

**The Annual Report on the activities of The Ecclesiastical Parish of
St Mary & St Peter, Staines
Registered charity number 1181133
For the year ended
31st December 2022**

**St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Staines, TW18 4YF
St. Peter's Church, Laleham Road, Staines, TW18 2DX**

The Parish Office

for St Mary and St Peter

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St Peter Church, Staines

St Peter's Family News

Parish of St. Mary and St. Peter Staines
Agenda for the Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
To be held in St. Peter's Church
On Sunday 21st May 2023 at 12:00

Opening Prayers

Apologies for Absence

- 1. Parish of St. Mary and St. Peter Staines Vestry Meeting:**
 - I. Approval of the meeting held on 16th May 2022**
 - II. Election of Church Wardens**
- 2. Any Other Business**
- 3. APCM for the Parish of St. Mary and St. Peter Staines**
- 4. Apologies for Absence**
- 5. Approval of the Minutes of the APCM held on 16th May 2022**
- 6. Reports on the year ending 31.12.2022 – see APCM booklet for reference:**
 - I. Electoral Roll Report followed by a minute's silence for the deceased.**
 - II. Vicar's Report**
 - III. Church Wardens' Reports**
 - IV. PCC Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts for the year ending 31.12.2022.**
 - V. PCC Secretary's Report**
 - VI. Deanery Synod Report**
 - VII. Safeguarding Report**
- 7. Elections To the Deanery Synod**
- 8. Proportionate number of PCC Representatives from each Church**
- 9. Elections to the PCC**
- 10. Appointment of an Independent Examiner to the Council**
- 11. Ratification of Leadership Teams:**
 - I. St. Mary's**
 - II. St. Peter's**
- 12. Vicar's thoughts on the year ahead**
- 13. Any Other Business**
- 14. Closing Prayers**

Parish of St. Mary and St. Peter Staines
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Held at St. Peter's Church on Sunday 15th May 2022
At 12:00

1. **Opening Prayers:** Reverend Jonathan opened the meeting with Prayers.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Philip and Janet Cambray, Betty Sanders, Susan Docherty, Birdy and Hugh Thomas.
3. **Parish of St. Mary and St. Peter Staines Vestry Meeting:**
 - I. **Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 16th May 2021:** No questions were asked. **Proposed by Anna Leach and seconded by Michael Moulton. Minutes were approved by the majority attending the meeting.**
 - II. **Election of Church Wardens:** Anna Leach for St. Mary's – **Proposed by Charles Salkield and seconded by Beth Scott.** Jo Williams and Juliana Baite for St. Peter's, both **proposed by Vivien Talkington and seconded by Lindy Moulton. All were approved by those attending the meeting.**
4. **Any Other Business:** There was no other business to report, and the vestry meeting finished at 12:17pm.
5. **APCM for the Parish of St. Mary and St. Peter Staines**
6. **Apologies for Absence:** Philip and Janet Cambray, Betty Sanders, Susan Docherty and Birdy and Hugh Thomas.
7. **Approval of the Minutes of the APCM held on 16th May 2021. Proposed by David Jennings and seconded by David Espley.**
8. **Reports on the year ending 31.12.2021 – Refer to APCM booklet**
 - I. **Electoral Roll Report followed by a minute's silence for the deceased:** The number of people on the Electoral Roll for St. Mary's is 25; St. Peter's has 120 people, which is an increase three. The total number of people on the Parish Electoral Roll this year is 145. No deceased members were mentioned.
 - II. **Vicars Report:** No questions were asked.
 - III. **Church Wardens Report:** Beth Scott wanted to add that Birdy Thomas cleans St. Mary's every Monday; Rev. Jonathan gave thanks to Birdy in her absence for her commitment and work.
 - IV. **PCC Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts for the year ending 31.12.21:**
 - V. A question was asked about the name of the Charity in Ukraine. Rev. Jonathan reported that the charity is a Mission for Children in Ukraine, originally based in Kyiv, but because of the war they have moved to the Western border of Ukraine. His link is with an ex-tutor, Ludmilla Broon, is keeping him updated about her ministry. It was agreed with the PCC that because we do not have an International Bank Account, HSBC will not pay abroad. Therefore, the funds raised should go directly to Ludmilla. There will be an audit trail for these funds.
No more questions were asked. **Proposed by Lindy Moulton and seconded by Anna Leach. The accounts for 2021 were approved by majority.**
Rev. Jonathan thanked Rebecca for her very hard work as Treasurer and to Lindy for her commitment to finances during the past year and in her role as Vice Chair for the past four years, from which she is now stepping down. Lindy will continue with the practical side of finances as well as the worship team and Sunday services in St. Peter's. Both Rebecca and Lindy were presented with flowers as a gesture of thanks for all they do.

- VI. PCC Secretary's Report:** No questions were asked. **Proposed by Jenny Jennings and seconded by Tim Franck. The report was approved.**
- VII. Deanery Synod Report:** No questions were asked.
- VIII. Safeguarding Report:** No questions were asked.
- IX. Manna:** There was a question as to why Manna had not been included in the report. It was explained that Manna is now a separate independent charity with an independent bank account. Manna cannot be reported at our APCM as it is not our charity anymore. However, our weekly sheet does still list the shortages that are needed, and although there are still some people from our Parish that volunteer for Manna, it is not something that is organised by us.
- 9. Elections to the Deanery Synod:** No Elections to the Deanery Synod, St. Mary's does not currently have a Deanery Synod representative, Rev. Jonathan asked anybody who might be interested in this role to go and speak to him.
A question was asked why the Girl Guides are still included when the Church Synod did not like their new Promise. It was explained that the Girl Guides is not just a Christian organisation, but one that respects and includes all; it is about being inclusive and not just about Christian beliefs. The Girl Guides have used the Church Hall at a very low rent for many years. Rev. Jonathan will meet with the leaders to discuss this issue.
- 10. Elections to the PCC:** Charles Salkield and Colin Squire have now come to the end of their three years' service on the PCC and Rev. Jonathan thanked them for their Commitment and all they have contributed to the Parish. No other elections took place.
- 11. Appointment of an Independent Examiner to the Council:** Richard Longley ACA is to continue in his role as independent Examiner to the Council. **Proposed by David Jennings and seconded by Anna Leach. Richard Longley was duly appointed.**
- 12. Ratification of Leadership Team:**
- I. St. Mary's -** Anna Leach, Jessica Espley, Colin Verge, Charles Salkield, Betty Sanders and Beth Scott. **Proposed by Lesley Hall and seconded by Anna Leach.**
 - II. St. Peter's –** Jo Williams, Juliana Baite, Jane Bental, Jenny Jennings, Lindy Moulton, Stuart Ellidge and Tim Franck. **Proposed by Jill Meads and seconded by Vivien Talkington.**
- 13. Vicar's thoughts on the year ahead:** Rev. Jonathan said that last September was a turning point in the life of the Parish when services were able to return to normality after the pandemic; our Sunday services in both Churches have changed the Sunday service times and we now have Junior Church in St. Peter's, which includes a Family Service once a month. The Mission Action Plan has begun to come into fruition, and it is Rev. Jonathan's wish that we all work together to reach out to the wider community in Staines. He emphasised that to enable our Parish to grow, we need to be more open with others and to be relevant to the needs of our community.
- 14. Any Other Business:** No Other Business reported.
- 15. Closing Prayers:** Rev. Jonathan ended the meeting with Prayers.
- Before we all left, David Jennings thanked Rev. Jonathan on behalf of the Parish for all his hard work and for leading us in the Christian Manner.

The meeting closed at 12:50pm

Signed.....Reverend Jonathan Samadi

Date.....

VICAR'S REPORT

We started 2022 with joining St Peter's Sunday Services together in order to become one intergenerational congregation. We changed the time of service to 10:30am and started to offer Junior Church sessions on three Sundays of each month to create an opportunity for children to learn more about Christian faith, to make friends in a safe atmosphere and to have an enjoyable experience of church according to their age. For making this possible we had to change St Mary's Sunday Services time to 9am for which we are so grateful to St Mary's congregation for their graciousness and understanding.

The year continued with following our parish's Mission Action Plan's priorities in order to advance in our mission and ministry in the parish. This involved a variety of services and activities including the Junior Church, Youth Club, Home Groups, International Women's Group, and Afghan Families group.

In December, we had a great Christmas Concert and Fair in St Peter's which was a combination of live music and selling a variety of food and items to raise funds for the parish. My gratitude's to all our wonderful volunteers and especially to Nish Benton for organizing the event in such a great way.

In 2022, our vision for St Peter's building to become more welcoming with offering a better quality of Audio and Video communications became real by receiving significant donations from some generous members of congregation and also a grant from the diocese. We are looking forward to the installation of the new AV system very soon.

In the end, I would like to thank all our parishioners for their faithful support of the parish and God's precious church. Your commitment and faithfulness are a great inspiration for my ministry and for all those who serve you.

Special thanks to all leaders, staff, volunteers, churchwardens and the PCC members for their time and efforts including to Michal Moulton for his management of St Peter's church hall.

With love and prayers
Rev. Jonathan Samadi

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH AS AT END DECEMBER 2022.

Worship

Since the start of 2022 St Mary's has celebrated a traditional Eucharist at 9am on Sunday mornings (apart from the third Sunday). Most services are without an organist and reliant on recorded music. The new time for the service has meant that some parishioners have been unable to attend the services.

A service of Ashing was held on Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent simple lunches were held in the hall every Friday, with donations going to the Diocese of London's appeal for mental health charities.

On Good Friday an hour-long meditation with Bible readings and music was held at St Mary's and the Easter Vigil Service with bonfire was held on the evening of Easter Saturday with one of the bell-ringers, Jocelyn Man, playing the organ

The 50th Anniversary of the 1972 Papa India air disaster was celebrated at St Mary's on 18th June with a service addressed by Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London. A congregation of 250 filled the church. It was a privilege to welcome relatives of the deceased and members of the emergency services who had attended on the day, together with representatives of the Belgian Embassy, British Airways and the local community.

Many visitors came to St Mary's for the Open Afternoon on September 10th and we held our Patronal Evening Service on September 11th; the organ again being played by Jocelyn.

Christmas at St Mary's was celebrated with the well-attended Children's Crib Service on the afternoon of December 24th followed by a 10pm Christmas Eve Eucharist.

St Mary's was the venue for one wedding in July 2023. The bride, Lauren Kemble, is the grand-daughter of Sam Kemble, vicar of St Mary's (the last one) in the 1970s and remembered for his presence at the Papa India crash site, giving support to the members of the emergency services.

Queen Elizabeth II

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September, muffled bells were rung at St Mary's as at churches throughout the country. The Lady Chapel was set up in memory of the Queen and candles lit. On our Open Afternoon, many paused at the Lady Chapel to pay respects.

Meadway Home Group

In February a home group was started, led by Betty Sanders. The group has met fortnightly and topics discussed included the role of the Bible and worship in our Christian lives and a study on the Epistle of James.

Community

The Year 3 pupils of Our Lady of The Rosary primary school visited St Mary's on their riverside history stroll in February.

In June Staines Village Residents & Traders Association held their AGM in St Mary's.

Staines Brass Band returned to St Mary's on 11th December for a concert of "Christmas Brass" with brass band music and carol singing.

Building and Churchyard

The Parks Department gardening team from Spelthorne Borough spent seven days at St Mary's in January carrying out much needed clearance of brambles and self-seeded saplings from the churchyard.

Roof tile damage near the Tower, caused by Storm Eunice, was repaired in mid-April and a leak at the East end of the nave, identified in the Quinquennial, was also resolved with repairs to the lead flashing.

Cumbria Clock Company removed the damaged hands of the church clock for repair in July. (The hands were restored and the clock restarted in April 2023.)

Spelthorne Borough carried out work to make the Wraysbury Road gates functional again.

Gutter clearance, Organ tuning, Boiler Inspections and Fire Extinguisher Checks were routinely carried out during the year.

Anna Leach

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH AS AT END DECEMBER 2022.

Fabric of the Church

Our building is still waterproof and the boiler after its regular service from Cromwell Engineering keeps the building warm and our insurer's boiler inspection continues to be carried out by British Engineering Services.

Gutters for the Church buildings and Vicarage have been cleared by Fullers with full report and before and after photos.

The lighting for St Peters is under discussion as to whether we can replace them with LED'S making it cheaper to run.

Our electrical PAT Testing was carried out by Professional Electrical Solutions Ltd.

Castle Fire Protection carried out Fire Extinguisher checks in April.

The lightening Conductor test has been carried out by Southern Lightning and is working well.

Our Organ is still in a good condition after a small fix on the D stop and its twice-yearly service by Harrison & Harrison.

Our green Chairs remain comfortable.

Services

From January 9th our new Service times of 10:30am started, with every 3rd Sunday as a joint family service.

Our Junior Church is doing well with thanks to the Ministry team for their organisation and creativity.

A Simon Shutt led Service started on that 3rd Sunday of the month from June 19th and continued into the year.

We had our Service of Light in memory of those that have passed and our Gift Service where toys are collected by the Salvation Army for distribution, also our Harvest Festival.

Thank you to the team of volunteers who arrange Rotas for the Services, Music and after Service Hospitality and those who give of their time to serve.

Christmas

Midnight Mass was held at St Marys this year with nine Lessons & Carols and the Christmas Day Service at St Peters.

We are very grateful to Colin Squires for our beautiful tree and the team who assisted putting it up. It was decorated with lights and Prayer Baubles, and was up just in time for our Casual Christmas. Thanks again to Nish and team for organising. It was a lovely event with food and games arranged by volunteers, with wonderful music provided by John Bental and the Band.

Many thanks to Hugh Thomas for putting up our wonderful Christmas Star on the West entrance of St Peters.

Other Events

In June we had our Jubilee Barbeque on the lawn after family Service at St Peters. Thank you to Wendy and Murray for their organising of the food and to Michael for organising the Bar. We had a great relaxed afternoon, with live music provided by Jon Bental and guests.

SYV continues with Jo Gardner and they had their Christmas concert December 10th.

Spelthorne Choral Society concerts took place March 26th, July 16th, November 12th December 17th

Parish Office

The office run by Agi Rzykowska, was back to its routine opening times.

Gardens

This year we had a small problem with the theft of plants that were kindly donated to the Church in the beds outside the West Door. So more planting has not been encouraged until the thefts ceased.

We are very grateful to the team of volunteers who turn out to cut hedges both church and tow path side and weeding of beds around the Church building and the removal of the garden rubbish.

Jo Williams
Church Warden

St Peter's Church Hall Report For 2022

2022 was a year of getting back to normal after lock-down. There were many challenges to be met, starting with checking that all equipment was in working order. The ZIP water heater in the kitchen had a leak and the boiler failed to stick to its planned programme, leaving a few guests cold and complaining. Following the ending of "lockdown" a few hirers decided they had enjoyed the enforced rest and stayed at home. In February, the wind removed a large branch, and left another hanging in the cedar tree.

A specialised team dealt with it and also checked that the holding ropes were secure.

In March, after over 30 years at St Peter's Hall, sadly the Nursery school was forced to close.

In April Leanne Piggott, who had been our Parish Administrator for a few years left to be replaced by Agi Rzyzkowska. who is now trying to come to terms with and understand the ever-changing demands of a parish.

We continue to welcome Daybreak and the Afghan families to the hall on a weekly basis. With the marked increase in fuel costs both are now making a welcome contribution towards these costs.

The gable window in the hall roof has been leaking and water has entered the Guides storage area, the window has now been removed.

In November Steve, our caretaker, led a small team of volunteers in re-painting and tidying up the small hall. Maybe we will get round to the big hall and the outside of the building next year.

During the year, the hall fire alarm system has been tested on a regular basis, the fire extinguishers are tested annually as are all the portable electrical appliances.

Michael Moulton

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY'S REPORT

I can report that from the beginning of January 2022 until the end of December 2022, our Parish held four Standing Committee meetings and five PCC meetings, all Minutes to these meetings have been filed in the Church Office.

Since the interruption (and disruption) of lockdowns, people in St. Mary's and St. Peter's have worked hard to make our Churches welcoming places, and it has been heart-warming to see new faces join our services. Let us all hope for continued growth, where people can discover their faith, find kindness and friendship, and know they have a listening ear.

Just like other Parishes, we also rely on volunteers to help with many aspects of Church life, and offers of help have been greatly appreciated; with this in mind, I am sure we would all like to thank those people who work tirelessly in helping to organise our services, Junior Church, Daybreak, Manna, the Afghan group, dealing with finances, administration, the maintenance of our buildings – and everything else too! I give special thanks to you Reverend Jonathan for all you do and to the PCC for making this job as PCC Secretary as straightforward as possible.

Warmest Regards,
Vivien Talkington

TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE 2022 ACCOUNTS

This can be read in the “Report of the trustees and financial statements for the year 31st December 2022 for the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Staines.”

SPELTHORNE DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Deanery Synod meets 4 times a year in one of the churches in our local deanery.

We have had a variety of speakers in the past year and we also receive reports from the Diocesan Synod members.

Two highlights were Alison Tsang from London Diocese talking about Compassionate Communities and Modern Slavery. She and her team of 5 focus on work around care for creation; mental health; refugees and slavery; debt; youth work and violence and homelessness.

We split into small groups to discuss what needs we see in Spelthorne and what action we are taking as churches to meet those needs. There is a heartening amount going on!

We were also encouraged to use the London Diocese website to find the services and support they provide to us.

Our new Bishop of Kensington, Emma Ineson also introduced herself to us recently. This meeting was open to all parishioners and helped us to get to know and welcome the person behind the title.

I would encourage anyone to consider becoming a deanery synod rep. It is an excellent way of learning what happens in the wider Church of England and of meeting local clergy and members of other churches.

Jane Bental

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Safeguarding Training

During 2022 1 individual completed the Leadership Safeguarding Training.

Developing a Safer Culture

Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at PCC meetings.

‘Promoting a safer church’ posters are displayed on the notice boards.

The Safeguarding Policy Statement for 2022 was agreed by the PCC, signed and has since been displayed in the churches and on the Parish website.

The safeguarding audit was completed for 2021.

No safeguarding incidents were raised in 2022.

Ongoing/Working Towards

We have registered with the Safeguarding Dashboard, which is a tool that is designed to make safeguarding administration and governance easier. Time will be spent working through the dashboard during 2023.

Compliance Statement

The PCC has given due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

Other

Safeguarding is everybody's business and everyone is encouraged to complete the Basic Diocese Online Training, which can be accessed here:

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org>

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Kathryn Ellidge. If you have any safeguarding concerns or queries, please contact Kathryn on 01784 421704 or email kathryn@ellidge.co.uk

REPORTS ON GROUPS AND LIFE WITHIN THE PARISH of ST MARY AND ST PETER, STAINES



THE MANY WAYS OF DONATING TO THE PARISH!

We are immensely grateful to everyone who gives to the Parish on a regular basis through the Parish Giving Scheme. It is a very easy way of donating a regular amount to the parish and makes the work of the Gift Aid administrator much more straightforward, as the PGS claim the Gift Aid on our behalf and pay it to us every month!

However, our thanks also go to the remaining few people who still give directly to our bank account by Direct debit. If any of you would consider moving over to the Parish Giving Scheme it would be very welcome – do talk to me and I can answer any questions you may have.

Of course, the blue Gift Aid envelopes are always a welcome sight in the collection plate and our thanks also to those people who choose to give in this manner.

It has been interesting to see how weekly giving has changed over the past two years and we now see much less cash in the plate and a correspondingly encouraging use of the Goodplate for contactless donations. In case anyone is wondering, we are able to claim a type of Gift Aid, (GASDS: the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme) on all contactless giving up to a limit of £30.

We are also able to raise funds for the Parish through Give As You Live – a scheme which many of you will already be aware of as many schools raise money in this way. It costs NOTHING to raise funds for the parish through this scheme – you simply nominate us as your chosen charity (Parish of St Mary and St Peter, Staines) when you make an online purchase from, for example, Sainsbury's and they make a donation to us of a percentage of your spend. It really is that simple! If you are not already supporting us or a different charity please do Google it – or ask me for more details.

No matter which method you use, we are very grateful for your financial support for the work being done in the Parish.

THANK YOU!

Lindy Moulton,
Planned Giving and Gift Aid Administrator
office@stmaryandstpeterstaines.co.uk

ST PETER'S SERVERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS 2022

We have a small team of servers who take care of the Eucharistic items and set them out for Communion services, and our Eucharistic Ministers assist in the administration of the chalices at these services.

While national Covid restrictions were in place we offered hosts that had been pre-intincted, for those who wished to take Communion in this form.

Now that Covid rules have thankfully been eased, our services are generally back to normal. Besides having a Eucharist service on Sundays at St Peter's, the Eucharist is also celebrated on most Thursdays at 10.30 am, and all who can make this service are most welcome to join us.

Tim Franck
Verger

LINDY AND JANE'S HOME GROUP

We are a small group meeting in Lindy and Jane's houses on Monday every fortnight. We have discussed a number of subjects and followed various causes exploring our faith which we have all enjoyed. We welcome others to join us.

Ethel and Jill

MEADWAY HOME GROUP

It started with thoughts about more reading of the Bible as it is God's word revealed to ordinary and extraordinary people, with the desired result being that daily reading from this great book would become a part of one's every day.

Worship of God was the meaty start, finding passages in both the Old and New Testaments where we found the requirements for Aaron's breathtakingly beautiful and complex high priestly garments as well as the advice from Jesus to go into a room on your own and pray to your heavenly father in secret; but always from Jesus (as well as Isaiah and Hosea among others) that the worship of God must be genuine, from the heart and in our dealings with others.

We then looked at the Epistle of James and readjusted our knowledge to be more than his well-known admonishing that faith without works is dead.

Next in our sights were the Parables of which we looked very closely at two: The Prodigal Son and The Man With No Wedding Garment, which then brought us to Lent.

Dust and Glory was the booklet of the Church of England for Lent, during which we were to look at various kinds of failure. Everyone in the group was able to acknowledge the failures we have experienced and were able to share, movingly, some of them.

Post-Easter we turn to some of the 'big names' in the Bible, beginning with Abraham.

We meet fortnightly at 18 Meadway, TW18 2PP, details printed in the Parish weekly News Sheet.

Betty Sanders & the Group

JUNIOR CHURCH

St Peter's Junior Church has become firmly established over the course of its first full twelve months of operation. The children leave the main Eucharist service after the opening song and prayer and are taken to the large hall for their own service.

These friendly and lively sessions last approximately 45 minutes and follow a loose structure. They generally start with a song or a short video relevant to that week's topic. This is followed by a short bible reading, which is often reinforced by a quiz or discussion. The children are then led in activities relevant to the topic, such as games or craft. There is an on-going focus on prayer and the children are encouraged to work together to write and share their own prayers.

The children enjoy the sessions and are enthusiastic participants – especially if motivated by competition (boys v girls quizzes are highly competitive!) We have seen strong attendance, regularly around 18 children, aged from 5 to 15!

The continued attention in the main service, where the children are invited up to talk about their session, has ensured that the link between the children and adults remains strong. Perhaps one or two of the main service congregants should be invited up to summarise Jonathan's sermon!!

The leadership has been reduced during the year as two of our volunteers have had to step down, but we have also been fortunate to have other helpers step forward. However, more help would be welcome – please speak to Jonathan, Jasmine or Stuart Ellidge if you feel you would like to be involved.

Stuart Ellidge

TRAIDCRAFT

Fairtrade has had a quiet year at St Peter's. The Real Fairtrade Easter Egg with an illustrated copy of the Easter story book sold well, as did the Real Advent calendar.

Traidcraft as a company sadly went into administration in December 2022 after 40 years at the forefront of Fairtrade. They started the Fairtrade Foundation and campaigned for the Biblical principle of trade justice for all, especially the world's poorest.

Transform Trade, the charity arm of Traidcraft, which works with disadvantaged communities providing training and support to bring producers up to Fairtrade standards and introduce them to a market has increased its activities to try to help the producers affected by the loss of Traidcraft.

In addition, Shared Interest (shared-interest.com) is an ethical investment organisation which provides loans and credit facilities to Fair trade businesses.

You may wish to consider investing with them. I recently attended their AGM and heard about the many businesses they support from moss collectors in Peru to basket weavers and coffee growers in African countries.

Supporting Fair trade in our churches is also one of the criteria for our bid to gain an Eco Church award. Please look out for the Fairtrade logo when you are shopping.

Jane Bental



SPAN CARER AND TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays 10-12

Term times

St Mary's Church, Staines

£2.50 per family/group

We are regularly visited by 30+ children and their carers who include grandparents, parents and childminders. We still gather in the main body of the Church because the air is healthier with the very high ceiling. It can be quite fresh in the winter months! The children are safe, there is no easy exit and there is plenty of space to move around.

It comes as a surprise when new families arrive because they discover lots of toys and activities tucked between the pews.

We are so grateful to our faithful volunteers: Viv who is in charge of refreshments, Rosalyn who is in charge of the weekly theme and activity, Birdy who displays the toys, activities and keeps us safe, Nikki who helps with the singing and Ellen who plays guitar, Beryl who listens to problems and helps the little one in difficulties.

We follow the Church's calendar. The Church was full for the Christmas Eve Children's service.

We had refreshments provided by Viv and her family, the Batt family and friends who led the service and Rosalyn who rallied the troops of actors. At this service and the Christingle we hold later in the year, we raise money for the Children's Society. Easter was celebrated with the story of the Resurrection, an egg hunt and making of Easter cards. We promoted a Swap Shop of toddler clothing, Red Nose Day and World Book Day.

ST MARY'S FLOWERS ARRANGING

The small group of us have continued to provide flowers in the church each week apart from of course Advent and Lent, keeping the colour codes as best we can. We kept the Christmas arrangements up as long as we could which meant they were seen by more people as do not have the same impression at a dark evening service. A few white flowers were added to represent the Epiphany.

The traditional Easter lilies provided a fine scent for well over three weeks and then, after red for Pentecost it was bright summer colours for most of Trinity, which included the Papa India memorial service.

Harvest seemed to pass us by, but the poppy display was well received as always, which brings us back to Advent.

Thank you to all from St. Mary's who have contributed to the flowers throughout the year.

Thanks again,
Jessica Espley

ST PETER'S FLOWERS ARRANGING

We have a great history of Flower arranging at St.Peter's going back many many years, and it is one we hope to continue into the future.

There has always been a team of Flower Ladies and many happy Saturday Mornings have been spent in the pursuit of decorating our lovely church.

Covid of course brought a halt to all this and it was so lovely to finally be able to have some lillies in the church at Easter. Hopefully this will continue at Harvest with some more appropriate flowers and decorations.

Ladies, and gentlemen, are always welcome to participate, although probably in a more modest way to that achieved in the past.

Daphne Harman

ST MARY'S AND ST PETER'S BELL RINGERS

During 2022, both the Platinum Jubilee and the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II took place. For the Jubilee, we rang a special Jubilee bell ringing method to mark the event. Then in the autumn of 2022, we participated in national ringing efforts to mark the death of Her Majesty.

As per Operation London Bridge guidance from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR), at St Mary's, we double-muffled the back 6 bells, with the exception of the tenor, which was half muffled. The period of mourning coincided with St Mary's patronal festival open afternoon, in which we open the tower to visitors. We were able to demonstrate the sound which the muffled bells were making, and there was considerable interest in how we were using the bells to pay our respects to the late Queen. We rang a quarter peal to mark Her Majesty's funeral which we registered with the Ringing World.

Ringing has otherwise continued normally across both churches over the year, with regular practices on Friday evenings at St Mary's (including a training session for learners) and Sunday morning ringing alternating between the two churches. We have continued to ring for weddings at both churches, supplying full bands of 8 ringers for those occasions, and have welcomed visiting bell ringers.

We are always recruiting! If you are interested in seeing what ringing involves, having a go (those aged 10+) or finding out more, please contact the Tower Captain: Anna Leach, 07970 724026, ecvai@hotmail.com

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PARISH YOUTH CLUB

Our Youth Club sessions continued on every second Saturday of the month, 6-8pm in St Peter's church hall during 2022. The evenings were started with a time for social and games and we continue with group games and competitions, followed by dinner and spiritual fellowship and prayers.

Many thanks to all of our volunteers to make this happen, especially to Jasmine for her commitment to serve the younger generation.

As we had a good response to our children and youth ministry in the parish, the next step would be employing an energetic Youth leader to increase the level and scope of our youth and children ministry in the parish for which we are praying and planning with determination.

Rev. Jonathan

AFGHAN FAMILIES' GROUP

St Peter's Church Hall, Wednesday afternoons

We still have between 30-50 mothers and children attending our weekly Wednesday afternoon club, and have had a very busy and enjoyable year in 2022. We have been very fortunate to receive two grants: from All churches Trust and the Church Urban Fund which have allowed us to supply refreshments every week, set up a bike project, carry on a large range of activities and also make a contribution towards the heating of the large hall.

Our bike project has been very successful and thanks in part to the remarkable generosity of local people we have been able to supply 30 bikes and 7 scooters to both children and adults.

These have either been donated or purchased with a generous discount from the REUSE shop at Charlton recycling centre, from the Talking Tree bike project or online. All bikes were overhauled and, if needed, repaired by our volunteers or, if the repairs needed were more major, they were taken to Halfords.

We have also purchased clothes, especially winter coats for some of the teenage girls as well as gifts for the children which were given to them at the Eid party which we organized. We had a visit from a wonderful circus group called The Flying Seagulls, who usually work overseas in refugee camps, and followed up with pizza, a special favourite with children and adults alike! Here is a resume of the other activities we have been undertaking during the year: A range of craft activities, clay model making and an art workshop, cooking afternoons, weekly football on the lawn and occasional badminton in the hall and a very popular martial arts lesson. We have also included activities to encourage the families to engage in the British way of life: a visit from the National Trust, a Platinum Jubilee celebration, colouring activities to mark the Queen's funeral, a pancake party with races, making Mother's Day bags, celebrating Chinese New Year.

Gradually we began to include more social help in our weekly sessions: an introduction to the library, help with applying for bus passes, sourcing educational books to help with studies. Recently we have started giving English lessons ourselves to some of the mothers. A special treat for the Mums were two pampering sessions offering massage and threading treatments, as well as occasional hairdressing sessions. At Christmas we hosted a wonderful party, attended by approx. 60 people.

We have continued to offer donated clothes for adults and children, as well as toiletries which are regularly donated. Recently we have been trying to source large suitcases, which are used for extra storage in the hotel bedrooms, as space is very limited. The Mums tell us that they spend much of the weekend talking about the forthcoming Wednesday afternoon club session but this pleasure goes in both directions - we greatly enjoy the company of both adults and children, our own children have great fun playing football with the Afghan children or looking after the babies and there really is mutual benefit.

It would not have been possible to run this group without the very willing input of our many volunteers from our own and other parishes, as well as from local Guide and Scout groups and we would like to express our gratitude to them all for their enthusiasm and dedication to helping the Afghan families settle into life in the UK.

Alison Walker

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP

The International Women's group's vision is to gather women from minority ethnic background and offer them a safe and friendly space for sharing their experiences, challenges and hopes of living in the UK and sharing about their cultures with each other. This has been a good opportunity to reach out to those who haven't had any former contact with the parish and to include them in parish life in this way.

Our monthly gatherings have helped us to know each other better, to make new friends and to support the parish events whenever possible.

Jasmine Samadi

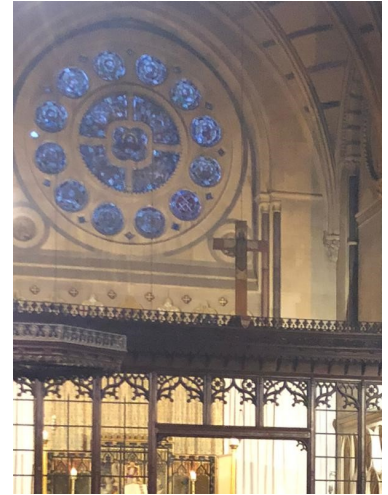
REPORTS ON GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST PETER, STAINES

A LETTER FROM CANON IAN SHERWOOD, CHRIST CHURCH, ISTANBUL

Dear friends,

We at the English Chaplaincy in Istanbul recently hosted an ecumenical service to welcome refugees and others to Istanbul. As you know, we play a small but important part in temporarily housing homeless displaced people in the undercroft of the church in Istanbul. Thank you for your continuing help as ever. It has been greatly appreciated over the years. Special thanks to Lindy Moulton for keeping in touch even when all other contacts have failed. It has taken stamina on her part.

We keep space for five people with a possibility of seven.



Most of our project at the moment focuses on Pakistani Christians that are in exile. Over the years we have housed Togolese, Sri Lankans, Iranians, Sudanese, and many hundreds of people. Your gift 'equivalent' basically helps us keep the hostel warm in the winter.

Recently we were honoured that the Archbishop of Canterbury visited our hostel and church. Against all our expectations this proved to be a most pleasant event and a blessing to our refugees and chaplaincy congregation.

Canon Ian Sherwood, Istanbul

SPELTHORNE YOUNG VOICES

Jan – Dec 2022

After a successful return to live performance at their first concert at the end of the pandemic in Dec 2021, the Spelthorne Young Voices were able to start the new year with confidence and the members enjoyed being able to rehearse on a weekly basis in St Peter's Church. Whilst post pandemic the Junior and Senior choir are smaller in number, this does allow us to benefit from the space in the church to continue to rehearse in a mindful and safe way. Both the summer concert in June and the winter concert in Dec were well attended and Spelthorne Young Voices are looking forward to their 20th Anniversary in 2023. Spelthorne Young Voices remain the only community choir for children and young people in the local area and are always open to welcoming new members.

Jo Gardner
Music Director & Co Founder (07932 022005)
Accompanist: Gareth Green

DAYBREAK

"As I write this report, we are currently making plans to celebrate our 15th Anniversary at Daybreak in June.

Daybreak continues to thrive in its goal of providing respite care for older people across Spelthorne with complex health needs such as Dementia and those who are socially isolated. We continue to give carers a much-needed break from their responsibilities, without the churches commitment we could not continue to support our carers and guests in this way.

A big thank you to Rev Jonathan Samadi and the Church for their continued partnership and generous support to this invaluable ministry and service, in your provision of this hall and of course a big shout out to Mike Moulton & Steve, the Caretaker for keeping us warm and comfortable. As a church you help us make a real difference providing this desperately needed service to the community across Spelthorne.

Our guests continue to enjoy a 2 course freshly cooked meal on site and enjoy and participate in the entertainment we provide keeping minds and bodies active but more importantly having fun and companionship together. This year we have enjoyed many interesting visits such as The U3A Choir, Ukalaleham, Age Concern, Dementia Friends, Staines Prep School Yr. 6 Students & their teachers, the Community Police and even Father Christmas!

We have enjoyed many activities from making Crowns, decorating Easter biscuits, Chinese fan dancing, playing Skittles, taxing our brains with many a quiz and making bunting for our recent Coronation Celebration.

A big thank you from Sally Kidd, Daybreak Nurse Care Manager and the Daybreak Team
(sallykdaybreak@gmail.com)