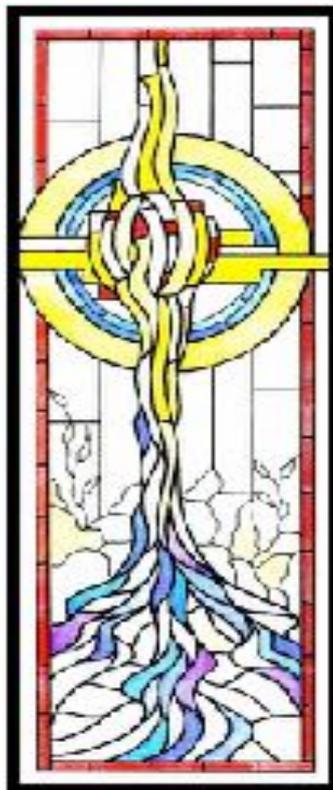


**The Annual Report on the activities of The Ecclesiastical Parish of
St Mary & St Peter, Staines
Registered charity number 1181133
For the year ended
31st December 2021**



**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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Find us also on: Face Book:

Friends of St Mary's, Staines

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 at St. Peter's Church
On Sunday 15th May 2022 at 12:00**

- 1. Opening Prayers**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Parish of St. Mary and St. Peter Staines Vestry Meeting:**
 - I. Approval of the meeting held on 16th May 2021**
 - II. Election of Church Wardens**
- 4. Any Other Business**
- 5. APCM for the Parish of St. Mary and St. Peter Staines**
- 6. Apologies for Absence**
- 7. Approval of the Minutes of the APCM held on 16th May 2021**
- 8. Reports on the year ending 31:12.2021 – 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 31.12.2021**
 - V. PCC Secretary's Report**
 - VI. Deanery Synod Report**
 - VII. Safeguarding Report**
- 9. Elections To the Deanery Synod**
- 10. Elections to the PCC**
- 11. Appointment of an Independent Examiner to the Council**
- 12. Ratification of Leadership Teams:**
 - I. St. Mary's**
 - II. St. Peter's**
- 13. Vicar's thoughts on the year ahead**
- 14. Any Other Business**
- 15. 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 16th May 2021 at 12:00

1. **Prayers:** Rev. Jonathan welcomed everybody for attending and opened the meeting with a Prayer.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Beth Scott, Lesley Hall, Vera Varndell and Sue Docherty all sent the apologies today.

3. **Parish of St. Mary and St. Peter Staines Vestry Meeting**

- I. **Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2020:** No questions were raised and were approved by all attending. The Minutes were Proposed by Michael Moulton and Seconded by Jenny Jennings.

II. **Election of Church Wardens:**

Anna Leach – St. Mary's. Proposer - Charles Salkield, Seconded by Michael Moulton.

Joanne Williams – St. Peter's. **Proposer** - Michael Moulton, **Seconded** by Vivien Talkington.

David Jennings – St. Peter's. **Proposer** - Vivien Talkington, **Seconded** by Jennifer Sice.

Rev. Jonathan gave thanks to Michael Moulton for all his years of service as Church Warden at St. Peter's and presented him with a gift, he was duly appreciated by the congregation.

Michael will continue to assist with the Church Hall and St. Peter's Garden. David was welcomed as the new Church Warden for St. Peter's and thanks was given to Jo and Anna for their continued service. Barry Purdon has now stepped down from the PCC, Rev. Jonathan thanked him for his years of service and presented him with a gift. Jane Bental and Murray Ransom were also thanked for their service as Deputy Church Wardens. Murray has now stepped down from this role.

III. **Any other Business:**

There was no other business and this part of the meeting closed.

4. APCM for the Parish of St. Mary and St. Peter Staines

- i. **Apologies for Absence:** Beth Scott, Lesley Hall, Vera Varndell and Sue Docherty
- ii. **Approval of the Minutes of the APCM held on 04.10.2020 for the Parish of St. Mary and St. Peter Staines:** The Minutes were **proposed** by Anna Leach and **seconded** by Jo Williams and they were approved by a majority show of hands.
- iii. **Reports on the year ending 31.12.2020 (See APCM booklet for reference):**

Electoral Roll Report followed by a minute's silence for the deceased – The number on the Electoral Roll for St. Mary's is 32, this remains the same as the last records. St. Peter's has 117, which is a decrease of three. 149 people remain on the Electoral Roll.

Those on last year's Electoral Roll that have since died – George Higgs.

During 2020 we had one wedding at St. Mary's and one wedding at St. Peter's.

Proposed by Betty Sanders, **Seconded** by Nick Wood-Dow

Vicar's Report: Rev. Jonathan advised the congregation that there are copies of the booklet at the back of the Church, but copies can also be viewed on the Church website. A question was asked whether a celebration for Chris Henly will take place, Rev. Jonathan said that this has not been forgotten and will be arranged a little later in the year. No other questions were asked.

Church Wardens' Reports:

No questions were asked.

PCC Secretary's Report: No questions were asked. Proposed by Betty Sanders and seconded by Jessica Espley.

PCC Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts for the year ending 31.12.2020: No questions were asked. **Proposed** by Michael Moulton and **seconded** by David Espley.

Deanery Synod Report: No questions were asked.

Safeguarding Report: No questions were asked.

Annual Reports on the activities of the parish: No questions were asked.

5. Elections to the Deanery Synod:

Jane Bental and Nick Wood-Dow continue as Representatives from St. Peter's. There is a vacancy for a Deanery Synod Representative from St. Mary's Church.

6. Elections to the PCC:

- i. Barry Purdon is stepping down from the PCC and Hazel Warren has come to the end of her term; Rev. Jonathan thanked them both for all their past service.

- ii. Lindy Moulton was elected as H@11 Representative to the PCC. **Proposer** Tracy Luck, **Seconder** Barry Purdon. Lindy was duly elected.

7. **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 Philip Cambray, **Seconder** – Lindy Moulton. Richard was duly appointed.

8. **Ratification of Leadership Teams:**

- i. St. Mary's – Anna Leach, Jessica Espley, Colin Verge, Charles Salkield, Betty Sanders, Beth Scott.
- ii. St. Peter's – Joanne Williams, David Jennings, Murray Ransom, Hugh Thomas, Lindy Moulton, Michael Moulton, Tim Franck, Mark Walker, Stuart Ellidge. Rev. Jonathan Samadi will chair both Leadership teams.

Proposed by Rebecca Payne, **Seconded** by Jane Bental.

9. **Vicar's thoughts on the year ahead:**

- i. Rev. Jonathan informed everybody that to assist him in Pastoral care duties, he now has a Pastoral Care team – from St. Mary's, Betty Sanders and Christine Verge and from St. Peter's, Tim Franck and Vivien Talkington. He would also like somebody from H@11 to join the team. **Proposer** – Anna Leach, **Seconder** – Birdy Thomas. All were duly appointed.
- ii. Kintsugi Hope is a charity striving to make a difference to people's mental well-being, founded by Diane and Patrick Regan OBE – details can be found on the internet. Rev. Jonathan said he is keen to start the ten-week training course, which is open to anybody who would like to join him. He is keen that we should be a parish that helps and listens to those in need.
- iii. The Alpha Course will resume as soon as we are able to.
- iv. Rev. Jonathan said that he would like to form a Children's and Youth group on either Friday or Saturday evening and he would like to encourage new Youth Leaders. His vision is to encourage the Parish to be open and flexible and to welcome young people.
- v. Prayer Garden – Rev. Jonathan talked about his plans for the Prayer Garden – he said the idea came to him while observing individuals sitting alone in the garden in a contemplative manner. He believes this could attract people who do not normally attend Church – drawing people in, but also being less intimidating. He also spoke of his ideas for a gardening club. There was a great deal of discussion about the plans – especially the hedging. Plans could be distributed to the congregation. Plans may also be shown on the website, it was however, pointed out that not everybody looks at the website and there are those who do not have access to the internet. There was also discussion about how the PCC should have wider communication with the rest of the congregation. The PCC have already had the chance to digest this idea, whereas the congregation have only just learnt about it and therefore there is a lot of concern about how it will look and affect the Church – especially weddings.

- vi. Rev. Jonathan also brought to the attention of the congregation his idea for two audio visual screens on each side of the Church (instead of the centre screen which is there at the moment) which will not get in the way of the choir stalls. He also spoke of continuing the live streaming of services once the Church returns to normal, as this will enable those that cannot attend Church to still feel part of the service.
- vii. A barbeque is planned in St. Peter's Church Garden on 27th June after the service, this is to bring the congregation back together after a very difficult year.

10. Any other business

No other business.

11. Closing Prayers:

Rev. Jonathan Closed the meeting with Prayers.

Meeting finished at 1:00pm

Signed.....Reverend Jonathan Samadi
Date.....

We started 2021 with offering online only services due to a rapidly increasing cases of Covid-19 in the country. Our in-person public worship services were resumed in the Holy Week and we rejoiced in gathering together again for fellowship and worshipping God.

In July, after two years of waiting, we finally had an opportunity to have our Mission Action Plan's workshop to listen to one another and to put together a vision and plan for the next three years of the parish life.

In September we were finally able to start activities that we had been waiting for since the beginning of the pandemic such as our Alpha Course, Youth Club, and International Women's Group. We were also able to offer a warm welcome to Afghan families who were given temporary accommodation in Staines, with a weekly social group for them and their children by the help of many volunteers from the parish and beyond.

In December, we had a successful Christmas concert and fair in St Peter's for the first time which was a combination of live music and selling a variety of food and items to raise funds for the parish.

My gratitude to all our wonderful volunteers and especially to Nish Benton for organizing the event in such a great way.

This year, with the help of our outstanding treasurer, Rebecca Payne, and the wisdom of our PCC and Finance committee, we finally managed to bring the parish's finances to a good order and stability which we desperately needed in order to focus on the priorities of our mission and ministry. Special thanks to Michal Moulton for his management of St Peter's church hall as one of our main sources of income.

In 2021, our parish emerged strongly from the challenges and the crisis that we had faced and most of our congregation members returned to public worship with a good degree of resilience and hope to see God's work in the future of his church. I believe going through such difficulties together and remaining faithful to God and to one another has brought us closer to each other more than ever before.

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 Rev. Sue Wood for her continued support.

With love and prayers

Rev. Jonathan Samadi

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH AS AT END DECEMBER 2021.

St Mary's APCM Report. Year ending 31st December 2021

Worship

Throughout 2021, the shadow of Covid continued to affect the worship at St Mary's. With services alternating between St Mary's and St Peter's, it was a joy to have both congregations gathering at St Mary's, our worship benefitting from our combined voices.

With no organist, we have generally relied on recorded music and are grateful to Jo Gardener for her hard work for providing us with this.

We are also very grateful to Rev Sue Wood for joining us to regularly to lead services at St Mary's.

We continued to livestream our services and our AV system has developed to provide the best experience for both the worshippers in the church and those joining us on Facebook.

Bell ringing was able to resume in July, restoring that familiar Sunday morning sound.

Community

As Covid restrictions eased, our Hall users returned to St Mary's. Alcoholics Anonymous met throughout the year, but in June they were able to move out of the socially distanced setting of the church and return to the more intimate Hall. Carers and Toddlers resumed their weekly meetings in September and the U3A Painting Group's monthly meeting also recommenced in September.

The Staines Village Residents & Traders Association used the church for a socially distanced AGM in June and organised an excellent, well attended Local History Talk by Joan Gardam in the church in July. Their participation was appreciated, providing burgers at the St Mary's Open Afternoon in September when visitors also enjoyed tasty teas, were shown the ropes of bell ringing and learned about our church's history.

Papa India 2021

St Mary's was open for visitors in the morning of the anniversary and a wreath was laid by representatives of the Air Cabin Crew Fund. In 2022 the 50th anniversary will be marked by a service on Saturday June 18th and it is hoped that many relatives of the 118 deceased and representatives of the emergency services will be able to attend.

Church Fabric

Routine organ, gutter, boiler and lightning conductor inspections were carried out during the year and a Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in August. The Quinquennial highlighted problems, many old and some new, prompting the formation of a Buildings Group to follow up the findings of the Quinquennial. A Worship Group will also be looking at how our worship can develop to reflect our faith and our role in the community.

Anna Leach

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH AS AT END DECEMBER 2021.

The fabric of St Peter's Church

Our building is still; for its age, in good condition. We have recently had our 5 yearly Electrical Safety Inspection from PES Electrical and all is good. Southern Lightning have checked our lightning conductor in January this year and it is working and the new gutter clearance company Fullers have done a great job clearing the gutters for the Church, and Vicarage.

Our Church Boiler has had its service from Cromwell Engineering Services and is working well to keep the Church warm. The Organ has had both its services from Harrison & Harrison and is still at present working well, and the Piano has been tuned by Mr Campinelli. Our Church Choir has continued through the year to produce recorded and live music for our services with the wonderful help of Jo Gardner, organising and blending all our recorded voices to make a virtual Choir through our emergence from lockdown as have our volunteer musicians in John Bental and the band, and Ali & Mark Walker, Nish and Kathryn, and Lindy and Wendy for lead singing.

We do, however have multi failures in the lighting in the Church Nave at St Peter's and in time will look to replace them with LED lighting, making it more cost effective.

We have also had Mike Wood very kindly install and set up our CCTV with eight cameras placed around the building, which we hope will help with the Garden area at the West Door, and hopefully the CCTV will now help us to monitor this and any other anti-social activity around the Church and Church Hall. Our new chairs are still proving to be very comfortable.

They Vestry and Vestry toilet will at some point need some attention in particular the Vestry wall on the window side, plaster is peeling away and will need work at some point. As will the West door top step leading into St Peters.

The office

Many thanks to Leanne and to Margaret in the office, and to Viv for working throughout Lockdown. The Office has also had its locks changed recently.

Services

As we get back to some kind of normality with services being held regularly in both Churches, we still continue to provide an online presence for those who are still nervous about attending in person.

At the end of the year, we sadly saw the end of our Heaven @11 Services and all the wonderful contributions from the leaders, Lindy, Stuart and Jane and Rev. Sue. Not forgetting Wendy, Lindy and John and the band. We would especially like to thank them for all their hard work over the years, leading the services.

Led by Fr. Jonathan, the Alpha course started again on September 8th and also the Youth Club on 11th September led by Fr. Jonathan and Jasmine.

Our Mothering Sunday flower delivery to all those we could reach was a wonderful idea, and warmly received, and thank you to all who turned up to help prepare the flower bunches, and to those who delivered them. We had our Harvest Sunday and the Service of Lights at which we were also able to offer Hospitality.

We had a stripped back version of the Maundy Thursday service, due to COVID rules at the time.

Christmas

We are very grateful to Colin Squire for our wonderful tree, we went for a smaller version this year which worked well, as we were unsure as to how many would be attending over the Christmas period.

To Hugh Thomas for putting up our Christmas Star at the West end of St Peters. It looked great and lots of people have commented and appreciate the sign.

Christmas season services included our Nine Lessons & Carols, Midnight Mass held at both St. Peter's and St Mary's, and Christmas Day service at St Peter's. Along with SYV and Staines Choral Society and a concert by Staines Brass Band and the Casual Christmas Fair and its new format which was very very well received. Well done to Nish for taking on the organising.

Other events at St Peter's

After many months apart and following guidelines at that time we had a wonderful Parish Barbecue on St. Peter's lawn, with live music provided by John Bental and his musician colleagues, and lovely food kindly prepared by Wendy and Murray, and contributions from many members of the Parish.

People bought along family and friends, and a wonderful afternoon was had by all.

Our own David Jennings stepped up to be Church Warden, but unfortunately for personal reasons had to stand down, but both he and Jenny continue to support us with organising rotas for Readers and Coffee.

Ali & Mark Walker along with Fr. Jonathan have over seen successfully a regular afternoon gathering for welcoming the Afghan Community in Staines, for the Children and their families to have a space to play and gather with children from our community.

We have had a wonderful response when asked for clothing and personal items from our Church community, beyond what we had expected. And a Christmas party organised for the Afghan families in the Church Hall was very special to the them, with gifts for the children and cosmetic items for the families. A huge thank you to all those involved with this ongoing support.

Jo Williams
Church Warden

St. Peter's Hall & Gardens

2021 started with very restricted use of the halls, only the Nursery School and the occasional visits from the Blood Transfusion service were allowed. Not until late summer were we able to start receiving additional hirers.

Most of our long-term users returned as soon as legally possible, but many others were reluctant and have faded away. Fortunately, we had several new groups that have taken up most of the empty spaces.

These are in addition to the expanding numbers of Church groups who regularly use the halls.

With so much publicity being given to increases in fuel costs most hirers charges have been increased by 10%.

The Halls.

There is a leak around the roof window of the main hall which is letting water drain down into the storage cupboard used by the Guides. We plan to remove this high triangular window and replace it with matching tiles. Hopefully this will be done shortly.

The boiler has been serviced and is well, keeping the building warm, but is rather noisy at times.

The piano has been tuned. At some point we are going to have to replace much of the wiring in the halls as parts are starting to fail.

We also need to re-decorate the small hall, and improve the storage facilities we offer our regular users.

With a rapid build-up in the usage of the halls in August we were pleased to appoint Steve Anderson as our new Hall Caretaker.

The Gardens

The lawn has been regularly cut and all the hedges pruned. The two small gardens at the west end of the church were cleared, and left to rest for a while. Then Colin Squire gave us some lovely plants.

Unfortunately, in a very short time, the majority of these were stolen. As a result, we left the borders empty until the new CCTV system was up and running when we went ahead and started re-plant.

So far- so good! trusting that if any more thefts are made, their act will be recorded.

Michael Moulton

Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Peter, Staines Secretary's Report

Between January 2021 and December 2021, there have been four Standing & Finance committee meetings, and four PCC meetings; the date of the APCM was 16.05.2021. Before a meeting takes place, an agenda is sent to all concerned, and contributors are asked to submit their reports to me in advance so

that I can then circulate them to PCC members ahead of the meeting, this gives everyone enough time to read them and prepare any questions they may have.

I have many reasons to thank people for all they have done during these last two difficult Covid years; Reverend Jonathan and so many of our Church family have worked tirelessly in our ever-changing world to ensure that both St. Mary's and St. Peter's has been able to deliver Services to us all; if we could not attend Church, but have the technology at home, we were able to join the service through live streaming – thank you to those computer literate and technology minded people who made this possible.

To ensure our Churches and the hall are fit for purpose, the buildings, as well as the fabric, fittings and equipment of both Churches and the Church Hall need to be kept clean, properly maintained and in good working order, all of which must be accounted for. Thank you to our Church Wardens, our Treasurer and all who continue to undertake these tasks. We are grateful that we now have our Caretaker, Steve, at St. Peter's to take over many of the maintenance duties.

Volunteers from the parish work hard to support community projects such as Manna and Daybreak as well as offering support and the hand of friendship to Afghan refugees.

Our Church Administrators make sure everything is kept in order and up to date, I have recently learnt that Viv Dover has been working for the Parish in this role for over twenty years, thank you Viv.

We are also glad to welcome Agi, who recently replaced Leanne in the Church Office.

Our Mission Action Plan has started to come to fruition and there are many things for us to plan and look forward to as we move further away from the pandemic, and I hope we can all enjoy them together.

Thank you, Reverend Jonathan for all you do, and to everybody who contributes their time and energy to our Parish.

Vivien Talkington

TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE 2021 ACCOUNTS

This can be read in the “Report of the trustees and financial statements for the year 31st December 2021 for the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Staines.”

SPELTHORNE DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Spelthorne Deanery Report 2021 Synod meetings provide an opportunity for sharing news and enjoying fellowship with the clergy and lay representatives from the 11 churches within Spelthorne Deanery.

Despite the national lockdown restrictions from March 2020, the Synod continued with a programme of meetings remotely on zoom and then managed to meet in person for the meeting in October 2021.

Fr Joseph Fernandes, the incumbent of St Hilda's Ashford, continued to serve as Area Dean throughout 2021. Rev Carole George was installed as Rector of St Nicholas's Shepperton in September, two curates were appointed during the summer, Rev Johnny Lawes at All Saints Laleham and Rev Sophie Raeside at St Saviour's Upper Sunbury. The February meeting featured a presentation by Patrick Regan OBE, founder and director of the Kintsugi Trust, and considered the Christian approach to dealing with mental health issues. Ven Richard Frank Archdeacon of Middlesex spoke at the June meeting on the theme of the “Vine and the Trellis” referring us to Jesus's teaching in John 15:5 about “I am the vine; you are the branches”. He challenged us to check on our priorities within churches. As an example – although good administration, accounting and human resources are important, they should encourage rather than restrict Church growth. Rev Derek Winterburn the Kensington Area lead for “Creation Care” which is one of the six pillars of the Compassionate Communities section of the London Diocese Capital Vision 2030 gave an illustrated talk and led a discussion at the October meeting. Derek's talk highlighted some of the effects

and consequences of global warming and then considered how we as Christian communities can play our part in protecting the earth's resources. He encouraged us all to work on arranging for our churches to be recognised as ECO Churches. The Annual Finance meetings were hosted remotely over zoom by Archdeacon Richard Frank and Rev Mary Spredbury (Diocesan Finance Officer) during the summer. Each Church Treasurer and many PCC representatives were able to participate.

During November and December Bishop Graham Tomlin gave three fascinating talks featuring the background and theology on the Nicene Creed open to all in the diocese. At elections in 2021, Rev Jonathan Samedi of St Mary & St Peter Staines, Fr Andrew Downes of St Mary Sunbury, Mrs Carolyn Clark and Nick Wood-Dow were elected to the Diocesan Synod.

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

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Annual Safeguarding Report for 2021

Safeguarding Training

2021 was a busy year for safeguarding training in the Parish, with training completed by members of the PCC, H@11/Junior Church leaders, Pastoral Carers and members of the Carer and Toddler team.

18 individuals completed the Basic Safeguarding Online Course
13 individuals completed the Foundation Level Safeguarding Online Course
9 individuals completed the Leadership Safeguarding Training that took place via Zoom.

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 2021 was agreed by the PCC, signed and has since been displayed in the churches and on the Parish website.

Safeguarding Pocket Guides have been distributed.

DBS checks have been completed for 10 individuals.

No safeguarding incidents were raised with the Diocese in 2021.

Ongoing/Working Towards DBS checks for PCC members are ongoing.

We aim to renew our safer recruitment training in March 2022.

Safeguarding training and DBS checks are to be completed for our new Junior Church helpers.

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 welcome 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

Heaven@11 – 2021 Annual Report

2021 Heaven@11 Report

Although we weren't aware of it at the outset of the year, 2021 proved to be momentous for Heaven@11 as we said farewell to the service in its traditional format. Whilst there is some sadness to leave the old service behind, there is also a renewed sense of optimism at the possibilities presented by the new Junior Church format and a welcome return to regular multi-generational worship.

As covid continued to blight the country, it was not until April that we returned to in-person services, initially in the Church Hall but moving back to St Peter's once we had acquired a sufficient stock of industrial strength disinfectant sprays!

As always, Heaven@11's services were based around a specific theme and 2021 saw us take a walk through Mark's Gospel as we followed the "King of God's Kingdom" series. Over the course of 23 lessons, we heard about Jesus' amazing journey from His baptism by John the Baptist through to His death and Resurrection. The lesson format was lively and designed to encourage discussion and learning amongst the congregation – young and old!

Activities outside of the service itself were limited by covid restrictions and the early part of the year saw planned activities such as a Family Quiz, Barbecue and Bouncy Castle sadly go by the wayside.

The service itself took a break over the summer, but one very happy event from August was the marriage of Jane and Jon's daughter Rebecca to her (now) husband Reuben. Rebecca was one of the original Heaven@11 children and those with long memories will remember her looking after the little ones at the colouring table for a number of years. Congratulations to the happy couple once again!

Services resumed in early September, kicking off with a Songs of Praise service followed a week later by the delayed Barbecue on the lawn, complete with bouncy castle and live music. The weather was kind and a great time was had by all. The sense of normalcy in being able to have fun together was a real tonic and a true blessing. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make it such a special day.

Heaven@11 chose Afghan Aid as its annual charity fundraiser. During the course of October and November, the congregation conducted many activities – from bake sales to sponsored walks and even the challenge of doing something coral-y every day! In total we raised over £1000 – well done to everyone who took part.

Into the back end of the year and, without the option of a normal Christmas Fayre, Nish Benton came up with the idea of a Casual Christmas: a combined Christmas Concert with traditional fayre-style activities hosted in St Peter's. The day was highly successful, with everyone having a wonderful time and over £900 was raised (split between the Parish and Afghan Aid).

Heaven@11 drew to a conclusion with the now traditional "Nativity – The Musical". After last year's pre-recorded service, it was a pleasure to return to a full stable. We were once again lucky enough to have a live Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus (Maisie!) and the magic of Christmas could be felt by all.

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has been involved with Heaven@11 over the years: our priests for their inspiration and guidance; our leaders (past and present) for all of the services, support and encouragement; our band for the wonderful worship music; and (of course) our brilliant congregation. It has been a joy to worship alongside you all – long may it continue!

Stuart Ellidge

St Peter's Church Altar Servers

At St Peter's we are blessed to have two regular weekly Eucharist services – on Thursdays and Sundays. For help at these services, our team of servers share in the role of sacristan and carry out other duties at the altar.

Often 'behind the scenes', sacristans' duties include readying the wine, water, and bread (hosts), dressing the chalice, and putting these items in place on the altar before the start of the service.

A server remains ready to assist the clergy in any way during the service, and afterwards is responsible for securing and cleaning the chalices and altar linen etc and reserving consecrated hosts.'

Tim Franck
Verger

Parish Prayer Group

In 2021, we continued our parish prayer group in St Peter's on the first Friday of each month at 7pm. We were blessed by the sung worship and live music led by Rudy and Chrystal Tan and we spent an hour praying for the parishioners and the needs of the parish and beyond. This was also a special opportunity for prayer for the future of the parish and to seek God's vision, direction and grace as we journey together to follow his call for all of us as his people.

Rev. Jonathan

Alpha and Home Group

The Alpha course had to be paused half way through due to the lockdowns but Rev Jonathan was able to start up again in September on a Wednesday evening in St Peter's church, replacing the usual full meal with tea and cake! A further 10 sessions were held and thoroughly enjoyed by all those attending.

At the end of November a 'Home Group', still held in the church because of continuing concerns about Covid, was started by Jane Bental and Lindy Moulton and followed the Visual Commentary of Scripture's Advent course.

For most of us it was the first ever opportunity to look in detail at a wide range of artworks placed in the context of a bible passage and it proved to be a wonderful springboard for some very insightful and rewarding discussions, always followed by a period of prayer.

Lindy Moulton

Span Carer and Toddler Group

Wednesdays 10-12
Term times
St Mary's Church, Staines
Donation £2 per family



We were delighted to open our doors again in September 2021. Our group of volunteers worked hard in the previous months to ensure that volunteers were still willing (Lots of meetings at Notcutts) that we were Covid compliant (Lots of cleaning), that we were ready for new pre-school children (Lots of planning and cutting out), that we were legally insured (Lots of calls with Ecclesiastical, Anna [church warden] and Fr Jonathan), that families knew we were open (Lots of messages on social media)

It was a quiet opening on the 8th of September as far as the children were concerned. But as they developed more confidence in the main body of the church so did the enthusiasm from parents, carers and volunteers grow. We were all so pleased to see each other, to exchange experiences of the previous traumatic year.

Significantly, we observed how the children had missed the experience of group interaction. We are working in the church itself because there is less fear of catching Covid in the airy space. It is also safer to sing in the church. We welcome pre-school children but we have decided to stick to term times for our sessions because we avoid catering for school children. At the moment, masks are optional. Our highlight was the Children's Celebration of Christmas on Christmas Eve. Over a 100+ people were present. Batt family and Friends led the service, being well versed in the role. My particular thanks go to Isabel who organised everyone who was reading; to Matt who played the piano for the first time; to Rosalyn who was inspired enough to use the knitted nativity characters. We were able to send £150 to The Children's Society from the congregation and our own Christingle service later in the year. We continue to be supported by our wonderful volunteers whenever they are free from Covid! Following the isolation of Lock down we are encouraging the children to learn to be more confident, more independent and to learn how to socialise with their peers and other adults. Learning to sing as a group

has been a big challenge. We provide free painting, group singing and a directed group craft activity. We look forward to teaching the children to share a story together. Numbers are growing.

St. Mary's Flowers



With the help of El, Hazel, Sharina and myself, we've had flowers in the church all year (apart from Lent of course), which cheered things up even during the dark days of the 'silent prayer' lockdown, resulting in a reduced number of lilies at Easter.

Restrictions eased in time for Harvest, so we filled the church with some wonderful displays of all sorts of fruit and vegetables, but unfortunately, I didn't take any photos.

Such was the enthusiasm for meeting up and trying out different artistic talent, we often found there were 7 or 8 different arrangements of fresh flowers around the church each week.

In November we kept the poppies (they had to be artificial with fresh greenery from various hedgerows) up for 3 weeks for armistice, providing bright colour during the darker days, for which we got many comments of how lovely they looked, with several arrangements similar to one above dotted around the church.

Christmas brought its' usual bright cheer to the church with baubles and candles amongst various kinds of cypress, spruce and other greenery.

We look forward to 2022,

Thanks again,
Jessica Espley

The Parish Bar

A very quiet year, just three small events raising in total £106.00.

Due to being "out of date" a further £20.50 of stock was written off. This being mainly soft drinks and some beer. Fortunately, wine and spirits do not appear to be ever out of date!

The bar still holds a small stock of wine & beer valued at cost price £135.00. This will be retained to meet any small event. We have the Cello Concert scheduled March this year but are not aware of any others events at which the bar has been asked to participate therefore, the cash holding will be reduced by some £200 which has been paid to the parish.

Michael Moulton

St Mary's and St Peter's Bell Ringers

Up until the summer, it was not possible to resume ringing in the parish as social distancing requirements made it infeasible. As much as possible, bells were chimed at both churches ahead of Sunday morning services. As restrictions were lifted, maintenance was undertaken in both towers to ensure that the bells were safe to be rung full circle again. Bell ropes were also replaced at St Peter's.

In August 2021, the running of the two bell towers of St Mary's and St Peter's was effectively merged. While both towers retain separate constitutions and bank accounts, the principal post holders and bands across both towers are the same.

We rang all eight bells at St Peter's for two weddings in late August and early September. It was lovely to have all the bells ringing and the band received many compliments from wedding guests and others.

With Sunday services alternating between both churches, the band resumed Sunday ringing times in summer, and practice nights resumed at St Mary's on a Friday evening. Several new learners have joined the band, and a learners' practice runs from 7pm on a Friday evening to accommodate their needs.

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

Parish Youth Club

We started our Youth Club in September on every second Saturday of the month, 6-8pm in St Peter's church hall and so far we have had about 20 youngsters registered with us. We start the evening 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.

Rev. Jonathan

Afghan Families' Group

St Peter's Church Hall, Wednesday afternoons

We launched this local group in early October, and since its humble beginnings, we have seen the group rapidly evolve into a support hub for all of the Afghan families currently resident in a hotel in Staines.

Our core offering is a safe and welcoming environment to meet on a Wednesday afternoon. We meet in St Peter's church hall and set up activities for the children including indoor play, crafts and sports on the lawn outside. This has provided a great opportunity to build friendships between the children and for them to learn about each other's cultures.

Alongside this, our local volunteers have built bonds with the mothers and adults, thus enabling us to respond to their immediate needs through a support network that includes local churches, schools,

Staines library, mother & toddler groups and organisations such as the Rotary club. This has included providing clothes, baby equipment, mums-to-be packs, toiletries and school equipment as well as arranging services such as hair dressing and spa treatments – all provided on a voluntary basis.

We have also developed an excellent relationship with the North East Surrey Family Support team, enabling us to support activities at the hotel during the rest of the week as well as hosting one off events such as the Christmas party.

We are very lucky to have the support of so many wonderful volunteers, many of whom have connections with St Peter's, as well as the generous support of St Peter's Church to enable us to use the hall free of charge each week, and to store our clothes collection in the church. We are also very grateful to All churches Trust for awarding us a grant under their Afghan Emergency Grants Programme.

At Christmas we received a wonderful thank you letter, describing how the group had 'taught their children to be children again', and how their children 'started getting rosy cheeks'. We are all so proud to have been able to brighten up their up their lives a little here, after suffering so much trauma back home in Afghanistan.

I know my children look forward to the club each week and they have built firm friendships with the Afghan children. We have learnt as much from them as they have from us!

Alison Walker

International Women's Group

The International Women's group was started in September with a vision of gathering 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

DayBreak (Staines Parish Community Care Trust)

I was elected chairman following the resignation of Tracy Luck, who steered the charity for some years and to whom we are most grateful for her dedicated help. For most of the pandemic, Daybreak was seriously affected and in fact closed for some months, opening again on the 21st of September 2021. Guest base at that time was low, as a result of the effects of Covid-19 restrictions. In the weeks since

however, we have steadily increased our numbers so that we can now look forward to having 18 guests each week. This means that the weekly cost of running daybreak will be much improved.

We have had a good year in terms of donations, and I am confident that daybreak can move forward with confidence.

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

Looking forward, I am confident that our guest numbers can soon reach capacity level and we may have to look at opening on a second day, bearing in mind that we operate only on a Tuesday, but this will need to be thought through very carefully since there are many complications to doing so.

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.

I think we can look forward to good news, rather than bad and put Covid-19 behind us.

John O'Hara,
Chairman of Trustees Daybreak.

Girlguiding at St. Peter's

4th Staines St Peters Rainbows
4th Staines St Peters Brownies
4th Staines St Peters Guides



2021 – The second year of the covid pandemic.

All three units tried extremely hard to get back to normal over the year, however with lockdowns, Plan A, Plan B things weren't quite normal. The Guide camp was again postponed – The Brownies however did manage a holiday in September following strict Covid guidelines to make this happen

Whilst it was another difficult year, all three units have continued with the Girlguiding programme. We have had Rainbows, Brownies & Guides complete Skills Builders, Unit Meeting Activities, and interest badges. As well as working towards the themed and section awards. Following on from 2020, the units continued meeting wherever, whenever, and however they could, always ensuring that all face-to-face meetings were Covid safe and kept to the Girlguiding rules. The year started with Zoom meetings where all the units carried on with the Guiding programme & other activities, the Guides had a Microsoft coding session & a Drumming session, The Brownies continued enjoying crafts online. The Rainbows completed an escape room & enjoyed cooking

In the summer term, the Units started to get back to "normal" The Guides went out and about, doing a penny hike in the Rain! Lying & following a trail and doing outdoor cooking at Paxmead.

The Brownies enjoyed water games on the lawn. The Rainbows had fun playing games on the lawn.

The Autumn term saw more restrictions lifted – well until late December!

The Guides Raised money for Children in need – This year Girlguiding suggested a “Strictly come dancing” theme so the Guides asked a dance teacher in & the girls learnt a “Strictly” themed dance they Raised £124 The Guides also had a trip to the Cinema to watch Encanto and went Ice skating

The Brownie Holiday was based around a Mythical creature’s challenge badge, they went to the scout campsite Phasels Wood. The Girls took part in some of the onsite activities as well as challenges, games & Crafts. The leaders found it a challenge to run with the covid restrictions- but all the Brownies had fun & enjoyed it.

The Rainbows completed the First Aid skills builder level 1 as well as Unit meeting Activities, and Christmas crafts. They also joined the Guides on the cinema trip to see Encanto

Remembrance Day parade was attended by all 3 St Peters units, the format was slightly different this year, but remembrance was marked, and wreaths were laid.

Due to Covid, there was no Christmas event in the district this year, but all 3 St Peters units celebrated with seasonal activities.

Girlguiding, even during the pandemic, has continued to run successfully at St Peter’s, with dedicated leaders although a district team runs the Rainbow unit 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 or stainesdistrict@hotmail.co.uk or visit the Girlguiding web site at www.girlguiding.org.uk

We are all still looking forward to getting back to “normal” in 2023.

Thank you and your parishioners for remembering the Istanbul chaplaincy as you have done for years. Thanks for sending the money via the Diocese. I wish the Vicar and parish all the best as everything proceeds to a better year.

St George's Hostel has been renovated at last. Your contribution will help us in our recovery from this. We have dumped the jaded old and rather grubby furniture after it had served many hundreds of refugees, and completely purged the undercroft, bought new beds and bedding, procured new sofas, laid lovely fitted carpet, built an altar, installed new lighting, and even had a new heating boiler fitted to replace the old one. So now the radiators that you bought for the hostel years ago are warmer than ever. Bless you and thank you all.

Renewed thanks and love,

Canon Ian Sherwood, Istanbul

Spelthorne Young Voices

Whilst 2021 was a difficult year for social activities, Spelthorne Young Voices continued rehearsing both virtually and in person, when Governmental advice regarding restrictions allowed us to safely do so. SYV in person rehearsals finally resumed on May 13th for the remainder of the summer term and thanks to the increased provision of WiFi in the church this enabled children who were possibly needing to isolate or shield to still take part in our new world of hybrid rehearsals, with those children being able to virtually join in and still feel part of the choir. Autumn term started back at the beginning of September and for the first time in two years SYV were able to perform their winter concert on December 4th 2021! Spelthorne Young Voices would like to thank St Peter's for allowing us to use the church as our rehearsal and concert home and for their continued support.

Jo Gardner

Music Director and Co Founder of the Spelthorne Young Voices .