



APCM

2020



Vicar's Report

The report for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting is a summary of our church activity over the past twelve months as well as including statutory reports such as: financial reports, the fabric report and a PCC membership update.

A challenging year

This is my fourth year as Vicar of St James, and it has been a year of both great achievement and a time of change as we have had to deal with COVID-19.

The sad situation with the previous treasurer was concluded in December. God has continued to bless us as we have developed our procedures and kept a close eye on our finances. You have continued to give generously during the pandemic. Thank you for your support; it has meant that we can keep all our staff and continue to pay our contribution to the Diocese. Paul and Bryony have both risen to the immense challenges and I want to thank them for continuing to be a blessing at St James.

A year on Zoom

Steve Craggs helped us significantly at the beginning of the COVID-19 restrictions by introducing us to Zoom. Thanks to his support, we now have a trained team to help us at each service. My thanks go to him and also to David Mulford, Simon Perera and Paul Robinson for all they have done to make our services available, and in allowing us to carry on our musical worship in lots of different ways. Through their hard work, we have developed our YouTube and Facebook sites as well, so that our worship and teaching can now be seen by more people than ever before.

As well as the technical team behind the cameras, there has been a group leading services, recording teaching and music, and organising events. We have all had to learn new skills in the past year, and it has been great to see creative new ways of teaching and worshipping. I want to thank all of you that have recorded reflections or written words of encouragement. My particular thanks go to Jenny Robinson for helping me with a Facebook Live series on the book of Revelation, to Simon Vincent for his talks on Paul's

letters and the sermon on the mount, and to Lily for her regular uplifting words for us all on WhatsApp. There are too many others to mention you all, but you are all an encouragement to me and to each other. Your work has transformed the future for St James as we look at the next steps coming out of lockdown.

The rules have not stayed the same for the whole year, and there were times where we could do more than just Zoom services. A highlight was the chance to hold some amazing Christmas services, just before the most recent restrictions started. The Christingle service and our two very different carol services gave us a chance to welcome visitors into the building to hear the good news about Jesus coming to earth.

We have tried many new things over the past year, but we have kept services going for the whole time. The pattern that we have settled into has been for our KidzChurch session to be on Zoom at 9:45am each Sunday, followed by our main service at 10:15am. We have held regular services of Morning Prayer on Facebook Live (currently Mondays) and times of quiet reflection on Facebook live each Wednesday morning. When the restrictions eased, we held these in church where we could, and also opened the church for private prayer when allowed.

Some sad goodbyes

There have been some sad losses in our church family. Francine Sharratt, Robert Okonya and Kath Craft all went to be with Jesus. Helen and Andrew Cooper moved, but I know we will continue to keep in touch with them.

I know a few of you have been unwell and things have been tough for many of us. I must thank you for how you have looked after each other. I have seen through the WhatsApp groups and all the other things you do just how much you have all supported each other, shared each other's burdens and troubles and disciplined each other. I have seen you share scripture, speak Godly words, and keep our spirits up with humour. Some people have not been able to link in through our online activities, but I have seen you all try where you can to keep all members of our family involved. I am privileged to see the full picture of what is going on in the church and it has struck me that through the troubles of the past year, we have become much closer as a family of God.

Keeping the focus on our mission

When I wrote last year, we had just re-written our Mission Action Plan. Most of that plan still stands, but we are adapting it to include the new online work that will continue after the COVID-19 restrictions end. God has given us a chance to re-engage with what it means to be church, and not just do church. Hopefully we will learn lessons and engage with each other more as we re-enter the physical world. We have learnt that relationship with God and with each other should be our priority and that we must be sharing this with our community as much as we can.

Jim's cafe

Because of the restrictions, Jim's Café has only been open occasionally this year. Our focus has been on keeping the church safe and clean, and when the restrictions have eased, we have tried to open. However, the work that Jim's Café does has carried on in other ways where possible.

Our Place

Our Place has continued on a Tuesday afternoon where possible, run by Becky Craggs and her team. Even when they haven't been able to meet in person, this has continued online as a place of support.

Prayer ministry

It has been so encouraging to see people using Zoom to pray for each other. I know it feels odd to begin with! Our prayer team, led by Christine and Rich, have continued to pray with people, and it is great to see this work beginning to return to our services on Sunday morning.

Women's Group

About 30 of us managed to meet across Zoom for a brunch with Anne Coles. Both Anne and Zoe shared encouraging words and testimony. We also had a socially distanced walk and a garden tea party.

Men's Group

The men met a few times in the vicarage garden and Victoria Recreation Ground when they were permitted during the summer. Martin has now stepped down from running this work; my thanks go to him for all that he has brought to the group.

Welcomers Team

We have not needed our Welcomers very much this year, although Caroline and Chris have done a great job of rallying people when we have been allowed to meet in person at church. When we have been allowed to have small numbers of people at services, Carol has done great work in welcoming everyone, helping them keep to the COVID-19 rules and keeping track of who has come into the building. My thanks go to Carol for all the extra roles she has filled during this time.



Church governance

Parochial church council (PCC)

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with me in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. PCC members give me feedback from the congregation and are actively involved with the mission and vision of St James, as well as with crucial legal, financial and safeguarding matters. Average attendance during the year was 89%

PCC members who served in the calendar year of 2020 were:

- *Revd. Laura Hewitt, Chairman
- *Simon Vincent: Churchwarden (re-elected 2020)
- Carol Connah: Churchwarden (re-elected 2020)
- *Ros Thomson, secretary since 2020 (term ends 2022)
- *Alun Matthews (term ends 2022)
- Simon Perera (term ends 2021)
- Luke Cowles (term ends 2023)
- Alice Femi-Pearse (term ends 2021)
- Zoe Jones, Elected Treasurer 2019 (term ends 2021)
- Rosemary Leaver (synod rep; term ends 2023)
- Bob Bayman (term ended October 2020)
- Koye Akinjogbin (term ends 2022)
- Keisha Murdock (term ends 2023)
- Paul Robinson (term ends 2023)
- R Bayman (secretary and Deanery Synod Rep till October 2020)

During 2020, much of the focus was on deciding how the church should operate during the changing COVID-19 restrictions, and supporting Laura, Paul, and others as they led services, children's work and pastoral care. Some of the other things we talked about this year included:

- Regular reviews of our finance position
- Overview of our safeguarding policies
- New ways in which we might expand our practical support for the community of New Barnet, through Jim's Café and other routes.
- Supporting members of the congregation as they start training in new areas of ministry.

The PCC, Laura and the wider leadership team are supported by several other teams that look after some of our day-to-day activity:

Standing Committee

When we need to take decisions very quickly, the PCC has delegated some authority to a small team to act between PCC meetings. The members for most of 2020 were Laura, Simon Vincent and Carol Connah (churchwardens), Zoe Jones (treasurer), Rosalind Thompson (secretary), Alun Matthews, Robert Bayman (until October 2020).

The Standing Committee met through a mixture of face-to-face meetings, Zoom calls and online conversations, more informally during 2020.

Deanery Synod

One of the groups that brings the churches in our area together is the Deanery Synod. Synod didn't meet physically this year but did meet once on Zoom. That meeting included a discussion about vocations and

reader ministry. Simon Vincent talked about his experience of the new Reader training course, where he is part of the first intake into the new way of training. The Synod also talked about the vision for the future of the deanery, in the light of the changes that we have all faced thanks to COVID-19. Laura in her new role as Area Dean would like to encourage others to stand for Deanery Synod, over the coming year we will be renewing our Mission Action Plan, and seeking to work together better as Churches across the Deanery. Rosemary is a current Deanery Synod representative, Robert Bayman was a representative until October 2020 with one unfilled place, we now have two places available (Deanery Synod reps are automatically on PCC).

The Diocese is split into areas and these are called Deaneries, and these Deaneries work together as Churches to build the Kingdom across an Area, representatives attend the synod to discuss how this can happen. The Clergy in these Deaneries meet as a Chapter regularly to discuss how to work together, pray and support each other. The Area Dean has oversight of the Deanery.

Supporting local churches

During the past year I have been Deputy Area Dean, then Acting Area Dean and now Area Dean. Although this work has been challenging, it has given me a valuable opportunity to work closely with other churches in our area. We can support them when they need help, but also learn from them and tap into their expertise in turn if we need help. I have set up monthly prayer meetings with the ministers in our deanery. It is encouraging how we are working together for the common good of building the Kingdom in Barnet.

As Area Dean I have also taken on the role of oversight at Holy Trinity, Lyonsdown, we have begun a Sunday @4pm service (which has been well received), and private prayer on a Thursday 2pm – 4pm. Jenny Robinson will take an active role in leading at Holy Trinity during this year of her training.

Ministry Leaders Team

This team comprises those that lead different areas of our ministry. The group works with Laura to develop the spiritual life of St James. It covers teaching and training, pastoral care, worship, youth and children's work, technical support, the men's and women's groups, and our prayer ministry. We met once on Zoom this year to discuss our vision of how St James needed to change and grow as we come out of lockdown.

Fabric Team

This team deals with practical matters, including the buildings, the management of the church premises and other church-owned properties. The members in 2020 were Carol Connah (who chairs the team), Simon Vincent, Simon Perera, Koye Akinjogbin and Alun Matthews.

Finance Team

Since the trouble with the previous treasurer, we have worked hard over the past two years to build a strong team to both support Zoe Jones, our treasurer, and to strengthen our financial processes and oversight. The team during 2020 was Zoe, Chris Jones, John Price and Stuart Jones.

Home and Overseas Mission Team

This group ensures that all of us at St James keep looking outwards to the work that God is doing beyond our church. The members help decide how we can best support that work. The group has not met this year but will regroup once the current restrictions have ended. The current members are Sarah Edwards, Bob Bayman, Richard Dominy, Caroline Jones, Martine Whitaker, and myself.

Our other work

Life Groups

These groups are at the heart of our support and care for each other. As well as being a regular opportunity to study the Bible and pray together, they are also the first point of contact for anyone needing help or support in any form. This year, Life Groups have been unable to meet in person, but all of them have kept going in some way, whether that is through regular Zoom meetings, occasional socially distanced walks or chat on WhatsApp.

Bible study

Because not all the Life Groups were able to carry on with their Bible studies, we have recently established a regular Thursday night Zoom Bible study. We are working through material from The Bible Project, looking at the big picture of the Bible. We meet together for half an hour to listen to an introduction to a book of the Bible, or a big Bible theme, and then we split into smaller groups to look at a particular passage in more detail. It has been great to see many of our current Life Group members there, as well as those that have not been able to join a Life Group before. Thank you to those that have taken on the task of leading the group discussions. We are considering continuing an online Bible study in the future, but maybe once a month.

Vocations group

With so many who are seeking vocations and training with us, it seemed right to create a group to help discuss the process and pray for each other. It has been encouraging to be a place where others are stepping into their ministry call and developing. During 2020, David Hall and Jenny Robinson were accepted for ordination training. Jenny will remain with us to train, and David will be leaving later this year for full time training in Oxford. David, Laura, Peter and Oliver will be greatly missed but they will remain in our prayers and we hope we continue to hear from them as we are their sending Church. Others in this group are considering training to be a Reader, which is an authorised lay leader in the Church of England.

Theology group

Many of the vocations group are also part of our theology group, along with others that preach and teach regularly at St James. Although the group has only met once, it has lively discussions on WhatsApp. The aim of the group is to provide a safe space for those who have taken on the heavy responsibility of teaching the Word of God to grapple with difficult issues, learn from each other and from the Bible, and hopefully make us all better teachers.

Training new workers

We have welcomed an Oak Hill student, Joel Wilmer, and Uzor Monu, a student from St Mellitus who is placed with us as part of her contextual training course, both are training for ordination. Both have thrown themselves into supporting our work and learning from me and from the rest of the church, in spite of the difficulties of the COVID-19 restrictions. We have also had Jenny Robinson staying with us as she trains for ordination with CMS.



Conclusion

St James may never look the same after the pandemic, but I believe that this could be a good thing. If we want God's kingdom to grow in New Barnet, we need to focus on the good things that God has given us right now, and not dwell on what we have not got or can never get back. To give just one example, it was immensely encouraging to see you all support each other in new ways at the start of the first lockdown, through shopping and telephone buddies. The pastoral care of each other has been exceptional. This has truly been a church family that have loved each other in incredibly difficult times.

But things will change, things will return to something like normal, and we do have to look forward. Over this last year I have encouraged you to engage with a question at the end of each sermon. My hope is that we will start to engage more with theological conversation. We learn and grow as individuals and as a church when we engage in discussion and are encouraged to have our own thoughts. We have learnt to be disciples in new ways over this last year and we need to continue to engage with thinking and encouraging each other.

There are lots of new things in the community around us that we need to get stuck into, and there will be new needs that will be revealed as things open up. We will do this together as God's family, and we will be Kingdom people here in New Barnet. I thank you for being an incredible church to lead and for your encouragement to me over this year as well. Together we are stronger and, as we keep Jesus firmly in the centre of our lives, may we seek his vision for the future.

Rev Laura Hewitt (incumbent, St James, New Barnet)

Approved by the Trustees (PCC) on and signed on their behalf by:

Reference and administrative information

St James's Church is situated in New Barnet at 71 East Barnet Road, Barnet, Herts EN4 8RN, and is part of Barnet Deanery within St Albans Diocese.

The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 11 Park Road, New Barnet, Herts, EN4 9QA.

St James's Church bank is Barclays Bank, Whetstone Branch, 1250 High Road, Whetstone, London, N20 0PB.

The Independent examiner is David Watson.

Our charity registration number is: 1150299.

Electoral Roll Report

The number recorded on the Church Electoral Roll prepared for the APCM 2021 is 108.

The number recorded in 2019 was 107: since then 5 names have been added and 4 moved (4 members moved away).

Bob Bayman
10 April 2021

Finance Report

Summary

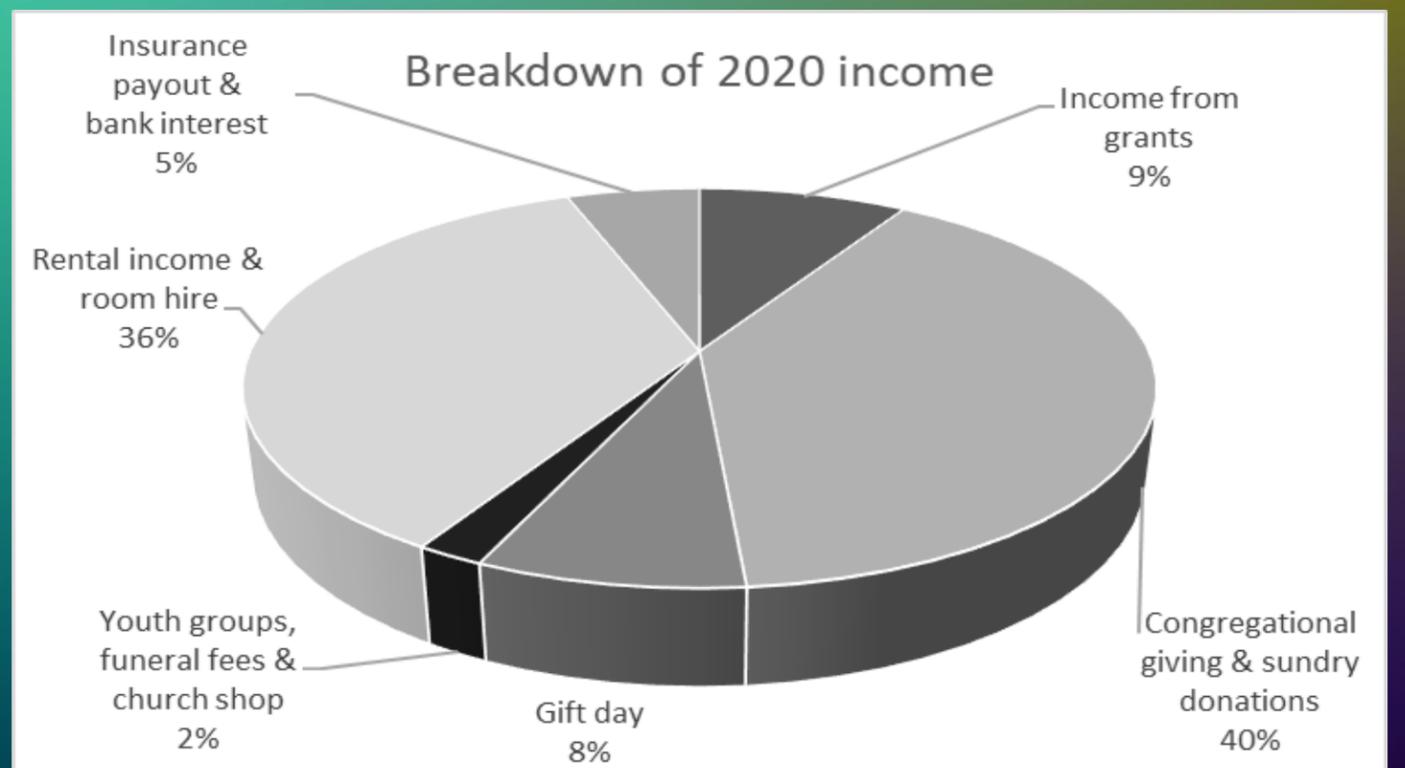
As with the rest of the world 2020 was a challenging financial year for St James's due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We lost significant rental income from our nursery because of the impact of the pandemic, and we also suffered a reduction in cash collections. However, the congregation were very generous in giving extra. God has blessed us with extra income in several areas, and we have been able to reduce expenditure in some areas.

We had a surplus for the year of £34,977, for which we are really grateful in the current financial climate. This was largely due to a one-off £10,000 insurance payout for past income lost to fraud, £15,710 being received in grants, a significant increase in planned giving by the congregation, and the Diocese agreeing to write off £11,919 of prior year parish share that was outstanding.

This has put us in a strong position to weather the financial uncertainty of the next few years while maintaining our community work.

Income

Our income increased from £152,851 in 2019 to £178,547 in 2020. This increase is largely due to the £10,000 insurance payout and the £15,710 in grant funding (£11,370 was a grant for roof repair, £4,140 was a grant for Jim's café and £200 was a grant for IT costs). The income presented in the accounts includes the full rent charged from the KidzChoice Nursery. However, due to COVID-19 we have not yet received all of this income; the difference between what we are owed and what we have actually received is presented as a 'Bad Debt Expense' in the 'Expenditure' section of the accounts.



Expenditure

Our expenditure decreased slightly from £143,890 in 2019 to £143,570 in 2020.

Some cost savings were made in 2020 due to the church being closed for much of the time. Costs like gas and electricity, and the costs of youth groups, events and services, were all less in 2020 than in 2019. The parish share (our contribution to the Diocese of St Albans, which in turn pays Laura's stipend and supports the church in many other ways) is also less than in 2019 because the Diocese kindly agreed to write off £11,919 of contributions that we owed from previous years. However, we also had a significant cost in 2020 of rental income from the nursery which we haven't yet received.

Cash

We had a healthy cash balance throughout the year to make sure we were able to deal with any unexpected dips in income. We ended the year with a cash balance of £48,452. We were also able to pay most of our significant outstanding debts before the end of 2020.

Reserves Policy

The free reserves are the total funds available to the PCC, excluding funds tied up in our rental property in Victoria Road and funds designated to be used on specific items.

It is the PCC's policy to:

- keep three months' running costs (approximately £30,000) in free reserves to cover essential expenditure in the event of loss of income
- save up funds in a 'fabric and large projects reserve' to cover unexpected fabric repairs and other large projects

Our free reserves are currently higher than the target of £30,000 (at 31 December 2020 they stood at £43,794 compared to £13,485 as at 31 December 2019). We feel it is appropriate to keep the reserves higher than £30,000 at the current time to help St James's deal with the expected financial downturn in the coming years while still providing our community services and outreach.



Churchwardens' Report *including Fabrics report*

Carol Connah and Simon Vincent have continued as Churchwardens during 2020 and the first part of 2021. We work very closely together and with Laura, but we do try to divide the responsibilities between us. In general, Carol looks after the fabric of the building and anything to do with contracts, tenancies and rental agreements. Simon looks after record keeping, reporting and communications. Simon will be stepping down from being Churchwarden after this meeting, having come to the end of his 5-year term.

Fabric report

The Churchwardens, along with Simon Perera, Alun Matthews and Koye Akinjogbin, form the Fabric Committee. This group has responsibility for looking after the physical fabric of the church. As with all churches, there is a challenge to keep everything maintained, serviced and in order. We also have to ensure that, as a public building, we keep up to date with inspections, certifications and insurance.

We are thankful for those people that are on the Fabric Committee, or who are just there in the background or help at a work day. All are important - thank you!

The congregation and our tenants in the nursery were out of the church for much of the year, and in the first period of Covid-19 restrictions, there were limits on who could be in the building at all. This year has therefore been mainly about maintenance and care, rather than major work. Carol checked the church regularly during the closure, and we did take the opportunity to do some minor work on the gutters and drains.

Partly as a result of the restrictions, and partly because we were continuing to be cautious about expenditure because of the previous financial problems, we have not taken on any major projects this year. This is the second year running where we have had limited fabric work, and that is not sustainable. We need to keep the small repairs going, and keep up with the longer-term programme of major work recommended at the most recent architect's inspection. Therefore, the 2021 church budget includes a more normal amount of money set aside for fabric work, and the Fabric Team have set some priorities for which projects need to be done. We will also take opportunities, where we can, to apply for grants for major pieces of work.

The priorities for the coming two years are:

- Repair to windows and walls at the back of church, along with renovation of the back garden and the replacement of the railings on the stairs
- Further work on the church heating, as part of wider work on improving our energy efficiency
- Replacement of internal door locks in the front part of church

We continue to maintain the church's property at 159 Victoria Road. Apart from general maintenance and inspection, there was no major work at this house in the past year.

We ensured that the church passed its annual inspection by the Archdeacon's representative, and kept our records up to date.

Church inventory

We have to keep a record of what the church owns, and declare things that we have acquired or disposed of during the year. The PCC has approved this list at its meeting on 25th March 2021.

Staff

The church employs two staff, Bryony Johnson and Paul Robinson-Beswick. The PCC is their employer, and has delegated the line management of the staff to the vicar, Laura. The wardens support the vicar in the management of the staff, including reviewing contracts and recommending levels of pay to the PCC.

Safeguarding Report

The Parish of St James is committed to its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. To achieve this, the Diocese of St Albans requires certain actions to be taken in order to fulfil our responsibility. The purpose of this report is to lay out clearly those responsibilities & requirements and to report on our current position in relation to them.

Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) – Mrs Jenny Robinson

Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officer (DPSO) – Mrs Becky Craggs

Ensure that all those authorised to work with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately recruited according to safer recruitment practice and are adequately supported – this is now standard practice and the PSO complies with this requirement for all recruitment. Due to Covid, the diocese has temporarily suspended all its training as the whole procedure is being looked at. Therefore, we are unable to renew the training of volunteers that certificates have expired or are soon due to.

Ensure that all those authorised to work with children and vulnerable adults are trained appropriately for their roles, including Diocesan Safeguarding Training. – All volunteers are asked to complete the Church of England Safeguarding training, either C0, C1 or C2 course depending on their role.

The full policy and the Church of England's documents are available from Laura, Jenny or the Churchwardens. Please contact Jenny in the first instance if you have any questions or concerns about safeguarding at St James.

Jim's Community Advice Café

Jim's started in four months before the first pandemic lockdown.

In that time it was developing a presence in the community and people were starting to attend for friendship, support and signposting.

We have an agreement with Citizens Advice who use our rooms to provide a service to the community. Before Lockdown it was on a Monday and a Wednesday morning.

Citizens Advice have just returned for Wednesday morning sessions, which is really positive. However, we are not allowed to open the café area for serving refreshment, only as a waiting room, until further restrictions are lifted.

This month the Jim's team have signed up to be part of the 'Welcome Churches' network and to start a project called Welcome Boxes. This project will connect us to refugees who have moved into our area. Details of this project have been circulated to the PCC.

Jim's Team – Sonia Lucas, Jenny Robinson, Karen Kill, Bob Law, David Mulford

Worship Team Report

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and related restrictions, live music in worship at St James over the year has been very limited. We managed to have small bands for Sunday morning services during a short period between August and December and also managed to include some live music content in the Christmas services and events. Very sadly though, congregational singing has not been possible since the restrictions commenced, but we are now very much looking forward to recommencing our live music and corporate sung worship as soon as possible.

For the majority of the past year we have had to primarily rely on worship videos available on the internet, for our regular Sunday morning online services. This is mainly due to our current sound system equipment being non digital which limits our capabilities for producing, recording and streaming our worship music.

Looking ahead, once restrictions allow, we plan to return to our normal Sunday morning worship services, which will continue to be the focus for our weekly time of corporate worship. We are very much looking forward to worshipping together with all our musicians and singers and are hopeful that we will be able to reintroduce the various music teams as we progress out of lockdown.

We had previously intended to develop regular meetings for the worship team to allow times for the building of relationships, to grow our faith and to learn more about worship in music. These times together will also provide opportunities to learn new songs and share worship ideas. In addition, we would also like to develop regular weekly rehearsal nights.

Our prayer for the worship at St Js in the year ahead is that we will continue to develop worship that will encourage everyone to meet, engage with and respond to God. May the worship also reflect a vibrant community at St Js.

Simon Perera and David Mulford - Worship Leaders



Prayer Ministry Report

Over the last year the Prayer Ministry Team has been challenged in the way in which we continue to reach out to those of our congregation and also local community. COVID 19 has proved a big challenge, but with God's Grace we have been determined to keep this aspect of the ministry of our church at the forefront of all we do. We have continued to be a listening ear to all those needing to feel God's comfort and blessing in their life. As a team we have offered prayer appointments over Zoom during the week and face to face prayer ministry when able, after the morning service whilst adhering to strict COVID guidelines. We have been greatly encouraged by the other forms of prayer ministry that have been taking place via the various What's app groups, Life Groups and by individuals supporting one another over the phone during the pandemic.

We have not been able to continue with "Prayer on the Streets" on the second Saturday of each month during the past year, but we hope and pray that this is something that we will be able to re-start again towards the end of the year, God willing.

We have had some amazing answers to prayer this past year and we continue to thank God for his love and mercy. When we can all be back in church together, we look forward to the amazing testimonies of what God has done during this year of lockdown situations. We pray that as we continue to call upon the name of the Lord, the Holy Spirit will draw us all ever closer together in unity, bound by the truth of the gospel.

Christine & Rich



Youth and Children's Work

Since I have been the Youth and Children's worker for St James things have been going very smoothly with the amount of children and families who have come through our church doors whether to individual events or one of our many age related groups stable or increased. You might even say we were in a comfort zone. Then Lockdown came in March 2020 and how things have changed, some good and some not so good, which in the end will give us food for thought and then help us start a fresh with strong foundations for our kingdom work within St James and our community.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

Baby and Toddlers:

There has been no group running during the pandemic and very limited response from parents on social media, which correlated with numbers reducing on our Facebook page. We used our Toddler Facebook to share material with this group, posting recordings of the groups favourite songs. We also started up a 'zoom drop in' for chat and advice which encouraged one new mum to forge new links. Going forward I believe this needs to change slightly, to become more relational with the church, to be more focused towards bible teaching, to encourage them to take ownership and to support each other.

Kidschurch:

We stopped all our kidschurch groups from March - Sept 2020. However we did provide material over Facebook, MailChimp and WhatsApp to help our younger members.

From Sept we decided we needed to provide spiritual output for our under 11's so we produced kidschurch online every Sunday before the main service providing a worksheet to go with this. This was also saved on to our church YouTube channel.

We also produced Peter's zoom room within the main service to help be more child friendly and help celebrate everyone's birthdays and special events.

Our Place:

From August 2020 we started to run face to face groups up until Christmas. Then this went onto zoom from January 2021 and is ongoing. We are very lucky that we are also supported by Barnet SEN team who provide 2 pre-school teachers for the session.

This group has worked so well through lockdown and have supported each other through the hard times. It shows that a small relational group works and that they have real passion for each other and for this church group. They also arranged for a zoom pamper evening with all the mums wanting to attend. We are in touch with about 20 families with regular attendance between 6-10 children. This is a free group supplied by St James

Livingston school:

No gardening club with school while pandemic is ongoing.

MSG:

No group but encourage to Join Youth Bible study on zoom

Zone:

No group and very limited response from parents. We used text to try to keep in contact and to share links to events and bible related contents throughout lockdown.

Youth Bible study:

This has successfully continued throughout the pandemic. We have met most weeks between April and July on zoom alternating between bible study and games night. We then had two socials in the vicarage garden in August. We were then able to meet face to face from September to Christmas which was great relief to all. Since Christmas we are back on zoom but looking forward to been back in church when restrictions dictate.

We encouraged people who only went to MSG to try and attend this group. This worked while we were face to face but not when we were on zoom. However we do use whatsapp to keep in touch with both groups and to keep them up to date with sessions.

Specials

Love and lent:

This was held on zoom and was run like a messy church style service

Easter holy week online:

We produced videos for each day of holy week entitled Easter in a box. We also produced an Easter video to cover holy week as a whole and shared with parents of zone.

Fruits of the spirits online:

We produced videos skits with puppets to cover each of the fruits of the spirits

Story time with Peter:

We also produced a digital video of some of the main bible stories from the old testament introduced by Peter the puppet

Christingle:

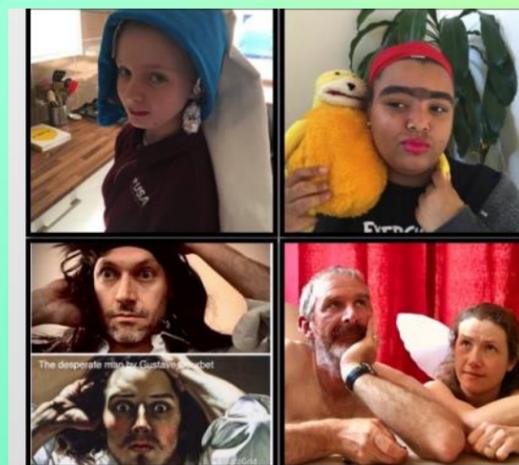
This took on an even greater significance than normal this year as this was the first face to face service for our families since the pandemic started. We built the service around Christ in GLE. A skit performed By Rev Laura and myself

Staffing of groups:

This really has been limited over this period due to the pandemic. However I would love to give a special mention to Bukky, Marion and Jenni for all their help with the youth bible study group. Also Becky, Pam, Liz and Jenny Luxon for their dedication with Our Place

I believe when we start running our groups back we will need to re-evaluate who is still wanting to volunteer and to what level.

Please pray for this amazing outreach that the church provides for our community



First Aid:

This will be looked at once we get out of lockdown and we can start to meet face to face as this is essential for running our groups

Children's information:

This is a priority to get right once our groups start to meet again face to face, not just for our external groups but also for our church families. How we keep in touch with external and internal families is very important, at times this has been a struggle through the pandemic.

Lessons learned, communication is the bedrock, you never can plan for what happened in the pandemic but we can learn lessons for the future.

Prayer:

This is essential in every part of our family life and is normal to start and finish our groups this way. Hopefully this will have an effect on our Youth and Children and they will play a more active role within the church.

Meetings:

Have been limited due to no face to face meetings, however we have used zoom to have a full volunteers meeting around September time. This was to discuss how we were going to start back up again once lockdown started to be relaxed.

Paul Robinson, Children's and Youth Worker





“From
the rising
of the sun
to its
setting
The name
of the
LORD is
to be
praised.
Psalm
113:3

