



St Germain's Church

Growing Christ-Centred Community

St Germain's Church

Inside Out

APCM Reports

April 2018



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People

1.1 Warden's Report

What an eventful year this has been. The key focus has been our centenary celebrations and it was wonderful to welcome so many past members and new friends into the church over the two special celebration weekends in September. Leading up to the celebrations in September were several other events including an outreach event with George Dixon Primary school led by Suzy Pearson in June which resulted in the creative mosaic of our church logo which was produced by the primary school children. The wardens would like to thank everyone who played any part in the centenary celebrations and helped to make them so special and memorable.

In October over 100 of the church family and friends enjoyed time together at our church weekend away. The venue was not without its challenges but many enjoyed the fellowship and teaching and the chance to be away.

This year we have been privileged to welcome both the Bishop of Birmingham who came to our centenary celebrations and the Bishop of Aston who presided at our baptism and confirmation service in March. It was an enormous privilege to be present to support our baptism and confirmation candidates and to hear their testimonies about what God is doing in their lives.

This year has been a year of great celebration but also tinged with sadness. We have said goodbye to two key members of the Church, both of whom were lay readers and served the church for many years. The funeral of Chris Hawkins was held in January and that for Jean McCubbin was held on 3rd April. As well as the sadness of loss these were also great celebrations of the lives of two very special people.

And finally though certainly not of least significance, we said goodbye in a different way to our vicar Hugh Scriven, in March, who after faithfully serving us here for the past 18 years is moving to a new parish in Accrington. We are thankful to Hugh for all he has given us and wish him much blessing in this new phase of his ministry. Easter time reminds us both of death but also resurrection and new life. We praise God for his provision both in terms of resource and also the good will of the Diocese in allowing for Rev Sarah Hayes to be licensed to St Germain's as Associate Vicar for 12 months from mid-June. We look forward to all that God will do among us over the next year. As we look back over the last year and move forward into what is strictly a period of vacancy, with no incumbent, we are reminded that it is Jesus who is head of the church and it is in Him that all things hold together. Colossians 1v17, 18.

Heather Griffiths and John Hopkins
Church wardens



1.2 PCC Secretary's Report

Over the past year our Parochial Church Council (PCC) has met for 12 meetings. These were the usual seven main meetings, with a number of others called to cover specific matters. We also had a special meeting with Canon Dr Andrew Smith, Director of Interfaith Relations for the Bishop of Birmingham who came to help us in our thinking in relation to other faiths represented in our community. Members of the PCC also serve on the 'PCC Teams' and some on the Standing Committee.

Those on PCC this year: our clergy: Hugh Scriven, Sarah Hayes and Ian Smith; Churchwardens: Heather Griffiths and John Hopkins; Deanery Synod Representatives: Anthony Button, David Child, and Blessing Jegede: Ruth Miller as the Reader Representative; and in addition: David Botting, Heather Baseley, Heather Cooke, Richard Eaton, Jane Faux, Monica Harris, Bridget Hathaway, Geraldine Hughes, Sister Jannafer, Margaret Strong, Pam Varma, Comforter Zibwowa. Jon Wetherell was also co-opted on to the PCC this year. Those due to stand down or choosing to do so this year are Richard Eaton, Jane Faux, Monica Harris and Margaret Strong. This does not mean that they cannot be nominated to stand for election for another term of three years. All members of the PCC are now required to sign to say that they are not disqualified from legally being a trustee in relation to the charitable status of the church.

Reports on the work the PCC teams have been doing are brought to our PCC meetings. i.e. from the Finance Team, Pastoral Team, Outreach Team, Social Team, Worship Team, Young People's PCC, and the Fabric Team. In addition to all the matters that come up under the remit of those teams, the following have been on PCC agendas during the year:

Updates on the progress of the Building Project for Phase 1 and Phase 2 and funding for this; the Iftar Meal held for the community during Ramadan last year; the Centenary celebrations; the Church Weekend Away; Giving to our Mission Partners; The potential sale of The Hut; Provision for Children/Young People and Families; Review of all our Safeguarding Policies; The Church Manager post; a meeting with the Archdeacon about the vacancy after Hugh Scriven has left, and interim arrangements and appointment of Sarah Hayes for 12 months from June 10th; The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) effective from 25th May; the church finances/accounts; Health and Safety; Church policies for grievance and disciplinary matters; Fabric of the church and repairs.

The PCC recently had an Away Day led by Sarah Hayes and Andrew Pain to consider the decision making structures in the church, and this included looking at the PCC Teams, what works and what doesn't work so well. It is therefore anticipated that the PCC will be exploring doing some things differently over the coming year.

This year there will be an election to appoint an anticipated number of four people to serve on the PCC for the next three years. (Unless of course circumstances mean they need to stand down). Please consider who might be nominated for the election at the APCM, or



consider standing for election yourself. If you have any questions about the PCC please do not hesitate to ask - it is meant to be a representative body for the church and the more involvement of church members there is the better. The minutes of the meetings are displayed on the PCC notice-board at the back of the church.

Margaret Strong
PCC Secretary

Statutory reports

2.1 Finance

2.1.1 Treasurers Report

Please see separate report

David Botting
Treasurer

2.1.2 Jubilee Fund

“Share with God’s people who are need” Rom.12.13

The Jubilee Fund was set up over 25 yrs. ago to enable church members to express love and care for each other by the giving and receiving of financial gifts.

How does the Jubilee Fund work?

- It is a way of helping church members in need where this is possible.
- Gifts of money can be given anonymously into the Fund and given on to specified individuals as requested.
- Support can be given in a variety of situations if appropriate and if there are funds available.

Last year total giving to the Fund was £11,340 (which includes £1,150 tax recovered). The total amount given away was £10,088.

Some individuals received designated gifts and others were helped in a variety of different situations. There are also a few individuals who receive ongoing support due to their particular circumstances.



This will be my final report after over 25 years as Jubilee Fund Secretary as I anticipate handing over to Di Botting and Heather Baseley, who have kindly offered to share responsibility in future.

It has been a joy and privilege to share in the generosity of church members and over the years help has been given in a wide variety of situations. Due to the quiet and confidential nature of the Fund I am not able to give details, but I know that many within our fellowship have been helped and encouraged.

I would like to thank all those who have supported the Fund with faithful giving. Some give regularly and others help with one off gifts. Each year I have been thankful for God's provision and His goodness in enabling the Fund to continue and grow. When I began as Secretary the income was around £2,000!

Please note that the Fund's bank account (St. Germain's Jubilee Fund) is separate from the main church account. Gifts into the Fund are always appreciated, and especially helpful is regular monthly giving by standing order or cash.

Marion Goodgame

Jubilee Fund Secretary

2.2 Deanery Synod Report

We have had two deanery synod meetings since after our last APCM. It has been great spiritually and socially to attend these meetings as you meet new clerical and lay people from all over the Diocese who have vast knowledge of different aspects of the running of the Diocese.

We may want to ask ourselves the role and function of the Deanery Synod, yes in brief it is an informal cluster of parishes with no legal basis. In our Deanery we decided to elect Pastoral committee on the basis of so many representations (CLERICAL AND LAY) from each cluster. This arrangement for our standing and pastoral committee is quite workable. We noticed that because it's not based on law we can revise it if we wish.

The deanery fortunately had a meeting in our church St Germain's Edgbaston on the 8th of June 2017. The topic that was discussed was on Safeguarding facilitated by Claire Wesley from the Diocese office. This topic was an eye opener especially relating to the church in general. Claire mentioned that parishes are not expected to be safeguarding experts. She said the Diocesan safeguarding team is always there to help – "ASK US". The discussion dwelt on Safeguarding Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, promoting a Safer church, sharing information, Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator and PCC safeguarding Lead, safer recruitment, safeguarding training and safeguarding team.

There was also election of the lay chairman (Jonathan Goll) and the standing committee. It was also announced that Rev Priscilla White was standing down as Area Dean having served



her term for over seven years. The Rev. Nick Tucker has been appointed as the New Area Dean

SPOTLIGHT ON ST. GERMAIN'S EDGBASTON;- Rev. Hugh Scriven told members what the church is doing in the past, present and future. Our hundred year's celebration was also mentioned.

On behalf of the Deanery synod team of St. Germain's, I want to say a big thank you to all the volunteers who served refreshment and organised things at this occasion. Your labour in the house of the Almighty God will not go in vain.

Our next meeting was held at St. Bartholomew's Edgbaston Old church and chaired by the new area dean Rev. Nick Tucker. It began with inaugural Eucharist with Bishop Maurice Sinclair. The spotlight was on Bolivia. And good byes were said at this gathering.

Our meeting for the 1st March 2018 did not hold because of severe weather condition. Hence, it was postponed to May 14th 2018. Nick Tucker is inviting many members of the PCC and the congregation to join us on the 14th as the People and Places programme that we are discussing with Andrew and Rhiannon will be of such significance for everyone.

Thanks very much indeed everyone and may God bless us all. Amen

Blessing Jegede

PCC Teams

3.1 Fabric Team Report

During the year a number of fabric tasks have been completed inside the main church building. The hire of a "cherry picker" mobile platform allowed high level work to be undertaken. This included the replacement of the chancel flood lights with LEDs (4500 watt power saving), and the repair and painting of damaged high level plasterwork. At a lower level the pendant lights were replaced with LEDs (660 watt power reduction). The pendant wiring was renewed and reconfigured to fix the problem of the lights intermittent tripping out. The advantages of LEDs lights are that they are not only cheaper to run but have a longer life expectancy than the older style bulbs. Additional electrical work has included the replacement and updating of the main heater controls with automatic timers.

Three windows on the Portland Road side of church had been damaged and were repaired. For many years the main internal doors to the south porch have been difficult to open inwards. A company is working on replacing the hinge mechanism. However the work is taking longer than expected because of difficulty in sourcing the parts required.



The old pelmet and curtains to the north porch have been removed and replaced with a curtain rail and new curtains.

The toilets in church were refurbished; the work included the replacement of the sanitary ware, new electric hand driers, new heaters, additional hand rails and total redecoration. There are signs of a roof leak to the side chapel ceiling. Work is planned to tackle this problem that has occurred a number of time in past years.

Outside, the old wooden ramp constructed in the 1980s has been replaced with a larger semi-permanent one. The new ramp is wider and allows the chair trolley to be easily wheeled in and out of church.

The grounds and the outside of the church building have also been improved. The external security lights have been replaced at the front and rear of church. Three rain water drains had collapsed and required digging out and were replaced. The sit-on grass mower was treated to an overall with new cutter belt, starter battery and tyres; however it may now be close to the end of its working life because further repairs may be uneconomical.

There are plans for a community garden and we look forward to this project taking root and flourishing in the years to come.

The church hall has continued to be heavily used and required planned maintenance that included the repair of leaking radiators, adding a Bluetooth music connection, and repairing the guttering. One of the smaller side rooms is undergoing a refurbishment and refit by younger members of church to be suitable for use by the “Backroom” group.

The hall kitchen was refitted well over ten years ago, so plans are being made to replace the kitchen appliances, upgrade the electrical wiring and install new cupboards.

3.2 Pastoral Team Report

The Pastoral Team has met regularly throughout the year.

One of our areas of focus has been to facilitate the “Enabling Church” course which looks at how we can, as a church, be more inclusive to people with disabilities. The new television in the church lounge was bought so that we have means of utilising modern media now for this course and for future projects.

Last summer we hosted a newcomer’s tea at the vicarage, with Rev Hugh’s help. It was well attended.

A new photo board has been purchased and with the assistance of Ken Bladon will be relaunched shortly.

We have also been involved with arranging visits to church members whose long term health restrictions have meant that they weren’t well enough to come to us. Primarily the focus was to ensure that visits were well spread out and so prevent lots of visitors on one day. We have tried to make sure that contact still exists between



church and member. Sadly, we have lost Chris Hawkins, Jean McCubbin and Vi Tibbets who have now gone home for eternal rest.

We discussed how a more active link could be made with Beverley House, since the residents seem to enjoy the occasional visits made by the church at Christmas and Easter. It was agreed that this could be pursued after the Enabling Church course was completed.

In March we discussed ideas of how the Pastoral Team might function in the future, with new ideas emerging.

3.3 Social Team Report

The Social Team meets on a regular basis to pray about, plan and organise social activities for Church members and the wider community. Our aims are to:

- Break down barriers between the Church and the local community
- Build stronger relationships with each other and our community
- Create an opportunity for people to encounter Christ 's love

We organise regular seasonal events which include the Pancake Party, Community Funday, Bonfire Party and Winter Warmer. We also plan summer socials which last year consisted of a walk led by Rev. Hugh Scriven, a Centenary themed quiz created by Jonathon Miles and a Zumba session.

Last year was our Centenary and members of the team were involved in planning events such as the Heritage Day led by Ruth Briggs, Centenary Praise led by Heather Griffith and our Centennial Service where we were joined by the Bishop of Birmingham and many former Church Members.

We look forward to the coming year as in addition to our regular events we will be working with the Outreach Team to launch a Film Thursday which will run over the summer and some football based activities to coincide with the World Cup.

We are also excited about developments to better equip the hall kitchen which will ease our workload

We would like to thank our Church family for their payers and practical support – it would be impossible to hold events without your on-going involvement.



3.4 Outreach Team Report

The group met 5 times and also submitted a report to Sarah following the PCC Away Day. We set up and enabled parish leafleting both at Easter and Christmas. Thanks to quite wide support we got cards out to the whole parish at both festivals though actual door knocking remains quite limited. We try to knock doors in different parts of the parish in rotation. Bundling remains well supported – a big thank you. The Christmas card was the outcome of a small competition run with the Art Department at George Dixon School. We ran two enquirer courses – Start and Moving On which led up to public adult baptisms, We discussed literature – we need to broaden our sources and material, evangelistic services – do we want them? - A Season of Invitation – it needs clergy engagement – the remit of the group – there is a need for a Social Action Group. We need better communication and more joined up working.

3.5 Building project

In my report for the 2017 APCM, I finished with “By the end of 2016 we had documents ready to send to the DAC for comment. Since then, though in 2017, we have had agreement in principle to the link and servery and have been preparing documents for the formal submission of the faculty application for the servery. This will apply for this faculty in May. It does all seem slow, but it is important to test each stage with ourselves, with the diocese and with God – we do this for his kingdom, not ourselves. 2018 should see more progress – so watch this space”.

So what happened, and what is happening?

2017 was both rewarding and frustrating. Rewarding in that the DAC faculty for the servery was submitted and agreed. Rewarding in that the servery was built in time for the centenary celebrations and has become an established part of the community life of the church. Can you remember the old one?

Frustrating in that the movement on the link building has been slow. In the main this has been because of the need to develop plans that not only are acceptable to the DAC but also to the Birmingham City planners, and in particular the heritage planners. This has meant a lot of reviewing and revising of the basic principles and ideas. The main obvious effect has been to move the link back from the carpark so that access to the church is behind the south porch and not through it.

The DAC have given their views on the link building once, the planners twice in 2017 and very recently in early April this year. The planners’ recommendation is that we now have a design to take back to the DAC for comment. There may still be rocky moments ahead but we have definitely moved forward in the last 6 months since we finished the servery. As



part of our confidence in God's provision and endorsement we have seen giving continue to come in to support this.

We all hope that very much more will be reported at the next APCM!

Ross Hayes

Community and Outreach

4.1 Stay and Play

We've had another wonderful year, thanks to God, a great team of helpers and a lovely mix of people coming on a Thursday morning. The summer and autumn terms were busier with 150 adults and children attending, this last term was quieter with about 100 people.

However, the last couple of weeks we have had several new families, many coming because of the cards delivered through their letterboxes, thanks to all those faithful card deliverers!

We came into church at Christmas and Easter, retelling the Bible stories, singing, Easter egg hunting and each child left with an appropriate book for the season. We followed this up with lunch altogether in the hall.

Our mornings are noisy, messy, fun and friendly. We sometimes have opportunities to pray with and for people, speak to them about Jesus, our faith journeys and church, often we are just giving families space to be and serving them practically.

We very much value your prayers and ask that you continue to pray for God's blessing on all that come to Stay & Play.

Karen Overton

4.2 Ward Services at City Hospital.

During the past year the Ward Services at City Hospital, which are undertaken by a team of people made up of church members from St. Germain's Church and from Raglan Road Christian Church in Smethwick, which I previously attended, have continued very much as in the past.

We continue to take a service in the dining room on the Rehabilitation Ward approximately once a month. This takes the form of several hymns, prayers, Bible readings and a short talk sharing God's love and the Good News of Jesus. Following the service there is usually opportunity to chat to the patients who attend. The number of patients who attend vary



and sometimes there are very few and very occasionally no one comes, but those who do are often very appreciative, both patients and visitors.

In addition to this at Christmas time, as in the past, we sing carols on this ward and on two other wards in Sheldon Block; and this year at Easter we sang some Easter hymns on one other ward when we went in to take the service on the Rehabilitation Ward.

Our team, although it is made up of people from two different Churches and indeed from two different denominations, works very well together. My friend Murlene Clarke heads up the team from R.R.C.C. while there is regular input from several members of St. Germain's. Ruth Miller usually accompanies the singing on keyboard or guitar and Mary and Anthony Button are great at the after service "chats." Our speakers are drawn from either Church: Anthony, Bridget Hathaway, and David Child have contributed in this way. More people helped us with the Carol singing and I again want to thank every one who supports this outreach, including those who faithfully pray for us.

In addition to the Services I have continued my visiting as a Voluntary Visitor with the Chaplaincy Team on the Rehabilitation Ward and a "Ready for Discharge" Ward: where people are waiting for the support they need to be put in place so that they can be discharged, the patients on this ward being usually less independent and often quite infirm. I visit the wards about once a week. My visits include talking with patients, praying and giving out Scripture portions. I also have opportunity to greet and sometimes to chat to the staff.

Please continue to pray for this outreach and contact me if you want to know more.

Geraldine Hughes.

4.3 Place of Welcome

The St Germain's Place of Welcome began as a simple act of witness and has now celebrated its 3rd birthday. We are open Fridays 10.30 to 12.30 when people will see the Church doors open and know that a welcome awaits anyone who steps inside.

It has been very encouraging to see people who live locally come into the Church for the first time. Also it has been good to provide an open Church where anyone can come in to pray. There have been some very significant occasions when this has been of great benefit. Our banner attracts passers-by and the community outside the Church.

We enjoy chatting, friendship and hospitality. We drink tea, eat toast & soup, play chess, dominoes, Scrabble and colouring. This is a fun outreach that anyone can drop into and enjoy.



Thank you to everyone who has been able to give support, whether by prayer, taking a turn to serve refreshments, by dropping in and chatting, or by donating soup and biscuits.

We have begun now to offer a “blessing” as part of our Friday conversations. Not everyone who attends has a sense of God’s love for them and all of us probably need regular assurance so at 12.00 we pause briefly and a blessing is read which offers a sense of warmth and protection. We were a little nervous at first as to what the response may be of our non-Christian friends. We need not have been concerned. The blessing was completed by a spontaneous burst of very affirmative clapping.

Edith Eaton

4.4 Visits to Residential Homes

Last Christmas we sang carols to the residents of Fountain Road and Ashley Court Homes and also at Beverley House and Willow House. It was a joy and a privilege to be able to do this and we were well received on all occasions.

More recently around Easter we returned to Beverley House to sing Easter hymns there.

There are other homes where we have been told we would be welcome to visit at hold services, so this is an area which could be developed. To expand this ministry however we need more volunteers.

If you are interested in helping please let us know.

Anthony and Mary Button

Other Church Groups and Ministries

5.1 Home Groups

Five groups continue to meet in people’s homes at different times in the week, to pray and study the Bible together and to support each other. Groups choose their own subjects to study, usually guided by some kind of published course, and often share with each other things that have worked particularly well.

Two home groups have combined to follow the Enabling Church Course.

Please speak to a warden if you want to join a group.



5.2 Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

This group has met on the third Wednesday morning of every month throughout the year. The numbers attending are fairly small but those attending regularly say they find it helpful and encouraging.

We begin at 10.30 with refreshments and conversation. We are able to deepen our friendships and share things that are going on in our lives and our families, both joyful things and difficult things.

We then have a time when two or three people share something from their own personal Bible readings where they have particularly heard God speaking to them, maybe teaching them something new or challenging them to change or spurring them on and encouraging them. Some of the regular members say this is the most helpful part for them.

We always start our prayers by giving thanks. We are asked to say one sentence prayers and have several turns if we want. This encourages everyone to join in and usually everyone does.

We then move on to pray for our church, particularly for our leaders and our young people, for all our outreach and for all the events and special services which are planned, and anything else the members suggest. We finish by praying for individuals who are in need or having a difficult time in some way.

New people to join us, either regularly or occasionally, would be very welcome.

Mary Miles

5.3 Saint Germain's ACT group report (Action in the Community against Trafficking)

ACT stands for Action in the Community against Trafficking. The ACT group aims to support work to tackle human trafficking and modern slavery in various ways: through prayer, through raising awareness, through fundraising to support organisations directly involved in the work, and through community action.

The act group met 2 or 3 times this year. We did a short slot in a service at the end of August in which Suzy Pearson preached from Acts 16 about Paul and Silas rescuing a slave girl by the power of the Holy Spirit. As part of this service we shared various ways in which anyone can get involved in helping the work of rescuing people from modern slavery. One of these ways is by collecting items to give to those who have been held in slavery, when they are rescued and we are grateful for all who contributed to a collection of items which has



gone to the West Midlands base of Hope for Justice to give to people they have rescued. In October we did a display on human trafficking for anti-slavery day, 18th October, which stayed up for 2 or 3 weeks to give everyone a chance to look at it.

We raised £250 for Hope for Justice through a cake stall at the community fun day in July and further £90 through a cake stall at the Winter Warmer in November. Our thanks to all who continue to support us by providing cakes or helping on the stall, and to the Social team who invited the ACT Group to run the cake stalls.

The preaching team have offered the ACT Group a morning service. We are still working on a date but we hope that someone from the local hope for justice hub will be able to come and talk about their work here in the West Midlands rescuing victims of human trafficking and modern slavery.

Heather Griffiths

5.4 Bible Reading Notes

A small number (16) of members use this well advertised service. Three people avail themselves of the generous subsidy from the church. A wide range of notes are offered. The choice tends to be mainly Scripture Union and Everyday with Jesus notes. Disappointingly no young people take regular notes and there is no demand for children's' notes.

Regular bible reading as part of personal devotions has been a traditional Christian spiritual discipline since the bible became available to read in mother tongues. Hopefully most folk are purchasing bible reading resources on line or using them directly on line. Notes are an easy way of accessing a breadth of scripture and a constant reminder to set aside a few minutes to read the bible.

Thank you to Jon in the office for obtaining the notes for us.

David Child

5.5 GEMS Report

Another year has gone, and another APCM report. But first, an acknowledgement of the work done in this area by my predecessor Jean McCubbin in raising and maintaining the enthusiasm for mission in St Germain's. True to the past, the church has continued to support mission and charities as generously as always.



It was a quieter year for visitors passing through. Anjani Meiphok was here during the year, and shared with us her hopes and dreams for the future. Freda will be with us later this year; Penny and Juan Carlos de Marces have faithfully kept us up to date with their news.

Bridget Hathaway has been with us for much of the year as she writes her book to help the local churches in Africa. She did go to Africa, and returned safely. Andy and Ruth Biggs and Annie Routley have been with us when their work has not taken them elsewhere. And we have continued over the year to remember them all regularly in the prayers and notices in our worship services.

The Mission Gift Day in June last year set itself the same target as 2016 of £7,500, and this we again managed to achieve. With all the increasing demands on the members of the church, this once more speaks of sacrificial giving. On behalf of all the Mission Partners, thank you. This enabled us to maintain our giving to our Partners, very slightly increasing it because of an increased element from the annual tithe. We were able to provide other one-off gifts. We were able to support Lloyd and Rachel on their trip to Papua New Guinea to work in a hospital there, contribute to Crosslinks towards the cost of Bridget's book, and support more of Freda's students in Pakistan.

Finally, as always, we have been able to support a number of local and international mission and social action groups from the church's direct giving. We gave over £4,400 to seventeen of these charities, and full details can be found in the treasurer's report. This included new donations to A Rocha and Scripture Union, and as in previous year's major donations to Tearfund and the Diocese's involvement in Malawi. These gifts reflect the generosity of the family here at St Germain's and the wide-ranging involvement of the church in God's work.

Ross Hayes