



Furzedown Team Ministry
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2019
for the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Monday 19th October 2020

20|20
VISION

ALL OF LIFE FOR CHRIST

empowering

ordinary people to live extraordinary lives

by

enabling

people to come to know Jesus as Saviour

and

equipping

people to live for Jesus as Lord

Visibility & Presence

Becoming more effective in enabling the people of Furzedown to know St James is here!

Welcome & Hospitality

Becoming more effective in enabling people to feel 'at home' in St James

Worship & Teaching

Becoming more effective in enabling people to encounter God in our services

Mission & Evangelism

Becoming more effective in enabling people to explore the Gospel & become whole-life followers of Jesus

Nurture & Discipleship

Becoming more effective in enabling people to grow in faith and to live out the Gospel in everyday life

Children & Youth

Becoming more effective in enabling children & young people to know Jesus and to live for Him

Leadership & Governance

Becoming more effective in ensuring that our leadership & governance enables the vision to become a reality

Buildings & Resources

Becoming more effective in resourcing the vision with finance, buildings, people & prayer

ALL OF LIFE FOR CHRIST

empowering | enabling | equipping

**Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Monday 19th October 2020**

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
2. Apologies, Minutes of 2019 APCM & Matters Arising
3. Election of Church Wardens
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Finance Report
 - Adoption of Annual Accounts to 31st December 2019
 - Appointment of Independent Examiners
6. Buildings and Fabric Report
7. Diocesan Synod Report & Deanery Synod Report
8. Elections
 - Deanery Synod: 4 members for a 3-year term
 - PCC: 4 members for a 3-year term & 2 members for an initial 2-year term
 - Deputy Wardens
 - Sidespersons
9. Any Questions?
10. Results of Elections
11. Any Other Business to be presented to the Chair before the start of the meeting.

Rectors Report

What a privilege it is to be Rector of St James. I love this church and count it a humble honour to live and serve among you. Thank you for your love, care, support and encouragement - I appreciate it so much and don't take it for granted.

2019 was a good year with much to encourage us. Highlights for me included our second Church Day Out to Latimer Minster; the ongoing integrated teaching programme for Sundays and Small Groups; and our burgeoning midweek outreach to children and families.

2020 promises to be an important year in so many ways, both locally and for the Church of England nationally.

Locally, the **Building for the Kingdom** project moves to its next stage as our architect, JBKS, start work on the feasibility study which will be so significant in shaping the rest of the project. **Furzedown Youth Centre (FYC)** is appointing a full time Outreach Worker to shape its work for the next few years, with a greater emphasis on bringing young people to faith in our local community and providing a style of church that appeals to them. Meanwhile, we have some important decisions to make with how we cater for our **church youth** as MLBC take their youth ministry in-house effectively ending our joint youth ministry. As our **midweek children's work** continues to grow, we face the challenge of how to secure its future with stretched resources. **The Well** provides such a warm and welcoming space for members of all ages, both from church and community. Again, resources are stretched, but we have an emerging vision to greatly extend this work to create a dedicated café-space with whole-week provision. In June we hold our first **Church Weekend Away** for many years as the culmination of a 3-year strategy which began with the two Church Days Out in 2018 & 2019. Our mission and ministry over the last 5 years has been shaped and directed by our **2020 Vision** document. This will receive a major review and overhaul in 2020, starting at the PCC+ Away Day to Holy Trinity Redhill in September. So, there is much to look forward to and many challenges to face locally for us in the year ahead.

Nationally it will be a significant year too. Over the last few years the Church of England has been conducting a wide and thorough exercise to discern how it should respond to changes in attitudes towards sexuality, gender and identity, both within the church and in society. '**Living in Love and Faith**' will reach an important stage this summer as the findings of the process so far are published in a book and a variety of learning resources. People will then be invited to engage with these resources for a year before the Bishops and General Synod make decisions on if and how the Church of England should change its doctrine, liturgy and pastoral practice for the future.

I can't overstate just how significant this moment is for us all - for the future of the Church of England and the nation as a whole, and of course for St James. There are different views on these issues, views represented here at St James. Some are praying that the Church of England will remain faithful to its tradition, that God created human beings distinctly male and female, and that sex is meant for marriage, defined as the union of a man and woman intended for life, whilst at the same time always offering an unconditional and warm welcome to everyone. Others passionately believe that the Church of England must change to accept the new understandings held by society and not to do so is to risk alienating people from the church and from God. The stakes are high. Our view of Scripture, God, Jesus, sin, salvation, the Church, discipleship, the glory of God and so much more is on the line, whichever way we turn. What is clear to me is that we now have two mutually exclusive and irreconcilable views on these issues in the Church of England and this simply can't be allowed to continue. The powers that

be simply must decide which way the Church will go and, as painful as it is, this may lead to a parting of the ways for some. Indeed, St James may have some challenging decisions to make in the next couple of years as the way forward emerges, so we need to be super prayerful in the coming months as the process moves to its next stage and beyond.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to all those who faithfully and sacrificially give of their time, money and gifts to serve our wonderful church and community. We are truly blessed to have you.

Soli Deo Gloria



MARCH 2020

POSTSCRIPT (October 2020)

The above report was written at the beginning of March 2020. So much has changed since then, with the Covid-19 pandemic and all its effects on our nation, our community, our families and our church. I could not have foreseen quite how different 2020 would turn out when I wrote my report and, as I write this postscript, we are still walking through the crisis with no certain end in sight.

So, we continue to pre-record Sunday services to broadcast online each week and invite those who cannot access them at home to join us in church to watch on the big screen. Most of our small groups are meeting 'virtually', but sadly our midweek children's work is on hold, as is The Well. The PCC has extended the contract of our Interim Children's Worker, Beth Powell, so she can provide weekly online resources which can be used by children who normally attend church on Sundays or the midweek clubs, as well as keeping in touch with the children. Our planned Church Weekend Away to Ashburnham has been rescheduled for June 2021 and, as I write, it is hoped that the Holy Land Pilgrimage will still go ahead in March 2021.

The Living in Love & Faith project, mentioned in my report, is on track to report this autumn, to be followed by a year of engagement with the report across the Church of England in 2021, moving towards any changes in doctrine, liturgy and pastoral practice in 2022 and beyond.

The church in the UK is learning much through this Covid-19 crisis. I suspect that the way we do mission and ministry will be different in a post-Covid world, though it is still too early to draw many conclusions. The PCC was due to have its annual Away Day last month to review and renew our 2020 Vision. Though we had to postpone the Away Day indefinitely, I hope this postponement will give us time to reflect on the experience of Covid-19 and the way it has impacted our life as a church and enable us to develop a new Vision and Mission Action Plan for the next 5+ years which seeks to respond to the new challenges and opportunities God presents us with. Our core calling from God remains unchanged - All of Life for Christ - we are still committed to empowering ordinary people to live extraordinary lives by enabling them to know Jesus as Saviour and equipping them to live for Jesus as Lord - but the ways in which we do that may look very different in a post-Covid world.

God bless you



**St James Church
Summarised Minutes of the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on 29th April 2019**

Rob welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

Apologies: John & Sandra Rouse, Catherine Rouse, Emily Rouse, Neils Ribeiro Snr.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and accepted unanimously.

Election of Church Wardens

Rob thanked Femi Nzegwu for serving as sole warden for the last year and the Deputy Wardens for their assistance.

Femi Nzegwu was proposed by Kirk Douglas and seconded by Glynis Wilkinson
Yvonne Mason was proposed by Femi Nzegwu and seconded by Pauline Pepperrell
Both were duly elected.

Electoral Roll

114 non-resident and 66 resident, giving a total number on the Electoral Roll of 180.

PCC Secretary report as per the booklet.

Finance Report

This was presented by Alan Burrows and the full report is in the booklet.
The audited accounts, approved by the PCC already, were formally adopted by the APCM.
It was agreed unanimously that we re-appoint Leroy Reid as Independent Examiners for another year - proposed by Alan Burrows and seconded by Nick Burt.

Buildings & Fabric

The annual report was presented by Femi Nzegwu and the full report is in the booklet.

Diocesan Synod and Deanery Synod Reports as per the booklet.

Election of PCC Members

Nominations	Proposed	Seconded
Noah Reddie	Femi Nzegwu	Carol Burt
Kat Striesow	Adam Seymour-Davies	Glynis Wilkinson

Deputy Wardens

Kirk Douglas, Dan Obene, Nat Okoro - a successor to Yvonne Mason is needed.

Sidespersons

We have a good team which is always being added to as the year progresses.

Spotlight on Activities

The APCM received verbal reports on the work of POD, Small Groups and the Church Day Out and members were encouraged to read the other reports in the booklet.

Any Questions & Any Other Business

None received

The meeting closed with prayer.

Summary of Accounts and Notes

PCC Meetings

The PCC held 7 meetings during the year. The average attendance was 69.38% (previously 81%).

Committees

The PCC operates through several task groups, which have met between full meetings of the PCC, to whom they are responsible and to whom they report.

Church Attendance

The Church Electoral Roll records 180 (previously 179) persons as members of the Church, 122 of whom are not resident within the parish.

The average Sunday attendance counted during October and November was 85 (previously 92) plus 21 (previously 25) under the age of 16. The number increased at festivals.

Review of the year

The various activity groups will highlight their activities during the year by giving reports at the APCM or in this Report Booklet.

Summary of Accounts and Notes

The activities of the parish insofar as they impinge upon the Statement of Financial Activities have been as follows:

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1. The parish's contribution to the central fund of the Diocese of Southwark (the Parish Support Fund) remains the principal item of expenditure at £78,000 for 2019 (£75,000-2018) and has been paid in full.
2. Voluntary contributions from members of the congregation remain the principal source of income.
Income from donations for unrestricted purposes including claimed Gift Aid amounted to £150,901 (£140,888- 2018). An Advent Thanksgiving gift day was held with a commitment that the first £3,000 of donations would be divided between two projects - Life Impact International, and Open Doors project. Total donations received were £16,877 including associated Gift Aid (£17,797 - 2018).
The PCC continues to encourage the congregation to give to the Church in a regular and committed way using one of the stewardship schemes. Tax efficient regular giving to the General Fund amounted to £90,854 (£80,223 - 2018) and with other Gift Aided donations, £20,880 (£26,226 - 2018) was claimed in Gift Aid for unrestricted purposes.
Other donations of £4,899 (£7,442 - 2018) included restricted donations for various areas of the Church's ministry. The PCC's commitment to supporting all aspects of mission resulted in £37,893 (£38,645 - 2018) being granted to several causes including support for the Furzedown Youth Centre by the donation of the £22,239 for rent and utility bills. A tithe on income from giving of £12,161 (£12,603 - 2018) was split equally between two Mission partners receiving a share with Furzedown Youth Centre receiving 1/3, and "Crosslinks"

receiving 2/3 in support of Alun and Debbie Burt's ministry in South Africa.

Total income amounted to £248,336 (£244,987- 2018) of which £5,553 was restricted (£4,775 - 2018). Total expenditure amounted to £239,564 (£236,982 - 2018) of which £6,106 was expenditure on restricted items (£5,031 - 2018).

The generosity of the people of St. James continues to be a source of both encouragement and humility. It is encouraging that we have been able to welcome new faces into the congregation. It is hoped that newcomers will soon become full and active members of our Electoral Roll.

3. The churches of the Furzedown Team Ministry (St. James, St Alban's and St. Pauls) continue to work closely together and with Mitcham Lane Baptist Church, sharing a vision of mission in the community, especially in the area of ministry to young people both through Sunday groups and through the work of the Furzedown Youth Centre.

4. The Church continues its commitment to children and young peoples' ministry. A full-time Youth Minister is jointly employed with our partner churches. Little Fishes continues to be, for many, a first introduction to church life and is currently oversubscribed. Get Set and Adventurers continue to engage with children of Primary school age during the week.

5. The Church continues its commitment to the Furzedown Youth Centre and, in partnership, work to improve the facilities of both the upper and lower halls continues to be the goal of the Community Centre Management Committee. The Church views FYC as a major resource for the young people in the surrounding community.

6. During the year the Church continued to consider the use of its buildings and possible developments that might be undertaken to further the mission of the Church in the future. A small working group under the Building for the Kingdom Project has been working on developing proposals and has fed back to the PCC and church members for further input during the year.

Alan Burrows
Treasurer

Extracted Information from the Accounts

Various items of Income	2019	2018
Gift Aided Giving via Bank Standing Orders	40,665	42,205
Gift Aided Giving via Envelopes	38,189	38,028
Non-Gift Aided Giving via Standing Orders	3,073	1,841
Non-Gift Aided Giving via Envelopes	5,776	6,365
Giving via Plate Collection	7,971	7,952
Donations to the General Fund (day to day housekeeping fund)	3,747	6,606
Gift Aid received on giving to the General Fund	20,880	23,043
Advent Thanksgiving Gifts	16,877	17,797
Legacies		-
Letting/Hire of Upper Hall	26,398	32,438
Letting/Hire of Church and Centre	5,450	6,110
Fees for Weddings and Funerals (PCC retained)	3,323	2,456
Bible Study Notes sales	384	373
Well coffee and cake sales	3,087	4,033
Rental income from 171 Mitcham Lane	25,319	25,158
Children's Ministry receipts (Get Set, Little Fishes, Holiday Clubs etc)	3,266	2,920
Donations to Crosslinks (from individuals)	-	535

Various items of Expenditure	2019	2018
Fairer Share (contribution to Diocese)	78,000	75,000
Church Insurance	6,358	6,386
Hall Insurance	1,628	1,742
Church Utilities (heat and light)	9,549	8,028
Hall Utilities	4,026	4,129
Church Repairs & Maintenance	9,665	8,306
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	5,392	3,025
171 Mitcham Lane Maintenance and Expenses	3,615	2,503
Contribution to shared Churches Youth Ministries	9,901	14,272
Salaries and Support	36,792	35,610
Clergy Expenses	226	592
Church Catering - incl Well	1,424	1,725
Printing and Production	2,600	2,158
Postage and Telephone	365	602
Examination of Accounts	1,200	1,200
Mission Support through tithe on Regular Giving	12,161	12,604
Crosslinks Donations (non - tithe)	-	535

St. James Church West Streatham
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £	2018 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	150,901	3,455	-	154,356	145,174
Charitable activities	3	61,179	2,018	-	63,198	68,076
Other trading activities	4	3,476	-	-	3,476	5,663
Investments	5	25,683	-	-	25,683	25,398
Other	6	1,541	80	-	1,621	676
Total		242,782	5,553	-	248,336	244,987
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Church activities	7	151,611	3,083	-	154,694	142,223
Salaries and support costs	8	42,941	-	-	42,941	52,768
Management and administration	9	4,034	-	-	4,034	3,346
Mission giving and charitable donations	10	34,870	3,023	-	37,893	38,645
Total		233,458	6,106	-	239,564	236,982
Net income/(expenditure)		9,324	(553)	-	8771	8005
Transfers between funds		(625)	625	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		8,699	72	-	8,771	8,005
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		105,022	10,611	100,613	216,246	208,241
Total funds carried forward		113,721	10,682	100,613	225,017	216,246

St. James Church West Streatham

Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2019

	Note	2019 £	2018 £
Fixed assets			
Curates House 171 Mitcham Lane	15	100,613	100,613
		100,613	100,613
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		115,903	91,096
Investments		8,659	8,659
Sundry debtors		15,851	35,618
Prepayments		581	832
		140,994	136,205
Liabilities			
Accrual Independent Examination		1,200	1,200
Creditor HMRC PAYE & NI		151	833
Other sundry creditors and accruals		15,234	18,539
		16,585	20,572
Net current assets		124,409	115,633
Net assets		225,017	216,246
Represented by:			
Unrestricted funds	11	78,737	78,675
Designated funds	12	34,988	26,346
Restricted funds	13	10,684	10,611
Endowment funds	14	100,613	100,613
		225,017	216,246

Building and Fabric Report

Whilst we have been blessed with fully upgrading our Audio-Visual equipment, majority of the works undertaken this year have been preventative or corrective in nature. Please see below for a summary of main works.

Heating

- Annual maintenance of Church Boiler system
- Annual maintenance of Church hall hot air heating system
- New flue boiler installed in Church hall
- Installation of additional heating in Church lobby/foyer

Audio Visual (AV)

- Upgrade of Church audio visual equipment
- New display screens installed improving visibility around the church
- New Audio-visual mixer & software

Fire Safety

- Fire extinguishers annual service
- Removal of Removal of unused items Church Basement
- Installation of temporary but improved Fire exit steps for Church hall

Electrical

- Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)

Quinquennial Inspection

- Inspection conducted
- Report and recommendations received

Main works planned for 2020/2021

- Continued Fire safety works
- Quinquennial report priority issues

*Femi Nzegwu & Yvonne Mason
Churchwardens*

Building for the Kingdom Report

2019/2020 was a year of transition as well as preparation for the Building for the Kingdom working group. Initial plans to develop the business case were put on hold so that we could focus all efforts and attention on choosing the right partner to develop the possible plans for our buildings and their associated costs. To this end we have been once again blessed by having a full range of skills on the working group, with many of the members being able to share their experiences of selecting partners for projects. Particular thanks needs to go to Kirk Douglas and Nick Burt who lead this workstream, establishing a shortlist of potential architects, the pre-qualification questionnaire and supporting the WG and other members of the congregation in the selection of JBKS as our chosen Architectural partners.

The work that we have been doing for the past couple of years proved invaluable input to JBKS as they began the process of understanding our vision and needs for the church and our ministry within the community. JBKS work on developing the feasibility study has been delayed due to COVID-19, however the exciting news is that the first stage of this process has just been completed. JBKS's have recently submitted an initial draft of the feasibility study and we are looking forward to meeting them in the coming weeks to discuss their ideas.

I would like to personally thank all of the BFK working group members (past and present), for their thoughts, views, prayers and continued support..... God willing we have exciting times ahead as we prayerfully wait for him to reveal his plans and his vision for Building for the Kingdom; I cannot wait!

Michael White
Chair, Building for the Kingdom Working Group

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Sunday Children's Ministry

We are so blessed to have lots of children in our church family at St James. They bring such life to us and we learn so much from them about what it means to follow Jesus. Creche, Bubbles and Splash meet every Sunday morning, except on Messy Sunday, for age-appropriate Bible teaching. Before the children go to their groups the adults join with them in singing the weekly Action Song. This has become quite a feature at St James over the last couple of years. During the last year we have also enjoyed hearing one of the children praying for the adults each Sunday, that they would meet with God during the sermon slot just as we pray the children will meet with God in their groups. Numbers of children attending groups can fluctuate, which is a challenge for the leaders.

On behalf of the whole church I would like to thank our team of dedicated leaders and helpers. We were sad to say goodbye to Jenefer Spells this year after over 30 years' service in Creche. We will strive, by God's grace, to maintain her high standards and faithful commitment.

Rob Powell

Get Set

Get Set is our midweek club for children in Reception and School Years 1 and 2. It runs in term time on Tuesdays in the Centre at 3.30pm. As they arrive, children have a drink and biscuit and then choose a craft or play activity. After half an hour, the clearing up music prompts all to help to get ready for story time, an action song and games. We finish with time in small groups to colour a picture of the Bible story and chat about it together before parents arrive. By December 2019, 23 children have been attending Get Set with most children attending regularly each week. The majority are aged 5-6 and in School years 1 and 2. Only 1 child is currently in Reception. 9 children now attend St. James, with some having begun attending over the past year. During the Autumn Term we learnt about obedience through Old Testament heroes such as Daniel and Esther. We then went on to learn about God's plan for salvation, looking at creation, the fall and the Christmas story. The Get Set Team this year is: Carol Burt, Bethany Powell, Claire Powell, June Vevers and Glynis Wilkinson.

Beth Powell

Adventurers

Adventurers is our midweek club for children in School Years 3-6. It runs on Wednesday evenings in term time in the Centre at 5.45pm. Sessions begin with games, followed by a story from the Bible which the children then chat over in groups with a drink and biscuit. After this we enjoy a craft, quiz or treasure hunt, and more games. We follow the same general teaching programme as Get Set, with the children looking at Bible stories in more depth and with more involved activities to follow. By December 2019, 21 children have attended. 6 of these attend St James. We do hope and pray for more families of children in our midweek groups to become a part of the St. James Church family. The Adventurers team this year is: Bethany Powell, Claire Powell, Rev Geoff Vevers and Glynis Wilkinson.

Beth Powell

POD

'POD' (Pocket of Disciples) is a Bible-based small group and was created in September 2018 to support the young people who graduate from Adventurers. The group meets in FYC on Thursday evenings at 6pm. We start with a game of table-tennis and when everyone has arrived, move through to the back room for nibbles and an ice-breaker. This is followed by a short Bible and prayer time; a game and a craft activity.

At the beginning of 2019, we had 5 young people regularly attending POD. Unfortunately, we lost one member soon after. In September, we gained 4 new young girls. 3 of the girls joined us after graduating from Adventurers and we welcomed a brand new member who had visited with her friend and continued to attend thereafter. By December 2019, 8 girls between the ages of 12 to 14 have regularly attended every week. 3 of the 8 girls attend a church. It is a real joy to get to know and support these young girls and have the weekly opportunity to teach them about Jesus.

In the Autumn Term, we learnt about the Christian organisation Life Impact International, who rescue trafficked children in Thailand, Myanmar (Burma) and Brazil. We heard stories from rescued children, learnt how Life Impact raise these children to know the Lord and prayed for their ongoing mission. Each member created paintings that represented either the imprisonment of being trafficked, or the freedom that comes from being rescued and finding Jesus. On Sunday November 17th 2019, the members and leaders of POD were invited to speak to the congregation of St James about the work of Life Impact. After the service, the girls' art projects were displayed and cupcakes that the girls had baked prior to the service were sold. Over £150 was raised and was sent to Life Impact International to help with their ongoing mission.

The POD team is: Bethany Powell, Claire Powell, and Glynis Wilkinson.

Beth Powell

Little Fishes

Our weekly wiggle at Little Fishes continues to be popular in our local community. We regularly welcome the maximum 32 children with their parents and sadly sometimes have to turn disappointed people away due to lack of space. In 2019 we said goodbye to several long-standing team members - Ailie Neill, Kat Striesow and Jo Seymour-Davies. We were blessed to welcome new team members - Kelly Ball, Katie Oseya, Natasha Saint M'leux and Sarah Byron Evans. An hour of craft and play is followed by a Bible story performed by our resident puppets with Christian songs and bubble prayer. It is such a wonderful opportunity to share the love of God with the families of Furzedown and we have been delighted to see some of them crossing over into Sunday church.

Rob Powell

Holiday Clubs

“Bill and Ted’s Excellent Adventure” Holiday Club this year looked at some highlights of the Apostle Paul’s journeys to bring the gospel of Christ to areas of Turkey, Greece and Cyprus. The objective was to understand how God used Paul to spread the Good News about Jesus throughout the civilised world. Of course, our travellers played by Geoff, Beth, Johan and Sam, encountered all kinds of hilarious obstacles, mostly of their own making because of their lack of preparation and planning. But they learned that Paul obeyed God with the consequence that many came to know the saving love of Jesus.

We had 50 children in teams aged 5 to 11 with about half attending our midweek groups. 20 adult helpers did an amazing job of decorating the church and centre, helping in one way or another with the daily skits, registering and welcoming children, leading teams, providing refreshments, organising sports and games, leading Reflection Time with their teams, helping children with the amazing crafts Claire and Beth had prepared, setting up beforehand and clearing up each day afterwards. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Please pray that the children who attended would continue to grow in knowledge and understanding of who God is and what he has done for our sakes.

Carol Burt

Contact with Schools

It is an enormous privilege to be invited into our local schools and to receive them into church. Our main contact is with Goldfinch Primary where Glynis and Rob take regular assemblies and where Glynis runs a weekly lunchtime club called JAM (Jesus & Me). In addition, we held our annual Carols by Candlelight service in the school for staff, children and parents and Rob enjoyed helping the PTA by playing Santa for their Christmas fundraiser! During the year we welcomed classes from Penwortham and Furzedown schools into church to learn about the church and baptism. Rob was also invited into Penwortham to talk to the children about his role as a Vicar.

Rob Powell

Furzedown Youth Centre

We have seen some major changes during the past 12 months.

Following a green light given by the leadership teams of the 4 supporting churches, the post of Centre Manager at FYC came to an end last October in anticipation of the appointment of a new Outreach Youth Worker. This post has been made possible because of a most generous grant of £10,000 per annum for two years from the Diocese of Southwark, in addition to the regular giving by the 4 churches and generous individual donors.

The Advert for this post went out in early January 2020 and looked like this:

Youth Outreach Worker

We seek an enthusiastic, experienced Christian Youth Outreach Worker to become a member of one of our churches, to pioneer an exciting new project to develop and expand work amongst unchurched young people:

- to reach out to the many unchurched local young people, providing a safe place for them to gather, free from harmful influences such as drug and gang related crime
- to engage them in recreational activities within a supportive Christian environment and promote their social, emotional and spiritual well-being
- to share the love of God with them, introducing them to Christ, to begin a life of discipleship within a new fresh expression of church

At the time of writing 25 people have asked for application forms.

The other major change has been the experimental creation of a Drop-In facility at FYC, open between 3pm and 5pm on Fridays after school, for all secondary school youngsters, as a safe place to gather. It has been a huge success with between 30 and 40 young people coming each week to enjoy free refreshments and games. It is hoped that this facility will be extended to other afternoons when the Outreach Worker is in post.

Our Friday evening club night from 6pm - 8pm continues to attract new members and we are seeing around 25 at each club session.

Our tanks go to John Moore, who is acting manager in the absence of the former centre manager, to Steve Matthews our senior youth leader and to Jenny Mwangi our sessional worker, as well as to a variety of volunteers.

We are very much in need of more volunteers to help out at the Drop-In and at the club, so if you feel you could help please get in touch with me at g.vevers@pobroadband.co.uk

Thanks also go to our Directors: Peter Philips, Helen Long, Jane Soodeen, and John Moore and to Rob Powell our President.

Rev Geoff Vevers, Chair

ADULT MINISTRIES

Small Groups

Following a major reorganisation of our home groups in 2019, our 'Small Groups' as they are now known, had been meeting regularly, either weekly or fortnightly. They followed a joint programme of bible readings and study which link in to the sermon series, and which feedback tells us has proved popular and helpful. However, following 'Lockdown' earlier this year in March, groups were required to stop meeting. Since then, some groups have resumed by meeting online using video-conferencing tools such as Zoom or WhatsApp and/or by meeting in person - socially distanced - at safe outdoor locations.

As of March 2020, there were seven groups with a total of 58 members between them, meeting on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Belonging to a Small Group offers an informal setting in which to develop friendships, whilst at the same time getting to know the Bible better. They also provide an opportunity to care for one another through prayer and fellowship and offer a source of mutual support, fun, prayer, laughter and encouragement. New members are always welcome and should you wish to join one, please speak to either Johan or Rob.

Johan Allen

Tuesday Communion

Up until 'Lockdown' in March of this year, our Tuesday morning communion group had continued to meet each week in the church during term times, offering a quiet and reflective service and an opportunity for fellowship and prayer, in addition to teaching and reflection based on a varying series of bible readings from Old and New Testaments.

Between April of last year and March 2020, we studied the book of the prophet Zechariah, the letter of James and the book of Esther. Through these readings we found ourselves being surprised and challenged whilst learning new things, and yet encouraged and helped in our daily and weekly walk with God.

After communion we would adjourn to 'The Well' for more fellowship and chat as well as tea/coffee and toasted tea-cakes!

Once we are able to re-start our services in church, you would be very welcome to join us at 10.30 am.

Johan Allen

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is an integral part of the life, work and mission of St James and is offered by the Clergy and Pastoral Team including SPA's (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries) to all and any who may require it. In normal times this will include visits at home or in hospital and offers of help, support and prayer by the church and members of the church family as and when appropriate or necessary. However, in this time of Covid 19, we are much restricted in what we can do and our service of pastoral care is monitored and reviewed in order to ensure where possible, that the needs of vulnerable individuals in the church family are being met as best we can.

We also have links with the MacIntyre House Care Home in Anvil Close, from which some members have attended church on a Sunday with their carers when possible, and on occasions attended the 'Well' during the week.

Johan Allen

Dads' Breakfast

It is such a joy to welcome dads and their children into the Church Centre on the first Saturday morning of each month for Dads' Breakfast. The aroma of sizzling bacon and hot coffee is intoxicating, accompanied by the happy sounds of young children! The format is very simple - dads and children enjoy a hearty breakfast and then the children play together whilst dads have some space to chat and read the papers. We have seen numbers grow over the years and rejoice in more partners of Little Fishes mums coming along.

Of course, this was all pre-lockdown, so we long for the day when we can meet up again for more food, fun and fellowship.

Thanks to the faithful team for all your hard work - Glynis, Rob, Kirk and Alan!

Rob Powell

Prayer Ministry

Prayer Ministry at St James has continued to grow and develop. There are 12 people who serve on the team, both male and female and their photos can be seen on the prayer corner wall. Prior to Covid 19 and the restrictions, we have seen numbers of people coming for prayer increase. Using the opportunities during the Healing and Anointing and Messy Sunday services. In addition, the Prayer Ministry Team was offering prayer after most services (excluding Messy Sunday) in the prayer corner. People also made use of the prayer corner for personal prayer and the use of written requests made to and prayed for at the 'In Touch' service, which was happening once a month.

We were also happy that people don't feel limited to 'when and where' they can pray, and people were frequently using the pews after the service to pray for each other.

Again Pre Covid, we joined with our local partner churches to pray for our community. Sadly we were due to start a new initiative of 'Prayer on the Streets' at the beginning of March with a prayer walk, and then set up a prayer station on Moyser Road monthly, to offer prayer for anyone in the local community. However this has been postponed until further notice.

In June we reopened the church for private prayer and although numbers were low it was encouraging to have the church open and to be able to have meaningful conversations with passers-by and our local community.

We also have a St James virtual prayer team who will pray for and into any situation via a whatsapp group, and we have seen real healing and blessings through this immediate resource God has blessed us with.

We are still encouraged by how God has healed and blessed people throughout the year and the new ways he is guiding and using us.

Pauline Pepperrell

Men's Group

The Men's Group is a social group which meets up on the first Thursday of every month and is made up of men of all ages from all corners of our church family and beyond. Attendance remains strong, although numbers fluctuate during holiday seasons.

Events include pub nights, ten pin bowling, sporting events and meals out. Many attendees come from outside the parish, and so we meet at venues located in Furzedown, Mitcham, Streatham and Tooting. We're continuing to explore brand new venues to visit each month, and I would welcome feedback from anyone with new venue or activity ideas!

All men are welcome to attend; we also encourage men from outside our church family to join us too, as a few did in 2019. If you've never been to one of our gatherings, I would urge you to join us; look out for details of our next outing on the church website and on our social media platforms.

Adam Seymour-Davies

Ladies Group

The Ladies Night Out is a social group which meets up on the last Friday of every month usually at a local pub. Often having a meal or just drinks & snacks together.

Its been running now two years & the attendance has varied from month to month but it is usually between 6-8 women who meet. All women of any age are welcome whether members of St James or not. It's such a lovely way to get to know each other, have good conversation, fun & the odd late night!!!

Ailie Neill and Jo Seymour-Davies

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle has enjoyed another calendar year of activities meeting broadly once a month, either in the Church Centre or out and about in a Wandsworth Community Transport minibus in the warmer sunnier weather. Average attendance has averaged around 15 with in addition apologies from several of the members who could not attend for one reason or another. Total membership is some 35.

The programme has been put together as usual by a small planning committee consisting of Freda Rouse, Olga Armour, Beryl Hazelgrove, Yvonne Mason and Steve Linton. Johan Allen has continued to provide oversight of the Friendship Circle. The committee members also assisted in providing our refreshments for each meeting in the Church Centre for which we thank them.

Our year began in January with Freda running a challenging New Year Quiz while in February we decided to get fit with an armchair exercise class from Dorian Jones which was fun. In March Michael Gilbert gave an interesting talk of the history of the Crystal Palace including links to Sydenham 1854. In April Johan came to share many aspects of his life including the call to ministry. We had an enjoyable picnic on the Church Green in late May while in June we enjoyed a lunch at Woodcote Green. In July we visited Chris and Val Hart in Eastbourne to coincide with their Church's Flower Festival which all enjoyed very much.

In August we enjoyed Holiday at Home with members of the other Furzedown Churches. At the end of September we joined again with Church members in the highly successful MacMillan Community Coffee Morning led by Geoff Vevers.

At the beginning of November we had a further talk from Michael Gilbert in the series revolving around Crystal Palace. While in late November John and Georgie Talbot came to perform their summer road. We finished the year on a joyful note with our annual Christmas Lunch at the Toby Carvery, Mitcham with Rob Powell as our guest.

We were only able to hold two meetings to date in 2020 namely a New Year Quiz from Freda that certainly stretched the grey cells as always and an enjoyable games afternoon at the end of February. We look forward to being able to meet again once the pandemic is over.

We welcome new members aged 50 and over whether from our or any of the Furzedown Churches or from the local community.

We have certainly had some fun and laughter together in our meetings and outings. A number of members have not experienced the best of health during this past year with times in hospital as well as being confined to their homes for lengthy periods. Nevertheless, most of those members have been able to return to Church again after often a lengthy absence thankful for the supportive prayer they received from members.

Our strength lies in the friendship and support between members, and a willingness to help and be there for each other in times of need including prayer support. This is particularly true for those members who are temporarily housebound as they can keep in touch through the telephone grapevine!

John Farebrother [SPA]

Leader of the Friendship Circle

Policies and procedures for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

These are kept under regular review as a standing item on the regular PCC meeting agenda as well as the full annual report to PCC.

Johan Allen

Furzedown Churches

It continues to be a joy and privilege to work together as Furzedown Churches serving our local community. This partnership has various expressions, including First Sunday café-service, Last Sunday reflective service, monthly clergy meetings, The Passion & The Nativity plays, Soul Seasons evangelistic events, termly prayer gatherings, having a presence at the Big Day Out and the Christmas Market, youth ministry, Holiday @ Home and more. The terms of the covenant are due for review and renewal in early 2020 and there are plans for the launch of Prayer on the Streets (POTS) and a summer evangelistic event called 'Burning Questions'.

Rob Powell

Mission Partners

St James continues to give 10% of its income away to support Christian mission elsewhere. In 2019 this focused on Furzedown Youth Centre and the work of Alun & Debbie Burt in South Africa. It was a joy to receive a visit from the Burts in June who updated us on their work in Heideveld, Cape Town. In addition, our POD group ran a fundraiser for Life Impact International and the Advent Gift Day gave a combined total of £3,000 to Life Impact International and Open Doors Syria Appeal. The Well ran its annual MacMillan coffee morning in September which seems to grow in popularity year on year.

Rob Powell

Foodbank

Prior to the pandemic Foodbank was running locally from St Pauls Church, as a member of 5 Wandsworth Foodbank run by the Trussell Trust. Since March 2020 all the centres have been centralized and now operate from a warehouse on Wandsworth Bridge Road with home deliveries only. In this rapidly changing environment cases are sadly rising in the borough, and we are seeing double the numbers of referrals.

This means volunteers are delivering 7-day food supplies to local people across the borough who are referred in severe hardship, volunteers sort, pack and personalise food parcels and volunteer drivers deliver in covid secure way.

If you wish to volunteer please contact Sarah Chapman sarah@wandsworth.foodbank.org.uk

It is still unsure when the local centres will be able to restart, but any donations can be made to Aspire Estate Agent on Moyser Road or via the Trussell Trust Food bank page at <https://wandsworth.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate/>

A personal story

'I feel not alone anymore'

We wanted to share just one of many stories of local people we've been supporting through the pandemic. A, a local mother, has kindly said we can share this with you.

A and her young daughter were referred to us at the start of lockdown, after her work stopped and her personal details were used by someone posing as a prospective employer to make a

fraudulent claim for Universal Credit in her name. This new, fraudulent claim meant that A's working tax credits automatically stopped, leaving her and her daughter just £21 a week child benefit to survive on.

We've been helping the family with food throughout lockdown, at the same time as Sylwia, our Foodbank Adviser, has been working with A and authorities to try to resolve the impact of this crime. The case is still ongoing, but A said this week:

'Without the food bank and food bank advice project, I wouldn't have been able to handle the pressure of what is happening. I'm so grateful I'm being helped, because I was stuck and now I feel like I'm getting support to sort out these problems.

'Thanks to your support, I feel not alone anymore. You give me strength and hope that my horrible situation may be improved: that there is hope for me and my daughter.

'I would like all other organisations to be like the food bank is - how incredibly warm and full of empathy each person who welcomes you is. Not judgemental, just full of warmth and a safe place.'

Pauline Pepperrell, Foodbank volunteer

Holiday @ Home

This year, our holiday was a journey back in time: to the 1960s! We were inspired by the 50th anniversary of the moon landings to look at extraordinary journeys: we had 'The Incredible Journey' as a film to watch; there were talks on the music and politics of the 60s, growing up and going on a journey of faith in the 60s, and on the story of the moon landings, including how Buzz Aldrin took Holy Communion on the moon. The trip out was to Greenwich and the National Maritime Museum, to see a special moon landing exhibition.

There were around 30 people each day, and all the days were more equal than they have tended to be in the past. We were well served by our volunteers again, although we were a little short-staffed in the kitchen on some days, as some of our regulars have hung up their aprons! Nevertheless, the team, with Suzanne Richeux leading them, managed to produce a wonderful spread of 60s themed food each day, with a selection of typical 'hors d'oeuvres' on the last day!

There were the usual array of crafts (led by Judith Hare and Janet Hill), games (led by Jill Simmons), history corner (thanks to Helen Long), the day starting with tea and coffee, and ending with tea and cakes. On the Friday, our entertainments were led, as in previous years, by Di Berry and some of the Great Gustos, along with other friends - Erica Simpson, notably, and the 'Fusion' group she is a part of. They performed 60s numbers, and also led 'singalongs' with the guests.

Rev Marc Richeux

Furzedown Churches

It continues to be a joy and privilege to work together as Furzedown Churches serving our local community. This partnership has various expressions, including First Sunday café-service, Last Sunday reflective service, monthly clergy meetings, The Passion & The Nativity plays, Soul Seasons evangelistic events, termly prayer gatherings, having a presence at the Big Day Out and the Christmas Market, youth ministry, Holiday @ Home and more. The terms of the covenant are due for review and renewal in early 2020 and there are plans for the launch of Prayer on the Streets (POTS) and a summer evangelistic event called 'Burning Questions'.

Deanery Synod

Tooting Deanery Synod has changed the way it meets in order to encourage non-members to attend. St James was represented by Stepheney Sulaiman, Liz Gibbons, Glynis Wilkinson and Susan Ribeiro as well as the clergy. Most meetings are open to all and on topics of general interest. In 2019 there was a particular focus on work among children and young people and our theme for 2020 will be the environment. After much prayer and discussion, the deanery decided to sponsor a Syrian refugee family through the government scheme, and it is hoped that the family will arrive in UK early in 2020.

Rob Powell

Diocesan Synod

Diocesan Synod, which is the governing body of Southwark Diocese, has met 3 times in 2019, with the March 2020 meeting cancelled due to COVID-19. Synod eventually met in July 2020 by Zoom. Nominations for Synod are made and members elected by the members of our Tooting Deanery Synod. Our Tooting Deanery has been represented by Rev Julie Connell, myself, one other clergy and one other lay member. I am also a member of the Diocesan Council of Trustees, which has met 5 times, and chair the Policy and Finance Committee.

The 'normal' business of any governing body included items such as the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019 (we ended with a deficit of about £270,000), setting a Budget for 2020 (a projected deficit of about £180,000, on a turnover of £25.7million), reviewing and updating the Risk Register and setting and reviewing of Objectives for 2019 and 2020, together with on-going discussion and review of progress with the diocesan Strategy for Mission ('Hearts on Fire'**), which feeds down into our deanery, team and parish Mission Action Plans.

The emphasis of Synod has shifted significantly from forming the Strategic Vision for Mission across the Diocese, and working up of plans in two significant areas of development, to implementation of these plans while maintaining the financial progress achieved over the previous 3 years. The financial strategy is to maintain an annual surplus year on year, based on the generosity of parish giving through the Parish Share system, and to build up working reserves to see us through the years ahead. Clearly this has been impeded by the impact of COVID-19. Bids are also being pursued for further strategic development grants from the Church of England Commissioners.

The first area of implementation has been following the work of the advisory group on Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry in Southwark, building on the excellent report for the Archbishops' Council: 'Setting God's People Free'. Implementation has included the formation of the Lay Council, bringing together the governance and development of the Reader and SPA ministries. Further work is centred on the recognition, encouragement and development of the work of various ministries undertaken by many lay people within our parishes and communities, including, but not limited to work with youth and children and pastoral care in all its forms.

The second area under implementation has been the development, indeed transformation, of our Deaneries, seeking to breathe new life into their workings, in order to ensure that deaneries become viable centres of mission and ministry. Work is on-going to establish Deanery Leadership Teams in each deanery together with the appointment of Mission Accompaniers, all facilitated by a major update of the Rules and Constitution for Deanery Synods. Training is being offered for Area Deans and Lay Chairs to help them to implement the hoped for transformation. Election of our Deanery Synod members this year is particularly important given their role as electors for the General Synod next year.

The past year has therefore been one largely of consolidation rather than innovation, made possible by the relative health of our finances despite the circumstances we are living through. For this, the diocese is hugely thankful for the continuing generous support by our parishes through the Parish Support Fund. Looking forward, the remainder of 2020 and the coming 2021 are likely to present particular challenges as we seek to adjust our expenditure to more closely match our income. However, with the support of parishes, and the provision and grace of our wonderful God, we trust that the ministry and mission of the diocese will continue to flourish.

** The diocesan Strategy for Mission, Hearts on Fire, restates our commitment to mission, grounded in prayer, that the growth of the kingdom of God may be at the heart of all we do. In particular, we will:

- Serve our Communities;
- Share our faith with great joy and gladness;
- Be the Church: a people with hearts on fire, loving God, walking with Jesus and led by the Holy Spirit.

Nick Burt

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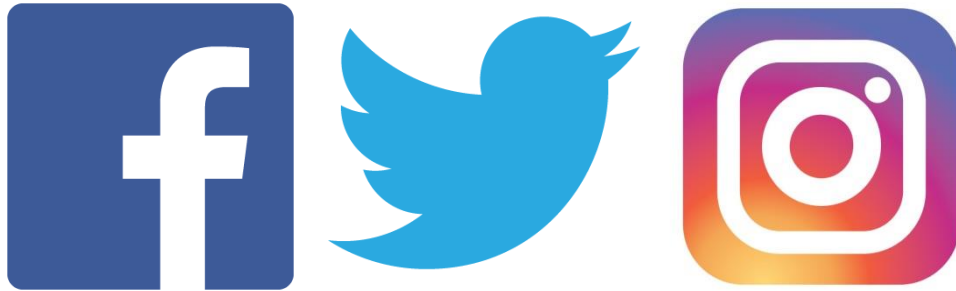
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