

2018 REPORT OF THE VICAR OF CHRIST CHURCH FOR THE 2019 APCM

Once again, the past year has been a very full one indeed. I am enormously grateful in particular to Julie Grainger and David Simpson for their constant help and support. We have been very fortunate to have them as Wardens. It has also been good to work with Sarah Castle (our SPA) as well as Farhad Hedayati and Flis Banks (our Readers). The whole church continues to be indebted to Sara Taylor our Administrator who works so efficiently behind the scenes and make so much run smoothly. For most of 2018 we saw different organists playing for us but were very heartened by their commitment to the musical life of Christ Church. We were delighted to be able to welcome Tom Theakston who began as our new Director of Music in February 2019. We thank Nick Lindsay and Julie Grainger for acting as vergers at funerals and weddings. The PCC has worked hard this past year; in particular we thank Debbie Morley for her work as PCC Secretary and also thank John Davey for agreeing to take back the role of PCC Treasurer working alongside our new part-time paid bookkeeper, Margaret Hamps; we thank too those who count and bank the collection money. One of the biggest tasks this year has been to update the contact details and signatures for the various bank accounts – not an easy task! This year Pat Spencer is stepping down from the PCC and we thank her for her strong contribution. There are many to thank who contribute to the life of Christ Church; I can't possibly mention everybody but am grateful to them all including church cleaners, flower arrangers, servers, chalice assistants, readers, intercessors, stewards, refreshment servers, small group convenors, gardeners, handyman, lift givers, pastoral team members, the social events committee and those who supervise our Hall and its users with particular thanks to Stefan Bown and Angelina Skelton. It was good to be able to hold various courses in church this year during Lent and Advent. One of the most encouraging features of Christ Church is the number of young families and children who attend – and we are indebted to the leaders of Junior Church, Stepping Up and KFH. We have been grateful to Pat Spencer who has helped us to implement the new Guidance on Data Protection Regulations which came into force in May 2018 and which has ongoing implications as to how we communicate with the congregation and those associated with the church. Meanwhile we are grateful to Paul Brazier for maintaining the website and to Brenda Clark and Naomi Lowe for producing such an attractive quarterly magazine. Safeguarding is a vital issue for every church to ensure proper procedures are in place for children and vulnerable adults and we are grateful to Jenny Tomlinson and Jane Simpson who look after this important aspect of our life for us.

The PCC has now been able to formulate firm plans for the refurbishment of the Hall and stage 1 of the work is almost complete. We hope to move onto stage 2 during the summer holidays 2019. Other issues to do with the buildings and grounds have been resolved and we are very grateful in particular to Julie Grainger, assisted by David Simpson. We were especially delighted to be able to create a new Vision for Christ Church 'SHARING GOD'S LOVE' and to create a new Mission Action Plan and are very grateful to those who helped us with this. The Bishop and Archdeacon have both complimented us upon this achievement. This and many other matters will continue to be on the PCC agenda in the coming months.

The whole Christ Church family and wider community was deeply shocked at the sudden unexpected death on 23 November of Colin Holloway. He was a long serving member of the church and had influenced its life in many ways. We were able to give thanks to God for his life and work at a packed funeral in December.

But we should never forget that the local parish church also exists for those who are **not** its members – and so it is good to be able to visit some of the schools and residential homes in the parish and to baptise, marry and bury those who wish to use our pastoral services. We are also part of the Diocese of Southwark, the Deanery of Merton and of Churches Together in West Wimbledon. On a personal level I was pleased to be able to move into a permanent Vicarage in May, to be instituted as Vicar in December as well as to celebrate my 40th anniversary as a priest earlier in June. What unites us together is our worship of God and our care for others. The time we spend together in Church on Sundays in worship and the care and welcome we offer are crucial and I pray that we will faithfully continue to be active in SHARING GOD'S LOVE week by week.

Michael Burns, April 2019