

**The Annual Report on the activities of  
The Ecclesiastical Parish of  
St Mary & St Peter, Staines**

**For the year ended**

**31st December 2023**

**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'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 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024 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 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023
- 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

Approval of the Minutes of the APCM held on 21st May 2023

5. Reports on the year ending 31:12.2023 – 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 31.12.2023.
- V. PCC Secretary's Report
- VI. Deanery Synod Report
- VII. Safeguarding Report
- VIII. Footprints Report

6. Elections To the Deanery Synod

7. Elections to the PCC

8. Appointment of an Independent Examiner to the Council

9. Ratification of Leadership Teams:

- I. St. Mary's
- II. St. Peter's

10. Sidespersons and Welcome Team.

11. Vicar's thoughts on the year ahead

12. Any Other Business

13. Closing Prayers

**Parish of St. Mary and St. Peter Staines**  
**Minutes for the Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
**Held in St. Peter's Church**  
**On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023 at 12:00**

**Opening Prayers:** Rev. Jonathan opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Apologies for Absence:** Philip & Janet Cambray, Tim Franck, Jessica & David Espley, Wendy & Murray Ransom, Sue Docherty, and Tony Harman.

**14. Parish of St. Mary and St. Peter Staines Vestry Meeting:**

**III. Approval of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and matters arising:**

No matters arising.

It was proposed that the Minutes should be accepted.

Proposer - Jane Bental    Second - Daphne Harman

10 people voted in approval of Minutes. None against.

Minutes were approved.

**IV. Election of Church Wardens:**

For St. Mary's

**Anna Leach**

Proposer - Christine Verge    Second - Elwyn Murray

For St. Peter's –

**Joanne Williams**

Proposer - Jane Bental    Second - Vivien Talkington

**Stuart Thornton-Smith**

Proposer – Vivien Talkington    Second - Joanne Williams

Deputy Church Warden - **Juliana Baite**

Proposer - Vivien Talkington    Second - Joanne Williams

There were no other applications for Church Wardens or Deputy Church Warden. All four were duly appointed and elected.

Rev. Jonathan gave thanks to the Church Wardens for all they have done for the Parish over the past year and for their willingness to continue in their roll. Stuart was welcomed as a new Church Warden to St. Peter's.

**15. Any Other Business:** There was no other business to report.

Signed.....**Rev. Jonathan Samadi**

Date.....

**16. APCM for the Parish of St. Mary and St. Peter Staines**

**17. Apologies for Absence:** Philip & Janet Cambray, Tim Franck, Jessica & David Espley, Wendy & Murray Ransom, Sue Docherty, and Tony Harman.

**18. Approval of the Minutes of the APCM held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and matters arising:**

No matters arising from the minutes.

It was proposed that the Minutes should be accepted.

Proposer - Jenny Jennings    Second – Jane Bental

Vote – 12 people voted in favour of the minutes, none against.

Minutes were approved.

**19. Reports on the year ending 31:12.2022 – see APCM booklet for reference:**

**IX. Electoral Roll Report May 2023 followed by a minute's silence for the deceased.**

The number on the Electoral Roll for St. Mary's is 31, this is the same as last year's records – one person was removed, and one person has been added.

St. Peter's has 129 members, which is an increase of nine.

A total of 160 people remain on the Electoral Roll.

There was a minute's silence to pray for Joan Beldham who died last year.

A question was asked about the publication of the Electoral Roll. Rev. Jonathan explained that to protect our members identity, the Electoral Roll will not be published electronically.

It was agreed that the Parish should have been informed that the Electoral Roll was to be published electronically at the time. The previous Electoral Roll will be taken down.

- X. Vicar's Report:** There was a question as to why St. Mary's hadn't been mentioned in the report. Rev. Jonathan said he had included St. Mary's in his report and had given thanks to all who worship and volunteer their services in the Parish. There was a heated exchange of words, but Rev. Jonathan calmed the situation quickly.

- XI. Church Wardens' Reports:** No questions were asked about Church Wardens reports.

- XII. PCC Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts for the year ending 31.12.2022.** Rev. Jonathan thanked Rebecca for all the wonderful clarity and order in producing the accounts. As Philip Cambray was not able to attend the meeting today, he sent a message to Lindy Moulton asking her to let Rebecca know what an excellent job she is doing as Treasurer for the Parish.

Proposer for approving the accounts - Lindy Moulton. Seconder – Joanne Williams

Approved by 13 people. No disapprovals.

Accounts were approved and adopted.

Wendy Ransom was not able to be at the meeting, but Rebecca gave thanks to her saying that she would not be able to publish the accounts without Wendy's bookkeeping skills – which she does voluntarily. Rebecca was presented with a display of flowers and a card of thanks for all the work does for the Parish.

- XIII. PCC Secretary's Report:** No questions were asked.

- XIV. Deanery Synod Report:** No questions were asked.

- XV. Safeguarding Report:** Rev. Jonathan thanked Kathryn Ellidge for all she does in her role as Safeguarding officer for the Parish. No questions were asked.

**20. Elections To the Deanery Synod:**

**St. Mary's:** - Deanery Synod representative for St. Mary's remains vacant.

**St. Peter's:** Jane Bental was elected and appointed as Deanery Synod member for the next three years. Proposer – Janet Cambray Seconder – Jenny Jennings. Ideally, there should be one Deanery Synod representative from St. Mary's and two from St. Peter's. Rev. Jonathan said if there is anyone else who might like to become a Deanery Synod representative to speak to him or to the PCC Secretary.

- 21. Proportionate number of PCC Representatives from each Church in the Parish:** It was proposed that PCC members are kept to twelve in total. Rev. Jonathan, plus four from St. Mary's and seven from St. Peter's.

Proposer – Rebecca Payne Seconder – Anna Leach

Votes for – 14 Votes against – 1

**22. Elections to the PCC:**

**St. Mary's:**

Betty Sanders - Proposer Vivien Talkington Seconder Joanne Williams

Colin Verge – Proposer Charles Salkield Seconder Elwyn Murray.

Both were duly elected.

**St. Peter's:**

Kathryn Ellidge – Proposer Lindy Moulton, Seconder Jill Meads.

Jane Bental – Proposer Agnieszka Rzyzkowska, Seconder Janet Cambray.

Wendy Ransom – Proposer Kari Griffin, Seconder Julie Lawrence

Vivien Talkington – Proposer Jenifer Jennings, Seconder Linda Drabwell.

All four were duly elected.

Rev. Jonathan gave thanks to Jessica Espley for her service to the PCC for the last three years.

**23. Appointment of an Independent Examiner to the Council:** Richard Longley ACA is to continue in his role as Independent Examiner to the Council.

Proposer – Lindy Moulton    *Seconder* – Betty Sanders

**24. Ratification of Leadership Teams:**

**St. Mary's** – Rev. Jonathan Samadi, Anna Lech, Betty Sanders, Colin Verge, Charles Salkield, Beth Scott, and Jessica Espley.

Proposer - Rebecca Payne.    *Seconder* – Lesley Hall

**St. Peter's** – Rev. Jonathan Samadi, Lindy Moulton, Joanne Williams, Tim Franck, Jenny Jennings, Stuart Thornton-Smith and Jane Bental. Stuart Ellidge.    Proposer - Daphne

Harman.    *Seconder* – Hugh Evans.    All were jointly appointed.

**25. Vicar's thoughts on the year ahead:** Rev. Jonathan said that he has been encouraged by the commitment and the resilience that members of the congregation have shown during all the challenges and changes that have taken place in the Parish during the last few years. He particularly wanted to give his gratitude to the Junior Church Leaders but emphasised the need for even more leaders to come forwards. His focus for the months to come is on the Mission Action Plan that was decided two years ago – to grow in fellowship and to be a welcoming and friendly Church. He thanked the leaders of the Home-Groups and gave special thanks to Mike Moulton for his duty towards the hall.

**26. Any Other Business:**

**Sidesmen/Sides women - Welcome Team** - more people are needed for this role.

**St. Mary's:** Christine Verge, Elwyn Murray, Sue Docherty.

**St. Peter's:** Jenny and David Jennings, Janet and Philip Cambray, Murray Ransom, and Jean Huggins.

Jill Meads and Daphne Harman agreed to join the welcoming team.

**Discussion:** It was agreed that an appeal for more people to join the team could be made during a Sunday service. It will remain on the APCM agenda.

People will need to know how to use the 'Good Plate'.

Because St. Mary's service is so early in the morning, it is very difficult to get people to volunteer for varying roles. Service Times at St. Mary's will be discussed and agreed in the future.

Welcome Team Proposer - Betty Sanders.    *Seconder* – Anna Leach

All Welcoming Team were appointed.

Agreed by 14.

**27. Closing Prayers:** Rev. Jonathan closed the meeting with Prayers.

After the Prayers, Jenny Jennings thanked Rev. Jonathan for his vision and dedication to the Parish, especially encouraging more people into Church, thanks were also given to Jasmine for all she does.

**PCC Meeting After APCM**

**Approval of Officers:**

Rev. Jonathan invited the new PCC to approve the officers for the next year.

**Finance and Standing Committee** – Rev. Jonathan, Anna Leach, Joanne Williams, Stuart Thornton Smith, Vivien Talkington, Rebecca Payne, and Lindy Moulton – Lindy said she will stay for the finance part of the meeting.

Proposer – Betty Sanders      Seconder – Jane Bental.

**PCC Secretary and Vice Chair** – Vivien Talkington

Proposer – Anna Leach      Seconder - Joanne Williams

**Treasurer** – Rebecca Payne

Proposer – Lindy Moulton      Seconder – Jane Bental

**Signed.....Rev. Jonathan Samadi    Date.....**

## **VICAR'S REPORT**

We started 2023 with the confirmation and baptism of 10 candidates by Bishop +Sarah at a joyful, well attended and encouraging Sunday service.

The new time of Sunday services at St Peter's (10:30am) seemed to be working well for many and we saw a growing number of new comers almost every Sunday morning. Our Junior Church sessions on three Sundays of each month were well attended and offered 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. The intergenerational services on the third Sunday of each month became more and more popular and attracted younger families and children.

St Mary's Sunday Services at 9am were well established and attracted new people who joined in and became regulars, thanks to the efforts and welcoming attitude of the congregation and the volunteers. Since September, we welcomed Rev. Janet Franck as a retired priest to help with some of the services and we are delighted and grateful to have her support and ministry in the parish.

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, Home Groups, 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 go to all our wonderful volunteers for organising the event in such a great way.

In 2023, our vision for St Peter's building to become more welcoming with offering a better quality of Audio and Video communications finally came to pass and now we are blessed by the new system.

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 is 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 effort.

With love and prayers  
Rev. Jonathan Samadi

## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH AS AT END DECEMBER 2023.**

### **Worship**

Since the start of 2022 St Mary's has celebrated a traditional Eucharist at 9am on Sunday mornings (apart from the third Sunday).

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 a bonfire being held on the evening of Easter Saturday.

Many visitors came to St Mary's for the Open Afternoon held in September followed by our Patronal Evening Service the next day.

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

### **Meadway Home Group**

The home group has continued to meet regularly led by Betty Sanders.

### **Community**

Carers and Toddlers continue to meet regularly with various activities for families accompanied by welcomed refreshments for all.

The Church and hall continues to be able to hold meetings and be able to be hired for various events for the community.

### **Building and Churchyard**

The Parks Department gardening team from Spelthorne Borough continues to look after St Mary's churchyard.

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 2023.**

### **Fabric of our building**

Internally our building is doing well and is still warm and weather proof.

The Boiler continues to be serviced by Cromwell Engineering and checked by B.E.S (British Engineering Services for this year) and has no problems.

The yearly Lightning rod inspection has been undertaken and certified by Southern Electric.

Our Fire Hydrants are up to date and the inspection in the Church was carried out by Castle Fire.

The Gutters have been cleared on our Church buildings by Fullers and no problems arose, but a suggestion was made to attempt the higher placed gutters on the next visit, which would require a Cherry Picker.

The Organ has had its Summer and Winter service from Harrison & Harrison and although of age is in a good condition with few problems at present that cannot be dealt with.

The Vicars Vestry lock has been changed due to failure of the previous one, and new keys distributed and noted.

The Church doors have been varnished inside and out, and new white safety lines applied to the steps.

A meeting with FS Stone Masons, pointed our attention to the Church step at the West door; which is missing some stonework. Replacement stone, cleaning and underpinning of the whole area were discussed, also a Lancet Hood Moulding on one window on the North side of the Church has broken away, and any that was about to fall has been taken down for safety.

Our Lychgate is also under discussion for some remedial work on one of its supporting pieces of timber, that has shown some considerable wear.

The Church garden hedges and boarders have been maintained by our volunteers and we thank them greatly for their help in keeping our Church grounds safe and tidy. The old remains of the Laburnum tree and any Cedar tree branches have been removed by our fabric team.

The new addition of our AV system from Cunnings and the final completion of all the electric by PES Electric has given a great boost to our services, and we have had our first round of training in November on the new AV desk with Daniel from Cunnings. We Thank all those who contributed greatly to the cost of its installation.

A team of volunteers helped to sort the Vicars Vestry, Choir Vestry and Boiler Room of any unused items and rubbish, and a morning was also spent clearing the West Porch of wood-wormed chairs, and old red chair covers leaving the space free from clutter. Selections of red Church kneeling cushions were also cleared.

## **Our Church Year**

Our services at the Church, Harvest Festival, Service of Light, Gift Service (gifts were gratefully received by the Salvation Army) and the joint family service with Simon Schutt every 3rd Sunday of the month with bring & share lunch. Also a visit from the Bishop Sarah Mullally, where the Bishop oversaw Confirmations during our service, and stayed to chat with our Church family after.

We are very thankful to the Youth Ministry Team who continues to support our younger members in the Church, keeping them engaged and interested in our services, all of which is so important for the future of our Church.

A great Parochial Church Festival after the Sunday service on the Lawn was had in June, with music provided by John Bentall & friends. The weather held so that we could enjoy our BBQ with friends and family, and a huge thank you to those who helped with the cooking on the BBQ and those who helped with the success of the afternoon.

We had a small celebration with tea and cakes after the service on May 7th to celebrate the Kings Coronation.

Easter services of Palm Sunday with our walk from St Peter's to St Mary's, Maundy Thursday and Easter Day were in April. Fairtrade Real Easter Eggs were available to purchase, a brand we continue to support within the Church.

The Lent Course was undertaken at Peterhouse this year.

We have also received our Bronze level ECHO CHURCH AWARD, with thanks again to Jane for submitting us, as our Echo Church Champion.

The Christmas Market on December 9th was a wonderful success; with our Christmas tree from Colin Squires for which we are very grateful and which contributed to the wonderful decoration of the Church for the Market; which this year was very busy and lively, with volunteers providing food & drink, music provided by John Bentall & the Band.

and the stalls selling and offering a variety of Christmas goods and games, we thank all our wonderful volunteers for their time, it contributed to almost double the takings from last years Market, and looks to be a regular Christmas event we will enjoy and benefit from.

Our Christmas services, prior to the day, Nativity and Nine Lessons & Carols with Music from our band and guest singer John Holland Avery was well attended, with Crib service and Midnight Mass at St Mary's, which is always beautifully done and a lovely Christmas Day service at St Peter's.

The Church year was punctuated with some fabulous concerts from SCS and SYV including The Proms in February; which is always a great success, and we are grateful for the support they offer to the Church each year, and to Birdy Thomas & Jo Gardener and the team of volunteers who facilitate the concerts, to make them very enjoyable evenings.

In this year we greeted our new Church Warden Stuart Thornton Smith and we wish him success.

### **Thank you**

To Rev. Johnathan for bringing us together and leading our Church Services throughout our year, and thanks to Janet Frank for kindly covering when it is needed.

To the Flower Team of Daphne Harman and Jenny Jennings for the flower arrangements throughout the Church Year that make our building look so welcoming during our special services.

To Jenny Jennings for continuing to arrange our Hospitality, Welcome, Readers and Intercessor rotas.

To Tim Frank for the organisation of Communion and Assistance rotas and for continuing to support us as our Verger.

The Band John Bentall, Lindy Moulton, Wendy Ransom, Nishali Benton, Katheryn Ellidge, Juliana Baite, Jill Meads and Mathew Tan for all the musical support during our services throughout the Year that contribute to the ambience and worship in our Church.

And the Support of our Fabric team Hugh Thomas and Michael Moulton for the task of keeping our building safe and comfortable inside and out, with assistance from our Gardening volunteers.

To Cameron Svedal for playing our Organ for the Church.

To the many who volunteer to help with Hospitality, Intercessions, Communion, Readers, and Welcome Team we are so grateful for the time that is offered to St Peter's.

Jo Williams  
Church Warden

## **ST. PETER'S CHURCH HALL & GARDEN REPORT FOR 2023.**

It was agreed that for 2023 hall hirer rates would be held at the 2022 rate to encourage groups to use the hall. However we lost Performance Academy, who had used St Peters for many years and a few others. The Afghan family Club closed in October, as the families had been moved out of the area.

Since then, we have welcomed a new Nursery which meets five days a week, several Yoga & Pilates groups, the British Theatre Academy and a Taekwon-Do class for young children.

Many parents use the hall to celebrate birthday parties; at one of these birthday parties some powder paint was used on the lawn. Unfortunately, it was then transported on to the large hall floor, giving it patches of pink. After some discussion it was agreed that we would raise an insurance claim and have the whole floor sanded. It has not been done for many years and now the whole hall looks better following this work. We were without our caretaker for several months during the summer, and I am especially grateful to Jane Bental who offered to clean the kitchen and toilets.

Following the arrival of the new nursery we decided to improve the general security and safety for all our hall users, but especially for the very young and any vulnerable guests. This included meeting the special requirements covering a nursery as specified by Ofsted. These proved to be challenging, involving some separation of our facilities, improving the security of the building and the need to instruct all frequent hall users how to use their individual key to gain access to the halls.

The hall boiler is serviced annually in Sept/Oct and made reluctantly ready for the colder days, however this year we had several occasions when an engineer had to be called out to deal with problems. The kitchen ceiling and the porch contained asbestos and there was a risk of paint flaking off them when food was being prepared so a professional team was called in to apply special safety paint.

We had two gardening days during the year, and are grateful to those who came along to prune all our hedges and tidy up the flower beds.

Part of the church lawn was left uncut during the year following advice on making the church Eco friendly and to encourage wild flowers, insects, and to create an area of peace. This proved successful with several different wild flowers appearing including a solitary wild orchid. We hope there will be more in 2024.

Michael Moulton

## **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of ST MARY and ST PETER, STAINES**

### **Secretary's Report**

I can report that during 2023, there were four Finance and Standing Committee meetings and five PCC meetings. There was also a short PCC meeting for the Approval of Officers after the APCM on 21<sup>st</sup> May. There are always plenty of issues to discuss and decisions to agree on, and I have been pleased to receive individual reports to circulate ahead of our meetings, this gives all members of the PCC a chance to think about what needs addressing beforehand.

Vivien Talkington

### **TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE 2023 ACCOUNTS**

This can be read in the "Report of the trustees and financial statements for the year 31st December 2023 for the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Staines."

## **SPELTHORNE DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

Spelthorne Deanery Synod met three times to consider current matters within the Anglican Church; meetings also provide opportunities for sharing news and enjoying fellowship with clergy and lay representatives from the eleven churches in the Spelthorne Deanery. The current three year term began on 1st July 2023. Clergy moves within the Deanery – Rev Carole George, rector of St Nicholas Shepperton, was appointed as Area Dean in succession to Fr Joseph Fernandes who was appointed a Prebendary of St Paul’s and took up a new appointment as vicar of St Mary’s Acton after serving as Area Dean of Spelthorne and incumbent of St Hilda’s Ashford. Rt Rev Dr Emma Ineson who had just taken up the appointment of Bishop of Kensington joined the February meeting. During a Q&A session she introduced herself, described some of her past experience, particularly her recent role as assistant to Archbishop Justin Welby during 2022/23 when King Charles’ coronation and the late Queen’s funeral took place. She spoke on the content of her book “Failure – what Jesus said about sin, mistakes and messing stuff up”. She also said that Spelthorne was a valued and important area in the diocese and challenged us to examine how we can contribute to Christian mission in the Diocese of London. Rev John Beauchamp, London Diocese Disability Ministry Enabler spoke at the June meeting and stimulated all PCCs to consider how inclusive their churches are so that all people can feel welcome and able to participate in activities bearing in mind that disabilities include not just physical and sensory disabilities but mental health issues and learning disabilities, as well as “hidden” disabilities such as epilepsy, diabetes, arthritis, autism, and various conditions which may cause chronic pain. He drew attention to the wide range of material and support available from the Diocese. The October meeting was addressed by Emma Thompson of the St Alban’s Diocese who spoke passionately about the mission of “Save the Parish”, which was founded in 2021 and is run by volunteers, to give a voice to parishes who felt the strategy of the leadership of the Church of England to amalgamate parishes and reduce the number of clergy in those parishes, was wrong and counterproductive. She mentioned that the parish church forms an important part of many communities even if attendance at services is low. Although the Diocese of London has priests in most parishes and finances are better than other parts of the country, there are no grounds for complacency Annual Finance meetings were hosted by Archdeacon Richard Frank & Rev Mary Spredbury (Diocesan Finance Officer) During the year reports were given by Nick Wood-Dow on issues discussed at the London Diocesan Synod.

Norman W Head                  Father Joseph Fernandes  
Spelthorne Area Dean        Spelthorne Deanery Lay Chair

## **SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

### **Safeguarding Training**

During 2023 five PCC members completed domestic abuse training.

Kathryn Ellidge attended a network and training session for Spelthorne Parish Safeguarding Officers at St Hilda’s Church Ashford, as well as attending an online network session.

3 individuals completed DBS checks (required for PCC members and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults).

### **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 2023 was agreed and signed by the PCC and has since been displayed in the churches and on the Parish website.

The safeguarding audit was completed for 2022.

In 2023, 2 safeguarding concerns were raised with the diocese, requiring no further investigation. Changes have been made to the access to the church hall, with locks fitted for safeguarding reasons while children are using the hall.

1 safeguarding allegation was reported to the diocese.

#### Ongoing/Working Towards

Working through the Safeguarding Dashboard is ongoing and any resulting actions will be completed.

Safeguarding Training is required every three years, so this will need to be completed/renewed by some individuals in 2024.

#### 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](mailto:kathryn@ellidge.co.uk)

<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](mailto:kathryn@ellidge.co.uk)*

## FOOTPRINTS

In September 2023, St. Peter's Church Hall opened the doors and welcomed parents and carers with children aged five and under to 'Footprints'. The group meets every Wednesday morning during the school term time from 11:00 – 12:30.

Julie Lawrence, Kari Griffin, and I arrive early to prepare, in readiness to greet the families at 11:00am. Reverend Jonathan, Jasmine and Jill Meads also join us. We were not sure what the uptake would be, and at first we sat around together, had a cup of coffee and a chat, packed up and went home.

Then, after a couple of weeks our first two families arrived, and over the next few weeks we had more visitors. At the time of writing this, we have had over twenty families join us – of course they don't all come every week - our highest weekly number so far has been eleven families. We do want to try and keep numbers manageable as the children love the space in the hall for running around, playing with toys, and learning how to be together; the adults appear to enjoy the time together too. I keep a register of names and a WhatsApp group has been set up for everybody to be a part of. Occasionally, Simon from

FACT joins us along with his puppet to deliver Bible stories in a fun-filled way; the children enjoy the entertainment he provides.

The group is free to attend and between us, we provide the refreshments; there have also been gifts of coffee, tea, sugar and biscuits from a couple of the parents, as well as occasional gifts of home-made cake. We are lucky to have plenty of toys - many have been donated to us and we have also inherited some from the Afghan group that used to meet once a week. We also receive small donations of cash each week, which is saved up and spent on craft equipment that is suitable for parents to sit at a table to do with their children.

Footprints is a joy to me, and I am very grateful that we can have the hall once a week to meet and get to know the families and to see the children having fun. My thanks go particularly to Julie and Kari for being with me right from the start to set up and run the group. Thanks also to Reverend Jonathan, Jasmine, and Jill for the time you give. We all hope Footprints will continue, but to enable that to happen we need extra volunteers, so.....if anybody has some time to spare on a Wednesday morning, please do come and talk Julie, Kari or me.

Vivien Talkington

## **ST PETER'S JUNIOR CHURCH**

St Peter's junior church continued its development throughout 2023, catering to over 20 children in a single session at one point. The sessions are loosely organised around the liturgical calendar, ensuring that children and parents / carers are able to discuss themes outside the church setting.

The leaders have made use of the online resources at [mustard-seeds.net](http://mustard-seeds.net) to help provide session structure and activity ideas, and also seek to bring their own approach to keep sessions vibrant and engaging. Good use has been made of videos, games, quizzes and some very imaginative crafting activities. In amongst more playful activities, children will listen to (or watch) scripture, discuss the themes it brings and are encouraged to contribute prayers around the topic.

We have been especially pleased with the level of engagement from the children, as evidenced each week when they step up to tell the wider congregation about what they have learnt.

We are blessed to have curious and interested children who are willing to answer questions and share ideas, and the leaders take great encouragement from their participation.

In terms of raw numbers, there has been a slight dip towards the end of 2023 and into 2024 as some regularly attending families have moved away. They are missed and we wish them happiness with their moves. However, family attendance is always cyclical and we expect that there will be new members in due course!

Finally, we are always on the lookout for new helpers. If you feel that you might be able to help, please do reach out to Jasmine or Stuart to have a chat.

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



## THE MANY WAYS OF DONATING TO THE PARISH!

Our main method of regular fundraising for the parish (apart from hall rentals etc) in 2023 continued to be through the Parish Giving Scheme, which is a very easy and efficient way for parish members to donate on a regular basis.

All the named people who use this scheme receive an individual letter of thanks every year, but I would like to take this opportunity to also thank those who give anonymously. Your contribution is much appreciated.

We would also like to thank all those who donate in other ways:

- : By regular bank transfer directly into our bank account. If you would like to transfer to the PGS Scheme, please do contact me and I can help you make the changeover.
- : By one-off blue Gift Aid envelopes
- : Via the contactless Goodplates in both churches. (Gift Aid, in the form of GASDS: the (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme) can be claimed on all contactless giving up to a limit of £30.)
- : Via the Give As You Live scheme.
- : Via the Donate button on our web site.

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](mailto:office@stmaryandstpeterstaines.co.uk)

### **Communion Assistants and Servers**

Communion Assistants (formerly Eucharistic Ministers) are those who you see administering the chalice at Sunday and other communion services. Some of us also look after the communion items (ciborium and chalices etc) and set them out in readiness for our services.

Each member of the team is authorised for the role of Communion Assistant. Formerly diocesan area level permission was required, but now Bishop Emma has decided that this function can be carried out by



parishes. In autumn 2023, we took the opportunity of reviewing the parish's list of Communion Assistants, and I am pleased to say that all 12 of the team who currently were serving are willing to continue in this role. Thank you everyone.

Tim Franck  
Verger

### **Meadway Home Group**

In 2023 we continued our bible experiences.

The parables we tasted were the Prodigal Son, the Man with no wedding garment and the Vineyard labourers and agreed wages. Food for thought indeed.

We spent some time with Abraham, especially enjoying the bargain he was able to make with God. Faith in God made its first entry into our discussions.

We then considered the contributions of 'bit players' – such as Nicodemus, Ananias and the woman at the well - from both the Old and the New Testaments – one or two of whom were new to us, all of whom were simply inspiring. People like Nicodemus, Ananias and Barnabas, Lydia, Jochabed and Rahab gave us much food for thought and discussion.

Then we got our teeth into Prophets and angels just before Christmas.

Betty Sanders and the Group

### **Parish Prayer Group**

Jane and Lindy's Home Group have met approximately once a fortnight during the past year to discuss the Bible, our Christian life and to pray for the needs of our parish, it's members and the wider world.

We have also supported the Lent and Advent courses run by the parish and have joined the intercessors rota for St Peter's, praying regularly during our Sunday services.

We have moved our meetings to a Monday afternoon at 3pm as this time suits our members better, but would welcome new recruits! Please speak to Lindy Moulton or Jane Bental.

Thanks, Jane x

**SPAN Carer and Toddler Group**  
**St Mary's Church Hall**  
**Wednesdays in term time: 10-12**

Farewell to all our lovely supporters!

After 40 years we have decided to retire, appropriate for our Ruby anniversary.

This group is closing at the end of the Summer term. We want to say a Big Thankyou to all the families, the parents, grandparents, child minders, carers and especially the children who have been part of this group. We hope that we have been able to share in the stresses of becoming a parent; we have loved watching all those babies grow into the best they can be as adults; we loved seeing you around and sharing your stories; we will miss you all.

We held our last Children's Christmas Celebration on Christmas Eve 2023. We donated to Red Nose Day, 2024, Christian Aid, Children's Society and Home Start Spelthorne.

We have a lot of toys, books, craft supplies etc to offer anyone willing to collect from St Mary's Church.

Final dates are

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July Farewell party for current members

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July Last Summer time activity

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 7pm Farewell in Stabells Bar at the Bells past and present adults are all welcome.  
(Bring some photos!)

Beth Scott, Birdy Thomas , Viv Williams, Ellen Martin, Rosalyn Young Nikki Rule.

## **St. Mary's Flowers**



## **St Mary's and St Peter's 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](mailto:ecvai@hotmail.com)

## **Afghan Families' Group**

Our club for the families housed in the Thames Lodge in Staines continued to run very successfully until August 2023. We carried on the activities which had proved so popular in previous years: a weekly craft table, toys for the younger children , the bike project, refreshments for adults and children alike and an increasingly regular English language lesson for the mums. We realised that one of the main attractions of the club was not just providing a large space for the children to play together (which was not possible in the hotel) but also an opportunity for the mothers to meet, relax together and discuss the many issues which were concerning them at the time.

In August, the families were told that they could no longer stay in the hotel and were moved to temporary accommodation outside the Borough of Spelthorne, which made attendance at the club virtually impossible. In September and October, we ran 2 further sessions but decided at that point that it was not practical to continue. However, we continued to support certain families that required particular help with such things as school attendance, so that their children would not have to move schools yet again while they were waiting to find out if they would be able to find permanent homes back in Spelthorne.

The very generous gifts of toys and books that we had been given over the life of the club were shared between the families, our newly formed Footprints group and the Junior Church. Most of the families who attended our club are now all finally housed back in Spelthorne, their children are flourishing in our local schools, and we consider it a privilege to have been a part of their lives during this stressful time for them.

Our thanks to the PCC for the free use of the hall, although happily we were able to contribute to the cost of heating during the winter , and to all our volunteers who made each weekly meeting such fun for us all.

We wish all our families a very happy and successful future as residents of Spelthorne.

Lindy Moulton/Ali Walker

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

### **DayBreak (Staines Parish Community Care Trust)**

I am grateful to each and every one of my trustees and volunteers who give their time without question and who attend our guests with total dedication.

I would like to thank the parish, Father Jonathan and all associated with Daybreak for their dedication and support to our guests and indeed to me.

John O'Hara,  
Chairman of Trustees Daybreak.

### **Girlguiding at St. Peter's**

2023 was another busy year for all three 4th Staines St Peters Units.

The Rainbow, Brownie & Guide leaders have continued to deliver the Girlguiding programme. We have given out too many badges to count from the ones that the girls have earned: - Skills Builders, interest badges, themed awards, Bronze, Silver & Gold section awards. Plus, some non earned badges examples being anniversary badges, Thinking day, Remembrance, Kings Coronation to name a few!



We started the New year with a District Silent Disco which was held at ChristChurch, three different playlists, but it is amazing how they all managed to switch channels when a “good” song comes on (you can see this by the colour on the headset!)

All three units joined in with the District Thinking day event in February. This was an afternoon on activities from around the world, as well as the Rainbows Brownies & Guides renewing their Promise.

Remembrance Day parade was attended by all 3 units in market square. The Guides & Brownies took part in the parade, whilst the Rainbows meet the parade in the Market Square.

The district also had a trip to the local panto at the Edge venue, Englefield Green – unfortunately this clashed with the casual Christmas, so we were unable to help / have a stall in 2023.

Highlights from the Units: -

**GUIDES:** - The Guides went to camp over the May Day Bank Holiday, to Herons Wey, the Girlguiding County campsite with a pirate theme. They had outings to Jump Giants, the poppy factory, Cook, Canoe & Craft. We had 3 Guides go on an international trip, 1 Guide was in the Lord's mayor show with others from the Surrey West County

**BROWNIES:** - The Brownies went on Pack Holiday in September to Walton Firs, their theme was the Little Mermaid, the Brownies also completed the create challenge and bouldering. The Brownie unit also organised a litter pick along the river from the church to the Lammas at the end of the summer term, supported by Spelthorne Litter pickers who provided the pickers & bags.

**RAINBOWS:** - The Rainbows have enjoyed a wide range of activities / crafts and games. They particular enjoyed making slime and pendulum painting, but by far their favourite thing is anything to do with food.

Girlguiding, has continued to run successfully at St Peter's, although the Rainbow unit is run by a district team due to a lack of adult volunteers. This is a constant challenge, not just for Girlguiding but for all voluntary groups.

If you are interested in volunteering please email [Teresa@atrss-collins.co.uk](mailto:Teresa@atrss-collins.co.uk) or [kathypurdon32@gmail.com](mailto:kathypurdon32@gmail.com) or visit the Girlguiding web site at [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk).

[Teresa@atrss-collins.co.uk](mailto:Teresa@atrss-collins.co.uk) or [stainesdistrict@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stainesdistrict@hotmail.co.uk) or visit the Girlguiding web site at [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

## **Christ Church Istanbul Chaplaincy**

Canon Ian Sherwood has been very unwell since the last few months of 2024. He sent me a voicemail just before Advent, which I have transcribed here and which gives you a much better flavour of him and his parish than I ever could:

“Hello. Greetings to the Vicar, the clergy, the wardens, Lindy, our old contact in your parish, and all in your church, ALL people. This is Canon Ian Sherwood, I am Chaplain in Istanbul. Over the past Christmas celebrations, you as a real community and a parish have supported real people in another part of the church, namely I have to say in this case, homeless refugees and foreigners, in a city where most would have to have been on the street. So, it is rather important that we run a small hostel, called St George's' Hostel and it is within our chaplaincy grounds at the Crimean Memorial, Christ Church Istanbul, where most of our worship is focussed.

In 2024/25, (we are not able to raise money that quickly, Turkey is undergoing terrible economic ructions), we intend to reroof the whole place after more than 150 years of a gradually cracking tiled roof that I have managed to patch up over the past 30 years.

Thank you for offering your support, as one community to another. It is very touching for me.

We started with a gift of \$2000 and now have \$5800, so are feeling rather hopeful. The target, I'm afraid (chuckling!) is \$30,000 but every little bit counts, as you can imagine.

We've had a good year. We have continued to house people... The congregation continues to be reasonably active... We have a beautiful liturgy on Sundays and a fairly lively, small parish and chaplaincy here.

I wish you a holy Advent as it starts next Sunday, as we approach Christmas and I wish you much joy at the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. A very happy Christmas in advance and our profound thanks.”

I can't really remember when we first formed our link with Ian, but it must have been in the early 1990s. Thank you to all those who have generously supported his work with Christian refugees in Istanbul over all those years.

Lindy Moulton for Canon Ian Sherwood, Istanbul

### **Spelthorne Young Voices**

The Spelthorne Young Voices celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary during 2023 and showcased their musical learning in both their summer and winter concerts. The Junior Choir (primary ages) and Senior Choir (Secondary ages plus Yr6 ) are slowly starting to recover from the repercussions of the pandemic. During our winter concert we were fortunate to be able to use St Peter's new AV equipment to amplify and enhance some of the vocal and instrumental performances. Jo Gardner continues as their Musical Director (voluntary) and looks forward to welcoming more children into the choirs during 2024.

Jo Gardner

Music Director and Co Founder of the Spelthorne Young Voices .

Registered charity number 1181133

