



**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL  
CHURCH MEETING  
7 April 2019**

# **AGENDA AND REPORTS 2018**

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## **AGENDAS 7 April 2019**

### **Vestry Meeting Agenda**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Minutes of last year's Vestry Meeting (see page 3)
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Closing Prayer

### **Annual Parochial Council Meeting Agenda**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of Last Year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (see page 3)
4. Matters Arising
5. Reports
6. Elections and Appointments:
  - 6.1 Election of three members for the PCC
  - 6.2 Appointment of sidespersons
  - 6.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts  
(Note: Mrs Elizabeth McBride is willing to continue)
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of Next Meeting
9. Closing Prayers

### **Parochial Church Council Meeting Agenda**

To elect the following officers:

1. Vice Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Electoral Roll Officer
5. Members of the PCC Standing Committee

*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 authority to carry out PCC business between PCC meetings, but is accountable to the PCC.*

**ST JAMES CHURCH, SOUTHAM**

**MINUTES OF VESTRY MEETING and  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 18 March 2018**

**Vestry Meeting for the Purpose of Electing Two Churchwardens**

**1. Welcome and Prayer**

The Rev Vikki Bisiker welcomed everyone and opened the meeting in prayer.

**2. Minutes of Vestry Meeting held on 2 April 2017**

Proposed Margo Grant, seconded Ruth Tresidder, the minutes were unanimously approved.

**3. Election of Churchwardens:**

Both Stephen Adams and Barry Parker were prepared to stand again and there being no other candidates it was unanimously agreed that they should continue as Churchwardens (proposed Margo Grant seconded Ruth Tresidder).

Vikki prayed for Barry and Stephen on behalf of the whole congregation.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Members present 25**

**1. Welcome and Opening Prayer**

**2. Apologies for absence:** Tony Brown, Averil Brown and Ann Crutchlow.

**3. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 2 April 2017**

Were approved and signed (proposed Ruth Tresidder, seconded Margo Grant).

**4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

**5. Reports:**

**5a) The reports were taken as read.**

Rev Vikki Bisiker commented that it's a year on since our last AGM and we should continue to be encouraged by what God is doing through St James. Thank you so much for all that you each do. It has been an encouragement to read the reports and be reminded of the wide variety of ministries that the St James family is involved in both locally and all the way to Kenya!

It has been a difficult year on a personal level, but I'm very grateful of support and encouragement and the occasional last-minute step in from leadership team. Although we are struggling to meet the target for £5k increase per year for parish share, our giving has increased again this last year. As a reminder, we did commit to an increase over four years of £5k extra per year in order to remove 'the historic back debt' of parish share. This is going to be an even bigger challenge with a building that requires significant maintenance and works. We

have problems with the heating, and now the unstable ceiling. The PCC has recently committed to a full church survey, which although will be financially costly, we will then be in a better position to collate a priority works list.

We are trying to move forward to being a sustainable church both financially and numerically. We have seen evidence of God's provision and growth through people joining the regular congregation, especially the 10am, and also the success of Messy Church. Messy started last May and generally has about 20 children and 20 adults each time and these are mostly from families who do not regularly attend on a Sunday. There are a number of other outreach activities that folk would like to explore, but currently we are struggling with facilities to enable these projects. We have been working with the Diocese to try and address some of these issues.

We continue to work towards accessible services for all people of varying degrees of church background....from no experience to those who have a lifetime of experience!

Although a couple of new members have joined the service team, it has continued to be a struggle at times to cover all services and I must stress that the commitment from the leadership team is not sustainable at its current pace....not just for services but also for other areas of church life. Please never think that you may be taking someone else's role or that there's enough on a particular team....there is always room for more volunteers whether that's running the sound desk, doing refreshments or arranging the flowers...some people might actually like a week off!

At this point, Vikki was asked to clarify her responsibilities: they are as outlined in the Church Wardens' report - although she is nominally full time priest-in-charge at St James Church, half of her time is taken up with 'normal' parish duties, and half with focussing on 20s-30s (baptisms, Messy Church, 8 Essential Qualities) and lay leadership in the Deanery, which includes St James' Church becoming a resource centre for the Deanery. A contribution of £15,000 towards our Parish Share is being paid by Acceler8 to St James for this work.

### **5b) Financial Report (additional comments):**

Ruth Tresidder advised that 2018's payment to the Diocese in respect of the Parish Share would be £57,096, with £15,000 being met from the Diocesan Acceler8 Fund. Ruth Tresidder also explained that, as agreed when Vikki had been appointed, our Parish Share would increase by £5,000 each year over a four-year period. Provided this increase was met the historical 'underpayment' of Parish Share of £98,800 would be written off. She also pointed out that the monthly shortfall of income over expenditure was currently £237 per month.

## **6. Elections and Appointments**

### **6a) Election of three members for the PCC**

Jan Ford, Bill King and Heather Shackleton had all completed their term of office and were prepared to stand for re-election. There being no other nominees, all three were unanimously elected (proposed Chris Cooke, seconded Hilary Crosby).

**6b) Appointment of Sidespersons**

The current list was described as a 'living document' i.e. frequently changing; Colin and Maggie Russell were to be added, as Reader and Sidesperson respectively for the evening service. With the additions the list was unanimously agreed.

**6c) Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts**

Thanks were expressed to Elizabeth McBride for her work in examining the accounts. Having offered to continue, she was re-appointed unanimously (proposed Ruth Tresidder, seconded Jenny Thorne).

**7. Any Other Business**

**7a)** Jenny Thorne proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Ron Holmes who faithfully visits the church every fourth day to ensure the pages of the Remembrance Book are showing the current dates.

**7b)** Jill Parker proposed a vote of thanks to Vikki, for all she has done and is doing in the face of personal problems and Diocesan red tape!

**7c)** Stephen Adams seconded the vote of thanks to Vikki particularly appreciating the support she gave the churchwardens; and proposed thanks to John Tresidder and Mary Williams who both continued to be founts of knowledge and wisdom in so many areas, including burials.

**8. Date of next meeting:** Sunday 7 April 2019 in church following the 10am service.  
The meeting closed in prayer at 12noon.

Chair..... Date.....

**REPORTS**

**Church Management**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements for  
the year ended 31 December 2018**

**Priest-In-Charge**

Rev. Vikki Bisiker

**Parish Administrator**

Mrs M Mumford  
The Parish Office  
74D Coventry Street  
Southam  
CV47 0EA

**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc  
6 High Street  
Southam  
CV47 0HA

**Independent Examiner**

Mrs Elizabeth McBride ICMA  
1 Park Lane  
Harbury  
CV33 9HX

## **Annual Report for 2018**

The PCC co-operates with the incumbent 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.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Revd. Vikki Bisiker*	Incumbent
Stephen Adams*	Warden, Reader and Deanery Synod Representative
Barry Parker*	Warden, Deanery Synod Representative, Vice Chair PCC and Lay Chair Deanery Synod
Margo Grant	Diocesan Synod Representative
Pat Adams	Elected
Chris Cooke	Elected
Hilary Crosby	Elected
Jan Ford*	Elected, PCC Minute Secretary
Bill King	Elected
Jill Parker	Elected
Heather Shackleton	Elected, Safeguarding Officer
Jenny Thorne	Elected
Ruth Tresidder*	Elected, Treasurer
*Standing Committee members	

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

Following revision there are currently 87 members on the Church Electoral Roll of whom 12 are not resident within the parish (2018:87 with 12 not resident within the parish).

The average Sunday attendance was 70 (2017:70) and, as in previous years, average numbers increased at the various festivals and for baptism and thanksgiving services. Although the number of young people regularly attending church on a Sunday remains very low, we continue to reach out into the community with our Open the Book team taking bible stories into Southam St James CoE Academy and Southam Primary school and by running regular 'Messy Church' events.

The statement of the financial activities for the year is set out in this Annual Report together with the Treasurer's Report, see pages 13 - 19. With the guidance and assistance of our treasurer, Ruth Tresidder, we maintained a very strict control over church expenditure and fully met our agreed Parish Share commitment for 2018 reflecting our commitment to increase Parish Share contributions in increments of £5,000 each year over a four-year period ending April 2020.



The full PCC met on six occasions during 2018 with an overall attendance rate of 82%.

The PCC is supported in its duties by a Standing Committee, to enable urgent decisions which have been properly delegated to be taken between PCC meetings and a Fabric Committee to look after the church buildings, etc. The minutes and reports of their meetings were received by the full PCC.

The PCC is fully aware of the risk factors involved in the running of church affairs and continues to ensure that all our properties are adequately insured, including public liability.

Mrs Elizabeth McBride has again kindly agreed to examine the Accounts and the PCC is very grateful to her for the time she has spent on this.

The PCC is also grateful to Margaret Mumford for the smooth running of the church office and to those volunteers who help cover the church office each Tuesday and Friday morning and when Margaret is on leave. Thanks also goes to Ruth Tresidder who organises the rota. More volunteers are always welcome so if you would like to help please have a word with Ruth.

Copies of the PCC minutes are displayed on the noticeboard at the back of church after each meeting.

As you would expect, a lot of the detail of what is discussed at the PCC meetings is covered in the following reports. In addition, detailed reports of other groups and activities associated with St James are set out in this Annual Report.

On 5 March 2019 the members of the Parochial Church Council approved the reports for submission to the APCM and signed by Vikki Bisiker on their behalf.

## **Review of the Year**

As I enter into my fourth year with you, I continue to give thanks for all that God has provided for us as the family of St James. Your continued prayers, support and encouragement for myself and one another has been a blessing. Please do read this report in conjunction with the Churchwardens' report as there will inevitably be some overlap and their report also includes the remit of my interim post with St James.

I have continued to meet regularly with both churchwardens, with Barry overseeing the administration side of things and Stephen continuing in the role of overseeing the fabric of the church. This structure has again continued to work well and has been a great help in supporting one another. However, due to significant problems with the church building and other challenges at Southam, the workload has become unsustainable for myself and the Churchwardens. During 2019 we will be actively seeking assistance from the Diocese and others to address these issues and share this substantially increased workload.

I think that it is important be thankful for all that God has done over the past year and for His faithfulness. The church family is gradually growing in both number and in faith. Our first survey of the Eight Essential Qualities of a Healthy Church (the 8EQs) was very encouraging and it was good to celebrate the results with a visit from Archdeacon Morris and a lovely cake! The survey results highlighted areas to focus on and it is hoped that we will be able to do that in this coming year.

We had a wonderfully encouraging visit from Archbishop Justin and his wife Caroline, and I know that we continue to be in his daily prayers.

The 10am Breakfast Church has continued to be successful and appreciated. At the latter end of the year two baptisms were part of Breakfast Church and it was recognised how well these two 'events' went together. The regular congregation and baptism guests mingled well, and it was nice for those who may not have been to church before to have such a relaxed welcome and experience. The feedback has been very positive in this area.

The welcome that new folk have experienced has been, in my opinion, a reflection of God's love for everyone. So, thank you all for being so welcoming, friendly and inclusive. Recently on their first visit, a couple said that they felt like they had been coming to St James for years.... I don't think that you can have a higher compliment!

We have again met our financial target of an increase of £5k in our payment of parish share this year and so are on our way to 'wiping the slate clean' with regard to previous 'underpayments'. Although there has been an increase in regular giving, the extra £5k has been supplemented by legacies and one off giving. Please see the Churchwardens report for further details. We know that God has made this amazing provision through giving, but it's considered that without an increase in regular giving it is not known whether St James will be fully sustainable for a full time incumbent in the future.

One of the ways that I significantly wanted to outreach was to use the Rectory across the road as a church centre. It is considered by the leadership team at St James and the Diocesan Senior staff that the church building has huge limitations in being used for smaller groups, hospitality, children and youth groups, to name a few, because of the lack of facilities. However, to say that it has been a battle to use the Rectory in this way would be a huge understatement. Even though there has been significant hours spent by myself, the Area Dean, the Churchwardens, Archdeacon Morris and James Henney (Project Manager of St Mark's Church, Coventry) we are still no further forward after two years since the idea was birthed. It is felt that the Diocese has hindered the process somewhat in creating significant hurdles and complications. As you will appreciate, this is hugely frustrating and has sapped a lot of energy and enthusiasm from those involved. For further details, please see the Churchwardens' report. I would also echo their comments regarding the fabric of the church building and the significant costs that will be required for its repair and maintenance.

Over a significant time, we have continued to build on the relationships with the community in a variety of ways. A new initiative called 'When Christmas Hurts' was introduced through December and there was a dedicated Christmas tree and baubles for those the festive time was also painful time. The initiative was hugely appreciated and over 100 baubles were placed on the tree and prayed for regularly throughout December. It is planned for next Christmas, that 'When Christmas Hurts' will run again and combine with the Living with loss service. The service would be later in December and would be for all those who may stay away from the Christmas services but would like a more reflective service to remember their loved ones before God.

Sadly, there have been a lot of negative comments in the community and social media regarding the issue with the lack of burial space and St James has borne the brunt of that, despite burial space being the responsibility of the Town Council since the 19th century. That is understandable in that the public see a large church building with a churchyard wrapped around and naturally assume that it is that church that is responsible. This is of huge pastoral concern and has been a historical ongoing problem that rears its head every so often, particular this year because of the issue being highlighted by the Town Council's consultation regarding burial space. A number of townsfolk also feel that because the Diocese sold Glebe Land to housing developers, that some of this financial gain should be

returned to the town in order to provide burial space. However, Glebe funds are restricted and so cannot be used in this way. I am very concerned with regard to the effect that this has on the local church and our pastoral care for the town, so over the last few months I have spent a significant amount of time in conversations with townsfolk, the bereaved and the Diocese to try and move this situation forward. This is a huge hurdle to overcome and I would very much value your prayers.

I am hugely grateful for all of you who make St James the church that it is and for all that you do, in so many different ways! Thank you to each one of you and let's continue to share the good news together, commit ourselves faithfully to prayer and service, and love one another as Christ first loved us.

***Rev. Vikki Bisiker***

### **Churchwarden's Report**

At the APCM in March 2018, Stephen Adams and Barry Parker were re-elected as church wardens and whilst we are both involved in all aspects of church life Stephen has continued to take the lead on all-things 'fabric' with Barry on 'administration'. Your prayers and support in our role have been and are really appreciated.

Vikki is now entering her 4<sup>th</sup> year with us, her first year as curate followed by a three-year appointment as full-time stipendiary interim minister at St James. This is due to end on 30 April 2020.

It is worth reminding ourselves that we as a PCC and church family in agreeing to her appointment we committed to:

- supporting Vikki as she leads the church into the change necessary to deliver the Diocesan Mission Purpose via the 8EQs,
- supporting the emphasis on 20s-30s ministry and the role of St James as a resourcing (rather than resourced) church, including ministry on the new housing areas in Southam, and
- increasing parish share contributions by £5,000 per year over four years, as a sign of commitment to long-term sustainability.

The diocese agreed to support St James to:

- become a resourcing church for the deanery and wider diocese, both financially and in the development of lay training in Southam, and
- write off 'arrears' of parish share amounting to £98,809 at the end of the four-year commitment provided we achieve the financial target set.

How are we measuring up to those commitments?

We identified very early on in Vikki's ministry the restrictive nature of the facilities within the existing church building, including the lack of disabled facilities, modern toilets, kitchen, meeting rooms, etc. Following discussions with and support from the Archdeacon Missioner, Morris Rodham, and other representatives from the Diocese, a PCC proposal to use the Rectory for outreach was agreed in principal by the diocese and a planning application for change of use was submitted to the local authority. This was subsequently withdrawn on advice from the planning officer who suggested that it was resubmitted within

the year with no extra fee payable. The main reason for withdrawal being that more discussions needed to happen with the Highways Department. Following further discussion with the diocese, Archdeacon Morris Rodham appointed James Henney, building and facilities officer at St Mark's Coventry, and funded by way of a grant from the Diocesan Mission Fund, to submit a fresh planning application which would address the original planning objections and include a new vehicular entrance to the Rectory. This is ongoing. Despite significant resource being applied by Vikki, Martin Green, Area Dean, and ourselves with, in theory, the support of the diocese, we continue to be frustrated by the lack of progress and our inability to move forward. Indeed, we still do not know what we would be committing to financially or legally. All this when Vikki's current appointment has only one year to run.

There have been significant positives, however, introducing our own regular Messy Church and helping develop and run the deanery-wide Massive Messy Church held at the Grange Hall, Southam. We have also started Breakfast Church which is proving very popular and encouraging new families on the periphery of the church to come along. Particularly successful has been combining Breakfast Church with a Baptism. The Open the Book Team have continued not only with the Primary School and Southam St James CoE Academy School but also to primary schools in Priors Marston, Napton and Stockton. Jolly J's, St James' toddler group, continues to thrive. Working with Crosstech, and drawing in other resource from Southam churches, it was a joy to run the 'Christmas Experience' for Primary School's year 5/6. It's really encouraging that early in the new year the Primary School has asked us to run the Easter Experience for them in 2019. We are also delighted that they will be joined by Year 6 from Southam St James School.

Our thanks go to those from St James who are also on the Deanery Mission Team helping to organise and deliver missional events, concerts, training events, etc. and you can read much more about these events in the various reports contained in this Annual Report and our thanks go to all who help to make these events happen.

With the development of around 1,000 new properties currently being completed or under development the nature of Southam will change. One of our commitments was to support Vikki in her ministry particularly to the 20s – 30s in these areas. Do we have a vision? We would love to do much more!

Integral to Vikki's appointment has been the financial support we have received from the diocese particularly through the Acceler8 programme. Without this the deanery as a whole would not have been able to meet in parish share commitment.

Provided we meet our Parish Share commitment for 2019, which would mean utilizing legacy monies as highlighted in the treasurer's report, we will have achieved our commitment to increase parish share contributions by £5,000 per year over four years.

Looking forward, however, if we wish to continue to employ a full-time priest which is currently around £55,000pa (and we have to assume that the Acceler8 funding ceases) without a significant increase in giving we would have to fall back on these reserves which would quickly run out.

In addition, the fabric of St James has also been of increasing concern and the fabric report highlights the many challenges that we, as a church, face. What is clear is that going forward significant sums of money will be required not only to repair and maintain the status-quo, and this will be identified by the Architect's whole church survey, but to make the church a building fit for the community in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

2018 marked the centenary of the Coventry Diocese and as a part of those celebrations we were delighted when Archbishop Justin Welby accompanied by Caroline, his wife, asked to visit Southam, attending services at Southam St James CoE Academy and St James Church. The private service at St James was for past and present members of the congregation and it was our privilege to assist in the organisation of this service and a delight to see so many at the service who knew Archbishop Justin when he was Rector at St James Church.

As ever we continue to work very closely with Vikki and have regular meetings, particularly with regard to PCC agendas and reports and have spent many hours developing a viable plan for the Rectory.

We would like to thank all who work both in prominent roles and behind the scenes to make sure the church continues to run smoothly.

We know we have significant challenges ahead, many of which are included in the various reports to this APCM. We also celebrate the successes we have and continue to enjoy and are confident that together, with each other's support and encouragement and underpinned by prayer and if it is God's will we will make significant progress in the coming year.

***Stephen Adams and Barry Parker – Church Wardens***

### **Treasurer's Report**

Planned giving for 2018 was slightly higher than 2017 and amounted to £2,952.11 per month compared with £2,863.32 in the previous year and the total One Off Gift Aid donations increased to £702.50 per month compared with £562.08 in 2017. Income from loose plate collections decreased by £34.98 per month. Overall during the year General income (excluding legacies and insurance claims) only increased by £551.03 **but** General expenditure increased by £11,439.66 (including £9,510.37 on repairs to the south aisle ceiling).

The balance of £67,266.29 in the General Account is purely made up of legacy money received over the last two years. In 2017 we received £40,000 from the estate of Don Greenway deceased, and in 2018 we received the £10,068.63 balance from his estate together with £7,346.95 from Mrs DL Roberts deceased and a bequest of £20,000 from the estate of JM Baugh deceased. We are extremely grateful for these legacies together with a £1,000 bequest received from the estate of Miss D Amos towards upkeep of the Churchyard.

On a positive note we paid our parish share of £57,096 in full - the additional £20,000 for 2018 was covered by £15,000 received from the Diocesan Acceler8 Fund to offset time spent by the Rev Vikki Bisiker on working locally with the 20 to 30's age group and the £5,000 balance of the General Account from 2017. For 2019 our parish share amounts to £60,806, we will again receive £15,000 from the Acceler8 Fund but without a substantial increase in general income we shall need to use around £8,000 of legacy monies to pay the share in full to ensure an historic debt of over £98,809 is written off at the end of the year.

Significant items that need highlighting include:

We are very grateful for donations of £6,400 received towards furthering Mission in the parish, and with gift aid these donations amounted to £7,650.

At the beginning of the year we received a very welcome donation of £1,000 for the Building Fund. Following the fall of plaster from the south aisle ceiling donations amounting to £1,950 (including gift aid) were received towards the necessary repairs which cost a total of £12,524.30.

We received a donation of £100 from the Melody Makers following their very successful concert in church in June.

Annual maintenance/statutory checks on the gas boilers, lightning conductor, clock and fire extinguishers amounted to £1,626.94.

Overall Parochial church fees increased over the last year due to more second burials taking place in the churchyard

The PCC 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 extremely grateful to Liz McBride for examining our church accounts at no charge.

I hope and pray that congregation numbers will increase over time, but we must all very seriously consider whether our own present giving to St James is realistic.

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

***Ruth Tresidder – Treasurer Tel. 813524***



### **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 2018.

#### *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: 3rd March 2019



## ST JAMES CHURCH SOUTHAM

## ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	Note	Actual 2018 Unrestricted	Actual 2018 Designated	Actual 2018 Restricted	Actual 2018 TOTAL	Actual 2017 Unrestricted	Actual 2017 Designated	Actual 2017 Restricted	Actual 2017 TOTAL
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>									
<b>From Donors</b>									
Under Gift Aid Schemes	1a	35,042.14	6,400.00	1,000.00	42,442.14	35,542.54	6,000.00	45.00	41,587.54
Gift Aid recovered	1b	9,586.48	1,250.00	253.75	11,090.23	9,629.42	1,500.00	132.50	11,261.92
Non-Gift Aid income	1c	8,096.32			8,096.32	6,784.28			6,784.28
Fund raising & Appeals	1d	3,101.30	-339.01	2,581.03	5,343.32	3,824.97	339.01	2,900.16	7,064.14
Legacies	1e	37,415.58		1,000.00	38,415.58	40,000.00			40,000.00
Insurance Claims						1,358.00			1,358.00
Grants	1f			15,000.00	15,000.00				
<b>Total donated income</b>		<b>93,241.82</b>	<b>7,310.99</b>	<b>19,834.78</b>	<b>120,387.59</b>	<b>97,139.21</b>	<b>7,839.01</b>	<b>3,077.66</b>	<b>108,055.88</b>
<b>Fees</b>									
PCC	2a	6,683.00		-324.00	6,359.00	4,819.00		299.00	5,118.00
<b>Total regulated fees</b>		<b>6,683.00</b>		<b>-324.00</b>	<b>6,359.00</b>	<b>4,819.00</b>		<b>299.00</b>	<b>5,118.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>99,924.82</b>	<b>7,310.99</b>	<b>19,510.78</b>	<b>126,746.59</b>	<b>101,958.21</b>	<b>7,839.01</b>	<b>3,376.66</b>	<b>113,173.88</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>									
<b>Diocesan costs</b>									
Parish share	3a	42,096.00		15,000.00	57,096.00	37,096.00			37,096.00
<b>Total Diocesan costs</b>		<b>42,096.00</b>		<b>15,000.00</b>	<b>57,096.00</b>	<b>37,096.00</b>			<b>37,096.00</b>
<b>Clergy &amp; Service costs</b>									
Clergy expenses	4a	381.72			381.72	685.05			685.05
Altar supplies	4b	124.25			124.25	133.18			133.18
Music	4c	527.80		32.94	560.74	504.24		3.25	507.49
Other	4d	1,130.00			1,130.00	694.00			694.00
<b>Total costs</b>		<b>2,163.77</b>		<b>32.94</b>	<b>2,196.71</b>	<b>2,016.47</b>		<b>3.25</b>	<b>2,019.72</b>



ST JAMES CHURCH SOUTHAM

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	Actual 2018				Actual 2017				
	Note	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	TOTAL	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	TOTAL
EXPENSES (Continued)									
Administration									
	5a	4,865.76			4,865.76	4,633.20			4,633.20
	5b	1,879.49			1,879.49	1,811.05			1,811.05
	5c	607.10			607.10	1,077.46			1,077.46
		Office telephone	499.59		499.59	278.30			278.30
	5d	4,679.75			4,679.75	4,426.55			4,426.55
		<b>Total Administration costs</b>	<b>12,531.69</b>		<b>12,531.69</b>	<b>12,226.56</b>			<b>12,226.56</b>
Maintenance									
	6a	2,702.89			2,702.89	3,263.52			3,263.52
	6b	6,227.18			6,227.18	6,269.06			6,269.06
	6c	11,137.31		3,013.93	14,151.24	1,279.36		1,950.00	3,229.36
	6d			80.00	80.00	3,473.00		745.00	4,218.00
		<b>Total Maintenance costs</b>	<b>20,067.38</b>	<b>3,093.93</b>	<b>23,161.31</b>	<b>14,284.94</b>		<b>2,695.00</b>	<b>16,979.94</b>
Ministry support									
	7a	156.25		754.49	910.74	150.00		619.70	769.70
	7b	654.45	231.00	630.97	1,516.42	455.91		728.28	1,184.19
		<b>Total Ministry support</b>	<b>810.70</b>	<b>1,385.46</b>	<b>2,427.16</b>	<b>605.91</b>		<b>1,347.98</b>	<b>1,953.89</b>
		<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>77,669.54</b>	<b>19,512.33</b>	<b>97,412.87</b>	<b>66,229.88</b>		<b>4,046.23</b>	<b>70,276.11</b>
SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR									
		22,255.28	7,079.99	-1.55	29,333.72	35,728.33	7,839.01	-669.57	42,897.77
	Add Reserves b/fwd at 01 Jan 2018	45,011.01				9,282.68			
	TOTAL RESERVES 31 DEC 2018	67,266.29				45,011.01			



**Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2018**
**RESTRICTED FUNDS MOVEMENT**

<b>Fund Description</b>	<b>Balance 01 Jan 18 £</b>	<b>Receipts £</b>	<b>Payments £</b>	<b>Balance 31 Dec 18 £</b>
Audio/visual/technology	71.75		32.94	38.81
Booklets	25.00			25.00
Building maintenance	63.93	2,950.00	3,013.93	0.00
Children ex Infant Welfare Trust	7,101.94		296.89	6,805.05
Churchyard maintenance	60.00	1,060.00	80.00	1,040.00
Flower Fund	95.90	174.05	154.49	115.46
Granny Wagon	153.10			153.10
He*Brews	524.60		233.36	291.24
Hope 14 onwards	69.87		29.50	40.37
International	369.57	594.79	600.00	364.36
John Milner Organ Fund	601.22			601.22
"Messy Church"	355.51	55.94	71.22	340.23
Wedding Fees in Advance	324.00	-324.00		0.00
	<b>9,816.39</b>	<b>4,510.78</b>	<b>4,512.33</b>	<b>9,814.84</b>

**DESIGNATED FUNDS MOVEMENT**

<b>Fund Description</b>	<b>Balance 01 Jan 18 £</b>	<b>Receipts £</b>	<b>Payments £</b>	<b>Balance 31 Dec 18 £</b>
Jolly J's	339.01	-339.01		0.00
Mission	7,500.00	7,650.00	231.00	14,919.00
	<b>7,839.01</b>	<b>7,310.99</b>	<b>231.00</b>	<b>14,919.00</b>

**LIABILITIES – Agency Collections** **0.00**

**LIQUID FUNDS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018**

Bank 92,000.13

**TOTAL FUNDS**

Less Restricted Funds held on behalf of others as per above 9,814.84

Less Designated Funds 14,919.00

Less Liabilities – Agency Collections 0.00

**St James Funds at 31 December 2018 see Receipts & Payments A/C** **67,266.29**

## Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2018

### NOTES RELATING TO 2018 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. We are very grateful for the £6,400 donations designated for Mission and £1,000 towards the south aisle ceiling repairs.
- 1b Tax reclaimed from above and from the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (unrestricted) from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- 1c Planned giving that may not qualify for tax relief and loose plate collections.
- 1d Unrestricted includes proceeds from the Christmas Fayre, one off donations, income received for incidental charges and weddings and insertions in the Book of Remembrance. Designated covers donations from Jolly J's. Restricted includes International, Messy Church, donations for repairs to the south aisle ceiling, churchyard and church flowers.
- 1e We are very grateful for the balance of the legacy from the estate of Donald Greenway, and the legacies from J.M. Baugh and Mrs D.L. Roberts (unrestricted) and the legacy from Miss D.A. Amos (restricted).
- 1f Grant received from Acceler8 towards the parish share.
- 2a Restricted Wedding Fees in Advance may be carried over from one year to another.

#### Expenditure

- 3a Our contribution to Coventry Diocese.
- 4a Clergy expenses and telephone.
- 4b Candles, Communion Wine etc.
- 4c Unrestricted covers Music Licences for 2018. Restricted covers audio/visual expenses.
- 4d Visiting laity/clergy undertaking funerals.
- 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 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 Unrestricted includes routine maintenance of fire extinguishers, clock and lightning conductor and statutory testing of gas boilers. Part of the cost of the repairs to the south aisle ceiling was paid from restricted funds and the balance from unrestricted funds.
- 6d We are extremely grateful to Southam Town Council for including mowing and strimming the churchyard in their grass cutting contract and paying for emptying the skip. Restricted expenditure covered routine maintenance.
- 7a Unrestricted includes donations to Southam Christmas Lights Association and St John's Church at Kenilworth (loan of Baptism pool). Restricted includes expenditure on Christmas and Easter flowers and International donations to MAF, Hope Africa and the Barnabas Fund.
- 7b Unrestricted includes purchase of Christmas and Easter cards, Breakfast Church expenses and contribution to the Diocese for the 8EQ's survey. Designated includes

the cost of abortive planning application for The Rectory. Restricted includes books for children who were baptised, expenditure by the Open the Book team, Messy Church and the Cross Teach Trust Christmas Experience for Primary School pupils.

## **Giving Report**

A significant proportion of our giving is eligible for tax relief and allows us to claim back from HM Revenue & Customs 25p for every £1 donated in this way.

I am conscious that as more members of our congregation retire it does mean fewer people fall into the tax bracket.

During 2018 a total of 30 people paid by standing order into the church bank account. Giving by this method amounted to £23,013.92 – a decrease of £806.00 over the previous year.

12 people donated through the blue envelope scheme and a total of £7,367.50 was given by this method, an increase of £139.56 over the previous year.

A total of 79 people contributed to the church by yellow envelope, of these 11 gave on a regular basis. Total giving by this method (including one-off gift aid donations) amounted to £12,060.72, an increase of £1,521.04 over 2017.

We received gift aid of £11,090.23 from HM Revenue & Customs, this is a decrease of £171.69 over the previous year. Tax is recovered in arrear and covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

During the year the number of people who are non-taxpayers who gave on a regular basis was 6 and income increased by £1,731.90 to £5,043.90

Cash collections amounted to £3,052.42 a decrease of £419.86 over the previous year.

Listed below is the equivalent weekly giving during 2018 whether paid by standing order, cheques or the envelope schemes:

£1.00 up to £5.00	25 people
Over £5.00 up to £10.00	15 people
Over £10.00 up to £15.00	8 people
Over £15.00 up to £20.00	1 person
Over £20.00 up to £30.00	4 people
Over £30.00 up to £40.00	3 people
Over £40.00 up to £50.00	2 people
Over £50.00 up to £100.00	2 people

I would like to thank everyone who contributes to our church finances especially those who give to the church on a regular basis, whether it be weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually.

If you would like more information on methods available to contribute to St James on a regular basis, please do contact me.

***Ruth Tresidder - Gift Aid Secretary***

### **Fabric Committee's Report**

The main fabric issue during 2018 was the ceiling of the South Aisle following the large fall of plaster at the beginning of the year. The whole South Aisle was closed off and out of bounds for much of the year to avoid the possibility of any injury in the event of further plaster falls.

During October, after much discussion and investigation by various parties, Hewer Builders removed the entire lath and plaster ceiling from the South Aisle. Some of the roof timbers were found to be in need of attention and treatment for rot and woodworm was undertaken, and the filling in of the eaves was carried out to prevent ingress of the elements or wildlife. Fortunately, the removal of the ceiling was able to be completed before Remembrance Day and it was possible to use the whole church for the Remembrance Day Parade Service.

A decision by PCC resolved that we should seek a full survey of the Church in 2018. However, when the Church Architect John Jones was approached to bring forward the Quinquennial Inspection and to provide a detailed survey of the building Mr Jones announced his impending retirement and gave notice to the Church that he would no longer be providing his services. This left us without a Church architect and with no one on our books qualified to conduct the necessary survey.

(Following research by the PCC, in January 2019 Ruth Tresidder invited a new Architect, Mr Mark King of Kenilworth, to visit and he has now been requested to carry out the 2019 Quinquennial Inspection and report on the fabric of the building with a view to providing information to the PCC on the priorities and financial implications facing the church in regard to the structure of the building.)

After it was mentioned by a member of the church that they had noticed that pieces of masonry had been falling from the tower and spire of St James, Hewer Builders erected safety fencing around that part of the building pending further investigation. There is also a need to remove and prevent future development of plants that are currently growing out of the stonework around some of the tower pinnacles. This is likely to necessitate the erection of scaffolding, subject to PCC approval this year. Whilst this is will be expensive, it will enable a close-up inspection of the structure, surface dressing, replacement and re-pointing of masonry, maintenance of the clock hands and faces, as well as removal of the vegetation and any other works to be carried out at the same time.

Regular minor maintenance, testing and certification continues to be provided around the building. Bill King regularly checks roof gutters and various drains and removes blockages. At the start of 2019 Bill has also replaced the extractor fan in the "tea room" which had stopped working. Currently Hewer Builders are investigating the causes of two minor water leaks in the South Aisle roof which became apparent after the ceiling was removed.

Also, our thanks go to a recent work party who cut back vegetation and tidied the churchyard, particularly the path on the west side.

The heating system has continued to struggle on relatively "successfully" given its age and condition but this month following problems with two boilers not starting in time for a 10am Service an engineer from Sureway Heating was again called in. Following this repair an appointment has been made for an assessor from Sureway to visit and provide an estimate for replacement of the heating system. It is anticipated that this will require new boilers and radiators but the retention of the majority of the existing pipework.

During 2018 a planning application was submitted for use of the Rectory by the church as a meeting place, office disabled toilet etc. There were some objections from neighbours



and comments from the District Council Planning Department about some aspects in relation to change of use. The application was withdrawn pending a later resubmission.

Subsequently there was a visit to St James in October by a number of Diocesan officers, and the meeting between them and some members of St James concluded that in addition to the restrictions of a Grade 1 listed building, as there is access to only one small waste water drain on the east side of the church, it would be very expensive and difficult to significantly improve the poor toilet and kitchen facilities within the current structure. This is recognised to be a serious hindrance to the Mission of St James at this time. As a result, further studies are currently taking place to seek to resolve the planning difficulties over the use of the Rectory to enable St James to be more effective in its mission and to have the facilities to take its place as a "resourcing church" in the Deanery.

The current Fabric Team is Stephen Adams, John Gwillam, David Hwer (Hwer Builders), Bill King, Barry Parker and Jenny Thorne. There have been no formal committee meetings during 2018 with all communications being conducted in person one to one or by email. Comparisons with estimates from other contractors for various works continue to show that Hwer Builders provide a cost-effective service for St James, particularly as they are local and are one of a handful of companies experienced and willing to quote for works on ancient and listed buildings.

Looking forward into the year ahead the team would be extremely grateful to hear of anyone with a keen interest in ancient buildings and St James in particular, a gift for fundraising, and/or a penchant for applying for building grants.

***Stephen Adams***

### **Electoral Roll Officer's Report**

22 members left

Two members died

24 members added to the roll

The Electoral Roll now stands at 87 members

***Margo Grant – Electoral Roll Officer***

### **Safeguarding Officer's Report**

2018 has been a very intense year in terms of Safeguarding in order to comply with the implementation of the revised Church of England National and Diocesan instructions for 'Safer Recruitment of Staff and Volunteers in the parishes.

Five new candidate applications and 26 retrospective applications were successfully processed in compliance with these instructions. I thank everyone concerned for their understanding and co-operation in this procedure. Two retrospective applications are still outstanding; however, both have current DBS clearance.

Training of staff and volunteers in their roles and responsibilities in respect of Safeguarding continues to be a high priority. It is required that training or a refresher course is undertaken every three years after the initial training following recruitment. The basic training course is online on the Diocesan Safeguarding website and C1 courses are held

throughout the year. It is hoped that a refresher C1 course, to be known as C5, will be available online from September 2019. This is fortuitous as approximately 10 of our volunteers will be required to attend or complete this refresher course in or around September 2019. Should anyone not have availability to a computer to access these courses, please let me know and I will arrange for this to be undertaken in the Church Office or by hard copy. Once again, thank you to all of our amazing volunteers for their willingness to comply with Safeguarding regulations in order to enable us to promote a safe Church.

***Heather Shackleton - Parish Safeguarding Officer***

### **Deanery Synod Report**

Southam deanery comprises 15 parishes within a six-mile radius of Southam with representatives from each parish. Stephen Adams and Barry Parker sit on the Deanery Synod. Barry Parker is also the Synod's Lay Chair and a member of the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committees. Margo Grant attends synod as one of its Diocesan Synod representatives. All three are members of our PCC.

Synod continues to meet four times each year, is supported by the Standing and Pastoral Committee and receives reports from the Diocesan and General Synods providing PCCs with an important link between the parish, deanery and wider structures of the church.

In particular synod works with parishes to agree the amount each will pay to the Diocese 'parish share' to cover clergy, housing and training costs, etc. together with any additional support that could be made to the Diocesan central Support Fund. In 2010 a new method for calculating parish shares was introduced, with each deanery being allocated a share based on its 'cost of ministers', with a payment to or from this central Support Fund, based upon what each deanery could offer. In June each year representatives from each deanery (usually the Area Dean and Deanery Lay Chair) listen to each other, pray together and decide how much each deanery will give to, or receive from, the support fund. For the first time, the meeting held in June 2018 looking forward to 2019 failed to reach a unanimous decision about Support Fund Payments and work is in hand by the Diocese to better inform deaneries well before the June 2019 meeting with the aim of avoiding a similar situation.

At the last two meetings in 2018 parishes have been encouraged to share a little bit about what has been going on in their patch over the past few months, both positives and negatives, and what is planned for the future. Sharing in this way means that Synod can encourage each other, celebrate success, learn from what others are doing, discuss and suggest possible solutions and identify areas for prayer. This will now be a standard item on all future agendas. The deanery has continued its strong focus on mission and collaborative ministry and the deanery mission team (DMT) continues to organise evangelistic events under the national Hope banner. The aim is to provide high quality training and outreach events we can be confident in inviting non-Christian friends to.

What happened during the year?

Events included: Training evenings on Worshipping God 'An evening with Sam Hargreaves from Engage Worship – How would Jesus lead worship', Making New Disciples 'An evening with Matt Summerfield (Urban Saints)' and Transforming our Community 'Exploring mental health with Revd. Ali Hogger-Gadsby'. A Deanery cream tea, film night, Alpha course, Paul Bell 'Christmas' concert and two Massive Messy Church events. One particular highlight of the year was the Deanery Worship Service with the Archbishop of Canterbury, held in a barn and part of the Centenary celebrations of the Diocese.

What's coming up for 2019?

A completely new programme is being planned for 2019, with more training, another film night, Massive Messy Church events, concerts and a cream tea. Posters and flyers for the upcoming events can be found on the Hope notice board at the back of church and will be advertised in the Church Bulletin. These are evangelistic events designed to grow the church. We hope to see you there – and bring your friends...

'In the Spirit' the deanery service of informal worship held on the first Sunday of each month has been permanently located at St Esprit, Marton and now incorporates the 'Kingdom Come' prayer meeting.

We may be the smallest deanery in the Coventry Diocese, but we are making a difference, but we do have challenges going forward.

As Revd. Martin Green our Area Dean wrote in the Diocesan's 2019 February prayer letter:-

*".... This will be a challenging year as building programmes continue to change the nature of communities, HS2 construction continues to cut swathes across the deanery causing considerable disruption and upset, and the major employer (JLR) begins to shed significant numbers of jobs.*

*Please pray for the churches within our varied communities, dealing with the fall-out from certainly two of these issues and rising to the challenges of the other.*

*May we continue to be enriched in our varied worship-life, grow new and deeper in discipleship, and respond creatively within our changing communities."*

**Stephen Adams and Barry Parker**



## **Leading, Service Support & Worship**

### **Sound and Vision**

It is good to be able to report that generally the Sound and Vision systems have been working very well through the year. The new microphones introduced during 2017 are continuing to prove robust and reliable.

Kieran Van Vuuren has continued to provide frequent excellent support on the desk for 10am services.

Following significant input from Tom and Becky there are now soundtracks of songs and PowerPoint slide sets for regularly used songs available on the church computer and all the resources organised and indexed for use when preparing services. Tom and Becky will continue to regularly monitor, update and administrate the folders of videos, songs and PowerPoint slide sets.

A lock was added to the wall cupboard behind the Sound Desk and the remotes for the LED lights are now stored securely in that cupboard. It may be possible to store other small items in that wall cupboard to further reduce clutter around the mixer.

An additional LED string of red and green lights was installed for the Christmas period. It is anticipated that these lights can be left in place as the dark cable renders them fairly unnoticeable when not in use. (This light set has been electrically disconnected post-Christmas.)

John Gwillam has been asked to prepare a set of longer cables to connect from the sound system mixer cabinet to the interface in the wall cupboard so that the sound system and mixer can be relocated and turned through 90 degrees to a more conventional arrangement facing the front of the church during use. This is in conjunction with plans to install a platform for the computer desk to provide a better view for the operator and raise the height of the computer to assist in the use of the remote "clicker" for PowerPoint presentations when required. At the same time, it is hoped that alterations to the desk will facilitate the use, storage and security of the various sets of CDs and other items currently in the desk. It is anticipated that all these improvements can be made without any impact on the fabric of the building or the Church finances.

Any offers of assistance in the use of the Sound and Projection System will be warmly welcomed and full training will be given to anyone interested in developing new and useful skills in this department!

***Stephen Adams***

### **Music Group**

This past year the music group has continued to provide and lead the worship songs at the 10am service each month on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, occasionally on other Sunday's as requested.

We welcomed three new people this past year. Becky who sings, her husband Tom who plays the French horn, and Gerry who sings with us on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday. All are most welcome and have enhanced the group.

The music is chosen as far as possible, in keeping with the theme of the Sunday and/or with the readings. We aim to have a mix of 'older' and 'newish' songs/hymns that everyone is able to join in with, introducing new items as appropriate. Comments from the

congregation are always listened to, and they are taken on board as much as possible. We also try to have an evening get together from time to time to go over new material or revisit items not sung for some time that are coming up.

A big thank you to Ann for her keyboard skills, Stephen – drums, and to John Home and Margo for singing.

Once again, we mustered a 'choir' for the Christmas Carol service in December which was brilliant. Thank you to everyone who took part.

If anyone is interested in joining the group for Sunday morning services, or maybe for special occasions only, that would be great. Do you sing? Can you play the keyboard? An extra keyboard player would be useful. Is there anyone who can play an instrument of any description? Anyone who can offer any of these talents will be most welcome!! Please just let me know if you feel any of these positions is for you.

***Hilary Crosby – Co-Ordinator***

### **Tower Report**

During the last year the Ringers have rung regularly for most of the services that were held throughout the year. We also rang three times On Remembrance Sunday to Commemorate the Hundredth Anniversary of the Signing of the Armistice. We also had very good attendance over the Christmas period and had some good ringing for all of the services. We were unable to ring for New Year's Eve due to a shortage of ringers.

We rang for only one Wedding and hosted five bands of visiting ringers. The Mop Peal was rung by a visiting band from Warwick again this year.

We did not have an annual outing again this year due to difficulty in fixing suitable dates to suit everyone's holiday arrangements.

We have struggled with some of our practice nights again during the year due to lack of ringers. This being due to some of our ringers having to work abroad, and illness. We do have a couple of learners at the moment and we are hoping that they will become regular members of the band. Occasionally we have visitors from other towers and people that are working in the area. This does help a great deal and we are always very pleased to welcome them into the tower.

The Christmas meal was as usual organised by Iain and Loraine and held at the Bowling Green. This was held at lunch time and 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-four 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**

### **Pre-School and Children's Groups**

Sadly, the number of children regularly attending church on a Sunday morning has remained low. However, on the plus side the numbers of 'Southam' children attending the deanery-wide Massive Church, held twice a year at the Grange Hall, our own Messy Church held on a more regular basis and those attending services specifically aimed at families with young children are encouraging. With an increase in the number of baptisms we also see more children who are encouraged to take part in the children's work during the service, without missing out on the baptism!

Through the good services of John Hedge, we continue to provide something for the children whilst the adults have their own teaching, and for those weeks that John is not around we make sure we have age-appropriate worksheets available.

The relocation of the children's corner has proved popular with parents who are looking after children feeling more part of the service.

### ***Barry Parker - Vice Chair PCC***

#### **Messy Church**

It has been lovely to welcome new families to both the Deanery Massive Messy churches and also our Messy church events at St James. The Messy church team was also alongside Open the Book at the Southam Lights Switch on. The team were on hand to help youngsters make Christmassy crafts and also handed out flyers for St James' Christmas Fayre.

The usual Messy format is quite simple, on arrival there are crafts for the youngsters (with a varying degree of help from the team and parents!), then we gather for a Bible story, songs and a prayer before then sharing a buffet tea together. This year we have had 'the cafe' open from the beginning so that parents can chat over a cuppa (whilst still keeping an eye on the children!).

Messy is a really accessible way for families to come to church and a number of the contacts through Baptisms and Jolly Js have come and had a great time. We've continued to attract about 20 to 25 children and 20 adults (including helpers). Sometimes the numbers are made up of regular families attending, but new families also come too. Some then come to other family friendly events and services.

In August we had a Messy picnic and the weather was amazingly sunny after an overcast morning. Out of this afternoon, the new eco-group (Growing Greener at St James) was birthed. Through many discussions with the baptism families and wedding couples it is clear that many are keen to address the plastic problem and want to work together...watch this space!

### ***Rev. Vikki Bisiker***

#### **Open the Book**

At the conclusion of the 2017 report the team asked that God would continue to bless our work, guiding us in directions that would enable further involvement of young people and their families at St James' Church.

Does He ever let us down? We are now in the happy position that several young people along with parents come regularly to help at Messy Church, as well as attending services.

The Messy Church held before Christmas was a privilege to be part of, witnessing youngsters from the St James' family leading and assisting at craft activities for our visitors, who are always pleased to see OTB team members there as well.

Regular fortnightly visits to St James' School and half-termly visits to Bridges Group schools have continued, and we are always warmly welcomed by pupils and staff.

Unfortunately, the fortnightly visits to Southam Primary School have ceased for the foreseeable future whilst staff review the planning and structure of their assembly pattern. Please continue to pray for the pupils of this school – that seeds will have been sown at our previous visits and that they will be eager to learn more about God's word and love.

There have been further developments at Lillington Primary School regarding the formation of a storytelling team and regular visits. We pray that this will shortly come to fruition.

Like last year, team members have supported Easter, Harvest and Christmas services in church for both St James School and Southam Primary School, a few were involved in another Cross Teach Christmas special and we have supported Rev Vikki by providing storytelling at some services, notably Baptisms.

Storytelling, along with child-friendly worship and activities, on both Good Friday and Christmas Eve continue to be highlights of our schedule.

Finally, I would like to thank every member of the team for their commitment and enthusiasm over the last year, particularly when due to family circumstances I had to take a "back seat".

God is good, He does provide but He also challenges – where will 2019 take us?

***Jenny Thorne – Team Leader***

### **Granny Wagon – Friday Night Hot Chocolate in the Park**

Huge thanks again to our stalwart team of seven, who have turned up in wind and rain (and occasionally sunshine) most Friday evenings 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. A new addition this last summer was several organised games of rounders, which proved popular!

Should anyone feel inclined to join our rota, please do get in touch – you will be most welcome.

***Chris Cooke and Jan Ford***

**Chill**

CHiLL is a home-based youth group (yr7 to yr13) and has continued to meet throughout 2018 at Radford Semele Vicarage. The small group continues to support and encourage one another as we look at the Bible together, chat about relevant issues that the youngsters face and watch films together. One member has moved on to uni and another has joined the group. There's always lots of laughter and the inevitable cuppa and cookie together too!

***Rev. Vikki Bisiker***

**Jolly J's**

Jolly J's is a baby and toddler group for under school age, it runs on Monday mornings 10-11.30 in school term time and also in some school holidays if pre-arranged. This is a church group and run by two very able Mothers with Mothers' Union members providing drinks and story.

During the year we have struggled at times for helpers and after an appeal for help Emma joined us and is a great asset. There is play and crafts, snack time, songs and stories and a chance for mums, dads, grandparents and carers to chat over coffee, etc.

It is a very lively group for new mums or toddlers up to school age, all are welcome.

***Chris Cooke***

## **Homegroups**

### **The Monday Evening Homegroup**

This year has been a slightly different year for our Homegroup. We started with our usual CWR bible study looking at Hebrews. Then knee replacement and several family deaths changed our format this year.

It has been a year of learning to support each other by using email and WhatsApp and phone to keep in touch and know what's going on as I had to be away frequently.

We meet when we can with Meditations, Thought for the Day, Prayers, BBQ and meals out.

We have supported other Studies, Lent groups, and Courses led in other groups or Churches. Within the group we also support the Grannie Waggon and Men's Breakfasts, Church Fairs, Breakfast Church, Streams in the Desert etc. These all help build our Faith and Knowledge in our own walk with God.

We are now resuming our Hebrews Study till we have completed it. Then we will have a look what is available to carry on with in the coming year.

There are several Homegroups within the church, any of us would be pleased to talk to you about them, do ask if you would like more information.

***Juliet Houghton***

### **The Tuesday Evening Homegroup**

It is our joy and privilege to lead this homegroup. We meet on alternate Tuesday evenings at our home - 6, Sycamore Grove, at 7.30pm. The group is very welcoming and new people quickly feel 'at home'. There is a good support network between group members as we care for each other through the 'ups and downs' of everyday life! The members of our group are at various levels of faith and understanding and we enjoy exploring and discussing the Bible together (no question is ever too simple!). We hope that the things we learn together are helping us to reflect Jesus in our communities.

Since our last report we have finished studying the 8 Essential Qualities of a healthy Church. During the summer term we enjoyed a few homegroups where we were learning to train our spiritual ears to hear God's voice. This proved very encouraging when we were all challenged to listen to God and bring a word of encouragement for someone else in the group the next time we met. How encouraging it was for both the 'giver' and the 'recipient' when the same encouraging words came from several members. We followed on from this with the Paraclesis Course. This included a very practical study about The Bible, The Church, Worship and Serving, aiming to equip each of us to fulfil our God-given potential within the life of St. James' Church. Since Christmas we have been exploring how we can do 'mission' where we live and work - wherever our 'Frontline' is. The course is very practical and sets targets for us to 'work on' between each homegroup. During each homegroup we spend some time praying together for topical issues and for each other. Homegroup provides a safe environment where we can experience the love and support of others throughout the weeks and especially when we might be finding life difficult.

We like to support additional Church and Deanery events as they are advertised throughout the year and always find these further develop our friendships and growth in faith. We had a brilliant homegroup BBQ in July (and it wasn't just the sausages that were sizzling). We were very grateful for the shade the Gazebos gave us. In December we had another great

evening revolving around food when we enjoyed our shared Christmas meal. Lots of fun, lots of laughter, lots of food and lots of calories!

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. Unless you try out a homegroup you won't appreciate the benefits of being part of such a group. Please do come along and 'give us a try'. You will be made most welcome! We start at 7.30pm for coffee/tea and 'catch-up', at 8pm we start the 'study' and the official end is 9.30pm. 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**

### **The Wednesday Evening Homegroup**

If Sunday morning is for listening, then the rest of the week is for living and our homegroup is a safe place to share life, care and encourage each other as we live out our faith and connect with God and one another. It is a place to feel free to be real and where we encourage one-another to grow closer to Jesus. It is a brilliant opportunity to form deep friendships and dig deeper into our relationship with Jesus. It's informal, relaxed and fun! Margo is usually our host and welcomes us with refreshments - on special occasions wine may replace tea or coffee!

In 2018 we have shared meals together, socialised together so the relationships formed in the group naturally spill over into other parts of our lives.

We continue to use various formats to look at God's story: bible-study books, DVD videos and audio teaching as well as just chatting and reading the scriptures together all of which help us understand the story of God at work in and through his people, and how it is relevant to our lives today. Whether it's discussing the Sunday sermon, talking about a spiritual battle, or simply praying for one another our homegroup helps us live out our faith in real life. No question or point of view is off limits!

2018 was a time for change for our group as Mary and John Home left which although sad in some ways, being comparable to family moving away, it was also exciting as we sent them out with our prayers and blessing for their vision to form a new group.

Prayer is also an important part of our evenings - both prayer for individuals and the wider church and world and in 2018 we experienced God graciously answering many of our prayers. Encouraged by this we decided as a group to follow a 6-week video course on the topic of Prayer with an open invitation to anyone from the church family to attend. It was a real blessing to look at whole subject of prayer, discuss, learn and share with a slightly larger group. Following the success of this we have begun 2019 looking at and discussing 'An overview of Suffering' again with a wider group.

During an early meeting in 2019 a verse from a psalm seemed particularly appropriate for us so we have taken Psalm 86 v11 as our verse going forward in 2019 'Teach me more about you, how you work and how you move, so that I can walk forward in your truth until everything within me brings honour to your name' *The passion translation*.

We pray that the many blessings of being together as a group will spill over into the wider church as we seek ways to be a blessing to the whole St James family and would encourage everyone to think about connecting with a home group and welcome anyone who would like to give it a try to join us.

**Jill Parker**



**The Thursday Afternoon Homegroup**

The Thursday afternoon group meets at 2.30pm on the first and third Thursday in each month. We meet in each other's homes and take turns to lead.

We cover a variety of subjects in the Bible and are currently discussing Lent. We usually end with a chat giving members a chance to confide in others if they wish.

In December we meet up with past members for a convivial lunch which Ann and Maurice Crutchlow kindly host.

Of course, a cup of tea and a biscuit complete the Homegroup's afternoon.

Please contact me if you would like further details.

***Averil Brown***

**The Saturday Breakfast Homegroup**

We have met with a small cluster of some 6/8 folks who due to busy lives and evening commitments now get together on a Saturday morning for breakfast.

A pattern has emerged where it is hosted in rotation meeting monthly for a leisurely breakfast and ending up on a semi planned discussion about some subject that stimulates how we deal with topical challenges and issues of the day.

***John and Mary Home***



## **Church Liaison**

### **Combined Churches**

Representatives of the four churches meet three times yearly to exchange information, discuss the possibility of joint events, and compare notes regarding covering the monthly rotas for the services at the various residential homes.

This year, we again joined forces at the Christmas Light switch-on, providing refreshments in exchange for donations to the Christmas Lights as well as information on the Christmas services to be held in each of the four churches. Both were equally well received, and a substantial amount taken in donations!

The 'Open the Book' team were alongside providing a 'Messy Church' opportunity for the younger children. It was good to see the illuminated Nativity scene in a prominent position again outside the Tithe Lodge.

The Good Friday Walk of Witness was instigated over 30 years ago by Southam Community Church and has been held every year. Starting at the Grange Hall, participants follow the cross which is carried down the High Street, stopping en route for prayer, reflection and a hymn and ending outside Tithe Lodge for a brief service. Large numbers of hot cross buns are given to shoppers and passers-by as we go. It is planned to repeat it this year.

### ***Jan Ford***

### **Southam St James C of E Academy**

On reflection 2018 has been a very mixed year of year of celebrations and change. A year of making decision affecting the long-term life of the school and an exciting time to see the future vision for the school taking shape.

As part of the centenary celebrations for The Diocese of Coventry, the school was privileged to have The Cross of Nails in school on April 20th as part of its pilgrimage around 75 church schools in the area. Also, in May 2018 as part of the Centenary Celebrations the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby made a four day visit to Coventry and Warwickshire and to the delight of the pupils chose to visit the school with Mrs Welby. During his time as the vicar of St James Church he was a regular visitor to the school and three of his children actually attended the school. It was a real privilege to welcome them back and the children, staff and governors enjoyed a fun and interesting assembly with them.

There was a sad but fond farewell at the end of the summer term to Executive Head, Mrs Phyllis King. As part of her retirement celebrations a Big Pink Truck has been named after her and on July 12, she arrived at school in it! Do keep a look out for it!

Mrs Ali Hine was appointed as the new executive head to work alongside Mrs Kathy Palmizi and also to continue and build on the collaboration with Long Itchington. Mrs Hine was able to work alongside Mrs King for a few weeks to enable a smooth handover.

Another major change took place in October.

It was noted in last year's report that the sustainability of small one-form entry schools was becoming increasingly problematic – most of all financially. After considerable debate the governors agreed to proceed with discussions with the Diocese of Coventry Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) with a view to converting to an academy as part of this Academy Trust. This was undertaken jointly with Long Itchington with both boards of governors wishing to preserve to our collaboration. Following consultation, the conversion was approved by the

Department for Education and the date of conversion was the 1st October 2018. The name of the school changed to Southam St James C of E Academy and we joined a family of schools, working under the Diocesan MAT, committed to supporting and enhancing education within a Church school environment, whilst keeping the school and its families at the heart of everything it does.

This strategic change moved the school from the Local Authority to the DMAT, with funding coming directly from the Department for Education.

To celebrate this change, Bishop Christopher led a special service of welcome, celebration and commissioning for Mrs Hine on Wednesday 17 October attended by members of the DMAT, governors, parents and invited community members. A special blessing was given by Bishop Christopher at the start of this new chapter in the life of the school.

A new name, a new website and a new way of working for Governors are also part of the changes. The structure of the Local Governing Body and Governor roles are still in the process of change to come under the guidelines set by the DMAT. Governors and staff continue to work hard to ensure the children get the very best education and opportunities and look forward to confirmation of this in the next Ofsted inspection expecting to be a 'good' school.

The school celebrated its 40th birthday on the 13 November 2018. To commemorate there was a special assembly, some party games and activities, a special cake and every child received a golden cockerel biscuit made by Mrs Holmes one of the governors. A tree was also planted, and an aerial photo taken.

Dave Howell retired as a governor at the end of 2018 having served for 20 years! I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his outstanding commitment, leadership, dedication and effort. I would also like to thank the other Foundation Governors from our church David Baxter and Jenny Thorne (Vice Chair) for their commitment to helping the school achieve the best academic standards, supporting the staff and ensuring that the Christian ethos of the school will provide a safe and happy place for children to learn.

***Jill Parker - Substitute Ex-Officio Foundation Governor***

## **Mission and Outreach**

### **Fundraising – including Summer Fete and Christmas Fayre**

Unfortunately, the number of fundraising events organised during 2018 was minimal.

During the year the Flower Fund benefitted by £170.30 from Jacky Graham's coffee morning towards the cost of Easter and Christmas flowers.

Due to manpower problems we did not hold a Summer Fete in 2018 but our Christmas Fayre raised £1,254.89, a significant increase over the previous year.

It is hoped to hold our Summer Fete on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June** and our Christmas Fayre on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019** please do make a note of these dates in your diary.

***Ruth Tresidder***

### **Home Communion and Services at Southam Residential Homes**

A small group of licensed lay people take communion to any housebound parishioners who request it, on a regular basis, including Greenways at Long Itchington, where one of our longstanding congregation has been living for some time.

The communion service at Galanos House is now four-weekly, mainly because there are so many other activities going on there with which we compete! We also hold a monthly weekday communion service at Wattons Lodge where a monthly Sunday Evening service is also held by the Congregational Church.

The four churches have recently combined on a rota for the last Sunday in the month to take an evening service at Tithe Lodge, in addition to the regular first Sunday services at Galanos House and Newstead Lodge.

These services are always well received, and we would be pleased to welcome others to join us in running them.

***Jan Ford***

### **International**

Coffee mornings on Fridays 10.30am -12noon continue to be well supported with many visitors coming for a chat, a look around the church or a quiet moment of reflection. Cross of nails prayers for reconciliation are said at midday.

£594.79p was raised in donations for the year all for international causes.

In December £200 was sent to, Ministry Aviation Fellowship who fly essential items and people into remote areas of the world and save many lives, the Barnabus fund and Hope Africa, this was an appeal for children's shoes so they could attend school.

Thank you for all your support enabling us to support these projects,

***Chris Cooke and Jan Ford***

### **Men's Breakfast**

Another full year for Men's Breakfast!

Each month up to 30 of us from around the deanery meet at the Village Hall in Ufton to enjoy Roger Lane's 'Full English for a Fiver', have great conversation and listen to a guest speaker.

2018 was no different, we had a great range of speakers including the artistic director of the Loft Theatre, Leamington, Revd. Ann Hibberd from the Well, Margaret Moore from the Leamington Night Shelter, Andrew Small, trustee and director New Futures Nepal and Bernard Cadogan from Southam Heritage Collection. We also continued our practice of encouraging 'one of our own' to speak to our group and this year has been no different with Peter Dove regaling us with his experiences at boarding school, Mike Gaffney telling us about his MBE and Barry Parker looking at reasons why 2018 has been a special year of celebration.

Meeting every month to enjoy Roger Lane's 'Full English for a Fiver' we have been ably assisted by 'sous-chef' Tony Brown, 'toastmaster' John Home, Ian Crowther (team leader) and Barry Parker. It's also brilliant that everyone attending helps to clear and wash up at the end. We did, however, let Roger have December off when we again enjoyed the hospitality of the White Hart, Ufton to enjoy our 'Breakfast' Christmas meal!

Each month we donate the 'profit' from the breakfast to the charity of the speaker's choice and we are pleased to report that in 2018 we sent over £800 to 11 worthy charities nominated by our speakers. We congratulate our gallant band of gentlemen who helped

Us to do so and extend our thanks once again to 'Chef Roger' and his team - without whom it just would not have been possible.

We still have room for new members, just look for our invitation in the Church Bulletin or call me on 01926 811254 or email [champagnebuff@gmail.com](mailto:champagnebuff@gmail.com).

### ***Barry Parker***

### **Mothers' Union**

Mother's Union continues to flourish averaging 20-25 attendees. We meet once a month usually in church.

The year got off to a good start at the Fox & Hen, where subs of £23 were collected.

At the February meeting Heather gave an interesting talk on pancakes and had several pancakes for tasting, recipes gleaned from different countries.

In March Chris Rutherford spoke on the history of Lent followed in April by an explanation of the Liturgical colours by Roderick Clarke. The speaker for May was Daphne Cook, who took us on "A Journey of Faith" as told in embroidery.

An outing to Wilton Locks was enjoyed by members in June.

A Strawberry Tea was hosted by Rose in July in her lovely garden.

Sadly, during August valued members Eileen Hancox and Jean Parker passed away. Members attended their funeral services in church with great sorrow.

As usual the A.G.M. in September was held in church. This was preceded by communion conducted by Vikki Bisiker.

At the October meeting Mike and Rosemary Hill told us of their visit to Yellowstone Park, illustrated with slides and photographs.

In November Jill Parker gave us a demonstration of making Christmas decorations from various materials.

A carol service in church brought the monthly programme to an end.

New members are warmly welcomed, ask Rose for a programme or just come along on the second Thursday in the month. We look forward to seeing you.

### ***Averil Brown - Mothers' Union Secretary***

#### **St James Strollers**

St James Strollers kept on "strolling" throughout 2018 in weather that ranged from lying snow to midsummer heat.

Many see the afternoon of the first Sunday in the month as a regular event whilst others join in as and when, and, on this basis, our numbers during the year ranged from eight to twenty. The organisation of our "strolls" is deliberately quite relaxed with a happy banter prevailing, but I am grateful in particular for assistance from Derrick and Edward and Mike and Rosemary in the months I was not able to take part.

We have, as in previous years, opted to vary the scenery and our routes included:

Stoneythorpe estate: Chesterton - on tarmac roads in wet weather: Eathorpe, Wappenbury and Hunningham - in the snow: Brockhall - followed by tea at Heart of the Shires: Dunchurch and Onley: Hailes Abbey - glorious day in the Cotswolds including ice cream: Little and Great Brington (Althorpe House) - afternoon tea in Gt Brington church: Priors Hardwick, Wormleighton and Stoneton - before HS2 gets there: Marton and Frankton - lovely Autumn weather: Hill, Leamington Hastings and Broadwell - discovered the route of Via Beata: Ufton and Harbury - including Ufton Nature Reserve.

If you like the sound of this and would like to join in the informal fellowship of our gatherings, then please put a note in your diary for the first Sunday of each month meeting at 2 pm at Wood Street car park. There is no commitment - just turn up and we'll go.

A notice is displayed in church and in the weekly Church Bulletin giving further details of each month's "stroll".

Hope to see you soon.

***"Spike" Thorne - Southam 814468.***

#### **Bees Abroad in Kenya**

A new chapter for Bees Abroad work in Kenya.

We have been volunteers with Bees Abroad and have been working in Kenya for 14 years. During this time, we visited regularly once or twice a year often spending 4 or 5 weeks each visit. Over the years 10 projects have been successfully completed with around 2250 households trained in the skills of beekeeping. At the present time 5 projects are ongoing. This has enabled subsistence farmers to benefit with nutrition, the crops they grow increase through pollination and much needed income. This has been with the support of a very competent Kenyan team that we have assisted with skills in both beekeeping, small enterprise development and in management skills. They have strong local knowledge of both the communities and the specifics of beekeeping in their country.

We the Bees Abroad project leaders recognised that our Kenya team is ready to 'go it alone' in terms of day to day management with our backing here in the UK. For this, a transition period was required to provide time for the Kenya team to set up its own management structure, develop a fundraising strategy, and promote its activities to government bodies, other NGOs, donors and other key actors. Meantime the UK organisation benefited from a country-based qualified team competent to do assessment visits and reports when requests are made. Also, to support and share their skills and knowledge with the whole Bees Abroad family. The proposal presented to the BA Trustees received support to fund the time needed by the team in Kenya to establish this new chapter in the work of Bees Abroad.

The benefits are:

- To create a "go to" organisation for beekeeping expertise in Kenya run by the team. They now undertake and manage BA UK projects and are available to be contacted as an authentic provider of "in country" beekeeping skills, undertake initial overview of BA enquiries and assessment visits if considered appropriate and report and structure project programmes management to present to the trustees for approval in tandem with the UK project leaders. Then subsequently deliver the projects subject for funding.
- They would also be in a position as a paid consultancy to undertake work for other non-b/k international charities. It would provide a platform for training courses, talks, information sharing etc.
- The Kenyan Project Manager will submit regular reports to the main Board of Trustees of Bees Abroad so providing a platform for two-way information sharing and to bring their skills and knowledge to the wider organisation.

Things are working out very well and you may well realise that we are no longer travelling to Kenya but with modern communications we have ready access to speak with the team by skype, mobile phone and email. We have been able to monitor progress and maintain financial control of the project. So, our involvement at this end has increased as we receive many requests from other organisations seeking the support of our Kenyan team.

We continue to appreciate the interest and support and prayers of our friends at St James.

***Mary and John Home***