



All Saints' Church
Putney Common
London
SW15 1HN

ANNUAL
REPORT
2016

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Agenda for the Annual General Meeting

Sunday 19th March 2017

All Saints' Church, Putney Common

1. Introductory prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the AGM 13th March 2016
4. Appointment of the Parish Warden
5. Appointment of Church wardens
6. Election of the DCC, PCC and Deanery Synod members
7. Election of the DCC Treasurer
8. The presentation of the Electoral Roll
9. The secretary's report of the District Church Council Proceedings
10. Presentation of the Church Finances
11. Church Reports
12. AOB

**Following the Annual General Meeting there will be a brief DCC meeting
and election of DCC secretary**

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting

Sunday 13th March 2016
All Saints' Church, Putney Common

Present: Rev. Chris Eyden; All Saints' Church Wardens Iain Cox & Kate Innes; All Saints' Church Treasurer, John Andrew; DCC Secretary, David Thomson and 47 members of the church attended the AGM.

Chris Eyden gave his address and report as the sermon during the service, a transcript of which is attached to these minutes.

03.14.1 Chris Eyden opened with a prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

03.14.2 Apologies: Mike Biddick, Faith Sutherland & Elizabeth Turner.

03.14.3 Minutes of the AGM 8th March 2015: David Thomson proposed and Jane Turner seconded that we accept and pass the minutes from 8th March 2015 as a true representation of the last AGM.

03.14.4 Matters Arising: None were raised from the floor.

03.14.5 Appointment of the Parish Warden: Clemancy Gordon-Martin was duly appointed as Parish Warden for the coming year (2016/17). This appointment was supported unanimously by the congregation, by a show of hands.

03.14.6 Appointment of District Church wardens: Iain Cox and Kate Innes were duly appointed as District Church wardens for All Saints' for the coming year (2016/17). These appointments were supported unanimously by the congregation by a show of hands.

Chris Eyden thanked both Parish and Church wardens for all their help and support.

03.14.7 Election of the DCC and PCC members: Chris Eyden thanked out-going elected and co-opted members of the DCC and PCC, Mike Biddick, Emma Setchell, Andy Bodley and Andrew Elder, for their invaluable contribution during their terms of office. The following church officers were then elected for the coming year (2016/17), without opposition. The election of all officers was supported by the congregation by a show of hands.

- a. **Election of members to sit on the All Saints' DCC alone:** Mary Drysdale, Gemma Duncan, Matthew Salisbury and Will Hayllar were duly re-appointed as DCC members for this year. Nick Pleydell-Bouverie was appointed and was proposed by Will Hayllar and seconded by Sarah Thomas.
- b. **Election of members to sit on All Saints' DCC who are also elected to the PCC:** Rosie Taylor- Davies and Adam Daniels were duly appointed as DCC members who also sit on the PCC, for this year. Proposed Janet Simpson and seconded Carolyn Biddick.
- c. **Election of PCC members from the All Saints' congregation:** Sarah Thomas and Catherine Dando were duly appointed as PCC members for this year.
- d. **Election of the Treasurer:** John Andrew was duly re-appointed as Church Treasurer for the next year. Chris formally expressed his thanks to John for the excellent job he continues to do. The appointment was proposed by Rosie

Taylor-Davies and seconded by Adam Daniels. This appointment was supported unanimously by the congregation by a show of hands.

- e. **Election of Deanery Synod members:** Chris Eyden advised that Jane Turner, Jane Middleton and Jason Hughes had been elected as Deanery Synod members in 2015 and that as the posts are valid for a 3 year term there was no need to elect new members until 2018.
- f. **Co-opted members:** The following people were co-opted to the DCC: Richard Smith, Chantry Westwell and David Thomson (Hon. Secretary) These are unelected positions and these members have no voting rights.

03.14.8 The presentation of the Electoral Roll: Chris Eyden presented the Electoral Roll which currently stands at 254 members. He advised that the Electoral Roll is not made up solely of worshipping members of the church.

03.14.9 The secretary's report of the District Church Council Proceedings: The Hon Secretary advised that the report of the previous year's DCC proceedings was included in the AGM report document. He drew attention to the focus that has been placed on our fire and health & safety obligations over the year and that we are now in good order in this regard. He asked if there were any questions or comments; none were forthcoming.

03.14.10 Presentation of the Church Finances: The Treasurer, John Andrew, presented the report on the church finances. He summarised by stating that we have had a solid financial year; that giving has improved and that at a Parish level some of our investments have faced challenges. He also advised that there have been problems with a tenant in one of our investment properties which has led to a reduced income. On the positive side John advised that we have continued to invest in music, the garden and enhancing our mission with young people. Looking forward to the coming year we will be continuing to invest at a church, parish and diocesan level. John thanked all those who help and contribute to the running of our finances and Carolyn Biddick, in particular.

Peter Quantrill asked if our parish share will be going up or down in the coming year. John advised that the fairer shares scheme has now been replaced by the parish support fund and that under this the church pledges what it can afford to give. Last year this amount increased by an inflationary 1.6% and we would be assessing our pledge for the next year later this year.

Mary Drysdale proposed and Rosie Taylor-Davies seconded that we accept the report on the church finances. This was supported unanimously by the congregation by a show of hands.

03.14.11 Appointment of an Auditor: John Andrew advised that following the change of auditors for the Parish accounts last year. It was intended that we continue with the new firm of auditors, Wilkins Southworth of 10-12 Barnes High St, London SW13 9LW. John Andrew proposed that we accept this recommendation change. This was seconded by Clemency Gordon-Martin. No objections were raised.

03.14.12 Church Reports: Chris Eyden thanked everyone involved in contributing to the contents of the Annual Report and in particular Carolyn Biddick and Michelle Penn for compiling the document. He invited further questions but none were forthcoming. He highlighted the work that has been done on Health & Safety and stressed the importance of this and thanked Nick Pleydell-Bouverie for his valuable contribution. He also thanked Mari Watson and April Munday for their contribution to our Safe Guarding procedures and processes.

03.14.13 AOB: The following items were discussed:

- a. Feedback and comments box – Michelle Penn asked if a feedback/comments box could be put at the back of the church. It was agreed that this would be followed up.
- b. Stewardship campaign - Rosie Taylor-Davies stated that she and Andrew Elder welcomed feedback on stewardship campaign and in particular how the elements of it have been received. This will help with improving our methods in future. Michelle Penn suggested that we use an online survey to solicit this feedback. It was also suggested that an incentive might encourage more people to respond.
- c. Paper reduction – There was lively discussion on how we might reduce our use of paper on a daily/weekly basis. Mary Drysdale suggested that we stop producing hard copies of the Parish magazine. Reducing the number of sheets at the Sunday services was also discussed. Carolyn Biddick advised that weekly service sheet and newsletter are already available on-line. It was felt that we do need some paper communications and that if we moved to electronic versions only these might need to be emailed actively to members of the church. It was also suggested that we could explore an All Saints' app that people could use for the service information. It was agreed that we would explore electronic options, however, Chris Eyden advised that we may be restricted on physical changes to the church, such as a screen or monitors, by the requirement for “faculties” being need to make changes. It was suggested that we don't need to produce the sheets for the readings and hymn numbers and agreed that we will stop producing these for trail period of 3 months, after Easter.
- d. Sheets for Kyrie/Agnus – Matthew Watts suggested that the sheets for the Kyrie/Agnus should be available at the back of church at Sunday services for any new people unfamiliar with these parts of the service. It was agreed that this would be done and Carolyn Biddick offered to contact the key holders about this.
- e. Thanks to Chris Eyden – Clemancy Gordon-Martin thanked Chris Eyden on behalf of everyone for his vision and passion in leading us this year leading us and for all his work as our vicar.

Chris closed the meeting at 12:37 with the Grace.

All Saints' Church District Church Council 2016-2017

Ex-Officio Members

Clergy

Reverend Chris Eyden

Churchwarden

Clemancy Gordon-Martin

District wardens

Iain Cox

Kate Innes

Elected Members

Lay Members elected to serve on DCC

Mary Drysdale

Will Hayllar

Gemma Duncan

Matthew Salisbury

Nick Pleydell-Bouverie

Lay Members elected to serve on both DCC and PCC

Chantry Westwell

Adam Daniels

Rosie Taylor-Davies

Lay Members elected to serve on PCC alone

Richard Smith

Sarah Thomas

Catherine Dando

Deanery Synod Representatives

Jane Turner (to sit on DCC ex officio)

Jane Middleton

Jason Hughes

Treasurer

John Andrew

DCC Secretary

David Thomson

Church Reports

1. Worship at All Saints' Church

- **Sunday Services**

Sunday worship at 8.30am follows the Book of Common Prayer spoken service and is perfect for those who appreciate the opportunity for quiet and reflective worship at the beginning of the day. It is a spoken service, celebrating the Eucharist and it follows the Book of Common Prayer. A short (but usually pithy) sermon is delivered by the celebrant or occasionally, an invited guest. Those who attend are seated in the quire which makes for an intimate service (enhanced by the lighted lamps, especially in winter) and the congregation regularly reaches 20 or more in number, ranging in age from babes in arms to the retired, with a core group of regular attendees. The atmosphere is warm and friendly, and welcoming to all visitors and newcomers.

Sophie Mazzier

The Parish Eucharist at 10.30 am every Sunday is popular with all ages, from young families to the older members of the congregation, with a busy, friendly atmosphere before and after the service. The choir provides a very polished accompaniment to the worship, while also leading the congregation in their singing. After Sunday school and crèche, the children join the congregation during communion, many going to the altar to be blessed with their mums and dads. Readers, intercessors, acolytes and chalice bearers of all ages take part. Everyone benefits from Chris's considerable skills in coordinating all the volunteers and from his thought-provoking sermons. In his absence we are lucky to have Ailsa, Richard or Laura to lead the worship. Once a month there is a family service for all ages, with children taking part and the young Treblemakers providing the music. There is always a group of stewards at the door to help people to their seats when needed, to welcome newcomers and make sure everyone has all they need for the service. Coffee and tea are served afterwards.

Chantry Westwell

Sidespeople, Chalice Assistants and Sacristans play an invaluable part in the smooth running of Sunday services at the church. Sidespeople collate the service books and contents, meet, greet, usher, collect and generally tend the congregation from the service's beginning to end. We currently have 53 volunteer Sidespeople, 30 Chalice Assistants and 4 Sacristans. We are very grateful to them for all their hard work.

Carolyn Biddick

Servers: our twenty three Servers at All Saints' Church range from eight years of age through to adults, and they serve on average once a month at the 10:30 service on Sunday. The older servers also assist with services such as midnight mass, Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. Servers start their serving initially as Acolytes, progress to Crucifer and then on to Book Holder. Training is given in all roles. It's a great way to be part of the worship at All Saints'.

We have three Servers who help out on an ad hoc basis, usually during school holidays. We are always looking for new volunteers. If you feel this may be a way in which you could support All Saints' please email for more information: the4corners@gmail.com

Alex Corner

- **Music at the Parish Eucharist**

The last twelve months have again seen significant consolidation and development of the adult choir. In September we welcomed three new choral scholars: Miranda, Jack and Wesley, who joined Ilona, one of our original choral scholars who has spent a second year with us. These four young singers have formed the backbone of the choir this year, and inspired our talented and dedicated volunteer singers with their leadership. The choir's role has again been focused on leading the music at our Sunday Eucharist, but also on our monthly Evensong service.

One exciting new development has been the appointment of Eric Chan, our organ scholar. Eric is an organ student at the Royal College of Music, and has come to us to gain experience in playing the organ in a church setting.

As ever, huge credit for the success of music at All Saints' must go to Chris Woodward, Assistant Director of Music and Organist, for his first class playing and leadership of Treblemakers, our children's choir.

Patrick Allies Director of Music

- **Children's worship**

AS@4 is a fun and successful part of our outreach to local families with children. Once about every six weeks, we meet in church on a Sunday afternoon to sing songs, hear stories, pray, play and much more besides. AS@4 runs along the lines of the popular 'Messy Church' model of church service, and is very good at attracting children and 8 families from the local area, some of which will not be regular church goers. It is thus an important part of our outreach. We follow the church calendar, and the theme of the service usually corresponds to what we've been doing in church in the morning.

Usually Chris leads our worship, but for several months we had to make do without him as he was away. Laura did a great job of leading our pet-blessing service, when we were blessed with the presence of cats, dogs, horses and even a spider! We were, of course, really pleased to have Chris back. While we have kept the themes broadly similar this year, we had a new service in May when we looked at the life of Mary, Jesus' Mother. We then danced around a may pole and sang songs!

After the service has finished, we always stay in church for squash, coffee and biscuits and a chat. A big thank you must go to all of our volunteers who work so hard to make this service happen. Without you, AS@4 simply wouldn't happen. Because this is an irregular congregation, we're never sure how many people will turn up until the service actually starts. Over the past year, we have never been disappointed. This is largely down to our committed group of volunteers. A big thank you to Chris Woodward as well, who comes and enhances our worship for us by playing the piano. Music is a big part of what we do, so thank you. AS@4 is an important part of our outreach into the local community, so please keep this venture in your prayers that its success may continue!

Tom Dumbell

Sunday School continues to thrive at All Saints'. There are in excess of 200 children on the registers, split into four age groups (preschool, Reception, Y1, Y2/Y3 and Y4-Y6). Attendance varies considerably, but tends to average at around 8-10 children in the younger ages, and around 5 in the year 4-6 group per week. Our teaching is currently based on Scripture Union's Light syllabus and Roots resources, covering both Old and New Testament stories, however at present development of our own

tailored teaching programme is underway and will be implemented during the coming year.

The aim of Sunday School is to help children discover who God is, what he is like, what he does and gain a clear and age appropriate understanding of Christian values and beliefs. A range of methods, including reading and storytelling, craft and games, as well as Godly play strategies, are used in our teaching of the bible to support understanding and encourage reflection and questioning.

This year has seen the departure of some longstanding Sunday School teachers and this has presented some challenges. There are however a dedicated and committed team of 32 teachers who have worked extremely hard to ensure that children within our congregation are able to enjoy the benefits of Sunday School on an ongoing basis. Huge thanks to all of this team who consistently put so much time into preparing and leading our Sunday School.

Jackie Davis

Godly Play continues to be a core and very positive part of Sunday School at All Saints'. Based on Montessori principles, this storytelling approach allows children to discover the nature of God and God's work in the world through Biblical stories and themes. Each session involves a story; wondering about aspects of the story through open questions and discussion; and a response time with a free choice of activities to allow reflection on that story through craft, drawing, writing or further discussion. Godly Play sessions are timetabled at least once a term for each Sunday School group. Stories are chosen to reflect the Church season and the stories and response materials are checked and resourced frequently. We currently have nine trained Godly Play teachers and we aim to ensure there are trained teachers to cover all age groups. Working with our trained teachers, Chris Eyden and Tom Dumbell, Godly Play is also delivered to pupils from Years 2 to 6 at All Saints' School both at the school and using the dedicated Godly Play classroom at St Mary's Church. Godly Play provides an opportunity to discuss and reflect on challenging questions in an engaging way and children from both church and school tell us regularly how much they enjoy it. We work closely with St Mary's Church to share opportunities for training and development in Godly Play. In 2016, this included a one-day training workshop attended by two people from our Sunday School team. In 2017, this includes a one-day training workshop in the Spring, the Godly Play UK conference in the Summer and a three-day accredited training course in the Autumn. We are very grateful for the contribution of our Godly Play teachers to the work at All Saints'. In 2017/18, we are keen to expand and strengthen the expertise of our Godly Play team. Godly Play will also form a key component in the new Sunday School curriculum. If you are interested in learning more about Godly Play or training as a Godly Play teacher, please contact Daisy Gardener at gardenerdaisy@gmail.com

Daisy Gardener and Patricia Harrison

The crèche. It has been my pleasure to co-ordinate the crèche volunteer rota again this year.

The crèche continues to provide a valuable service during the Sunday Eucharist for worshipping families with young children up to 3 years' old. Attendance fluctuates, but we always host at least a couple of children, and often have 10-12 customers! We aim to support the congregation by providing space in a welcoming environment to take active children while their families participate in the service. Toys and books are

shared amongst the young charges while the adults can listen to the service via speaker.

Our 14 crèche volunteers have been fantastic this year; all are CRB/DBS checked and are well-established within the All Saints' community.

It is nice to have a few more volunteers this year, so that the volunteering commitment is not too onerous for any one person.

We keep records of all children attending the crèche, noting whether or not their parents stay with them during their visit. Currently we are considering other measures to enhance this service and increase our information about the families who rely upon the crèche each week.

The crèche's wide selection of children's toys and books requires auditing and maintenance, which is undertaken at regular intervals throughout the year. We could do with some new toys, so we will shortly call for suitable donations.

We also have added to the information about the crèche on the Church's website: this, along with regular appeals for help at the Sunday Eucharist, has served to attract more volunteers and provide parents of young children with more information about the crèche service we provide.

Alexandra Rhodes, Crèche Co-ordinator

- **Weekday Services**

Weekday Morning Prayer

The short Service of Morning Prayer is held in the quire of the church each weekday morning at 9.15, it last approximately 20 minutes. The service includes readings from the bible and prayer. It is led either by a member of the clergy or the congregation. There are about 10 people who attend regularly during the week and anyone is welcomed. It creates a very calm space in busy lives at the start of the day.

Clemancy Gordon-Martin

Thursday 10am Child Friendly Eucharist

At 10am every Thursday morning during the school term we have a short 30 minute service designed especially for families with young children. There is a child-friendly order of service which includes songs with actions, a story from 'The Children's Bible' (often with props and puppets), children's prayers and communion. Fun Christian children's music plays before the service and during the playgroup which takes place in the Church afterwards. All of this makes the service popular both with young families who attend Church regularly on Sundays and those who may not, and is a lovely way to introduce young children to bible stories and prayer.

Gemma Duncan

- **Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals**

Last year 28 children under the age of 12 years were baptized; 9 children from All Saints' were Admitted to Communion; 12 couples were married at All Saints'; 2 funerals were conducted at the church, and 3 were conducted at a crematorium.

Carolyn Biddick

2. All Saints' Church and the Community

- **Curate**

After beginning my curacy with the parish at the end of June 2015, I went on six months maternity leave on 7th Feb 2016 and gave birth to the beautiful Joella. My return to working four days a week from mid-August, was shortly followed by my priesting alongside two other women from the Kingston Area on 25th September. This was the first priesting at the church for over 700 years and of course the first women ordained in the church. This historical event was made all the more special by the support and celebration we received from all in the parish.

The months from September until the end of November were largely spent covering Chris's sabbatical at All Saints'. This was a wonderful opportunity for me to continue gaining experience of parish life and to begin working with All Saints' School. A huge thanks go to the Church Wardens, Carolyn and others who worked so hard to make everything run so smoothly during this time. Since December 2016 I have had more involvement in leading Sunday services across both churches, and I have enjoyed developing the children's services, the youth work provision and continuing to be involved in Thursday Toddler group at All Saints' and the Wednesday lunch time group at St Mary's. It has been a wonderful privilege to be able to celebrate the Eucharist with you all.

Rev'd Laura Fawcett

- **Parish Assistant**

Pastoral Assistant Work

I'm very much enjoying my second year in the parish. Although I work a lot with children and young people, much of my work involves pastoral work, assisting the clergy and serving at the main Sunday Eucharist.

One new venture for this year is a monthly service at Mount Court. Once a month, a service of the word is held, focused on the liturgical season. We have a bible reading, a psalm, hymns and prayers. We then have an informal sermon, which often turns into a group discussion! We also have tea and coffee and a chance for a chat. We now have about ten residents attending, and Rose is very good at organizing everybody to get there! Ditte Donnelly has also worked very hard to organize everything. Ailsa, Laura and I will continue this work over the next few months. Please pray for our work with the residents of Mount Court, and that it continues to be a success.

As well as visiting Mount Court, I also visit people and take several people Holy Communion at home. This is one of my favourite jobs, and maintains a link between our churches and those who are now too frail to regularly attend. In this task, I am supported by Richard Truss who also undertakes visiting and home Communion across the parish. This area of our work is always changing as peoples circumstances change. If you ever know of anyone who may like a visit at home or in hospital, do please let a member of the clergy know.

Youth Work

Part of my Youth Work this year has been going into our two church Schools. Since September, I have been going once a week into Year Six at St Marys, and since January once a week into Year Six at All Saints'. At St Mary's School, I assist in the classroom and have been getting to know the children as they do their topic work. As well as assisting in the classroom, I have helped the children write their own prayers,

taught a lesson about Climate Change, and helped lead a class discussion about the Ten Commandments. Also planned for this term is a Year Six trip to a Buddhist Temple.

On a Friday morning, I help with a weekly Godly Play session. Each of the Key Stage Two Classes at St Mary's School will have chance to come into the Godly Play Room before Easter, exploring different themes of the Bible in a child friendly way that allows them to explore their own feelings and ideas.

At All Saints' School, Year Six have been looking at Art and Religion. We have been into All Saints' Church to look at art and symbolism, and have created our own versions of Renaissance masterpieces.

It's from our two church schools that most of the young people attending the Youth Club now come. We have over twenty children aged ten and over enrolled in our Youth Club, and we can have up to fifteen attend on any given session. We meet twice a month, in the Arch space at St Mary's on a Friday night, and in Putney Pantry for pizza on a Saturday. A big thank you to Putney Pantry staff for enabling this to happen! A big thank you also to those who volunteer to help make these events successful and safe for our young people.

Tom Dumbell

- **Music**

Treblemakers continues to grow in number and provide our children with an opportunity to meet regularly to sing a wide variety of music. The choir plays a leading role in the worship at the All-Age services and sang at the annual Carol Service. The weekly rehearsal remains on a Thursday evening and continues to attract some forty children from a mix of schools across our parish. We gave a successful summer concert at the end of the academic year and, most recently a Christmas concert in December, where professional musicians joined us. On a busy Saturday afternoon in December, we sang at the Parish Fair and subsequently offered a 30-minute recital to patients at The Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability. Aside from the music making, we had a successful trip to the West-End to see a performance of 'Matilda' and marked the choir's first anniversary with a BBQ and games on the church lawn in July.

Christopher Woodward, Assistant Director of Music.

All Saints' Church continues to be a venue for much music-making, outside of the service context. **The 1885 Singers** continues to flourish. They had a busy year starting with a 'Come and Sing ' Gilbert and Sullivan's Iolanthe. Our March concert was a performance of Haydn's 'Creation', given in conjunction with Donna Cox's 'Music in Community'. The addition of drama to the oratorio added to the experience of both singers and audience. Our summer concert was a second 'Evening at the Shows', the first having been such a popular event the previous summer. In October the 1885 Singers went into Tango-land performing a Mass setting in Tango mode by Martin Palmeri and Vida de Tango by Richard Knight.

Our Christmas concert raised £1260 for Crisis at Christmas. Our busking enabled us to give £500 each to the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability and Médecins Sans Frontières.

The one-hour Knitting Concerts on Sundays in the early evening, were as well attended as ever, each concert raising hundreds of pounds for charities nominated by the performers.

The church continues to be used for ABRSM music exams, and it is a popular venue for local music teachers giving pupil concerts.

Alison Hunka

- **Events@AllSaints**

A big thank you for to all the volunteers who have given up their time to help organise, cater and support the many events during 2016. We are hugely dependent on volunteers' time leading up to the event and on the day in order to put on the varied social and community functions that are enjoyed throughout the year.

We are a friendly and resourceful team who work closely together to make events happen. We were delighted to welcome some new members to the team this year and are always keen to recruit more!

Over the last year we supported our traditional events, such as the Lent Brunch, Easter Garden, Christian Aid Car Wash, Parish Picnic, Harvest Brunch, Fireworks Evening, the Parish Christmas Fair and the Carol Service. We are always open to new ideas and formats and have already added the Pancake Party, Mothering Sunday Daff tying and the Toy Service to the 2017 lineup.

Louise Herring & Nichola Hammerton

- **Home Group**

Taking it in turns to host, we meet fortnightly on Fridays at 10.30am in order to discuss whichever book we have been reading. These range from gospel commentaries to cultural/social interpretations of Christianity. Coffee and tea are obligatory and we always end with short prayers.

Amanda Cameron

- **Pastoral Care Team**

In 2016 the Pastoral Care Team has continued to offer support to church members and wider community. This has included home and hospital/nursing home visits to the lonely, elderly or ill, shopping and meal preparation for people unable to leave their homes and small maintenance and gardening jobs. We continue to provide transport for people who would otherwise be unable to attend church. We are increasingly taking people to hospital appointments and staying with them while they see the doctor as a 'second pair of ears'.

On Sundays the Welcome Team, a small dedicated group, are at the back of church before and after the 10.30 family service to recognise and welcome people who are new to the church. We are very aware that this first impression of All Saints' is vital if we are to be the friendly, welcoming church to which we aspire.

During the year a number of welcome drinks parties have been held. This creates an informal opportunity for people new to the church to meet more long standing members as well as each other. These events are held in our vicarage which offers a perfect space for entertaining both in the summer and the winter.

Clemency Gordon-Martin

- **The Toddler Group**

The Toddler Group meets at 10.30am every Thursday during term time, immediately following the Eucharist. It is very popular with mums, dads, grandparents and others who care for babies and pre-school children, and attracts those who may not yet be a part of the church community as well as those who attend the 10am service or who otherwise attend church.

The playgroup provides an opportunity for the children to play with a wide variety of appealing toys and books in a safe and friendly environment, and for the parents and other carers to socialise and exchange thoughts and experiences. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available for the adults and soft drinks and healthy snacks available for the children. During playtime the children also have an arts and crafts corner where they can make something special to take home, often linked to the church calendar. The playgroup concludes with well-known children's songs and nursery rhymes and ends at 11.30am.

Gemma Duncan

- **All Saints' Church of England School**

All Saints' School has continued to prosper this year. Staff at All Saints' School have overseen, with flying colours, the transition to new assessment arrangements and more rigorous tests. The first Y6 cohort to take the new style SATS, attained well above both local authority and national averages in all subjects: reading, writing, maths, grammar, punctuation and spelling. All Saints' School achieved 83% versus a national score of 53%. For KS1 (Y2 Pupils) All Saints' School was one of the top five schools in the borough with the highest proportion of pupils meeting the expected standard in all three of the KS1 teacher assessments.

While academic performance excels, All Saints' School has also taken a lead in furthering emotional wellbeing of students too. As part of a comprehensive PSHE curriculum the school has this year implemented Happy Minds and PATHS, two programmes that have received positive feedback from students and parents alike and underpin the school's commitment to ensuring all students build strong emotional intelligence and wellbeing.

Extracurricular activities abound, the highlight of which has been the whole school musical, 'A Place We Call Home' that has been playing to sell out audiences this term.

Governors continue to spend much time reacting to the government's often changing policies for school governance and funding. All Saints' will be negatively impacted by the new 'fairer' National Funding Formula which is due to be implemented in 2018-2019. This will present considerable challenge to school and governors.

Alec Boulton and Charles Roberts, Co-Chair of Governors

- **Book Group**

Another lovely year of reading a wonderful diverse selection of books which include, This Time of Dying by Reina James, The Citadel by AJ Cronin, Diary of an Ordinary Woman by Margaret Forster, Zig Zag Girl by Elly Griffiths, Life after Life by Kate Atkinson, The Ginger Tree by Oswald Wynd, A Man called Ove by Fredrik Backman, The Woman who went to Bed for a Year by Sue Townsend. We meet every six weeks and have a lively discussion and chat over a glass of wine or two.

Oriane Haldane

- **The Senior Social Group**

The Putney Senior Social Group is a weekly fixture organised for the benefit of the more senior members of Putney's community, and anyone over 60 is warmly invited to join us. We meet every Monday morning between 10 and 11.15am at All Saints' Church.

A group of enthusiastic and very kind volunteers bake and buy cakes, set up and run the sessions where we chat over coffee and cakes, laugh, form friendships and share birthdays.

In 2016 our Seniors enjoyed four lunch outings to The Tolworth Carvery and a slap up Christmas lunch on their own table at St. Marys Church. Our lovely volunteers helped with transporting them on these occasions.

We are grateful to The Pest House Fund whose financial support makes these outings possible.

We have a good number of volunteers on our rota – we lost some in 2016 but gained some as well.

Our Seniors continue to be offered a free half hour yoga session at All Saints' Church, immediately after our session. This is care of Sarah Harrop, a member of our congregation and yoga teacher, who continues to offer her wonderful services free of charge.

Working alongside us, MOASS (Men at All Saints) continues to visit male members of our community and organise lunches at The Sun Inn in Barnes.

The number of seniors attending remains steady at 12ish per week, and we have had some new people attending recently which is a very welcome addition to our group.

Next week, we are hosting a drinks and nibbles get-together for all our volunteers – to discuss how it is going and most importantly to thank them for their ongoing commitment and hard work.

For any further information, please contact Sarah Barron: barron.sarah@hotmail.co.uk

Sarah Barron

3. The Church, Buildings and Grounds

- **Safeguarding Report**

The safeguarding officers for All Saints' Church, Putney, are Mari Watson (Young People and Vulnerable Adults) and April Mundy (Children). The role of the safeguarding officers is to provide support to the pastoral team regarding issues relating to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Their role is also to act as a link between the team and any parishioner who may wish to raise a safeguarding query.

They ensure there is a confidential and neutral space in which a concern can be raised, which is then passed on to and thought about with Chris Eyden and the team. In line with this a safeguarding telephone contact number and answerphone is also available to Parishioners to ensure that queries and concerns can be discussed directly with a safeguarding officer in a timely and safe manner (this is not a 24 hour service).

Due to confidentiality it is not possible to talk about specific cases. However, as and when an issue arises, a strategy may be discussed and planned, and support and advice sought from the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer as appropriate. The Church always seeks to ensure that the best interests of those involved in such cases are kept at the heart of any action taken.

The pastoral team are continually mindful of safeguarding issues and remain vigilant. They also encourage members of the congregation to feel able to raise any concern, however small, to ensure that the Church continues to be a safe and nurturing environment.

The Church continues to ask all volunteers and staff to undertake and remain up to date with the DBS criminal records check, and ensure they are fully versed in safeguarding as an essential part of their role. All staff and some volunteers are required to attend safeguarding training.

The Safeguarding Officers, along with Chris Eyden, have just completed the yearly Diocesan Safeguarding Audit and have identified actions for the upcoming year to ensure the Church continues to remain in adherence with 'A Safe Church' - the Diocesan safeguarding policy and procedures document.

Mari Watson

- **Health and Safety**

In 2015 Nick Pleydell-Bouverie was appointed as the church Health & Safety Officer and a Health and Safety Audit of All Saints' Church was completed, in line with the Church's Insurance Policy. Nick liaised with the All Saints Fulham Church Safety Officer, to take advice on the requisite steps to be undertaken, and templates and forms to be completed for the Audit. Nick inspected All Saints' Church with Clemancy Gordon-Martin and Carolyn Biddick, and ran through the Risk Assessment and Policy Documents for their input and advice, as follows:

- A. General Risk Assessment form.
- B. Ecclesiastical Risk Assessment form
- C. Fire Risk Assessment form
- D. Ecclesiastical Health and Safety Questionnaire for ASP.
- E. PolicyStatementforASP(basedontheASFPolicytemplate)

The above documents were completed, and a list of action points produced, with recommendations arising from these, all of which were presented to the DCC in October 2015. A Health and Safety File was set up (stored in the vestry) containing all details of the above, in addition to templates for monthly and quarterly health and safety related checks (including fire and first aid equipment and systems), risk assessments and staff induction training. A number of health and safety documents have been produced which have been circulated to key holders / event and activity organisers / employees / independent contractors, and will continue on an ongoing basis.

In 2016 Nick Pleydell-Bouverie undertook a review and update of the above process and assessments, with the assistance of Carolyn and Clemancy. An updated Health and Safety Policy Statement was produced and displayed in the church along with an updated Health and Safety file, which is stored in the vestry.

Nick Pleydell-Bouverie

- **Maintenance report**

As part of regular planned maintenance, the large gas heaters have been serviced, all fixed wiring has been checked and all individual electrical items PAT tested. The lightning conductor has been certified and the fire extinguishers serviced. An additional grab rail has been fitted at the exit door towards the William Morris room. The main door has been trimmed where it was catching the tiled floor, and all locks oiled and serviced.

The PA system in the church has required some maintenance input, and as with all well used buildings, there have been minor maintenance issues which have received attention by a band of willing volunteers.

Mike Biddick

- **Church Flowers**

Our group of 8 regular flower arrangers (and special occasion helpers) have continued to create beautiful flower arrangements at the front of the church every Sunday this year. At Easter we arranged greenery and lilies donated in memory of loved ones to create a 'Garden of Gethsemane' for Maundy Thursday, as well as filling the church with beautiful spring flowers for Easter Sunday. At Harvest Festival we decorated the dais with harvest produce. The Christmas decorations are a highlight for all of us, decorating the Christmas tree and entire church with flowers, wreaths and candles for the many Christmas services. A huge thank you to the church for supporting our budget, all of the ladies on the flower rota, and to Chris and Carolyn for their ongoing help and support.

Nicky Taskis

- **Church Garden**

The garden has settled down very well after the huge efforts in 2014, the great designs put forward by Catherine Dando and the excellent work by Daniela Molina, John Bruen, our Thrive Gardener, and our volunteers.

2015 continued the maintenance of the garden with limited additional planting into the Southern border. The beds around the Church walls and the trees planted in those borders continue to thrive and mature and remain healthy despite some scares over the arrival of some box tree caterpillars which, thanks to prompt action, have been controlled.

The grass is being cut regularly in the season and the hedge is kept to a manageable level so that the church can be seen from across the common. Many thanks to Parkgate who have sponsored this work.

It has been especially gratifying for us all to see the gardens being used by the congregation and local people for relaxation and picnics, and the benches being a focus for passers-by to sit and reflect or simply rest awhile.

John Bruen, our Thrive gardener, and a band of volunteers meet fortnightly on Saturday mornings between 11.00 and 2.00; our work involves digging, weeding, trimming the shrubs and spreading compost. New helpers are always welcome and strongly encouraged – coffee and biscuits provided!

We are in the process of discussing the possibility of the Cubs using a small section along the fence near the school for their activities. Initial discussions have been had between Catherine Dando, Faith Sutherland and Chris Slemeck. These are continuing at the next gardening session on 11/3 with a meeting with a Cubs volunteer before any use of the garden commences.

Catherine Dando, Chris Slemeck, Richard Smith and Faith Sutherland

4. Church Administration and Finances

- **Warden's Report**

2016 has been year without major issues or initiatives, but that does not mean it has not been productive and eventful. A quick look at the contents page of this report will illustrate the scope and variety of the activities which take place in and around our church.

Much of what takes place in the church is, of course, dependent on the clergy, but without a large and committed group of volunteers many things could not happen. We would like to thank all those who manage the countless rotas produced month by month and those who fulfil the tasks within them. New blood though is always needed, so can we encourage everyone to look for opportunities to support All Saints' with your time, please?

We are truly blessed to have The Rev'd Chris Eyden as our vicar. His energy and enthusiasm ensure services are vibrant and engaging. His sermons, often focusing on our Christian responsibility as the hands of Christ in this 21st century world, are always thought provoking and often challenging. In September, after 20 years in Ministry, Chris took a well-earned three month sabbatical. Much of his time away was spent on pilgrimage, completing the Camino de Santiago. He posted regular updates on Facebook enabling us to track his progress. The pupils of All Saints' School were particularly involved in his journey and he developed quite a fan club! On his return in December Chris preached on the spiritual insights of the experience which enriched us all.

In Chris's absence we were fortunate to have the support of our Parish clergy; our Rector, the Rev'd Canon Ailsa Newby, our Assistant Priest, the Rev'd Canon Richard Truss and our Curate, the Rev'd Laura Fawcett, whose Ordination to the Priesthood, just before Chris took his sabbatical, was particularly well timed. As Churchwardens, we would like to thank them all for all they did to support and continue to nourish us over those three months. We would also like to congratulate Laura and her husband James on the birth of Joella last February, a sister for Aahana.

During the year we have again benefitted from the high quality of music, our talented choir constantly inspiring us in worship. Our junior choir, the Treblemakers, bring joy and musical harmony to our monthly All Age Services and Evensong, which is sung 5 – 6 times a year, is spiritually uplifting, a reflection of our Anglo Catholic tradition. It also brings many outside our regular congregation into contact with our building and worship. We are grateful for the dedication of our Director of Music, Paddy Allies and his Deputy and Organist, Chris Woodward.

Our garden remains an asset to the church. If you were to compare current photographs with those taken five years you would be amazed. Neat flower beds and well planted borders, trimmed hedges and benches placed in sunny, sheltered spots. It is well used by various nursery schools for their 'sports days', our own church school,

the Parish Picnic, the All Saints Day Bonfire and Firework display and much more. Less high profile is the pleasure it gives to the many local residents who walk regularly through the church grounds. We are very appreciative of the ongoing financial sponsorship from Parkgate Estate Agents and the physical support of the bi-monthly, all-weather gardening team.

As always, the financial health of a parish dictates how much can be spent on the fabric of the church, maintenance, ministry, music, mission, administration etc. After a period of challenge we are now in a much more stable position. Our direct giving has increased which enables us to plan and budget better for the future, and the use of Gift Aid Yellow envelopes is now common practice. Thank you to everyone who increased their giving in response to our Stewardship Campaign in the autumn. However we must not be complacent, as with volunteering, please can we encourage you to review regularly your financial support of AS?

This report would not be complete without mentioning our Parish Administrator, Carolyn Biddick, who leaves the job but not our congregation after Easter. Carolyn's knowledge, efficiency, diligence, perseverance and enthusiasm will be missed by many and certainly by the Churchwardens. Thank you, Carolyn for all you have done.

As we write this, the reredos behind the altar is closed marking Lent, a period of reflection and penitence. We will not see George Street's beautiful depiction of the New Jerusalem again until Easter Day. Then once again we give thanks for the Risen Lord in All Saints', Church Putney Common.

Clemency Gordon-Martin, Iain Cox, Kate Innes

- **DCC Report**

All Saints' Church's District Church Council (DCC) is responsible for the daily running of the Church and the funding of the Church's activities and maintenance, as well as raising money for the diocesan fund. It comprises a total of 17 members (including co-opted members) plus the vicar and Deanery Synod members. The DCC met 5 times in 2016-17 since the last AGM.

It has been another busy, and positive, year for All Saints' and a particular highlight was the ordination of our Parish Curate, Rev. Laura Fawcett and celebration of her first communion at All Saints'. The DCC thanks her, Rev. Chris Eyden, Rev. Canon Ailsa Newby and the whole ministry team for their continued inspiration, enthusiasm, hard work and commitment throughout the year.

Special thanks go to Tom Dumbell, our Parish Assistant, who leaves us later this year. We thank him for all his hard work, enthusiasm and work with the Youth group and wish him every success in the future.

A key event this year was Chris's sabbatical and Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. Thanks go to him for all the preparation and plans put in place prior to his departure. Particular thanks also go to our Church Wardens, Iain Cox, Clemency Gordon-Martin and Kate Innes, as well as Rev. Canon Alisa Newby and Rev. Laura Fawcett for all their hard work and dedication in ensuring the smooth running of the church during his absence.

The grounds and gardens, continue to draw very positive comments and the DCC would like to thank all those involved in their upkeep. We'd also like to thank Parkgate Estate Agents for their continued support and involvement with our church community.

While there have been no headline maintenance or compliance issues this year, the DCC would like to thank Nick Pleydell-Bouverie for his on-going work ensuring we are up to date with our Health & Safety requirements, as well as Mike Biddick, and his team, for their involvement with the maintenance of our buildings.

Our finances continue to be in excellent order thanks to the tireless and meticulous work of Treasurer, John Andrew. The DCC thanks both him and Rosie Taylor-Davies and Andrew Elder for their continued work developing our Stewardship and Planned Giving.

Maintaining the exceptionally high standard of music at All Saints' is an important element of our ministry and outreach and the DCC would like to thank Director of Music, Patrick Allies, and Assistant Director of Music, Chris Woodward, for their vision, enthusiasm dedication and extraordinary talent in helping achieve this.

The Treblemakers continue to flourish, both leading our worship at All Age Sunday services and also performing concerts. The youth choir, "Magnificat", main choir and choral scholars, play a vital part in our regular worship and thanks go to all involved. We have continued to invest in our music and welcome our organ scholar, Eric Chan.

The DCC would particularly like to thank Carolyn Biddick, as she retires, for her commitment and tireless administration work over the years.

All members of the DCC have worked hard over the past year but we are particularly grateful to those members who stand down from their various offices.

David Thomson – DCC Secretary

- **Electoral Roll**

As of 28th February 2016 the number of people on the Electoral Roll for All Saints Church is currently 258.

The current Electoral Roll list is being revised until April 9th 2017. Members are requested to update/revise the display copy in the church during this period. Those members of the congregation who are not on the Electoral Roll are invited to complete the necessary forms if they wish to be included.

The updated / revised Electoral Roll numbers will be reported to and ratified at the APCM at the end of April 2017.

Angela Holman, Electoral Roll Officer

- **Financial Report**

I am pleased to report that All Saints' Church had a very good financial year in 2016, exceeding the breakeven level that we budgeted. We managed a solid 5% improvement on the high levels of giving achieved in 2015 and carefully managed our costs. In addition we benefitted from some unexpectedly good investment returns at the parish level and from parish level donations including from the Brewer trust. We had no negative surprises like the asbestos issue in 2015. Together this lead to a significant surplus, even after putting amounts aside for garden and maintenance reserves as we try to do each year.

We particularly benefitted during 2016 from the investment made in having a curate and you will read elsewhere about some of Laura's achievements during the year. This has certainly been a valuable investment in our mission.

We continue to invest in music and the high standard is much appreciated. We now have four choral scholars and an organ scholar in addition to our director and assistant director of music. We benefit from the variety of bringing in jazz groups, drummers and others on special occasions. In particular our investment in the Treblemakers choir brings in children and their families who otherwise might not visit. Chris Woodward and Janet Simpson have been inspiring the children with the range of music being sung and with the range of events they participate in, from concerts to competitions.

Our garden is looking great as the beds around the church are carefully maintained and the larger border beds are being filled. We continue to benefit from Parkgate's sponsorship of the garden (and other events) for which we are very grateful. We are also grateful to all those who help to ensure our gardens are so well cared for, including Faith Sutherland, Catherine Dando and Richard Smith. We hope you enjoy the gardens all year around.

We go into 2017 with the aim to do more of the good works that your giving supports and much of this is described elsewhere in the annual report. We also contribute to the work of the Diocese (including its payment of our clergy). The change to the generosity based Parish Support Fund has been a success with pledges being collected as promised and to the level of the Diocesan budget. The success of this approach allows us greater flexibility to manage our finances in line with our needs and plans.

The unaudited income and expenditure of this church for the year ended 31 December 2016 resulted in a surplus of £12,909. This was well ahead of our small budgeted surplus and the 2015 position of a £377 surplus, all on just over £200,000 each of income and expenditure.

Stewardship: Giving increased significantly in the years to 2013, with a flattening off in 2014 and 2015 and now another above inflation increase in 2016 demonstrating the success of the 2015 stewardship campaign. We are keen to maintain the momentum and further increase giving to allow us to increase what we spend on ministry, particularly to support having a Curate, a Pastoral Assistant and to bring in a youth worker. The 2016 stewardship campaign focused on both encouraging regular givers to increase their donations and on ensuring new members of the congregation are brought into the planned giving scheme. During 2016, 148 people gave regularly by standing order. There were 13 new donors (average £33 per month), but 14 donors ceased (who had been giving an average £50 per month). One fifth of the rest (27 donors) increased their monthly gifts by a total £422 per month. While the overall result was positive the rate of loss of loyal donors and the low proportion increasing their gifts shows the need to repeat the campaign to encourage all those enjoying the church to give regularly and all donors to increase the amount that they contribute at least in line with cost inflation.

A big thank you to all involved in stewardship (including Rosie Taylor Davies and Andrew Elder and all the wardens during Chris' sabbatical) and to Carolyn Biddick and Jemma Taylor who have helped variously to run the church finances, maintain the financial records and do all the hard work.

John Andrew, Treasurer of All Saints' Church

Church Accounts

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH PUTNEY

BALANCE SHEET (Unaudited)

As at 31 December 2016

	2016 £	2015 £
ASSETS		
Fixed Assets	9,855	10,355
Cash at bank and in hand	113,473	103,993
Due from Parish Central Account	14,921	
Prepayments	2,911	2,620
Accrued Income	4,069	7,945
	145,230	124,913
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES		
Accrued Expenses	9,064	3,598
Prepaid income	260	3,675
Due to Parish Central Account		5,053
Reserves		
FOAS	12,992	11,791
Music fund	44,473	44,384
Ministry (from legacies)	20,000	20,000
General maintenance reserve	20,500	15,500
Office rent reserve	10,000	5,000
Toddler Group	1,554	1,144
General	26,387	14,768
	145,230	124,913

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH PUTNEY

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (Unaudited)

For the period ended 31 December 2016

	2016 £	2015 £
INCOME		
Direct giving	142,404	136,884
Investment income	20,758	13,979
Donations, fees, lettings, events etc	57,741	45,900
Total income	220,903	196,763
EXPENSES		
Diocesan quota	113,668	111,794
Clergy, admin	43,801	34,992
Music, maintenance, church expenses	50,525	49,600
Total expenses	207,994	196,387
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	12,909	377

Vicar's Report

The mystic Thomas Merton, called Christians to be Holy Fools for God. I arrived back from my sabbatical on the 1st December, to find everything in such good order that I wonder whether all Saints' Putney really needs a vicar, so well had my Church Wardens, church administrator and many of you, kept our little "ship of fools" sailing on. So Carolyn, Clemency, Iain and Kate...thank you!!

Having spent three months of last year on sabbatical, and six weeks of that walking across northern Spain, I had a lot of time to think. Many clergy go on sabbatical after 25 years of service and return only to resign from their job, and either get another one or think of retirement. I have to say, I did consider both. After almost 11 years in the Parish of Putney, moving to another church is certainly something I thought about, and retirement for me is not that far off, but I decided very quickly, that I can't afford to retire for a while yet.

I'm looking back at last year and looking forward to this coming year. There are a number of things to say about being rooted - after all, it is our Lent theme.

To be rooted somewhere is to know that this is your place. It's about sustaining and nurturing what we have, but it's also about branching out. It's about knowing that these are your people and this is your environment. The buildings you inhabit, be it your home or your place of worship, is in some way rooted in our psyche. I have certainly felt that since I returned from my travels. I'm also aware that being rooted can mean being stuck, not able to move. When we grow from our roots, the growth has to be nurtured and if we don't water it, it will die.

We have an active and busy church. I sometimes say to my friends, "I wish I was a Vicar of one of those churches you're always hearing about, you know, the ones no-one ever goes to!"

Like all of us, I have to sustain myself in my life and in my ministry, and I have to water "me" to keep fresh, to keep my outlook young. Our many activities, our church structures, our buildings, our worship, need to be nurtured, kept fresh, continue growing, both outwards and inwards.

We've most of us grown better at giving realistically of our financial resources and I thank all of you for your generosity. We need to keep ourselves financially healthy in order to do the Lord's work (which is never cheap and always needs to be paid for). There is no such thing as "church for free". We have some exciting projects that we are funding in this coming year.

In planning over the past few years, we've taken on areas for development and tried to invest in them and nurture them. Our work with teenagers has been one such development. Our Parish Assistant Tom, has persevered against the odds of teenage disinterest, and now has about 13-15 Years 5, 6, and 7 who are meeting fortnightly. Tom will leave us this year, but it is hoped, he will continue to work with the group on a sessional basis alongside a new Parish Assistant, so as to keep the group growing.

When I came to All Saints' seven years ago, I inherited a tradition of music in Worship which was of a very high standard. Both the adult and the children's choirs made excellent contributions to our weekly worship. We have continued to invest time and resources in our music and to great effect.

We contribute to the development of Anglican Church music by having our choral scholars sing within and alongside our main choir and we enjoy both an organist and an organ scholar who is "learning the trade!" We are privileged to have a great deal of talent both in Paddy Allies and Chris Woodward. So we continue to put resources into church music, and it pays off.

“Treblemakers” attracts children from right across Putney, not just children from church, but all over. That makes music a “Mission activity” and it's worth supporting and resourcing.

So now we turn our minds to our children and Sunday school. This year, we are looking at children's worship and at our Sunday school. We are designing a new syllabus to work alongside the churches year and to offer as much meaning as we can from the great Christian seasons and festivals.

This is a big project and as our Sunday school expands, the DCC has decided to employ a part time children, junior church and Sunday School co-ordinator. This person will oversee the development of our work, coordinate and recruit volunteers and ensure that our Health & Safety and Safeguarding procedures are up to date. The DCC has approved a sum of money to employ a part-time person. The new post will be advertised across the parish as of this coming week, and I'm hoping that we can have somebody in post by the end of April.

When, after 2 years in post, Tom leaves us in July we will appoint a new Parish Assistant for our Parish and, as most of you know, Carolyn Biddick retires as Parish Administrator after Easter. Last Tuesday we appointed a new Administrator to succeed Carolyn; her name is Lottie Clarke and she will begin on April 18th. So, it's all change! I could eulogise for a year on Mrs Biddick's 10 year contribution to the smooth running of All Saints', so I'll wait a bit. One thing is certain, whether Carolyn likes it or not, there will be a eulogy and a long one!!

Junior church coordinators, choir directors, parish assistants and administrators all cost money, and you generously give of your money. This year some of it will be used in order to run our church efficiently and pass on our faith with its traditions and stories, in words and music and art, and in ways that children can understand. Ways which mean something to them in their lives. This is what is being funded out of what you give, alongside everything else that we fund across the Diocese of Southwark, through our Parish Pledge. Money needs managing, when I became vicar seven years ago, our church and our parish was in considerable deficit with little hope that I could see of ever balancing our finances. After seven years we are now able to pay our way, contribute a significant amount of money to the Diocese of Southwark and we are in the fortunate position of having a surplus this year which we will use to finance ministry. Without doubt, John Andrew our church treasurer, has played a significant role over the past few years, in getting us back into a robust financial position. Thank you John.

We've been so blessed this year with Laura Fawcett our curate who was ordained Priest in September last year. It has been a delightful experience having a young mum as a priest in the church. So many contacts and connections have been made and I look forward to another year working with her and having James and Ahanna and Joella involved in our church community.

Several things I am so thankful and proud of, without doubt, our work with homeless people has grown substantially over the past few years. Our work with work with Glass Door has become a regular part of our winter months. As well as being my churchwarden, Clemency Gordon-Martin has to be thanked for her inspiration and co-ordination of our Monday night shelter for Homeless people in St Mary's Church Hall.

It is sometimes inappropriate to single out one person and there are many of you I know, who contributes, but I am certain you will all join me in thanking Clemency for her extraordinary efforts and for the quite remarkable work that she does. Parish Action too, raises very large amounts of money for charities at home and abroad and each year we contribute significantly. This turns our minds away from just our own

concerns and outwards towards others who need our help and co-operation. Thanks go to Zoe and Linda, and all the Parish Action team for their tireless hard work over the year, both past and to come.

I think we fall down on “watering a little bit” We need to look at the giving of our time as Disciples and followers of Jesus and for many of us, time is the most precious thing we have. Volunteering to take part in the things needed to make Church and ministry work is important; hence ‘God’s Labour Exchange’. I think more work is falling on the shoulders of fewer people. Our church continues to grow numerically but our volunteers seem to be diminishing.

If we don't participate, if we don't make use of what's offered and if we don't do our bit, then the beautiful church, the lovely community that so many of us say we value so much won't flourish as it should, and we could become stuck, always imagining that someone else will do the work whilst we're being busy.

We always need volunteers. We need Stewards and we definitely need more Sunday School teachers, particularly men as well as women. We need people to help in the crèche and we need people to turn up and help keep our garden beautiful. There are always opportunities to arrange flowers too. If we stop volunteering and give up, not only does the whole church grind to a halt but we are not participating in the gospel; we not doing our bit for the God we worship and profess.

I'm not being alarmist here, churches go up and down and need reminding occasionally - that's all. This church has done just that many times in its 144 years of existence. I'd like to think that it has at least another 144 years.

We spent a good part of last year marrying lovers and Baptising babies. I was very proud of our community here in July when we were able to celebrate and bless the marriage of Marinus the deputy head of our church school and Glenn his husband, here in All Saints' Church. We made history. The first celebration and dedication of a gay marriage in this church's 140 year history. Inclusivity is what All Saints' Church has stood for decades and last July we put ourselves on the line and proved it. I am very proud of everyone in this community who told me how proud they were of their church last July and there were many, many, of you who did.

Things never stand still; changes will take place. Change is written into the nature of things, but being rooted is not being stuck. It helps us get to where we need to be, and 2017 will continue to see us celebrating our present, branching out and investing in our future. Inclusive, the generous intelligent Christianity of the type we try to practice and preach here has never been more needed as our world seems to become ever more fractured, divided and exclusive. We can, and do, keep the flame alive and shining.

So, I returned from my sabbatical (I shall never have one again) and as I walked across Spain, I looked back on my time so far as a vicar and as vicar of this church in particular. I was happy to be out of role whilst I was away. I don't much enjoy being identified with the dog collar but I realised how much being a priest here at All Saints' means to me, and how much this community has become a part of my life. It's not the dog collar, it's the community, which offers me so many connections to so many people. It's being on the receiving end of so much friendship, love and generosity. It's more than a privilege to be here; I've realised that. So thoughts of moving to another church really don't take root at the moment. It would have been easy for me to move when I returned from my sabbatical and probably find myself in a situation, where the grass on the other side of the fence, was not nearly as green as the grass on Putney Common! So, for now, I'm staying with the ship of fools, of which, I am the biggest fool of all!

Like the Oscars, the thank-yous can go on! There are a million thank-yous to say to the many of you who work so hard in All Saints' and our Parish. I thank you for the many, many wonderful activities you enable in our church. For now, I will say one thank you from me, which is in weight, more than a million - thank you, for last year and the year ahead.

Thank you, all of you.

Reverend Chris Eyden