



**Furzedown Team Ministry**

**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2021**

**for the**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022**

20|20  
VISION

**ALL OF LIFE FOR CHRIST**

**empowering**

ordinary people to live extraordinary lives

by

## **enabling**

people to come to know Jesus as Saviour  
and

## **equipping**

people to live for Jesus as Lord

### **Visibility & Presence**

Becoming more effective in enabling the people of Furzedown  
to know St James is here!

### **Welcome & Hospitality**

Becoming more effective in enabling people  
to feel 'at home' in St James

### **Worship & Teaching**

Becoming more effective in enabling people  
to encounter God in our services

### **Mission & Evangelism**

Becoming more effective in enabling people  
to explore the Gospel & become whole-life followers of Jesus

### **Nurture & Discipleship**

Becoming more effective in enabling people  
to grow in faith and to live out the Gospel in everyday life

### **Children & Youth**

Becoming more effective in enabling children & young people  
to know Jesus and to live for Him

### **Leadership & Governance**

Becoming more effective in ensuring that our  
leadership & governance enables the vision to become a reality

### **Buildings & Resources**

Becoming more effective in resourcing the vision

with finance, buildings, people & prayer

# ALL OF LIFE FOR CHRIST

empowering | enabling | equipping

**Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022**

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
2. Apologies, Minutes of 2021 APCM & Matters Arising
3. Election of Church Wardens
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Finance Report
  - Adoption of Annual Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021
  - Appointment of Independent Examiners
6. Buildings and Fabric Report
7. Diocesan Synod Report & Deanery Synod Report
8. Elections
  - PCC: 4 members for 3-year term
  - Deputy Wardens
  - Sidespersons
9. Any Questions?
10. Results of Elections
11. Any Other Business - *To be presented to the Chairman before the start of the meeting.*

## **Rector's Report**

Dear Friends,

2021 will be remembered as the second year of the covid-19 pandemic, which continued to have a huge impact on the life of our church.

We began the year in lock down, with Sunday services being pre-recorded and broadcast on our YouTube channel each week. Thankfully, as the weeks progressed we were able to invite those who didn't have access to the internet at home to come to church on Sundays to watch the pre-recorded service on the big screen. By June, we were able to recommence in person services in church, with attendees booking their place due to covid restrictions on numbers. We began to livestream the service for those who couldn't attend in person. By the autumn we were able to lift the limit on numbers and most other restrictions and return to something like normality, though even by the end of the year many church members were still very cautious about returning.

As for midweek activities - most of these remained closed until September, when, thankfully we were able to reopen. People seemed very grateful and enthusiastic to get back to drinking coffee at The Well, wiggling into church for Little Fishes, and coming along to our after-school clubs for children and young people.

By the grace of God and the generosity of the church family, our finances held up very well, despite all the challenges of covid on household budgets.

I expect 2022 to be a year when we seek to re-emerge from covid as fully as possible and embrace the new normal with faith, hope and Gospel-creativity. It can't just be a return to business as usual. So, we will seek to catch God's renewed vision for our church and encapsulate that in a new vision document. Our 2020 Vision mission action plan is now two years out of date, and we have been unable to review and renew it due to covid. So, we plan to hold a PCC+ Away Day in the autumn of 2022 to begin this important work of refreshing and rebooting our strategy for mission and ministry for the next few years.

I am so grateful to the leaders, volunteers and church members of our amazing church family for all your love and support in 2021, and I look forward to all that the God of surprises has in store for us in 2022 and beyond.

Soli Deo Gloria

Every blessing

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rob Powell', written in a cursive style.

***Revd Rob Powell***  
***Rector***  
***May 2022***

**St James Church  
Summarised Minutes of the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Rob welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

**Apologies:** Stepheney Sulaiman, Frances Christian, Beth Powell.

**Minutes of the last meeting** The Minutes of the 2020 APCM were approved and accepted unanimously. There were no matters arising.

**Election of Church Wardens:**

Rob thanked both current Church Wardens, John Talbot & Marcia Gordon, for their faithful service in the last year, especially with the challenging circumstances caused by COVID-19. Both were willing to serve again for the coming year.

Marcia Gordon was proposed by Glynis Wilkinson and seconded by Raphael Gordon.

John Talbot was proposed by Lucille Quallo and seconded by Glynis Wilkinson. There being no other candidates, both were duly elected.

**Electoral Roll**

The total number on the revised role is 171 of which 109 are non-resident and 62 resident in the parish.

**Finance Report:**

Alan Burrows, PCC Treasurer, presented the end of year accounts. These had been independently examined by Leroy Reid and approved by the PCC. They were formally adopted unanimously by the APCM, proposed by Alan Burrows and seconded by Johan Allen.

It was also agreed unanimously that we re-appoint Leroy Reid as Independent Examiners for another year, proposed by Alan Burrows and seconded by Nick Burt.

**Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod** reports as per the booklet.

**Election of PCC Members**

<b>Nominations</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
David Kafuko	Peter Neill	Lisa Burrows
Peter Neill	Adam Seymour-Davies	Joanna Seymour-Davies
Lisa Burrows	Alan Burrows	Glynis Wilkinson
Marlon Ganesh	Glynis Wilkinson	Beth Powell
Sandra Lucas (1 yr)	Susan Allen	Johan Allen
Millie Miller (1 yr)	Claire Powell	Beth Powell

**Deputy Wardens**

Kirk Douglas, Yvonne Mason and Dan Obene. We need to find 1 more Deputy Warden.

**Sidespersons**

We have a good team which is always being added to as the year progresses.

**Building for the Kingdom and Fabric Report**

See reports in the booklet.

**Any Questions**

None were received.

**Election results** - see above.

**Any Other Business** - none received.

## **Summary of Accounts and Notes**

### ***PCC Meetings***

The PCC held 7 meetings during the year. The average attendance was 74.99% (previously 64.25%).

### **Committees**

The PCC operates through a number of task groups, which have met between full meetings of the PCC, to whom they are responsible and to whom they report.

### **Church Attendance**

The Church Electoral Roll records 171 (previously 171) persons as members of the Church, 110 of whom are not resident within the parish.

The average Sunday attendance, counted during October and November was 61 (not recorded due to covid) and 136 online views.

### ***Review of the year***

The various activity groups will highlight their activities during the year by giving reports at the APCM or in this Report Booklet.

## ***Summary of Accounts and Notes***

The activities of the parish insofar as they impinge upon the Statement of Financial Activities have been as follows:

1. The parish's contribution to the central fund of the Diocese of Southwark (the Parish Support Fund) remains the principal item of expenditure at £80,300 for 2021 (£78,417 2020) and has been paid in full.
2. Voluntary contributions from members of the congregation remain the principal source of income.

Income from donations for unrestricted purposes including claimed Gift Aid amounted to £145,387 (£145,440- 2020). An Advent Thanksgiving gift day was held with a commitment that the first £3,000 of donations would be divided between two three projects - St Thomas Church of England in South Africa. Furzedown Youth Centre, and Friends of The Heart Foundation of Jamaica. Total donations received were £17,375 including associated Gift Aid (£15,450 - 2020).

The PCC continues to encourage the congregation to give to the Church in a regular and committed way using one of the stewardship schemes. Tax efficient regular giving to the General Fund amounted to £85,739 (£90,493 - 2020) and with other Gift Aided donations, £22,583 (£20,879 - 2020) was claimed in Gift Aid for unrestricted purposes.

Other donations of £6,460 (£12,246 - 2020) included restricted donations for various areas of the Church's ministry, and from the Governments Covid Furlough Scheme. The PCC's commitment to supporting all aspects of mission resulted in £36,737 (£36,213 - 2020) being granted to several causes including support for the Furzedown Youth Centre by the donation of the £21,607 for rent and utility bills. A tithe on income from giving of £12,129 (£12,512 - 2020) was split equally between two Mission partners: Furzedown Youth Centre (receiving 1/3 of the tithe) and "Crosslinks" in support of Alun and Debbie Burt's ministry (receiving 2/3 of the tithe).

Total income amounted to £221,287 (£214,785 - 2020) of which £6,743 was restricted (£4,080 - 2020). Total expenditure amounted to £227,163 (£233,677 - 2020) of which £6,152 was expenditure on restricted items (£20,526 - 2020).

The generosity of the people of St. James continues to be a source of both encouragement and humility. It is encouraging that we have been able to welcome new faces into the congregation. It is hoped that newcomers will soon become full and active members of our Electoral Roll.

3. The churches of the Furzedown Team Ministry (St. James, St Alban's and St. Pauls) continue to work closely together and with Mitcham Lane Baptist Church, sharing a vision of mission in the community, especially in the area of ministry to young people both through Sunday groups and through the work of the Furzedown Youth Centre.
4. The Church continues its commitment to children and young peoples' ministry. A full-time Youth Minister is jointly employed with our partner churches. Little Fishes continues to be, for many, a first introduction to church life and is currently oversubscribed. Get Set and Adventurers continue to engage with children of Primary school age during the week. JAM, run by Glynis Wilkinson continues to grow in numbers, and runs each week from Goldfinch Primary School. POD is a new activity for school children in year 7.
5. The Church continues its commitment to children and young peoples' ministry. A full-time Youth Outreach worker is jointly employed with our partner churches. Little Fishes continues to be, for many, a first introduction to church life and is currently oversubscribed. Get Set and Adventurers continue to engage with children of primary school age during the week.

Due to covid restrictions, it was not possible to hold our regular groups in a physical way through much of 2021. However, we continued meeting our commitments via zoom and YouTube.

6. During the year the Church continued to consider the use of its buildings and possible developments that might be undertaken to further the mission of the Church in the future. A small working group under the Building for the Kingdom Project has been working on developing proposals and has fed back to the PCC and church members for further input during the year.

The parish's financial position has seen a net income of -£5,336 which is up in 2020's net income of -£18,892. This was largely due to the following:

1. An introduction of contactless giving

The PCC considers that the Building Reserve of £25,000 is an appropriate sum to set aside for unforeseen repairs required to the Church building. However, it is committed to increasing this reserve by a transfer of £5,000 from the General Fund each year when surplus funds are available.

The balance on the General Reserves at the end of the year was £76,311, a decrease of £5,127 from the start of the year. This is higher than the agreed policy of holding reserves equal to three months' unrestricted expenditure - circa £55,253 at December 2021. Meanwhile designated funds of £13,951 are also available and could be undesignated by the PCC if required.

### ***Extracted Information from the Accounts***

<b>Various items of Income</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Gift Aided Giving via Bank Standing Orders	66,245	69,790
Gift Aided Giving via Envelopes	17,169	20,150
Non-Gift Aided Giving via Standing Orders	5,892	4,471
Non-Gift Aided Giving via Envelopes	6,365	855
Giving via Plate Collection	7,952	4,244
Donations to the General Fund (day to day housekeeping fund)	6,606	903
Gift Aid received on giving to the General Fund	22,583	20,879
Advent Thanksgiving Gifts	17,375	15,450
Legacies	-	-
Letting/Hire of Upper Hall	17,047	8,541
Letting/Hire of Church and Centre	370	790
Fees for Weddings and Funerals (PCC retained)	1,622	1,087
Bible Study Notes sales	240	401
Well coffee and cake sales	695	396
Rental income from 171 Mitcham Lane	26,028	26,400
Children's Ministry receipts (Get Set, Little Fishes, Holiday Clubs etc)	769	557
Donations to Crosslinks (from individuals)	-	-

<b>Various items of Expenditure</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Fairer Share (contribution to Diocese)	80,300	78,417
Church Insurance	6,306	6,528
Hall Insurance	1,549	1,694
Church Utilities (heat and light)	6,689	7,490
Hall Utilities	3,214	2,862
Church Repairs & Maintenance	11,970	5,689
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	2,013	1,581
171 Mitcham Lane Maintenance and Expenses	4,999	2,561
Contribution to shared Churches Youth Ministries	-	-
Salaries and Support	45,304	45,313
Clergy Expenses	162	176
Church Catering - incl Well	523	244
Printing and Production	1,622	1,801
Postage and Telephone	1,222	1,344
Examination of Accounts	1,200	1,200
Mission Support through tithe on Regular Giving	12,129	12,512
Crosslinks Donations (non - tithe)	-	-

**St. James Church West Streatham**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2021**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £	2020 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	145,387	4,160	-	149,547	148,688
Charitable activities	41,420	2,583	-	44,003	33,334
Other trading activities	935	-	-	935	960
Investments	26,181	-	-	26,181	26,610
Other	1,161	-	-	1,161	5,193
<b>Total</b>	<b>215,084</b>	<b>6,743</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>221,827</b>	<b>214,785</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities:</b>					
Church activities	137,193	3,152	-	140,345	146,727
Salaries and support costs	45,304	-	-	45,304	45,313
Management and administration	4,777	-	-	4,777	4,424
Mission giving and charitable donations	33,737	3,000	-	36,737	37,213
<b>Total</b>	<b>221,011</b>	<b>6,152</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>227,163</b>	<b>233,677</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>	<b>(5,927)</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(5,336)</b>	<b>(18,892)</b>
Transfers between funds	(5,917)	5,917	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>11,844</b>	<b>6,508</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(5,336)</b>	<b>(18,892)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward	102,106	3,411	100,613	206,130	225,017
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>90,262</b>	<b>9,919</b>	<b>100,613</b>	<b>200,794</b>	<b>206,130</b>

## St. James Church West Streatham

### Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Curates House 171 Mitcham Lane	100,613	100,613
	<b>100,613</b>	<b>100,613</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	92,611	92,588
Investments	8,659	8,659
Sundry debtors	12,574	17,206
Prepayments	1,200	1,139
	<b>115,044</b>	<b>127,576</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accrual Independent Examination	1,200	1,200
Creditor HMRC PAYE & NI	6	6
Other sundry creditors and accruals	13,657	12,869
	<b>14,863</b>	<b>14,075</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>106,924</b>	<b>105,517</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>200,794</b>	<b>206,130</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Unrestricted funds	76,311	81,438
Designated funds	13,951	20,668
Restricted funds	9,919	3,411
Endowment funds	100,613	100,613
	<b>200,794</b>	<b>206,130</b>

## **Building and Fabric Report**

Over the past year we have seen various steady improvements and repairs in St James church building

1. Leaks have been repaired in the roof in 3 places, 2 above the church centre, and 1 above the side chapel
2. A blockage has removed from the down pipe on roof above the centre (Welham Road side).
3. The old timber serving hatch in the kitchen has been replaced with a metal shutter as part of the on going fire safety improvements.
4. A fire door leading to the toilets from the centre has been added
5. Crash bars have been added the door near the organ, making it a proper fire exit.
6. Work is continuing on the redecoration of the toilets in the centre
7. We have had our 5 year electrical wiring assessment with all necessary works carried out to receive a satisfactory report.

All these issues are part of the overall improvements and repairs necessary to keep our buildings in good shape, however there is always lots to do with an old building and we are blessed by having a handyman available to continue with jobs as they arise like replacing worn out locks, re-varnishing the outside doors to keep them weatherproof, keeping an eye on the flooring, repairing the roof panels in the centre, to name but a few.

We have been blessed with a wonderful premises which will need updating and these updates are proposed in the BFK ideas in another part of this document.

*John Talbot*  
**Churchwarden**

## Building for the Kingdom Report

I have often heard it said that a year is a long time in politics, however as I sit down to write this year's Building for the Kingdom report I am reflecting on the fact that this seems to have been a very long, turbulent and challenging year. However, through the challenge of lockdowns, furlough and remote meetings God has remained good, faithful, and true; with the building project making steady progress.

Since I last reported to you, we have achieved a number of significant milestones:

- Following our earlier meeting with members of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), we received feedback on our draft feasibility study. This feedback was beneficial in helping us understand some of the concerns that a full DAC body could have with our approach, giving us enough time to consider if and how we could adjust our plans to be more in keeping with the wishes of the Diocese.
- To support the feasibility study (but more in service of getting us ready for the next stage(s) of the project), we commissioned and received a Heritage Report on St James, and an Initial Planning Appraisal. These are interesting documents which will serve us well as we move forward and engage the local community, potential donors, sponsors, and our local borough planning department.
- In May 2021 we hosted two opens sessions for the PCC. Along with our architect partners JBKS, members of the BFK working group spent time engaging the PCC, bring to life the feasibility study draft drawings and 3D graphical designs for how we could remodel our existing Church building and Church centre to support our mission and worship ambitions. It was really encouraging to see how engaged and supporting the PCC were with our plans and provided lots of good builds and feedback to JBKS on potential improvements to their designs.
- Building on the feedback received from the DAC and the PCC, JBKS completed their feasibility study which they presented to us during the Summer of 2021 including first Cost Estimates of what it could conceivably cost to achieve our building ambitions.
- During the summer we received additional support from the DAC in the form of a Mentor. This valuable resource has been able to share insights and examples from other building projects, helping us refine our thinking and plans ahead of another round of engagement with the PCC.
- In Autumn we had a series of meetings with the PCC where we were able to answer their questions and receive input into feasibility study and our plans. These meetings culminated in March 2022 where we received formal agreement from the PCC to engage and share plans with the Church family. We are currently considering the best way to do this and will come back to you later in the year with how we plan to move forward.

So, as you can see a lot has happened in the past twelve months; however before I close, I would like to leave you with the following two points:

1. We are a very long way from the first stone being laid in any new development, however we have reached an important crossroad. For us to progress to the next stage of this project and build a 'firmer' cost model, more detailed plans, engage the local planning teams and the wider community we require three groups to provide their assent:
  - i. St James PCC - The PCC needed to provide consensus that the feasibility study, and the financial and economic models underpinning the business case show that our building project could be viable if we were able to raise the necessary funds.
  - ii. St James Church Family - Now that we have received permission to progress from the PCC, we now need to engage the Church Congregation,

explaining our plans to move forward and how we plan to fund and then sustain any future building project. We understand that we will need to give every member of the Congregation enough time and space to reflect, raise questions and share concerns before we move onto the final stage in this decision-making process.

iii. The Diocese - The final stage in this process will be to get Diocesan approval to move forward. Whilst we do not believe the DAC will say 'no' to a proposal that is backed by both the PCC and the Church, the DAC are critical stakeholders in any capital re-development of Church buildings and will take a 'keen' interest in both our financial and ecclesiastical plans for our new buildings.

2. For us to successfully navigate future challenges we are missing a number of key roles on the Building for the Kingdom working group - these are:

i. A person to support our fundraising efforts

ii. A treasurer to ensure we have good financial governance

iii. A clerk to ensure we are organised and keep accurate records

iv. A person with skills and experience in modern communication techniques

All these roles are invaluable and necessary if we are to continue moving forward successfully. Can I ask that if you have these skills or know of someone within either our Church family or community who would be willing to support us please let me know as God has need of your skills.

Finally, I would like to finish this report with a paragraph I used in a recent letter to the PCC..... *"thank you for your continued support and prayers. They are needed and greatly welcomed. My mother who has recently been promoted in faith had two sayings that I am very fond of and a timely reminder that nothing happens without God's good grace. The first was always to be careful about what you wish for (as you might have your wishes granted), and secondly God never gives you more than you can bear. So, I prayerfully wish that God's plans for His buildings at St James are fulfilled, and although daunted by the scale of this project, if it be His will then He will make available all the resources, skills and experience we need to be successful! ".....*

I thank God for his continued support with this project.

**Mike White** (Chair - Building For the Kingdom)

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

### ***Children's Worker Report***

From March 2020 to July 2021, the children's work of St James' was adapted in order to safely reach as many families of our Sunday and midweek groups as possible during COVID times. A children's page on the St James' Church website was created during this time in place of Sunday school groups. It was updated weekly, in time for the weekend, and included a Bible story video; discussion questions; a summary & application; worksheets; and printable crafts. Some of the topics covered on the Children's page included Old Testament stories; New Testament Parables; the Christmas story; Jesus' ministry; and Easter. The Children's Page ran through to Summer 2021, just before the Sunday children's groups restarted, and can still be found on the church website.

In April 2021, the Powell Family filmed an Easter Fun video, which was streamed on the Church website and social media platforms. The Meaningful Chocolate Company Easter Eggs were also delivered to over 100 children from Sunday and midweek groups.

In order to keep in contact with the children of Sunday and midweek groups, hand-written letters were sent to each child, which also included a craft activity for them to work on. Letters to each child were sent twice over the lockdown period. It was lovely to receive replies from some children and to see how they were getting on during this tough time.

Thankfully, in September 2021, all midweek and Sunday children's groups were able to restart with certain protocols in place in order to keep both children and leaders as safe as possible.

**Bethany Powell**

### ***Sunday Children's Ministry***

The Sunday Children's groups, Creche (birth-nursery); Bubbles (reception-year 1); and Splash (years 2-5), restarted in September 2021, at the start of the new school year.

Due to a number of children moving up from Splash and a current lack of Sunday Youth ministry, a decision was made to create a new group to accommodate these older children. This group is called Xstream, and it welcomes children from school years 6+.

Due to the large number of children on the registers for both Splash and Xstream groups, they now meet in FYC after being dismissed during the service, as it is a larger and more appropriate space.

As a number of Sunday group volunteers stepped down from their roles prior to the groups restarting, an effort was made to recruit new volunteers to take on leading and assisting roles. Gratefully a few people joined the team, but due to not having enough volunteers to run the groups three Sundays a month as we previously did, the decision was made to change the third Sunday to an all-age service. The groups now run on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month, and this will continue until we have a sufficient number of volunteers.

Bubbles, Splash and Xstream all started the term learning stories from the Old Testament, which included Creation; Adam and Eve; Noah and the Ark; Abraham; and Joshua. They ended the term with the Christmas story.

It is a pleasure being able to see the children of St James grow in their knowledge and relationship with God. It is also wonderful to welcome new children to the Sunday groups, whether they are one-off visitors or new members of the church family.

The Sunday Children's Team this year is:

Creche: Rachael Aldrin-Quaye, Kelly Ball and Ruth Derruau.

Bubbles: Sarah Murdock, Marion Bird, Grace Museve, Glynis Wilkinson and Alan Burrows.

Splash: Bethany Powell, Jo Seymour-Davies and Claire Powell.

Xstream: Claire Powell, Glynis Wilkinson, Paul Rook and Diana Rook.

**Bethany Powell**

## ***Little Fishes***

Sadly, the very popular Little Fishes toddler group remained closed for the first half of the year due to covid. However, we were able to reopen in September and it was such a joy to welcome parents, carers and children back through our doors. Little Fishes is intentionally Gospel-centred, with an hour of open play in the Church Centre followed by song and story time in church. The songs are all explicitly Christian and the story is taken straight from the Bible, performed by our wonderful puppets. In the autumn term we focused on stories from the Old Testament, including a few of our favourites like the healing of Naaman and the call of Samuel. Each session ends with bubbles and a simple prayer of blessing, followed by refreshments.

Due to covid restrictions we have had to limit numbers and have moved to an online booking system, which seems to work very well. Needless to say, we are full every week and look forward to more space when the Building for the Kingdom project comes to fruition. I am so grateful to our faithful team - Sarah Byron Evans, Kelly Thompson, Natasha Saint M'leux, Glynis Wilkinson, Beth Powell, Lucille Quallo, Alan and Lisa Burrows. We sadly waved goodbye to our crazy guitar hero, Johan Allen, at Christmas and have since welcomed Natasha Kumar as our new keyboard player.

Please continue to pray that the Lord will use Little Fishes to proclaim the good news of Jesus to families in Furzedown and beyond.

**Rob Powell**

## ***Adventurers***

Adventurers is our midweek club for children in School Years 3-6. It reopened in September 2021 and runs on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in term time in the Centre at 5.45pm. In the Summer of 2021, the decision was made to not reopen Get Set, as we had hardly any children in School Years Reception-2 on the register. Because we had a large number of children either returning to or joining Adventurers, we decided that we needed an extra Adventurers club to accommodate all of these children. Since September 2021, 25 children have attended regularly over the two sessions.

Sessions begin with games, followed by a story from the Bible. After this we enjoy a craft, quiz or treasure hunt, and more games. From September to December 2021, we learnt about stories from the Old Testament, including Abraham, Moses and Joseph. We finished off the term by learning about the Christmas story, which culminated in two Christingle events which the children and their families attended. These events were a great success and were enjoyed by all. We do hope and pray for more families of children in our midweek groups to become a part of the St. James Church family.

The Adventurers team this year are: Bethany Powell, Claire Powell, Rob Powell, Glynis Wilkinson, Amelie Mason (DofE) and Ruby Coulson.

**Bethany Powell**

## ***POD***

'POD' (Pocket of Disciples) is a Bible-based small group and was created to support the young people who graduate from Adventurers. POD reopened in September 2021 and meets in FYC on Thursday evenings at 6pm. We start with a catch-up over a drink and a snack, and move on to an ice-breaker at 6:15pm. This is followed by a short Bible and prayer time, a game and a craft

activity. Upon reopening, we had 10 young people regularly attending POD throughout the autumn term. Unfortunately, since Christmas 2021, we have lost 3 members mostly due to other commitments.

In the Autumn Term, we taught a Bible series on emotions. This ran over four sessions and included discussions around what the Bible says about Fear, Joy, Anger and Thankfulness. This was followed by a series on the book of Daniel, which included more in-depth teaching about Daniel's move to Babylon; Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego; Daniel & the lions; and Nebuchadnezzar's downfall.

It is a real joy to get to know and support the young people of POD and have the weekly opportunity to teach them about Jesus.

The POD team are: Bethany Powell, Claire Powell, and Glynis Wilkinson.

**Bethany Powell**

### ***LAG (Learning About God)***

Learning about God (LAG) is a mid-week Bible study for boys in secondary school. None of them regularly attend church; therefore, LAG is a "fresh expression of faith, meaning it is church for them". Since we started the group in September 2021, we have learnt about various people in the Bible - Joseph and Samson to name a few. Each week we start with some fun games and an ice-breaker. Then we will do different activities to illustrate learning objectives or and themes from scripture. Between now and the next half term, we are discussing Creation: What Happened at the Beginning? Most of the sessions are tailored to their age and point in life, making it easier to implement the key principles and their learning objectives.

The LAG Team is: Paul Rook, Glynis Wilkinson and Alan Burrows

**Paul Rook**

### ***Furzedown Youth Centre***

From 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, FYC partnered with Enable Leisure And Culture to provide a Youth Café for Sixth Form students at Graveney school. During the first three weeks of using the Pavilion on the Rec, we had large numbers each week (130+). The students were very thankful and appreciated the service (hot drinks, games, and warm safe space to be) we were providing them.

Since January this year, the number of students attending rapidly dropped. We went from 135 to around 40. When we discussed this with the students, they informed us that their timetables had changed, meaning that we had to change our timings, to accommodate their lunch break (1:30pm-2:15pm (45mins)). For those who do come along they enjoy playing football, hot drinks, Uno and being able to use the space on the Rec. However, many students no longer attend.

In recent weeks, we have been discussing how we adapt our provision so that we have a greater impact, for example, Enable Leisure And Culture are considering changing the times they wish to operate on the Rec (e.g.; instead of 1:30pm -2:15pm (45mins) they think 4pm-6pm (2hours) will work better and have a bigger impact).

St Paul's Youth Café is also experiencing the same drop in numbers each session. Before Christmas, we had 160 students attend one session and now we average between 40 - 80. The

change in timetable has impacted our ability to engage with more students and now less students are staying for long periods. We too are now having to adapt and rethink how we can support students.

Now that we have more volunteers, we have decided to split everyone into two different teams (one team does 11:30am - 12:30pm, which covers break time and the other team does 1:30pm-2:30pm, covering the lunch break). The Café is still open for students between 12:30pm and 1:30pm, just in case there are students who wish to use the space, but most are in lessons. One thing that we are looking to do is create a SPYC End of Summer Term Celebration Event whereby students who come and play the piano get to perform to the community, parents, teachers. Some students are keen to be involved in this.

Our Street Dance Classes (London Youth Getting Active Fund) we are doing in partnership with Dance Grooves and Goldfinch Primary School is going well. Since January this year we have delivered two street dance classes each week to 40 pupils. Between January and February, pupils learnt one dance routine, which was recorded so their parents could see what they had done. From February to end of March, pupils learnt a new dance routine, which was recorded. All the students have enjoyed these classes, especially when they were being taught by Natorri, an instructor who starred on the latest James Bond movie (No Time To Die).

Unfortunately, Emily Reed, Founder of Dance Grooves is no longer able to support our London Youth Getting Active Fund at Goldfinch Primary School, as she has lost a lot of instructors due to the pandemic and has had to close her business. We are in contact with a new Dance Company to see if they can complete our remaining 7 weeks of classes for next term.

Our Friday Night Youth Club is going well. Since January we had a regular amount of young people come along each week. We now have a 'Speakers Corner', which enables young people to openly, honestly, and respectfully discuss trends, themes, and topics that they are facing. To make the 'Speaker's Corner' stand out young people made different paintings and encouraging words. Two older students (14/16) have agreed to become part of Junior Leadership Team, meaning we now have four Junior Leaders.

**Paul Rook (Youth Outreach Worker)**

## **ADULT MINISTRIES**

### ***Small Groups***

A vital element in our strategy for nurture and discipleship here at St James is our Small Group system. Groups consist of between six and twelve people, meeting fortnightly in homes or the Church Centre, to worship, pray, study the Bible and care for each other. Studies are based on the sermon from the previous Sunday, which enables group members to delve deeper into God's word together and to help each other understand and apply it to our lives.

During the height of the pandemic most groups met online, but thankfully were able to begin meeting in person again by the autumn.

It is our longing to see every church member belonging to a Small Group, so please speak to Rob if you would like to find out more.

**Rob Powel**

## ***Pastoral Care***

Even through the Covid lockdown experienced early 2021, St James team of SPA (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries) and willing volunteers continued to meet the pastoral needs of many of our dear church family members with continuing to distribute parish mail and regular telephone calls.

Our SPA's providing pastoral support are John Farebrother, Carol Patterson, and Glynis Wilkinson (SPA to Children and Families).

**Glynis Wilkinson**

## ***Men's Group***

The Men's Group is a social group which meets up on the first Thursday of every month and is made up of men of all ages from all corners of our church family and beyond.

Events include pub nights, ten pin bowling, and meals out. In 2021 we continued our exploration of new venues each month, mainly around Streatham and Tooting. However this year we are holding most of our pub evenings back at the new Furzedown pub on Mitcham Lane, which is closest to the church. All men are welcome to attend; we also encourage men from outside our church family to join us too. If you've never been to one of our gatherings, I would urge you to join us; look out for details of our next outing on the church website and on our social media platforms. Do contact me if you would like to be added to the group WhatsApp; I would also welcome feedback from anyone with new venue or activity ideas for future events!

**Adam Seymour-Davies**

## ***The Well***

The Well is our community café that opens on Tuesdays from 9am-12pm in term times in the Church Centre. Due to Liz Gibbons and Sue Allen retiring from The Well in the Summer of 2021 after many years of service, The Well reopened in September 2021 under new management and is now run by Bethany Powell and Jo Seymour-Davies.

The Well is attended by a variety of people from the community, including child-minders; parents coming from the school drop-off; members from Churches in the Furzedown area; and long-time regulars. The Well is also child-friendly, providing toys to play with in the Children's Corner and age-appropriate drinks and snacks.

Since reopening, The Well has a revised and updated menu with a variety of food and drink, including teas; coffees; hot chocolate; breakfast pastries; tea cakes and toast.

The Well continues to thrive, and it is always a pleasure to welcome the community into our relaxed and friendly café.

**Bethany Powell**

## ***Policies and procedures for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults***

These are kept under regular review and are brought to the PCC annually.

Judy Douglas

### ***Mission Partners***

It has been our practice for many years to set aside 10% of our general income to support God's mission elsewhere.

In 2021 we have been blessed to continue our long-term relationship through Crosslinks with Alun & Debbie Burt in Heideveld, South Africa. In addition to our mission tithe commitment to them we allocated a third of the 2021 Advent Gift Day proceeds to their support, in light of the rising costs they are facing in the next few years. We are committed to playing our part in ensuring that this essential Gospel ministry continues.

We continue to support the work of FYC locally as it seeks to reach out in word and deed to the young people of Furzedown. In addition to our mission tithe commitment to FYC, we allocated a third of the 2021 Advent Gift Day proceeds to their support. You can read more about their work elsewhere in this booklet.

Rob Powell

### ***Holiday @ Home***

We were late in deciding to go ahead with H@H last year, due to uncertainty with the coronavirus pandemic. However, we decided to go ahead with the theme of 'Furzedownton Abbey' with Mitcham Lane Baptist Church being transformed into various parts of a grand house! Due to the pandemic, we decided not to have a trip out, but had 4 days 'at home'. As ever, we were very grateful to all the volunteers, who not only came to help, but played parts as butler, footmen, housekeeper, kitchen staff, and lord and lady of the manor! The week saw good attendance, perhaps because it was one of the first opportunities for people to get together again. The food was served in the main part of the church, with special carpet being laid down over the newly laid carpet at MLBC! The food was very much enjoyed, as were the various activities, which included flower arranging from Wendy Clarke, and chair dancing from Barbara West.

Despite being more 'last minute' than usual and not having a trip out, guests thought it was one of the best, if not the best, of the Holiday at Homes we've put on. We will have difficulty in topping it this year! We look forward to welcoming guests and volunteers in August!

Marc Richeux

## Deanery Synod

Tooting Deanery Synod met several times in 2021 over Zoom & in person. This included a meeting with Bishop Richard who addressed the deanery synod, drawing attention to the 'big vision' of God's love given the aim "to gather up all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth ." (Eph 1: 10). He pointed out that the pandemic had drawn attention to the significance of interrelatedness across the world and some of the effects of the way we lived-out our lives. Post-pandemic the mission of the church must be to help "build back better" - and it is important that our gospel is not too small, so that as we look forward we keep in mind "the cosmic vision of the scriptures". [www.anglicancommunion.org/mission/marks-of-mission.aspx](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/mission/marks-of-mission.aspx)

At the meetings a wide range of topics covered included:

- Eco-church & climate change. Churches discussed going green/sustainability progress, resources, planned community awareness events and ideas that have emerged across the deanery
- Compassion Projects happening in the deanery
  1. Syrian family who arrived in Tooting February 2020 under the Government "Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme", after they had spent time in a refugee camp in Lebanon
  2. A debt advice service (linked to the Crosslight organisation) has been running out of Ascension Church, with advisers also coming from other churches and across the deanery
- Living in Love & Faith course which ran for 5 weeks starting in September 2021 online & in person. The purpose of the course & resources used was to enable the Church of England churches across the country to participate in a process of learning and praying together as part of discerning a way forward in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage
- Meeting & praying for Wendy Stephens the newly licensed Anglican minister at HMP Wandsworth. She discussed her work in the prison, the impact that COVID-19 had on the prisoners & how the churches in the deanery can support her & the prisoners going forward

During the year elections took place for Diocesan Synod & General Synod

The meetings are well attended with in-person meetings taking place in various churches in the deanery.

St James is represented by Rev. Rob Powell, Rev, Johan Allen, Glynis Wilkinson, Liz Gibbons, Alan Burrows and Ailie Neill

**Ailie Neill**

## Diocesan Synod

Diocesan Synod, which is the governing body of Southwark Diocese, met three times in 2021, in March, July and November. I was appointed to continue as a member of the new Synod that started work in November 2020. I am also a member of the Diocesan Council of Trustees, which has met three times, and chair the Policy and Finance Committee.

The 'normal' business of any governing body included items such as the Annual Report and Accounts for 2021 (we ended with an unexpected surplus of about £4.5M, primarily due to the timing of sales and purchases of property), setting a Budget for 2022 (a projected deficit of

about £1.1M, on a turnover of £26.2million), reviewing and updating the Risk Register and setting and reviewing of Objectives for 2021 and 2022, together with on-going discussion and review of progress with the diocesan Strategy for Mission ('Hearts on Fire'\*\*), based on the Anglican Five Marks of Mission, and which feeds down into our deanery, team and parish Mission Action Plans.

The emphasis of Synod has shifted significantly from forming the Strategic Vision for Mission across the Diocese, and working up of plans in two significant areas of development, to implementation of these plans while seeking to repair the financial effects of Covid over the last 2 years. The financial strategy was to maintain an annual surplus year on year, based on the generosity of parish giving through the Parish Share system, and to build up working reserves to see us through the years ahead. Clearly this has been impeded by the impact of COVID-19, and whilst the 2021 and 2022 results turned out to be better than expected in the circumstances, due to some one-off items, including unexpected grants and property gains, the projection for 2022 suggests this year will be in deficit, with a return to surplus only in 2023. Bids are also being pursued for further strategic development grants from the Church of England Commissioners, together with a new Mission Innovation fund. The diocese is especially grateful for the faithful and generous support received from parishes through this very difficult time.

The first area of implementation has been following the work of the advisory group on Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry in Southwark, building on the excellent report for the Archbishops' Council: 'Setting God's People Free'. Implementation has included the formation of the Lay Council, bringing together the governance and development of the Reader and SPA ministries. Further work is centred on the recognition, encouragement and development of the work of various ministries undertaken by many lay people within our parishes and communities, including, but not limited to work with youth and children and pastoral care in all its forms.

The second area under implementation has been the development, indeed transformation, of our Deaneries, seeking to breathe new life into their workings, in order to ensure that deaneries become viable centres of mission and ministry. Work is on-going to establish Deanery Leadership Teams in each deanery together with the appointment of Mission Accompaniers, all facilitated by a major update of the Rules and Constitution for Deanery Synods. Training is being offered for Area Deans and Lay Chairs to help them to implement the hoped for transformation. However, this programme of renewal has been slowed by the effects of Covid.

More recently, the Synod has agreed an Anti-Racism Charter and has begun to consider our response to the major Church of England report, "From Lament to Action", seeking to make a sea change to the church's attitudes to racial inequality and injustice within the church, diocese and parishes. The Synod has also encouraged parishes to engage with the Living in Love and Faith process for listening to and learning from each other in the area of human sexuality. Progress has been made towards recognition as an 'Eco Diocese', and ways to achieve the challenging target for Net Zero Carbon Emissions have been discussed.

The past year has therefore been one largely of consolidation rather than innovation, made possible by the relative health of our finances despite the circumstances we are living through. For this, the diocese is hugely thankful for the continuing generous support by our parishes through the Parish Support Fund, not least St James which continues to cover our full costs. Looking forward, 2022 is likely to present particular challenges as we seek to adjust our expenditure to more closely match our income while maintaining our focus on Mission. However, with the support of parishes and of the Church of England Commissioners, and the provision and grace of our wonderful God, we trust that the ministry and mission of the diocese will continue to flourish.

\*\* The diocesan Strategy for Mission, *Hearts on Fire*, restates our commitment to mission, grounded in prayer, that the growth of the kingdom of God may be at the heart of all we do. In particular, we will:

- Serve our Communities;

- Share our faith with great joy and gladness;
- Be the Church: a people with hearts on fire, loving God, walking with Jesus and led by the Holy Spirit.

**Nick Burt**  
May 2022

## Contents

<b>Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Summarised Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b> ...	<b>6</b>
<b>Summary of Accounts and Notes</b> .....	<b>8</b>
PCC Meetings .....	8
Review of the year .....	8
Summary of Accounts and Notes.....	8
Extracted Information from the Accounts.....	10
<b>Building and Fabric Report</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Building for the Kingdom Report</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Children's Worker Report.....	16
Sunday Children's Ministry .....	16
LAG (Learning About God) .....	18
Adventurers .....	17
POD.....	17
Little Fishes .....	18
<b>Furzedown Youth Centre</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>ADULT MINISTRIES</b> .....	<b>19</b>
Small Groups.....	<b>19</b>
Pastoral Care.....	20
Men's Group.....	20
The Well .....	20
Policies and procedures for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults.....	21
Mission Partners .....	21
Holiday @ Home .....	21
<b>Deanery Synod</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>Diocesan Synod</b> .....	<b>22</b>

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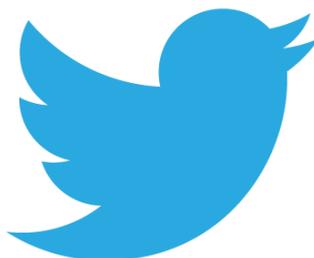
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