

The Parish of St John the Evangelist Great Stanmore



**Annual Report and Accounts
for the year ended
31st December 2016**

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The Annual Meeting of Parishioners
[for the election of churchwardens]
Sunday 30th April 2017, 10.30am in Church House

AGENDA

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. To receive the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of Parishioners (24th April 2016)
4. Election of tellers (if required)
5. Election of two churchwardens to serve 2017/2018
6. Date of next meeting
7. Closing prayer

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on
Sunday 24th April 2016 at 10.45am
in the Wolstenholme Hall, Church House**

Chair: The Revd Matthew Stone	Minutes: Karen Stirrup
Attendance: 76 parishioners (71 on the Electoral Roll)	

Introduction	
1.	<p>Opening Prayer The Rector, the Revd Matthew Stone, welcomed parishioners and prayed for the meeting, the purpose of which was to elect two churchwardens to serve 2016/2017.</p>
2.	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from: Kwame Asiedu-Saforo, Sola Coard, Mary & Michael Carmody, Pauline Forsythe, Eric Kershaw, Keith MacCutchan, Jill Medcalf, Graham Nicholson and Clare Rodenas.</p>
Administration	
3.	<p>Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 26th April 2015: to agree the minutes as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Rector as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>
4.	<p>Election of tellers It was not necessary to appoint tellers.</p>
Election of two churchwardens to serve 2016/2017	
5.	<p>The Rector reported that two nominations had been received. He asked if anyone else wanted to put themselves forward to be a churchwarden, but there were no further nominations. The two nominations were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Mark Lynch</u> proposed by Sylvia Daniels, seconded by Pat Hodgson - <u>Jane Prentice</u> proposed by Frances Westcott, seconded by Graham Nicholson <p>Mark Lynch and Jane Prentice were, therefore, duly elected unopposed to serve as churchwardens for 2016/2017.</p> <p>The Rector thanked both Sylvia Daniels and Stuart Webster for their work during the previous year. Mrs. Daniels is stepping down after five years in office and Mr. Webster after one year in office. A presentation will be made to both in the coming weeks.</p>
Miscellaneous	
6.	<p>Date of next meeting The next Annual Meeting of Parishioners will take place at 10.45am on Sunday 30th April 2017.</p>
7.	<p>Closing Prayer The Rector closed the meeting in prayer.</p>

The meeting closed at 10.50am

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 30th April 2017, 10.50am in Church House

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting (24th April 2016)
3. Matters arising
4. Reports
 - 4.1 Electoral Roll Officer's report
 - 4.2 PCC Secretary's review
 - 4.3 Presentation of accounts and Treasurer's financial review
 - 4.4 Fabric report
5. Election of tellers (if required)
6. Elections and appointments
 - 6.1 Election of 3 Deanery Synod Representatives to serve 2017/2020
 - 6.2 Election of 4 PCC Members to serve 2017/2020
 - 6.3 Appointment of Sidespersons for 2017/2018
 - 6.4 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2017/2018
7. Group Reports
8. Assistant Curate's Review
9. Rector's Review
10. Capital Vision 2020 (our Mission Action Plan)
11. Any other business
12. Date of next meeting
13. Closing prayer

Advance Notice of PCC Meeting – Sunday 30th April 2017 at 11.45am

Immediately after the close of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, there will be a very short meeting of the newly elected Parochial Church Council (in the Bernays Room) to appoint the Church Officers: Vice-Chairman, Deputy Wardens (if appropriate), Secretary, Treasurer and Electoral Roll Officer. Also, to appoint members to the Standing Committee.

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on
Sunday 24th April 2016 at 10.50am
in the Wolstenholme Hall, Church House**

Chair: The Revd Matthew Stone	Minutes: Karen Stirrup
Attendance: 76 parishioners (71 on the Electoral Roll)	

Introduction	
1.	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from: Kwame Asiedu-Saforo, Sola Coard, Mary & Michael Carmody, Pauline Forsythe, Eric Kershaw, Keith MacCutchan, Jill Medcalf, Graham Nicholson and Clare Rodenas.</p>
Administration	
2.	<p>Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 26th April 2015: to agree the minutes as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Rector as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.</p>
3.	<p>Matters arising – none.</p>
Reports	
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1 Electoral Roll Officer Andrea Nicholson presented the 2016 report which was based on a revision that took place between 26th March and 8th April 2016. The revised roll stands at 178 which is made up of 79 residents (who live within the parish boundary) and 99 non-residents (who do not live within the parish boundary). 38 people have been added and 11 were removed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 moved away - 1 died - 2 no longer attend (and do not live in the parish) - 2 because they are Clerks in Holy Orders <p>There were no questions.</p> <p>The Rector thanked Mrs. Nicholson for her work as Electoral Roll Officer.</p> • 4.2 PCC Secretary's review Parish Administrator, Karen Stirrup (in her capacity as PCC Secretary) had prepared a report which is on pages A7-A10 of the 2015 Accounts Booklet. There were no questions. • 4.3 Presentation of accounts and PCC Treasurer's financial review Treasurer, Jennifer Neve, had also prepared a report which is on pages A11-A12 of the 2015 Accounts Booklet. The Rector gave an overview of the income and expenditure during the year and highlighted the £876 surplus that was achieved.

	<p>John Mackenzie-Corby asked a question about whether the rent from the Old Rectory was coming to St John's. The Rector explained that as the Diocese of London own the property, the rent is being received by them.</p> <p>With there being no further questions, Jeremy Aspinall proposed the 2015 Accounts be adopted. Lydia McLean seconded the proposal. The 2015 Accounts were unanimously adopted by the meeting.</p> <p>The Rector thanked Ms Neve for all her work as Treasurer. Sylvia Daniels commented that she found the Financial Review extremely helpful and easy to understand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.4 Fabric report Churchwardens Sylvia Daniels and Stuart Webster had prepared a report which is on pages 11-13 of the Annual Report. There were no questions.
<p>Elections and appointments</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Elections of tellers It was not necessary to appoint tellers.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.1 Election of 4 PCC Members to serve 2016/2019 The Rector reported that four nominations had been received as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Maureen Davter</u> proposed by Jennifer Neve, seconded by Sylvia Daniels - <u>Farah Lungay</u> proposed by Rebekah Stone, seconded by Jean Orpwood - <u>Andrew Newton</u> proposed by Frances Westcott, seconded by John Mackenzie-Corby - <u>Malcolm Woods</u> proposed by Sylvia Daniels, seconded by Pat Hodgson <p>The Rector asked if anyone else wanted to put themselves forward, but there were no further nominations. Accordingly, these four people were duly elected to serve on the PCC for a period of three years until 2019.</p> <p>The Rector thanked the retiring PCC Members: Jeremy Aspinall, Jo Maslin, Sheila Oliver and Jackie Peters.</p> • 6.2 Appointment of sidespersons for 2016/2017 The following were appointed nem con: <p>Valerie Banger, Elizabeth Bowen, Reanna Gregory, Megan Hall, Pat Hodgson, Katherine Johnson, Nicole Lungay, John Mackenzie-Corby, Daniel McKeon, Lauren McKeon, Jennifer Neve, Andrea Nicholson, Mick Oliver, Olive Oliver, John Pay, Jackie Peters, Diana Phillips, Pauline Salway, Jamie Stirrup, Bill Wyon and Lorna Wyon.</p> • 6.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2016/2017 Derek Taylor-Mew was appointed for a further twelve months nem con.
<p>7. Group Reports</p>	
	<p>The 2015 Annual Report and Accounts had been published at least 14 days ahead of the meeting. Rather than comment on each report, the Rector proposed only specific remarks be made by the authors, or questions asked of them as necessary. The numbering which follows is in line with the Annual Report.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.7 Great Stanmore Bell Ringers (page 19) The Rector reminded parishioners of the current appeal to raise £25,000 to fit a new vertical ladder and overhaul the bells. £15,500 has been raised so far towards the target of £25,000. Director of Music, Philip Rees, informed parishioners of a concert that would be taking place on the afternoon of Sunday 26th June 2016 to raise money for the tower appeal. • 7.10 Holiday Club (page 21) Bev McKeon thanked everyone who helps leads Junior Church. The 2016 Holiday Club will take place during the October half-term. • 7.11 Home Groups (page 21) Jean Orpwood encouraged the parishioners to join one of the five Home Groups. The details are published in the pew sheet.
8. Assistant Curate's Review	
	<p>The Revd Daniel Norris thanked parishioners for their support and encouragement, and said it was a great joy and pleasure to be at St John's. The Rector mentioned that Daniel would be priested on Friday 1st July at St Andrew's, Uxbridge at 7pm.</p>
9. Rector's Review	
	<p>The Rector had given an overview of the variety of work undertaken during the course of a year.</p>
10. Possible Development Plans	
	<p>The Rector reminded parishioners that in 2014 the Diocese of London and the PCC had undertaken some work to ascertain whether it might be possible to sell Church House and Field, and purchase a portion of land within the Old Rectory site in order for new hall facilities to be built.</p> <p>These development plans proved to be a challenge largely because of the access problems onto Church Field which would hamper any development. Currently access is only possible through the main door of Church House and through the double gates in between Church House Cottage and Cowmans Cottage. Furthermore, Church House and Church House Cottage are also listed which raises other issues.</p> <p>Earlier this year, the Rector made contact with the owner of a strip of land at the south-east corner of Church Field which is owned by the developer who built Tudor Well Close in the 1970s. This developer foresaw the future potential of Church Field as a site that might be built on and he knew the London Borough of Harrow would not permit a new access road from Old Church Lane. This developer confirmed his agreement to sell the "ransom" strip as part of a wider project where the PCC would sell Church House/Field to a new developer.</p> <p>The Rector and the 'old' developer met a London Borough of Harrow Planning Officer earlier this month to explore what type of development might be permitted on Church Field utilising the ransom strip for access. The Planning Officer responded by saying no development would be permitted because Church House and Field fall within the Old Church Lane Conservation Area. Unless we could demonstrate public benefit that would far outweigh the negative impact of new buildings being constructed, planning</p>

permission would not be granted even for affordable/social housing. This is a disappointment.

The Rector has updated the Diocese of London who may well decide to sell the Old Rectory site (which they had not rushed to do in case we were able to buy some of the land for new hall facilities). It is unlikely the Diocese of London would be able to sell the site for development because it is also located within the same Conservation Area. It might, however, be possible for planning permission to be granted to build a new house on the same footprint as the existing Old Rectory.

In conclusion, the Rector has liaised with Cluttons (surveyor's appointed by the PCC) who advise there is nothing more than can be done. Fortunately no costs have been incurred by the PCC during this exploration.

Jean Orpwood asked whether the Diocese of London would consider improving the Old Rectory front garden, part of which had been churned up because of cars being parked on the grass. The Rector said the Diocese would not be spending any money as they may be selling (or developing the site). Furthermore, it is the car parking by members of St John's that has caused the problem.

11 Any other business

- **11.1 Churches Together in the Weald (CTW)**

Sylvia Daniels and Mick Oliver were reappointed for a further 12 months to represent St John's at CTW Meetings. We do have a third place and the Rector asked parishioners to let him know if they wanted to stand for election.

- **11.2 New altar frontals, burses & veils and ciborium**

The Rector drew parishioners' attention to the new altar frontals that had been made in each of the liturgical colours using money from a £3,000 legacy received from Mrs. Constance Patricia Williams who died in 2015. Mrs. Williams used to attend St John's and formerly lived at Paxfold.

In addition new burses and veils had been made in each of the liturgical colours using money that had been received from a retiring collection taken at Joan Altman's Memorial Service held in 2015. The amount collected was £580.10 and the remainder was used towards the cost of new altar cloths.

Jane Darlington and Sue Ellis (Joan Altman's daughters) had paid for a new ciborium as a gift to St John's.

The Rector added that the PCC were awaiting a Faculty to be received before a new sound system can be installed in the church using the money received in memory of Fred Corby who died at the end of 2014. The amount received was £10,483.26.

The sum of at least £50,000 is to be spent on new church lighting using the legacy of £47,500 received from Deryck Francis Henry Taylor plus some of the money raised by the Fundraising Committee. This project will proceed once the Quinquennial Inspection is undertaken which is due this year. It is necessary to obtain confirmation that the roof is sound first.

- **11.3 Capital Vision 2020 'Praying for seven people'**

The Rector explained that he will be handing out special book marks on 1st May 2016 to members of the congregation and encouraging them to write the names of seven people they will pray for.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11.4 Pentecost 2016 – Church open for 24 hours The Rector informed parishioners that all parish priests had received a letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York encouraging churches to participate in a “call to prayer” leading up to Pentecost in 2016. The Bishop of London has also sent a communication to all clergy which suggested different ways churches could take part. The PCC has agreed to St John’s remaining open for a 24 hour prayer vigil from 8pm on 13th May 2016. The vigil would begin with a service of compline. It is hoped members of the congregation will sign up (in pairs overnight). The Assistant Curate, the Revd Daniel Norris, would be asked to create a new themed prayer space which could be used during the vigil or by any visitors to the church. The bookmarks referred to in 11.3 above could be used by parishioners during the 24 hour prayer vigil. • 11.5 Presentation of Annual Report Mrs. Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby thanked the Rector and Karen Stirrup, Parish Administrator, for producing yet another annual report that was of a very high quality. Thanks were also due to Rebekah Stone for her work behind the scenes. • 11.6 Thanks to the Rector Sylvia Daniels thanked the Rector for all his hard work which has helped move the parish forward which has seen more people join the congregation. Mrs. Daniels comments that “the Rector never stops working” and we are very lucky to have him at the helm of St John’s. Thanks were also paid to Rebekah Stone for all she does to support her husband and St John’s! A bottle was presented to the Rector and flowers to Mrs. Stone. Spontaneous applause followed. A bottle was also presented to the Assistant Curate as a ‘thank you’. Rosemary Mackenzie added her voice by saying the Rector continues to be efficient and even replied to phone calls and emails on his day off (which he shouldn’t!). • 11.7 Closing remarks from the Rector The Rector thanked parishioners for what had been a very positive meeting with a super atmosphere. The Rector commented that he remains extremely pleased to be a part of the wonderful St John’s community and is grateful for the huge number of people who give so freely of their time and talents. The Rector politely asked parishioners to be sensitive to the Parish Administrator, Karen Stirrup, when she is attending services and underlined the importance of not speaking to her about work matters at this time.
10.	<p>Date of next meeting The next Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Sunday, 30th April 2017 at 10.50am</p>
11.	<p>Closing Prayer The Rector closed the meeting in prayer.</p>

The meeting closed at 11.25am

4. Reports

4.1 Electoral Roll Officer's report

A verbal report will be given at the meeting.

4.2 Parish Administrator's Report

See pages A7-A10 of 2016 Accounts Booklet

4.3 Treasurer's Financial Review and Accounts

See pages A11-A13 of 2016 Accounts Booklet

4.4 Fabric Report

This is the first Fabric Report that we have written since our appointment to the historic office of Churchwarden in April. During 2016, the following work has been undertaken:

Church

- A List B Faculty was obtained to install a new sound system. Cost £10,447.22.
- A Faculty was obtained to install new lights in the church. Cost £53,967.32.
- A Faculty was obtained to fit a new fabricated steel stairway in the bell chamber and to undertake various works to the bells. Cost £30,980.
- A Faculty was obtained to replace the chapel chairs with wooden upholstered chairs. A payment of £250 was made to the Mission to Seafarers who donated these chairs which were superfluous to them.
- The organ blower and humidifier were serviced (twice). Cost £348.
- The clock was serviced. Cost £285.60.
- The oil-fired boiler was serviced and safety tested. Cost £210.
- The fire extinguishers/blankets were tested. Cost £653.30 (included Church House).
- The chimney, which acts as a flue for the boiler, was swept. Cost £80.
- The gutters and downpipes were cleared of leaves. Cost £291.52.
- Tiles (x 6) were replaced on the roof to repair a leak. Cost £61.80.
- The votive candle stand was repaired (new drip and coin trays fitted). Cost £158.40.
- The flagpole was repaired after many years of being out of commission and a new St George's flag (with Diocesan Crest) and Union flag purchased. Cost £1,017.35 which was paid for by two donations.
- The lightning protection system was tested. The test was undertaken at the same time as the repair to the flag pole and the cost was subsumed within this bill.
- An asbestos survey of the Church was undertaken. Low grade asbestos was found in the organ box panel and in the vinyl floor tiles in the WC. Cost £620 (included Church House).
- The boiler room was tidied.

Churchyard

- The Churchyard has been maintained to a good standard by the London Borough of Harrow for the first time. Cost Nil.
- List B Faculty obtained to fell a leaning pine tree. Cost Nil (paid for by the London Borough of Harrow). This has saved £3,000.
- Archdeacon's permission obtained to install a new bench.

- Boundary fence replaced. This work would have cost £12,600 but was paid for by Taylor Wimpey who own the fence. Taylor Wimpey had originally disputed that the fence was owned by them, but at the end of 2015 the PCC instructed a Chartered Surveyor (at a cost of £720) to prove ownership.

Old Church

- The safety wire system and personal protective equipment was serviced. Cost £319.
- The fall arrest lanyard and cabloc fall arrestor device (part of the safety wire system) were replaced as they had failed. Cost £318.

Church House

- The five yearly electrical installation test was undertaken. Cost £720 plus a further £2,286 to address all necessary Code 1s and 2s. Pass certificate now in place.
- PAT Testing of all electrical appliances. Cost £92.40.
- Two wall heaters were replaced in the Micklem Hall. Cost £626.40 (plus an additional £57.60 to trace and repair a fault earlier in the year).
- A blocked drain was cleared. Cost Nil (the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group covered the cost with no adjustment to our premium because it was not a claim).
- Missing bricks replaced on front elevation. Cost £200.
- Six faulty valves replaced to repair faults (x 2) with heating system. Cost £240.
- The kitchen, kitchen corridor, back door corridor and toilets were painted. Cost £500 (materials were supplied free of charge).
- An asbestos survey of Church House was undertaken. Low grade asbestos was found in the Micklem Hall vinyl floor tiles and within a ceiling panel in the kitchen. Also, within the corridor cupboards. Cost £620 (included Church House).
- Boiler repair (replacement of pump and heat exchanger on hot water boiler). Cost £693.90.
- New filters fitted to Wolstenholme Hall heaters (the heaters were cleaned at the same time). Cost Nil.
- Various areas were tidied including: Little Fishers cupboard, Minstrels Gallery, Junior Church/Craft cupboard and toilet vestibules. The Wolstenholme Hall was reorganised, which included the curtains being removed, and the windows have been cleaned. Cost Nil.
- All the chairs in the Wolstenholme Hall were steamed cleaned. Cost £56.96 (= hire charge of equipment).
- A second-hand baby changing unit was purchased. Cost £20.
- The fire extinguishers/blankets were tested. Cost £653.30 (included the Church).
- The heating boiler and hot water boilers were serviced and safety tested. Cost £228. The kitchen smoke and carbon dioxide detectors were checked.

Church Field

- A fence repair was undertaken on the Bernays Gardens side. Cost Nil.
- Church Field was maintained in line with the gardening contract. Cost £1,589.

Church House Cottage

- Agreed Shorthold Tenancy Agreement (AST) renewed for 12 months on 12th May at £1,030pcm.
- Thermostat replaced and relocated. Cost £96.

Hollond Lodge

- AST renewed for 12 months on 1st December at £800pcm.
- New bathroom fitted. Cost £4,691.31.

The Chase

- AST signed for 12 months on 26th February at £1,650pcm.
- Replacement of windows and doors £6,600.
- Installation of a new washing machine. Cost £299.99.
- Replaced bath tub batten and install new panels for front and side. Cost £130.
- Disposal of accumulated rubbish. Cost £45.
- Trace and repair an electrical fault. Cost £334.43 (which included the replacement of a radiator valve).
- Large pile of rubbish cleared from back garden. Cost £420.

The Quinquennial Inspection was undertaken on 25th May 2016 by architect, Charles Sheppard, our Quinquennial Inspector. As is usually the case an incredibly long list of work was identified which needs to be tackled over the next five years. The following works were highlighted in the summary:

- The roof of the boiler room vent needs replacing.
- Replacement of the south aisle/nave valley roof.
- The potential of movement of the structure under the chancel/possibly in the boiler room should continue to be monitored.
- Arrange an inspection of the east tower window and high level stonework.
- Arrange a specialist inspection and report to be carried out on all the window glass.
- Complete an access audit and explore the feasibility of providing a fully compliant WC.

The first three items above are being addressed during the first part of 2017.

The general and separate fire risk assessments for the Church and Church House were reviewed and updated. The Old Church risk assessment was also reviewed and updated. Actions arising from the review will be undertaken during the course of 2017. The Health & Safety policy was updated and is now on display in the porch.

It has been a very busy year on the fabric side of the life of St John's Church, and we have enjoyed assuming the shared responsibility for our various buildings. It has been extremely rewarding to work alongside our Rector and to have the able and willing assistance of the Deputy Wardens, Farah Lungay and Malcolm Woods.

In closing we remain grateful to all those who give so generously of their time to ensure that the fabric is maintained and improved which helps ensure we are able to continue our mission and ministry in the future.

**Mark Lynch and Jane Prentice
Churchwardens**

The following elections/appointments will now take place:

5. Election of tellers *(if required)*

6. Elections and Appointments

- 6.1 Elections to the Deanery Synod to serve 2017/2020 (x 3)**
- 6.2 Elections to the Parochial Church Council to serve 2017/2020 (x 4)**
- 6.3 Appointment of Sidespersons for 2017/2018**
- 6.4 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2017/2018**

7. Group Reports

7.1 Bereavement Visiting Team

Our team of Bereavement Visitors has not undertaken much visiting this year. This is due both to there being fewer funerals over the past year, and to many of the families living some way from Stanmore. This reduction also reflects fewer referrals sent from the Bereavement Care Office in Harrow. However, as a group we continue to meet every few months to share our experiences and support one another in what could be difficult circumstances. This supervision is an essential part of the safe functioning of the group, not only for the clients but particularly for the visitor. It accords with our Code of Safe Practice for the Visitors, as set out by Bereavement Care (BC) with whom St John's maintains its corporate membership. They provide ongoing training for our visitors including an annual conference that attracts excellent speakers. This year BC is busy developing quality of care standards of practice that inform outside agencies and possible funding organisations of our intent to offer a professional service to the communities of Harrow and beyond.

Our work is always confidential and may continue for as long as the visitor is required. In early November, at All Souls-tide, we invited to our afternoon memorial service all who had experienced a bereavement in the previous two years and included those names of parishioners who had died some time previously. This informal service is always much appreciated and allows all the bereaved families to reflect on their loss and begin looking towards the future. Besides this service our Tree of Lights at Christmas, both inside and outside the Church, prove to be a helpful addition to remembering our loved ones at what can be a difficult time of the year.

While we always look for potential visitors, we are hopeful that our present visitors may soon be able to help other groups nearby where there is more work available. If any would care to know more and consider sharing in this most rewarding work, they are welcome to speak either to me or the Rector. We also invite those who would like to speak to us about their bereavement, however long ago, to do so in confidence.

Jean Orpwood

7.2 Café St Jean

Most members of the 9.30am congregation seem to head for Café St Jean to have a drink and a chat with each other at the end of the service. Our five teams of volunteers efficiently and cheerfully produce filter coffee, tea, soft drinks and biscuits and our Chair and Table Monitors swiftly turn the hall into a café so folk can sit comfortably to enjoy their drinks.

We continue to serve around 50–60 adults and children and the suggested donation remains at 50p per drink. We greatly appreciate the support of both Jane Prentice and Malcolm Woods as Church Warden and Deputy Church Warden who frequently help set up the Café.

I am deeply indebted to all the people who ensure the Café continues to be a success. Of course, we are always glad to welcome new volunteers.

Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby (Co-ordinator)

7.3 Churches Together in the Weald

In 2011, the Revd Alison Christian was invited to join the Churches Together in the Weald (CTW). At that time the contact with the local churches in Stanmore had lapsed, so Alison was pleased to accept the invitation from CTW. Michael Carmody, Mick Oliver and myself joined as the St John's Church representatives; Michael was their treasurer for three years.

However, in the past year the relationship between St John's and the Stanmore churches has been reignited, largely because of the effort made by our Rector. We are now praying regularly with the Revd Shaun Lambert, Minister of Stanmore Baptist Church and Father Michael Munnely, Parish Priest of St William of York RC Church. We also find time to go for breakfast together.

We participated in another United Advent service held at Stanmore Baptist Church, and the United Good Friday Service, which was held at St John's, saw a packed church. It was lovely to be able share with local Christians from other churches which includes representation from Culver Church, Kenton Baptist Church and St Anselm's, Belmont.

We are currently exploring the possibility of a 2017 Good Friday Walk of Witness beginning at St William of York and finishing with another united service at St John's.

We are very grateful to the CTW for welcoming us over the last four years.

Sylvia Daniels

7.4 Churchyard Gardeners

In 2016 we welcomed a team from the London Borough of Harrow to cut the grass and keep the hedges trimmed. They also arranged for the felling and disposal of a pine tree which had a considerable lean making it unsafe. All of this work was undertaken at the Council's expense following the formal closure of the churchyard and saving almost £10,000 this year.

Michael Evens, Mick Oliver and Peter Williams were regular members of the monthly working parties, mainly pruning shrubs, clearing branches and feeding occasional bonfires to dispose of the wood. A larger number of people came together in April for an extra working party, to clear the dense growth near the boundary fence which had become very dilapidated over the years. This allowed the owner, Taylor Wimpey access to inspect the fence and to replace it. It was quite a battle to get Taylor Wimpey to accept this liability but our PCC refused to come second!

Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby weeded one of the long borders, and Carole White weeded the other so there has been space to plant bedding geraniums and thus provide some summer colour. Graves near the main path have also been weeded and the roses fed, deadheaded and pruned by Carole. The beds around the standard roses were cleared by Michael Evens, Paul Medcalf and Bill Wyon to try to prevent damage to the rose stems done by the trimmers. Bill replaced some of the rotten stakes and dug the hole to plant the new standard rose kindly donated by Barbara Robbins.

Barbara and her son, Alan, have continued to plant up the horse trough just outside the churchyard. There are currently 100 bulbs planted so do watch them flower in the spring.

The lovely external Christmas Tree, kindly organised by Gary and Valerie Banger for the second year, helped to brighten up the Christmas season.

Peter Williams continues in his relentless battle against litter by collecting it up on Sunday mornings to keep Rectory Lane and the churchyard clear.

Thank you to everyone who helped whether frequently or occasionally. Our visitors to the church and churchyard often comment on how good they look. Keep up the good work!

Carole White

7.5 Great Stanmore Bell Ringers

Our main endeavour during 2016 was to raise £25,000 to pay for the repair of the bells. Before launching the appeal, we had consulted Sue Morton of St James' Bushey, who had masterminded an appeal for their bells the previous year, and also St John's Fundraising Committee, in particular Fiona Hussey and Farah Lungay, who gave us much useful advice. We had drafted and printed a leaflet describing the work to be done and launched our appeal just before Christmas 2015 in the hope that the extra worshippers who come to church at that time of the year might give generously – and they did. The largest single donation was £1,000.

Our next step was to apply for grants and we received three, totalling £9,500, from the Bell Repair Funds of the Middlesex Association, the Hertford County Association and the Watford District. During the following months we organised a cake sale and a beetle drive. It is

important to acknowledge the generosity of the members of the congregation and their friends and relatives, who made up the majority of donors. A welcome boost to our funds came from Edit and Philip Rees who very kindly organised a magnificent concert in the early summer, which brought in over £1,500. Other donations were made by Tea & Chat and by the Churchwardens and Parish Administrator who gave us the forfeit money charged after a tedious booking in Church House! In the autumn we organised a quiz evening for the Watford District ringers and their friends who very kindly donated the proceeds to our bell fund. During these months the Rector spent many hours filling in the forms to obtain the necessary Faculty.

By December we were in sight of our target and able to commission the installation of the new metal stairway to provide safe and easy access to the bells. We had just sent off a deposit to the Whitechapel Foundry to start the work on the bells when it was announced in the press that the foundry was to cease operations on its present site early in 2017 - but they undertook to finish any work already in hand.

Throughout the year, as we knew, that the Tenor was in need of attention, we rang it sparingly, to be sure that we could ring all eight bells for the wedding of Lizzie Medcalf and Edd Sutch in August. A band of their ringing friends rang a quarter peal to celebrate their marriage. Towards the end of the service Lizzie invited the guests to make contributions to the bell appeal, an unexpected source of funds.

We were unable to welcome visiting bands this year, owing to the uncertain state of the Tenor, but there were a few weddings which asked for bells so we have received some income.

Our tower outing in 2016 was to Dublin in August so that we could stay in the students' accommodation in Trinity College. Some people took the opportunity to see the Book of Kells [c. 800] which is housed in the magnificent Old Library [18C]; if you are on the spot you can join the queue early while it is still short. Trinity College is located at the heart of Dublin so that we could reach most towers on foot – St Patrick's Cathedral, Christchurch Cathedral, St Audoen's and also the RC Church in John's Lane; here the way up to the ringing room is a metal openwork stair spiralling up to the ceiling at the west end of the nave; the view east down towards the high altar is impressive and scary. We also travelled to Taney by tram and to Bray on the DART, a railway which runs along the coast north and south of Dublin. On the Saturday evening we all dined together in a pub in Dame Street. This was our third trip to the Republic and was as successful as the other two – in one respect even better because the weather was exceptionally warm and fine, which added greatly to our enjoyment.

On New Year's Eve we rang the old year out and the new year in with our customary backwards rounds leading up to midnight, followed by twelve blows on the tenor and then about 20 minutes of normal ringing.

St John's tower continues to be a member of both the Hertford County Association of Change Ringers and of the Middlesex County Association and we attend their district meetings on a regular or occasional basis. This membership gives us access to monthly practices and specialist workshops to improve our ringing, technical advice on steeple keeping, quiz evenings and other social occasions. Both associations also have Bell Repair Funds, which make grants to individual towers, and both responded favourably to our applications. Most of the money in these funds is donated by ringers, who put their small

change in the collecting box at District meetings or send an annual gift-aided cheque to the Treasurer.

We hope the bells will be back in action by Easter 2017. Anyone interested in learning to ring or simply curious to know what goes on in a ringing chamber or to see the bells, is very welcome to join us in the tower on most Thursday evenings between 8.15pm and 9.30pm.

Peter Scott, Tower Master and Treasurer
Elizabeth Bowen, Deputy Master and Secretary

7.6 Flowers

The flower arrangers' team faithfully provided fresh flowers all the weeks as necessary during the year, and some of the congregation continued to donate money for the altar arrangements. We also decorated at Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest. There were 7 weddings in the church, each having different requirements for flowers, although we were not needed to provide the arrangements for all these occasions.

The team is now quite small in number and would love to have some more people involved who are interested in creating flower arrangements to enhance our church. If anyone would like to find out more about helping with the flowers, please let us know.

Sheila Oliver

7.7 Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee was set up in 2013 and is made up of around ten members of the congregation. Although in previous years we have held various events each year, last year we were only able to hold our annual Fun Day in collaboration with the Stanmore Society. This event raised £1,077 bringing the total raised to date to over £11,000.

Originally it was agreed that the money raised would go towards certain projects (eg lighting and sound), but they were completed without having to use any of the fundraising money, and apart from buying a new cooker and a baby changing unit for Church House.

Consequently, there is a balance of £10,593 to spent on a future project which is likely to be the organ which requires a complete overhaul. The Fundraising Committee and PCC feel it is very important that the money raised is spent on a tangible project.

In 2017 we will be holding our annual Fun Day on the 10th September (without the Stanmore Society who are holding their annual event with the RNOH Hospital). We are always looking for more helpers and would welcome new members to the committee.

Jane Prentice

7.8 Holiday Club

As the summer proved not to be as popular for a holiday club as it was in previous years, we decided to offer a holiday club at a different time in the year. We hosted a two-day holiday club during the October half term which proved popular with over 30 children registered and 28 attending.

The theme was light and the children took part in a variety of activities such as craft, stories, songs and games. We made lighthouses, decorated tea lights and made banners to decorate the hall. The children also learned a new song aptly called "My Lighthouse" which is still being sung! We hope that we will be able to share it with you in Church in the future. The mini holiday club finished with a light party disco on the Wednesday evening for parents and children with dancing and games for all.

We plan to hold another holiday club in the October half-term in 2017.

Beverley McKeon
Commissioned Children's Minister

7.9 Home Groups

Five Home Groups have continued to meet in 2016 in and around the parish, usually on alternate Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays from the autumn until early summer. One afternoon group meets monthly at Wolstenholme on a Wednesday afternoon. During Lent most of the evening groups meet weekly.

Each group chooses its own programme of study, some finding it more helpful to spend several weeks following the same theme, while others prefer to discuss different bible passages from meeting to meeting. The topics covered between all the groups continue to be many and varied, quite an eclectic range, using films or DVD, Bible study courses that cover an entire book of the Bible, or other books that explore different facets of our faith. One group having looked at the Creeds in the prayer book got to grips with the opposite topic of heresies to avoid! Some of these have been easier to study than others but all who attend find them to be worthwhile and help them to grow in their Christian faith.

Home Groups also provide us with the opportunity to meet our fellow parishioners in a deeper fellowship, and over the years this has remained so. There is always space in one or another of our groups so newcomers are **very** welcome to join at any time.

We are grateful to all who lead groups either continuously or within a rota. We are also grateful to our hosts for the generosity of their hospitality in the regular invasion of their homes!

Jean Orpwood

7.10 Interfaith Matters

St Johns' continues to be a faith community member of Harrow Interfaith, (HIF). As such, everyone is entitled to attend events and activities. As one of the country's longest standing local inter-faith groups, HIF continues to focus on its aim of building understanding, respect and friendship among faiths in Harrow, one of the most religiously diverse and observant areas in the UK.

This year, HIF's series of Question Times, Dimbleby style, has continued in Harrow's Council Chamber, whereby, three at a time, each of the faiths fielded a prominent panel member to answer questions from the audience on matters of belief, tradition and thoughts on topical issues. The Christian panellist was the Bishop of Willesden, the Rt. Revd Pete Broadbent. Responses to the questions were invariably deep and thoughtful, prompting spirited follow-up from the audience. Feedback deemed the sessions open, honest, of great interest and respectful of all contributions.

Whether or not faith is important for health and wellbeing was the question posed for HIF's November 2016 Inter-Faith Week gathering, promoted in conjunction with NHS Harrow Commissioning Group, a question which faith members, doctors and health administrators answered with breadth and commitment. A party from St John's attended the Harrow 2017 Holocaust Memorial event, sponsored by HIF in the packed Harrow Arts Centre, where a reflective audience was absorbed and moved by a programme of music, poetry and presentations by young and old, including personal memories by genocide survivors. The evening concluded with a pledge to live together in peace and dignity articulated by the audience, a member of which commented, "I felt God truly was in that hall".

As ever, the year was enlivened by invitations from member faith communities to attend services, lectures, gatherings for prayer, joyous celebrations and solemn commemorations, along with plentiful opportunities for feasting.

Coming HIF events are publicised at St John's through porch posters, leaflets and pew sheet notices. Do come along to your choice of 2017 events and have a look at Harrow Interfaith's website www.harrowinterfaith.org for programmes and information.

Pat Stevens

7.11 Junior Church

Junior Church numbers continue to be steady though we have had some families move away during the last year. Most weeks see us 30 strong which is a real pleasure to see. During the past year we have continued to use material which follows the lectionary so that the children are hearing the same message as the congregation albeit in a more child friendly way.

- Bubbles – (babies and toddlers) has an average of 4 babies and toddlers each week. These children take part in playtime, song time, story time and craft time and this gives an opportunity for those parents that wish, to go over to Church.
- Splash – (pre-school to Year 2) children take part in story sessions, art and craft, prayer, games and singing. We also have some sessions using the Godly Play material which is always popular.

- Xstream – (Year 3 and above) children take part in singing, bible reading, prayer, stories and games.
- The Grid – (Year 7 and above) meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month with Mark Maslin, Daniel McKeon and Karen Omisore. The sessions are varied and involve looking at a Bible reading and sometimes having a discussion. It is not uncommon for us to go off on a tangent which makes it even more fun!

Junior Church has had a busy year and we have been part of several Church events and services. We also held a Christingle making workshop for both adults and children at the Rectory which proved to be fun. The Christingles were prepared for the service the following day. We have also played our instruments at various Church services and we look forward to doing so again.

Junior Church also supported The Mission to Seafarers during Lent.

All in all Junior Church has had a very busy but productive year and we look forward to what lies ahead!

Beverley McKeon
Junior Church Leader

7.12 Little Fishers

We continue to meet every Tuesday afternoon in term time for play, craft, stories and singing. When the weather is good we play on the outside toys.

We have had our usual Teddy Bear's Picnic and our visit from Father Christmas.

We meet in the Micklem Hall between 1.15pm-2.45pm. Mums, dads, grandparents and carers all welcome to bring their babies and toddlers.

Sylvia Daniels, Edit Rees and Marianne Wright

7.13 Music

I am pleased to say that, as before, the standard and variety of music in church remains fairly constant and has not declined in recent years. We have everything from ancient 'plainsong' tunes through to 21st century hymn tunes and songs.

We have a robed choir who help to lead the music in our worship for most Sunday morning services and for our monthly service of Evensong. A group of singers lead the singing during communion at our all-age services.

In June we had a very successful concert which raised over £1,500 (including a very generous donation of £1,000) towards the bell repair fund. There was a wide variety of soloists, a very good gospel choir, the St John's School Sing-Up Club, the Church Choir, and our Junior Choir made their second appearance.

In October the Harrow Deanery Choirs' Festival was held at St John's, with a choir of about 80 singers and a similar number in the congregation. The Rector officiated and preached. There was a retiring collection which raised over £200 for the Royal School of Church Music.

The Junior Choir do not sing Sunday by Sunday with the adult choir because many of the children attend other churches, but they had a very successful debut at the 2015 Christmas Carol Service, followed by the June concert and the 2016 Christmas Carol Service.

Do you think you might like to join either the choir or the Sunday Singers, either on a regular or occasional basis? If you are a 'soprano' voice you don't need to be able to read music, just be able to sing in tune. If you can sing alto, tenor or bass then please come and see what it's about, without any commitment. An informal chat will not result in any pressure for you to join, I promise!

There are, unfortunately, an increasing number of faults with the organ, which will probably cost in excess of £10,000 initially to repair, but we will need approximately £100,000, maybe more, to fix everything that is wrong. We need someone who has time and the right set of skills to actively research where we can best get grants towards these repairs. If you think you might be this person (or you know someone who might be) please initially have a chat with Matthew and/or myself without any commitment.

I must record my gratitude to Lydia for suggesting the hymns month by month and to Matthew for his input into this selection, and I would also like to thank everyone who contributes towards the music in church, even if that is just joining in with the singing in the congregation.

Philip Rees
Director of Music

7.14 Old Church Working Group

Twenty sixteen has been a relatively quiet year. Our initial application for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for monies to fund a Feasibility Appraisal was put on hold pending decisions on the Old Rectory site and the possible sale of Church House.

A new impetus was created following the appointment of Kevin Rogers as Head of Parish Property Support for the Diocese of London. Kevin visited the site and we discussed the various possibilities for the Old Church. This impetus was given a further boost by Kevin's appointing Alice Yates to assist with raising funds. Our principal objective is to produce an Options Appraisal which will cover the various possibilities for the Old Church including feasibility, social impact, usage, maintenance and operation. Once sufficient funds have been raised and the Options Appraisal produced; it is intended to present to Harrow Council, English Heritage and the Diocese of London for their consideration and approval. We hope this in turn will lead to a Planning Application being submitted.

In an effort to source funds, later in the year, an application to The World Monuments Fund was prepared. The formal application will be made in 2017. Various other funding streams are being investigated.

A Quinquennial Inspection is due next year and will be carried out by architect Daniel Benson, who has left Caroe and Partners and is now working for a different Architectural Practice.

Rex Holmes
Chair of the Old Church Working Group

7.15 Great Stanmore Old Church Consolidation Fund

Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 31st December 2016

	£
<u>Income</u>	
Donations, Sales and Interest	116.36
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Fees/supplies	<u>495.99</u> (379.63)

Balance Sheet

Bank Balance Total 31st December 2016

Barclays £3,782.20

Fund Balance 31st December 2015 4,161.83
Less deficit for year 2016 (379.63)

Fund Balance 31st December 2016 £3,782.20

Ian Mackie MBE
Hon. Treasurer

7.16 Parish Visitors

Although we no longer meet as a formal group, we have many members who are very happy to visit, shop, pick up prescriptions etc. Do let one of us know if you, or someone you know, would like or need a visitor and we will arrange it.

Sylvia Daniels and Sheila Oliver

7.17 Peace, Justice, Environment and Energy

In 2016, St John's continued its involvement in the Diocese of London's environmental activities. Through this we learned that Eco-Congregation has been relaunched as Eco-Church, which has more user-friendly requirements, easier to achieve. In the past St John's has made some progress on the environment - it will be a task for the new committee to build on this and consider whether we can make an application to Eco-Church.

We recognise that energy use has a substantial environmental dimension, and have continued to monitor our energy use quarterly, by calendar year and by "heating season". Similarly, we have continued to monitor our waste and recycling.

We took part in Unlock London's walk around the Olympic Park, and enjoyed seeing the new developments there, and how the churches there are ministering to them. We were not able to organise a Creation Time walk this year.

Some of St John's congregation visited Israel and Palestine in the spring, which alerted us to the current conflict there. As a sequel to this some of the group attended a meeting of the Abrahamic Reunion at St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, and we have maintained contact with this group.

Mick Oliver

7.18 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

For me it was a merry band that set out on 4th May, for a ten-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The majority of pilgrims were members of St John's Church but the group included some new friends who were acquainted already with others in the group. The entire pilgrimage was ably and comfortably led by Matthew, who is something of an old hand at group leading to Israel. We had already had the opportunity to meet the entire group at a get together (kindly hosted by the Bangers) a few weeks beforehand where Andy Webster, from McCabes Pilgrimages, was introduced and explained the finer details of what we would be getting up to during our time away.

When we arrived at London Heathrow Airport, we checked in and as Matthew had explained beforehand, certain members of our group were singled out for a separate interview. This is common practice as security with El Al is especially tight. I felt nervous at being interviewed separately from the party, however, my 'questioner' was a very charming and attractive young woman!

We arrived late in the evening at the Golden Walls Hotel in Jerusalem to a warm welcome from the Palestinian family owners. We went on to spend six amazing days in and around this historic city visiting a number of places including Bethlehem, Bethany, the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Western Wall, the Pool of Bethesda and many others. We even found time for a day trip to Masada and Dead Sea! We then travelled north via Jericho to the region of Tiberias, stopping off to renew our baptismal vows right next to the River Jordan.

Our second hotel, the Ron Beach, is situated by the Sea of Galilee with each room boasting of a balcony with a beautiful outlook across the lake. During the final three days of our pilgrimage we visited Cana, Nazareth, Capernaum and Mensa Cristi amongst other places.

Throughout our time in Israel we had a wonderful guide called Shafik, a Palestinian Christian, already known to Matthew from a previous pilgrimage – they were a well matched double act in providing serious history and friendly banter each day! Our days did start early in order to miss the crowds and this helped us to take in the importance of the various sites attributed to our Lord’s ministry. Meal times enabled us to sample a variety of local foods in a relaxed atmosphere and there was a complete absence of ‘cliqueism’. Everyone got along with everyone!

Although we were in a group with a leader and guide who liked military precision(!), there were many opportunities to be on one’s own for quiet reflection and we were encouraged to imagine walking with Christ in his land of ministry. Particular highlights for me were sailing on the Sea of Galilee, visiting Capernaum and Tabga, communion on the lake shore and in the Shepherd’s Fields in Jerusalem. Amidst the peace and tranquillity of the various places we visited, there was always the thought of centuries of violence; but not so far to the north in Syria, a civil war of appalling suffering was raging.

We had the opportunity to spend time with the boys and girls of the Jeel al-Amal Home; children being lovingly cared for because their parents had died or were unable to look after them. These were both uplifting and sorrowful moments – eg because of politics the children were denied access to health care and medicine in nearby Jerusalem, we had to queue to re-enter through the great wall, a luxury denied to most Palestinians and visiting Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum, which was a visible sign reminding us of the horrors of the past.

Returning home I was so grateful for the opportunity to have been able to experience being a pilgrim in the Holy Land, with fellow Christian friends, sacred memories of being with our Lord, memories which will sustain me always.

Jo Price

7.19 Prayer Ministry Team

Private prayer is offered every Sunday morning at the 9.30am service. From our team of nine people, two will be in the Chapel during Communion to pray with anyone who comes for prayers for themselves or others.

Before each Sunday service members of the team meet together for a time of preparatory prayers. As always we confirm the confidentiality of subject and content of any prayer for which we are asked.

Prayer Ministry Team

7.20 St John's Church of England School

During the year, the school has continued to focus on providing only the very best education for its children, seeking to build on the 'GOOD' rating awarded by OFSTED at the most recent inspection in 2015.

There have been new innovations and the Headteacher, Mrs. Jo Hester, has met with other Harrow Headteachers to share good practice and to ensure that our school is an active member of the wide schools network. This has been most recently seen through the appointment of two members of our staff as leading practitioners for the Local Authority. They will be training and supporting other staff in the borough in Literacy and Maths. The governors would like to give a special thanks to all the staff, led by Mrs. Hester, who have worked tirelessly for the benefit of the children.

The school continues to offer a wide variety of opportunities outside the normal curriculum and takes every opportunity to develop links with St John's Church for example, regular visits by the Sing Up Club to Tea & Chat.

The governors are always pleased to see members of the church community sharing in the life of the school through reading with children, helping on trips and assisting the Key Stage 2 Eucharists. The whole school attend services four times during the year and there is a Key Stage 2 Carol Service which was very well attended.

St John's School continues to be very popular with parents and was again heavily oversubscribed for entry in September 2016. With other Church of England schools now open in the surrounding area, the governors are always seeking new ways to publicise our school, and to reach potential new parents.

The congregation of St John's Church is well represented on the governing body with Paul Harris, Karen Omisore, Matthew Stone and myself as established governors. In September Matthew was appointed Chair of Governors and Karen Chair of the Admissions Committee. Towards the end of the year Jill Medcalf joined the governing body and, as an experienced teacher, brings a wealth of experience which is hugely valued.

Graham Denman

7.21 Safeguarding

The PCC continues to monitor the way we work with children and young people to ensure that the Diocese of London's Safeguarding Policy is strictly followed. At every PCC Meeting safeguarding remains a substantive agenda item and a report is given on what sections of the policy are being renewed.

We do not allow anyone to work with our children and young people unless they have an up to date DBS check in place, and for all new applicants two references are obtained as part of our safer recruitment processes. Applicants undertake the online safeguarding training and the certificate of completion is passed to Beverley McKeon. A robust system is in place to ensure that DBS checks are renewed every five years.

During 2016 the PCC undertook the following:

- Reviewed the Diocese of London's Safeguarding Policy
- Adopted the Safeguarding Policy Statement
- Reappointed Stuart Webster as the Church Safeguarding Officer
- Appointed Sue Wright as the Children's Champion
- Reappointed Jenny Gurdon and appointed Matthew Stone as Evidence Checkers
- Agreed a policy on the taking of photographs
- Checked to ensure that each person who works with children and young people has an up to date DBS check in place. There are currently 48 people across St John's Church who hold up to date DBS checks (including those involved in ministry)
- Updated the safeguarding posters which are on display in the Church and Church House
- Reviewed the Role Descriptions for the Commissioned Children's Minister, Director of Music, Holiday Club, Junior Church, Little Fishers and the Youth Group
- Renewed the Declarations on Safeguarding and Volunteer Agreements
- Reviewed the Group Risk Assessments for Holiday Club, Junior Church (incl. crossing Old Church Lane), Little Fishers, The Grid (when it met at The Rectory) and the Youth Group
- Reviewed the hiring agreements for Church House to ensure that the groups who hire the premises on a regular basis have their own safeguarding policies in place. When people hire the premises on a one-off basis, such as a child's birthday party, they are sent a copy of our Safeguarding Policy and sign a clause on the Booking Form to say they have received a copy and undertake to follow the guidelines within it. Our Terms and Conditions of Hire have also been updated to reflect the importance of safeguarding.
- Updated the General and Fire Risk Assessments for the Church and Church House
- Updated the Health & Safety Policy

In conclusion, we have demonstrated due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children (as is our duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016). Safeguarding should be viewed as a shared responsibility and is always most effectively undertaken when an entire community works together to keep the children and young people safe. In 2017 the PCC will be considering what work (if any) needs to be undertaken towards the second area of safeguarding which is protecting "vulnerable" adults.

Matthew Stone

7.22 Social Committee

We started our year with our pre-Lent lunch, which, again, was very successful. This was followed with refreshments for Easter.

In July we hosted the Deanery Synod meeting, at which we served refreshments for those attending and in September our Battle of Britain service, at which we supplied tea and coffee.

Next was our Harvest Festival lunch. This was well attended and successful, as ever, even though we had a delayed start in the catering department! We do try to provide a variety of

menu each year. Another extra for us in October was refreshments for the Deanery Choirs' Festival. Our annual Bereavement Service was held at the end of October, after which several of the congregation came to across to Church House for tea and biscuits. In December we had our choir tea, followed by the ever popular mulled wine and mince pies served after the Carol Service, which was very well attended. The Junior Choir had their own refreshments and Disco in Micklem Hall.

We had a very busy but rewarding 2016 and I would like to thank all the other members of the Social Committee for their hard work, especially Tracy Shaw who always knows the correct quantity of ingredients that we need and also looks after the accounts.

Thank you also to the volunteers who help with the lunches.

Marianne Wright

7.23 Tea & Chat

Tea & Chat has continued on Tuesday afternoons between 2.15pm -4.00pm and people attend regularly. There is always much chat and often reminiscences and laughter over a cup of tea made by our band of helpers.

We like to have some variety about once a month in the afternoons, and popular events during the year have been a fish & chip meal, a strawberry tea and occasional guest speakers on a variety of subjects. Early in the year children from St John's School brought their table games to play with us one afternoon and everyone rose to the challenge admirably. Children from Aylward Primary School came in April to sing and St John's children visited as usual at Christmas time. Both children and adults enjoy these occasions very much.

We were delighted in October to host a tea party for John & Joan Fuller to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary.

We welcome everyone for a cup of tea and a chat in friendly surroundings.

Sheila Oliver

7.24 Welcome at St John's

Our Welcome Team are generally the first folk newcomers will meet as they enter our church for the 9.30am service and visitors frequently comment on the warm welcome they receive. The members of our Welcome Team are always there, whatever the weather, to offer a warm smile, a cheery word and a helping hand if needed. Their monthly commitment is impressive and not to be taken for granted. We would love to have more Welcomers should you feel this to be your calling.

Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby

7.25 Youth Group

The youth group has continued to grow over the last year, with an influx of new Year 7's last September. Attendance can be as high as 18 which is very encouraging. The main aim of the group is to provide a space where the young people can belong and undertake fun activities such as bowling and trampolining. Some of our evenings are spent at The Rectory where much pizza is eaten!

Thanks go to all parents for their support, especially those who help with transport, and to the other leaders of the group: David McKeon, Beverley McKeon and Matthew Stone.

Daniel McKeon

8. Assistant Curate's Review

It was wonderful that so many of the congregation were able to join me at St Andrew's Uxbridge for the ordination of priests in July 2016. It was an incredibly moving service and great to share with family and friends. The ordination service was the culmination of a 3-day retreat that enabled all those who were to be ordained priest to reflect deeply on what it means to be a Priest in God's Church. It was good to strip away the business of day to day life for just a few days and to spend time in prayer before God.

The ordination service was swiftly followed by my First Eucharist which took place on the feast day of St Thomas the Apostle. It was a great delight to welcome back the Revd Canon Alison Christian who preached and also the Revd Malcolm Convery, previously the vicar of Marown in the Diocese of Sodor and Man, in which I grew up and my faith was nurtured as a child. With Matthew and Ken alongside me, I was blessed to have so many who have been part of my journey and calling to the priesthood and this was a very affirming moment.

A particular highlight of my ministry as a priest this year was to preside at the wedding of our very own Lizzie Medcalfe to her husband Edd Sutch in August. A great celebration of joy!

This year has been a particularly busy one in my ministry in education. I have had the privilege to open, in partnership with the Diocese and our staff team, St Jérôme C E Bilingual School in central Harrow. The months prior to the opening of the school have been one of the most exciting and fulfilling times of my life and perhaps one of the most exhausting!

It was a tremendous honour when the Bishop of London agreed to open the school as his final public engagement. His passion and enthusiasm for the Church of England's mission in education was highly evident at the school's opening ceremony. News of the school travelled fast and we were mentioned in his final sermon at St Paul's Cathedral, featured in the Church Times and the Times!

I have continued to enjoy being part of a Post Ordination Training group in the Willesden Area. We meet monthly to support one another and receive training and inspiration. In January 2017, I was fortunate to take part in the Diocese of London Post Ordination Conference which is a triennial event for curates. We were inspired by Dr. Jane Williams in a detailed study of the Psalms and had the opportunity to hear the great wisdom of the Bishop of London prior to his retirement. There were seminars led by the Area Bishops of the Diocese and it was good to see people amongst whom I trained for ministry and who

serve in a wide range of diverse contexts across London. I felt deeply energized and excited by the conference and look forward to sharing some of the themes of discussion at St John's.

I am grateful for the love and support that I receive from all of the St John's community and I thank you for your prayers and your partnership in the gospel as we continue to serve the people of Stanmore.

The Revd Daniel Norris



The Ordination of Priests in the Willesden Area 2016



First Eucharist at St John's



The Bishop of London opens
St Jérôme C E Bilingual School
Harrow

9. Rector's Review

What makes St John's very special is the way we are friendly and accepting of each other. This is what a church should be all about: an inclusive, welcoming group of people who are happy to give others a home; accepting them and allowing them to journey with us as we seek out God's will for us all. It is a model of church as a community and as a family, rather than one of a club or clique.

A church should also be a place where individuals can feel valued and discover their own worth; where wounds can be healed, transgressions forgiven and new life can be nurtured. It may be costly, it might sound idealistic, but for me it is at the heart of the gospel. That we are each part of God's family, loved and valued by him as someone unique, and the imperative is that we should hold others in the same light, supporting, encouraging and accepting them.

These are timeless attributes but I believe it is especially necessary for them to be exhibited in an area such as ours where it is so easy to fall between the cracks, particularly given the diverse community that we find ourselves in. We have to make sure that we are visible and that we have a voice which is heard amongst those of other faiths who are our neighbours. To this end, I am thrilled we took the bold step of opening the church each day and it has been wonderful to see the reaction of those who visit.

Astonishingly this is already the third annual review I have written - where has the time gone? It seems like only yesterday that I was inducted! It is, however, great to have the opportunity to look back and reflect on all that we achieved together as members of St John's Church during 2016. The Annual Report and Accounts are useful tools which enable us to pause and take stock of all that we have done together as Christians in this place, working for the kingdom.

The privilege of taking services and celebrating the Eucharist never fails to inspire and humble me, as do preaching, leading the Daily Office, facilitating the Wolstenholme Study Group and the many other regular church-based responsibilities I enjoy. My job is an absolute joy, the routine no less so than the unusual. I also continue to try to ensure we are known within our parish and beyond as a church that is engaged in local and wider concerns.

A reasonably large part of my time seems to be dedicated to St John's School. In addition to delivering assemblies, presiding at Key Stage Two Eucharists (with the able assistance of Ian Mackie MBE), I am also the current Chair of Governors – a busy and demanding role. I am pleased that Paul Harris, Jill Medcalf and Karen Omisore, all members of St John's Church, serve as Governors with me.

During the year I was pleased to host visits from 120 Year 4 children from Aylward Primary School (where I also deliver assemblies) and Stanburn Primary School. Both schools were keen to visit a local place of worship and learn about our history and what the church does today. We also welcomed A-Level Art students from Bentley Wood High School.

Away from schools I remain Chair of the Stanmore Charities, Padre to the 2236 Stanmore ATC Squadron and Chair of Trustees of the Bernays Memorial Institute. Thanks to Ian Mackie MBE and Mick Oliver for their ongoing contributions as fellow Trustees. I have also attended a Stanmore Society Meeting.

My year as Chaplain to the Mayor of the London Borough of Harrow came to an end in May 2016. It has been a huge privilege to support Councillor Krishna Suresh, a Hindu, during his year as the Borough's First Citizen. My role as Chaplain involved me preaching at the annual Civic Service held at St Mary's Harrow-on the-Hill, leading prayers at the beginning of Council Meetings, planning and conducting a Service of Thanksgiving and accompanying the Mayor on the occasional visit. Having retired as Mayor's Chaplain, I have joined the local Metropolitan Police Ward Panel which meets quarterly at the Police Office on Church Road. Sola Coard has been a member of the Ward Panel for some time.

I have enjoyed developing new relationships with Father Michael Munnely, Parish Priest of St William of York RC Church and the Revd Shaun Lambert, Minister of Stanmore Baptist Church. We are now praying together on a regular basis (usually at St John's) and in February 2016 I was invited to preach at St William's.

I stood down after eight years of service as a member of the Harrow SACRE which tied in with the completion of a significant piece of work to draft a new Agreed Syllabus which schools in Harrow will use when they teach RE. I also stepped down from the St Paul's Cathedral Pastoral Rota where I had been undertaking the duty chaplain's role for several years on a monthly basis. I remain a member of the Deanery Standing Committee (with Sylvia Daniels) and a member of the Bishop of Willesden's Area Council.

In all aspects of my work, within our church community, in the wider parish and beyond the parish bounds, it is my desire to bring glory to God and ensure that all those I am able to come in to contact with know that the church is 'OK' and represents a place and a people of trust, welcome and, when needed, refuge. This is my work, but I am continuously impressed by the different ways in which so many of you also strive to make this true as volunteers, through all the things you do to facilitate and support our church services and activities. One of our many strengths is the army of volunteers who give so generously of their time and talents. So a very big THANK YOU to you for all that you contribute in a variety of ways to the life of St John's. Thank you for your encouragement and willingness. A parish is only as good as its people and I hope and pray that more people will come to faith here, will feel loved and cherished, will find their true worth and will be able to share their faith with others. This is what the Kingdom is all about.

The Revd Matthew Stone