



Parish Reports 2020-2021

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
25 April 2021

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The following groups have not been able to operate on account of the restrictions and have therefore not filed reports this year:

Ecumenical
Parish Visitors
Sacristans
Social Events and St Mary's Response Team

The Archives of St Mary's

In this unusual year many matters relating to church activities have needed to be recorded for posterity. The Coronavirus restrictions involved photographing bulletins on the church door about church closures, outdoor events such as Remembrance Day prayers around the war memorial, Sunday afternoon services in the Garden of Remembrance, and keeping copies of the Vicar's weekly online Pastoral Letters and Sunday Zoom services.

Records of the re-ordering work inside the church included photographs taken before and after the work as well as the video/DVD of the Re-dedication Service with the Bishop of Kensington in October. Many items of historic interest, dating from the alterations in 1859 and later, have been stored in the Archives, such as the brass plaques and umbrella holders attached to the pews along the central aisle.

Many queries from all over the world have reached me during the year, although sadly no visitors have been welcomed. Some wanted to check their marriage date or baptism entry. Most enquiries concerned locating an ancestor's grave and I have made several trips to Twickenham Cemetery which has been the location of burials after 1878 following funerals held in St Mary's. A recent enquiry has located the grave site of Private William Bell of the 50th New York Volunteer Engineers, one of many veterans of the American Civil War who lived and died in the UK.

Another enquiry focused on L.W. Tracy Arkell, organist before and during WW2, linked to research into the history of the Richmond Festival (started in 1927). A further enquiry was from a student researching the history of stained-glass windows. An interesting enquiry came from a descendant of the artist Edward Parrini with a copy of his watercolour of the church circa 1885. An article on this was included in the newsletter of the Twickenham Museum.

I have focused on adding to the photographic records which have been neglected in the last 25 years since the increased use of digital cameras. Photos have been gratefully received from Doug Goodman and Chris Williams for views and events, Trish de Villiers for trips to Israel and Oberammagau in the 1990s, and Gail Hebert for pictures of PCC members and church events. Further offers of items for the Archives such as old pictures and photographs are always very welcome!

Last year's *Black Lives Matter* campaign provided an opportunity for research into the background of some local residents of Twickenham commemorated on memorials in the church in the context of slave-owning and the trans-Atlantic slave trade in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The Archives are now housed in the north gallery, the vestry and the tower where space and access are an issue. There is more work to do on the Catalogue, begun by my two predecessors, which is in need of careful checking. Further tasks include updating lists such as churchwardens, organ scholars, etc. and acid-free storage for early documents.

Diana Wells
Hon. Archivist

Bellringers

During the past year our bellringing activities have been severely curtailed but we were fortunate enough to ring four bells together for two services, socially distanced with the West door open. When we were allowed back, we returned to an elegantly refurbished ringing room - thank you to Charlotte West and Gill Clark and all those involved in the reordering. We also managed to chime for services when ringing in a group wasn't permitted. Sadly, the other times a single bell rang out, was to toll. Firstly, in June for the third anniversary of the Grenfell fire, to remember those who lost their lives; secondly to commemorate and celebrate the life of Captain Sir Tom Moore, tolling 100 times on the day of his funeral; and finally, on March 23rd, tolling after a minute's silence to remember those who lost their lives to Covid and to reflect over 12 months since the initial lockdown. In this time of 24-hour fast-moving news, being able to ring bells to pay tribute to these significant events, using an ancient craft was a privilege.

In December we thanked Norman for his many years service as St Mary's Tower Captain as he retired from the role, but hopefully not from bellringing. We were able to celebrate Norman's hard work both via Zoom and in church where he was presented with a hamper filled with a bounty of deliciousness and a beautiful, personalised artwork created by Helena, a talented artist and a St Mary's bellringer.

On a happier note, Thomas Ashwin-Siejkowski, our keenest member of the band, had a chapter published in the book *Letters from Lockdown*, collated from Radio 4's PM programme. He wrote about how much bellringing means to him and that he's desperate to get back to ringing once again. He also read out the chapter on Radio 4 on Christmas Eve - well done Thomas!

We're all looking to June, when, hopefully, we can resume making a joyful, crashing, celebratory noise together once again. As soon as we're allowed, we will ring for the 9.30am Sunday Eucharist service and Wednesday night practices will resume. I'm very much looking forward to welcoming children with (or without) parents, or adults from all generations, to learn the ancient art of bellringing. If you learnt years ago or are interested in having a go for the first time, please contact me or just turn up to the church on a Sunday morning or Wednesday evening. 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, the Re-ordering Group and our Buildings Manager, Katie Kean.

Covid restrictions have prevented the Group from meeting in person, but we have kept in touch by other means. All our members have taken on projects to ensure the upkeep of the buildings.

The transformation of the church interior was the main achievement of 2020. The Buildings Group has had the task of attending to less visible but essential repairs of the church and the hall. Gutters have been cleaned, leaks mended and elderly boilers coaxed back into life. Working with Richmond Council, which shares some of the costs of maintaining the hall, the water system has been improved.

The vestry roof was successfully renewed last May. Ventilation grilles in the north and south pediments have been repaired and the roof has been fully insulated for the first time in its 300 year history.

Work on the handmade louvres to the bell tower was delayed but has now resumed.

The clock face has been cleaned and we are investigating more effective pigeon deterrents around the ledges and bell towers.

The closure of the church and the hall has resulted in a sharp fall in the church's income, so our resources are currently limited to essential maintenance and urgent repairs. Regrettably, this means we have had to postpone redecoration works and defer our plans for improving the lighting and sound systems in the church, pending further fundraising.

Priorities for the coming year include the restoration of the south door - currently in a very poor state - and the purchase of a new boiler for the hall.

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, do get in touch.

Geoff Noble
Chair, Buildings Group

Charitable Giving

The pandemic has had a disastrous effect upon our fund-raising activities, as upon so much else, relying, as we normally do, upon the Summer Fair, talks given by representatives from the charities we support and collections made at the Christmas services.

At an on-line meeting of the P.C.C. held in September it was decided to continue with support for the charities we had selected the previous year, so £700 was allocated to each of the following:

- Age U.K.
- Challengers, offering inclusive play for children and young people with disabilities
- Embracing Age, offering friendship and support to people living in care homes
- Growbaby, providing free clothes, equipment and toys for the under 5's to families who cannot afford these
- HANDS, Help a Neighbour in Distress Scheme
- 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, providing air transport for those facing medical and 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.

In addition, £100 was given to Christian Aid, for whom we would normally have made collections in May.

These donations represent money raised in 2019. Unfortunately the total available in the current year is only £1,333. A decision will be taken in the autumn on how to proceed further.

Sophy Fisher

Children and Young People Group

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. How could we realise this during our Covid lockdown, with the added complication of our reordering works?

Along with the 9.30 Sunday service, the Sunday school and SMG moved online, and settled down into two sessions, one for the 3-8 years children and one for our young people from Sunday school and SMG. This proved a great success. Julie Hall, Katherine Cox and Lacy Chapman rose to the challenge of online Zoom engagement with our children, with Father Piotr providing inspired guidance and support until, sadly, his departure to academic chaplaincy in October. Father Jeff, who had already been dropping in on sessions, kindly took over the guiding role, being free to attend a goodly part of the sessions since they were at separate times from the 9.30 Zoom. This means that he has been able to be much closer to Sunday school and SMG than in non-Covid times - much to his joy!

The children have also been able to join in some third Sunday services, taking over the 'sermon' spot, showing real thoughtfulness and spiritual maturity, as they discuss the Gospel theme with Katherine, and lead in the Intercessions.

Back at the start of September, on our Patronal Sunday, Julie Hall managed to hold a gathering of children in family groups in the Memorial garden. It seems a long time ago now but it has been the one and only time we have gathered as a Sunday school for our worship since last March. The children sat on socially distanced rugs and we shared our thoughts of St Mary the

person and St Mary's our church. The children played instruments and a jolly time was had by all. Unfortunately our Christmas Nativity gathering was not able to go ahead so we had a dressing-up story version of the Nativity story on Zoom instead. The children who have attended Zoom Sunday school have lifted the spirits of the leaders and it has been wonderful to share the lockdowns with them.

Before Christmas, Father Jeff invited the children and young people to come to church with their lovely Christmas paintings and drawings which were blessed and adorned our North vestibule, where everyone coming in for the Christmas services could enjoy them. They are similarly being invited to bring in their Easter paintings.

The St Mary's Families' network has been all the more valuable during lockdown keeping families in the loop by email and WhatsApp, with many thanks to Clarinda Chan and Natalie Burkitt. They joined with Jeff in organising Christmas cards from the children to more senior members of the congregation, including those unable to enjoy online activities. These were much enjoyed! Ambition is to repeat this at Easter to increase bonds across the congregation. A 'wine and whine' evening by Zoom, where parents could share their lockdown experiences and frustrations and generally meet up, was much appreciated and a similar evening may follow shortly. Under school-age children have been missing out on church life with no Minnows or Little Fish possible, and a short Zoom party is being planned for them and their families to have fun together.

Looking forward to being able to open up the church for services, Father Jeff has invited eligible children to prepare for Communion before Confirmation, with Zoom sessions he will lead after Easter, leading up to a celebratory service when they will take the Eucharist for the first time.

One of the key roles Father Piotr performed at the school was the weekly Collective Worship, so on his departure this was taken up by Father Jeff and Katherine. They have filmed weekly clips drawing on the Bible readings recommended by the Diocese, and also the value which the school chooses as its focus each half term. Alistair Matier has done all the filming and editing and we are hugely grateful for his expertise and commitment. The feedback we have had from parents and children, and the staff at the school has been very positive - they particularly appreciate the starring roles played by the dogs, Mahler and Timmy!

With many thanks to those named, including Father Jeff who has so ably stepped in following Father Piotr's move, and all others who have risen to the challenge and worked so hard to bring children to know and love God in these difficult times, and with thanks to God for his Spirit flowing through the Internet and through all our lovely leaders and helpers.

Judy Britton

Cleaning Team

Our cleaning has been a bit sporadic since last year due to the restrictions. When we have been able to do it, it has not been too arduous as the church has also had its limitation of numbers allowed in, so not too many dirty footmarks. However, we have lost a whole group of people due to various reasons (mostly due to old age) and so it would be good if more people joined us. A plea in the newsletter came to nothing.

Jenny Kelly

Contemplation Group

The contemplation group was still able to meet during the summer when restrictions opened up a bit but otherwise we have been meeting in a virtual fashion. A reading is sent out to the group and we contemplate together (in spirit) at 8 pm on a Friday evening. Not quite the same but it is good to know that we are still together.

Jenny Kelly

Discipleship Group

The Discipleship Group has been unable to meet during lockdown and the Quiet Day at St Katherine's Parmoor postponed yet again. It is hoped that the latter might take place in the autumn or next year.

Peter Mence

Eco Group and Traidcraft Stall

In this difficult year the Oak Lane Cemetery has proved enormously popular with local residents, their children and dogs for "daily exercise" in this peaceful nature reserve in the centre of Twickenham. Unable to run the annual fund-raising quiz for the maintenance work, we have economised on expenditure. The Trust for Conservation Volunteers were not operating during Lockdown periods but did one successful workday in 2020 and again this spring. Eco Group members have also kept an eye on brambles, bulbs and leaf blowing, and have monitored the heavy footfall on paths and grass due to increased numbers of visitors.

Although St Mary's is a fair-trade church within the fair-trade London Diocese, the Traidcraft stall has had to take an unavoidable rest from normal monthly sales during Coronavirus restrictions on group gatherings. However, our purchases have raised £100 for Traidcraft Exchange which helps small-scale independent farmers and producers with business training. Easter Eggs were sold for Easter 2020 and a successful pre-Christmas sale was held in December, with fair-trade Easter Eggs paid for online and collected for Easter 2021. Fair Trade Fortnight's theme in February, "Choose the world you want", has highlighted the worldwide issues that farmers and craftworkers have struggled with in the context of production, transport and sales, and the Traidcraft stall should re-open as soon as "non-essential retail" activity is permitted.

St Mary's now has more eco-friendly heating and lighting, toilets and storage both in the refurbished vestry and following the re-ordering work in the church. Members of the Eco Group have supported the PCC with the contracted gardening work in the churchyard and gardens.

The Eco Group look forward to attracting more members interested in discussing environmental issues relating to the church and our local community in the context of climate change, reducing carbon emissions and fair trade.

Diana Wells

Flower Team

There were two highlights in the past, difficult Covid year, when we have not been able to enter the church as usual. The first was the rededication service by the Bishop of Kensington on 25th October after the re-ordering. The service was enhanced with gold arrangements at the base of the font, around the central candle and either side of the chancel. The second was Christmas. With limited opening and smaller than usual congregations, the candles and sprigs of holly and evergreens were placed on the window sills and larger arrangements in the chancel, porch and at the back of the nave. On both occasions the church looked prayerful and natural.

Throughout the rest of the year, when the church was open for private prayer or for services in the garden, members of the team brought vases of flowers to contribute to worship. Many thanks for everyone who contributed.

The flower team is making a big effort to avoid the use of plastic-polluting Oasis and is experimenting with different supports in the vases. Caroline Taylerson would like to encourage members of the flower team and wider congregation to grow flowers for the church from seed or seedlings to reduce the financial and environmental cost of buying imported flowers each week. New members are welcome to join the friendly, supportive team when we are able to return to the usual pattern of worship, festival celebrations and weddings in church.

Celia Goodman and Amanda Boardman

Hampton Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod has met twice on zoom since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. The first zoom meeting in November 2020 focused on Activate and Vision 2030

Activate

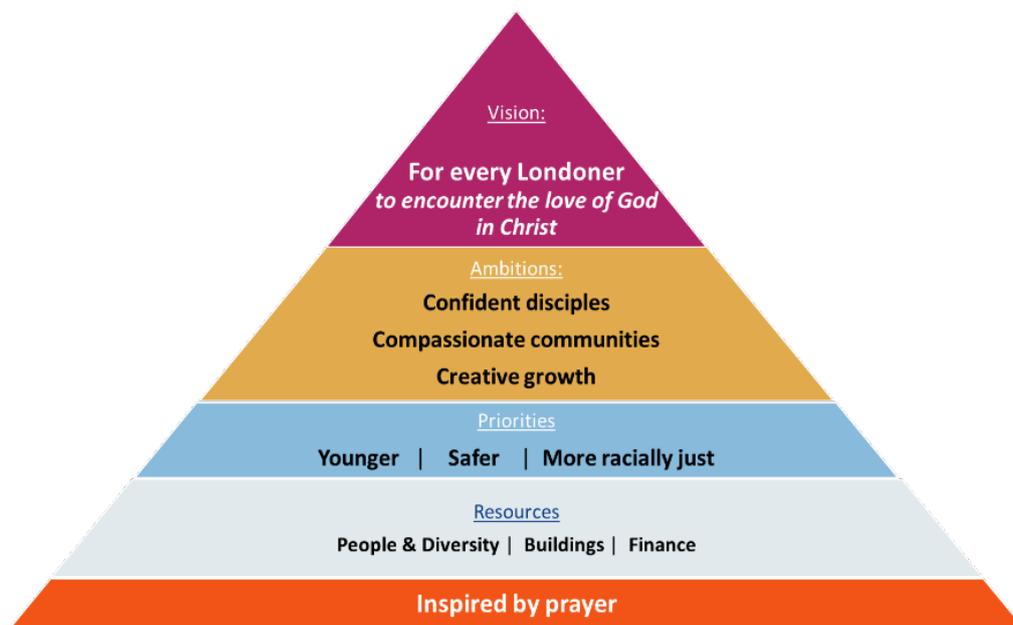
Garth Watkins updated members on the new Activate Ministry - a pioneering sport and wellbeing programme to enhance community, wellbeing and faith through sporting activity and fitness. It was conceived and developed within the strategic priorities of the Diocese's Capital Vision 2020 strategy to help local churches to be more compassionate and creative in engaging their communities through sport and wellbeing. The purpose of Activate in Teddington is to engage with all users of Bushy Park. More information can be obtained from the website <https://www.activatechurch.org.uk/>

Vision 2030 - Bishop Graham

Bishop Graham explained the emerging thoughts of the Diocese regarding the 2030 Vision.

He acknowledged the great suffering that had been caused by the pandemic and the changes that had been wrought on both society and church life. The 2030 Vision is 'For every Londoner to encounter the love of God in Christ' as is anchored in Acts Chapter 2 - the church as it was and could be.

The visions, ambitions, priorities and resources are summarised in the pyramid below.



The three Ambitions of the 2030 Vision are that we create :-

1. **Confident Disciples:** In a time when the population is growing and church attendance is in decline there is a call for the Church to be more creative, brave and experimental in their approach to getting the numbers to grow.
2. **Compassionate Communities:** We need to address issues around caring for God's Creation (climate change); mental health; modern day slavery; escalating problems of financial insecurity and debt, youth violence and especially knife and gun crime; homelessness and housing. We should work in partnership with other agencies and increase our awareness as a church and as a community.
3. **And that we effect Creative Growth:** By creating confident disciples and compassionate communities growth should happen naturally, and the Diocese is encouraging every parish to start a new worshipping community in the next decade.

The vision identifies three priorities: To reach every Londoner we need to reflect on the diversity of our city (including combating racism), be a welcoming and a safe place (saying sorry for past safeguarding abuses), and appeal to a younger cohort (students, young professionals and parents).

Actions

Essentially Bishop Graham is appealing for every church to consider how we can tackle these points. He asked 'What ideas do you have and what do you want to do? How can the Diocese support you?' He is looking for a Kensington Area Plan to be shaped from the Deaneries and Parishes. He would be inviting parishes in February/March 2021 to decide what they could do in each of the three areas and come up with a plan (low key and community based).

At the most recent Deanery Synod meeting on zoom Bishop Graham updated members on the effects of the pandemic on churches.

Common Fund Update

- 2020 was a bad year and 2021 looks worse
- We are fortunate that the Diocese has such healthy reserves
- The Diocese had dipped into reserves by selling investments
- It is hoped that parish giving be increased and that collections could be made during streamed services
- Common Fund was a blessing that enabled us to weather the Covid storm together. As it eases through 2021 we should make every effort to bring our worship and our giving back to sustainable levels

The Future of Vocations

The Reverend Canon Miles Baker, Area Director of Ministry Kensington, gave a short presentation on the future of vocations. He commented that the Diocese position was very encouraging with:

- 50 new curates (20 female and 30 male)
- 63 Ordinands in training from Kensington (21 female and 42 male)
- 37 potential candidates on discernment

Activate

Activate was emphasised once again as a Deanery Mission project in Teddington. The Reverend Chris Kennedy was happy to help equip parishes to work in their local context in new 'activity' ventures. He invited anyone interested in finding out more about the initiative to email him at office@activatechurch.or.uk

Liz Webborn

Lay Leadership of Evening Prayer

For much of this year, we were not able to have a weekly Service of Evening Prayer in the church building but then, in the late Summer, we were able to offer Evening Prayer in the Garden of Remembrance. Services were led by lay people, the congregation were masked, had to sign in and sat at a distance but...

- SUDDENLY, EVENING PRAYER FLOURISHED ! -

The congregation expanded from no more than 10 in 2019 to over 30 every Sunday afternoon it was held, in 2020/21. We had to print more service cards every week! It was lovely to see a service in the garden again, so enthusiastically attended. Jeff our Vicar kindly gave a Blessing at the end of each service and passers by, walking along the path above the garden noticed the quiet, gentle services proceeding at the heart of Twickenham.

Barbara Williams

Lent Course

The 2020 Lent course was interrupted by the Covid lockdown imposed on 23 March. This year's course, *Our Journey with Jesus*, was held online via Zoom and was based on Jesuit Priest, Gerard Hughes' book, *Oh God, Why?* The course comprised a series of daily readings, sent out in advance (including to any not online who wanted to join in with them), which we discussed in small groups on Zoom along with some additional material for general discussion and reflection. Gerard Hughes has certain themes, which the course covered, helping us to reflect on our journey to finding God in our lived experience. There were seven sessions: Our Journey, Choosing Life (choosing what is life-giving over what deadens us), Prayer, Encountering God, Our Inner Landscape, Finding Direction, and Arrival.

Sessions started all together for feedback from the previous week and for a prayer led by Jeff and then split into 5 rooms for small group discussion. In all 42 people joined the course.

Charlotte West

Mothers' Union



I am delighted to report that this year, seven new people have asked to join our Branch. They have not yet been formally admitted by the Vicar, at the usual Admission Service in Church but this will happen as soon as possible. In the meantime, our Members have been very busy ...

One of our number dealt with all the bookings for services held at St. Mary's AND co-ordinated the army of volunteers who regularly ring people who live alone or have been shielding. Other Members have been weeding the Church Garden of Remembrance, shopping for people who cannot go out, welcoming people to the church building when we have been able to open it and being part of the volunteering team. All this, while our lovely Branch Secretary has been laid low for a while. We look forward to welcoming her back to meetings soon.

In the Diocese, the monthly Prayer Hour formerly held at St Paul's Cathedral has continued by Zoom, led by Priests on the Cathedral Staff. We have continued to receive news from other branches in the Diocese and from staff serving the charity worldwide.

On 23rd November 2020, I attended via Zoom, the three hour MU Diocesan Meeting. It began with a wonderful talk given by the Bishop of London. She contrasted hope with blind optimism, spoke of not allowing fear to overcome us but having confidence in 'love worked out, as we weather this storm together ...'. The Mid-day Prayers came from Cork in the Republic of Ireland, Zoomed from a charming rural kitchen.

Barbara Williams

Music at St Mary's

As for all aspects of Church life, the last 12 months have sadly seen little musical activity in terms of worship or concerts. As with very many churches, services are Zoomed-in to our homes, regrettably with negligible musical content although more recently there have been

moments of music during these broadcasts with delightful solos from Clarinda and - soon - a quartet.

It was a joy for a quartet to be able to sing for the service of rededication and at Christmas, delighting in the newly warmed acoustics in the church. We hugely look forward to the chance for the choir to be routinely singing again from the gallery and I am reminded of the words of St Thomas Aquinas, “he who sings prays twice”.

Sadly, our Organ Scholar, Sathin Wijesena, has not had the opportunity of developing his service-playing skills for over a year and hopes to head to university in September. There had been a successor lined-up but the poor young chap suffered badly from Covid and sadly is unlikely to be joining us after all later this year.

The 2020 Sunday Evening Concert Series was all organised but no concerts could take place. However, there are grounds for cautious optimism that a second-half year series will be possible from July and will give everyone an opportunity to enjoy hearing a wide range of music performed in the church. The Marble Hill Singers hugely enjoyed (socially-distanced) rehearsals last autumn and hopes to start the new series. Several professional recordings have been made in the church in recent months, all appreciating the acoustics and magnificent piano, a concert on which will feature this autumn.

Canon Adrian Mumford
Director of Music

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Since the last APCM in October 2020, the PCC has met three times, exclusively on Zoom. Each of the meetings considered how best we could continue to support the ministry and mission of the St Mary's during the period of government restrictions and how we make plans to move to reopening the church for worship and for use by the community. The four challenges that were identified as requiring particular attention over the coming 12 months were:

- Ensuring that opportunities were given to the congregation to continue worshipping together and enjoying fellowship and faith together both online and in church.
- Ensuring that the lack of assistant priest on our ministry to children and young families in the church and in the school was dealt with creatively.
- Ensuring that good communication continued to exist amongst the congregation, many of whom were feeling isolated and afraid.
- Ensuring that steps were taken to increase the amount of money people pledge and give regularly to support the life of our church.

The PCC was aware of how vulnerable and isolated certain groups of people from the church family were feeling and was grateful to all who were keeping in touch with them and offering support and assistance.

Within days of the Bishop of Kensington's rededication of the new interior following the reordering works, the church had to close its doors again as a second lockdown and subsequently a third lockdown was announced. We have a beautiful new church interior, which will enhance our worship when we are able to return full-time to the church and which we are planning to make available to the local community. The PCC has compiled list of possible organisations which might be interested in using the church, and they (along with other members of the local community) will be invited to come to see the new interior. It has been marvellous to welcome St Mary's School into the church, the first time that the whole of the enlarged school is able to be accommodated. Jeff and Katherine Cox have been recording collective worship for the school from different places within the church, which would not have been as effective with the old configuration.

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).

Charlotte West
PCC Secretary

PCC Standing Committee

The Standing Committee consists of the Parish Priest, the PCC Secretary, the Wardens, the Treasurer and a representative nominated by each Warden and a representative elected by the PCC, each being chosen for the experience they have to offer in different areas.

This Committee conducts the business of the PCC between PCC meetings. This year, because of the health and financial consequences of the Virus, our work has been more complicated! We have however received detailed Guidance from the Diocese about its interpretation of the Government and the Church of England's statements throughout the year. We are very grateful for that, for the prudence of Judy Britton and Francis Drasar in their heroic efforts to protect St. Mary's Congregations from harm - both from infection and from loss of funds - and for the detailed work of Charlotte West in her drafting of Minutes and her advice about so much.

We should also thank Cath Nortje and Katie Kean who have continued to work in the Parish Office or from home, without a third person in the Office. The running of the Parish could not have been achieved at all, let alone smoothly, without their patience, energy and good sense. Also, we need to thank all those who have been dealing with Communications within the Parish at this difficult time - Emily Bainbridge, Tamasin Little, Betty Miller and Chris Williams, Betty's noble team of volunteers and the Wests and the Brittons for facilitating the Zoom Services.

Especially, of course, this Committee should express its gratitude to Jeff, above all, for his patience with circumstances this year which could have clipped his wings ... Instead of being grounded however, he has flown - verbally, in so many inspiring, encouraging Pastoral letters (which he really must publish in due course !) and - digitally, in his use of Zoom for weekly Services all year, live streaming of Funerals and the Videos he has made with Katherine Cox, for St Mary's School to use. Principally however, we should acknowledge the depth of the relations he has maintained throughout this year with his Parishioners and all those hours of Prayer for them ...

We look forward to moving forward, with excitement, using our glowing, newly refurbished Church building.

Barbara Williams

Safeguarding

This past year has had a severe impact upon members of the congregation. In particular the elderly, those shielding and those living alone have suffered from their isolation, from the suspension of church services, other than on-line, and the curtailment of group meetings. Betty Miller and the team of volunteers whom she co-ordinates are to be greatly thanked for all they have done to maintain contact with those I have just mentioned. Equally, while this group will have experienced relatively empty lives, for parents having to cope with home-schooling often on top of their own jobs, the past year may have been all too full. Children will have missed much schooling and contact with friends and members of their wider families. Many of all ages will have suffered from the pandemic itself, from bereavements, from concerns over the welfare of family and friends and from financial worries greater than any they have known previously.

Earlier this month the first meeting was held of a deanery-wide support group for Church Safeguarding Officers, which was helpful, although not altogether reassuring, as it appears that key safeguarding posts within the diocese are currently unoccupied.

My heartfelt thanks go to the Vulnerable Adults' Champions, Katherine Cox and Francis Drasar, and to the Children's Champions, Judy Britton, Katherine Cox and Julie Hall, all of whom play a vital role in safeguarding our church community.

Sophy Fisher
Safeguarding Officer

St Mary's Group

There was just time for our Vicar, Jeff, to lead our Lenten reflections with music and words in March at a meeting we shared with the Mothers' Union before we entered the first lockdown. We had hoped to resume our meetings in September but unfortunately new restrictions introduced shortly before precluded this. It looks as if it will be July and party time before we can share our experiences of this most terrible of years.

Sophy Fisher

St Mary's School Trustees (Incorporated Trustees of Twickenham Parochial Schools)

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 of children at St Mary's Church of England Primary School.

This year has been extraordinary for so many reasons. The Covid 19 pandemic, the moving away of the School's Chaplain - The Rev'd. Dr. Piotr Ashwin Siejkowski - and the beginnings of the sharing of the Middle Site playground with another School - Capella House. The Trustees should congratulate the Head, the Deputy Head and all the Staff for responding to change with such good sense!

The Trustees have continued to look into and discuss the Requests for Financial Support sent by the Head and have made significant grants to the School. In particular there has been one grant which will, in future, allow all the children to gather in one space at the same time. This is a big step forward which will encourage the children to view themselves as a unity, a St Mary's team, allied with their local beautiful church.

Finally, the Trustees should pay tribute to The Rev'd. Jeff Hopkin Williams and Dr. Katherine Cox for writing and delivering a series of strong but charming filmed Services of Collective Worship for the children of St Mary's School - a fresh new initiative which none of the children will ever forget. Ask them in thirty years' time! People never forget their good teachers.

Barbara Williams

The Twickenham Almshouses

There are now two estates of almshouses in Twickenham: Candler, a group of ten almshouses in Amyand Park Road and Wright's Almshouses which consists of 9 self-contained flats situated at the West end of Heath Road. Candler and Wright's are both named after the benefactors whose philanthropy enabled the building of the estates. Candler Almshouses were built in 1936 and Wright's in 2019-2020, the first residents moved in in October 2020. Both estates are run and managed by The Richmond Charities. The Chief Executive Officer is Juliet Ames-Lewis who is in overall charge of all The Richmond Charities estates of almshouses. Her skill and foresight has ensured that all the residents have remained free of Covid 19 infection. This has meant that, unfortunately, the usual garden parties, Christmas party, social group meetings, coffee mornings etc. have all had to be cancelled. The local Scheme Managers, Linda Prendagast and Gennie Thompson, support the daily needs of the residents. Thus during the pandemic 'shoppers' have been organised for those less mobile residents to obtain their shopping requirements. Personal visits have been substituted with phone calls where appropriate. The almshouse magazine/

newspaper Almshouse News has been provided to the residents at the increased frequency of fortnightly. It contains information, articles of general interest, puzzles, poetry and contributions by residents and staff. With the approaching easing of the lockdown restrictions, the former social interactions of the residents will be resumed as per the government guidelines. We are all greatly looking forward to that!

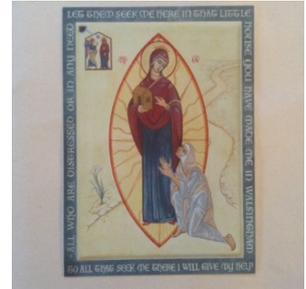
Dr Alex Hall
Trustee, appointed by the Vicar of Twickenham

Walsingham

Sadly, our group could not visit Walsingham this year but WALSINGHAM IS OPEN !

I went in October and I am delighted to be able to report that not only is the Shrine open to all but so is the book shop and the cafe ... People and causes are still being prayed for, candles are being lit and you can still catch the beautiful perfume of incense in the air as you walk down the steps from the garden into the Shrine Church. A brilliant team continues to tend the garden which looked just as glorious as ever, last October. If anything, it seemed even more mysteriously inviting because it was empty of visitors ... as though waiting for someone to come and smell the roses.

Please do join us when we are able to have our next Pilgrimage.



Barbara Williams

PCC Membership

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.

PCC Members	Elected/re-elected
Fraser Bell	Re-elected 2020
Clarinda Chan	Elected 2020
Katherine Cox	Elected 2018
Tony Dempsey	Re-elected 2018
Rosemary Fulljames	Elected 2020
Peter Jenkins	Re-elected 2018
Geoff Noble	Elected 2019
Elizabeth Sledge	Elected 2019
Simon Shelly	Re-elected 2018
Audrey Thomas	Elected 2018
Sarah Waller	Re-elected 2019
Charlotte West	Re-elected 2018
Mark Wilson	Re-elected 2020
Deanery Synod	All elected for 3 years from 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2023
Francis Drasar	Re-elected 2020
Karen Kiddle	Re-elected 2020
Peter Mence	Elected 2020
Shobha Sajan	Elected 2020
Elizabeth Webborn	Elected 2020
Co-opted Members	Co-opted for a year at a time
Adrian Mumford	Director of Music
Sophy Fisher	Safeguarding Officer
Church Wardens	Elected for a year at a time
Judy Britton	
Barbara Williams	