**St MARY THE VIRGIN,**

**BLETCHINGLEY**



**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

***Parochial Church Council Members 2018***

**Rector** The Rev’d Phaedra Pamphilon Green (From July 2017)

**Assistant Curate** The Rev’d Penny Sherrington

**Reader** John Buck, Liz Windridge

**Churchwardens** April Alexander (ex officio)

Richard Fowler (ex officio)

**Treasurer** Lisa Swan

**Secretary** Valerie Muller

**Elected members** Glynis Beazley

Pamela Cock

Vicki Gillespie

Sarah Goad

Lynn Hargreaves McCullum

Sandie Hooper

Robin Idle

Jennifer Hyde

Cyril Mighall

Leanna Quevado

Clementine Sellick

**Deanery Synod** Richard Fowler (ex officio)

Oliver Jackson (ex officio)

Alison Horlock (ex officio)

Clare Wilson (ex officio)

**General Synod** April Alexander (ex officio)

**Auditor** Anthony Cock

***Minutes of the   
ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING held   
on Sunday 22nd April 2018***

 The meeting opened with prayer led by the Rector

49 members of the congregation were present at the meeting.

**The Minutes of the 2017 Vestry meeting**, were circulated in the Annual Report. The Meeting agreed them as being a true account of the 2017 meeting and they were signed by the Rector.

**Election of Churchwardens**

April Alexander was proposed by Robert Trotman and Anthony Cock to be re-elected for a second year.

Richard Fowler was proposed by Pamela Cock and Jean Osborne to be elected for his first year.

There were no other nominations, so they were duly elected.

John Thurston was thanked for his work as churchwarden over the last three years, and for his enormous contribution to the life of St Mary’s both during the Interregnum and as part of the team that worked so hard preparing for and during the selection process for our new Rector.

There were no nominations for the position of Deputy Churchwarden.

The Annual Vestry meeting was closed.

***Minutes of the   
ANNUAL MEETING CHURCH MEETING   
on Sunday 22nd April 2018***

 49 members of the congregation were present at the meeting.

**Apologies for absence:** Annabel Smith, Ruth Goodsir, John Buck, Sue Morris and Nigel Price.

**Minutes of the 2017 APCM.**The minutes were circulated in the Annual Report. The meeting agreed they were a true account of the 2017 meeting and they were signed by the Rector.

**Come out of**

**REPORTS**

**The Electoral Roll**

Clare Sturgeon, the Electoral Roll officer reported that there were 129 members on the roll, 99 are resident in the village, and 30 are non-resident. Two members have died, and we welcomed 5 new members.

Clare was thanked for her work on maintaining the roll.

***All other reports are available in the Annual Report, which has been circulated and is also available*** ***on line at www. bletchingleyparishchurch.org.uk***

**Presentation and Adoption of the 2017 Audited Accounts.**

Lisa Swan, the treasurer, presented the audited accounts for 2017, a copy of which will be available on the church’s website: www. bletchingleyparishchurch.org.uk

After two years of adding to reserves, this financial year has seen the need to draw from reserves. For 2017 our deficit for the year was £5,172 compared to a surplus of £5,669 in 2016.

By the end of 2017 our reserves to carry forward are £10,919 with £1,631 of this earmarked for restricted use (choir fund, mission events and fabric fund). That means our general unrestricted reserve is now depleted to £9,288. This should be a concern for the PCC and a period of cost consciousness and income boosting measures should be on the agenda into 2018.

The main reasons for this decline have been:

* A fall of £7,414 (9.4%) in direct giving and associated gift aid recovery from £78,763 in 2016 to £71,349 in 2017.
* An increase in our quota payments by £1,545 (2.5%) from £61,955 in 2016 to £63,500 in 2017.
* Additional expenses of £4,597 incurred in 2017 compared to 2016 in setting up and running the parish office in Church House which included furniture, software, and rent.
* Other items to note are:

1. The Bletchingley Thomas Chapman Charity, which derives income from Clerks House, continues to donate and fully meet the PCC’s share of parish administrator costs which were £5,556 in 2017 compared to £2,535 in 2016. We are grateful for this continued financial assistance.
2. Repairs and maintenance costs have declined from £4,537 in 2016 to £3,231 in 2017. In 2017 repair work included the glass doors, locks and some roof repairs.

She thanked Anthony Cock, our independent examiner, for his support, his hard work and his efficiency.

Lastly, she gave a big heartfelt thank you to our treasurer for 2017, Ron Napper, for his beautifully kept ‘red book’ that contained his meticulous bookkeeping records that had taught her how accounting should be done.   
Lisa also thanked John Thurston for his help with the accounts when Ron was taken ill.

A question was asked about our very poor level of giving last year. The PCC were aware of this and would be taking suitable actions shortly. Difficulties arose when Ron became ill and there were too few finance meetings last year during the interregnum and in the early months of the new Rector.

Richard Fowler, seconded by Clare Sturgeon, proposed that the accounts for 2017 were adopted. This was unanimously approved.

Lisa Swan was thanked enormously for her work in taking the accounts over. They are in very skilful hands.

**ELECTIONS**

1. **Parochial Church Council**The following were nominated as PCC members: Clementine Sellick, Pamela Cock, Vickie Gillespie and Lynn Hargreaves McCallum.   
   April Alexander proposed, seconded by Kate Wills that they be elected. They were all duly elected.
2. **Welcomers**  
   At 8am Kate Wills, Angela Price

At 9.45am Trevor Dawson, Joan Millar, Jeff Marks, Clare Sturgeon, Alison Horlock, Leanna Quevedo, Jean Osborne, Alexander Green, Pat Napper and Hanni Dennis

1. **Money Counters**Anthony Cock, Bill Alexander, Robert Trotman, John Trott, Jean Price, Jeff Marks, Angela Price, Sheila Mighall and Jean Osborne

Averil Trott proposed, and Alison Horlock seconded, the above nominations for welcomers and money counters. They were all duly elected.

1. **Electoral Roll Officer**  
   Clare Sturgeon was re-elected unanimously as Electoral Roll Officer, proposed by Averil Trott and seconded by Alison Horlock.
2. **Gift Aid Secretary**Michael Barnes repeated his wish of last year to retire from this job which he has been carrying out many years. There was no volunteer to take it over, and the matter was referred to the PCC.

**Appointment of Auditor/Independent Examiner**Anthony Cock was thanked for his work in doing this, and re-elected unanimously, Robert Trotman proposed, and Bill Alexander seconded this motion.

**GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS**

April Alexander introduced the new Data Protection Regulations which come into force in May. This gives individuals more rights and protection over how their personal data is stored and used.

She had distributed forms to everyone for them to complete requesting name, address. Email address, telephone and mobile telephone numbers. She also explained that anyone who had a ‘role’ within the church automatically accepted being contacted by email as this was necessary to fulfil their role. Everyone else was also asked to say whether they wished to receive newsletters, details of activities, and, if they were on the Electoral Roll, be on the parish directory.

She had a few copies of our Privacy Notice (Terms and Conditions) but it is on the church website.

The wording is based on guidelines produced by the Diocese of Southwark.

April was thanked for all her work on this.

**TIMES OF SERVICES**

The Rector outlined the problems of our existing services times.

1. It is very difficult to drive to Nutfield after 9.45am service and arrive in time to prepare for a service starting at 11am
2. There is no time to meet the Bletchingley congregation after the service
3. It is not safe to drive ‘fast’ along the A25

She would like to change the Bletchingley service to start at 9.30am.

The following points were made: -

1. At present 5 members of the bellringers are regular members of the 8am service who enjoy a short breakfast with Angela before ringing for the 9.45am. These timings will make this very difficult. These same ringers also go on to ring at other local towers who are short of ringers
2. Some felt it will make preparing for a 9.30 service very rushed.
3. Some wondered whether Nutfield could be persuaded to move the time of their service. After all St Mary’s service time was already half an hour earlier since we had become a Benefice.
4. Some felt the ideal would be for St Mary’s to move to 9.30 and Nutfield to 11.15. This would release a more worthwhile length of time between the services.
5. We are very lucky to have a priest every week
6. Safety of the clergy was very important
7. Another suggestion was to move the 8am service to 7.45am

It was agreed to move the service to 9.30am for a 3 month trial period after which there would be a review with a member of the ringers, the choir and other affected parties.  
Nutfield to be asked to consider there start time too.

There has been a request to move All Age services to the 2nd Sunday of the month as first Sunday services often coincide with major festivals. Again it was agreed to do this for a trial period starting on May 13th, which is the Rogation Sunday service on Sandhills Farm.

**RECTOR’s THANKS**

The Rector thanked everyone for taking part in the discussions about service times. She also particularly thanked the cleaners, a small group of dedicated people who keep our building looking so good. They desperately need more helpers.

She also mentioned a need for someone to take responsibility for setting up services. Cyril Mighall has agreed to become head verger with Ellie Muller and Sandie Hooper as assistants.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

I was inducted here as Rector of the Benefice of Nutfield and Bletchingley nine months ago. It has been exciting, fascinating and exhausting, as there has been a steep learning curve to climb! I have got to know a lot of people, yet I’m aware there are still more to meet and what I want to do is go through the electoral roll of each church to visit everyone in their own home. Which could take a while!

The nine months have almost taken me through the ‘non- green’ bits of the liturgical year, so I’ve been able to witness all but Ascension and Pentecost in both churches. We’ve had some brilliant festival services through Remembrance, Christmas and Easter and I’ve enjoyed how both churches have responded to them in their own way. Some things have gone well and some, not as well as hoped. I have got some things right, but I’ve also made some mistakes. There have been a few changes, some on purpose and some not, but one things for sure, lots of notes have been taken for next year! I have felt totally equipped for things I never thought I was, but I have also felt totally out of my depth in others. All I can say is ‘thank you’ to those who have supported me and sorry to those whom I’ve really annoyed! I’m sure next year will be easier, as someone said to me ‘You can’t do anything right in the first year, you can’t do anything wrong in the second and they don’t care in the third!’ So here’s hoping!

It was a difficult time moving into the Rectory as we moved into a building site, that stayed that way for nearly 3 months. It was also difficult trying to support our daughter through all of the turmoil she experienced leading up to her wedding, which thankfully was a beautiful occasion. I then developed Gastritis in November and December which lead to an upper Endoscopy being performed just before Christmas, followed by Shingles and then Flu. So I hope next year will not only be a healthy one but perhaps a bit of less stressful one too!

I wish to thank the Church Wardens in both parishes, Alan, Gilly, April and John, for all their hard work during the interregnum and for their guidance since I’ve been here. There is also a special ‘thank you’ to Penny, Kerry, John Scott, John Buck and Liz for their service to the Benefice and also to Alison and David from Christchurch. I am hugely grateful to the choirs and Charles at Nutfield; and also the choir at Bletchingley with Val’s guidance and expertise without a resident organist, for keeping our worship relevant and life-giving. I also think a special thanks goes to April for arranging the numerous organists that played at Bletchingley…and that’s never easy!

But I also thank our administrator Elaine, the florists, Servers, Bellringers, Sunday Club leaders, Pastoral Visitors, welcomers, readers, family planners…Intercessors, tea makers and anyone else who has made sure this Benefice remained vibrant and alive!

I sat down and pondered over what has happened during these last 9 months and gosh, a lot has happened!

Bletchingley welcomed Tristan Hall as Director of Music after months of advertising and 3 lots of interviews! I think we are all pleased with how he is working with the choir at Bletchingley, who have had 2 new members join in these last 9 months.

The Benefice have employed Elaine as Administrator instead of her being self-employed. I’m very thankful to all that she has done and will continue to do. I’m pleased that she will now have regular hours, paid holidays and National insurance.

Myself and the Church Wardens from Bletchingley have been in negotiations with Tandridge Council with regards to Clerks House with the view to housing a Syrian Refugee family. I would have hoped that I’d be saying the family have moved in, however it is still going through.

I was able to ensure that Nutfield would no longer pay the debt to the Diocese that was sapping so much of their energy. This will make a big difference to them and I hope will give them some freedom to use their efforts in Mission rather than servicing a debt.

We’ve had a couple of new services in both churches. First of all on Christmas Eve at 9pm we held our first ‘Bethlehem at Midnight’ Service at Nutfield. We welcomed over 40 people, which was amazing! The other new service was a Tenebrae on Good Friday Evening, which had over 60 people attend. I’m sure both these services will form part of our regular offering from now on. We also had a ‘Retreat in Daily Life’ for the Benefice to take part in during Holy Week. There were people at each of the services offered, from Morning Prayer to Compline and across the Triduum.

We’ve formed good links with Bletchingley Primary School, where I take Collective Worship every month and who came in during Holy Week for the first time and performed ‘Resurrection Rock’! At Nutfield Primary, I also take Collective Worship on a monthly basis and I also stay for pastoral time. I have been asked to take Collective Worship at the Hawthorns School as well. All of these visits form relationships with the school, the pupils and their parents, helping to make our churches accessible and inclusive to the wider community.

Looking forward, I would like both new PCCs to carve out some space to spend a day together, where we will pray for a vision for the future and form a Mission Action Plan for the year ahead.

I understand the problems there have been with the Rota, so I am very pleased to say that Kerry is going to take this job on! The jury is still out with Church Desk as I fear it is not working for everyone and so we may have to reconsider whether we do continue with it. We are only using a fraction of its capacity, but people are not logging onto it or able to log onto it. It has become a burden rather than a resource.

The ‘Hatch and Match’ is going very well, but I am disappointed that I can’t offer real preparation for Baptism parents or wedding couples. I would like to establish a Baptism and Marriage Preparation course of some kind, that will help them all understand what it is they are doing and also meet others going through the same and share experiences. I shall be on the lookout for people who feel called to do this vital work. Alongside this, I have been asked to run a confirmation class and there will be two, one for young people and one for not quite so young!

All in all, we are in a healthy position as a Benefice, where we can stand strong on the foundations we have built and look out towards the communities we serve. Some of us will sit comfortably with this and others won’t, but I believe Archbishop William Temple was right when he said, ‘The Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members’. Our society is very different to even 10 years ago and so we will have to look at how we can make Christ real, relevant and alive, benefitting those non-members who might sooner go to a psychic fair to find spirituality than our churches. The question we will need to be asking ourselves is, how do we make our churches places that people feel they can have a spiritual experience, that brings them into the presence of the living God? We can all work together, in both our own churches and together as a Benefice to do that, with God’s help, ‘We will!’

**April Alexander then proposed a huge vote of thanks to Phaedra our Rector** –

"Phe came in July and has been here nine months and there has already been change. Over Christmas we did much as we have always done but, by Lent, Phe was well enough acquainted with us to plan change for the Holy Week and Easter services.

At Easter the Church was packed and bursting at the seams. This was partly because we had had a wonderfully successful Mothering Sunday service and some of those newcomers from that day must have returned for Easter with their friends.

Highlights of Holy Week included the Retreat at Home, Stations of the Cross, and the Tenebrae service on Good Friday.

We find we have a Rector who is wholly committed to pastoral visiting, who has led us in a new commitment to music and to employing a fine musician to take our music to new heights and who has invited us into her home and welcomed us.

She has put new energy into safeguarding and organised certification for people who did not even realise they needed it.

Aren't we the lucky ones? Who would have thought we could be so fortunate and we owe thanks, of course, to those who worked so hard on the appointment.

Thank you, Phe. It has been a wonderful first year for us and we look forward to many more."

The meeting finished with everyone sharing The Grace

***Rector’s Report***

Dear Friends,

I've now seen the whole liturgical year through with you all. I've enjoyed seeing all the seasons and also how the Benefice fits together whilst remaining distinctive in both churches. I particularly enjoyed going through Advent and Christmas for the second time, as they now felt more familiar.

It's been an interesting and sometimes bumpy year. We have seen friends come and friends depart which is always difficult in a community. The year began with Ron Napper's Death and funeral, which hit us all very hard, not least Pat. I have been amazed at how she has got through this year and I'm sure she would agree that it has been down to the love and support of her friends in the village and church.

There are a lot of people I want to give a 'Big Thank you' to, so please bear with me when I say it over and over again!

After a lot of negotiations and form filling with Tandridge Council, we saw the arrival of the Jaqmara Family into Clerks House. I want to thank Marian Buck in particular for her unwavering help with this. When I met with her to look at how we could best support the family and work with the council, she immediately understood the areas that we would need to cover and put together a working group that would meet the perceived needs of the family. This has worked very well and is still in place. We were expecting the extended part of the family in September, but as most of you know this didn't happen until only a few weeks ago due to their baby having health problems. I'm pleased to say that they are all now in the house well and happy. A big thank you to Marian and her team of befrienders.

In October we were all delighted to see Liz licensed as a Reader at Southwark Cathedral. It was a very special occasion and very well supported by members of the congregation. Im sure you will all want to join me in congratulating Liz on her achievements. We now have 2 Readers licensed to the Benefice. I am grateful to both John Buck and Liz for their ministry amongst us. Liz has taken a lead on the healing and prayer team, who offer prayer ministry at the Eucharist Service on the 1st Sunday of the month. John has chaired both the worship and Sunday space teams, he has taken a lead in the retreat during Holy Week and is preparing for this coming Holy Week. He has also along with Cyril our Verger, put a directory together of all the services we have and what is needed at each.

I also want to thank John and Marian for building our Manger. It was a beautiful piece of artwork, but it was also a place for spiritual reflection and meditation for everyone during Advent and Christmas. I'm sure you all enjoyed It's simplicity yet incredibly moving nature. I hope it will become a loved part of our future Christmas reflections.

I want to thank our Assistant Clergy, Kerry, Penny and John Scott for their help, support and encouragement through the year. I would also like to thank our Lay Champion Mark Tantam and his assistant Rob Tucker. Both have taken time to research and assess where we are and what we are doing. Out of my discussions with them have come lots of ideas many of which have been included in the life of the parish. I’d like to especially thank Rob for following up on his ideas for the men in the parish, with the Men’s Breakfast. I know that many men who find it difficult to talk about feelings, faith and health have found these breakfasts invaluable forums to speak openly.

We have tried to address the problems we were getting with the all age Eucharist, where children and adults were avoiding it for various reasons. Sunday Space was born out of many discussions around how to tackle those problems. It is still early days with only 3 being done, but we are already getting very positive responses to this service. What's been great about this service is the response we've had from the congregation to help with it, so we've seen lots of different people involved. Its also been encouraging to hear about people's lives outside the church and how their faith inspires their daily lives. A big thank you to all who have taken part but I want to especially thank those who have helped shape the service and plan it each month, to Glynis Beazley, Steve Carter, Alexander Prince Green, Tim Johns, Christopher Prince Green, April Alexander, Clare Sturgeon, John Buck, Liz Windridge, Richard Fowler and the Dewar Family, who have played various roles over the last couple of months.

Whilst I am thinking about services, I want to thank a group of people who are here every week, enhancing our worship and enabling us to lift our hearts and souls to God. A big thank you to our choir, our organists and musicians. For singing, sorting out the music, making sure our festival services are just that, bringing us beautiful anthems and helping us sing in tune!

I'd like to thank Ann Pressey and Sue Morris for their ideas of the church using Church House as a Cafe for the community. With much planning, training, sink building, praying and brainstorming later the Hungry Hermit is 'well and truly' up and running with lots of helpers and clients! So a big thank you to Ann and Sue for this community building project.

A big thank you goes to all the Sunday Club helpers and leaders who have kept Sunday Club going and thriving. I want to especially thank you for the Light Party and for the Christingle Nativity. Both were given a revamp and I think our efforts paid off. So well done to all of you, especially Kate Doody who asked, if we could do a proper nativity with the Christingle and to Glynis who rose to the challenge!

Life during the week here at St. Mary's is never dull with lots going on. Not least visiting the vulnerable and taking a communion service to Coppice Lea. The visiting team visit people who need support, a listening ear, someone to share a cuppa with and a smile. A big thank you to the visiting team and those who every other week take communion to Coppice Lea. You know who you are.

I now come to those who give up their time to make our church welcoming and beautiful are our welcomers, servers, cleaners, gardeners, flower arrangers and bell ringers. Without them the church would not be the same. We might take it for granted because all of what this group of people kind of happens in the background, yet without this group of people there would be a huge gap in how we meet and connect with those coming to our church for the first time. So thank you.

On 6th March 9 were confirmed by + Christopher. It was a beautiful service but more importantly + Christopher said that there was an authenticity and calibre about the candidates that pleased him very much. So well done to all the candidates for impressing the Bishop of Southwark!

I could not have got through this year without some very special people, April, Cyril, Elaine, Richard and Val. Their hard work, counsel, planning, challenging, wisdom and friendship have got me through this year. So a big thank you to them.

A lot of amazing work has been done here and there are some exciting things planned on the horizon. When it comes to church, everybody has an opinion and preference. Inevitably, there are competing priorities in St. Marys and I’m going to say that trying to deal with the conflicting preferences has sometimes drained me. The fact is, there is no right or wrong, it is all preference. My vision for St. Mary’s is that we become a community of people who come to church to worship God, regardless of whether we like the hymn choice or not, or whether the sermon is too long, or whether we thought the service was ok or not, or whether you like my lipstick or earring choice. As the Rector here, it’s not my job to placate everyone, it is my job to ensure that when someone comes into church they are challenged, feed and nurtured with the Gospel.

As Christians being a Community is not an optional extra, it’s a command, Jesus said we are to love God with our whole heart and to love our neighbour as ourselves. In Bletchingley we have people from all walks of life, meeting together as this diverse community we call St. Mary’s. The church is not about consumerism, its about worshipping God. The only way we can exist and grow, is if all of us who are part of this community, think more about the mission of the church rather than about our own personal choice.

The word community has two parts: “common” and “unity.” Without something in common, and without unity, there is no community. It takes a common mission and personal sacrifice for it to work. I believe we hold the greatest truth in the world and it is vital for the wider community to know it, that is God’s unconditional love for them. Do the people of Bletchingley know this truth? Jesus commands us, to make disciples of all nations and the only way that happens is when we sacrifice self and put mission at the heart of what we do. God’s joy is in our worship of Him. Not in the style we package it in.

The question is: in the year ahead, are we willing to make personal sacrifices for the good of the community and the glory of God? Naturally we desire to have what we want, to be catered for, to focus on ourselves, but community doesn’t work like that. Community can only exist when mature Christians are willing to set aside their personal agendas and support the good of the community.

Lets build a community that is based on worshipping a God who loves us all and wants to share God's love with others.

***Attendance and Worship***

**The Principle Feasts of Easter, Christmas and Pentecost** are celebrated in full. Attendance at Easter remains fairly good and, although the church was packed for the Christingle service, the numbers were down from the previous year. Attendance and Communicants at Midnight Mass fell slightly perhaps because Bishop Jonathan presided the previous year. The annual service for All Souls continues to draw many who have been recently bereaved, but the numbers continue to fall slowly. **Midweek festivals** and special days such as **Ash Wednesday**, and **Ascension Day** are supported by a committed group of people. **Holy Week** observances are shared between the two parishes, with Compline, Hymns and Address on Monday to Wednesday at Nutfield; Maundy Thursday Liturgy of the Last Supper, Foot Washing and Gethsemane Watch at Bletchingley. The Good Friday pattern of worship in 2018 was Stations of the Cross, Children’s service and a Tenebrae service in the evening.

There were **6 Baptisms** (*11 in 2017*), and **5 weddings** (*7)* The Clergy conducted **8 funerals** in church during the year.

Attendance at the major festivals: (with 2017figures for comparison)

**EASTER:**                Communicants **132** (*132*)

                Attendance **147** (*160*.

**CHRISTMAS:**       Communicants **140** (*146)*

                Attendance **547** (*505*)

**Christingle:**           Attendance **364** (300)

**Midnight Mass:** Communicants **74**(71)

                Attendance **117** (124)

**Christmas Day:** Communicants **66** (75)

                Attendance total **66** (81)

**PENTECOST:**       Communicants **65** (51)

                Attendance **97** (58)

***Churchwardens Report for 2018***

Perhaps the most significant event, certainly for the churchwardens, has been the arrival of the Syrian refugee family who are now living in The Clerk’s House. The Clerk’s House is owned by The Bletchingley Thomas Chapman Charity, whose trustees are the Rector and Churchwardens. We have the privilege of having been able to offer the house to rent, enabling Tandridge District Council to arrange for Maher and Fatima, and their sons Omran and Said to move in in August. They have now, at last, been joined by their eldest son Mohammed Noor and his wife Nariman, and their two little girls, Fatima and Scilla.

We are very grateful to the council for arranging and managing their arrival and furnishing the house. A team from St Mary’s ensured that the building was in good order, provided new white goods and put up curtains etc Communications have been variable, with Google Translate occasionally producing some interesting results! The boys in particular are now picking up English quite quickly, as they are attending school and college. It has been lovely to see them in church frequently. If you have not yet been treated to Syrian coffee and cake you have missed a treat.

Whilst we see this as part of our mission, the charity receives the rent from The Clerk’s House, a significant portion of which has been assigned by the trustees to further the mission, music and administration of St Mary’s, in the sum of £9,600 in 2018. Without this contribution we would have been unable to meet our financial commitments, and even with it had to draw further on our very limited financial reserves. It is not good that we should continue to have to rely on this support.

We have been fortunate during the past year in not having to carry out any significant work to the church building. However, some works identified in the last 5-yearly architect’s “Quinquennial” report will require action in the very near future, which will add to the calls on our finances.

During the year, with a generous grant from The Reginald Arthur Baker Charitable Trust, we were able to purchase beautiful new blue cassocks for the choir, and add to the ringing training facility that Ed, as Tower Captain, runs so effectively. With your generous donations we were also able to buy new Ancient and Modern hymn books, which will help to expand the scope of our worship.

Throughout the year we had Tristan Hall as organist and Director of music and the first major service the choir did under his guidance was the Tenebrae on Good Friday, a new departure for St Mary’s. We were joined for one service by the choir from Caterham School.

We were pleased to welcome the Village School and The Hawthorns into the church for some of their special events.

We look forward to creating a more flexible-use space in the north aisle Holy Spirit chapel, hopefully with a coffee servery. This is at present only in the very early stages of planning, but we have great hopes for what it could achieve.

We would like to thank all those who keep the church functioning, cleaning, flower arranging, mowing, making coffee, counting the money, etc., etc. Thanks to the Welcomers, who are usually the first faces a visitor will see on entering the church for a service and are so very important. As both churchwardens are in the choir, we are indebted to Sandie for her help as Deputy Churchwarden, in making sure that everything runs smoothly while we are out of sight.

A big thank you also to Elaine, our Administrator, who runs the church office. Due to her ongoing treatment she has been unable to work for some periods of time, so thanks also to those who have stepped in to assist.

Most of all we thank Phaedra for her spiritual guidance and vision, supported by the rest of the ministry team.

April Alexander & Richard Fowler

***PCC Secretary’s Report***

The PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the church, and the care and maintenance of the church fabric and its contents, It also has a responsibility to assist the Rector in promoting the mission of the church.

The PCC has met six times during the year and discussed a wide range of topics. We have been busy!

* The Church Choir has new robes and the bell ringers are on the way to installing training bells. Both of these have been greatly helped by the generosity of The Reginald Arthur Baker Trust.
* In September the PCC had an ‘Away Evening’ at Wychcroft. The evening was led by James Ashton, the Deanery Mission Advisor. We enjoyed a lovely meal and very good discussion led by James as we explored our life at St Mary’s and the way ahead.
* Liz Windridge was licensed as a reader at Southwark Cathedral in October. We are benefitting from her ministry amongst us.
* Plans were briefly discussed for a Village Café, and Sunday Space Service. As with much PCC business detailed discussions are held with special committees which report back to the PCC.
* We updated our Inclusion Policy.
* We set up a GDPR Register.

Valerie Muller

***Finance Report***

Committee Members: The Rector, John Trott, April Alexander, Richard Fowler, Lisa Swan, and David Sellick.

This financial year has once again seen the need to draw from reserves albeit to a lesser extent than last year. For 2018 our deficit for the year was £826 compared to a deficit of £5,172 in 2017.

By the end of 2018 our reserves to carry forward are £14,243 with £5,781 of this earmarked for restricted use (training bell fund, mission events, fabric fund and community cafe). That means our general unrestricted reserve is now depleted to £8,462. In order to protect our reserves going forward, cost consciousness and income boosting measures need to continue into 2019.

Financial highlights of 2018 have been:

1. The level of direct giving and associated gift aid remained constant compared to last year and provided £70,758 (2017: £71,349) of annual income.
2. Our fairer Share payments to the Diocese increased by £635 (1.0%) from £63,500 in 2017 to £64,135 in 2018.
3. The Bletchingley Thomas Chapman Charity, which derives income from Clerks House, continued to donate and more than met the PCC’s share of parish administrator costs by giving £9,600 (2017: £5,556). We are grateful for this continued financial assistance.
4. Repairs and maintenance costs were minor in 2018 at £1,047 (2017: £4,537) and included external lights in the churchyard.
5. Mission and Appeal giving increased to £2,997 (2017: £470) with £1,907 (2017: £470) being raised from specific appeals.

Thank you, as always, goes to Anthony Cock, our independent examiner, for his continued support and all his hard work.

Lisa Swan

***Report on Safeguarding 2018***

There is little to report, thankfully on the Safeguarding front. We have had no reportable instances. For our Rector, Rev. Phe, Safeguarding is at the very front of her attention and we have put in place new measures to keep us up to date.

Rev. Phe and myself have made a start on producing relevant roles for all church unpaid volunteers and this will be rolled out during 2019.

We tried to get a training session going in 2018 but there was insufficient take up for it to be worthwhile, but we will try again in 2019.

The diocese have indicated that an updated version of ‘A Safe Church’ is on the way and we look forward to receiving a copy in the spring.

Jeff Marks

***Deanery Synod 2018***

The Deanery Synod is the forum for representatives of all the 26 parishes in the Deanery to meet and discuss. It meets three times each year. A deanery is the bridge between the parishes and the diocese, the wider church and beyond. The Area Dean is Revd Kathryn Percival, Vicar of Lingfield and Dormansland. At each meeting we have a time for a speaker and/or discussion on a specific topic. The following are the summary reports of the meetings in 2018, for which thanks to the Deanery synod secretary, rather than trying to summarise the summaries. Apologies if this is rather long, but you may find something relevant to you hidden amongst it.

Richard Fowler

**22 February 2018: Supporting those who look after others**

Clive Richardson, Carer Support Adviser for Guildford Diocese, gave us a new perspective by focussing on the needs of the carer, rather than on the person being cared for. A carer is someone who supports and looks after someone else unpaid, a wife whose husband has dementia, or a child or young person looking after a parent with mental health or substance misuse problems.

The scale is huge, with 6.5 million unpaid carers in the UK (1 in 8 adults); 3 in 5 of us will be a carer at some point, but the prime age is 45 - 64. The number of young carers is significant, possibly 3 in every classroom. Support provided can be practical (washing, shopping, transport), emotional, help with medication, finance and personal care. Caring can be rewarding, but carers may also experience stress, isolation, poverty (perhaps having given up a job), grief, anger, frustration, guilt, mental exhaustion, physical ill health and an impact on their own wellbeing.

There will be carers in every congregation, but they will not necessarily think of themselves as carers. In churches we can support carers as part of our mission, helping to keep them as part of our congregation. We are good at praying for the sick but must remember to pray for those who care for them. A church can promote greater awareness, review what it provides (eg coffee morning, lunch club, midweek meeting or midweek service) and add value, for example by adding table cloths and home made cake. It can promote a culture of invitation and welcome, create opportunities for people to meet and get to know each other, put them in touch with support groups and display information about help available. Church activities should be carer and dementia friendly.

Recognition of carers is very important. Young carers can be very isolated and support put in place can change things dramatically. Youth groups should be young carer aware and young carer friendly. Useful help and advice: [www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about/communities-engagement/carers-support](http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about/communities-engagement/carers-support), [www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/care-and-support-for-adults/looking-after-someone/your-role-as-a-carer](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/care-and-support-for-adults/looking-after-someone/your-role-as-a-carer) and [www.actionforcarers.org.uk](http://www.actionforcarers.org.uk).

**21 June 2018: Generation Z - Issues affecting under 21s today**

Aike Kennett-Brown, Mission Support Officer (Children & Young People) Southwark Diocese, said this was the first Deanery Synod meeting she had attended. She aims to share good practice, support churches and run training sessions.

Generation Theory gives an analysis of external historical and global influences affecting the children and young people of each generation; the changing values, priorities and attitudes, including religious and spiritual understanding and idea of God. The generations identified are the ‘Silent Generation’ (born 1918-1945), Boomers (1946-1964), Generation X (1965-1980), Generation Y / Millennials (1981-1995) and Generation Z (1996-2012). Those born from 2012 will become Generation A. An awareness and understanding of these generalised trends can help us as we try to pass on our faith to the next generation, by seeing each other as different but equal and removing our limited expectations.

The world changed dramatically with the arrival of social media: Facebook in (2004), YouTube (2005) Twitter (2006), the first Apple iPhone (2007), Instagram (2010), (Snapchat (2011). Ten identified trends of Generation Z are: growing up slowly; more safety, less community; more online time; in person no more; new mental health crisis; irreligious and unspiritual; inclusive - LGBT, gender and race; income insecurity - working to earn; indefinite - sex, marriage, children, and independent politics. This generation wears cycle helmets and seat belts. They are less likely to rebel against parents, go out without them, or take physical risks. Adult behaviours such as sex, drinking alcohol and driving are put off until later. Some, but not necessarily all, these changes may be desirable. It is probably due to parenting and other cultural influences. When is someone ‘grown up’?

A smart phone is essential and a lifeline. Each day 16 to 18-year-olds typically spend 2¼ hours texting, 2 on the internet, 1½ on electronic gaming and ½ hour on video chat: a total of 6¼ hours of leisure time on social media, although often simultaneously. Technology and media score highest for enjoyment in spare time activities. Time online is constant (not weekly like a youth club) and online friendship has replaced offline friendship. Being ‘in person no more’ avoids actual social interaction. Teens spending more time on screen activities are more likely to be unhappy. Mental health crises and ‘FOMO’ (fear of missing out) are common. The image presented to the world through social media is paramount.

Generation Z is typically both irreligious and unspiritual, with 35% not even thinking about God or spirituality. The family has the biggest influence on whether young people attend church. Schools are also important and Church schools account for 25% of primary schools in this country. According to C of E research in 2017, 40% of adult practising Christians came to faith before the age of 4, 16% at ages 5-10 and 20% at 11-18 years. There is only a 1% chance of a 15-year-old going to church if neither parent attends.

What are we doing to keep children already in church? How will we share our faith with Generation Z? They are passionate about causes, social justice and the environment. To identify as Christian, young people need to participate in a Christian community, experience and sense God’s presence, extracting meaning and significance. They must share and hear personal testimonies and connect all aspects of life to faith. The Bible can now be read on a phone and Christian Union has invested in an App for ages 7-11. Aike advised churches to keep the discussion going, asking these questions: What does your Church do well? What are the challenges? What aspects of Generational theory apply to your setting? What could you do differently? It was noted that we have a great opportunity to take our faith into schools and to help with collective worship.

**18 October 2018: Making Mission Action Planning work for parishes**

Speaker: Revd James (Jay) Colwill, Canon Missioner for Southwark

**The Southwark Vision is**

* Walking with Jesus and getting to know Jesus better as we journey on
* Welcoming all, embracing our diversity and seeking new ways of being church
* Growing in numbers, generosity, faith and discipleship as we grow God’s Kingdom

Jay’s main concern of these is the third, growth. He offered the following as a prayer for Deaneries: God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference, Reinhold Niebuhr. Change can have negative connotations but can also be embraced as something positive once the process is complete (eg getting married, changing jobs, moving house). It is important to invest in the right changes.

A deanery is marked by diversity, in churchmanship, geography, ethnicity and socio-economic aspects. It differs from a parish church in that it does not give towards the parish share, pool financial resources or pray and worship together regularly. The parish church is therefore a more effective ‘unit’ of mission.

A deanery is good for networking, sharing, mutual support, celebrating diversity and learning from each other’s passions. It has the advantage of geographical proximity and helps people to relate to each other and become less insular and to invite speakers, who would not be able to visit individual parishes. Churches in a deanery can do many things better together than apart, such as engaging effectively with the community, connecting with new housing developments, motivating volunteers and developing vocations.

Deanery Mission and Ministry should start by identifying resources and needs, although that is not the whole story. We need to remain realistic but spiritually optimistic, considering the short, medium and long-term goals; breaking these down into manageable chunks so they might be accomplished. Working together involves the three key areas of sharing resources (walking together with Jesus), growing disciples (in faith and discipleship) and going in mission (welcoming all, embracing new ways of being church). Bishop Christopher says be Christ-centred and outward-focused.

***The Church Choir 2018***

The beginning of 2018 was an exciting time for the choir as we welcomed Tristan Hall, our new Musical Director and Organist. Under his guidance we learnt some challenging music whilst we continued to sing our more popular motets. The Tenebrae Service on the evening of Good Friday was a first for St Mary’s and was very moving. ~  
We have benefitted from new choir robes, replacing some that had been in use a very, very long time. We also have new hymn books.

Sadly for us, Tristan found the balance of a very busy schedule teaching music at a local school, running the church choir, and keeping in touch with his family in Wolverhampton too much and so he resigned as from the end of 2018.

We are very grateful to April for finding us organists for both Sundays and to take choir practices, a far from easy job. I have once again taken over the responsibility for choosing the music we sing Sunday by Sunday, in collaboration with the Rector or whoever is leading our worship.

The choir continue to be a friendly supportive loyal group of friends and it is good to be part of this group. Why not join us, we would love to welcome you?

Valerie Muller

***Reports from our Youth and Young People’s Team***

***Sunday Club***

Another year of learning and sharing together with a fantastic group of children, helpers, and regular occasional visitors. We welcome school age children to age 11. From September we moved back into Church House, starting our session there and coming back into Church for communion. We had our own time of worship but it was felt that this was not really working, and we missed being in church at the beginning. After a bit of experimentation, we now start in Church and come out after the collect (before the reading) and return again at Communion. This seems to be working well.

The Children are pleased to come to the front and share with the congregation at the end of the service what they have been up to and it is wonderful to see them grow in confidence as well as numbers. We regularly have between 10 and 15 children.

We had a party at the end of the summer term outside in the churchyard which was a lovely occasion of games and celebration. It was important to recognise the regular attendance of so many of the children and we had about 20 children at this event which we had publicised in advance. There were of course party bags.

We would love to have some more helpers as some have had to stand down, so please let me know if this is something that you would enjoy and would be able to offer once a month. You would need to do some safeguarding training and be DBS checked. I am really grateful to the leaders who give their time to plan the sessions and provide enough craft materials to cater for 8 children or 18 – not always easy. I am also very grateful to the helpers who faithfully support the leaders in so many ways to make the sessions run smoothly. Their flexible and “can do” attitude is much appreciated.

The Children continue to be a wonderful group who are polite, but lively and questioning and Sunday Club feels well established. It is a privilege to work with them. We look forward to thinking seriously about how to provide more for those who are now getting older and need more age appropriate activities.

Glynis Beazley – Sunday Club Co-ordinator

***Light Party at Halloween***

The Light Party for Halloween was very well attended with about 100 people – children and adults.  We have now managed to transform it from Halloween to a Light Party which are becoming more widely known.   We were encouraged to dress up in bright colours and the activities were geared towards light rather than traditional Halloween activities, though they were broadly similar. Eg instead of pumpkin bowling we had bowling at bottles filled with water and glow sticks which were very effective.  The ever popular piñata was enthusiastically participated in and was much enjoyed by all.  Many thanks to Ali Horlock and her team for masterminding this very important outreach event.

***The Ark***The Ark has had an encouraging year. Huge thanks to the very committed team who keep the Ark afloat, Liz, Peta, Chrissie and Catherine.

Its such a joy to see the children grow in confidence and their parents forging strong supportive  
friendships.

Little by little there are glimpses of interest in the spiritual and our prayer is that God's love is  
felt among us.

Sue Morris  February2019

***New Initiative’s in 2018***

***Outreach***

Several new projects started this year including Coffee with Craft, monthly Sunday lunch at the Golf Club, The Hungry Hermit café every Tuesday and monthly village breakfasts. Here are reports from some of them

***House Groups***

There is now a small but committed group of us who meet on alternate Tuesday evenings. We have followed a bible study course which challenged us to consider our response to God’s gift to us in creation. At the moment we are taking time to talk more about the Sunday sermon topics, often supported by the preacher joining our meeting to help us understand more and answer our questions.

During Lent we will join the main church Lent Groups looking at The Creeds. After Lent we plan to continue our regular fortnightly meetings again. You would be very welcome to join us, either just for Lent or more regularly throughout the year.

***The BBC (Blessed Breakfast Club)***

The men’s breakfast club held its first meeting in June 2018. We meet once a month with attendance in the range of 10 to 14 at each meeting. We meet in the Whyte Harte Hotel opposite the Church at 8.30 on a Saturday morning. Meetings are suspended during summer holidays and we have held bout 11 meetings in all.

 The BBC is promoted as  *“an informal breakfast club for men sympathetic to &/or slightly curious about faith &/or for those who struggle to accept faith”.* In addition to offering a safe and neutral space for men to discuss faith based topical issues, the group has also cemented friendships amongst those who have known each other, often for years, but previously only on a ‘nodding acquaintance basis’. Our group typically comprises 65% church regulars and 35% non-Church or irregular Church attenders.

 I chair most meetings although we encourage others to both promote topics and act as volunteer chairmen. One session was run by a guest chairman. Topics discussed include;

*Tolerance*

*One God, many religions. All equal?*

*Fundamentalism*

*The mark of a good man*

*What deters people from Christianity*

Men are frequently in a minority in a typical congregation and The BBC offers a safe space to both our regulars and to others who may be apprehensive or reluctant to attend conventional Church services.

 Robert Tucker

***Sunday Space***

This is the fledging replacement for All Age Worship and aims to reach those new to faith, wanting to find out more in a more informal setting.  It takes place on the third Sunday of the month.   Our first service in January received very good feedback.  There were constructive comments as well – eg should the choir and clergy wear robes, we should have more of the choruses.  What made it work well was the amount of people involved – of all ages.  It is a Service of the Word (no communion) is shorter (about 45-50 mins).  It is hoped to develop this and use more musicians, have discussion-type talks, and a slot where someone shares how their faith is lived out in their Monday to Saturday life.  It is most important to bear in mind that we are reaching out to all ages.  This is a new venture, so please feel free to give positive and constructive feedback and please do offer any ideas you would like to see included and please think about how you could be involved in making our Worship joyful and spirit-filled.

***The Social Committee***

***Visiting Team***

Under the leadership of the Rev Phe, members of the congregation regularly visit parishioners within the Benefice and offer support as needed. Please do contact Phe or the Church Administrator to let them know of anyone who would like to be visited.

***Church Flowers***

Thank you to everyone who arranged flowers for us during the year.   When we have festival’s we have a very happy atmosphere, helped by Joan Millar who provides us with coffee.   We have a separate group of people who do the windowsills for us.

We do enjoy making our lovely Church look wonderful - so thank you to all involved.   Averil Trott.

***Bellringers’ Report***

 We are pleased that we can continue to support Surrey Association of Bellringers by making our bells available for two of their regular monthly training events –a “Drop-in” practice for learners and the less experienced using our computerised simulator facilities, and an advanced practice bringing together those wanting to broaden their skills. We usually get up to twenty ringers from other local towers at each of these events.

We continue to ring for all Sunday morning services and special occasions (usually with 8 or the full 10 bells). Our computer simulator facilities are being put to good use for our own learners and we expect to have our two “training” bells installed soon after Easter.

We now would like to encourage some newcomers to join our band of ringers and are running “Taster” sessions. If you would like a go, and would like to find out more about this fascinating and traditional activity, contact Ed Muller or any of our ringers to arrange to join a “Taster” session.

 Ed Muller - Tower Captain - Tel: 742799.

***Sunday Morning Coffee***

Team Comprises: Wendy Carey, Jennie Davenport, Hanni Dennis, Ann Frankcom, Vicki Gillespie, Lynn Hargreaves-McCallum, Sheila Mighall, Sandie Hooper, Louise Tantum, Robert Tucker and Myself

I am pleased to report that during the year numbers staying for coffee after the service have greatly increased. Robert Tucker was keen to introduce filter coffee, but after a trial run, came to the conclusion that at the present time this was not practical due to the space and facilities available.

Thanks to everyone for their generous coffee donations, which has enabled me to continue to finance the coffee refreshments (apart from the milk which the helpers donate) the cleaning equipment for the church, a donation to church funds and am about to fund the cleaning of the glass entrance porch doors to the church.

Many thanks to the current team and to Rev. Phaedra and Lynn Hargreaves-McCallum who have made cakes for Festive Days and other celebrations.

Additional Helpers always welcome.

Joan Millar

Tel. 01883 743514

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***Gods Acre 2017***

***Report from the Church House Committee***

***CHURCH CLEANING***

The Church Cleaning Team are:- Margaret Boulton-Smith, Wendy Carey, Ruth Goodsir, Sheila Mighall, Jean Price, Pamela and Anthony Cock

Unfortunately we are struggling at the present time!!. Due to various family commitments and other appointments (I am unable to take part at the present time due to my Husband`s ill health and Bill Shillito has retired from cleaning the brass due to health problems) we are only able to clean the Church on alternate Tuesdays instead of every week. We meet at 9.30. a.m. for approximately one and a half hours. Ruth works alone on a Wednesday keeping the Bell Tower clean for the Bell Ringers.

I would be pleased to hear from anyone who feels they could spare some time on a Tuesday. All equipment is provided. Many thanks to Pamela and Anthony who have agreed to clean the brass. As well as undertaking an essential part of the Church Maintenance, we are all very friendly.

Joan Millar

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