

The Parish of St John the Evangelist Great Stanmore



**Annual Report and Accounts
for the year ended
31st December 2019**

Front Cover photo (used with permission)
Parish Confirmation
with the Rt. Revd Pete Broadbent (Bishop of Willesden)
8th December 2019

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**The Annual Meeting of Parishioners
for the election of churchwardens**
Sunday 4th October 2020, 10.15am in the Church
[postponed from 26th April 2020 because of CV-19]

AGENDA

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. To receive the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of Parishioners (28th April 2019)
4. Election of tellers (if required)
5. Election of two churchwardens to serve 2020/2021
6. Date of next meeting (25th April 2021)
7. Closing prayer

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, GREAT STANMORE

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday 28th April 2019 at 10.45am in the Wolstenholme Hall, Church House

Chair: The Revd Matthew Stone	Minutes: Karen Stirrup
Attendance: 85 parishioners (of which 80 on the Electoral Roll)	

Introduction

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| 1. | 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 2019/2020. |
| 2. | Apologies for absence
Apologies were received and accepted from: June Bertie, Eric Kershaw, Valerie Kershaw, Andrew Lungay, Nicole Lungay, Mark Lynch, John Mackenzie-Corby, Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby, Julia Mair, Doreen Pay, John Pay, Philip Rees, Linda Roke, Beverley Singleton, Sue Wright and Julia Wyndham. |

Administration

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|-----------|---|
| 3. | Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 29th April 2018: to agree the minutes as a true record.
The minutes were signed by the Rector as a true and accurate record of the meeting. |
| 4. | Election of tellers
It was not necessary to appoint tellers. |

Election of two churchwardens to serve 2019/2020

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| 5. | <p>The Rector reported that two nominations had been received as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <u>Mark Lynch</u> proposed by John Pay, seconded by Sheila Enaboifo.- <u>Jane Prentice</u> proposed by Jean Orpwood, seconded by Frances Westcott. <p>Mark Lynch and Jane Prentice were, therefore, duly elected unopposed to serve as churchwardens for 2019/2020.</p> <p>The Rector thanked both churchwardens for their work across 2018/2019. The Archdeacon's Visitation which will re-admit them to office will take place on 8th May 2019 at St Mary's, South Ruislip.</p> <p>Jane Prentice said how much both she and Mark enjoyed being Churchwardens and that they did not have to think about standing for election again. She went on to thank the parishioners for their support and encouragement in allowing them to serve the church for another year.</p> |
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Miscellaneous

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| 6. | Date of next meeting
The next Annual Meeting of Parishioners will take place at 10.45am on Sunday 26 th April 2020. |
| 7. | Closing prayer
The Rector closed the meeting in prayer. |

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 4th October 2020, 10.20am in the Church
[postponed from 26th April 2020 because of CV-19]

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting (28th April 2019)
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 Deanery Synod Representatives to serve 2020/2023
 - 6.2 Election of 4 PCC Members to serve 2020/2023
 - 6.3 Appointment of Sidespersons – DEFERRED TO PCC
 - 6.4 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2020/2021
7. Group Reports
8. Assistant Curate's Review
9. Rector's Review
10. Mission
 - 10.1 Capital Vision 2020
 - 10.2 Listening to London, Listening to God
11. Any other business
12. Date of next meeting (25th April 2021)
13. Closing prayer

Advance Notice of PCC Meeting – Sunday 4th October 2020 at 11am

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 Church) 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 28th April 2019 at 10.50am in the Wolstenholme Hall, Church House

Chair: The Revd Matthew Stone	Minutes: Karen Stirrup
Attendance: 85 parishioners (of which 80 on the Electoral Roll)	

Introduction

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|-----------|---|
| 1. | Apologies for absence
Apologies were received and accepted from: June Bertie, Eric Kershaw, Valerie Kershaw, Andrew Lungay, Nicole Lungay, Mark Lynch, John Mackenzie-Corby, Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby, Julia Mair, Doreen Pay, John Pay, Philip Rees, Linda Roke, Beverley Singleton, Sue Wright and Julia Wyndham. |
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Administration

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 2. | Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 29th April 2018: 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. |
| 3. | Matters arising – none. |

4. Reports

- **4.1 Electoral Roll Officer**
Electoral Roll Officer Andrea Nicholson presented the 2019 report which was based on a full renewal which happens every six years. This year, for the first time, pre-completed forms were prepared and handed to existing Electoral Roll members to speed up their return. Graham Nicholson was thanked for his technical help. The renewal took place between 22nd February until 5th April 2019. The new roll stands at **191** which is made up of 70 residents (who live within the parish boundary) and 121 non-residents (who do not live within the parish boundary). 18 new people were added this time. It was sad to report the deaths in 2018 of Betty Albin, Hazel Charman, Joan Fuller and Sadie Spells who were long-standing members of St John's Church.
- **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 2018. See pages A8-A11 of the 2018 Accounts Booklet. There were no questions. Karen was thanked for her continued hard work in the Parish Office.
- **4.3 Presentation of accounts and PCC Treasurer's financial review**
Treasurer Jennifer Neve had also prepared a detailed report which is on pages A12-A14 of the 2018 Accounts Booklet.

The Rector gave an overview of the income and expenditure during the year and highlighted the surplus of £7,958. This was the highest surplus recorded for many years and most encouraging.

	<p>In the absence of any questions Michael Carmody proposed the 2018 Accounts be adopted. Frances Westcott seconded the proposal. The 2018 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"> • 4.4 Fabric report The Fabric report was prepared by Churchwardens, Mark Lynch and Jane Prentice, and showed that a significant amount of work had again been undertaken during the year. <p>It was noted that the fabric is being kept in good order, but there is always more to do especially with the age of our buildings.</p>
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Elections and appointments

5.	<p>Elections of tellers It was not necessary to appoint tellers.</p>
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.1 Election of 4 PCC Members to serve 2019/2022 The Rector reported that four nominations had been received as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Belinda Burnand</u> proposed by Margaret Payne, seconded by Harold Payne - <u>Pamela Curran</u> proposed by Andrea Nicholson, seconded by Jennifer Neve - <u>Keith McKenzie</u> proposed by Ian Mackie MBE, seconded by Helen Astar - <u>Michael Okyere</u> proposed by Andrea Nicholson, seconded by Carole White <p>In the absence of any further nominations, Belinda, Pamela, Keith and Michael were duly elected to serve on the PCC for a period of three years until 2021.</p> <p>The Rector thanked the retiring PCC Members: Maureen Davter, Farah Lungay, Andrew Newton and Malcolm Woods who had served 2016/2019.</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: Helen Astar, 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. Paul Harris was added to the list. • 6.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2019/2020 Derek Taylor-Mew was re-appointed for a further twelve months nem con.

7. Group reports

	<p>The 2018 Annual Report and Accounts were published on 24th March 2019. 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>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.4 Engage (pages 15-16) The Rector commented that it was pleasing that this service continues to go from strength to strength. Launched in October 2017 and meeting monthly except August, between 30-40 people attend each time. • 7.8 Great Stanmore Bell Ringers (pages 17-18) The Bell Ringers do need additional ringers and would be pleased to provide training and support to anyone new. • 7.10 Interfaith Matters (pages 19) Pat Stevens commented on the recent Papal visit to Morocco where Pope Francis met the minority Christian community as well as a number of Muslims. He said of Christian mission that "...it is being with Jesus and being with others" which was most inspiring. • 7.21 Safeguarding (pages 25-26) The Rector confirmed that the safeguarding of our children, young people and any vulnerable adults remained a top priority. A different aspect of safeguarding is discussed at each PCC Meeting which included reviewing the Diocesan policy and undertaking an annual audit. There were no questions.
8. Rector's review	
	<p>The Rector had written a report ahead of the meeting (pages 28-29) giving an overview of the variety of work he has undertaken during the course of a year. He commented that it remains a pleasure and privilege to be part of St John's Church, surrounded by wonderful people who are keen to develop their faith and quite clearly enjoy being together as a community. The Annual Report shows clearly how many activities are taking place and the huge number of people involved.</p>
9. Capital Vision 2020 (our Mission Action Plan)	
	<p>The Rector explained that the current Diocesan Mission Action Plan, Capital Vision 2020 ends next year. Work is already underway to produce a new plan under the title "Listening to London, Listening to God."</p> <p>The Bishop of London, the Rt. Revd and Rt. Hon Sarah Mullally DBE, hopes each parish across the Diocese will spend time thinking, praying and discussing what they believe the missional priorities should be over the next few years. The Rector plans to do some work on this in June and will invite responses from the congregation.</p>
10. Any other business	
	<p>Closing remarks from the Churchwardens Jane Prentice thanked parishioners for their help, support and encouragement. She looks forward to all that God has in store in the year ahead. The Rector was thanked for his leadership and sheer hard work. As part of this the support and assistance given by Becky Stone was recognised and much appreciated.</p>
13.	<p>Date of next meeting The next APCM will take place on Sunday 26th April 2020 at 10.50am</p>
14.	<p>Closing prayer The Rector closed the meeting in prayer.</p>

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 A8-A12 of 2019 Accounts Booklet.

4.3 Treasurer's Financial Review and Accounts

See pages A13-A15 of 2019 Accounts Booklet.

4.4 Fabric Report

During 2019, the following work has been undertaken:

Church

1. The organ blower and humidifier were serviced in January and July. Cost £186 per visit.
2. The church electricity meter was replaced with a Smart Meter. Cost NIL.
3. The gutters and downpipes were cleared of leaves and the roof was inspected (February and November). Cost £291.52 per visit.
4. A new programmable thermostat was fitted. Cost £125.
5. Five new lights were fitted along the tower staircase to improve visibility and a new three-hour emergency light was fitted in the ringing chamber. Cost of materials was £291. The labour was free as one of the bell ringers kindly did this work on a pro-bono basis.
6. Both external spotlights were repaired. Cost £218.
7. A grab rail was fitted in the toilet. Cost £46.83.
8. A follow-up survey (to the 2017 survey) was undertaken in the ringing room and bell chamber to check for any signs of live woodworm activity. There were no signs. Cost NIL.
9. The annual asbestos test was undertaken and the register updated. Cost Nil.
10. The lighting protection system was serviced. Cost £168.
11. All surface drains were checked and cleared. Cost £475.80.
12. The fire extinguishers were serviced. Cost £114.
13. The oil-fired boiler was serviced and safety tested. Cost £180.
14. The flame sensor on the boiler was replaced. Cost £92.75.

Churchyard

1. The churchyard was regularly maintained throughout the year by the London Borough of Harrow. Cost Nil.

Old Church

1. The safety wire system and personal protective equipment were serviced. Cost £418.80.
2. A new plastic memorial plaque to commemorate the stabilisation works undertaken in the 1990s was fitted. The original metal plaque was stolen in late 2018. Cost £230 including fitting.

3. Following a break in, a repair was made to the metal gate at the bottom of the tower and a new grille was fitted to one of the north window frames. Cost £72.98. The damaged brickwork was repaired for free.

Church House

1. A fluorescent light fitting was replaced in the Micklem Hall. Cost £168.89.
2. A new programming clock for the Micklem Hall electrical heating system was fitted. Cost £165.29.
3. The leaves were cleared from the gutters and downpipes checked. Cost £123.
4. An additional downpipe was fitted to the section of guttering that joins the kitchen with Church House Cottage. Cristian Tomoiaga kindly did this work for free and supplied the materials.
5. Two grab rails were fitted in the toilets. Cost £93.67.
6. Darina Scott kindly repaired the four altar rail kneelers by adding new foam. Cost £73.30.
7. PAT Testing of 65 appliances was undertaken. Cost £125.68.
8. A small hole underneath the kitchen door which leads to the shed was closed up to prevent access by mice. Cost £45.
9. The self-closing mechanism on the ladies' toilet was repaired. Cost £30.
10. Several damaged floor tiles in the Micklem Hall were replaced. Cost £275.64. The cost included purchasing a quantity of new tiles – several are held as spares for future use when required.
11. The annual asbestos test was undertaken and the register updated. Cost Nil.
12. The fire extinguishers (and fire blankets) were serviced. Two new fire blankets were purchased. Cost £143.50.
13. The gas-fired boiler and cooker were serviced and safety tested. Cost £90. The smoke and carbon monoxide detectors were also checked.
14. Two small panes of glass were replaced in the Wolstenholme Hall windows. Cost £90.
15. The Wolstenholme Hall heaters (x 7) were cleaned and serviced. Cost Nil (thanks to Gary Banger for arranging). Three new fans have been purchased. Cost £391.04. Two fans were fitted to replace ones that were not working, the third fan is being retained as a spare. Mr. Banger did not charge for this work. Mr. Banger has also purchased new grille covers which are in the process of being fitted. Cost £102.94. There will be some left over as spares.
16. A test for legionella was undertaken. Cost £49.50.
17. New signage was purchased for Church House including a hanging sign. Cost £135.54.
18. Church House electric heaters (x 3) replaced with safer oil heaters. Cost £109.98. A new office chair was purchased. Cost £95.97.
19. A section of the double gates was repainted after a vehicle caused some minor damage. Cost of the special paint was £76.49.
20. A leaking pipe was repaired in the gents toilet. Cost NIL.

Church Field

1. Some deadwood was removed from an ash tree (southern boundary close to Tudor Well Close). Cost £240.

Church House Cottage

1. The boiler was serviced under a British Gas plan.
2. The property was completely refurbished at a cost of £8,748.15 as follows:

- New kitchen
- Rewiring
- Fitting wired-in smoke detectors
- Purchase of a new battery-operated carbon monoxide detector
- New carpets
- Various plumbing works (including a radiator being fitted upstairs).

These works cost £8,748.15. The PCC recorded its thanks to Cristian Tomoiaga for managing this project which took over a month to complete.

In addition, the property was professionally cleaned (cost £30) and a welcome hamper and flowers purchased (cost £50) ahead of Jonny and Jenna Rapson moving in. Nick Jones, a member of the choir, kindly cleaned the windows for free.

3. To repair a problem with the shower, new strainers were fitted along with a flow restrictor on main water pipe and new mixer taps. Cost £175.
4. To repair a problem with the heating system, a new three-port motorised valve and cylinder thermostat were replaced. Cost £404.66

Holland Lodge

1. The boiler was serviced under a British Gas plan.
2. The leaves were cleared from the gutters and downpipes checked. Cost £123.
3. Two extractor fans were fitted (bathroom and in a small vestibule) to improve ventilation and reduce condensation. Cost £280.
4. A new fuse board was fitted and an electrical test of the installation was undertaken. Cost £324.
5. The tenancy was renewed for a further 24 months until 30th November 2021 at the same rent (£850pcm).

The Chase

1. The boiler was serviced under a British Gas plan.
2. A new washing machine was purchased. Cost £229.
3. The flushing mechanism in the bathroom toilet was replaced. Cost £95.

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. Four quotations have now been obtained as follows:
 - a) Cousans Organs Limited - £105,000 (November 2017)
 - b) Nicholson & Company - £193,100 (February 2018)
 - c) B.C. Shepherd & Sons - £225,000 (June 2018)
 - d) Bishop & Son - £116,340 (June 2019)

All quotations are net of VAT
 We would be able to claim VAT back
 The dates relate to when the quotation was issued

During the year Bishop & Son were appointed as our organ tuner in succession to Cousans Organs Limited. Bishops have knowledge of Rothwell organs and successfully overhauled the organ at St George's Headstone within the past few years. They proposed undertaking the most urgent works on a modular basis which seemed very sensible. Accordingly, they spent an entire day in March 2019 servicing and turning the organ and managed to remedy a number of historical faults. They charged only £360 (incl. VAT) for this work. Bishops returned in October and re-leathered the swell organ power motors and cleaned/re-dressed the swell note pallets. This work cost £2,472 (incl. VAT). Philip Rees, our Director of Music, has commented that "...the organ is working better now than it has done for many years." It is hoped to undertake some other works in 2020. Bishops have said that these modular works will reduce the cost of the overhaul as they have not been undertaken in vain. There is a designated fund of £21,224 set aside for the organ works. Most of this money came from labours of the Fundraising Committee for which many thanks. It is not being spent currently as it may be possible to apply for some grant funding that will need to be matched.

- Disabled Access: A significant amount of work was undertaken in 2019 to progress the exploration to introduce disabled access/facilities in the church. With the assistance of a Fundraiser, the following grants were secured:
 - £966 from the City Bridges Trust to pay for an Accessibility Audit
 - £2,800 Gateway Grant from the National Churches Trust to pay for the cost of a Feasibility Study (RIBA Stage 1). We have to match fund and £3,000 has been accrued for this purpose.

A meeting has been booked for 10th January 2020 with Daniel Benson, the architect who has been appointed to undertake this work.

The Diocese of London kindly agreed to cover 50% of the cost of the Fundraiser. We paid the Fundraiser £525 for her work to secure the Accessibility Audit grant, and £420 to secure the Gateway Grant.

- Tower Stone: Some preparatory work was undertaken in 2018 to explore the likely cost of undertaking a significant project to repair/replace the damaged stone on the tower. This work will cost in excess of £100,000. There are other areas around the church which will need attention and it seems sensible for them to be done at the same time if possible. This project was paused in 2019 to enable the progression of the provision of disabled access which is the greater priority.
- Church Heating: The existing oil-fired system continues to work satisfactorily. It is desirable to replace this system but this it will need to remain a medium-term project.

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 2019. 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 Gary Banger, David Godsen and Cristian Tomoiaga who have given their time for free.

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 Election of 4 Deanery Synod Representatives to serve 2020/2023

6.2 Election of 4 PCC Members to serve 2020/2023

6.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2020/2021

7. Group Reports

7.1 Bereavement Visiting Team

Our team of Bereavement Visitors has had the privilege of meeting 11 newly bereaved people this year. As there have been fewer funerals this year all our visiting has taken place with those requesting assistance from the Bereavement Care Office (BC).

Each client is first assessed by an experienced visitor within Bereavement Care and then passed on to the visiting team in their locality. Visiting continues, as with all our clients in confidence, for as long as they require us and in some cases, quite frequently at the beginning.

The visiting group meet every few weeks to share our experiences and support one another in what can 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. From time to time we have accessed the resources of the BC Honorary Consultant Supervisor for difficult situations we may have to deal with. 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 £200 cost of membership to the parish has not risen since the charity was instigated. However, 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.

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 informal 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 out 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, 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
Group Leader

7.2 Café St Jean

Every Sunday morning, after the 9.30 service, members of the congregation can be sure of finding a hot or cold drink, plus biscuits (and sometimes other goodies!) and a warm welcome at our pop-up Café in Church House. The bright red check tablecloths encourage the French theme and the relaxed atmosphere and generally around 50 – 60 people are served each Sunday. Sometimes, members of the congregation like to mark events such as birthdays and anniversaries by providing cakes and pastries plus maybe a glass of fizz!

We currently have 20 very loyal and committed church members maintaining our Café rota plus those dedicated folk who put out the chairs and tables each week. Without these people we would not have a Café with all its benefits and I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to them all on behalf of myself as Co-ordinator and the whole church congregation.

Point of interest: Both the Welcome Team and Café St. Jean were launched in October 2006. The suggested donation then of 50p for a drink and a biscuit has remained unchanged!!

Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby (Co-ordinator)

7.3 Churchyard Gardeners

A few of the 500 tulips, planted in 2018, escaped the squirrels and flowered in the spring. Unfortunately, since the tulips are short, many were hidden by the foliage of other bulbs and so not obvious.

The new crocus bulbs planted last year to supplement those on the cross on the grass at the east end of the churchyard produced very few extra flowers this year – just leaves!

The roses were fed twice (March and July) and given farm manure in late autumn. Several more supports for the standard roses were replaced by Bill Wyon. From June to December the roses were deadheaded and finally pruned to stop them flowering and give them a rest. In November, two new standard roses were planted by Bill and me to replace some which had previously died. These roses, 'The Lady of Shallot' (orange) and 'Princess Anne' (pink), were kindly donated by Michael Carmody in celebration of his 80th birthday.

The long borders were planted by Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby and me with Geraniums and Cosmos. The Cosmos did not last all summer but the Geraniums did better.

Stewart Low made a start on weeding the graves on the north side of the churchyard and Patrick Hill helped weed some of the graves on the south side. Rosemary continued to weed graves on the west of the path to the gate.

At the end of the year, our Fuchsias were again attacked by Fuchsia Gall Mite causing blistering of the leaves and flowers. The stems have been cut the ground to try to prevent the mite from overwintering on the bark.

Thanks again to Rob and Steve from the London Borough of Harrow for keeping our churchyard neat and tidy by cutting the grass and hedges regularly and collecting the leaves. This has done been done free of charge since 2016 ever since our churchyard was formally closed to new burials.

Finally, many thanks to Matthew and Peter for continuing to pick up the litter from the churchyard and surroundings.

Carole White

7.4 Engage

Our monthly contemporary service, which began in 2017, continues to play an important part in our church life. It has a dedicated attendance, as well as welcoming some who come occasionally when a particular speaker interests them. We are grateful to all members of the band, some of whom attend other churches in the mornings, for their unstinting commitment to sharing their musical talent and leading great worship.

The speakers are invited to choose their own themes, bringing whatever they feel is on their hearts for us to hear. Last year we enjoyed hearing from:

MONTH	SPEAKER	THEME
January	The Revd Philip Barnes Vicar, St Stephen's Gloucester Road	Living the Gospel: the Call of the Baptised.
February	The Revd Kate Tuckett Vicar, St Alban's, North Harrow	Doubt
March	Chris Tapp Pastor, Stanmore Chapel	The Scandal of Grace
April	The Revd Alison Christian	Journeying through Holy Week
May	Ruth Dowsett St Paul's, South Harrow	Pursuing God
June	The Revd Richard Young Vicar, St Matthew's, Yiewsley, and Area Dean of Hillingdon	Being Transformed by the Spirit of Love
July	Fr. Michael Munnely Parish Priest, St William of York RC Church, Stanmore	Coming Second
September	The Revd Rod Green Vicar, St Peter's, West Harrow	Prophecy and Justice
October	Mary Rimmer Christchurch, Barnet	Mind the Gap (between knowing God's promises and believing them).
November	The Revd Barry Hingston Vicar, St John's, Greenhill	Church?? What's that for?
December	Becky Stone	Prepare our Hearts 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. The United Advent Service, which was this year held at Stanmore Baptist Church, attracted over 100 people from across the Stanmore Churches and, along with the continued success of the Good Friday service, has inspired an attempt to do a joint summer service in 2020, possibly in a park: watch this space!

If you haven't yet tried an Engage service, do come along and see what it's like!

Becky Stone

7.5 Firm Foundation

Firm Foundation's 2019 Winter Night Shelter was a great success. We had just over 50 people from the congregation donate food, prepare meals, serve and socialise. This is not including all the people who donated money. We raised a staggering £2,322.50 across the year to support the work of this charity.

On the nights we attended the shelter, we had on average 17 guests (12 men and 5 women) who needed to be fed. The weather was really wet and most arrived soaked through. It was truly a privilege to serve, eat and chat to the guests and hear the stories of those who chose to share. It is always disappointing to see some of the guests returning for another year, but also great to hear of those we had met who have had a positive outcome and are now no longer rough sleeping.

At our Christmas Day service we asked the congregation to donate pants, socks and toiletries to be used at Firm Foundation's drop-in service and also at the shelter where shower facilities are available. Again, this was something that the congregation embraced, and I was happy and proud to be able to deliver six big bags full to Brigade House, Firm Foundation's HQ.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of you on behalf of St John's and Firm Foundation for supporting this incredible cause.

Jane Prentice

7.6 Flowers

Throughout 2019 the team of flower arrangers continued to ensure there were two pedestals of flowers in church each week and special decorations at all the Festivals. Once again there was a splendid Christmas tree outside. It was encouraging to know that people appreciated our efforts. Donations to the flower fund for altar flowers continued to flow in, with several people contributing for the first time which was pleasing.

We were very glad to welcome one new person to our team during the year. Filling the weekly rota for arranging the flowers continued to be difficult and only possible through the willingness and generosity of time given by the small team. Please let us know if you could help sometimes.

Sheila Oliver

7.7a Great Stanmore Bell Ringers

Sunday service ringing was maintained throughout 2019 with only a couple of exceptions.

During the year five visiting bands of ringers came to ring our bells, making useful contributions to our tower funds (these funds pay for day-to-day maintenance of the bells).

Our own annual weekend ringing outing in September took us to Cambridgeshire. For a second time we stayed at the "Old Red Lion" in Horseheath, near Linton. Our first tower on the Saturday morning was Duxford, where we were honoured with a flypast of Spitfires and Hurricanes – it was the Duxford Air Show weekend! Other towers visited were Pampisford, Sawston, Great and Little Shelford, and Trumpington. It was a very successful occasion organised by former Great Stanmore ringers Sue and Charlotte Ellis.

During 2019 Great Stanmore tower hosted two ringing workshops organized by the Middlesex County Association & London Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers and one ringing meeting of the Hertford County Association of Change-Ringers, Watford District.

We rang for only one wedding during the year – a sign of the times. At the year-end we found ourselves very short of ringers. Two recruits are in training, but more are needed in order to maintain Sunday service ringing. Anyone interested in learning to ring (or to see how the bells are rung) is very welcome to come up the tower on a Thursday evening just after 8pm. After the practice we adjourn to "The Hare" at Harrow Weald.

Peter Scott
Master and Steeple Keeper

7.7b St John's Bell Ringers – Great Stanmore Financial Accounts

HSBC current account statement 2019:

Brought forward from 2018	£340-90
Add excess income	£ 23-34
	<u>£364-24</u>

HSBC savings account statement 2019:

Brought forward from 2018	£63-59
Add excess income	£ 0-12
	<u>£63-71</u>

Peter Scott
Treasurer

7.8 Home Groups

During the course of 2019 we had five groups meeting regularly, but sadly the group led by Pat Stevens and hosted by Edit Rees had to cease when Pat became unwell. New members are always welcome, please speak to the group leader.

Tuesday Groups

The Home Group that I lead has met at Pat's home in Cherchefelle for a number of years and we are very grateful to Pat for her hospitality. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. From January to June in 2019 we continued our study of the Book of Revelation which was quite hard going but interesting. During Lent we made a study of 'The Screwtape Letters' by C.S. Lewis which we enjoyed very much. Two additional people joined the group for this period. In September 2019, we began looking at the Acts of the Apostles with nine people in the group. As most of us have not studied this book of the New Testament since our schooldays, we are enjoying learning about the very early church and how it diverged from Judaism. Our discussions are wide-ranging and sometimes controversial but always lively. Everyone contributes.

Frances Westcott

We have had an interesting and varied year in our Home Group: we started the year using some chapters from a book called 'We Make The Road By Walking', which explores a wide variety of passages and themes following the church year. Our Lent course was called 'The Long Road to Heaven' and was based on the film 'The Way' about walking The Camino Way, the ancient pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela. Over the summer we studied a book by Pete Greig called 'God on Mute' about unanswered prayer. We found this course very challenging. We finished the year by taking a look at the opening chapters of the book of Romans and considering the meaning of the righteousness which comes through grace. We have welcomed a number of new members this year and are always open to anyone who would like to join us.

Jane Prentice

Wednesday Groups

The Wolstenholme Study Group continues to meet on a monthly basis in the sitting room at Wolstenholme. We are grateful to Helen Astar and Peggy Walters for their hospitality. Since Jonny's arrival, the two of us take it in turns to lead the group. We tend to pick sessions randomly which are sometimes linked to the church's year. There are usually seven of us attending regularly. It has been great to welcome Jonny to our group.

Matthew Stone

During the year the Home Group that Jackie and I host has continued its adventure through the Gospel According to Matthew, both the well-known and understood passages as well as the more obscure ones. Both have been enlightening though the latter has required some more thoughtful prayer. The group found its way with some mental gymnastics and lateral thinking and has been greatly blessed with fresh ideas, new expressions, a reinforcement of faithful reading and a daring to explore long held assumptions. It has all shown that a critical explanation or interpretation of scripture is not for the few but for all who seek a closer relationship with God.

The Revd Canon Ken Peters

7.9 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 15. 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 child friendly way.

Splash – (Pre-school to Year 2)

The younger children take part in story sessions, art and craft, prayer, games and singing.

Xstream – (Year 3 to Year 6)

These children take part in singing, bible reading, prayer, stories and games.

The Grid – (Year 7 and above)

The older children meet on the 2nd and 4th 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. We have also played our instruments at various Church services and we look forward to doing so again. Junior Church 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
Commissioned Children's Minister

7.10 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 Church 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.

Edit Rees

7.11 Music

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

Our choir 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. We have, unfortunately, lost two loyal members of our choir this year. John Albin has moved to Canterbury and has joined his church choir there. We also remember our dear friend, Pat Stevens, who is now singing with the angels as she rejoices with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light.

We will always welcome some new singers. 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 this is even better. An informal chat will not result in any commitment, I promise!

We also have a group of singers and musicians who lead the singing at our all age services, and we have our monthly 'Engage' evening service, which has a worship band, offering a different style of worship and music for those who prefer this.

Our Junior Choir do not sing Sunday by Sunday with the adult choir because a lot of them attend other churches, but they again joined in with our Christmas carol service this year.

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

Regarding the organ, I am very pleased to inform you that, following my last 5-or-so years of reporting 'doom and gloom' about an ever-increasing number of faults with the organ costing c. £100,000 to fix, there has been a significant and positive development. The pivotal point was when I contacted the vicar of St George, Headstone, as they have a very similar organ console to ours. He recommended a NW London-based organ builder, Bishop and Son, who came and spent a whole day to assess the organ. They fixed a large number of the existing faults for a relatively small amount of money and, unlike the other organ builders recommended to us by the Diocesan Organ Advisors, they did not just look at the organ and advise an expensive repair, they fixed a large number of faults within their 'initial

investigation' charge and, most significantly, they suggested a modular approach to repairs, fixing the most urgent repairs first, then doing other repairs in due course, and thereby spreading the work and the cost over many years. Having fixed a large number of faults on their first visit, they later repaired what was by far the most urgent of repairs, fixing a number of notes that did not work, for about £2,000. This has made the organ much more playable.

I must record my gratitude to Lydia for suggesting the hymns month by month and to Matthew and Jonny for their 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

7.12 New Wine

New Wine this year had moved to its new venue in Peterborough having outgrown the show ground in Shepton Mallet. New Wine now attracts 24,000 delegates over the two weeks. There were a few teething problems in the new venue which were not helped by the weather conditions. The first two days it rained in what can only be described as Biblical proportions! People were quite literally bailing the water out of their tents with bowls and buckets! High winds then saw tents blowing away in what can only be described as a scene from the Wizard of Oz! Then came the mud! Day three the sun came out and we were able to BBQ (in the mud) then all got sunburnt!

Despite all of this it was again the most incredible week. Spirit filled and for some life changing. The workshops, the talks and of course the worship was just awesome. To praise God in one of the arenas with 6,000 other Christians singing our hearts out, praying together and over one another always takes ones breath away.

Most of us had already re-booked for 2020 before we had even left and are very excited to see what another year brings. Our contingent from St John's will grow to 24. Anyone interested in finding out more about New Wine please speak to myself or Becky.

Jane Prentice

7.13a Old Church Working Group

The Old Church Working Group did not meet in 2019. The dream of reinstating the ruin as a community facility has not been progressed further owing to a lack of funds to cover the cost of the Options Appraisal (c. £25,000) required to take this forward.

During the year:

1. the safety harness located within the tower was serviced and tested.
2. the Old Church suffered two break ins which were reported to the police.
3. The Old Church was opened once each month between April and September with stewards available to assist visitors.

4. Children from two local primary schools visited in June and art students from Stanmore College visited in November.
5. The risk assessment was reviewed.

Matthew Stone

7.13b Great Stanmore Old Church Consolidation Fund

Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 31st December 2019

	£
<u>Income</u>	
Donations, Sales and Interest	118.30
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Fees/supplies	<u>0.00</u>
	£118.30

Balance Sheet

Bank Balance Total 31st December 2019

Barclays Bank	<u>£4,761.78</u>
<u>Fund Balance 31st December 2018</u>	4,643.48
Plus surplus for year	118.30
Fund Balance 31 st December 2019	<u>£4,761.78</u>

**Ian Mackie MBE
Hon. Treasurer**

7.14 Parish Visitors

During the year we have been able to visit a number of people in their homes, 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

7.15 Peace, Justice, Environment and Energy

Members of St John's attended the borough's Holocaust Memorial event in January, and a Peace in Israel meeting at JW3 in July.

St John's has continued to monitor its energy consumption each quarter during 2019, is regularly recycling its waste, and took part in a Keep Britain Tidy litter-pick in April.

We joined in Unlock's walk in April, which was held in Morden and Merton. This walk is ecumenical and visits churches of many different traditions and ages and included a branch of the YMCA.

Mick Oliver

7.16 Prayer Ministry Team

Private prayer is offered every Sunday morning at the 9.30am Parish Communion (or All-Age Service). Two members of our team of eight 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

7.17 St John's Church of England School

We are very fortunate to have a Church of England School within the parish and continue to enjoy an effective partnership. A number of children attend both the church and school; two members of the congregation are employed by the school as Teaching Assistants.

This report is largely written from the perspective of governance as the PCC has the responsibility of electing two governors to serve on the Governing Board, each for a term of four years. Our current PCC appointed governors are Paul Harris (re-appointed for a second term in 2019) and Karen Omisore (appointed in 2017). Other church members serve as governors including Jill Medcalf and Graham Nicholson who were elected respectively by the London Diocesan Board for Schools and Deanery Synod. The Rector is automatically a Governor by virtue of office.

During the 2018/2019 school year, the Governing Board met during the evening on five occasions (twice each term apart from the summer term). The Admissions Committee met twice, the Staffing Committee and Finance & Premises Committee each met three times and the Standards & Achievement Committee met four times. All committees meet during the school day.

The Headteacher's Performance Management Committee met twice, and the Pay & Review Committee met once. 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 although it was not necessary to do this across 2018/2019. The Rector, in his current capacity of Chair of Governors, met the Headteacher regularly. The Governing Board and all committees 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 regularly 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. It is pleasing to report that the 2019 Key Stage SATS results were much improved on 2018 and above national averages. All other results (Early Years and Key Stage 1) were also good.

Governors are expected to undertake training to fulfil their role and enhance their contribution. During 2018/2019 various courses were offered to governors including

induction training. Courses are run by the Local Authority and the London Diocesan Board for Schools.

One significant event that took place was a routine visit from Ofsted in January 2019. The key lines of enquiry focused on:

1. The progress made by disadvantaged pupils in Key Stage 2 in reading and writing.
2. Pupils' achievement in mathematics where 2018 Key Stage 2 results were weakest.
3. The school's work to promote the attendance of disadvantaged pupils.

After a very thorough inspection the school was judged to be GOOD which is worthy of much praise and recognition. The inspector said of the school:

"The school is a welcoming, vibrant and nurturing place for pupils to learn and thrive. You invest heavily in fostering the well-being of staff; the staff questionnaire was overwhelmingly positive about the support they receive. You also recognise that pupils' personal development is at the heart of academic success. Pupils have access to counselling, one-to-one mentoring and play therapy. Almost all parents are appreciative of the school's work, as reflected in the Parent View online questionnaire."

Do have a look at the report: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50054676>

Letters of congratulations were sent to the school by the London Borough of Harrow's Cooperate Director – People Services, the Bishop of Willesden and the Churchwardens on behalf of the PCC.

Across the 2019/2020 school year the following areas were identified in the School Improvement Plan:

- Continue to further develop the curriculum in light of the new Ofsted framework.
- Continue to embed the maths curriculum to ensure mastery opportunities and accelerated progress for Pupil Premium children.
- Develop Writing skills across the school to ensure outcomes are in line with reading and maths.
- Continue to develop Reading across the school with particular emphasis on improving reading for those pupils with SEN.
- Further develop RE provision in line with the new SIAMS framework ahead of the 2020 inspection where the school is aiming for the highest grade!

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 2018/2019 meant that the year-end outturn resulted in a positive balance. There is, however, an ongoing concern over future funding which is exacerbated because of fewer pupils on the school roll – a concern which is shared by all local schools.

Aside from governance, the church benefits from the partnership with the school in different ways including: the Music Teacher leading the worship band at our monthly Engage Service, the Headteacher is a Trustee of the Stanmore Charities, the children write prayers for the Parish Magazine and some of their work is on display in church.

The school allowed the 2019 confirmation classes to be held in one of the classrooms on a Monday afternoon. Ian Mackie MBE, Andrea Nicholson and Becky Stone visit the school each week to help the children with their reading. Ian continues to support the school with

the KS2 termly Eucharists. Becky leads the Parents' Prayer Group which meets twice each term.

At the end of 2019, Jill Medcalf stepped down as a governor as she will be moving to Devon. Jill has been an outstanding governor and will be much missed.

It was another busy year!

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

7.18 Safeguarding

Painful stories of past cases of abuse continue to be reported in the press, which has brought shame on many organisations including the Church of England. Some of the cases are historical and occurred at a time when there were no safeguarding measures in place but, in more recent cases, abuse has occurred because of a failure to implement and monitor new policies and procedures introduced by organisations designed to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe.

Each PCC is charged with the responsibility of making sure the work with children, young people and vulnerable adults in their church is undertaken strictly in line with the prevailing Church of England guidelines. They require PCCs to have 'safeguarding' as a substantive item on each agenda to ensure this critical area of its life remains a top priority. We have been doing this since September 2014.

At St John's we provide groups for children and young people, but there are no groups organised specifically for vulnerable adults. We have, however, appointed Sheila Oliver as our Vulnerable Adults Champion who keeps a watching brief and would communicate any concerns that arise.

Safer Recruitment

We do not permit 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 written references are always obtained. A self-declaration form is also completed.

Once the DBS check has been issued, applicants undertake the Diocese of London's online safeguarding training and the pass certificate is handed to Beverley McKeon. PCC Members are required to complete this training as well. Applicants are then asked to sign a Declaration on Safeguarding and Volunteer Agreement. These are updated annually.

A robust system is in place to ensure that DBS checks are renewed every five years which is in line with the Diocese of London's policy. During 2019 two new DBS checks were obtained and three rechecks were undertaken.

During 2019 the PCC:

1. Implemented a new national requirement from the House of Bishops to introduce a page to the church website displaying:
 - the formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement'

- contact details of our Safeguarding Team and Churchwardens
 - names and telephone numbers of organisations which can offer help to victims
 - links to the safeguarding pages on the Diocese of London and Church of England websites
2. An internal audit of our safeguarding procedures was undertaken by Mark Lynch using the Diocese of London's template.
 3. Reviewed the Diocese of London's Safeguarding Policy.
 4. Reviewed the Church of England's Parish Safeguarding Handbook.
 5. Re-adopted the Safeguarding Policy Statement (which is on display in the Church and Church House).
 6. Re-appointed Mark Lynch and Louise Gregory as Parish Safeguarding Officers.
 7. Re-appointed Sue Wright as Children's Champion.
 8. Re-appointed Karen Stirrup and Matthew Stone as Evidence Checkers.
 9. Re-appointed Matthew Stone as the Lead Recruiter.
 10. Appointed Sheila Oliver as the Vulnerable Adults Champion.
 11. 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.
 12. Requested all new PCC Members undertake the online safeguarding training.
 13. Passed a resolution to delegate the reporting of Serious Safeguarding Incidents to the Diocesan General Secretary. The PCC also resolved that they should continue to report Non-Safeguarding Serious Incidents (eg finance related) Directly to the Charity Commission. This followed guidance issued by the Charity Commission and House of Bishops.
 14. Reviewed the Role Descriptions for Bereavement Visitors, Commissioned Children's Minister, Director of Music, Holiday Club, Junior Choir, Junior Church, Little Fishers Parent & Toddler Group and Youth Group.
 15. Renewed the Declarations on Safeguarding and Volunteer Agreements for the Director of Music, Junior Choir, Junior Church, Little Fishers and the Youth Group.
 16. Reviewed the Group Risk Assessments for Junior Church (incl. crossing Old Church Lane), Little Fishers, the Youth Group, Special Services (where more than 150 people attend) and St John's School Services.
 17. Undertook a Past Cases Review in response to a letter all parishes had received from the Bishops of London and Willesden (nil return to the Diocese of London).
 18. 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.
 19. Updated the General and Fire Risk Assessments for the Church and Church House.
 20. Updated the Health & Safety Policy.
 21. Louise Gregory attended two Safeguarding Courses with North London Hospice (July and September).
 22. Mark Lynch attended National Association for People Abused in Childhood training organised by the Diocese of London (November).

23. Sue Wright has attended training on self-neglect and also dementia – both to do with her work with vulnerable adults within the Social Services adults’ team for the London Borough of Harrow.

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.

Matthew Stone

7.19 Social Committee

We started our year with our pre-Lent Lunch. We served choice of two soups with crunchy bread. This was followed by pancakes and fruit salad. Always popular. On 30th June had a welcome celebration for Jonny and Jenna. We had cakes and Prosecco. We followed this with the Battle of Britain Service, on 15th September, when we served refreshments after the 11am Service. Many people attended this service including the Mayor, Representative Deputy-Lieutenant and many other dignitaries.

On the 6th October we had our Harvest Lunch. We served a Ploughman’s Lunch. This was followed by homemade Apple Crumble and Eton Mess, tea and coffee. All seemed to enjoy themselves, once again. On 3rd November we had the annual Bereavement Service after which we served tea and biscuits for the families and friends.

On 8th December we had the Confirmation Service. Families and friends joined us in Church House for wine and cakes after the Service.

Last of the season, we had our Carol Service. Tea and biscuits were served to the choir prior to the evening Service. This was followed by Mulled Wine and mince pies after the Service.

I would like to thank our team, once again, especially Tracy for all her work. Lastly our band of volunteers who helped with washing up, etc.

Marianne Wright

7.20 Tea & Chat

Tea & Chat continued to meet weekly on Tuesday afternoons throughout 2019.

Early in the year we were entertained one afternoon by the Tree Bridge Troupe – a friendly group of singers accompanied by an excellent guitarist (ex lead guitar with the Shadows!). We enjoyed their programme so much that we invited them again in September.

We also had a return visit from Tony Eaton who gave a fascinating, detailed talk this time on the mystery surrounding the deaths of Amy Johnson and Leslie Howard. Another time we had a lively speaker on ‘Memories of the East End’.

A representative from the charity Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) gave an informative talk about their work in remote corners of the world. Arising from this, to contribute to their fundraising, we took on one of their boxes to collect used & unused postcards. We had an enthusiastic response from various sources and our first box was soon filled.

We arranged two Fish & Chip lunches during the year and the usual Strawberry Tea in June and all these events were very well supported.

The children from Aylward Primary School made their annual visit to sing and show their work of which they were rightly proud. We were fortunate to have St John's School 'Sing Up' club at the final December meeting to provide a Christmas event for us with their cheerful presence and lovely singing. Warm mince pies completed the occasion.

Alongside all these activities, we sometimes challenged ourselves with quizzes or Beetle. It was good to welcome Jonny and get to know him when he is able to spend time with the group.

Accident and illness has kept one or two people away for a while but the tea and the chat have continued to flow, and there is always a warm welcome each week to anyone who comes.

Sylvia Daniels and Sheila Oliver

7.21 Welcome at St John's

As ever, rain or shine, two members of the Welcome Team are always there at the South Door to greet folk attending the 9.30am Parish Communion, a Welcome Pack for any newcomers at the ready! People often comment on the friendly atmosphere of St John's and on how people go out of their way to ensure folk new to our church are quickly made to feel part of our community.

There are currently ten church members committed to being on the rota and I would like to encourage more people to join our friendly team. It is a good way to get to know our church family!

On behalf of the whole congregation, I would like to thank all the Welcomers for their continued loyalty and commitment. In particular, grateful thanks to Gemma Sutherland for all her help on the 3rd Sunday of the month over several years. We are delighted that Mark Johnson has re-joined the team following his return from New Zealand. Mark will be taking Gemma's place on the rota.

Rosemary Mackenzie-Corby

7.22 Youth Group

Our Youth Group numbers remain steady and we have welcomed some new young people over the past year. We have fifteen members with between eight and twelve attending regularly. We try and meet monthly and always provide activities which are fun including: trampolining, laser tag and ten pin bowling in Watford. We sometimes meet at The Rectory and in July enjoyed a BBQ (Louise Gregory was an excellent chef!). In November we attended the fireworks at Harrow RFC. In December we arranged a Christmas party at The Rectory.

Daniel McKeon

8. Assistant Curate's Review

Over a year ago we were tentatively exploring coming to St John's for my curacy. Not knowing a huge amount about the Church or congregation, this always felt like a big step on the journey of ministry. However, over the past six months, we have felt incredibly welcomed into this worshipping community and I find myself increasingly grateful for being able to serve my title post at St John's. Jenna and I have felt so incredibly welcomed by everyone and this makes settling into a new community so much easier. In a very good way, we feel like we have been here longer than six months, simply because of how at home we feel here!

Yet it seems to me that St John's is more than just a warm welcome. From what I have observed, there is such a commitment to God and the mission of the Church. The church's mission works in many different ways, from outreach groups like Little Fishers and Tea & Chat, to the essential behind the scenes work like setting up for services and flower arranging. All stems from a love of Jesus that encourages us to do what we can, in our own way, to contribute to the mission of God within the community of St John's.

As part of being a curate, there are a lot of first-time events. I find myself constantly doing things that feel out of my comfort zone. From all-age services to funerals, I am grateful to everyone for their patience and encouragement as I try (and sometimes fail!) to get these things right. I am very blessed to be richly encouraged by everyone which gives me the confidence to try new things in the future. It is a joy to be a curate in a place that is so committed to building others up and celebrating everyone's gifts and talents.

During the process of ordination, I was asked to articulate why I felt called to ministry in the Church of England. My answer was that the Church of England has a breadth of traditions that allows there to be a worshipping community for everyone. I think St John's truly captures the heart of what the Church of England is about by offering a range of services to enable as many people as possible to engage with God. It means that no week is the same at St John's which is one of the many reasons I love being the curate here. Being involved with everything from Evensong to Engage is a joy and I am glad that St John's incorporates the different traditions across the Church of England.

And then there was Christmas! It was an amazing first Christmas full of celebration and times of worship. We welcomed hundreds of people through the church doors over Christmas to tell them about the story of God with us. I observed how passionately St John's puts their heart and soul into bringing these services into fruition so that we may share the hope that Jesus brings into our lives. Although Christmas was four months ago,

the passion to serve others does not waver at St John's. I am proud to be a part of a community that deeply loves Jesus and does all they can to serve him in a myriad of different ways. I hope and pray this love continues to grow and expand further into Stanmore and beyond in the coming years.

The Revd Jonny Rapson

9. Rector's Review

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is a great opportunity to look back and reflect on all that took place in and through St John's Church in 2019. Having read the various group reports and studied the accounts, it is pleasing to see in writing my ongoing feeling that we continue to be an active church with a dynamic congregation. We do rather a lot, both spiritually and socially, as we grow together and support one another as a church family. We are also an outward looking church, willing to engage with the local community and wider borough as we seek to live out our faith in word and deed. In this way we live by the early church model of Acts 2:42 *"they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers"* and also the message in James who tells us to *"...be doers of the word, and not merely hearers"* (James 1:22).

Much has happened that is good and for which we give thanks to God. I have been aware of his providence during the challenges of erroneous business rates and the difficult decision we had to make to evict tenants from Church House Cottage. The words of Joshua 1:9 have been a source of constant encouragement: *"Be strong and courageous...for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

We continue to offer a range of services each week and most Sundays there are four or five to choose from. We have welcomed a number of new adults and children who have joined our 9.30am congregation and seen Engage, our contemporary evening service, go from strength to strength with its average congregation being 30-40 people.

It is not just what we do on Sundays that matters, however! We have provided opportunities for study through our four Home Groups (new members are always welcome!). Outreach is an essential part of our life together and much is achieved through Little Fishers Parent & Toddler Group and Tea & Chat. We continue to support Firm Foundation, the Harrow Homeless Charity, in financial and practical ways, as well making regular trips to deliver produce to the Harrow Foodbank. We have also supported a number of charities including: Bereavement Care, Capital Mass, Christian Aid, Diocese of London's 2019 Lent Appeal, Flyspec, the Children's Society, the Mission to Seafarers and Tearfund.

In addition to my priestly work, I continue to spend time engaging with the parish and beyond in a number of different ways. The current list includes:

1. Jointly lead the Wolstenholme Study Group
2. Chair of Stanmore Charities
3. Chair of Governors to St John's School
4. Padre to 2236 (Stanmore) ATC Squadron
5. Chair of Trustees to the Bernays Memorial Institute
6. Member of the Stanmore Park Metropolitan Ward Panel
7. Member of the Deanery Mission Team

8. Member of New Wine Leaders' Hub for North West London
9. Clergy Ministerial Development Review Consultant

As Rector, I remain very involved at St John's School where I give regular assemblies, and termly Eucharists for Years 3-6, on top of my fairly heavy governance responsibilities. I delivered termly assemblies to Aylward Primary School and enjoyed welcoming their Year 4s, as well as the Year 4s from Stanburn Primary School, to visit the church in the summer term. We have also welcomed some 240 Year 11 students from Bentley Wood High School to the church and had the important responsibility of teaching them about Christianity. Art students from Stanmore College have made use of the church and churchyard. Long may all of this continue.

A particular highlight of the year was the arrival in June of the newly ordained Jonny Rapson and his wife Jenna who have quickly become part of our community. It is a particular joy to work with Jonny and for us as a church to share in his training during his three years with us as Assistant Curate.

Our relationship with Stanmore Baptist Church, St William of York RC Church and Stanmore Chapel continue to flourish. Some of us pray with their clergy/ministers each month. We take part in the Good Friday Walk of Witness which begins at St William of York RC Church and end in St John's Church where we host a united service. In 2019 I preached at this service. This year Stanmore Baptist Church hosted the United Advent Service on Advent Sunday, with Jonny leading the band and Becky Stone preaching. It is great to worship God with friends from other denominations!

I am now in my final year of the MA in Christian Leadership and have a 15,000-word dissertation to write. I remain grateful to the PCC who have made a significant contribution towards the fees.

I am, as always, enormously grateful to the large number of people who work faithfully, tirelessly and often quietly in the background towards the mission, ministry and upkeep of our church. I would not be able to manage without you, huge thanks to you all.

Looking ahead, I pray that each of us, as members of St John's, will continue to take our faith seriously, give time to growing as Christians and make even more effort to attend church regularly. Life is so incredibly busy for all of us and the challenge is to make sure we put God at the centre of it. The Psalmist has advice for us all "*Be still and know that I am God*" (46:10) and "*For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him*" (62:5). Stillness and silence are hard to come by, but the reward of making space for them cannot be underestimated.

With my love and prayers

The Revd Matthew Stone

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**Ordination of Jonny Rapson (with his wife Jenna)
St Paul's Cathedral
29th June 2019**

