New members are most welcome; no prior knowledge is needed, and instruction is available. I would like to thank Mike Bull for his help in planning and making the Christmas and Easter decorations together with Ellen and Carrie this year. We will continue to

provide arrangements in memory of loved ones on request. If you would like to sponsor one of our Sunday pedestals, or join the team please contact me: [spaleologo@btinternet.com](mailto:spaleologo@btinternet.com) **Sofia Paleologo**

### **Bell Ringing**

Ringling at St Mary's since the last annual report paragraphs were written has been somewhat sporadic against the backdrop of COVID-19. We rang our 8 bells as normal in the first two and a half months of 2020, and since then we have only been able to ring 4 bells during the limited period of the summer months when Putney was in Tier 2. Ringling requires quite a lot of physical effort which results in the expulsion of breath at some force. A 2-metre social distance between ringers is not possible, but the steeple keeper and tower captain completed a risk assessment and put in procedures to safeguard ringers as much as possible during this short, permitted window – only 4, alternate, individual bells being rung by one named person only, ringers to wear masks whilst ringling and frequent use of hand sanitisers etc. Nevertheless, we were able to ring 4 bells for some Sunday services, a couple of weddings, and the tenor tolled on Remembrance Sunday. Ringers have kept in touch with each other through WhatsApp and Zoom and the core of the band are keen to continue when circumstances are more propitious.

Ringling will only be possible again on a limited basis once we are in Tier 2 or less, and then can only approach normality once the pandemic and the need to keep some form of distance from each other is over. The ringers are grateful for the support of the clergy in the stance we have had to take in this possibly most physical aspect of church life. Hopefully before the year is over we will be able to return to ringling more than 4 alternate bells on a Sunday for longer than 15 minutes, and re-start our Monday night practise sessions. Only when that point is reached will we be able to teach new ringers, but are hopeful that this aspect of St Mary's Church life will continue into the future.

During 2020, our longest serving active ringer, Michael Uphill, commemorated 60 years of ringling with a peal of Yorkshire Major (tricky stuff) at Putney. This was the last piece of extensive ringling before the bells were silenced by the first lockdown. Michael's contribution to ringling and the St Mary's church life generally over the decades has been unswerving (he attended St Mary's school as a child and used to sing in the choir) and our thanks goes to him for his commitment and skill as a ringer and ringling teacher, and for his stints as Tower Captain and most recently Tower Secretary.

We also rang a single bell to mark each life lost at Grenfell on the anniversary.

**Paula Greenwood Tower Captain**

### **Sidespeople and welcomers**

I would like to express my thanks to two groups of people without whom the running of our services would not run so smoothly: in the case of the 10:30 service, the Sidespersons and for the Caritas service the Welcomers. They are:

Alison Guest; Alan Pates; Camilla Hoenich; Claudia Colombo; Jeremy Cole; Deborah Chittenden; Diana Bailey; Evelyn Dorkel; Ian Parramore; Jan Farrell; John

Blake; Kate Gibson; Katie Bishop; Liz Meehan; Loma Marks; Michael Rotteveel; Peter Land; Quentin Ricks; Sarah Thomas; Simon Merrett; Cherry Steward; Tali Mbangwa.

The Welcomers at Caritas include the parish assistant, clergy and wardens in addition to Susan Stopforth and Christopher Garnett.

The Welcomers at the 9:15 service included: Amy & Ben Barker, Charlie Moore, Sarah Ashwell, Diane Bilton, Marija Spencer, Chris Carr, Tara Langley, Sally Goodman, Claudia Colombo, Cristiana Vitale, Libbit Osbourne

Each of these two roles are very rewarding and under the current restrictions one of the few ways of getting to meet ones' fellow parishioners. What is required to be either a Welcomer or Sidesperson can be picked up very quickly and new people are always very welcome. The pandemic has meant that some of those shown here are not at present able to be "on duty" as often as they would wish and so please feel free to contact me (via the office: [Julie.Craig@parishofputney.co.uk](mailto:Julie.Craig@parishofputney.co.uk)) to become involved. **Andrew Grocott.**

### **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 8 and 11, spread across Years 4 – 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. Sadly, the pandemic has restricted the use of servers hugely and we have only used crucifers during the brief time that services have been allowed. The pool of crucifers was further restricted by volunteers who have had to shield. We are still trying to encourage child servers to continue beyond y7 and with that in mind we are using a smaller cross for elder children to occasionally crucifer. Once services resume to some sort of normality we will have to do a big recruitment drive as we do need more crucifers who are also used as lay deacons which halves our pool. **Antonia Wainman, Feb 2021**

### **Chalice Assistants**

Sadly, this year we have not been able to use our amazing chalice assistants but hopefully it won't be too much longer before they are able to support our congregation during church services. **Julie Craig**

### **Music**

At the beginning of the pandemic, the Director of Music was furloughed. Regular informal contact with the church was maintained and the Director of Music contributed regularly to the Daily Bread programme. No formal, regular music-making was undertaken from Easter until the end of the summer. Some instrumental music was provided for weddings as and when these were authorised by the Church.

The choir was able to resume in September. Strict social distancing and Covid protocols were enforced in line with DCMS and Church of England guidelines. Immediately before the autumn lockdown, the choir was able to record music for

online Remembrance Day and Advent services. The choir resumed active service again in December and was able to sing at the Christmas Carol and Christmas Eve services. Volunteer singers from the choir were also present on Christmas Day in the morning. It is worth noting that the Carol Service and Midnight Mass sung services were undertaken twice, with a good provision of singers at both.

Since January things have changed again. Rehearsals took place briefly in church, and then music provision was reduced to one soloist for Epiphany and a service of the Word for St Valentine's Day. We returned to a keyboard only model throughout February: various musical styles were explored from improvisation at the piano to organ pieces selected especially to reflect the theme of the sermon. John W and Richard Q collaborated on a musical meditation (Bach - Nunc Dimittis) for Candlemas, and Jono H and Richard Q produced a filmed meditation (Buxtehude - O sacred Head sore wounded) for Lent.

During this prolonged period without congregational singing, musical choices increasingly reflected popular hymn tunes and familiar melodies played on the organ. On some occasions PowerPoint slides were prepared in order to enable parishioners to sing along from home. On other occasions the music reflected images or words shared on screen.

Due to difficulties with social distancing, and the need to keep children in bubbles, the Harmonic Minors choir is suspended but strategies have been devised to envisage a gradual return to children singing in the summertime and at the Patronal festival in September. The Director of Music recorded a singing assembly for the children of Saint Mary's school in January.

The complexity and difficulties of this year have led to some real innovations and successful experiments between the Music department and the Ministry team. With the appointment of an Assistant Director of Music (starting around Easter) there is a renewed energy to promote the organ on the website and develop a concert series as we emerge from the COVID pandemic. **Richard Quesnel**

### **Breathing Space: Christian Mindfulness**

Breathing Space was initiated by Ailsa Newby six years ago, When Ailsa left, Jane and Kate continued facilitating Breathing Space in the Sanctuary at St Mary's every Tuesday evening and continued until March 2020 when the country went into Lockdown. Because of pandemic social distancing rules it has not been possible to meet in this way for the past year.

The timing of Breathing Space on Tuesday evenings at 9.45pm is late making it less easy for people to attend. Unfortunately, there is not another time in the evening when the Sanctuary is available for prayer. Relocating to All Saints has been considered though no plans have been made currently. Jane Morley is now worshipping at St Margaret's as this is closer to her home. Kate Hampton has commitments as a Spiritual Director as well as currently exploring possibilities of moving out of London to live nearer family. For these reasons we have decided not to restart Breathing Space ourselves when the lockdown restrictions are lifted, although we would be delighted if new facilitators were to take this up and carry on this particular form of quiet prayer. Though sad this has been for, both Jane and

Kate, a lovely experience and a fruitful one and we are both grateful for the opportunity over the past six years to have prayed with others in this contemplative way. We would recommend this practice of praying together in silence, creating space to simply be with God in an intimate way and hope that this ancient practice of contemplative prayer with others in a sacred space will not disappear completely from the Parish. **Kate Hampton**

### **Links with the Ahmadiyya Muslims**

As with so many areas of church and wider life, the pandemic curtailed much movement in this area. However, 2021 has provided a great start with an interfaith quiz organised by the Ahmadiyya's and a planned Saturday afternoon exploring the ethical questions coming out of the pandemic. Thanks To Jane Morley and Ian Yearsley who have taken a step back this year. John Whittaker is currently running these links and would love to hear from anyone with an interest in being part of this ongoing friendship and discussions. **Rev'd John Whittaker**

### **Report from St. Mary's Church School**

This has been a year like no other and the school, its staff, pupils and families rose to the challenges of COVID and home learning. Safeguarding and well-being were the top priorities throughout the year and senior leaders have been committed to ensuring all pupils, particularly the vulnerable, have been properly supported at all times. Systems and processes in school have been transformed to ensure 'bubbles' are as covid-secure as possible.

In the first period of lockdown, lesson packs were delivered on a weekly basis, mostly by email but occasionally to the home of those who required. With investment, training and dedication, our digital learning platform was in place to enhance significantly our home-schooling capabilities for subsequent closures. Teachers and children were connected on a daily basis via Microsoft Teams and practices were developed and honed to make this a rich and impressive offering. Teachers also connected with parents and carers, holding remote progress meetings. Staff and families alike have been surveyed to gather feedback about the successes and development potential of the digital learning platform. It is important to highlight that this is a sustainable platform, not just to help us through a crisis but one which will be deployed and developed over the longer term, bringing continued innovation and efficiency to many day to day activities.

Governor meetings moved quickly and successfully online and we bade a very fond farewell to Angela Attah and Annette Watson at the end of 2020. Their contribution to the governing board and to the school over the years cannot be overstated. We welcomed Katrina Howard and Phil Pyke as foundation governors and their skills and enthusiasm will be invaluable.

Everyone was thrilled to return to school on 08 March and staff are helping children settle and identify individual learning needs. It is still a challenging time but the whole staff team has shown extraordinary drive, determination and care. We continue to be supported by our friends in the wider school community including the Diocese, Wandsworth BC, St Mary's Church and All Saints' School and for this senior leaders and governors are very grateful.

A Faith Support Group with a governor, clergy, parish and other faith parent representative, support the headteacher, curriculum leaders and school governing body specifically in identifying and nurturing the school's distinctive Christian ethos.

**Judith Kennedy and Natasha Hume, Co-Chairs of Governors**

### **Putney Debates**

For the first time ever the Foundation for Law, Justice and Society staged the Oxford Putney Debates as a free online only series of debates open to all. Chaired by the renowned legal commentator Joshua Rozenberg 21 October - 18 November 2020 the Debates can be viewed here: <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/events/oxford-putney-debates-2020-sovereignty-parliament> **Sue Rolfe**

### **Parish Magazine, Bridge & Common, Business as usual (almost)**

At this anniversary of lockdown, it's heartening to look back on how the Parish of Putney kept going one way or another. Church services continued via Zoom and YouTube. The feeling of 'community' continued as the Covid-19 virus swept across the country. Another flame that kept burning brightly was Bridge & Common, the parish magazine.

The dedicated team of: editor Miriam Boursiquot; graphic designer Will Fazackerley; interviewer Madeleine Neave; advertising manager Bethany Laney; and others would not let Covid-19 stand in their way. They were determined, with enthusiasm and hard work, to keep the show on the road. Richard Holman and I acted in an advisory capacity. One problem was that as church services were suspended, there was no way for parishioners to receive the magazine. Door to door deliveries helped and as distanced services were eventually allowed, the magazine could be collected at both churches. Under lockdown, Bridge & Common was distributed and read. The latest edition is in production now. Regular features, as before, are articles by members of the clergy, an engaging interview and articles about whatever else is going on. We are very grateful to the team for keeping 'Bridge & Common' alive under very difficult circumstances. Look out for the latest 'Bridge & Common' at St Mary's and All Saints' soon. **Paul Donnelly**

### **Social Media**

The parish continues to maintain a presence on social media with the aim of improving awareness and increasing attendance for events across the parish. We always welcome suggestions or comments about any of the social platforms. Let the parish office know; pick your format! Latterly, Instagram seems a more directly useful tool for communicating with the parish, whilst Twitter has a much more broad brush usage and allows us to comment at a more regional and national level. We don't tend to use this forum for debate or comment but rather posting of prayers, and parish news and events.

#### **Twitter:**

**@StMarysPutney** We now have over 982 followers.

You can also follow the clergy team separately:

Rev'd John Whittaker **@PutneyPriest**

Rev'd Jono Haynes **@CurateJono**

## Facebook

We have a Facebook page but it's has a small following and is rarely used.

**Instagram:** @PutneyPilgrim has moved away from the original format of publishing a daily photo and comment showing why people were thankful to more of a news update platform.

Whilst so much remains online broadening the use of this platform is on hold but it would be useful to see how it might be used to greater effect in the future. In all our postings we following the practices to the CofE social media charter.

Our website [www.stmarys.parishofputney.com](http://www.stmarys.parishofputney.com) and click on St Mary's and has been upgraded. This sites show details of news at our church and gives readers the chance to listen again to sermons or to re-read weekly service sheets and newsletters.

The digital content which has generated the widest positive response from inside the parish (and out !!) has been the DAILY BREAD reflection series, approaching 160 issues. These have been well received and will eventually be collated into some form post pandemic. They also featured in a *practical theology journal* article Towards a theology of Covid: providence and lament in past, present, and future trauma narratives

By Rev Dr Melanie Harrington which may be read at this address: <https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/CDMTVJWVSAPFMNZEWJNW/full?target=10.1080/1756073X.2020.1861403>

That article will be part of a webinar discussion run by the bishop of Kingston in April 2021. For those without internet wanting a hard copy of the article please speak to Jono.

Communications from the church via email "Church Mouse" directory. During the lockdowns the e news sent out increased with zoom links and information. We remain committed 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>

## Theology in (out!) the Pub

Theology in the Pub was handed over last summer by Nigel Wright, along with a thriving membership to Jenifer Norris and James Roche. Since November 2020 it has met every Monday evening on Zoom. We have moved away from external speakers to discussion. Topics have included the Epistle to the Romans, Jonah, Job, God and covid, the church's response to lockdown, the Beatitudes, love your enemies, false prophets, idolatry, the Cross and 'Honest to God'. Attendance is a hard core of around 6 people. We will be returning to the pub as soon as possible. Theology in the Pub is non-denominational and in theory is publicised to Churches Together but should also appeal to parishioners who do not attend church at all. **Jenifer Norris**

## St Mary's response to Covid-19:

### Daily Bread

Issue #1 was sent out via the Church Mouse 23rd March 2020. Following the extraordinary suspension of public worship and the closing of church doors. We felt

a resource was needed to connect with the worshipping community across the parish and respond to the call to prayer from the Bishop of Southwark: so began the Daily Bread reflection series.

Coming out daily just before 6pm, these short reflections taking a bible passage set for the day, a poem, hymn or image were designed to be a springboard into a time of prayer. Sometimes they added another element to those lighting candles in their windows or clapping for carers. The initiative developed from using the 'home team' of clergy, readers, youth ministers, directors of music, and others to inviting perspectives from further afield, sometimes with a direct link to the parish, such as speaking at Theology in the Pub or being connected with the diocese or cathedral or chaplaincy (armed services and hospital). This bishops of Kingston and Southwark and the archdeacon also contributed, and the series as a whole was cited in an academic journal article, about different responses and resources during the pandemic.

The feed-back from the series has been very encouraging and some of the reflections continue to shared out of parish, to the distant lands of Barnes, to Dorset, up to the Highlands of Scotland and even to Australia. Our response to Acts 1.8 But you will receive the power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses .... To the ends of the earth. **Rev'd Jono Haynes**

### **Online Church**

Who would have thought we would need a rota of Zoom hosts, PowerPoint Operators, Editors, Camera and streaming people? Who had even heard of Zoom ... or an online breakout room? I had hardly used PowerPoint before never mind head up a team of online tech volunteers, and here I am! We certainly have learnt a lot in the past year and want to say a HUGE thank you to the team who got us up and running in the beginning of lockdown – Matt Price, Adrian Bell and Jim Marks. Without the 3 of them, we just would not be delivering what we are now. A huge thank you too to everyone from across the Parish who has jumped on board for this crazy ride! Anna and Phil Peacock, Carrie Myers, Cristiana Vitale & Giuseppe Rosano (and the girls, of course!), Elsa Keep & Matthew Pattie, Ivaylo Milev, Janet Simpson, Joanna Leung, Johanna Campbell, Jules Davenport, Laurent Gibb, Laurent Hatzopoulos, Maja Waite, Rob Wilson, Sarah Tyler and Will Fazackerley. Apologies if I have left anyone out! It has been a hairy ride at times – and thank you to the whole parish for bearing with us as we continue to learn the ropes.

The value of having this team has been immeasurable – we just would not have been able to get our services into people's homes without it and it looks like **tech is here to stay**, so ... if you do have some spare time, you do not have to be a pro (most of us aren't!) **PLEASE get in touch** – we really do need your help! Contact Nikki [nikki.cornfield@parishofputney.co.uk](mailto:nikki.cornfield@parishofputney.co.uk) **Nikki Cornfield, 20 March 2021**

### **Social**

This area of church life has been largely suspended due to social distancing restrictions. Highlights during 2020 included an on-line quiz, a on-line scavenger hunt and an on-line wine tasting, albeit with collection of samples! **Rev'd John Whittaker**

## **Covid buddies**

This time one year ago as we all learned about the dangers of Covid 19 and its easy transfer the Pastoral Team had our first socially distanced meeting in the café. We looked at a list those people known to us who were likely to become more isolated as a result of medical shielding or age risks. We then agreed between us who would stay in touch via phone or offer doorstep visits with whom. Obtaining food deliveries was one of the priorities we needed to ascertain. To our surprise many people were able to arrange or have arranged for them such deliveries. This continues now with most people showing a remarkable level of resilience to the restrictions. As a complement many local people have set up street Whatsapp or other groups ensuring that the older members of their local area have been spoken to or asked if they need help. This has run to occasional doorstep deliveries but equally importantly just chatting and sharing news. Of all the dreadful things to transpire the renewed community spirit has been inspiring and the church has played its full part in this. **Isobel Vass**

## **Parish Assistant**

My year as a Parish Assistant has been a bit of a rollercoaster. I sent my application off the day that the Government ordered the first national lockdown but I was very grateful with how John and Lottie kept the application process going and how with Nikki they interviewed me over Zoom. John offered me the job and I accepted on the mutual proviso that by September things would be pretty much back to normal. I had a good two months in September to October where I felt very welcome and supported and kept busy with a variety of jobs. I went home for a bit of annual leave which then turned into the November lockdown. Over this time my mental health got significantly difficult for me to manage and cope with, something I know many have dealt with this past year. I was feeling so exhausted and anxious I didn't feel ready to come back to work and I am very grateful for the support I received from all my colleagues at this time. I was very saddened to take this busy month in the life of the church off but my time off allowed me to recover and I am feeling much better now. As the church has opened up again in Lent I have been enjoying a phased return back and I am very grateful for this and I am happy to be back. I should also put on record I have greatly enjoyed living with the Camerons who have been incredibly welcoming and have really made me feel at home. I have enjoyed living and working in Putney and I am grateful for the opportunity and will be sad to leave this Summer. I hope that I can continue to keep in touch with all the great people I have met here. **Joshua Harris.**

## **Youth and Family Minister's report**

I started in position as Youth & Family Minister in September 2019 – and had high hopes for 2020! We had done some very worthwhile training for our children and young people volunteers at the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020 and we were setting ourselves up nicely for a year of growth.

Unfortunately, Coronavirus put a stop to many of those plans. However, it did challenge our creativity and a lot of good has come from the lockdowns, some of which we hope to keep on into the future.

The main feature of Youth & Family Ministry this year has been our online 9.15am service, predominantly focussed on children and their families. The service is a 30–45-minute service on Zoom and has been running during term time since 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020. The service has formed over time and has, for the most part, been a Parish wide service. It has been wonderful to have families from across the Parish worship together.

We had, what feels like, a brief stint when we invited children and their families back into our separate churches during the months after summer holidays and leading up to Christmas and we decided to keep the 9.15am going at St Mary's during this time. It was during this time that the current format was created – a mix of All Age Services of the Word, some centred around Godly Play and a monthly All Age Eucharist. Hannah King covers this service and the contribution of our wonderful Sunday School volunteers have made in her report. Please see the Sunday School section. I would like to reiterate our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who stepped up as “Wondering Angels” and those who volunteered for the 9.15am Welcome Team when we were back in church.

Although children and youth attendance has not been at pre-Covid levels, those families who started attending the 9.15a service back in April 2020 have stayed, with a good number of families participating in just about every 9.15am service since we began. For the first time, the children have absorbed all the events during the church calendar, not just the highlights. And right from the beginning, the “congregation” included parents and carers, who learnt alongside their children.

It has been wonderful to see people of all ages to truly worship, reflect and respond together, and to see the younger generation read the Gospel and lead intercessions. In the past, we have been a church very focussed on the formation of faith with our Sunday School model, with very little worship opportunity available for our children and youth. We believe this 9.15am service to be the beginning of a mix mode approach for our future.

Another Covid “baby” which might continue to grow with us is the “Journey to Bethlehem” which formed part of our Christmas celebrations. Lucky for us we have a very talented curate, with a flair for the theatrical, who birthed the idea for this wonderful immersive worship experience. St Mary's church was transformed on Christmas Eve for this ticketed event, and families and small groups of people followed the star path through a series of prayer zones that told the story of the Journey to Bethlehem, whilst making their own spiritual journey. Thank you to Jono for the incredible amount of work that went into this and to all the wonderful people who helped us on the day, whether at the box office, making angels, setting up, or dressing up in lycra on one of the coldest days of the year ... and to our lovely donkey who couldn't come on Palm Sunday but got to come at Christmas!!

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of “A Small Slice of Daily Bread” went out on 14<sup>th</sup> January. “Small Slice” is a spin off from the very successful “Daily Breads” that have been going out since March 2020 and is focussed at the children and young people of our parish. They have been very well received and will continue until the end of Spring Term. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Lockdown also meant that our usual contact with St Mary's school in the form of school assemblies and services in church for Harvest, Christmas Nativity, School Leavers and Mothering Sunday was not able to happen. It was a priority for us to nurture the connection between school and church during this time apart. In addition to the pre-recorded assemblies John and Jono have been delivering to the school, we initiated two collaborations with the school, one at Christingle and the other for Mothering Sunday. A huge thank you to the volunteers who helped stuff over 300 paper bags of Christingle ingredients and over 500 bags of Mothering Sunday activity ingredients and deliver them to the school(s) (Mothering Sunday was a Parish wide event, so packs were delivered to All Saints' school too). On both occasions an invitation to our Sunday service was in the pack and a very significant increase in attendance was seen at both services. Mothering Sunday in particular, was a wonderful community event, with the head teachers from the schools getting involved. A copy of "A Small Slice of Daily Bread" goes to the schools each week.

We look forward to taking what we have learnt during Covid and picking up some of the projects we were looking at starting before Covid hit (eg, forming a SENCO team, children's mental health, continued training for volunteers and families) and incorporating them into our well-loved model of Children and Families Ministry at St Mary's. If you would like to be involved in any part of our ministry as part of your own spiritual path, please contact me ([nikki.cornfield@parishofputney.co.uk](mailto:nikki.cornfield@parishofputney.co.uk))

**Nikki Cornfield – Youth & Family Minister, 20 March 2021**

#### **Curate's report**

The past year has been an enormous challenge and something few of us would have thought possible. My first comment must be to thank the entire church community for their generosity and love during these months of covidtide. All of us have had to adapt and change patterns and expectations at an alarming rate, and it's not always easy to make changes, especially inside the Church of England. When we as a parish have had to, the support received has allowed such changes to happen pretty smoothly, and agency given for lots of experimenting. There will no doubt be much theological reflection going forward and we will do that together.

There has obviously been much missed during the lockdowns: making eye contact, shaking hands, home visits and lawful mingling, but ministry continues albeit in different ways. The phone and online will never be good enough substitutes for the things we can do in person but out of the digital medium shoots of growth have been found and cultivated.

A highlight for the year is the 09.15 services. For all the multiple points of failure (technical), unmuted microphones giving a docu-drama style peak into Sunday morning at N house, to a genuine feeling of the Spirit moving through the WIFI and the fibre optic, it has been a great gift. Particularly that of families worshipping together and 'talking faith' at home. Whatever comes next in terms of community worship and service times &c, I have certainly learned a lot and am thankful for a brilliant meeting outside St Mary's, on the balcony at dusk, where some of the youth team talked and thought prayerfully about what to do and where to go next. I look forward to these developments bearing fruit and give thanks for the creativity and enthusiasm of so many who get involved.

A loss was the Youth Club, which sadly found no effective way of meeting. As a relatively new group it didn't quite have the firm roots put down to flourish as it should especially online. However, there are plans for new things – so watch this space. So too for the Tuesday Toddler Group.

Sunday worship and mid-week services remain the core of the worshipping life of the parish, and whilst the 8.30am BCP, midweek and Caritas suffered under covid, it has been good to see them come back. Taking part in the reimagining's of Caritas has been a great joy, as has been a preliminary edit of the Sunday service books. *Common Worship* gives a huge amount of liturgical choice. The late bishop Michael Perham, who was significant in the production of *Common Worship*, lamented somewhat that so much choice was given for many churches just to do the same thing. I hope that any revised books will really value tradition and explore some difference as well.

It has been great to welcome Daniel Trott as Team Vicar and already to begin to learn much from him. As the vacancy has been filled, I have stood down as an interim governor at All Saints' Primary School but am very happy to be continuing a presence with them as well as finding something of a new ministry with assemblies (online) at St Mary's Primary.

I continue to be involved in *Godly Play* which has found a more regular slot in our pattern of worship for children and adults.

The Pest House and Miles Trust allocates a clergy discretionary fund which has been an added support and used to engage with ministry to those vulnerable and on the margins of our society, it is true that in lockdown fewer people present to the church and this aided and informed our decision to remain open for private prayer during the second lockdown. It has been good to begin a more active role with Parish Action and join the *Love Your Neighbour* course. My involvement with Glassdoor has been minimal as volunteering this year is much restricted. It has been good to support the Scrub Hub which never ceases to amaze in what Rosie and the team have achieved. I am glad that the issues surrounding the procurement of PPE has been taken up by the MP for Putney and serious questions being asked in the House and to ministers.

Other focuses have included the new online bible study: Elisabeth Morse, Carrie Myers and I explored a few four-to-five-week courses: *The beginning of Genesis*, *Jonah*, *Ruth*, and *The Parables* all of which were well attended, and whilst online church might not work for all, many found these online courses helpful. I look forward to more.

Co-ordinating Daily Bread, contributing to the magazine, taking a lead in a stripped back Service of Remembrance, confirmation service, and occasional offices have all provided challenges but on the whole still managed to happen amid the restrictions. The team and I are now in the process of catching up on weddings and baptisms.

The parish continues to be involved with our ecumenical partners and interfaith group and I am pleased to be involved as well. The largest event of the year was the walk-through nativity service *Journey to Bethlehem*, this was a major departure under covid from the norm but seems to have landed well and tried to combine some elements lost by not having a Christmas Fair nor a crib service at St Mary's. It

was ultimately a worship service and highlights some of the choice that can be applied whilst still using the forms allowed by canon.

Sadly, we weren't able to have the planned youth element involved in the 'cast', which was a great shame, a tiny and selfish consolation was that I realised a hitherto unrealised ambition to be one of the Magi... having done it, I look forward to stepping back and being able to let others in on the gold, frankincense and myrrh.

My ministry here is amazingly well supported and made so much easier thanks to Lottie, Julie, Berni, Antonia and Josh. The clergy, Reader Ministers and Nikki and Jackie, have all been very generous with their time, as have our wardens, the music leadership, PCC/DCC members, and Putney Pantry staff.

It is very exciting news to be welcoming Jane Andrews to the team in June. To clarify to some who have asked, this appointment doesn't mean I am going (sorry...) not yet! Curacies are traditionally between 36 and 48 months as a training post, and I am very grateful to John Whittaker for all he does, and I can report as far as the further training is concerned, I am on track.

In the biggest personal life event of the year, I was ordained priest at All Saints', Kingston on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October: the feast of Ignatius, who was keen to receive martyrdom as a gift from God... whilst we differ slightly on this point, I fully endorse Ignatius' emphasis on the need for constant community and his passion for unity. Presiding at the Eucharist for the first time on the feast of St Luke (the healer) gives us a good grounding for the year ahead: Healing and Community. As we come back and grow together may we be inspired by the resurrection hope of Christ and fired by that dawning light. From me, Phoebe, the gingernut dogs, – our thanks and continued prayers to you all. Love Jono. **Rev'd Jonathan Haynes, Assistant Curate**

### **Team Rector's Charge 2021**

Our readings this morning are, as is typical for us, the readings set by our lectionary for this 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the season of Easter. This Sunday also marks our church annual meeting and in this church we have a practice of using this sermon slot for me to deliver my annual meeting address. I am sure there are occasions that the lectionary theme for the Sunday and the feel of the annual meeting address do not coincide, so I was very pleased this year to see quite a strong sense of overlapping narratives between the encounter of the disciples with the resurrected Christ and the journey we have been on for the last year and look towards as the next year unfolds.

Lets park that overlap for a moment and use this annual church meeting Sunday to offer some reflections on our common life, which we have tried to pick up in the Annual report that hopefully you have either seen in print or electronically.

Reading through the annual reports, as you can imagine, a recurring theme are comments on what has not been able to happen and the impairments we have experienced to our common life arising from the pandemic and the actions to manage it.

However, what is also clear, is that despite the hugely challenging year we have experienced, some really good things have been happening and I want to thank each of you for your part in that.

I can't remotely hope to comment on all the different facets of our church life but would like to draw our attention to four areas. Worship, faith life, finance and staff team.

Firstly, our worship, including provision for our children. I don't think it is an exaggeration to say that this area of the life of the Church of England has faced greater upheaval and external restrictions than perhaps in any time since the Reformation and Civil War. This year the church has accepted weddings and baptisms being unlawful, funerals restricted to a handful of mourners, daily prayer not allowed in the church building, as well as no bell ringing, choirs, singing, creche, Sunday school, talking or refreshment after the service. I want to pay tribute to you all for your resilience and faithfulness, creativity and discipleship. Our on-line worship has improved from disastrous to very good, the new 9:15 service has allowed for ministry and worship with children that would have otherwise been impossible, bible study groups have mushroomed during lockdown, with great joy 5 members of our church were either confirmed or received into membership in February after 2 delays following our exploring faith course last autumn. Richard and our choir have been very creative in supporting music and worship whilst we continue not to be allowed to have congregational singing. And despite the experience of worship being reduced by all the restrictions, you have chosen to remain faithful to your call to remain within our worshipping community off or on-line, sung or not sung, faces covered or not! Thank you.

Secondly finance. In the packs you will see the giving report produced by Richard Holman and summary accounts produced by our treasurer Andrew Sternberg. These will be reported on at the meeting. This has clearly been an immensely challenging year with lettings income and collections at services massively reduced. However, a huge effort to minimise our costs including taking advantage of the government furlough scheme, and a hugely generous increase in giving more than covering the many people who have left Putney and stopped giving during the year has left us with approximately a break-even outcome. Projecting forward, we will have recovery on lettings and collections, but we do know since the year end several more givers have left the parish and these are adding up to a reduction of over £10,000. As such in October we will have a funding campaign together with a wider 'time and talents' Overarching theme, how we use the gifts that God has blessed us with. A final comment needed under the theme of finance relates to our outward giving. PSF. PAC.

Thank you so many of you. Wardens, volunteers, cleaning rota, Jono (priested), Daniel, Nikki, Josh, Berni, Julie, Antonia.

In our gospel reading, amidst confusion, terror and disbelief we hear of Jesus saying to his followers: 'Peace be with you' The disciples slowly moved from confused and disbelieving to reassured and hope filled. They began to understand their calling,

their part to play to witnessing to the good news of new life, repentance, forgiveness, hope and peace.

So at our annual church meeting we can see in this narrative and movement something of our experience. We have been confused, dis heartened and fear filled. We have had our norms including our norms of community and worship taken from us. And yet, we too have experienced resurrection, new life. New life in our new patterns of worship. New life which has inspired the generous financial giving and volunteering. New life where we have become aware of God's steadfast presence even in the midst of chaos and loss. My prayer for all of us is that the narrative of the gospel reading continues to be our story. And that just as the first disciples were empowered to their call and vocation to witness to the good news they had encountered, so too, as we look to rebuilding our church life, we might do so with hope and trust, knowing we all, each one of us has a part to play, and in trusting in God's goodness and providence towards us be released in our love, care, generous giving., time talents and finance to allow our life based on the resurrection, the living presence to flourish and grow, not to all the nations beginning in Jerusalem but rather all nations beginning here at St Mary's at the heart of Putney. Peace be with you.

Amen.