

# The Parish of St John the Evangelist Great Stanmore



**Annual Report and Accounts  
for the year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**



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**The Annual Meeting of Parishioners**  
**[for the election of churchwardens]**  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 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 (29<sup>th</sup> April 2018)
4. Election of tellers (if required)
5. Election of two churchwardens to serve 2019/2020
6. Date of next meeting
7. Closing prayer

# **ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, GREAT STANMORE**

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 10.45am in the Wolstenholme Hall, Church House**

<b>Chair:</b> The Revd Matthew Stone	<b>Minutes:</b> Karen Stirrup
<b>Attendance:</b> 74 parishioners (of which 71 on the Electoral Roll)	

<b>Introduction</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>Opening prayer</b> The Rector, the Revd Matthew Stone, welcomed parishioners and prayed for the meeting, the purpose of which was to elect two churchwardens to serve 2018/2019.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Apologies were received and accepted from: Jeremy Aspinall, Marguerite Aspinall, Belinda Burnand, June Bertie, Lisa Bertie, Sara Bertie, Margaret Deucher, Pauline Forsyth, Jenny Gurdon, Susan Jones, Eric Kershaw, Valerie Kershaw, Lydia McLean, Julia Mair, Paul Medcalf, Nancy Newton, the Revd Daniel Norris, Lara Onwordi, Doreen Pay, John Pay, Edit Rees, Linda Roke, Beverley Singleton and Stuart Webster.
<b>Administration</b>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017: to agree the minutes as a true record.</b> The minutes were signed by the Rector as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Election of tellers</b> It was not necessary to appoint tellers.
<b>Election of two churchwardens to serve 2018/2019</b>	
<b>5.</b>	<p>The Rector reported that two nominations had been received as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <u>Mark Lynch</u> proposed by Ian Mackie MBE, seconded by Sylvia Daniels.</li><li>- <u>Jane Prentice</u> proposed by Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby, seconded by John Mackenzie-Corby</li></ul> <p>Mark Lynch and Jane Prentice were, therefore, duly elected unopposed to serve as churchwardens for 2018/2019.</p> <p>The Rector thanked both churchwardens for their work across 2017/2018. The Archdeacon's Visitation which will re-admit them to office will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at St Andrew's, Roxbourne.</p>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b> The next Annual Meeting of Parishioners will take place at 10.45am on Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2019.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Closing prayer</b> - the Rector closed the meeting in prayer.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 10.50am in Church House

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting (29<sup>th</sup> April 2018)
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 4 PCC Members to serve 2019/2022
  - 6.2 Appointment of Sidespersons for 2019/2020
  - 6.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2019/2020
7. Group Reports
8. Rector's Review
9. Capital Vision 2020 (our Mission Action Plan)
10. Any other business
11. Date of next meeting
12. Closing prayer

**Advance Notice of PCC Meeting – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019 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.*

# **ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, GREAT STANMORE**

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 10.50am in the Wolstenholme Hall, Church House**

<b>Chair:</b> The Revd Matthew Stone	<b>Minutes:</b> Karen Stirrup
<b>Attendance:</b> 74 parishioners (of which 71 on the Electoral Roll)	

### **Introduction**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Apologies were received and accepted from: Jeremy Aspinall, Marguerite Aspinall, Belinda Burnand, June Bertie, Lisa Bertie, Sara Bertie, Margaret Deucher, Pauline Forsyth, Jenny Gurdon, Susan Jones, Eric Kershaw, Valerie Kershaw, Lydia McLean, Julia Mair, Paul Medcalf, Nancy Newton, the Revd Daniel Norris, Lara Onwordi, Doreen Pay, John Pay, Edit Rees, Linda Roke, Beverley Singleton and Stuart Webster.
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### **Administration**

<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017: to agree the minutes as a true record.</b> The minutes were signed by the Rector as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters arising</b> – none.

### **4. Reports**

- **4.1 Electoral Roll Officer**  
Electoral Roll Officer Andrea Nicholson presented the 2018 report which was based on a revision that took place between 30<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The revised roll stands at **199** which is made up of 79 residents (who live within the parish boundary) and 120 non-residents (who do not live within the parish boundary). 26 people have been added and 19 were removed as follows:
  - 14 moved away,
  - 3 died (Alex Edwards, John Fuller and Peter Johnson) and
  - 2 no longer attend and do not live in the parish.It was very sad to record the deaths of Alex, John and Peter who had been faithful and active members of St John's for many years.
- **4.2 PCC Secretary's review**  
Parish Administrator Karen Stirrup (in her capacity as PCC Secretary) had prepared a report based on the work of the PCC in 2017. See pages A7-A12 of the 2017 Accounts Booklet. There were no questions. Karen was thanked for all her hard work.
- **4.3 Presentation of accounts and PCC Treasurer's financial review**  
Treasurer Jennifer Neve had also prepared a report which is on pages A12-A15 of the 2017 Accounts Booklet.  
  
The Rector gave an overview of the income and expenditure during the year and highlighted the surplus of £5,539.

	<p>Mick Oliver commented that the income received from church plate collections and gift aid white envelopes was higher than budgeted, but income from standing orders and orange envelopes was lower than budgeted.</p> <p>The Rector was able to explain the reason for this is because some church members who attend regularly were giving using the former, but a letter has been sent to them recently asking them to move across to standing order. Similarly, those who give by orange envelope were asked to do the same. This will reduce the amount of work the counting team have to do each week and ensures the church receives money regularly instead of only when regular parishioners attend. Treasurer Jenny Neve had a supply of standing order mandates and Gift Aid declarations available.</p> <p>In the absence of any further questions Becky Stone proposed the 2017 Accounts be adopted. Michael Carmody seconded the proposal. The 2017 Accounts were unanimously adopted by the meeting.</p> <p>The Rector thanked Jenny for her work as Treasurer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>4.4 Fabric report</b> The Rector reported that 2017 had been another busy year with the ongoing challenge of maintaining and improving our various buildings remaining a priority. See pages 10-13 of the Annual Report for full details of the work undertaken last year.</li> </ul> <p>Looking ahead three major projects were being progressed as follows:</p> <p>Repair and overhauling of the organ Repairs to the church stonework including the tower Replacement of the church heating system</p>
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## Elections and appointments

<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Elections of tellers</b> It was not necessary to appoint tellers.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6.1 Election of 4 PCC Members to serve 2018/2021</b> The Rector reported that four nominations had been received as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Sheila Enaboifo</u> proposed by Sylvia Daniels, seconded by Margaret Deucher</li> <li>- <u>Jenny Neve</u> proposed by Sylvia Daniels, seconded by Ian Mackie MBE</li> <li>- <u>Graham Nicholson</u> proposed by Sylvia Daniels, seconded by Ian Walker</li> <li>- <u>William Wyon</u> proposed by Andrea Nicholson, seconded by Sylvia Daniels</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <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 2020.</p> <p>The Rector thanked the retiring PCC Members: Pauline Ball, Lara Onwordi, and Lorna Wyon. The fourth person appointed in 2015 was Jane Prentice, who chose to retain her PCC place after her election as a Churchwarden in 2016.</p>

- **6.2 Appointment of sidespersons for 2019/2020**  
The Rector asked if all sidespersons appointed at the last APCM could be re-appointed. Parishioners agreed to this nem con. The names are as follows:  
  
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. Helen Astar was added to the list.
- **6.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2018/2019**  
Derek Taylor-Mew was re-appointed for a further twelve months nem con.

## 7. Group reports

The 2017 Annual Report and Accounts was published on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017. 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.

- **7.6 Fundraising Committee (page 17)**  
The Rector confirmed the date of the 2018 Fun Day would be Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July.
- **7.7 Great Stanmore Bell Ringers (pages 17-18)**  
The Rector congratulated the Bell Ringers for organising a very successful fund-raising campaign which enabled the bells to be refurbished last year.
- **7.10 Interfaith Matters (pages 20)**  
Pat Stevens reminded parishioners that they were all members of Harrow Interfaith and welcome to attend the events. Details of the events are included in the pew sheet and posters/fliers available from the church.
- **7.11 Junior Church (pages 20-21)**  
Beverley McKeon thanked the team who lead Junior Church.
- **7.13 Music (pages 21-22)**  
Organist and Director of Music Philip Rees mentioned the works that were needed to repair and overhaul the organ. He asked parishioners if they knew of someone who might have experience of writing grant applications to speak to the Rector.
- **7.21 Safeguarding (pages 27-28)**  
The Rector reminded parishioners of the importance of keeping all children and young people safe who enter our premises and take part in our activities (eg Junior Church/Youth Group). A safeguarding policy is in place together with a raft of measurers to ensure the policy is strictly complied with. There were no questions.
- **7.24 Welcome at St John's (page 30)**  
Beverley McKeon spoke of the feedback she had received from a friend who had attended a recent service at St John's. This friend is not a church-goer but was moved by the warmth of the welcome both in church and afterwards in Café St Jean.

<b>8. Assistant Curate</b>	
	The Rector said it is likely the Revd Daniel Norris would be moving on this year as his three-year curacy ends on 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2018. A formal thank you will take place when a date is known, and he hopes to invite Daniel back from time to time to cover.
<b>9. Rector's review</b>	
	The Rector had given an overview of the variety of work he has undertaken during the course of a year.
<b>10. Capital Vision 2020 (our Mission Action Plan)</b>	
	An updated copy of our Mission Action Plan (MAP) was circulated for all parishioners to take home. The Rector reminded parishioners of the importance of churches engaging in mission as well as ministry to ensure the church grows. Across the past four years over 20 goals have been achieved which is a tremendous achievement. There are others which are currently being worked on.
<b>11. GDPR</b>	
	<p>The Rector reminded parishioners of information that had been previously included in the pew sheet about GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) which is a new law on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the European Union. Its primary aim is to give control back on how our personal data is used by others.</p> <p>With effect from 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 we need to have written consent from all parishioners to enable us to continue communicating as we have done previously. Consent Forms were handed out at the meeting and parishioners asked to complete them as soon as possible.</p>
<b>12. Any other business</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p>• <b>12.1 Closing remarks from Churchwardens</b></p> <p>Mark Lynch and Jane Prentice spoke about the role which was both challenging and rewarding. Mark gave a flavour of the variety of work they undertake and paid tribute to all those who help, especially the Deputy Wardens, Farah Lungay and Malcolm Woods. Jane thanked parishioners for the opportunity to serve them, serve St John's and serve God.</p> <p>The Churchwardens went on to thank the Rector for his sterling leadership, hard work and good humour. 2017 had been a very successful year.</p> <p>Becky Stone was also thanked for the support and help she gives in many different ways to the life of St John's.</p> </li> <li> <p>• <b>12.2 Closing remarks from the Rector</b></p> <p>The Rector commented that he had been in post for approaching four years already, and that the Stone family absolutely love being part of St John's. He thanked parishioners for their ongoing support and encouragement, and reminded them that our role is to be the gathered disciples of Jesus Christ in this place. As the Gospel reading told us this morning we are branches connected to Jesus who is the vine, with God as the vine-grower pruning us to make us bear more fruit (John 15:1-9).</p> </li> </ul>
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>The next APCM will take place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 10.50am</p>

**14.**

**Closing prayer**

The Rector closed the meeting in prayer.

**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-A11 of 2018 Accounts Booklet.*

**4.3 Treasurer's Financial Review and Accounts**

*See pages A12-A14 of 2018 Accounts Booklet.*

**4.4 Fabric Report**

During 2018, the following work has been undertaken:

**Church**

1. The gutters and downpipes were cleared of leaves and the roof was inspected in January and June. Cost £819.81.
2. Church CD Player (part of sound system) was repaired. Cost £161.
3. The tower room tap was turned on deliberately (and the tap head unscrewed and removed) causing a flood which was largely contained to the tower room. Fortunately, the flood was discovered quickly owing to a member of the congregation arriving in the church shortly afterwards who kindly raised the alarm and swept the water away. A new removable tap head was fitted free of charge. No damage was caused. This matter was reported to the police.
4. Three-yearly PAT Testing of all portable electrical appliances. Cost £267.60 (which included fitting a replacement sensor on the spotlight for the light which shines on the north-east corner of the church).
5. A small hole was repaired in the flat roof above the chapel/choir vestry. Cost £254.40.
6. A small roof leak was repaired at the west end of the church (north side of the west door). Cost £161.04.
7. The lighting protection system was serviced. Cost £168.
8. A larger roof leak was repaired in the section of roof above the Churchwarden's pew on the north side. Cost £1,920.
9. New bell ropes were purchased. Cost £1,534.80.
10. A leak was discovered above the organ loft which was repaired. Cost £399.60 (the cost involved the gutters and downpipes on Church House and Hollond Lodge being cleared of leaves, and some missing/broken tiles replaced on these buildings).
11. The annual asbestos test was undertaken and the register updated. Cost Nil.
12. A new hand-towel dispenser was fitted. Cost £22.98 (nil to fit).
13. The oil-fired boiler was serviced and safety tested. Cost £210. The smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detector were also tested.

14. The fire extinguishers were serviced and one new foam extinguisher was purchased. Cost £172.10.
15. The organ was tuned. Cost £469.20.
16. The cabling for the sound system and chapel keyboard cables was hard wired. Cost £352.80.
17. The organ blower and humidifier were serviced on two occasions. Cost £372.
18. The PCC agreed to replace the chapel curtains with a similar neutral colour (using fire-proof material). Permission to do this was sought from the Archdeacon of Northolt. Darina Scott is kindly making the curtains which will be fitted in early 2019. Cost of material £1,560.
19. The clock was serviced. Cost £302.40.

### **Churchyard**

1. A fallen tree was removed from the churchyard for free by the London Borough of Harrow. The tree had fallen because of high winds. Permission was sought from the Archdeacon of Middlesex.
2. The London Borough of Harrow's Arboricultural Asset Officer undertook an inspection of all trees and concluded no immediate work is required. The next inspection should take place in two years' time.

### **Old Church**

1. The safety wire system and personal protective equipment were serviced. Cost £406.80.
2. A repair was made to the damaged grill on the large north facing window frame (damaged during a break in). A second grill was fitted to prevent future unauthorised access. Cost Nil.
3. Glyco-sulphate weed killer applied to the base of the walls. Cost £17.40

### **Church House**

1. The Micklem Hall electric heaters needed adjusting by an electrician. Cost £58.80.
2. The front door lock failed. A repair was undertaken which fortunately did not include new keys needing to be issued. Cost £102.
4. A new lock was fitted to the Parish Office door to ensure access was limited to ensure GDPR compliance. Cost £20 (lock was fitted for free).
5. A "Ring Pro Video Doorbell Kit" was installed at the front door which has a camera which detects motion and displays visitors at the front door in full HD video, day or night. Cost £209.89. A member of the congregation kindly installed the doorbell for free, although a £60 meal voucher was given in recognition for the hours spent installing the kit. Materials (cabling/clips etc) cost £66.28.
6. The stonework around the front door was made good after the old doorbell was removed. Cost Nil.
7. The gas meter was changed to a Smart Meter. Cost NIL.
8. The front door closing mechanism was further adjusted and a new handle fitted to the double-gates. Cost £110.
9. A foam fire extinguisher was recharged as it had been accidentally discharged. Cost £30.89.
10. All windows were cleaned (inside and out). Cost NIL. This work was by a member of the congregation who works as a window-cleaner.
11. The filters in the Wolstenholme Hall heating system were cleaned. Cost Nil.
12. The hot water boiler finally failed. After advice a new hot water cylinder was fitted in the kitchen and connected to the existing heating boiler rather than paying for a new

boiler to be installed only for the hot water. A new Magnaclean was also fitted. Cost £2,639.50.

13. A small hole appeared in the Wolstenholme Hall floor which was repaired. Cost £20.
14. The annual asbestos test was undertaken and the register updated. Cost Nil.
15. A broken curtain rail was replaced in the Bernays Room and the curtain re-hung. Cost Nil.
16. The marked walls were repainted in the toilets. Cost Nil.
17. The door behind the piano in the Wolstenholme Hall (which is never used but had warped in the rain) was secured to take it out of commission and to adjust the warp. Cost Nil.
18. The gas-fired boiler was serviced and safety tested. Cost £114. The smoke and carbon monoxide detectors were also checked.
19. The fire extinguishers (and fire blankets) were serviced and one new foam extinguisher was purchased. Cost £201.60.
20. A broken light switch in the corridor which leads from the entrance foyer towards the Micklem Hall and a faulty double power socket in Wolstenholme Hall were replaced. A loose light fitting in the Wolstenholme Hall was adjusted. Cost £257.82.

### **Church House Cottage**

1. A hall radiator needed bleeding, the front door lock needed repairing and an upstairs light was repaired as it had stopped working due to a loose wire. Cost £165
2. A powerflush of the heating system was needed as some of the radiators were unreliable. Four new thermostatic radiator valves were fitted (with a new filter). Cost £650.
3. A leaking pipe was replaced and new laminate flooring laid owing to water damage. Cost £330.
4. The boiler was serviced under a British Gas plan. Assured Shorthold Tenancy renewed for 24 months on 12<sup>th</sup> May at an increased rent of £1,150pcm (previously £1,050pcm).

### **Hollond Lodge**

1. A collapsed drain (owing to tree roots) was corrected. It was necessary to arrange for a drainage firm to investigate the problem first which cost £130. An insurance claim was submitted subsequently for the repair and we paid the £25 policy excess.
2. The boiler was serviced under a British Gas plan.
3. The following kitchen works were undertaken: removal of existing units and worktops, supply and fit new units and worktops and new sink with associated plumbing. Cost £970.

### **The Chase**

1. New Assured Shorthold Tenancy executed for 24 months on 26<sup>th</sup> February at the same rental of £1,675pcm.
2. An up-to-date Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) was obtained to ensure we were compliant with new regulations which came in to force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 (ie that privately rented properties must have a minimum rating of "E"). The previous EPC rating was "F", but after new windows and doors were fitted in 2016, the new rating is "D". Cost £60. Our other properties (Church House Cottage and The Chase) are exempt because they are listed.
3. The seal on the bathroom toilet was replaced as it was broken and had caused a leak through the kitchen ceiling. Two single washbasin taps also needed to be replaced in the bathroom. The cost of the replacement seal, taps and to make good the damaged ceiling was £260.

4. The bathroom pull cord switch broke and was replaced. Cost £75.
5. A leak from the bathroom washbasin was repaired owing to a broken wastepipe. A new wastepipe was fitted at a cost of £110. The kitchen ceiling below needed new plasterboard, plaster and paint. Cost £530.
6. The boiler was serviced under a British Gas plan.
7. A boiler flue repair was necessary. Cost £65.

The PCC continue to place a high priority on undertaking the routine maintenance and repairs in an efficient and cost-effective fashion. The tenants in the three properties and Church House users are pleased with our diligence in this respect. Full reports of all fabric related works are made at each PCC Meeting. We also review the list of actions arising from the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection and tackle these as and when possible. For example:

- Organ: The organ has a number of long-standing faults and needs overhauling. Advice was sought initially from the Diocesan Organ Advisers who visited in 2017. Three quotations were obtained in 2018 with a fourth due in early 2019. We have c. £20,000 set aside to start off this project and hope to apply for grant funding to help cover the cost of this major work.
- Tower Stone: We have begun making preparations to undertake a significant project to repair/replace the damaged stone on the tower. This work will cost in excess of £100,000. A survey was undertaken in late 2017 at a cost of £2,136. Our Quinquennial Inspector was engaged and plans/specification are being drawn. We have also commissioned the services of a fundraiser who will apply for grant funding to help cover this expensive but necessary cost. Scaffolding will be required and the actual work will last several months, probably commencing in 2020.
- Disabled Access: We have started exploring the introduction of disabled access/facilities in the church and are in the process of applying for a grant to cover the cost of an Access Audit which needs to be in place before we apply for funding.
- Church Heating: We spent time exploring options to replace the current church heating system. This work would be a medium-term project as the current level of heating from the existing oil-fired system remains satisfactory.

The Archdeacon's Triennial Visitation took place in July. The Archdeacon met with the Churchwardens and looks at vast quantities of paperwork to make sure the church is being run correctly (it is a little bit like Ofsted!). It was pleasing to receive a clean bill of health. The Archdeacon commented in his follow-up letter *"I am grateful for the work that has been done in the parish to bring the administration and governance up to a high standard. This has resulted in an excellent visitation with no action points to follow up."*

The General and the Fire Risk Assessments for the Church and Church House were reviewed and updated. The Risk Assessment for the Old Church was also reviewed and updated. Actions arising from the review will be undertaken during the course of 2018. The Health & Safety policy was updated and is now on display in the porch.

We remain very grateful to those who help look after our various buildings, especially Cristian Tomoiaga.

**Mark Lynch and Jane Prentice  
Churchwardens**

**The following elections/appointments will now take place:**

**5. Election of tellers (if required)**

**6. Elections and Appointments**

**6.2 Elections to the Parochial Church Council to serve 2019/2022 (x 4)**

**6.3 Appointment of Sidespersons for 2019/2020**

**6.4 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2019/2020**

**7. Group Reports**

**7.1 Bereavement Visiting Team**

Our team of Bereavement Visitors has had the privilege of meeting 23 bereaved people this year. While some may have come to us as a result of funerals at St John's, others come to us from the Bereavement Care Office (BC), some of which have experienced their bereavement some months previously.

This suggests that coping with grief may be seen by the bereaved person to be a responsibility that needs to be taken privately, in the first instance, but a point then comes when they are ready to accept help. Most often this occurs between three to nine months after the loss of their loved one. Those who had previously declined a visitor we try to make contact with later to determine whether they would now like to receive one.

A letter of introduction is sent which is followed up by a telephone call. Such calls are always appreciated, even if the offer of a visitor is declined. In the meantime, the group continues to meet every few weeks to share our experiences and support one another in what might be difficult circumstances. Supervision is an essential part of the safe functioning of the group, not only for the clients but particularly for the visitor. At the end of the year we submit statistics to Bereavement Care that can help BC and ourselves to monitor the amount of work we do from year to year.

St John's maintains Corporate Membership with Bereavement Care (BC) who provide ongoing training for our visitors, including an annual conference that attracts excellent speakers. The cost of membership to the parish has not risen since the charity was formed, and we are grateful to the PCC who pay the occasional fees for visitors to attend training to enhance their skills and practice. BC continues to seek to provide evidence of quality in their practice that informs 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 hold a memorial service for any who have experienced a bereavement in the previous two years and include those names of parishioners who had died some time previously. This service is always much appreciated and allows bereaved families to reflect on their loss and begin looking towards the future. Besides this service our Trees of Light at Christmas, both inside and outside the Church prove to be a helpful addition to remembering our loved ones at a time of the year that can be difficult.

While we always look for potential visitors, we are hopeful that our present visitors may 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, you 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**  
**Group Leader**

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## **7.2 Café St Jean**

Cheerful red check tablecloths and white carnations now greet folk who visit Café St. Jean each Sunday morning after the 9.30am service, echoing the informal French café theme we have tried to create. The Café generally runs like clockwork, thanks to the laudable commitment of those members of our congregation who contribute to the Café's monthly rota. As co-ordinator, and on behalf of all the congregation, I would like to record our thanks for their loyalty and cheerful commitment.

Thanks, too, to our Chair and Table Monitors who are part of the rota to set up the Café each Sunday. Also, we extend our gratitude to those church members who kindly dismantle the tables and put away chairs once the Café finishes – no rota covers this particular part in the running of the Café but it is a job which always magically seems to get done without hassle.

We still manage to cover the costs of the Café through suggested donations of 50p per cuppa with biscuits. I wonder if we will have any reason to review this after Brexit?! (oops! Just don't mention that word!!)

The Café provides a warm and welcoming atmosphere for members of the congregation to catch up with each other as they relax over their drinks. It also offers newcomers the opportunity to get to know us and vice versa – PLEASE do extend your personal welcome to anyone who you think is new to our church family, who may be sitting on their own or perhaps looking a little "lost". A few friendly words from each of us, perhaps inviting them to sit with us, could make all the difference to their perception of St Johns and to the possibility of them coming to one of our services again.

**Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby (Co-ordinator)**

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## **7.3 Churchyard Gardeners**

In autumn 2017, Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby planted 150 crocuses in pots so they would be ready to plant out in spring 2018, and supplement those on the existing cross in the grass on the east side of the churchyard. The cross was originally the idea of Peter and Daphne Johnson and has been much admired because of the colour it adds to the churchyard in the spring.

Six more rotten posts supporting the standard roses were replaced by Bill Wyon. The roses have been fed and dead headed and, in the autumn, they were pruned and mulched with farm manure. We have kept the long borders free from alliums and again planted the beds with bedding geraniums for summer colour. In the autumn, Stewart Low dug over and

weeded the bed under the east window - a wonderful improvement noticed by many on their way into church.

The graves on the south side of the church between the paths have been weeded and Rosemary made a start on the graves to the west of the short path to remove invasive alliums and let the primroses back. It would be good to keep tidy more of the graves and if anyone would like to 'adopt' one or more of the graves, please contact me or Rosemary.

The fuchsias that succumbed to Fuchsia Gall Mite in 2017 have been fine this year – the "Beast from the East" might have done a good turn in killing the mite.

A gift of bulbs, courtesy of Squires via the Bernays Gardens Community Group, arrived in November and 500 tulips – *Tulipa tarda* – were planted around the standard roses and in the long borders. We await with interest to see how many survive the marauding squirrels.

The external Christmas Tree has become an established part of our Christmas decorations.

Our grass has been cut, hedges trimmed and leaves collected by the London Borough of Harrow. This year the work has largely been undertaken by Rob who has been helped more recently by Steve. The churchyard has looked the best it has ever done. We are most grateful to them, not least because this work is done free of charge ever since the churchyard was formally closed in 2015.

Peter Williams and Matthew Stone continue to pick up litter every week from the churchyard and surrounding roads helping keep "our" part of Stanmore looking nice for others to enjoy.

Thank you to all.

**Carole White**

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## 7.4 Engage

Engage has continued to welcome a wide variety of speakers who each bring their own theme and message. We are grateful to all members the band, many of whom attend other churches in the mornings, for their unstinting commitment to leading great worship. The speakers and themes for the last year were:

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>THEME</b>
January	Joel Botham, Children's Worker, Stanmore Baptist Church	Fear
February	Rachel Lacey, Children & Youth Worker, Kensit Evangelical Church, Finchley	Joy
March	Jeremy Aspinall, Church Urban Fund	Trust
April	Deborah Barnett Headteacher, TGL West	Prayer & Praise
May	Lindsay Melliush, Co-Pastor, St Paul's Ealing	Wholeness
June	The Revd Dr. Brian Leathard, Rector, St Luke's Chelsea	Responsibility

July	The Revd Canon Rachel Phillips, Canon for Mission, Rochester Cathedral	Christmas is not just for Christmas!
September	Clare Lambert, Stanmore Baptist Church	How to pray
October	Becky Stone, St John's Stanmore(!)	Being real with God
November	The Rt. Revd Pete Broadbent, Bishop of Willesden	Remembrance
December	Ladan Nouri, ELAM Ministries with Anne Calver, Assistant Minister, Stanmore Baptist Church.	United Advent Service

Average monthly attendance is between 30 and 40, and it is a privilege to be able to offer a contemporary service as a contrast to our morning 'diet'. Refreshments are always served afterwards. If you haven't yet tried an Engage service, do come along and see what it's like!

**Becky Stone**

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### **7.5 Firm Foundation**

2018 was the first year St John's was involved with Firm Foundation's Winter Night Shelter. We sent three teams to the Weldon Centre in Harrow on the second Wednesday of January, February and March to cook, serve, share a meal and socialise with the guests. It was an extremely rewarding and humbling experience which changed all our perceptions of homelessness. It was also a stark reminder that anyone of us could be as little as two wage packets away from homelessness.

Our teams did an incredible job and were highly praised by the Night Shelter Coordinator, Fernando Da Silva. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated and for all the generous donations, whether it was money, food, skills or time which all contributed to make our involvement the huge success that it was.

St John's donated a total of £2,390.95 across the year to this extremely worthy cause which supports vulnerable people in Harrow. Thank you so much.

**Jane Prentice**

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### **7.6 Flowers**

Throughout the year there have been fresh flowers in church, arranged by the flower team. There have been special decorations for festivals, and we had two splendid Christmas trees. We have continued to be well supported by donations to the flower fund for altar flowers arrangements.

We have been saddened by the sudden death of Pam Huckle, a talented member of the flower team. Pam worked tirelessly over a considerable number of years, and gave great pleasure to many people through her lovely arrangements especially at Easter, Christmas and on Remembrance Sunday.

We are always looking for anyone interested in flower arranging to join our team. One of our members, Peggy Waters, is retiring now and we are grateful for her faithful service over recent years.

If anyone would like to find out more about helping with the flowers, please let us know.

**Sheila Oliver**

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### **7.7 Fundraising Committee**

The Fundraising Committee did not hold any events this year but to date we have raised over £12,000 since we started! At the end of 2017, the PCC agreed that the current balance of £11,612.27 could go towards the repair of the organ.

**Jane Prentice**

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### **7.8 Great Stanmore Bell Ringers**

2018 has been a relatively quiet year, compared with the excitement of the refurbishment in 2017, but we have accomplished the last element of the refit with the installation of a new set of bell ropes.

In 2011 we had been to Norwich on our tower outing and in 2018 we decided to make a second visit. There are so many good rings in Norfolk and two ringers from Bushey, who recently moved to Sheringham, offered to organise the towers for us. So late in September we gladly returned to stay at the Marsham Arms in Heveningham.

On the Saturday we enjoyed ourselves ringing at a number of local towers – St Andrew's, Saxthorpe, [6 bells]; St Andrew's, Holt [8 bells]; St Andrew's, Great Ryburgh [6 bells]; St Thomas', Foxley [6 bells]; All Saints', Weston Longville [6 bells]. In the evening we had our annual dinner together at the hotel.

On the Sunday morning there was a chance to ring in Norwich itself. Despite the rain, two of us set out with a map and found our way to St Peter Mancroft. When we arrived they were ringing Cambridge Royal but very kindly made time for us to ring a short burst of call changes which require less expertise. Scuttling under umbrellas, we then made our way to St Giles' where our skills were a better match for the methods being rung. The last tower was St George Colegate; here the ringing chamber is so small that those not ringing sit out in an ante-chamber. Among the band at St Peter Mancroft was a ringer from Welwyn; we recognised one another but recalling each other's names was less successful.

We celebrated New Year's Eve as usual by ringing the old year out and the New Year in with backwards rounds leading up to midnight, followed by twelve blows on the tenor and then 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. Most of the money in these funds is donated by the ringers themselves. Both associations made generous grants towards the refurbishment of St John's bells.

We continue to welcome visiting bands from Middlesex and Hertfordshire and further afield, who enjoy ringing our bells.

Anyone interested in learning to ring or to see the bells or is simply curious to know what goes on in a ringing chamber, is very welcome to join us in the tower on most Thursday evenings from 8.15pm.

St. John's Bell Ringers HSBC current account statement, 2018:

Brought forward from 2017 £293-40

Add excess income £47-50

£340-90

St. John's Bell Ringers HSBC savings account statement, 2018:

Brought forward from 2017 £813-41

Deduct excess expenditure (£749-82)

£63-59

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

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## **7.9 Home Groups**

We have five groups meeting regularly, two on a Tuesday and three on a Wednesday. All meet fortnightly (weekly in Lent) except the Wolstenholme group which meets monthly. There are seasonal breaks.

One of the Tuesday evening groups meets at Pat Hodgson's home on Tuesday evenings has a membership of eight and is led by Frances Westcott. In 2018, we finished our study of Luke's Gospel. This past year we have been studying Revelation. It was not easy but worth doing as we agreed we would never have studied it on our own. For Lent 2019, we shall be looking at 'The Screwtape Letters' by C.S. Lewis which should provide much food for discussion. Thanks to Pat for her hospitality (and her barra brith!) and to Diana Phillips who hosts when Pat is away.

The second group meeting on a Tuesday evening is usually hosted by Jane Prentice, and we share the responsibility of leading. During 2018, Becky Stone led a course from a book called 'We Make the Road by Walking' by Brian McLaren, which was excellent for prompting fascinating discussions. For Lent 2018, Ray and Jennie Sainsbury led a course based on the film "Chocolat", which some had done before, but which all still found thought-provoking and helpful. In the Autumn, Jane Prentice planned a few sessions based on a film called "Heaven is for Real", which challenged many of our ideas about life after death.

The Wolstenholme Study Group continues to meet on a Wednesday afternoon each month (apart from August) with a membership of four-five people and is led by the Rector. The group is informal and enjoys looking at passages of Scripture which are often linked to the

particular season of the church. Gentle exploration with conversation and laughter make for a happy time together. We are grateful to Helen Astar and Peggy Walters for their hospitality at Wolstenholme.

One of the Wednesday evenings groups is led and hosted by Ken Peters and comprises the appropriate number of twelve! We have been tackling St Matthew's Gospel. So far, the challenges have been, among others, understanding the heritage of Jesus to 'do miracles really happen?' With so much more to come we will be fortunate to reach the end before we complete our first year. The second and forth Wednesdays of each month are a powerhouse of study!

The other Wednesday evening group is led and hosted by Pat Stevens and began 2018 with the completion of a study of Paul's Epistle to the Romans based on Tom Wright's commentary. At the end of this series we bade a fond farewell to Jean Orpwood, founder, leader and host of the group for many years. Sincere thanks Jean for her hard work. Spring and summer sessions consisted of a study course by Hilary Brand entitled "The Power of Small Choices", based on the delightful Danish film, "Babette's Feast", which spawned a feast of discussion and introspection on the effects of our own small choices. Unfortunately, due to illness the group lapsed during the Autumn, but plans are in place to restart in Lent 2019. Grateful thanks to our group for their trust in each other and willing insights 'from the heart', making each session a valuable learning experience.

**Frances Westcott, Becky Stone, Matthew Stone, Ken Peters and Pat Stevens**

New members are always welcome – please speak to one of the above

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### **7.10 Interfaith Matters**

St John's continues its membership of Harrow Interfaith (HIF), an organisation whereby faith communities work together with cohesion, unity of purpose, friendship and encouragement to support all places of worship and faith communities to be the best they can be in spirituality, worship, learning and relationships. Harrow is renowned for its social and cultural cohesion and the pursuit of spiritual development plays a significant part in this aspect.

During the past year HIF has continued to organise events in collaboration with theological, philosophical, health, mental health, the police and charitable organisations, that encourage learning, discussion and collaborative action for the good of all.

HIF benefits greatly from warm welcomes to worship, festivals and events in its members' churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and viharas, whereby something of Harrow's rich and diverse traditions can be shared. Notices of events and activities are posted in the church porch and placed in pew sheets at appropriate times.

In other words, HIF helps us to love our neighbours as ourselves.

**Pat Stevens**

## **7.11 Junior Church**

Junior Church numbers continue to be steady though we have had some families move during the last year. This has resulted in a dip in numbers recently; but most weeks see us averaging around fifteen. 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, but in a more age-appropriate way.

*Splash* (pre-school to year 2 aged children) - these 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) - these children take part in singing, Bible reading, prayer, stories and games.

*The Grid* (Year 7 and above) – meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month with Mark Maslin, Daniel McKeon and Karen Omisore. Numbers can vary but we have a great time anyway. The session varies by sometimes looking at the lesson in church and sometimes having a question session but which ever it is you can guarantee we always go off at a tangent – but that makes it all the more fun!

Junior Church has had a busy year and we have been part of several church events and services. We especially enjoyed the Christingle service where we made the christingles in church together. We have also played our instruments at various church services and we look forward to doing so again. Junior Church also continues to support The Mission to Seafarers during Lent.

All in all Junior Church has had a very busy but productive year and we look forward to the next one whatever it may bring.

**Beverley McKeon**  
**Junior Church Leader**

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## **7.12 Little Fishers**

Our Little Fishers Babies and Toddlers group meets every Tuesday afternoon in term time from 1.15pm–2.45pm in the Micklem Hall. We have a good selection of toys, puzzles and games, and have a craft activity each week. We are very fortunate to have the use of the field where, if the weather is dry, the children are able to play on the outdoor toys that Stanmore Montessori school kindly let us use.

Our numbers have increased this year, largely thanks to advertising and personal recommendation, and in addition to parents bringing their own children, we have three child minders who between them bring ten children.

This year we have had our usual Teddy Bears picnic on the field at the end of the summer term and Father Christmas arrived with his sack of presents as we broke up for Christmas.

Two of our families have begun coming to the Sunday morning 9.30. service and are now regular members of our congregation.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> century hymn tunes and songs. We have also had some hymns that are not in our hymn book by making use of the projector, which is much more convenient and environmentally friendly than printing and handing out sheets of paper.

We have a robed choir who help to lead the music in our worship for most Sunday morning services, for our monthly service of evensong and for our Christmas carol service. If you are '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!

We also have a group of singers and musicians who lead the singing at our all age services, and we have our 'Engage' evening service, which has a worship band, primarily from Stanmore Baptist Church.

Our Junior Choir do not sing Sunday by Sunday with the adult choir because many of them attend other churches, but they again joined in with our Christmas carol service and had a very enjoyable time.

If you would like to join in with any of these groups please talk to me.

We still have the on-going increasing number of faults with the organ, which was built in 1863 and had a major rebuild in 1925. Some of the 'simple fix' faults have been repaired this year, but it will probably take about 6 months and cost in excess of £100,000 to get it back in to good working order. In the meantime, another firm has agreed to come and spend a day, at relatively low cost, believing they can fix some of the ongoing faults, and come up with a structured plan for on-going maintenance and repairs.

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

**Philip Rees**  
**Organist and Director of Music**

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### **7.14 New Wine**

New Wine 2018 was our first experience of a large Christian event, and despite many wonderful testimonies from church friends, we had only signed up as it seemed the 'right thing to do' in the exploration of our faith, so we arrived in Somerset with mixed emotions including trepidation and some scepticism. However, our concerns were immediately blown away as we entered into the most glorious and wonderful life-changing experience with a wealth of spiritual knowledge and teachings, rousing and moving songs & music, fun & laughter, new friendships, awe-inspiring demonstrations of faith and bravery from around the world, packed itineraries but peace and tranquillity when needed, inspirational stories, genuine companionship, true life characters, kindness, generosity of spirit, star-gazing, something for everyone, even new life-skills (sock puppetry).

Needless to say, we signed up for New Wine 2019 at the first opportunity, as did the other five families from St John's who were there, and two more since! We can't wait for our Peterborough trip.

## **Ray and Jennie Sainsbury (AKA 'the Oldies')**

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### **7.15 Old Church Working Group**

At the start of 2018, the following people were members of the Old Church Working Group: Elizabeth Bowen, Sylvia Daniels, Graham Denman, Rex Holmes (Chair), Ian Mackie MBE, Mick Oliver, Matthew Stone, John Williams and Peter Williams. The last meeting held was on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017. During the year:

1. Matthew Stone met Charlotte Dodgeon, a fundraiser, to explore the feasibility of submitting a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant Application.
2. The Archdeacon of Northolt contributed £100 towards the cost of the 2017 Structural Survey.
3. The Old Church suffered a break-in on 24<sup>th</sup> April. One of the grilles was damaged and part of a monument. The matter was reported to the Police (who did not attend the site) and the following Crime Reference Number was issued 2509402/18.
4. Mick Oliver and Matthew Stone delivered a presentation to members of the Stanmore Society on 26<sup>th</sup> April to share with them the dream of possible reinstatement.
5. Mark Lynch applied weed killer (costing £17.40) to the base of the walls.
6. Old Church Working Group members were very sad to learn that Rex Holmes, our very able Chair, died on 6<sup>th</sup> June.
7. Cristian Tomoiaga and Matthew Stone repaired the damaged grille and fitted a second to prevent future unauthorised access.
8. A £1,000 bequest was received from the estate of the late Rex Holmes.
9. The Risk Assessment was renewed.

Following the sad and untimely death of Rex Holmes, the Old Church Working Group is taking time to reflect on the future direction of its work. It remains a dream to see the Old Church reinstated into a useable community facility, but this cannot be progressed without an Option Appraisal being prepared at a cost of c. £25,000. The London Borough of Harrow need to have the Options Appraisal in place in order for a decision to be made regarding necessary planning permission. A key member of staff at the Diocese of London, remains supportive of our plans, and continues to think about other opportunities.

The current challenge which remains pertinent is to consider how much longer it will be safe to allow visitors in to the Old Church given the lack of available funding to undertake any of the actions that arose from the 2017 Quinquennial Inspection report. Last year Mark Lynch and Matthew Stone hosted visits from 210 Year 4 children from Aylward Primary School and Stanburn Primary School.

**Matthew Stone**  
**Chair of the Old Church Working Group**

## 7.16 Great Stanmore Old Church Consolidation Fund

Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018

	<b>£</b>
<u>Income</u>	
Donations, Sales and Interest	1254.28
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Fees/supplies	<u>0.00</u>
	£1,254.28

### **Balance Sheet**

Bank Balance Total 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018

Barclays Bank £4,643.48

Fund Balance 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 3,389.20

Plus surplus for year 1,254.28

Fund Balance 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 £4,643.48

**Ian Mackie MBE**  
**Hon. Treasurer**

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### **7.17 Parish Visitors**

During the year we have been able to visit a number of people at home, in hospital or in nursing or care homes. We have several visitors who are happy to visit, shop, pick up prescriptions etc. If you know of anyone who would welcome a visit, or needs help, please let one of us know and we will arrange for someone to call.

**Sylvia Daniels and Sheila Oliver**

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### **7.18 Peace, Justice, Environment and Energy**

St John's has continued to monitor its energy consumption each quarter during 2018 and is regularly recycling its waste.

We joined in Unlocks walk in April, which was held in Tottenham. This walk is ecumenical and visits churches of many different traditions and started at St Francis at the Engine Room - the first Anglican church to be built on a new site in the last 40 years.

We were surprised to learn in November that our Rector in 1938, the Revd W. Hewlett, had taken the initiative to find homes in the parish for two German Jewish refugees, in a venture akin to the Kindertransport.

**Mick Oliver**

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### **7.19 Prayer Ministry Team**

Private prayer is offered every Sunday morning at the 9.30 am service. Two members of our team of nine will be in the chapel during the 9.30am Parish 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**

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### **7.20 St John's Church of England School**

It is a tremendous privilege to have a Church of England School within the parish, and over the years St John's Church and St John's School have enjoyed having a very close relationship with each other. This relationship continues today with several children attending both the church and school.

This report is written deliberately from the perspective of governance as the PCC elect two governors to serving on the Governing Board, each for a term of four years. Our current PCC appointed governors are Paul Harris (appointed in 2015) and Karen Omisore (appointed in 2017). Other governors are elected in line with the School's Instrument of Government.

During the 2017/2018 school year, the Governing Board met during the evening on six occasions (twice each term), whilst the Admissions Committee, Staffing Committee and Standards & Achievement Committees met once each term. The Finance & Premises Committee met six times (twice each term).

The Headteacher's Performance Management Committee met twice, and the Pay & Review Committee met once. All committees meet during the school day. The Chair of Governors met the Headteacher regularly.

The Headteacher's Performance Management Committee is supported by an external advisor. Additionally, there is a facility to bring together small panel/committees as and when needed. It was necessary to form one such panel during the summer term 2018.

The Governing Board and the committees all have clear terms of reference which are reviewed annually.

The Governing Board takes part in the annual cycle of school improvement by its interpretation and analysis of school data including, SATS results, Local Authority data, government data, Phonics Screening Check, Baseline Assessment, Ofsted Data Dashboard

and regular internal school assessment data. Through data analysis, pupil progress and attainment is scrutinised and vulnerable groups including pupil premium children are closely monitored. Data monitoring together with external reports such as Ofsted mean that the Governors play an active role in the development of the annual School Improvement Plan. The 2018 Key Stage SATS results were disappointing and represented a dip based on the cohort of children.

Governors are also expected to undertake training to fulfil their role and enhance their contribution. During 2017/2018 various courses were offered to governors including induction training run by the Local Authority. The Governing Board received training on preparing for Ofsted in January 2018. The training was led by a member of staff from the London Diocesan Board for Schools.

The Governing Board continued to monitor the progress the school was making to address the actions arising from the June 2015 Ofsted Inspection with a particular focus on Writing, Maths and to challenge the More Able. In addition, the following areas were identified in the School Improvement Plan:

- To ensure attainment and progress remains above the expected standards in reading, writing and maths. To increase the percentage of children achieving greater depth across the school.
- To embed a quality curriculum (indoor and outdoor) which encourages resilience, independence and creativity and develop a 'Growth Mindset' approach within the school community.
- To embed Mindfulness across the school and ensure the well-being of all pupils, staff and the community.
- To empower leaders at all levels to drive school improvement.
- To be above the national in Early Learning Goals. To develop as a Learning Hub for Early Years.

The Governing Board annually approves a 3-year school budget and the Finance & Premises Committee regularly monitors the in-year budget. It works closely with the School Business Manager and the Local Authority Schools Financial Services. Close scrutiny of the budget during the financial year 2017/2018 meant that the year-end outturn resulted in a positive balance.

**Paul Harris, Jill Medcalf, Graham Nicholson, Karen Omisore and Matthew Stone**  
**Members of the School's Governing Board**

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## **7.21 Safeguarding**

The PCC continues to place the highest priority on the important area of safeguarding. 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 (PCC Members have all completed

the training as well). A robust system is in place to ensure that DBS checks are renewed every five years in line with the Diocese of London's policy. Nine rechecks were undertaken during the year.

During 2018 the PCC undertook the following:

1. Reviewed the existing Diocese of London's Safeguarding Policy.
2. After taking advice from the Diocese of London, a decision was made that members of our Bereavement Visiting Team did not need to have a DBS check in place. Their role did not involve them making any adult they visit vulnerable – eg administering personal care (assisting people to toilet, washing/dressing etc) and/or handling their money for shopping.
3. Re-adopted the Safeguarding Policy Statement (which is on display in the Church and Church House).
4. Re-appointed Mark Lynch and Louise Gregory as Church Safeguarding Officers.
5. Re-appointed Sue Wright as the Children's Champion.
6. Appointed Karen Stirrup an Evidence Checker.
7. Appointed Matthew Stone as Lead Recruiter.
8. Reviewed the Role Descriptions for the Commissioned Children's Minister, Director of Music, Holiday Club, Junior Choir, Junior Church, Little Fishers and the Youth Group. Introduced a new Role Description for the Bereavement Visiting Team.
9. Renewed the Declarations on Safeguarding and Volunteer Agreements for the Director of Music, Junior Choir, Junior Church, Little Fishers and the Youth Group.
10. Reviewed the Group Risk Assessments for Holiday Club, Junior Church (incl. crossing Old Church Lane), Little Fishers, and the Youth Group
11. Reviewed the hiring agreements for Church House to ensure that the groups that work with children who hire the premises on a regular basis have their own safeguarding policies in place. Copies of these policies, together with their insurance, are obtained from each group annually and filed in the Parish Office. These groups are also sent a copy of our Safeguarding Policy.  
When people hire the premises on a one-off basis, such as a child's birthday party, they are also 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. The Terms and Conditions of Hire reflect the importance of our safeguarding procedures being followed and key messages are given to the hirer when Church House is handed over to them.
12. Updated the General and Fire Risk Assessments for the Church and Church House.
13. Updated the Health & Safety Policy.
14. Received the new Diocese of London Safeguarding Policy and Parish Safeguarding Handbook.
15. An internal audit of our safeguarding procedures was undertaken by Mark Lynch using the Diocese of London's template.

In July the Archdeacon of Northolt visited St John's to undertake the Triennial Visitation. During his visit, amongst other things, our safeguarding practices were reviewed, and we were commended for our robust approach.

In conclusion, we continue to demonstrate 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, young people and any vulnerable adults safe.

If you have any questions about our safeguarding procedures or a concern, please contact Mark Lynch or Louise Gregory without delay.

**Matthew Stone**

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### **7.22 Social Committee**

Once again, we had a very successful Pre-Lent Lunch. We served soup followed by pancakes and fruit salad. We were very grateful for the help we received clearing up etc.

Next came Easter Sunday when we served wine and cake. Our next venture was a reception for the Revd Daniel Norris, who was leaving for pastures new as his three-year curacy had come to an end. We served wine and a choice of cakes.

Next on the agenda was our Harvest Lunch. This time we offered a Ploughman's Lunch as this fitted nicely with the Harvest theme. Rather than the traditional cheese we also offered vegetable quiche and gala pie, along with salads, pickles, bread etc. For dessert we offered homemade apple crumble with custard/ice cream or fruit salad. Once again very popular. In November we had our annual Bereavement Service and offered tea and biscuits after the service.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> December we had our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols and mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed, by all, after the service. There was tea and biscuits served to the choir before the service, after they had their practice. Again a big thank you to our team. We would be happy to welcome any new members to our team.

**Marianne Wright**

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### **7.23 Tea & Chat**

Tea & Chat has continued to flourish on Tuesday afternoons. Most people come regularly with two or three new people being welcomed during the year.

At the beginning of the year snow continued to hamper our activities and we needed to postpone the visit of Aylward Primary School children, but they were able to come later in the year. We also had two speakers during the year who had to cancel due to ill health. One of these was due to speak on rationing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. That afternoon we had an impromptu sharing of memories by those present which was much enjoyed.

Our biggest attendance for an afternoon was when the Revd Canon Ken Peters gave a talk entitled 'Dog Collar in the Dock', giving insights into the work of the Mission to Seafarers. Everyone was very interested and we hope Ken can return sometime to tell us more.

A new experience was to try out 'seated exercises' with an instructor. We have also challenged ourselves with some short quizzes and Beetle has become popular. Alongside these ventures we had, as usual, a fish and chip lunch and the Strawberry Tea.

Christmas was heralded by St John's School ever expanding 'Sing up' club and our own Christmas Quiz afternoon.

We have been there to support each other at difficult times as sadly, three of our number have passed away during the year. Companionship and understanding over a cup of tea can be a comfort at such times and we are pleased to offer a warm welcome to all who come.

**Sylvia Daniels and Sheila Oliver**

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#### **7.24 Welcome at St John's**

Those members of our congregation who continue to greet us all so cheerfully each Sunday morning for the 9.30am service deserve particular recognition and thanks. Many visitors comment on the friendly welcome they have received. Hopefully this continues to be echoed throughout the whole congregation as we reach out to those newly joining us.

Members of Junior Church particularly appreciate the fact that, whatever the weather, the Welcomers Team head over to church house during the offertory hymn to alert the children and their leaders that it is time to join the main congregation for the rest of the service.

**Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby**

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#### **7.25 Youth Group**

Our Youth Group has continued to grow steadily, and we welcomed new members over the past year. We now have over twenty members with fifteen regularly attending different events throughout the year. We have continued to hold regular meet ups and games nights at the rectory, as well as larger events such as trampolining, laser tag and bowling in Watford. We hope to continue growing and supporting our youth in the next year to come.

**Daniel McKeon**

## **8. Rector's Review**

It is hard to believe that I am already in my fifth year at St John's – where has the time gone?! It only seems like yesterday that I was inducted in succession to the wonderful Alison Christian. I continue to have a real sense of thankfulness to God for the many blessings he bestows upon our church community here in Stanmore.

As you will have read from the various reports contained within this document, we remain an active church with plenty of opportunities to worship together, to pray together, to study together and to be together. These are essential 'ingredients' for any church. Across the past four and a half years I do feel that we have grown closer in our relationships with each other and this has helped us to become an even happier, friendly and welcoming community. We even know how to laugh and have fun!

In addition to the typical priestly work I do in and through the church, I remain involved within the parish and beyond in the following ways:

1. Chair of Governors to St John's School
2. Padre to 2236 (Stanmore) ATC Squadron
3. Chair of Trustees to the Bernays Memorial Institute
4. Member of the Stanmore Park Metropolitan Ward Panel
5. Harrow Deanery Clergy Representative on the Bishop of Willesden's Council
6. Clergy Ministerial Development Review Consultant

I remain very involved at St John's School where I deliver regular assemblies, and termly Eucharists for Years 3-6, on top of my fairly heavy governance responsibilities. I also continue to deliver termly assemblies to Aylward Primary School and enjoyed welcoming their Year 4s (and the Year 4s from Stanburn Primary School) to visit the church in the summer term.

I am delighted that our relationship continues to grow with the Revd Shaun Lambert, Senior Minister of Stanmore Baptist Church, and Father Michael Munnely, Parish Priest of St William of York RC Church, and more recently Chris Tapp, the new Pastor of Stanmore Chapel. I pray each month with them. Last year I organised the second Walk of Witness from St William of York to St John's in which 200 people took part. It was a very powerful witness to walk with so many of our local Christian brothers and sisters along The Broadway/Church Road towards St John's for a united act of worship. We were also able to host the united advent service as well.

During the year we said a fond farewell to the Revd Daniel Norris, whose three-year title post came to an end in June. It was good for us to have the responsibility of helping to train a curate, especially as it had been a few years since the Revd Mina Smallman was in post. I was grateful for all Daniel was able to contribute during his time with us.

The Bishop of Willesden has invited us to train a new stipendiary curate in 2019 and I am very much looking forward to welcoming Jonny Rapson and his wife Jenna in June once his training at Wycliffe Hall has finished.

In September I embarked upon a course of study which will [hopefully!] lead me to become a Master of Arts in the area of Christian Leadership. My part-time two-year course is being undertaken at St Mellitus which is claimed to be one of the most innovative and exciting

places to study theology, mission and ministry in the UK. I am especially grateful to the PCC who kindly offered to fund part of the fees.

I remain enormously grateful to the large number of people who work faithfully, tirelessly and more often than not quietly in the background towards the mission, ministry and upkeep of our church. I would not be able to manage without you, so thank you to you all.

Looking ahead, I pray that for each of us, as members of St John's, will continue to take our faith seriously, give time to growing as a Christian and make even more effort to attend church regularly. I am aware that life seems to be so incredibly busy for most people and the challenge is to make sure that God is at the centre of it.

With my thanks, love and prayers

**The Revd Matthew Stone**





**Baptism of George Edward Madelin – 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018**  
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