



**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL
CHURCH MEETING
22nd. March 2015**

**AGENDA
AND
REPORTS
2014**

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**ST JAMES CHURCH, SOUTHAM
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
AGENDAS**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING TO ELECT TWO CHURCHWARDENS
TO BE HELD IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY 22nd. MARCH 2015**

1. Prayer
2. Election of Churchwardens

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 22nd. MARCH 2015**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. Reports. (It is proposed that Reports in Annual Report Booklet be taken as read).
5. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts
7. Election of PCC Members
8. Re-election of Sidespersons *en bloc*
9. Any other business
10. Date of next APCM Meeting

**MEETING OF NEW PCC TO BE HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE APCM
SUNDAY 22nd. MARCH 2015**

1. Co-options
2. Election of:
Vice Chair
Treasurer
Secretary
Standing Committee
Deputy Churchwardens
Electoral Roll Officer
3. Note of dates of admission of Churchwardens
4. Date of next PCC Meeting

Note: The PCC must appoint a Standing Committee of at least five people. The Incumbent and churchwardens are members ex-officio. The PCC must appoint at least another two PCC members, one of whom will normally be the Treasurer. The Standing Committee has the authority to carry out PCC business between PCC meetings, but it is accountable to the PCC.

ST JAMES SOUTHAM PCC
Minutes of Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Held on Sunday 23 March 2014 at St James Church, Southam

Vestry Meeting for the Purpose of Electing Two Churchwardens

1. Welcome and prayer

The Rev. John Armstrong opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2013

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

3. Election of Churchwardens

John Armstrong thanked Pat Adams, who was not seeking re-election and Hilary Crosby for all their hard work during the past year. One nomination, duly proposed and seconded, had been received for Hilary Crosby. There being no other nominations Hilary Crosby was duly elected for the following year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Members Present 30

1. Welcome and prayer

The Rev. John Armstrong opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Julia and Brian Cobb, Alison and Rob Hall, Jenny and David Baxter, Abigail Ognjanović, Pam Gilkes, Chris Cooke, Pam Batstone and Mary Williams.

3. Minutes of APCM Meeting held on 17 March 2013

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Reports

John Armstrong thanked all those who had contributed to the reports and encouraged everyone to read them and take the opportunity to ask questions. John Armstrong also encouraged everyone to be ready to join in the Kingdom.

a) Diocesan Synod

In response to a question of clarification regarding reference to the increasing work of the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) in the report of the Diocesan Synod, Margo Grant advised that this was in reference to the increase in the numbers of church schools becoming academies and the need to up skill the DBE.

b) PCC Sub Groups

In response to a question on the future of the sub groups mentioned under the Secretary's report, John Armstrong confirmed that the groups would continue to meet and be expanded to include wider representation from the church family.

c) HOPE14 Deanery Mission

Jill Parker advised the meeting that the Diocese had awarded the Deanery a grant from which the costs of promoting the Deanery Mission and meet the costs of 'Deanery-Wide' events would be met.

The meeting also agreed that the Deanery Mission Team representatives from St James could put together a group to finalise the plans for what was planned to be done locally as the deadline to feed into the deanery wide plan was fast approaching.

d) Treasurer's Report

Ruth Tresidder advised the meeting that planned income had continued at £2,100 per month in 2014 which, although early days, meant that we remained on target to meet our 2014 Parish Share.

e) Rector's Report

In Brian Cobb's absence the secretary read out to the meeting a series of statements and questions he had received in respect of John Armstrong's Rector's report. In essence Brian was:

- questioning John's assertion that 'tinkering' with the current format of the 10am Sunday service would not increase numbers,
- stating that if numbers at the 10am service continued to decline it would eventually become non-viable,
- stating that the 10am Sunday Communion service felt like communion was an add-on rather than central to the service, and
- that in the Rector's report no mention had been made of the worship survey and what had been changed or was to be changed as a result.

In response John Armstrong advised the meeting that he had spent a considerable amount of time with Brian discussing his concerns and accepted that people respond to different things in different ways. John also stated that the communion service fully complied with what was liturgically orthodox although accepted that the style of a particular service could change the feel of the service. What was important was that whatever was taught should be done in a Biblical context.

With regard to the worship survey John Armstrong reminded the meeting that the sub-groups had been formed following a PCC awayday at which, using the Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Growing Churches, the PCC had identified inspiring worship and empowering leadership as our weakest qualities. John advised that the worship sub group had undertaken a worship survey but accepted that the way it had been introduced and followed up could have been better. An analysis of the results showed very few low scores which meant that people were on the whole reasonably content, which had been reflected in the note in the Bulletin.

John also added that some changes had been taken on board, including improvements to sound, vision and the pitch of some songs and a new baptismal service was being trialled. However if something had not changed it did not mean that it had been ignored and it was important that we improved and maintained communication at all levels to see if we can do things better. Involving more people in the intercessions was planned and a review of the fourth Sunday 10am 'all age' service was in hand as the current format was not working and families were staying away. In addition Martin Saxby, the Diocesan Healthy Churches Development Mentor, had been invited to preach and meet with the PCC.

Other comments made by church members at the meeting:

- supported Brian Cobb's comment that the 10am Sunday Communion Service felt like two services with communion tacked on,
- suggested that John might like to consider robing for the 10am Sunday Communion Service,
- expressed concern that the pitch of some songs was too high (which John acknowledged saying that if necessary he transposed a whole manuscript to a lower pitch), and
- suggested that consideration be given to starting and finishing the 10am Sunday services with songs that were more familiar.

The work of the worship group so far was acknowledged but it was recognised that there was still a lot more to do and that the group needed to ensure that it had a good representation from each of the services.

No further comments or questions were raised and the reports were duly noted.

Elections and Appointments to the PCC

a) **Election of Lay Reader**

The meeting agreed that Stephen Adams, as Reader at St James, should automatically be appointed to serve on the PCC.

b) **Election for the Deanery Synod**

The meeting noted that St James, under diocesan rules, was entitled to appoint up to two representatives for the Deanery Synod based on an electoral roll of 92. One nomination, duly proposed and seconded, had been received for Barry Parker. There being no other nominations Barry Parker was duly elected.

c) **Election of Lay Members for the PCC**

The meeting noted that St James, under diocesan rules, was entitled to appoint up to nine lay members to the PCC based on an electoral roll of 92. Six nominations duly proposed and seconded had been received and on the basis that no other nominations were forthcoming the following were duly elected to serve on the PCC: Pat Adams, Shirley Hurley, Iris Lloyd, Noreen Nutt, Ruth Tresidder and Jenny Thorne.

The meeting further noted that appointments would normally last for three years, but that, as agreed at the last APCM, in order to move to a system whereby one third of the lay members were elected each year a ballot would be undertaken to determine which members served a term of one, two or three years.

As a result of the ballot terms of office would be as follows:

- One year – Iris Lloyd, Noreen Nutt, Vacancy
- Two years – Pat Adams, Vacancy, Vacancy
- Three years – Shirley Hurley, Ruth Tresidder, Jenny Thorne

d) **Appointment of Sidespersons**

The current rota of sidespersons was approved and re-elected en-bloc.

e) **Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts**

The meeting noted that Elizabeth McBride was prepared to continue in this role and was duly re-elected, proposed by Ruth Tresidder and seconded by Hilary Crosby.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 22 March 2015.

The meeting closed in prayer at 12.25pm.

Chairman **Date**

REPORTS

**Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended
31 December 2014**

Priest-in-Charge

Rev. John Armstrong
The Rectory
4 Park Lane
Southam CV47 0JA

Parish Administrator

Mrs M Mumford
The Parish Office
77D Coventry Street
Southam
CV47 0EA

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
6 High Street
Southam
CV47 0HA

Independent Examiner

Mrs Elizabeth McBride ICMA
1 Park Lane
Harbury
CV33 9HX

The PCC co-operates with the Rev. John Armstrong in promoting, within the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission in the Southam Deanery in the Diocese of Coventry. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the annual parochial church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC has no connected charities.

The PCC employs one part-time member of staff.

No member of the PCC, or any connected person, has benefited financially from the PCC. Expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC have been reimbursed.

PCC Membership as at the 2014 APCM was as follows:

John Armstrong	Incumbent
Hilary Crosby (vacancy)	Warden and Vice Chair Secretary
Ruth Tresidder	Elected - Treasurer Reader – Deanery Synod
Stephen Adams	Representative Elected – Deanery Synod
Barry Parker	Representative
Pat Adams	Elected
Shirley Hurley	Elected – Minutes Secretary*
Iris Lloyd	Elected
Noreen Nutt	Elected
Jenny Thorne	Elected
Margo Grant	Deanery and Diocesan Synod

* in the absence of an appointment, Shirley Hurley volunteered to act as minutes secretary. Margaret Mumford has dealt with much of the administration from the office.

(Total 11)

The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the fabric of the church and of the churchyard.

In 2013 a new electoral roll had been prepared, so the roll for 2014 is an update of that roll. We now have 93 members on the 2014 Church Electoral Roll of whom ten are not resident within the parish as compared with 85 in 2013.

The statement of the financial activities for the year is set out in the Annual Report together with the Treasurer's Report (see pages 13ff).

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

Review of the Year

The Rev. John Armstrong

At the APCM in March 2014 Hilary Crosby was re-elected for a further year's term of office as Churchwarden, whilst Pat Adams retired, having served for five years. Pat kindly offered to help as / if needed, for example with the Sidespersons' rota. Now we shall need two new Churchwardens to carry on this ministry. Thank you, Hilary, for your faithfulness in office during these last three years. Given that many hands make light work, I appeal to church members to volunteer to take on some of this shared responsibility so that this coming year we may have a complete PCC and two Churchwardens please! The PCC met on nine occasions during the year and members of its sub-groups furthered the work of outreach in the Hope14 mission and of discipleship in the (successful) follow-up Alpha course. The worship group has continued to plan and develop worship in the church. Barry Parker and Stephen Adams have been serving on Deanery Synod during the year and have thus been able to contribute to dialogue and keep us informed; Margo Grant has also served on Diocesan Synod.

Here is a summary of matters discussed and decided.

Christmas and Christian Initiation. We didn't have a Christmas Tree Festival this year. We applied for space in the new Glebe complex but were unsuccessful; we may have an opportunity once the lease is finalised. During the year we discussed intercessions and Baptism services; it was agreed that intercessions would be included in the latter. A new form of baptism service was trialled and it was agreed that future baptisms would take place at the front of church, rather than at the font at the back, so that all could see and hear better. A glass baptismal bowl was purchased. Discussion took place on Christmas services, particularly the Carol service; the decision was reached that this year we would have traditional Carols with organ accompaniment. The Nativity celebration led by the Jolly J's team was also to be held in December after very positive feedback from that of 2013.

Hope 14 and Children's work. A highlight of the year was the Hope14 mission (more about which elsewhere) and our Missioner Roger Murphy spent a weekend in May with us in the deanery in preparation for the mission week in September. Coventry Diocese awarded the Deanery a grant from which the costs of promoting the Deanery Mission and the costs of deanery-wide events would be met. It was agreed that the Deanery Mission Team representatives from St James could put together a group to finalise the plans for local events. We put on an evangelism course "Lost for Words" which attracted a number of people from Southam and beyond. We had previously said that we needed to boost our work with schools and to reach children, so we were delighted that St. James School "just happened" to have booked two "Barnabas Days" - to be devoted to Christian input - during the time of the mission. We were delighted as a PCC to offer financial support for this. During the Hope14 mission week Graham Nunn, Youth Evangelist, was able to spend time in every local church; he was well-received. A 'Messy Church' was also held at Southam College; this will be followed during 2015 by further events. It has been good to work with and minister to a considerable number of children during this time; likewise numbers at Jolly J's continue to delight us. Sadly parents are not bringing their children to church on Sundays. (See the St James School report re. the "Open the Book" assemblies.) As we continue to address this challenge we shall seek to meet them where they choose to be - and not to be afraid of experimenting. We tried out a 'Café Style' church service on 23rd. November with some measure of success. Some who came thought it was brilliant. "Church" does not need to happen only on a Sunday - or only in "the Church" - so we shall continue to endeavour to discover ways and means of reaching our neighbours for Christ.

Bishops and Burials. All PCCs had been asked their views on Women in the Episcopate. This was discussed, the PCC and the church as a whole raised no objections and, as we now know, the first female C of E bishop has now been consecrated. As predicted for many years, the churchyard was declared to be – in practice – “full” (in the sense that there are no remaining “new” full burial plots). Space remains for the burial of ashes. Discussions with the Town and District Councils have taken place over many years and a solution which offers and operates an alternative site for the burial of bodies is still awaited.

Fabric and Food. A great deal of work has been completed on the fabric of the church and David Baxter was thanked for his work as Fabric Secretary; Jenny Thorne has kindly helped out in a number of ways, whilst John Tresidder has continued with much of the work. He has delegated to Margaret Mumford some administrative tasks which can be undertaken from the Church Office. There is urgent need for people with time and skills who would be willing to help address the many needs. Much has been undertaken but the Quinquennial Inspection in July indicated that there is much work to be done and potentially much money to be raised and spent. The Southam-based Food Bank was inaugurated in the summer and some church members are amongst the volunteers. Our Harvest services brought in gifts which were shared between the Food Bank and Leamington Christian Mission. The Remembrance Sunday service was well-attended and very well-organised; this of course supported the work of the Royal British Legion.

Healthy Churches. During the year the Rev. Martin Saxby addressed the church in June on the Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Growing Churches; he has also recently spoken to the PCC on ways of implementing a series of surveys which would help us to discover the best ways to increase the health, and thus the growth, of the church. Every church in the diocese is being strongly encouraged to take part and will eventually be required to do so. The PCC has unanimously agreed in principle and will seek the most appropriate timing to commence this, given the current fluidity and uncertainty in Deanery plans, following the retirement of clergy and consequent interregna.

Worship and Resources. Mindful of the fact that deanery reorganisation would mean fewer clergy across eighteen parishes, discussion took place about provision of services within the benefice. Ufton PCC was represented at a joint PCC meeting to discuss this matter. One decision made was to have a three month trial of one service for all on the first Sunday of the month, starting on the 4th. January 2015. This would be Holy Communion at 9.30 am. – thus a different time, but for all members of all four congregations. A proviso was that the priest did not necessarily have to be available for duty; this would mean he could be available to assist elsewhere if necessary. It was posited that the evening service might be held earlier in winter, as it was believed that some older members might prefer not to have to return home in the dark. Consequently evening congregants were polled; the majority were content with attending (or not attending) – at 6.30 pm! Another idea was to put on a Café service on Sunday afternoon as an alternative to the 10.00 am. service. We have tried one café service – but not as yet in the afternoon. Considering what we offer across the deanery as a whole is important; after all, anyone considering attending church might not object to travelling a short distance, as one must for shopping. Offchurch have taken to specialising by offering a Mattins service once a month, whereas Radford Semele offer a monthly service for those just starting out attending church. Whatever we offer needs to be done well, in co-operation with other Christians and sharing resources, rather than spreading ourselves too thinly or duplicating unnecessarily. If something does not aid growth of God's kingdom, should it still be done? A team of church members continues to offer Holy Communion to residents at Galanos House every three to four weeks. Recipients have grown in number from a handful to – on some occasions – twenty. A request to go in fortnightly was received, leading to a need to increase the number of volunteers to give Holy Communion. John Armstrong appended his name and invites anyone interested to let him know.

Finance continues to be a constant challenge. At present Southam and Ufton parishioners pay 60% of the amount requested to cover the cost of ministry; other parishes are making up the remaining 40% - some from this deanery, some from outside, but not for much longer. Human resources, as in all voluntary organisations, are scarce and very valuable. Church life provides many opportunities to serve; all contributions make a difference, however small or apparently ordinary. To **every** member of our fellowship - thank you; may God bless you richly and may God also add to our numbers. **Do you share my concern** about the scarcity of these human and financial resources? Things won't improve unless something changes - unless we change! A growth in numbers and an improvement in the "health" of church will not happen automatically. We know that God gives the growth but we have to plant the seed. It is vital - literally - that we all share the load of being the church and "operating" the church. Otherwise the work ends up in the hands of the faithful few, who might at any time collapse under the weight ... and then what?

And so ... For our part let us commit ourselves once again to love God and love our neighbour. The mission events of 2014 were good - but that's not "it"! During this year a good number of people have remarked on how they have been blessed in some way by their contact with the church. They have been helped, welcomed and have enjoyed our company, too. Let's take this positive effect to heart - we are getting some things right - and we will never get everything right all the time. During the coming years we will be seeking to become more healthy and fruitful as a church; there will be something for all of us to be involved with.

Thanks finally to all officers and members of the PCC, of all the committees, particularly to Hilary, our Churchwarden, Ruth, our Treasurer, Shirley, our Minutes Secretary, Margaret, our Parish Administrator, and for all your faithful hard work. Thanks also to all who staff the Church Office and regularly clean the church building, lead the worship music and ring the bells - to name but a few tasks undertaken. Many thanks to all who care for the fabric of the church. May God bless and equip us all and may we be a blessing to those amongst whom we live and work!

John Armstrong

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

Churchwarden's Report

A busy and interesting year, though at times rather disheartening too.

On Sunday 23rd March 2014 I was re-elected to the post of Church Warden for another year – my third but first as a solo representative for St. James church, being formally accepted during the Archdeacon's Visitation at Rugby in May.

Amongst my duties I have attended several different meetings throughout the year, including PCC, Standing Committee, Fabric, Worship Group (a PCC sub committee) and was present at the 'buildings' part of the Quinquennial Inspection. Reading numerous reports and commenting on them as necessary was also an integral part of my job. Pat Adams and I continue to look after the Sidesperson /Reading rota for the 10am service, discussing and compiling the 'rota' every six months.

In 2014 I still aimed to attend at least one of each of our 4 weekly services at some stage during the year. Some I manage to get to far more than others but I think I achieved my goal again in this area.

On a different topic, a concern has been that of falling numbers in the congregations. Some of this is due to families leaving the area and of course, several members departing to a higher plane. Hope 14 was a big issue talked about from early in the year and a big thank you must go to our team of Margo Grant, Jill Parker and Jenny Thorne who put much time and effort into the events and promoting the Mission. Also to Barry Parker who I know co-ordinated things after the week in September. The aim was to encourage people to experience Christ and Christian fellowship, through numerous and varied events, and to continue to do so. I heard many comments from people who thought that this Mission week would suddenly greatly swell our congregation numbers. Sadly this wasn't what occurred. However, there are a few new members of St. James as a result, both at services and at some of the Home Groups. This is a great positive and we can hopefully build on this over the coming months!!

Another concern is the church building itself. The inspection threw up a number of items needing attention, some we expected, some we didn't. With a building the age of ours there are always 'jobs' to be done. The Fabric report will explain more.

On a final note, it has been quite a strange sort of year, but one that makes me realise what a blessing and privilege it is to be part of the family at St. James. I hope all who read this feel the same.

Hilary Crosby, Church Warden

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

Treasurer's Report

It has not been easy over the last few years to balance the books and 2014 has been no exception. Unless the numbers attending our services increase significantly, resulting in more income, it will be more difficult to retain a priest within the parish and maintain our Grade 1 Listed church building.

On a positive note General income and expenditure for 2014 was significantly higher than 2013. Planned income amounted to £2200.11 per month compared with £2091.91 in 2013. Loose plate collections and income from yellow envelopes increased to £749.75 per month compared with £674.56 the previous year.

Increased expenditure on tree felling and trimming in the churchyard had been earmarked in 2013 and the significant expenditure on general repairs – mainly stonework re-pointing and downpipe repairs – was only possible due to a legacy received in the previous year.

Our end of year balance of £7001.36 includes money retained to cover the cost of electrical work undertaken last autumn to improve church lighting, the invoice of which is awaited. Thank you to those who helped finance the Hope 14 mission, the Nativity Christmas Cracker and those who contribute towards the cost of flowers at Easter and Christmas. All these donations are gratefully received.

I would like to thank Southam Town Council for their continued support of including the churchyard grass cutting in their mowing contract and their paying for emptying the church skip throughout the year.

We are committed to paying at least £25750 to the Diocese in 2015; this only amounts to around 50% of the cost of providing an incumbent in the parish. Without the support of other parishes in Southam Deanery and other deaneries in the Diocese we would not be able to maintain a priest in the parish. In the business world we would have been declared bankrupt many years ago. Do we not appreciate all Our Lord provides for us – should we not be more generous to Him?

I would like to thank everyone who contributes to our church finances especially all those who give to the church on a regular basis, whether by standing order, through our various envelope schemes or through the collection plate – every penny really does count.

If you would like more in depth information about our accounts please do contact me.

Ruth Tresidder
Treasurer
☎ 813524

Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2014

ST JAMES CHURCH, SOUTHAM
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	Note	Actual 2014		Actual 2013		TOTAL	TOTAL
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted		
INCOMING RESOURCES							
From Donors:							
Under Gift Aid Schemes	1a	28272.65	252.50	25982.09	640.00	28525.15	26622.09
Gift Aid recovered	1b	8188.20	188.13	6878.24	185.00	8376.33	7063.24
Non Gift Aided Income	1c	7515.78		7240.74		7515.78	7240.74
Fund raising & special appeals	1d	3906.96	994.97	3706.28	1123.97	4901.93	4830.25
Legacies	1e	1300.00			10000.00	1300.00	10000.00
TOTAL DONATED INCOME		49183.59	1435.60	43807.35	11948.97	50619.19	55756.32
Fees							
Clergy	2a		3410.00		3963.00	3410.00	3963.00
Lay	2b		1712.00		2451.00	1712.00	2451.00
PCC	2c	5887.00	-508.00	7949.00	658.00	5379.00	8607.00
Total regulated fees		5887.00	4614.00	7949.00	7072.00	10501.00	15021.00
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES							
		55070.59	6049.60	51756.35	19020.97	61120.19	70777.32
EXPENSES							
Diocesan costs:							
Parish Share: Current year	3a	25000.00		23100.00		25000.00	23100.00
Clergy & Service costs:		25000.00		23100.00		25000.00	23100.00
Clergy expenses	4a	1595.30		1348.73		1595.30	1348.73
Altar supplies	4b	167.60		77.02		167.60	77.02
Music	4c	493.45		557.12		493.45	557.12
Other	4d			55.00			55.00
		2256.35		2037.87		2256.35	2037.87

ST JAMES CHURCH, SOUTHAM
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	Note	Actual 2014		Actual 2013		TOTAL	TOTAL
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £		
EXPENSES (Cont)							
Administration:							
Administrator	5a	3993.08		3993.08	3881.28	3881.28	
Office supplies	5b	2902.94		2902.94	2059.36	2059.36	
Other	5c	1217.10		1217.10	903.20	903.20	
Office telephone		422.63		422.63	430.86	430.86	
Church Office	5d	4226.41		4226.41	4180.33	4180.33	
		12762.16		12762.16	11455.03	11455.03	
Maintenance:							
Utilities	6a	2755.26		2755.26	3938.72	3938.72	
Insurance	6b	6205.32		6205.32	6412.34	6412.34	
General repairs	6c	2572.20	6215.49	8787.69	1075.61	789.17	1864.78
Churchyard	6d	1740.00	760.00	2500.00			
		13272.78	6975.49	20248.27	11426.67	789.17	12215.84
Ministry support:							
Special appeals	7a	132.50	295.58	428.08	105.21	3979.94	4085.15
Children, Youth & Training	7b	652.39	1164.22	1816.61	464.60	662.46	1127.06
		784.89	1459.80	2244.69	569.81	4642.40	5212.21
Fees re weddings & funerals							
Diocese	8a		3410.00	3410.00		3963.00	3963.00
Lay	8b		1712.00	1712.00		2451.00	2451.00
			5122.00	5122.00		6414.00	6414.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		54076.18	13557.29	67633.47	48589.38	11845.57	60434.95
SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		994.41	-7507.69	-6513.28	3166.97	7175.40	10342.37
Transfers from General Fund					-484.25		
Add: Reserves b/fwd at 1 January 2014		6006.95			3324.23		
Total Reserves 31 December 2014		7001.36			6006.95		

ST JAMES CHURCH SOUTHAM 2014

RESTRICTED FUNDS MOVEMENT	Balance 01-Jan-14	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance 31-Dec-14
Fund Description					
Bees Abroad	0.00	126.73	86.75		39.98
Building maintenance	11028.29	155.00	6215.49		4967.80
Children ex Infant Welfare Trust	8089.69		505.85		7583.34
Churchyard maintenance	560.00	325.00	760.00		125.00
Flower Fund	149.73	60.00	108.83		100.90
Granny Wagon	252.56		86.96		165.60
He*Brews	1397.84		406.84		991.00
Hope 14 Mission	0.00	280.63	164.57		116.06
International	52.54	488.24	100.00		440.78
John Milner Organ Fund	601.22				601.22
"Messy Church"	600.74				
Wedding Fees in Advance	708.00	-508.00			200.00
	23440.61	927.60	8435.29		15932.92
Liabilities - Agency collections					
Children's Society boxes					1164.07
Coventry Diocesan Board of Finance					14.00
					1178.07
Liquid funds as at 31 December 2014					
Bank				24112.35	
TOTAL FUNDS				24112.35	
Less Restricted Funds held on behalf of others as per above				15932.92	
Less Liabilities - Agency collections				1178.07	
St James Funds at 31 December 2014 see Receipts & Payments Account				7001.36	

ST JAMES CHURCH, SOUTHAM NOTES RELATING TO 2014 ACCOUNTS

Breakdown of totals Receipts and Payments Account

Income

- 1a All tax reclaimable giving from standing orders paid into bank account, weekly numbered envelopes and yellow envelopes.
- 1b Tax reclaimed from above and from the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme since 6 April 2014 (unrestricted) and from Special Appeals (restricted) up to 30 September 2014.
- 1c Planned giving that may not qualify for tax relief and loose plate collections.
- 1d Unrestricted includes proceeds from Summer Fete and Christmas Fayre, one off donations, income received for incidental charges at weddings and insertions in the Book of Remembrance. Restricted includes Bees Abroad, International, donations for the churchyard and church flowers.
- 1e We are extremely grateful for the legacies totalling £1300 from the estates of Paddy Williams and Phyllis Pratt deceased.
- 2a Clergy fees from Weddings, Funerals, monuments etc.
- 2b Fees from Weddings and Funerals to Vergers, Organist and Bellringers
- 2c Restricted Wedding Fees in Advance may be carried over from one year to another. The deficit shown on this year's accounts is due to the fact that in 2014 more of the 2013 income was expended than was received in advance for weddings in 2015.

Expenditure

- 3a Our contribution to Coventry Diocese. Other parishes within Southam Deanery and other deaneries subsidised the Southam benefice by £18,168.
- 4a Clergy expenses and cost of Rectory telephone.
- 4b Candles, Communion Wine, etc.
- 4c Music Licences for 2014 and Music Group expenses.
- 4d Visiting speakers.
- 5a Salary and Tax for Administrator. The Office is manned on Tuesdays and Fridays by volunteers.
- 5b Rental, maintenance and ink for photocopier, stationery, book of remembrance.
- 5c Bank charges, fund raising and refreshment expenses and administration of weddings and funerals.

- 5d Rental of Church Office and associated utilities.
- 6a Gas and Electricity supplies and Water rates for St James Church.
- 6b Insurance of buildings, contents and public liability.
- 6c Routine maintenance including statutory testing of gas boilers, fire extinguishers, clock and lightning conductor, quinquennial inspection, downpipe repairs, drainage work and replacement intruder alarm.
- 6d Both unrestricted and restricted expenditure relates to tree work undertaken in the churchyard in February 2014. We are grateful to Southam Town Council for including mowing the churchyard in their grass cutting contract and paying for emptying the skip.
- 7a Unrestricted includes donations to Southam Christmas Lights Association, Leamington Christian Mission and Southam Foodbank; contributions to Southam Deanery and Southam Combined Churches. Restricted includes expenditure on Christmas and Easter flowers, International and Bees Abroad.
- 7b Unrestricted includes teaching material and prizes for the Children's Group, and youth work. Restricted includes expenditure by Granny Wagon, Jolly J's and the Hope 14 mission.
- 8a Clergy Fees from Weddings, Funerals, Monuments etc. assigned to Diocese (Restricted).
- 8b Lay Fees from Weddings and Funerals (Restricted)

Independent examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St James, Southam

I report on the accounts of St James' Church, Southam for the year ended 31 December 2014.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees, that is, the members of St James, Southam PCC, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Elizabeth McBride | 1 Park Lane, Harbury, Leamington Spa

Date: 7th February 2015

Gift Aid Report

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

Thank you to everyone who contributes to St James Church in such a way that we can claim gift aid of 25p from HM Revenue and Customs for every £1 donated.

At the beginning of 2014 a total of 29 people paid by standing order into the church bank account and this increased to 33 by the end of December. Giving by this method amounted to £19096.92 - an increase of £1565 over the previous year.

10 people continued to donate through the blue envelope scheme during 2014. During the year £4327.95 was given by this method, a decrease of £271 over the previous year.

85 people contributed to the church by yellow envelope, of these 13 gave on a regular basis. Total giving by this method (including one off gift aid donations) amounted to £5100.28, an increase of £608.11 over 2013.

During the year we received £8376.33 from HM Revenue and Customs including £1226.02 under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS); this is an increase of £1313.09 over the previous year - £680.02 of this amount relates to GASDS. We have only been able to claim GASDS since 6 April 2013 and so 2014 is the first full year we have been able to benefit. It is wonderful that the vast majority of our giving is now eligible for tax relief.

If you are a taxpayer and putting cash in the collection please continue to use a yellow envelope as it does ensure we claim as much back over the year from HMRC as possible.

Irrespective whether you are a taxpayer or not please do have a word with me if you would like more information on methods available to contribute to St James on a regular basis, whether it be weekly or monthly.

Ruth Tresidder
Gift Aid Secretary
☎ 813524

Fabric Committee Report

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

Four meetings of the committee were held during the year, February, June, September and November, the latter produced a full report for the year to be considered by the PCC. The project to fell the two trees by the lych gate and removing some branches on the other three large trees in the churchyard was carried out early in the year. There were two unplanned emergency jobs. One was the replacement of the lead rainwater downpipes on the south side from the nave roof. These had become blocked with detritus washed down from the roof above and the pipes had split and were becoming detached from the stonework. These repairs then involved considerable repointing. The other was the blocked stormwater drain at the rear of the Rector's vestry which required a commercial firm to clean out by pressure washing.

It was at the November meeting that the committee came to the conclusion that, so far as the fabric of the church building was concerned, St James had arrived at a crossroads. This situation came to a head as our architect, at his five yearly inspection in 2014, had highlighted a number of items that needed attention within the next five years. Repairs to the spire were first identified in 2006 and the south walls of the building in 2009, and now, as well, the south porch and west (belfry) doors. Although not a five yearly item no decision had yet been finalised by the PCC for the north aisle roof security. The replacement of the internal lighting and wiring (nearly all well over 60 years old) of the building had been under discussion by a member of the fabric committee with the Diocesan Advisory Committee at Coventry for over four years, but progress had been difficult. However, this suddenly came to the fore when we were advised to contact a specialist lighting engineer by the DAC, and within days we had a scheme acceptable to them. At £25K plus VAT this is out of the question for the immediate future.

The committee members feel the crossroads is simple but in two parts. First, having looked back over previous reports since reordering in 2004, from a finance point of view, we have only just managed to keep up with statutory maintenance and emergency repairs, which, as guardians of a Grade 1 listed building, has allowed nothing for major projects. Any other jobs that have been done have been covered by legacy money, Friends contributions and VAT refunds. As no general church money has been available to spread the workload we have now arrived at a point where projects needing attention have built up. Second, is the fact that we do not have a fabric secretary and are unable to find someone to undertake the rôle. Neither do we have any members who now wish to take on future project management.

This report paints a difficult situation which members feel needs dynamic new leadership and vision for the upkeep of the church building so that future residents of Southam and beyond will be able to use St James for years to come.

John Tresidder, Verger.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

4 members left
1 member died
6 members added to the roll
The Electoral Roll now stands at 94 members

Margo Grant – Electoral Roll Officer

Deanery Synod Report

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

The Deanery Synod provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Two members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod, Stephen Adams and Barry Parker. Margo Grant, also a member of the PCC, sits on the Deanery Synod as a Diocesan Synod representative.

This year the Deanery Synod met on three occasions considering, amongst other items, the 2014 and 2015 Parish Share, how the churches across the Deanery could develop closer working relationships with each other and the Deanery led HOPE14 mission week and follow up courses.

In addition the Deanery Synod held an initial discussion to consider how the Deanery might most effectively be structured and deploy stipendiary and non-stipendiary clergy which would be fit for purpose in the future. As part of this process the Deanery Pastoral Committee had been in discussion with a number of parishes across the Deanery with the intention of presenting a firm proposal for a new Deanery structure early in 2015.

The Deanery Synod also received regular reports and updates from the Diocesan Synod and General Synod.

Barry Parker

Leading, Service Support and Worship

Sound and Vision Report

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

Both the sound and the vision equipment have been working well over the last year. There have been very few routine maintenance and repair tasks carried out at no cost to the church. The new projector is proving reliable and video can be projected clearly and brightly.

Thank you to Oliver and Isaac for helping with the sound and vision on Sunday mornings.

Rade Ognjanović

Music Group

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

Our music group has continued to provide worship music for Sunday mornings and some special services throughout the past year. We try to have a healthy mix of both well-known and new music to add a freshness to our worship. We have no age restrictions and would be delighted to add to our number if anyone would like to play or sing – just have a word with me. We were grateful to Alison Hall who helped us whilst Ann was unwell. All of our members are very dedicated and turn up faithfully for practices – so my thanks go to Ann, Hilary, John Cherry, John Home, John Armstrong, Maria Justice, Stephen Adams and Troy Hooper (Boogie). Many thanks, too, to Rade, who works so hard to balance the sound.

Vicki Armstrong (Co-ordinator)

Tower Report

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

During the last year the Ringers have rung regularly for most of the services that were held throughout the year. This year we did had difficulty ringing over the Christmas period due to several ringers being away and some of the others being ill. We have maintained regular practice sessions throughout the year. We rang for five Weddings and hosted eight bands of visiting ringers this year. A Quarter Peal was rung to Commemorate Armistice Day. And one full peal was rung to welcome the annual Mop to the town again this year.

Our annual outing this year was around north Leicestershire finishing at a restaurant near Donisthorpe. This was organised by Spike and Jenny, we were unable to include our friends from Banwell this year due to the travelling distance that would have been involved so the striking competition that we usually hold did not take place this year

The Christmas meal was as usual organised by Iain and Loraine and held at the Bowling Green. This was attended by about fifteen people including several of our ringing friends from other Towers in the area.

We are still looking to recruit new members into our team. Almost all of our band are now pensioners our youngest ringer is now forty years old so unless we can recruit some new blood into the band the future looks very bleak. To be able learn the art of Church Bellringing is very rewarding and very good exercise for the body and mind. If anyone is interested in learning to ring. Do please come along on a Tuesday evening between 7.30pm and 9.00pm or speak to someone in the Belfry on a Sunday. Ideally any candidate should be at least 14 years of age.

Terence Hill

Children and Youth Work

Open the Book Report

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

As the result of a chance conversation with a friend and an invitation from the RE teacher at St James' CE Primary School, a group was set up that became part of The Bible Society's nationwide initiative to take Bible stories into schools. With the blessing of Rev. John Armstrong and Hilary Wankling, head-teacher, members of the group have visited the school fortnightly since September.

Using The Lion Storyteller Bible and material provided by Bible Society, each session introduces children (aged from four to eleven years) to a Bible story through a mix of narration, drama, prayer and lots of fun! The stories are told in chronological order, starting with Creation, and introduce children to some of the less well-known stories as well as more familiar ones. Audience participation from staff as well as children makes the sessions even more enjoyable. Our group, at the moment comprising one man and eight ladies, are all members of the congregation at St James and several of us are MU members. Southam MU are very supportive of the group and enjoy hearing about our activities. There are also willing "behind the scenes" helpers making props for us.

We have enjoyed ourselves greatly since we started but more importantly, we have helped take God's word in a different way to over one hundred children each time – not to mention ten or so adults! Staff have told us how much they and the children look forward to our visits and are disappointed when it's not an "Open the Book" Wednesday. Having established our team at St James' School, we would very much like to extend our work into other Southam schools to help spread God's word to more children in this enjoyable and accessible way. Please pray, with us, that the hearts and minds of those responsible will enable this to happen.

Jenny Thorne – Team leader

More' Youth Group

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

We continued to meet as "More" on a fortnightly basis until July 2014. At this point we thought it would be right to encourage all the young people to attend the "Pineapple Club" - the new ecumenical youth group meeting on a Friday evening at the Congregational Church. Please continue to pray for the young people of Southam.

John and Vicki Armstrong

Granny Wagon Report

(Friday Night hot chocolate in the park)

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

Huge thanks to our stalwart team of nine, who have turned up in wind and rain every Friday evening for up to an hour and a half (though haven't always emerged from their vehicles if no-one else was in the park!) We continue to serve a variety of drinks – though mainly hot chocolate – custard creams and pink wafer biscuits. Our customers are generally between 11 and 16 though we welcome anyone. Often in the summer, dads and small children are regulars, as well as dog-walkers and curious passers-by. It's a great pleasure to offer drinks to

all and sundry, and interesting conversations often ensue, on a whole range of subjects – including from time to time, Jesus, God and the church. I'm pleased to say that despite varying numbers over the years, we are still going strong and look forward to our 10th anniversary on 5th April 2015. Should anyone feel inclined to join our rota, please do get in touch.

Jan Ford and Chris Cooke

Home Groups

Home Group Reports

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

MONDAY EVENING HOME GROUP

We meet term time weekly to do some worship, prayer and a study.

Our home group has enjoyed some meals out and some reflective evenings. Our study books this year have included studies from The Covenants and we look forward to starting a study on 1 Peter from the CWR range of studies.

We are happy to have you come and visit us if you want to see what a home group does.

We support various groups within the church life – Granny Wagon, Men's Breakfasts, Curry Club and MU and do some of the different ways of church services with other churches – On Fire, Streams in the Desert and Ladies Breakfasts.

The contact details for this group have changed and are now: Juliet 01926 812104

Juliet

TUESDAY EVENING HOME GROUP

This small friendly group meets on alternate Tuesday evenings at the home of Stephen and Pat Adams - 6, Sycamore Grove, at 7.45pm. We all enjoy being together and there is a lot of care and support between the members both within the group setting and outside.

Over the past year there have been changes within the group as some friends have moved away from the area. However, as one door closes another opens and it has been a joy to welcome several new members as a result of the Hope 14 Mission. Our new friends have blended wonderfully with the existing group and it has been a huge blessing to us all to meet together and get to know one another better. As the Kingdom grows so do our friendships and we praise God for that.

Earlier in the year we continued with a series of studies entitled 'Building a people of Faith'. The interactive study books we are using followed the life of the Church in the book of Acts. Following the Hope 14 Mission we did a short course entitled 'Jesus Lifestyle'. This had been put together by some members of the Deanery Mission Team and was an excellent resource and very enjoyable to follow. We all learned more and were blessed in following this course together. We are currently following a series based on John Ortberg's book, 'God is closer than you think'. Again challenging, enjoyable and enabling us all to grow in our faith and in understanding the greatness of God's love for us all.

If you don't, as yet, belong to a homegroup and are interested in finding out more, then please talk to Stephen and Pat or telephone them on 813753. Please feel free to come along

and 'give us a try'. If our group isn't the right one for you then there are several other groups that you could try. The official starting time is 7.45 and the official end time is 9.45. However, the group is very flexible and the kettle will always be ready for anyone arriving early or able to stay later.

Stephen and Pat Adams

WEDNESDAY EVENING HOME GROUP

We usually meet at Sheepfold, the home of Margo Grant on a Wednesday evening from 7.30 – 9.30 on alternate weeks but, with meetings and members from three different churches, this is flexible and we move both the venue to another member's home and day we meet as and when necessary.

Feedback from the group for the last year reflected that "Sheepfold" was such an appropriate name for our main venue. "A safe haven, somewhere I feel that I truly belong, a place of confidentiality where I can unload, my extended family, I know I am being upheld in prayer, a support in daily living and Christian service, a place to have both fun and yet also at times to cry with my close friends"

Our resources for study have once again been varied, stimulating and challenging in our on-going discipleship. Two notable series stand out:

- Firstly, we enjoyed nine inspiring weeks following a DVD workshop based course on the nine fruits of the spirit entitled 9-A Day - Becoming Like Jesus. Each session was introduced by Chris Wright, Director of Langham Partnership, with interviews from nine other well-known Christian leaders on the subject of Christlikeness with a challenge to take more seriously our transforming walk into Christlikeness, to become more effective visible signposts to the reign of Christ in our lives!
- Secondly, we are working through seven studies following a book called 'Really? - searching for reality in a confusing world' exploring how the truth about Jesus can reshape our thoughts, identity and purpose, and give us true security and hope for the future.

At each meeting we have a time of catch up with refreshments which is usually tea and/or coffee and, occasionally, wine if we are celebrating someone's birthday! We always have a time of prayer, sometimes listening to and/or singing worship songs and we share the leading of our studies.

We recently met for breakfast on a Saturday just enjoying each other's company and thanking God for the many blessings he gives us.

If you would like to know more or are interested in joining our group please contact me.

Jill Parker 01926 811254

THURSDAY AFTERNOON HOME GROUP

Apart from us being a year older and with a few more grey and white hairs and a few more creaking joints, not much has changed with the Thursday afternoon Group. We are still a group of 10 who meet together regularly, with one 'house bound' member who members of the group visit regularly.

During the past year our Studies have been varied, sometimes discussion and sometimes Bible studies. The year began with us using the York Course for Lent 2014. This consists of a

CD, and a booklet with questions relating to the CD extract for each of the 5 sessions. The questions were thought provoking and lead to some interesting discussions. As we meet fortnightly it took us 10 weeks to complete the Course. This was followed by a series looking at the lives of some of the 'good Kings' mentioned in the Book of Kings and Chronicles. Now we are doing the York Course for Lent 2015 which again is giving us food for thought and for discussion and will probably take us until Easter to complete.

During the year we also joined in some of the activities happening at St. James and in the Deanery. Several of us joined in some of the Hope 14 programme, in the Mothers' Union events and supported the Macmillan Coffee morning in September, the Harvest Supper and other things.

Our meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons from 2.30 until 4.00 or 4.30pm. We meet in the home of one of our members and now have a rota to spread the load a bit. Anyone is welcome to join us. If you contact one of the Group members or myself, we will tell you where we are meeting.

Jen Burgess - 01926 810454

Church Liaison

Southam Combined Churches

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

Representatives of the four churches meet bi-monthly to exchange information and discuss the possibility of joint events. Last year we held the Good Friday Walk of Witness, which we hope to repeat this year, plus Lent and Advent evenings of talks, thoughts and fellowship. Last autumn, a group of people from each of the churches were able to help establish a fortnightly Christian Youth Group (named the Pineapple Club), as a follow on to the primary age group Napton youth club. For ages 12-15 years, there is an enthusiastic core group of 11, with 12-15 youngsters coming regularly. The 8 volunteer leaders operate a rota system to lend a hand on various fronts.

Jan Ford

Southam St. James C of E (VA) Primary School

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

St. James Primary School continues to have a good reputation for the education and care of its pupils. There are strong links between School and Church and I should like to express thanks to all who represent the Church in supporting the School, whether as parents, visitors or governors. Apart from regular visits made to the school by governors and regular assemblies taken by John Armstrong, a new team has been formed to deliver "Open the Book" assemblies. "Open the Book" is a three-year rolling programme of themed and dramatised storytelling using drama, mime, props, costume – and even the children and staff themselves – to present the Bible stories in lively and informative ways. This has been very well-received and the team is looking to offer the same in other local schools.

Vacancies on the governing body arise from time to time and so we are always looking for "foundation" governors – whether parents of children at the school or not – who would be willing to join the enthusiastic team who have some expertise – or at least a willingness to learn - but most of all, people with a heart for the children and a desire that they should have the best. Amongst those who have served with me as Foundation Governors during 2014 have been Vicki Armstrong, Dave Howell, Steven Cook, David Baxter, Louise Kirby and Jenny Thorne. There are currently two vacancies for Foundation governor. Do ask any of us if you would like to know more about the school. In the past I have referred to the commitment, stamina and care of our governors. Our patience and determination to ensure that our children have a satisfactory and safe area for outdoor sport have at last been rewarded.

Because our school is a Church school, it is bound to "preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level". As a Christian school it aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. Especially as there is remarkable pressure about nowadays to sideline the Christian faith, please do pray for us – and indeed why not come along and visit the school or ask if there is anything you can do to contribute to its life?

We have been blessed with the excellent leadership of Hilary Wankling for six years; she will be retiring in July, so we shall be seeking a new Head Teacher for September, 2015.

John Armstrong

Mission and Outreach

Southam Deanery Mission Team Report

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015



TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES, ONE LIFE AT A TIME!

During 2014 the main focus for the Deanery Mission Team (DMT) was HOPE14 the major mission initiative across the Deanery that took place in September working in partnership with Through Faith Missions and linked to the national HOPE campaign. The aim of the project was to proclaim the Gospel and to share our faith to enable people in our communities with little or no experience of church to respond to Jesus and to see our local community transformed through the love of God.

What an amazing week we had as the gospel message was shared at 43 events across the Deanery. In addition approximately 1,500 children heard about Jesus and were blessed by the ministry of Graham Nunn (Through Faith Missions) with his school visits and at the mega messy church! There were many answered prayers and the effects of God's grace and blessing are still rippling out across Southam and the surrounding villages. So much to thank God for! Overall HOPE14 was a great success coming in under budget and was a time of Christians across the Deanery uniting and working together resulting in many new friendships being formed.

For those who attended the various events and indicated that they would like to know more, in the autumn churches across the deanery ran 'Just Looking' courses and, starting in January 2015, 'Alpha Lite', a six week shortened version of the Alpha course is to be held at the Green Man, Long Itchington.

Prayer was also very much a focus throughout the year alongside the practical. Regular editions of the 'Breathe' prayer newsletter were published and used across the Deanery. The Prayer of Blessing for Southam and the Surrounding Villages was updated and is still being prayed on a regular basis as we cry out to God for the people around us, for the gift of grace and faith for those who do not yet know Jesus and for God's blessing across the Deanery.

Going forward the intention is to publish a quarterly 'Breathe' prayer newsletter with prayer pointers and news of upcoming events. We have also created an opportunity to join together in prayer raising our voices as one at a Deanery Intercessory Prayer Meeting. The first of these, titled 'KINGDOM COME', is to be held at St James on Sunday 1st February.

Building on the experience gained from of the week of HOPE14 the DMT has continued to meet and to invite others from across the Deanery to join them in continuing to seek the Father heart of God for our Deanery. The DMT also plans to hold regular Deanery wide events to bring friends and family to and to support our local churches in their witness to the gospel. The first of these was a sell-out evening of Carols and Comedy in December at St Michael's Bishops Itchington. Further Deanery wide Messy Church events are also planned to be held three or four times a year, the first of these to be held on 7th March 2015.

Your DMT Representatives are Margo Grant, Jill Parker and Jenny Thorne and we would like to thank everyone who has supported and continue to support this work both practically and prayerfully. Together we can make a difference!

Farmers' Market Prayer Stall

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

It has now been six and a half years since we began regularly to have a prayer stall as part of the monthly Farmers' Market. This takes place on the second Saturday of each month and we aim to be there from 9.30 am until at least 11.30 am. Sometimes we stay considerably longer because we are having such wonderful opportunities to talk and pray with people.

Sometimes people take the trouble to return at a later date to tell us of answers to prayer, etc. This is always a cause for rejoicing. We are encouraged that the other stallholders appreciate our being there and indeed over the years we have come to know them well. Some we pray for every time! We also help out on some of the stalls at times.

It is our custom to give out chocolates at Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter – another opportunity to bless the people of Southam.

If you would like to come and join the team, do please make yourself known to us. It's not as scary as you think and we would pair up with you initially.

Many thanks to Pat, Stephen, Jen, Noreen and Iris for sharing in the ministry.

John and Vicki Armstrong

Fundraising Report

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

We held a very successful Summer Fete which raised £612.02 and our Christmas Fayre raised £1386.35.

A further £105.49 was raised during the year from various events including "Open House" when soup and rolls were served at lunchtime.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the church on these occasions. It is hoped to include similar fund raising activities during 2015. It is good to encourage more people, particularly those from outside the town to come and visit our church and help contribute to the ongoing costs of the building.

Dates for your diary in 2015:

Saturday 20 June - Summer Fete

Saturday 5 December - Christmas Fayre

Actual opening times to be agreed nearer the date. Watch out for posters around the town and regular updates in the church bulletin once information is available.

Please contact Ruth Tresidder ☎ 813524 if you would like to help raise funds for our church.

International Report

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

The international coffee mornings continue every Friday morning followed by Cross of Nails Prayers. We have a few regulars and some visitors. It is good that the church is open for people to just pop in or come for flowers or cleaning and we are pleased to welcome all. The monies collected have been distributed to Ministry Aviation Fellowship, to Mothers Union Relief fund, Andrew White in Baghdad and to Wycliffe bible translation. In total this year we have raised £488.24 Thank you to all who support us and help out, especially to Alex who does the washing up.

Chris Cooke

Men's Breakfast Report

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

It seems only yesterday that – replete once more from one of Roger Lane's "Full English for a fiver" – we sat back in January and listened to Revd Frances Tyler as she gave a both moving and interesting talk about "The challenges facing a Hospital Chaplain" and yet here I sit, some 13 months later, wondering where the year went. On Saturday nights of yesteryear Millicent Martin used to sing "That was the week that was, it's over, let it go", but it would me most remiss of me to let go of 2014 without recording just how successful a year it had been. As well as Frances, we had eight other Speakers – or perhaps that should read 7½ because I had to step in at 15 minutes notice on one occasion when I realised I'd given that morning's Speaker the wrong date!

Two spoke on religious themes: Roger Murphy brought several of his Hope 14 team along and challenged us on what it meant to be a Christian. Revd Chris Knight reprised his 2013 message, but instead of his time as Prison Chaplain, he spoke about the challenges he faces at St Mary's in Leamington and the excellent work that they do there.

Two more spoke on the work of their charities: Derrick Evan's guest was Peter Guy who came along and talked about the work of The Prince's Trust, whilst Bryan Pratt introduced us to John Guilford who, following a successful career sought a fresh challenge. Initially he spent 3 years working as a volunteer at the Leamington Night Shelter for the homeless, but he has now moved on to a Community Chaplaincy called Futures Unlocked, a charity that supports ex-offenders returning to Warwickshire on their release from prison. That was our first meeting with John, but we are now delighted to welcome both him and Bryan as regular members of our expanding group.

Two more speakers were local; Michael Jeffs was another of Derrick's guests who discussed the two books he had written: *Warwickshire Landscapes: The Story So Far* and *Royal Leamington Spa: Exploring with a Sketchbook*. Nigel Briggs is an author too, although he is better known to us as our relief chef when Roger is away. Nigel runs the Sydenham History Group and spoke about the book they had published *A Celebration of Sydenham*; in the present day people probably associate it with the Asda store or Campion School, not realising it had once been the site of a polo ground. In addition, Sir Alan Cobham a WWI fighter pilot had offered pleasure flights in some of the earliest aeroplanes, but - most amazing of all - in 1903 it had hosted the world famous Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show!

Our other Speaker was also an author and a bit of a coup too. Ann Ainscow is a friend of the Pearson family in London and Simon had written *The Great Escaper* about Roger Bushell – 'Big X' - a part played by Richard Attenborough in the film "The Great Escape". Tongue-in-cheek we asked

Ann if he would consider coming and were delighted when he agreed; his slides and in-depth talk gave a fascinating insight into the life of a very brave man who was murdered once he was caught.

2014 closed with our second Men's Christmas Dinner at the White Hart in Ufton when 21 of us celebrated another good year of fun and fellowship, but a year of achievement too. We were able to send £185 in donations to worthy charities of our Speakers' choice as well as contributing over £150 to Ufton's Church Repair Fund. New members are always welcome so contact either Barry Parker on 811254 or me on 612986 or – better still - drop an email to either bp47@gmx.com or ian@account-able.co.uk you won't regret it.....

Ian Crowther

Mothers' Union Report

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

Members of the St James' Mothers Union met regularly during 2014 for worship and fellowship, including taking part in the Women's World Day of Prayer.

The monthly meetings offered a variety of speakers and activities. Jenny Lister spoke of her work as a Parish priest, Gillian Roberts led a reflection and meditation on the traditions of Easter. Outings to Heart of the Shires and to the Embroidery exhibition at Harbury church were arranged. We enjoyed a Strawberry Tea hosted by Rose Evans. In November, Jenny and Chris related tales of their visit to Belfast for the national AGM. We ended the year's programme with a Carol Service.

Other activities during the year included the provision of a Lenten Lunch in church. The big event of the year was a huge Tea Party for Hope 14 where members and visitors were entertained by Music Makers.

Sadly, we recorded the deaths of Paddy Williams, Joan Rogers, Muriel Hyde and Dorothy Knight. The loss of Peggy Fox, friend of St James' Mothers Union and mother of Chris, our Leader, was sadly noted. We offer condolences to all concerned.

On a happier note, Amy Harris was enrolled as a member. An evening meeting was held in December to enable those unable to attend during the day to take part. More will be arranged. We have a varied and enjoyable programme, you are welcome to join us at any event. We look forward to seeing you.

Averil Brown - Secretary

Home Communion and Services at Southam Residential Homes

St. James, Southam APCM March 2015

A small group of licensed lay people take communion to any housebound parishioners who request it, on a regular basis. Thanks to the enthusiasm of the residents, we now hold a fortnightly communion service at Galanos House. We also hold regular services at Galanos House, Newstead Lodge and Wattons Lodge, on a monthly rota, in conjunction with the three other Southam Churches. These services are always well received, and we would be pleased to welcome others to join us in running them.

Jan Ford