



# Parish Reports 2021-2022

Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
24 April 2022

St Mary the Virgin  
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## The Archives of St Mary's

In this second year with Coronavirus restrictions, many of our church activities have been recorded, including the arrangements for services and Zoom contacts as well as the Vicar's weekly letters to the congregation near and far. Records of last year's re-ordering work inside the church have been kept, along with a large array of photographs showing the remains of the brickwork of the medieval crypt and under-floor burials such as that of Alexander Pope.

Enquiries are received from all over the world, most concerning family history research on matters which are accessible online, such as baptisms, marriages or funerals, in the often vain hope that our archives can provide more details.

- These have included a son searching for his father's time as a pupil at the Police Orphanage school at Wellesley House and another remembering his own time at the Fortescue House School in London Road pre-1937.
- Another enquirer recalled a gravestone inscription from his youth recording that a man had died after his razor fell and cut his toe; sadly my extensive enquiries could not find anything to corroborate this remarkable tale!
- Malcolm Tyler, curate at St Mary's 1985-88, recently retired as vicar in Walsgrave, Coventry. Donald Simpson's albums produced several excellent photos of his wedding here and our farewell service which I was able to send over for their own farewell events.
- I gave a talk to St Mary's Monday Group about Twickenham's slave-owning links and the six or seven of the church's 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century memorials to local residents, men and women, from slave-owning families.
- An interesting enquiry concerned the V1 bomb that fell in 1944 on Gotham Villas. The writer's mother, now aged 90, asked for the address in Water Lane where her uncle had lost his wife and son and the family home. Shock waves from the same bomb killed Freda Hammerton's father, aged only 36, who was standing nearby.

Photographic records continue to join the archives, including an album of photographs compiled in 2004-2006 with dates but no names, showing the summer fairs, harvest supper & barn dance and the Mothers' Union Christmas party. Many in today's congregation have helped in putting names to some of the faces. Further offers of photographs are always very welcome in these digital times.

The Archives are now housed in the north gallery, the vestry and the tower and there is more work to do on checking the catalogue and updating lists so that it will be possible to publicise the archives and answer research queries more accurately.

Diana Wells  
Hon. Archivist

## Bellringers

We were very pleased to be back bellringing at St Mary's. Since lockdown restrictions lifted and morning Sunday services resumed, we've rung every Sunday morning and practiced almost every Wednesday.

We demonstrated ringing at the Summer Fair in June, rang before the Mayor of Richmond's inauguration service in October and opened the Church Street Christmas Fair in December. Over the past 12 months there have been two groups of visiting ringers and two quarter peals: one for a Christmas Carol Concert and the second to celebrate 20 years of Jeff being Vicar here. Jeff is very supportive of the bells so we were honoured to be part of the celebration.

By opening the West Doors for ventilation when ringing, we received many positive comments from passers-by. Two former ringers have returned and their experience is really welcome in progressing our small band. At present we have one keen learner, who is improving week by week. We've forged links with All Hallows, Twickenham and St Mary's, Richmond, where we've helped out and supported each other when needed. All Hallows' bells are slightly easier to ring so with their help, we have four new ringers starting to learn there before returning to St Mary's. We're very grateful for All Hallows' help and are very keen to welcome the new ringers to St Mary's practice nights and of course, Sunday morning ringing. As well as concentrating on our ringing I hope we can keep the practice night an enjoyable evening to socialise.

In June we will be marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with bellringing and in the summer we aim to have an outing to visit a few other local churches. We hope to continue to improve the standard and range of the ringing for Sunday mornings and expand the group by welcoming new members. Thank you to all the bellringers, and non-ringers, who are supportive of the bells, it's a wonderfully cross-generational activity, which I hope we can continue to encourage at St Mary's.

Liz Sephton  
Tower Captain

### **Buildings Group**

The Group reports to the PCC on the care of the church fabric and on the maintenance of the hall. We work closely with the Church Wardens and our Buildings Manager, Katie Kean.

The easing of Covid restrictions has meant that the Group has been able to resume face to-face meetings.

Following the successful re-ordering project in 2020 there has been little essential work needed for the church, other than certain remedial works; the hearing loop has been reinstated the handrail by the south door steps has been repaired after vandalism. Two of the spotlights on the tower have been reinstated. We have repaired a loose flashing to the Vestry roof, reinforced our defences against roosting pigeons and installed a 'telltale' overflow pipe at high level as an alert for a blocked gutter.

In the hall, the Windsor Room kitchen has been renovated and the room has also been repainted. The Off the Record facilities in the old Parish Hall have been upgraded with an efficient new ventilation system. In the Memorial Garden the sundial has been repaired and new commemorative benches have been installed.

Looking ahead, we hope the long-running tower louvre replacement will soon be completed. We are pursuing our plans for the ability to stream live services from the church, and to install a ramp for wheelchair access into the Memorial Garden. The south door, long in need of restoration, will be repaired and redecorated. In the hall, we are planning to install better lighting in the Windsor Room. We anticipate that we will finally have to invest in a new hall boiler and we will be looking to reduce our carbon footprint.

My thanks to all members of the Group, the Wardens and others in the congregation who have again so generously of their time and skills. We always welcome more helpers so if you would like to join us, do get in touch.

Geoff Noble  
Chair, Buildings Group

## Charitable Giving

Because of the pandemic there has been a drastic cut in the scale of our charitable giving. Nonetheless it was found possible to allocate £320 at the end of 2021 to eleven of the charities we supported in the previous year. These are:

- Age U.K.
- Challengers, offering inclusive play for children and young people with disabilities
- Embracing Age, offering friendship and support to those living in care homes
- Growbaby, providing free clothes, equipment and toys for the under 5's to families who cannot afford these
- Intergenerational Music Making, working in partnership with educational institutions to provide music therapy for those with dementia or other health problems
- Kingston Samaritans
- Friends of Mengo Hospital (Uganda) U.K.
- Mission Aviation Fellowship, offering air transport for those facing medical or other emergencies in the remotest parts of the world
- Mission for Vision, working in partnership with local churches in African countries to provide free eye care
- Mothers' Union Overseas Development Fund, promoting family life in poorer countries
- Friends of Vellore (Medical College in southern India) U.K.
- It was good to know that HANDS no longer needs our help.

We welcomed speakers on behalf of some of the above, namely, in January, Aydee Burke, Head of Communications and Community Fundraising for Age U.K. Richmond and, in February, our own Barbara Williams, who told us of the work of the Mothers' Union Overseas Development Fund. We look forward to hearing from Christian Aid in May, Mission Aviation Fellowship in June, Intergenerational Music Making in July and one other at Harvest Thanksgiving in September.

Most recently we are delighted that the church premises are being used by the Ukrainian restaurant "Prosperity" for the sorting and storing of donations while two members of the congregation have been raising funds by making button holes displaying the colours of the Ukrainian flag.

Off the Record continues to enjoy office space courtesy of St. Mary's.

Immense gratitude goes to members of the congregation for their generous support of all these causes.

Sophy Fisher

## Children and Young People

Our Church Vision is to seek to nurture our children and young people with a sense of God. We want them to develop their spiritual lives, opening themselves to God's love, and be welcomed, loved and involved within our church community. In 2021 we had the continuing challenge of reaching out whilst coping with the continuing and changing Covid safety requirements.

Along with the 9.30 Sunday service, the Sunday school and SMG continued online until the end of August. The two sessions, one for the 3-8 years children and one for our young people from Sunday school and SMG, had some very regular attendees, including Father Jeff! Julie, Katherine and Lacy kindly and heroically kept on leading the groups. The children and young people showed astonishing dedication and spiritual awareness during this time and formed an even stronger bond with one another. They also continued to join in some third Sunday zoom services, taking over the 'sermon' spot, with real thoughtfulness and spirituality.

Julie managed to organise one outdoor get together at the beginning of May when it was lovely to see our regular 'zoomers' in person, as well as some of our old faces too. What a delight it was to share some thoughts, songs and prayers on the theme of 'Love and friendship'.

A real highlight of the year was St Mary's engagement with Communion before Confirmation. The introductory course was led by Fr Jeff and Katherine, where the many children and young people attending showed real spiritual insight and engagement, in spite of the necessary zooming of the sessions. 4<sup>th</sup> July was a wonderful day when all the families were able to come into church, in spite of Covid requirements, for a very moving and celebratory Eucharist, when 20 of our young church congregation received Communion for the first time.

Sunday school returned face to face in September, with three groups, Scramblers - 3-5s years, Explorers - 5-8 years, and Adventurers 8+ and SMG combining in the third. Many thanks to Katie, Julie, Lacy and other leaders and helpers for reintroducing our face to face groups. Uptake by families was not strong, as the focus for many was trying to keep their children free from Covid so they could attend school. Those who came were warmly welcomed. Sadly we are still very low in numbers as very many families have still not yet returned to church. This is something we really need to focus on in the year ahead.

We had a lovely Christingle service in church, with the Scouts attending and helping. A lot of thought went into assembling the Christingles with minimum meeting time involved! The service was both fun and uplifting, with the children bringing donations for The Children's Society. It was a sweet/sad occasion, as it was Katherine Cox's last service in church, which she led with great feeling, showing her love for Christ and the children. She has given so many years of service to St Mary's, inspiring the young people in SMG. We wish her well for her new life in the West Country. Our prayers go with her.

And we were able to hold the Nativity play this year. Hurrah! Julie, as ever, chose one of the lovely scripts by Robina Beckles Willson, whose wonderful words live on as a real legacy to St Mary's. The children enjoyed dramatising the story of 'No Room at the Inn'. Our 'grumpy' innkeeper and his ever patient wife led all the children in giving a wonderful performance, which was all the more precious after the previous year's zoom alternative. Our thanks go to Julie and her team for the all the organising and rehearsing

On Christmas Eve we welcomed families into church for our two Crib services, with the Wilson family, Sarah, Mark and Gus, supporting Fr Jeff in providing the child friendly and joyful story of Christmas.

St Mary's Families' leaders met on Zoom with Fr Jeff several times during the year. They were able to arrange beautiful Easter and Christmas cards, decorated by the children, and posted to members of the congregation who were more constrained in their worship activities by Covid. The children also brought lovely Easter and Christmas paintings and drawings to Fr Jeff at church, where they were blessed and displayed in the North vestibule. The Whatsapp group kept in touch with one another.

Importantly, Fr Jeff and Katherine, unable to enter St Mary's School because of Covid restrictions, were able to continue to provide child friendly uplifting worship sessions in weekly recorded services, ably assisted on occasion by Mahler and Timothy, the Wilsons and videographer Alistair. These services have been really valued by the children and the staff. Fr Jeff and Katherine have hugely appreciated the opportunity to contribute to Collective Worship in this way.

St Mary's School continues to hold regular services and other events in our church, now made so much easier by the reordered interior. These include the Leaver's Service, the Harvest Service, Christmas Carol Service, the Bible Service, the Easter service and also teaching sessions on the Eucharist. Nearly 700 pupils and staff members hope to be able to be in church in June for a Jubilee celebration for Her Majesty the Queen, as we mark 70 years as our Monarch. This will be

made possible by the stacking of the new benches. Such a gathering would not have been possible before the new configuration and it will be wonderful to see the church fulfilling its aspiration to host the whole school within its walls.

Thank you to all who participated in our Children and Young People's lives at St Mary's - children themselves, leaders and helpers and Fr Jeff - through a second challenging Covid year. God's love shone out even when the church was closed!

Judy Britton

### **Cleaning Team**

The Cleaning Team consists of five groups of four, each group meeting every five weeks to clean for one to one and a half hours. The fact that most of us are of a certain age and have managed to keep going is an achievement. Sweeping between the new seats is a fairly big challenge, as is finding younger people to help. Hopefully we are saving the church some money in not having to pay a cleaner! We have sadly lost people for various reasons so will always welcome more offers of help, especially some younger members. There is no gender barrier and have some great men also helping.

Jenny Kelly

### **Communications**

We are hugely grateful to all those involved in communications over the last two years for their invaluable contribution: Emily Bainbridge, Tamasin Little and Chris Williams for digital communications through the website, social media and email; Antoine and Charlotte West, Chris Britton and Robert Hall for hosting Zoom services; the Parish Office and Betty Miller for keeping in touch with those not online.

A new group was set up at the beginning of 2022 to look at how communications is managed going forward. The group has met four times and is in the process of redesigning the website.

Clarinda Chan

### **Discipleship Group**

In Advent last year the Discipleship Group hosted four discussion sessions on different approaches to exploring the Bible from the book "How to Eat Bread" by the Revd. Miranda Threlfall- Holmes.

The Parish Quiet Day, originally planned for 2020, was held in March this year at St. Katherine's, Parmoor near Marlow and was attended by eleven members of the congregation. It was led by the Revd. Dr. Adrian Samuel, one time curate at St. Mary's, and was appreciated by all.

Peter Mence

### **The Eco Group**

The group monitors the care of the churchyard, the Garden of Remembrance and the Oak Lane Cemetery as well as the church's buildings, raising awareness of environmental issues. We support the use of fair-trade refreshments at meetings and events, sustainable energy suppliers and rubbish disposal. St Mary's is a Fair Trade Church and is working towards meeting the Eco Church criteria.

In this second Covid year the Oak Lane Cemetery has continued to offer a welcome place for local residents, their children and dogs who appreciate the peaceful semi-wild nature reserve in the centre of Twickenham, home to owls, foxes, squirrels and birds. We have monitored the heavy footfall on paths and grass due to increased numbers of visitors. This year the Trust for Conservation Volunteers carried out two successful workdays to control the ivy and brambles around the tombs and gravestones, but our funds for their work are in need of replenishment as we were unable to run the annual fund-raising quiz.

St Mary's has been able to welcome back the Traidcraft stall to normal monthly sales, and our purchases have raised £100 for Traidcraft Exchange which helps small-scale independent farmers and producers with business training. Easter and Christmas sales were well supported and Fair Trade Fortnight's recent theme, "Choose the world you want", highlighted the worldwide Covid context affecting production, transport and sales. Our shopping choices have a direct impact on farmers, craft-workers, makers and food producers in developing countries and in the UK.

During the last year few people have been unaware of the effects of climate change such as floods, droughts, fires and crop failures, with the issues highlighted at COP26 in Glasgow. The Eco Group aims to focus on global issues of climate change, energy use, carbon emissions reduction and fair trade as they affect our church and local community.

Diana Wells

### **Ecumenical Group**

We were fortunate enough to resume our activities in time for some of us to attend in November the delayed celebration for the twentieth anniversary of Hounslow Friends of Faith, at which the Mayor of Hounslow was present. This event saw the launch of a booklet, to which Barbara Witzendorf had contributed, outlining the beliefs of the different faiths to be found within the borough and which she presented to the meeting. It was a joyful occasion.

More recently we have been focussing on forthcoming events, the Good Friday Walk of Christian Witness, involving all denominations, to be led by Bishop Graham, starting from Twickenham Green at 9 a.m., to which all are very welcome, and the marking of Christian Aid week with a speaker from that organisation and pastries to be offered for a donation after the 9.30 service on May 22nd.

We have been happy to resume the monthly collections for Mengo Hospital and to welcome once more speakers from some of the charities which the church supports. For details of these please see the section on Charitable Giving.

Ours is a small group of dedicated members who attempt to reach out beyond the confines of our cherished church and we should be happy to welcome any additions to our team.

Sophy Fisher

### **Flower Team**

As the weekly routine has gradually returned to some kind of normality after Covid, the Flower Team has decorated the church for festivals, celebrations, weddings and the weekly services. We have worked in groups of three with everyone joining in for the bigger events.

Instead of a Christmas party, we had a relaxed garden party in June. It was very good to get together, enjoy delicious food and drink and catch up on all the news.



We have now managed to phase out the use of environmentally damaging Oasis. The larger containers have wire and pin holders in them to support the flowers and greenery. The Easter colour palette was white and yellow, with lilies and daffodils. The Church smelled beautiful and looked life-affirming. For Harvest Festival we used jam jars on the windowsills, which were surrounded by fruit and vegetables and achieved a natural, informal look. The windowsills were decorated again for Advent with pinecones, berries and gold ornaments among the evergreens, and of course the whole team contributed to the main event on Christmas Day.

The Flower Team values being able to enhance worship and emphasise the beauty of the church.

Celia Goodman     Amanda Boardman

## **Hampton Deanery Synod**

The Hampton Deanery Synod covering 15 parishes and the Activate Church, gives the PCC an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the church. Our church has four representatives: currently Francis Drasar, Karen Kiddle, Peter Mence, Shobha Sajan and Liz Webborn.

The Synod had three meetings during 2021.

### February - virtual meeting on zoom

The Reverend Canon Miles Baker (Area Director of Ministry, Kensington) gave a short presentation on the future of vocations in the Diocese. The current position was encouraging, and the next steps included being more diverse, flexible and adaptable.

### June - virtual meeting on zoom

The meeting focussed on the learning gleaned from the Pandemic with three parishes (St Mary, Twickenham; St Michael & St George, Fulwell; and St John Hampton Wick) sharing their experiences with everyone including the challenges of keeping a congregation united whilst not meeting up, live streaming services, and running virtual meetings on zoom. Representatives from other churches echoed the point made that courses zoomed during the pandemic were attended by more people. It was acknowledged that this dependency on technology was not ok for everyone and discriminated against digitally poor households. The Reverend Jeff Hopkin Williams shared the pandemic prayer that he had written and that he delivered every Sunday.

The Reverend Derek Winterburn gave a presentation on the Diocesan Vision 2030 'Creation Care'. Derek outlined what the church could do now: make incremental changes; take the Eco-church survey and support the necessary actions; lead by example; and not forget the passion of young people.

### November - All Saints, Hampton

The meeting focused on Social Prescribing - when a person was referred to a link worker who then works with them to identify and link them to activities to improve health and wellbeing - connecting communities and healthcare. It was a way to support people's wellbeing & quality of life while reducing pressure on the NHS. It links patients to community-based activities, rather than simply prescribing them medicine.

The Reverend Chris Kennedy (Pioneer Minister, Activate Wellbeing and Sports Church, Teddington) described what Activate was currently doing - 5 days a week missional outreach that was centrally underpinned by a daily invitational act of worship.

Cathy Maker (Chief Executive of Ruils) explained that Ruils was a user-led charity supporting disabled children and adults and people with long term health & mental health conditions to live

independently, be part of their community and to live life to the full. Ruils works with local GPs to deliver Social Prescribing in Richmond - a holistic service that supports individuals to be more independent and active in their local community. There are link workers for areas which provide the social prescribing service.

Liz Webborn

## Lent Groups

Following the pandemic it was felt that this year's Lent course needed to focus on our individual and collective experiences of lockdown, and on how we move forward following the pandemic and what we had experienced. It was a forward looking course, based on the key resurrection appearances of Jesus to His disciples.

Taking as a starting point Jesus' appearance in the upper room and His breathing on the disciples with the words, 'Receive the Holy Spirit', participants were invited to consider how they might be refreshed and renewed. Entitled *Resurrection and the 5 Rs*, the course invited groups to *Reflect* on their experience of the pandemic, *Reconnect* with what sustained them, examine what *Refreshed* them and how they might be *Renewed* and finally in week 5 to be *Recommissioned* by taking what they had learned over the past couple of years into the future and allow it to transform them and the world are around them.

Three groups of around 8 - 12 people met in church on a Monday evening. The evening started with a brief introduction to the evening's theme, with the bulk of the time being spent in small group reflection and discussion. The evening concluded with an opportunity for feedback from each of the groups, followed by a time for prayer and on some of the evenings the saying of Compline. Participants found it an enlivening and stimulating experience and welcomed the chance to be meeting again in person.

Charlotte West

## Mothers' Union



The International Charity that now is the Mothers' Union has not stopped its work during the Covid Pandemic, both in the United Kingdom and overseas. We have got over 4 million members worldwide and the glorious global Wave of Prayer in July 2022 is happening! Over 3 days at the beginning of July, all our members, all over the world in different time zones, beginning at 12.00 noon their time, will be praying for areas of the entire world that are in need. Joining in this effort spreading round the planet feels extraordinary ...

In the meantime, our local Branch has already this year had a planning meeting, begun an ambitious project making a glorious object out of rejected but important artefacts and served pancakes to all comers on Shrove Tuesday. Amongst forthcoming talks, we look forward to hearing about progress in the restoration of Marble Hill House locally and about new practical techniques in Therapy to treat anxiety, panic attacks etc.

We look forward, with the hope of Mary Sumner our founder and with the hope of St. Mary, our Patron Saint, to whatever is to come!

Barbara Williams  
Branch Leader

## Music at St. Mary's

As Church life has progressively returned to near normal, the choir has been delighted to resume its customary role in leading the musical component of worship at St Mary's from the gallery. The choir aims to provide music that contributes to and enhances the liturgy by performing anthems during the communion and leading the congregation both hymns and service music.

Rehearsals are held in the vestry on Sunday mornings, ready to start singing by 8.55 a.m. I am enormously indebted to those members of the choir who regularly sing on Sundays and rehearse on a weekly basis; and to several guest singers who are able to augment the regular choir for special events. *But we are always in need of new singers.* Attendance every week is not required: you will be welcome even if you can make only occasional services with the rehearsal on Sunday. Please do give this serious thought and help to ensure that the choir can continue to take a leading role on Sundays.

I am especially grateful to Chris Britton who takes rehearsals, conducts the choir on Sundays and hosted the Summer Party last year!

It was a shame that Organ Scholar Sathin Wijesena has so few opportunities to develop at St Mary's, but we have been delighted to welcome 14-year-old Patrick Tate since last September who is making splendid progress: he has organ lessons at Lancing College where he boards during the week. I am also grateful to Peter Mence for acting as a valued occasional deputy.

## Concerts

After a sadly abandoned 2020 Sunday Evening Concert Series there were several successful concerts in 2021 including a recital by Christopher Herrick to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Harrison organ, a piano recital by Hamish Dustagheer to celebrate the new piano and Advent Carol Service with the Marble Hill Singers, all greatly appreciating the wonderfully warmed acoustics of the church. A series of monthly concerts are arranged for 2022: please do come and support them.

Adrian Mumford  
Director of Music

## Opening Up St Mary's

Fr Jeff convened a small grouping the summer of 2021 with the aim of considering ways in which the newly refurbished interior of St Mary's and other spaces belonging to the church could be more widely used. For a variety of purposes. This was one of St Mary's three strategic aims agreed in 2003. In retrospect the timing of this initiative was not quite right. Covid 19 lockdowns unfortunately prevented a grand re-opening of the church. What has occurred as things turned out, however, is that use of church premises has grown incrementally without any significant intervention. The group did not meet again, though two members helpfully visited a neighbouring parish in order to help understand what would be involved in terms of costs and other overheads in managing greater usage and briefed the PCC last September.

Stephen Tetley

## PCC

Since the last APCM in April 2021, the PCC has met five times, four on Zoom and the most recent meeting in person, the first time the group has gathered in the beautifully reordered church.

In response to the pandemic, and with the health and wellbeing of Parishioners as the priority, the PCC continued to monitor the changes in COVID risks, restrictions and guidance throughout

the year, and adapted the patterns of worship accordingly. Sunday morning Zoom services continued until August 2021 and in-person services resumed in Church on Sunday 5 September, with a Zoom service at 5pm for those who are not able attend in person. We were especially pleased to be able to welcome the congregation and broader community to services and events during Advent and Christmas. We are very grateful to all the volunteers who have made the reopening possible and welcoming.

The PCC noted that since the departure of Fr Piotr in 2020, Fr Jeff has led the Parish through difficult circumstances with a much-increased workload. Raising regular income to enable the Parish to appoint an Assistant Priest remains a priority for the PCC.

Sophy Fisher as safeguarding officer kept the PCC informed of steps we can take as a church to ensure the protection of our children and vulnerable adults and to ensure that we comply with all canonical requirements in relation to safeguarding (in particular section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

On behalf of everyone at St Mary's, the PCC expresses its gratitude to Jeff for his dedication and ministry over the last 20 years, and for his compassionate leadership throughout the pandemic.

Clarinda Chan  
PCC Secretary

### **PCC Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee consists of the Parish Priest, Wardens, PCC Secretary, Treasurer, a representative nominated by each Warden and a representative elected by the PCC. The Committee met six times via Zoom during the year to conducts the business of the PCC between PCC meetings.

Mitigating the health and financial consequences of the pandemic continued to be the Committee's focus during the year, as were safeguarding and wellbeing of the congregation and navigating our way back to 'normality' as we opened up the church. We are most grateful to Jeff, the Wardens and Treasurer for their tireless work for the Parish.

The Committee thanks Cath Nortje and Katie Kean for their efficient running of the Parish Office and being great ambassadors for St Mary's, especially in recent months with the increased number of lettings, wedding and baptism enquiries and the interest generated by the reordered church.

Clarinda Chan  
PCC Secretary

### **Sacristans**

The group has been suspended for the past 2 years due to Covid restrictions.

### **Safeguarding**

This difficult year has seen changes in the diocesan safeguarding team, of which Martin Goodwin is now the head and Caryn Weber our advisor for the Kensington area. A directive has been issued that, as members of the PCC are trustees of a charitable organisation which arranges activities for children and vulnerable adults, they should all be subject to a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check. This affects approximately two thirds of PCC members who are not directly involved in these activities or have recently joined and so hitherto have not been subject to these checks.

We are immensely sorry to have lost the services of Katherine Cox, who did so much for our young people and was also one of our champions for vulnerable adults. We are fortunate that Francis Drasar, who also holds this role, will now be joined by Liz Webborn. Julie Hall and Judy Britton remain as invaluable as ever in their posts of Children's Champions and I am most grateful to all the above for the tremendous support they give.

If you have any safeguarding concerns please do not hesitate to contact one of our team or Jeff.

Sophy Fisher  
Safeguarding Officer

### **St Mary's Group**

It has been a great joy to resume our meetings after the break occasioned by the pandemic. We were first able to celebrate with a party held at Sophy's house in July and then started our new season in September with a visit by the Questors' Reminiscence Roadshow team, who gave us a lively depiction of life on the allotment in past times. It was particularly pleasing that Norman Edwards, our Leader for many years, was able to join us for this session. It was he who introduced us to this group of actors and we wish him well in the care home where he has now gone to live near his daughter and her family.

It was another long-term member of our group, now sadly no longer with us, Pat Ingham, who suggested some years ago that we should invite Janet Tomlin to speak to us and in October Janet told us of the rewarding work she has done with children who have special needs.

This was followed in November by a revealing account from Diana Wells of the links which some Twickenham residents, whose memorials we find in our church, had to the trans-Atlantic slave trade. In December we enjoyed a visit to the Mary Wallace Theatre for an excellent production of Noel Coward's comedy "Hayfever" and in January we held our New Year party with snacks, drinks, games and a quiz.

In February we chanced our hands at Monopoly and in March we have been attending the Lent course in church as well as looking at some poems especially chosen for this time in the church calendar.

We look forward to visiting Syon House later this month and are delighted to have been joined by some new members in the course of the year. We have enjoyed being able to offer refreshments once more after the 9.30 service on the first Sunday of each month and my thanks go to all those who have joined in this and other activities.

Sophy Fisher

### **Telephone Friendship Volunteers**

When the pandemic began, approximately forty members of the congregation responded to Jeff's call for volunteers. These volunteers were co-ordinated in order to help those in our Parish, who were not able to get out and about, by telephoning them. If the person telephoned needed help with shopping, etc, the volunteer would either respond themselves, or report back to the co-ordinator in order that another volunteer could help. Many volunteers, and people on the receiving end of the telephone calls, reported back saying how much they enjoyed chatting and many new friendships were made.

Betty Miller

## The Twickenham Almshouses

Candler Almshouses, which are situated towards the West end of Amyand Park Road, were built in 1936. The fund for their construction was left by a Twickenham grocer, William Candler (1826-1907). He is buried in Richmond cemetery.

Until 2008 these almshouses were managed by Twickenham United Charities. That year the charity merged with the Richmond Charities. Between 2010 and 2017, refurbishment work was carried out to provide each almshouse with its own bathroom (previously each pair of almshouses shared a single bathroom).

Although Candler Almshouses are situated behind a long, brown fence, the site has recently benefited from the open grille gates which helps the community to feel less enclosed.

Naturally, the residents are delighted to be freed up from the lockdown restrictions, and the first post-lockdown residents' forum was held in the chapel at Hickey's almshouses in Richmond.

New garden benches have been well received and the residents were impressed by the much larger than usual Christmas tree this year. The company made a mistake with the size they delivered, but this was a big plus for the residents. And for the first time the lights were not damaged by the foxes and the tree didn't fall down!

Dr Alex Hall  
Trustee, appointed by the Vicar of Twickenham

## Trustees of the Twickenham Parochial Schools Trust



The Trustees are responsible for the management of a Trust settled in 1861 for the purpose of providing permanent school accommodation for children in Twickenham.

Much has changed since 1861, in particular, the introduction of free school education for all children. The role of the Trust has therefore developed into being one of financial, spiritual and moral support, for example, paying the salary of a Chaplain and funding help with the mental health support of children at St. Mary's Church of England Primary School.

This academic year has been another year of pressures because of the Covid Pandemic and the measures that have been put in place in the hope of restricting its spread.

The Head, Deputy Head, School Secretary and all the Staff should be congratulated for dealing with these pressures with such good sense!

The Trustees have continued to discuss the Requests for Financial Support made by the Head Teacher. The children have been able to enjoy the fruits of one large Grant made last year which has allowed all the children at the School to gather in one space, all at the same time - a huge success ...

Finally, the Trustees should pay tribute to the Rev'd Jeff Hopkin Williams and Dr Katherine Cox for continuing to write and deliver a series of charming filmed Services of Collective Worship for the children of St Mary's School. Sadly, Katherine has moved away for the time being, but Collective Worship will continue. The children do not forget what they absorb through it - ask them! - People never forget their good teachers...

Barbara Williams

## Walsingham - Annual Parish Pilgrimage from St Mary's Twickenham



A pilgrimage is planned for this year. The booking deposit has been paid and WALSINGHAM IS WAITING FOR US ...

Do join us from 23rd to 25th September this year! Going on a pilgrimage is not the same as just going away for a weekend. Jeff will be there to lead our group round the Stations of the Cross in the beautiful gardens on the Saturday and in our own Service of Communion on the Sunday morning. In addition, we shall join all the other groups for the principal pilgrimage Services.

You will be in a beautiful, interesting and historic village full of quirky charm but also mystery. There are many places of worship there serving the various traditions of the Christian Church. You will stay in a comfortable room. The food is generous and there is always someone to talk to. Nothing is compulsory however, not even conversation because you will be there in that lovely place to pray for others and to be open to whatever and Whomsoever you may find there.

Walsingham is a special place. Do join us on our visit.

Barbara Williams

## PCC Membership 2021-22

Members are elected for 3 years and can seek re-election for another 3 years, after which they must stand down for at least a year.

<b>PCC Members</b>	<b>Elected/re-elected</b>
John Albasiny	Elected 2021
Annie Atlay	Elected 2021
Fraser Bell	Re-elected 2020, resigned June 2021
Clarinda Chan	Elected 2020
Rosemary Fulljames	Elected 2020
Geoff Noble	Elected 2019
Shiela Preece	Elected 2021
Elizabeth Sledge	Elected 2019
Stephen Tetley	Elected 2021
Audrey Thomas	Re-elected 2021
Sarah Waller	Re-elected 2019
Mark Wilson	Re-elected 2020
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	<b>All elected for 3 years from 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2023</b>
Francis Drasar	Re-elected 2020
Karen Kiddle	Re-elected 2020
Peter Mence	Elected 2020
Shobha Sajan	Elected 2020, resigned April 2022
Elizabeth Webborn	Elected 2020
<b>Co-opted Members</b>	<b>Co-opted for a year at a time</b>
Adrian Mumford	Director of Music
Sophy Fisher	Safeguarding Officer
<b>Church Wardens</b>	<b>Elected for a year at a time</b>
Judy Britton	
Barbara Williams	