

# APCM REPORTS

## 2019





**1. Minutes Of The Annual Meeting Of Parishioners Held In Church On Sunday, 22 April, 2018**

Rev. Jonathan Ward, who was in the chair, opened the meeting with prayer.

1. Apologies for absence: Richard and Elzbieta Cienciala, Stu Carey, Paul and Margaret Kingman, Christine Blackburn and Ann Gardner.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday, 23 April 2017 were accepted without amendment on a motion proposed by Dee Larcombe and seconded by Bill Derham.

There were no matters arising.

3. The Churchwardens' Report on Parochial Charities:

The balance brought forward from 31 December 2016 had been £578.00 and the income for the year ending 31 December 2017 had been £203.00. Four grants had been made during the year, together with booklets recommended by the Universities & Colleges Christian fellowship for those starting their tertiary education. The balance therefore carried forward was £546.00.

This report was accepted without amendment on a proposal from Roger Jordon, seconded by Peter Churcher.

4. Election of Churchwardens:

Bill Derham, proposed by Peter Jaffray and seconded by Tim Harris, was re-elected; and Jeremy Tagg, proposed by Richard Cienciala and seconded by Jonathan Tickner was elected unopposed.

Jon thanked Richard Cienciala for his six years of tireless service.

Signed.....Dated.....

**2. Minutes Of The Annual Parochial Church Meeting Held In Church On Sunday, 22 April 2018**

Rev. Jonathan Ward was in the chair.

1. Acceptance of:

The Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 23 April 2017 were accepted without amendment on a proposal from Sybil Andrew, seconded by Marc Bassot.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matter arising.

3. Trustees' Reports and Financial Statements for 2017

The accounts had been circulated in advance of the meeting, and had been presented by Christine Blackburn after the service on the previous Sunday.

Although the level of reserves appeared healthy, we were facing significant expense over the next few years on the various works we needed to progress, following the quinquennial review – in particular, stonework, lighting and redecoration. Also, general giving had dipped a little, so we did not want to be complacent.

Jonathan Ward thanked Christine Blackburn and the other members of the Financial Subcommittee, David Biddle and Roger Jordon, Margaret Kingman, our Planned Giving Officer, who also dealt with Gift Aid, Mary Daniels for assisting with our weekly collections, and our Welcomers, for counting the collections each week. A special thank you was made to David Biddle, who was stepping away from his involvement with the Finance Committee.

The Trustees Report and Financial statements were approved without amendment on a motion proposed by Peter Churcher and seconded by Angela Walters.

#### 4. Electoral Roll Officer's report 2018

There had been 192 names on the Electoral Roll in 2017. Since then six names had been removed and ten added to the Roll, leaving a larger total of 196.

#### 5. PCC Secretary's report 2018

The PCC Secretary's report was noted.

#### 6. Rector's report

Jonathan explained that since the All Saints site had been sold on to Vision Homes and again on to another company, but Vision were retaining their involvement in the development. He had met with one of the Directors. It was clear that they wanted to maximize income by developing on as much of the land as possible, which included consideration of putting housing on the area currently covered by basketball courts. Currently though, there were restrictions on that site that prevented further development. Vision Homes' expectation was that, in time, following an appeal, they might be granted permission to develop given certain provisos. Therefore, there might be possibilities in combining a limited housing development with a community hall. To that end we will be giving Vision Homes our minimum specification for a church hall. However, it was clear that any development of this nature would only be granted following appeal, and that might be time-consuming and costly, since we would have to be involved in the process.

Tim Harris asked if we were planning to oppose the plans of Vision Homes. Jon explained that we were looking to ensure an amicable working relationship to safeguard our interests in whatever direction this matter went.

Mike Slatter asked about the parking implications. Jon explained that we had done all that we could to secure our parking. The agreements obtained might not strictly have much legal standing, but there was no indication that the developers wished to do anything other than honour what had been set out.

Penny Seabrook pointed out that the local Coney Hall Residents Association had not to date objected to the planned development of Vision Homes.

Mary Daniels pointed out that it was Green Belt land, therefore any development on the land was questionable.

Jonathan also shared plans about a Church Weekend Away on 17-19 May 2019 at the De Vere Horsley Estate, East Horsley, Surrey – about 40 minutes' drive away. Having looked at other Christian Conference Centres, the prices were surprisingly competitive, particularly given that the

venue has a swimming pool, good food and extensive grounds. Our aim was to get people to put their names down in order to gauge interest, and then consider the cost implications.

Ann Ford pointed out that the dates were in Christian Aid Week. Jonathan accepted this, but said that there were always going to be dates that were\_inconvenient for certain reasons. It was agreed that it should be possible to put on an event specifically for Christian Aid earlier in that week to ensure that our normal levels of giving to Christian Aid were not affected.

Jonathan also gave a heads-up on GDPR – the General Data Protection Regulation – which would be coming into effect on 26 May 2018. It would be necessary for everyone to be involved in a certain amount of form-filling to say that they were happy for certain data to be stored for specific purposes.

Following questions from Richard Ford, Angela Walters and Mary Daniels, Jonathan said that we did not consider it likely to be a problem for us to\_continue our practice of providing a Contact Book for Church Members, allowing us to contact each other by phone or email. Where we needed to be more careful was with how we dealt with more sensitive data that related to children, and, in particular, medical data that we collected for summer camps etc.

The Electoral Roll Officer's Report, the PCC Secretary's report and the Rector's report were all accepted without amendment on a motion proposed by Bill Derham and seconded by Angela Walters.

## 7. Elections:

### (1) Deanery Synod Representatives

Jon noted that both Val Hollamby and Jeff Seabrook had been elected last year and would be continuing as Deanery Synod representatives.

### (2) PCC

Jonathan Ward expressed our thanks to Heather Showell, who had completed six years on the PCC, and to Felicity Mason, who had come to the end of her three-year term, but had chosen not to stand for re-election.

Three new PCC members had been proposed and seconded:

- Lenka Ellmann, proposed by Sybil Andrew and seconded by Richard Cienciala;
- Marc Bassot, proposed by Sally Munns and seconded by Nana Adusei; and,
- Daniel Leeves, proposed by Richard Cienciala and seconded by Jackie Barter.

They were elected unopposed.

Christine Blackburn would continue to be co-opted on the PCC as Treasurer.

Jeremy Tagg would be replaced as PCC Secretary by Adrian Sebastian on a co-opted basis.

### (3) Welcomers: the following were elected en bloc, on a proposal from Aston Stockdale and seconded by Roger Jordon:

Sybil Andrew  
Anne Biddle  
David Biddle  
Stephanie Brehcist  
Steve Edwards  
Charlotte Faint  
Sarah Fletcher  
Michele Fox

Tim Harris  
Val Hollamby  
Rosemary Jordon  
Felicity Mason  
Jeff Seabrook  
Penny Seabrook  
Wendy Sears  
Jonathan Tickner

8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner:

Jonathan Ward explained that we were looking to replace our Independent Examiner. He therefore asked for permission for this matter to be referred to the PCC to seek a replacement. This was agreed on a motion proposed by Geoff Larcombe and seconded by Aston Stockdale.

9. Churchwardens' Report on Fabric and ornaments
10. Safeguarding Report
11. Deanery Synod Report
12. Churches Together in West Wickham Report
13. SJ's report
14. Team Ministries' Reports

Commenting on the reports:

Stephanie Brehcist pointed out that the brass plates had yet to be updated with the name of our current Rector and assistant clergy.

Jonathan Ward stressed that safeguarding was very important. He thanked Sarah Fletcher and Michele Fox for the work that they were doing and for the recent training sessions that they had organised. However, it was disappointing that with around 80 people in the church working with children and vulnerable adults, only 16 had attended one of the two training sessions that Sarah and Michele had arranged. Further training would be provided and it was essential that the others therefore attended.

Paul Showell pointed out that unless people attended, they ought not to be allowed to work with children or vulnerable adults. However, those with families may have found it difficult to attend sessions, noting that information and certification is also available online.

Jonathan Ward said that we would be putting slots in services to focus on particular ministries in the church, and we were also looking to undertake a "gift audit" to find out what sort of skills and abilities each of us possessed.

Concerning the Children and Families' Enabler, interviews would be taking place on Friday 4 May, and allowing for a three-month notice period, we hoped to have somebody in post for the beginning of September 2018.

Reports 9 to 14 were all accepted without amendment on a motion proposed by Jonny Faint and seconded by Heather Showell.

15. Any Other Business

Angela Walters made the point that it was important that we supported each other on Facebook. The Link to Hope event received a lot of interest due to various 'likes' and 'shares'. Jonathan

Ward agreed, noting the advertisement for the Children and Families' Enabler received a much wider circulation due to people in the church sharing it - such that we even received an application from South Africa!

The meeting closed with prayer.

Signed.....Dated.....

### **3. Churchwardens Report On Parochial Charities**

Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018  
Trustees: The Rector and Churchwardens

#### BEST'S GIFT

Balance brought forward	£ 546
Income year to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2017	£ 207
Distributions*	£423
Balance carried forward	<u>£330</u>

St John's now only has 1 charity, Best's Gift, which was originally set up to provide boots for apprentices. These days it is used to provide grants for the purchase of books for young people who are part of St John's and are going to university or college. During 2018 six grants were made. As before, the students were also given a booklet, this time recommended by Amber Stockdale, about starting as a student, along with their grant cheque.

\*N.B. The £423 above represents one grant cheque from 2017 which was debited to the account in 2018, and four grant cheques and the cost of the booklets from 2018.

### **4. Electoral Roll Officer's Report 2019**

Total number on Electoral Roll in 2018:	196
Names taken off 2018 Roll	54
Names Added:	23
Total Number on Electoral Roll:	165

Geoff Batten

## **5. PCC Secretary's Report**

The PCC has continued to meet most months and two Saturday morning meetings were held which gave us the opportunity to consider in greater detail St. John's vision and priorities.

The Ministry Teams report to the PCC during the year as part of the PCC meetings.

Safeguarding is on the Agenda for each meeting and twice a year the Safeguarding officers are invited to come and give an more extended report on their activities and on correspondence and documents coming through the Diocese.

The Agenda for each PCC meeting is placed on the church noticeboard in advance of each meeting, together with the minutes of each meeting once they have been agreed and signed at the following meeting.

The main highlights of the PCC year are included in the Rector's Report and other reports below.

Sybil Andrew

## **6. Rector's Report**

The last 12 months has seen some change in St John's, not least of all in personnel, which will continue into 2019.

At the time of writing, Peter only has a handful of days left before he and the family make their goodbyes to St John's. His 3 years seem to have passed with impossible speed. We will all miss what they have brought to our community, and we will be the poorer as a church for the loss of Peter's ministry. Our loss is someone else's gain, and not only do we say a big thank you, but we wish them every blessing as they move to Ilfracombe and serve the churches there.

Amber has settled in well to her new role as our Families Worker. Her involvement has been a great boost to the staff team and helped us adopt a perspective that reaches across the age range. Those of you involved in our work with young people will have already seen adjustments to our engagement with young people and families. I anticipate that this will continue apace in the coming year, as Amber grows in confidence.

A quick glance at the electoral roll indicates that there has been some change in the congregation. This looks more dramatic than is the case. It was a refresh year and this flushes out shifts that have actually been taking place over a number of years. Nevertheless, 2 things are worthy of note: i) A number of our younger people have moved out of the area; and ii) 23 new names appeared on the roll, which is almost twice as many as we typically see in a year.

It's difficult to draw too many conclusions, but at the very least, we should continue to ask ourselves whether there are reasons why people might slip out the back door as quickly as they come in the front.

Equally, we will do well to recognise that our patterns of attendance on a Sunday continue to become more inconsistent. Love it or loathe it, this is a trend that is not going away and raises some interesting questions about the nature of fellowship and our support for one another in the faith. Our 18-35 age group has been wrestling hard with some of these issues. The real

challenge is to find ways to engage that stick and are effective for a group of people whose lives are very fluid.

There has also been movement in the makeup of our Teams. A number of Team Leaders have stepped down, and the time is ripe for the Teams to undergo a thorough refresh. The PCC and Team Leaders have reflected on the last few years in an attempt to learn lessons from what has and hasn't worked well.

The teaching series on Gifts has provided a platform for us to undertake this process, but this will take place in stages in the next few months:

- i) Replacement Team Leaders will be appointed, to include leaders for the development of a new Communications/Publicity Team;
- ii) We will articulate more clearly the remit of each team and how there can be different levels of involvement. The idea is to provide people with a clearer sense of what participation in a Team will entail;
- iii) Finally, we will encourage people to join a Team at the level they feel able.

Our teaching on 'Gifts' in early 2019 wasn't intended to be exclusively about how people can serve St John's. We hoped that developing our God-given gifts will take expression in mission outside the church. Indeed, I hope that people have recognised that much of our teaching on a Sunday has been directed towards one of our expressed priorities: 'Equipping people to engage where they are'. I recognise that it is hard for me to gauge the impact we are having in this regard, but I sense that we still have some way to go in how we express the gospel 'out there' in the world.

SJ's remains one of the more obvious portals for local engagement with people beyond the church. Its use continues to grow steadily, but it remains an ongoing challenge for the wider church to recognise what is happening and offer their support.

Another opportunity appearing on the horizon will be the completion of the new housing development by the church. Whilst this may well be a gated-community, there is a chance for us to extend a good welcome to people moving into the area, and we are thinking about how to approach this.

In a similar vein, I think there is more that we can do to press into 'developing a culture of hospitality' - another of our priority areas. It's always a tricky balancing act to decide what degree of formality you attach to something like this. At its most basic though, I encourage us all to consider when was the last time we opened up our homes to someone we don't know very well.

All of these potential areas for development can only be forged on consistent prayer and deep support of one another. I was heartened to see over 110 people commit to our Church Weekend Away in October. These weekends are a great chance to get to know one another better, deepen trust and thereby become a more effective at what we are aiming for as a church - which as you all know, is to help people 'do life' with Jesus! It's still not too late if you want to sign up for the weekend!

Finally, it remains for me to say a thank you once again. As ever, the thanks tagged on to the end of my report feels woefully inadequate to the task of expressing gratitude for everything that you do - but thank you, and here's to walking the narrow way together with our Saviour in the coming 12 months.

Jon Ward

## 7. Churchwarden's Report

This report covers areas of church life which are a particular responsibility of the churchwardens. The main aspects of the role are -

- ensuring "good order" in the church building and churchyard (e.g. welcoming, heating);
- ensuring the church building and its contents are cared for and fit for purpose; and
- supporting the Vicar in the leadership of the Parish.

This has been Bill's second year and Jeremy's first as churchwardens here.

As far as "good order" is concerned, our prayer is that the St John's building continues to be a pleasant and welcoming place which we can make full use of in living out our mission as a church. We want to thank all the teams and individuals who support us and serve in the practical functions of St John's through a busy year, including -

- the team of Welcomers who welcome us at each service and who count the offering;
- the audio-visual teams, without whom our services would grind to a halt;
- the many people who dust, clean, and arrange flowers, and whose work make the building a lovely place to be;
- the many people involved in repairs and maintenance, both inside and outside, both regularly and at our DIY days;
- the faithful few who prepare for and put away after Communion;
- those who help us with keeping inventories and records up to date, and supplies bought in;
- the teams who make thousands of hot drinks every year;
- Margaret, our Parish Administrator, for her wide range of great work.

We have continued with work to improve the look and use of the church building:

- carrying out a wide range of maintenance and repair work, including through two well-supported DIY days;
- while our five-yearly "Quinquennial" inspection of the building confirmed that the building is generally in a good state of repair, there are a number of smaller recommendations and specialist repairs to the internal and external fabric, which will need to be undertaken over the next 12 months;
- following a failure of a few electrical sockets and problems with the electrical supply to the organ, we will be undertaking a programme of rewiring over the next 12 months. Also, given that the current lighting is becoming redundant with existing bulbs hard to source, we will also be replacing the lighting in the main Church.

We have begun to discuss the electrical/lighting project with our architect and the Diocesan lighting adviser, and the works will require certain permissions to be obtained, and potential

internal and external funding sources to be pursued. We hope to be able to share plans with the church family as the plans progress.

We have continued to meet regularly with Jon Ward, our Vicar, to talk through live issues and support him in his leadership of the parish.

We thank everyone for their prayers, encouragement and support.

Jeremy Tagg and Bill Derham

## 8. Safeguarding Report

The PCC takes very seriously the requirement to safeguard children, young persons and potentially vulnerable adults who attend any activity organised by the church. Accordingly it continues to actively monitor the application of the Dioceses Safe Church policies and procedures. Part of this monitoring process involves a Diocesan self audit and the formation of an annual action plan to ensure that the policies and procedures are being implemented.

All persons who have direct contact with the above groups are required to obtain a clear Disclosure and Barring Scheme (DBS) report and these checks are renewed every 5 years. Detailed records are kept and confidential documents are filed in a locked facility. Church Officers continue to attend training provided by the diocese when appropriate training courses become available. The PSOs undertake to provide safeguarding training for all those who hold a DBS initiated by St John's, PCC members and new volunteers. This training covers the relevant sections of "A Safe Church", including whistleblowing procedures. A copy of this Diocesan manual is held in the church as well as at SJ's. There is also a link on the church website..

The congregation as a whole will be aware of the enormous damage allegations of abuse can inflict on any organisation and they are encouraged to bring forward any concerns they may have. Any such issues are resolved with confidentiality and are fully recorded. On occasions, it has been necessary to seek advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. The PSOs are liaising with the Family Worker to seek job descriptions from the various church organisations which deal with children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding also extends to protection of church premises, in addition to children, vulnerable adults, those who work with them and the church's reputation. Any activities held either in the church or at SJ's are scrutinised through risk assessments and other relevant investigations (eg. Insurance). A "safeguarding prompt" to the congregation appears on the news sheet every three months.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The relevant policies relating to safeguarding are ratified on an annual basis prior to the APCM.

Sarah Fletcher and Michele Fox, Parish Safeguarding Officers  
March 2019

## **9. Deanery Synod Report**

The Deanery Synod is made up of clergy and elected lay representatives from ten churches in West Wickham, Shirley, Addington and Selsdon. St John's representatives for this year have been Jon Ward, Peter Churcher, Val Hollamby and Jeff Seabrook. It provides a forum for information and discussion between the local churches and a link between the PCC's and the Diocesan Synod.

During the year, the Synod met three times. Each meeting starts with a short time of worship followed by reports of news from local churches and the Diocesan Synod. In addition we received presentations on various subjects including:

- An illustrated talk by Canon Charles Pickstone on "Art and Architecture in Christian Teaching" including an opportunity for us to discuss what we saw in various historic paintings presented to us.
- A talk and discussion led by Peter Graystone, Assistant Diocesan Director of Discipleship and Ministry, looking at ways in which we, as individuals and churches, can share our faith with those around us and resources available to help us achieve this.
- A Question and Answer session with Rt Rev'd Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon, in which he shared his experiences of work supporting churches within the local area and gave us encouraging news of an increase in the number of candidates offering themselves for Ordination Training within the Diocese.

Along with opportunities to meet with members of other churches these meetings proved to be remarkably interesting and enjoyable. At each meeting we are reminded that any member of the churches represented would be welcome to attend so if you would be interested in attending future meetings please let us know.

Val Hollamby and Jeff Seabrook

## **10. Churches Together in West Wickham Report**

Churches Together and the junior branch, Children's Link, followed a familiar pattern of activities last year:

APRIL: United Walk of Witness and services, plus children's activities, on Good Friday

MAY: Christian Aid week, house to house collecting had a good response, especially in view of the scandals in some Aid organisations being uncovered at the time. Well done!

AUGUST: Family games afternoon on Sparrows Den

DECEMBER: "The Big Sing" at St Francis which involves at least 3 church choirs, plus others, and contributes to the Christian Aid collection.

JANUARY: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with services at various churches

FEBRUARY: Family lunch and activities at St John's. This year we learned about "The Prodigal Son" through the action song, storytelling with puppets and many great things to make. This was enjoyed by about 25 children plus parents, and helpers from several churches.

MARCH: World Day of Prayer at Shirley and West Wickham Baptist Church with the focus on Slovenia.

**Throughout the Year:**

3 Community Lunches to meet, network, and hear from representatives from various organisations in the community and churches. Different churches take responsibility for this on a rota which means doing it about once every two years. This March it was St John's turn to be host and once again Emmanuel Church kindly lent us a room and excellent kitchen.

Joint evening services once a month at different churches in West Wickham.

It has been decided to have several events rather than the Good Friday march down West Wickham High St in 2019 as something more relevant to our community and also safer without police escort. The children's activities and service for adults will be held as usual in St Francis Church. There will also be changes to the week of prayer for Christian Unity.

At the moment St John's only has one rep so if anyone is interested in joining me, please talk to me about what is involved: it's not onerous!

Penny Seabrook

**11. SJ's Report**

Over the past year SJ's has continued to develop as a core part of the life of St John's, providing both great useful space for us, and a way for us to reach out to the community. We have used it for Alpha, PCC, Marriage resource, Amber CPC, Chablis Chic, storytelling and craft, coffee morning, police surgery, hearing aid clinic, sewing bee, bible studies, craft, prayer, film nights for beavers- the list goes on and of course the church office.

The broad theme around which many of these activities can be grouped is "Life Matters" - in other words, we want to meet and support people, and show God's love to them in the many situations life throws at them (including the challenging ones).

It has been lovely to welcome those people from outside the church and get to know them.

We have also continued to improve the way SJ's works. In January we completed a big redecoration, and have worked on our communications. We are in the process of producing a colourful and informative leaflet for the church and the public which outlines what SJ's has to offer and contact details so that people can connect with services and activities on offer. Our Facebook page is becoming more popular, regular activities have been added and we have already seen the impact that this has brought about.

Looking ahead, over the past month or two we have had people come in and ask whether they might be able to book the place for different activities. We are in the process of discussion regarding these. There are some interesting opportunities for us to make contact with a still wider range of people in the community. We would appreciate prayer for all users and groups

but in particular the Monday morning coffee. We would love to see more of the church family there for a coffee and also people dropping in off the streets.

We are encouraging users of SJ's to Pray first before any activities. All key holders have been given a "Pray first" key fob and also one on the front door key as a gentle reminder.

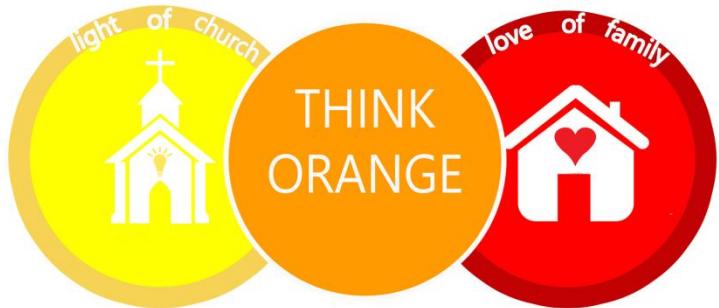
We have had a really successful and busy coffee time after church in Early March, it would be lovely to book that in again soon.

Heather Showell and Milly Johnson

## 12. Young People & Families' Enabler Report

I feel like I am still very new in my position as Young People and Family Enabler but in actual fact it has now been 8 months since I took on the role!

Back in 2016 whilst I was carrying out an internship at a church in Florida I was challenged to think about children and youth work differently. I was introduced to the 'Think Orange' concept; the idea that when churches and families come together they have a greater and more powerful impact on their young people, as demonstrated in the picture. During the course of a year a church typically spends 40 hours with children, compared to roughly 3000 hours that the children spend with their parents. This statistic encourages me to consider where should our resources and energy be poured into when it comes to ensuring our children have a relationship with Jesus? Upon beginning my role I have repeatedly considered the most effective use of our energy and resources; how can we ensure that our children have a thriving relationship with Jesus? We have activities running for those up to the age of 18, not just in the morning service on a Sunday but during the week as well. There are many families who benefit from these activities but I think we can do more to support and encourage them as they seek to bring up their children to have a faith.



Becoming an intergenerational church has a large role to play in the provision of support to our families. Mentoring and all together services both play a key role and we have already started to implement small changes in the hope of becoming an inter-generational church. One example is in our home groups, where an increasing number of university students are getting connected and receiving prayer and pastoral support. Another is the recent prayer afternoon that was hosted here at St John's; there was space for people to pray and opportunities for all ages to engage through interactive prayer stations. In October 2018 we launched 'Explore Together' which runs for 20 minutes on a Sunday morning, the short length of these sessions was an intentional decision as it allows for continued participation for the young people in other areas of the service.

These are just a few ways in which we can provide support for our children and young people and their families. Over the next year I will be particularly focussing on:

- how our all together services are shaped,

- how we can come alongside our very talented young people to encourage them to utilise their gifts and disciple them as they explore and grow in their faith.
- how we can make space for parents to discuss and learn from the BRF Parenting for Faith course, which has already benefited so many.

It has been exciting to see how God has already been moving in our children and youth work these last 8 months. I feel very privileged to be serving St John's Church and working alongside people that inspire, encourage and support the children, youth and family work whether they be the children and young people, the parents, the volunteers, PCC or Jon and Peter.

Amber Stockdale

### 13. Team Reports

#### **Worship**

The worship team has continued to focus mostly on leading worship on Sundays and our thanks go to all the worship leaders, musicians and the people who operate the sound and visuals week by week. We are extremely fortunate to have a number of gifted people committed to serving the congregation in this way. Please continue to pray for Dan, Jonny and Paul, and not forgetting Tom at Birmingham University. Thanks to Nicky for her work on the monthly rotas and to everyone else in the team for their faithfulness and support.

Later in the year once again it was a joy to be able to have a group of people singing in the choir for the Carol Service. We rehearsed on Sunday afternoons, which worked well. These were enjoyable times to get together, practice and worship. We had a larger choir than usual with several new people join us, which was very encouraging. Our particular thanks go to Paul for leading us. The number of visitors at the service was again very encouraging and we continue to be mindful of the fact that this might be the only time during the year when some of them come to church. We are looking forward to having a choir for Peter's last service in Easter Sunday.

We have been particularly encouraged during the months following Christmas and sense a thirst among people to know more of God, what He wants from us and how he wants to use us to His glory. In February we held the first of three Worship Workshops where people could explore their gifts in worship; in music, in creativity and in the use of technology. Numbers were small, but it was an encouraging start. Two further workshops will be held, one in June and one in September and all are welcome to attend. Time continues to be a pressure for everyone and several people who wanted to attend the Worship Workshop couldn't make it. We need to be creative in thinking about how we can make things accessible in our busy world.

Thank you all for your continuing support and prayers.

Barbara Bassott

#### **Care & Befriending**

Having incorporated the Thanksgiving Service and the Welcome teas for newcomers into our Church calendar, as a team we are looking at ways to become more Missional.

Since the last AGM two Grave Talk events have been held at Corza in West Wickham in conjunction with St Francis They were not especially well attended but those who did come felt that on the whole they were helpful. Our challenge now is how to engage the wider community.

This year we have met with Amber our family minister and with leaders from SJ'S. At the time of writing we are awaiting confirmation of a date to meet with Mosaic leaders. The aim of our meetings is to develop ways we might be able to work together to courage and include those outside the church. We plan to update you all as and when.

There are also ideas flowing how we can meet those moving into the new housing development and the most beneficial way of doing this. Hopefully a member of our team will be attending the Reaching Residents in New Housing conference on 11th May.

As ever in St John's pastoral care has been provided by so many of you in times of need. It goes on continuously as so many of us carry out God's command to love one another.

Sue Watson & Maureen Lang

### **Mission Outside the Parish**

Our aim:

- to support through prayer, encouragement and financial support a group of missionaries linked with St. John's;
- to raise awareness of mission activities throughout the world;
- to organise different events to increase our understanding of what 'our' missionaries do; and
- to equip others at St. John's to be missionaries in the place where God has placed them or wants to send them.

In the past year we met regularly but not too frequently for a chat, decision making and prayer time. We kept in touch with the missionaries we support in person or via social media.

We passed on information to our PCC so they were able to make some financial decisions in supporting the missionaries.

We made information about our missionaries readily available to you all by displaying it on the screens (from places like India, Japan, Senegal, Mali, Malawi, Germany, Moldova and the South-East London) or speaking from the front.

We encouraged a group of people from St. John's to take part in a 'Circle the City' walk to collect sponsor money to support the work of Christian Aid.

We had one Skype contact with our contacts in Malawi.

We supported one person on a short term mission at a refugee's camp on Lesvos.

We had the month of November dedicated to 'mission in a workplace' with interviews on four consecutive Sundays with people involved in different kinds of work.

If you are passionate about mission and/or would like to learn more about what the group does - we would love to hear from you.

Milly Johnson and Elzbieta Cienciala