



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ended 31 December 2019



Team Rector

The Reverend Helen Hancock

20A Kingsdowne Road Surbiton KT6 6JZ

Registered Charity Number in England: 1143978

Registered Name: The Parochial Church Council of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthew's, Surbiton

in the benefice of the Tolworth Hook & Surbiton Team Ministry

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthew's, Surbiton

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. St Matthew's forms part of the Tolworth Hook & Surbiton Team Ministry working alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ at St George's, Tolworth and St Paul's, Hook.

PCC MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Team Rector: Rev'd Helen Hancock

Reader: Mr Tony Geater (resigned as PCC member in November 2019)

Churchwardens: Mrs Pauline Keane
 MrMike Taylor

Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary: Mrs Susan Kang (resigned as PCC member in November 2019)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:
 Mrs Lesley Kennett
 Mr Jason Pennington
 Mrs Philippa Alexander

Elected representatives of the laity:

Until APCM 2020 Ms Anne Cosserat
 Mr Stuart Bachelor

Until APCM 2021 Mrs Jen Houghton
 Mrs Chika Ripley
 Mrs Brenda Tyrell

Until APCM 2022 Mr Dave Farris
 Mr Keith Hudson
 Mrs Jessica Johnson
 Ms Ashleigh Wakefield

Following Jin-Yong Kang stepping back as Treasurer and as such a co-opted member of the PCC, Tim Lucas was appointed as St Matthew's Treasurer at the APCM in 2019 and co-opted as a member of the St Matthew's PCC. At the APCM thanks were expressed to Jin-Yong for his great service over many years and it is good and important to repeat such thanks to him again here.

We are very grateful to all those who have served as PCC members this year.

The PCC operates through a number of delegated teams and committees. The only legally required committee is the **PCC Standing Committee** which has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to directions given by the PCC. It met in August 2019 to agree items of expenditure between PCC meetings which were later ratified by the full PCC.

The PCC passed the following resolution in September 2019 unanimously:

"The PCC confirms that it complies with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults (under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016)".

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

A new electoral roll was prepared in 2019 as this is required every six years. Currently, there are 144 names on the newly revised electoral roll. Of these, 55 are resident within the Parish and 89 live in other parishes. For comparison, the 2018 roll numbered 166 people, 68 living within the parish and 98 in the other Team parishes or beyond.

OCCASIONAL SERVICES

The number of baptisms, marriages and funerals were as follows:

Baptisms	4
Weddings	4
Funerals (conducted both in our church buildings but also by a member of our ministry team elsewhere)	43

All of these represent opportunities to witness to our local community and share the love of God with people at special times in their lives and are a key part of our mission to the local community.

St Matthew's takes a significant proportion of the church funerals within the Deanery and we are particularly grateful to The Rev'd William Allberry and to Tony Geater who, in addition to Rev Carolyn Lucas and the Team Rector, conduct this important ministry.

THiS Team Matters

Trusting in the Father, Honouring the Son, Serving in the Spirit

Every Team Ministry is shaped differently – just like everyone who makes up that Team – and I mean ALL of us – not just clergy! Our Team is now 4 ½ years old. In human terms we would be getting ready to spread our wings, head off to school and start exploring the world more widely. All the nurturing of the early years would hopefully be bearing fruit and there would be proud but apprehensive parents looking on! I wonder if that is how we feel about our Team. I certainly feel that it has had a great start and is now beginning to explore how it can be more the Team which God created it to be.

During 2019 this manifested itself in some new exciting collaborations and some already much loved traditions. Yet again we enjoyed our Annual Team service, returning in its rolling programme to St Matthew's. I can't tell you how wonderful it is to look out from the front and see so many people worshipping God together – old friends and strangers – linked by a common love of God and the common bond of being part of THiS Team.

Along with other festival services across the year, a Praise service and a pulpit swap, other popular regular features of THiS Team have been the Team walks and involvement in Thy Kingdom Come (led by St George's). But there have been lots of innovations too.



We had our first ever Clergy Away Day in June. The four of us meet regularly to support one another and discuss Team issues. But the gift of a day together, away from our regular places of work, a day spent in prayer and worship and in exercises which required us to reflect on our leadership separately and together was a great joy for us all.

The benefits of size have made other projects viable.

Children's leaders from across the Team valued training given by the Diocese in October. Susan Kang, a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary from St Matthew's, offered a successful course called 'The Bereavement Journey' to members of all three churches. A significant part of Susan's ministry is in coming alongside the bereaved and the course helped those who had lost loved ones some time ago or more recently to share experiences and work through issues by listening and talking and supporting each other.

Towards the end of the year the three PCCs met together to hear from the Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin. She was explaining the funding of the Diocese and it was great that she could address three churches and a larger audience at that meeting. We also heard from a representative of BOOM Credit Union who encouraged us as PCCs and as individuals to invest in BOOM. A Credit Union loans money to those who cannot borrow from usual institutions (such as banks) so instead have to take out loans at outrageous interest rates from elsewhere. Through a Credit Union borrowers can take advantage of lower rate loans and a whole package of finance information and savings incentives. So far two of our PCCs have invested and it is hoped the other will join them. Why not think about investing in BOOM yourself if you are able?

The THiS Team highlight for 2019 is our new youth meeting 'Fuel' bringing together young people in years 6-9 (so aged 10 – 14) from across the Team. Fuel has been a great way of our young people getting to know each other better and having the opportunity to discuss faith and life issues. The group is led by two members of St Matthew's (Jen Houghton and Simon Rowe) and meets once a month on a Sunday evening (5-6.15pm) at St Matthew's. All three Churches in the Team are well represented in terms of



attendees and food is prepared and served by a member of the clergy each time. Each month has a different theme with activities and a discussion (including some Bible verses) around that theme. Leaders consistently try to make the Christian faith interesting and relevant, and give lots of opportunity for challenge and discussion. We are so grateful to everyone who supports this initiative, for your continued prayers for our young people and to God for guiding us in this very important youth work.

So that's a round up for THiS Team in 2019. It's exciting to see the new areas into which we have moved over the year and to think what 2020 will bring. If you have any comments or questions please do feel free to contact me by phone or email on 020 8390 3829 or teamrector@stmatthewskt6.org

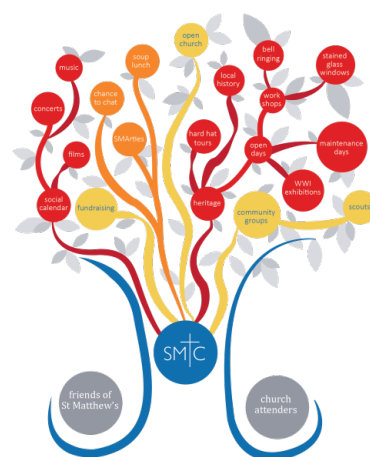
That just leaves me to thank all those in the Team who support us in so many ways. I am particularly grateful to Carolyn, David and Luke but also to Joanne, Julie and Phil for working together in providing administrative support for the Team and to Graham, Ken, Mike, Pauline and Rachel our churchwardens and to all of you.

'Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.' Colossians 3.17 The Message

Friends of St Matthew's Church

As part of the Tower and Spire Project, the Friends of St Matthew's Church was re-launched this year. Under the banner of 'St Matthew's in the Community' it was acknowledged that people's interest in our church, its activities and the building could stem from a faith position or from more of a community interest. With a logo which sets out many of the activities in which we are involved, the Friends group is becoming more established. During 2019 we had 69 Friends join the group. Friends receive an occasional email about events taking place at the church and it has proved to be a good way to stay in touch with people.

We hope to see numbers increase in 2020 as more people become involved in the life and the heritage of our church.



View from the Vicarage

Yet again, compiling this review of the year has provided me with the opportunity to spend a happy time looking through my calendar and seeing what we have been doing alongside all the regular activities which take place week and month in and out. It's amazing how quickly we can forget!

The year was dominated by the Construction phase of the Tower and Spire Project and to some extent this has curtailed what else we have done. Thanks go to the Project Team who have put in many hours in meetings and work to make the whole project run so smoothly. We are also grateful to those who put up with the dirt and inconvenience within the church building and to our neighbours who took so well the activity, noise and dust.

With building so much on our minds, it was fitting that our first ever(?) or perhaps first-for-a-while Motto Verse was:

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Psalm 127. 1

A catchy action song, a choral anthem, an evening of study, calligraphy on our internal scaffolding, numerous references to it throughout the year and fun photos of where else it appears ensured that the verse stuck in our minds!! certainly believe that in the way in which the project has revealed the heart which the parish has for our building and its activities, the greater appreciation of the building by us all and the success of the construction phase of the Tower and Spire Project in all these things we can detect God's guiding hand overall. That the Project overran (in terms of money and time) was probably inevitable from the fact that more than 50% more stone had to be replaced than was originally anticipated. This was also an indication of the necessity of the repairs.

But what else happened in 2019? Were you there to support it? What did you miss?

Silent Charlie Chaplin films accompanied by Tom Bell at the organ

The First Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Pulpit swap

The Annual THiS Team service back at St Matthew's – marking our third birthday as THiS Team

A Choral Evensong sung by boys from Shrewsbury House School

Fundraising events at the cornerHOUSE, including 'A Night with Elaine and friends' and a Games Night and closer to home Desert Island Discs, a concert by Gareth Giles and an Organ recital

An Alpha Course

Girls' Night-In and a Quiz night

The temporary farewell to the bells

The Winchester Evensong

A Newcomers' welcome breakfast

The ever-popular 'Why I am a Christian' sermon series plus others on 'David and his friends' and the 'Easter WhoDunnit'

A Mission Action lunch

A Light Party

Our 'not-too-far-AwayDay'

One other highlight for me was the launching of our new website. Our previous site had served us well and looked so fresh and modern when it started, but these things do date. So the new even more attractive and secure website which we now have is a great 'shop- window' for the church. If you haven't taken a proper look do go to www.stmatthewskt6.org.

But as well as our internet presence, we also produce our weekly Notice Sheet and monthly InforMatt. A huge debt of thanks goes to Jeff Akerman who faithfully compiles the Notice Sheet each week. It has grown exponentially in the last few years now regularly taking up four sides of paper!

And finally. . .

Each year of writing this review I have had to record our sad farewells to friends within our congregation and 2019 was no exception. Joan Fackrell, Alan Thomas (better known as DAT to many) and Melda Hyde all died, as did the loved ones of many in our congregations. At times we feel torn between our grief at losing loved ones and the expression of our Christian hope; that they will rest in peace and rise in glory, Alleluia!

Reports

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2019

In 2019, there was a surplus of £34,255 on unrestricted funds and a deficit of £187,868 on restricted funds, before gains on property revaluation and investment sales. After taking into account those gains and the transfers between funds, unrestricted funds increased by £188,982 and restricted funds reduced by £80,308. Consequently, as at 31st December 2019, unrestricted funds totalled £929,719 (of which £650,000 was represented by the property in Ellerton Road) and restricted funds £13,864.

1. Income

Total unrestricted income was £175,087 in 2019 and restricted income £304,329 giving a total of £479,419 (2018 £279,352). This increase was primarily the result of an increased level of grants received for the Tower and Spire project. These totalled £250,779 (including £73,029 of VAT recoveries). The other significant element of restricted income was the giving to the Spend a Penny appeal which raised £29,842. Voluntary income, excluding grants and legacies, rose from £155,890 in 2018 to £185,629 in 2019, a rise of some 19%.

2. Expenditure

Total expenditure on the unrestricted funds was £140,832 in 2019 and on restricted funds £492,197, a total of £633,028 (2018 £236,235). The largest elements of expenditure were the major works and repairs, £463,672 (2018 £12,302) diocesan parish share £47,800 (2018 £97,500), music, £31,379 (2018 £10,377) and professional fees, £25,896 (2018 £44,183). The increase in the major works and repairs expenditure primarily reflects the expenditure on the Tower & Spire project while the increase in music costs is due to significant spending on the organ. The professional fees largely relate to the Tower and Spire project, with a larger part of this being incurred in 2018, prior to the development phase of the project. The decrease in the Diocesan parish share reflects a decision taken by the PCC in 2018 in light of the material cost of the Tower & Spire project.

3. Gains on Property/Investment

The property owned by the church at 172 Ellerton Road has been revalued to current estimated market value. The revaluation gain amounted to £250,000. In addition, all the investments held were sold during the year, generating a realised gain of £12,286.

4. Transfers between Funds

Part of the funding for the Tower & Spire project has, as planned, come from unrestricted reserves. As a consequence, £80,559 was transferred from the Sitzler fund and £27,000 from the general fund. In addition, the balance on the Spend a Penny fund (£27,342) was transferred to the Tower & Spire fund as the latter paid the cost of the work on the toilets.

There will need to be further transfers from unrestricted funds to the Tower & Spire fund in 2020.

5. Balance Sheet

The primary assets as at the end of 2019 were the property in Ellerton Road (£650,000) and £314,444 in cash and short term deposits.

6. Free Reserves

Free reserves (i.e. the reserves of the unrestricted funds net of fixed assets) amounted to £279,719 at 31 December 2019.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC policy to aim for “free” reserves which equate to at least three months’ worth of normal expenditure plus a proportion of material, anticipated, future “out of the ordinary” expenditure. The proportion (or “weighting”) applied shall depend on the immediacy and predictability of such out of the ordinary expenditure and the PCC shall be guided by the Finance Committee on a regular (at least annual) basis as to the recommended quantum of reserves to be held, based on this formula.

As at the end of 2019, free reserves amounted to around £280,000, and three months’ worth of normal expenditure equated to around £35,000. The PCC considers that it is holding sufficient reserves to meet the remaining costs of the Tower and Spire project and to cope with fluctuations in income and/or expenditure.

It is noted that the most likely possible significant expenditure at this stage (for which reserves should be built up) is work on the roof. This could be considerable if replacement is necessary within the relatively near future. A survey will be taken in the coming months to assist future financial planning for the church.

Churchwardens’ Fabric Report

2019 saw no let up with work carried out in and around the church.

The heating was concluded in the Sitzler Room and work started to completely refurbish the toilets. All the remedial electrical work was finished including new lighting in the Sitzler Room.

During late June students from Surbiton High School could not work in our grounds (as they had done in previous years) with the construction work in progress so instead did excellent work again in the Woodbury House gardens.

The Annual Maintenance Plan was fully implemented. This Plan is an on-going schedule of maintenance commitments recommended by the National Heritage Lottery Fund to ensure the investment which they have made in our building is protected.

Thanks to a few members, the North Room was redecorated and new carpet laid in August. The new Fuel Group is making good use of the space. Much needed new carpet was also laid in the Crèche.

On 7 September a team of volunteers carried out a Maintenance Day. Renamed this year as the ‘Maintenance and Housekeeping Day’ many people were able to offer their different capacities and skills to give the church a mini-makeover.

Plans for 2020 include decorating the Sitzler Room and Kitchen. This should have been completed by the time of the Annual Report.

Many thanks to all who make such a difference to the fabric of our Church.

Pauline and Mike.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding at St Matthew's has made good progress over the past year. All DBS checks are now completed and safeguarding training in C0, C1 and C2 courses are progressing. We ran a C1 course for THiS Team in June and nine people from St Matthew's attended. Brenda has attended two safeguarding conferences this year resulting in some additions to our policy. Safeguarding is a standing item at all PCC meetings and information about safeguarding is on the Home Page of our website. All children attending the Junior Church Groups are registered and any health or dietary requirements recorded and made known to the group leaders. All church activities are risk assessed. Information relating to safeguarding is stored securely.

Caroline Aird-Mash and Brenda Tyrrell

Music, St Matthew's Choir

As well as the regular services to which our church musicians contribute (with extra people joining for the 'super-choir' on the first Sunday of the month), the choir sang some special Passiontide music at the Good Friday service, as in previous years. A further highlight of 2019 was our visit to Winchester Cathedral on 1 June to sing Choral Evensong, along with the choir of St Andrew's & St Mark's. We were well-supported by members of the congregation who enjoyed a day looking round the town before coming to the service. In September the choir sang a specially-composed anthem on the text of this year's motto verse. The annual Carols by Candlelight service was well-attended, with Will Todd's carol 'My Lord has come' being particularly enjoyed.



Our grateful thanks go to all the church musicians who use their talents in praise of God and give up their time week by week to enhance the worship at St Matthew's at both our regular services.

Simon

Pastoral Team

Despite generous amounts of care being offered by members of the Pastoral Team and others to many members of both congregations and the Parish across the year, the Team did not formally meet. Watch out for some changes coming though!

Project Team



This Project Team evolved from a development team which was considering modernising the inside of the church. The discovery of serious and growing defects to the tower and spire necessitated refocusing the priorities for the parish and this team. From the initial work with architects and advisers, through the tendering process to finding a main contractor, the daunting work to fund the frighteningly expensive work, to managing progress as the "customer" this team has been closely involved, along with many other people in the parish, in making the Tower and Spire Project happen. 2019 has seen the building work spectacularly undertaken, with abundant scaffolding announcing the work to the

world. At the time of writing the construction work continues but its end is in sight. We will have a safer church, overhauled bell and chimes, new toilets and so forth. But we will also have a re-prioritised parish with an increased emphasis on community engagement, a reappraisal of our heritage and a fresh set of opportunities. The work of this team will continue.

Discipleship Team

The St. Matthew's Discipleship team consists of Rev'd Helen Hancock, Simon Hancock, David Itcovitz, Jen Houghton, Ian Davies, Philippa Alexander and Dave Farris.



The team's purpose is to enable the better equipping of our congregations to live out their faith in their everyday lives, everyday; and to deepen their relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In a nutshell; being a Christian 7 Whole Days. To this end a successful church AwayDay was held in November 2019 at the local school, Shrewsbury House, with Peter Graystone the guest speaker. A full day of activities was enjoyed by nearly 50 from our congregation across the age range.

Earlier in the year Peter and Davina Irwin-Clarke, our speakers for the parish WeekendAway in 2018, returned to preach at a Sunday service where 40+ stayed behind afterwards for a Bring-and-share lunch.

In September an evening study of the church's 2019 motto verse had 35 people attending to explore its relevance and meaning to their lives.

Report on Deanery Synod



If you don't know what a Deanery Synod is ... read on!

Our Bishop, (Rt Rev Richard Cheetham), is supported in his important work in mission, ministry and administration by an appointed dean. In the C of E he, or she, is called the 'Area Dean' and it's the Area Dean's responsibility to convene a 'Deanery Synod' (meaning council or assembly). Our Area Dean is Rev Robert Stanier. These assemblies meet throughout the year and act as a key link between all churches in the deanery and the hierarchy of the Church thus providing a link between 'us' (St Matthew's Church PCC) and the leadership of the church. Lay members from each church are elected to the Deanery Synod and they attend these councils, along with clergy, to represent their church in this link. All meetings usually begin with a key theme and speaker and then move on to deanery business. This report shares those key themes and other business.

Meetings in 2019:

Tuesday 26 February 2019 at St James' Church, New Malden

The first meeting of the year saw an address by the Bishop of Kingston, entitled: 'An outward looking church in the 21st century'. Bishop Richard spoke about the positive impact the Church had on many different people's lives in our deanery. He highlighted the importance of facing the challenges in civil society like homelessness, the plight of refugees and mental health. He reminded us of our task in engaging with people through welcome (e.g. All Saints café) and helping anyone towards a deeper sense of meaning through worship, prayer, depth of spiritual practice, teaching and preaching. He emphasised truly sharing what it

means to be a Christian and how that fits into our secular world - living out the Gospel through caring, love and social justice.

Tuesday 19 June 2018 at St John the Divine Church, New Malden

Deanery Priorities were discussed in this meeting including elderly/social care, homelessness, eco/environment issues, Kingston University, refugees, ecumenism, Street Pastors, and interfaith relations. There was also a talk by General Synod representative Carl Hughes who introduced himself as one of 7 lay representatives from Southwark Diocese. Our General Synod is currently 468 members of which 195 are from the laity. Carl gave a brief overview of the role and functions of General Synod which include; considering and approving legislation, formulation of new policy and debating matters of national and international significance. He went on to list some of the recent discussions e.g. 'setting God's people free', clergy wellbeing, safeguarding, sexuality, work on urban estates, fixed-odds betting, climate change and the environment. He invited members to contact him directly if they had questions or points to raise. There also followed an activity called 'Dots', instigated by the Area Dean, in order to set the deanery's priorities.

Wednesday 16th October 2019 at St John the Baptist's Church, Old Malden

The Rev'd Stan Brown (Surbiton Hill Methodist Church) spoke on 'Enhancing links: a Methodist viewpoint'. The topic was the background to the recent General Synod consideration of closer links between the Church of England and the Methodist Church. The Synod, he explained, had decided that there should be a temporary period during which Methodist clergy, not ordained by bishops, would be treated as clergy in the CofE Synod had concluded that this situation should be considered a 'bearable anomaly' in the greater interests of unity. Stan commented that whilst he was able to understand that his Methodist ministry was in some ways 'anomalous' to the CofE, he was understandably scathing of the idea of his being regarded as 'bearable'! The meeting agreed by a show of hands that it would be content to accept Methodist clergy officiating at CofE services.

There followed some feedback on the 'Dots' (Deanery priorities) activity from the last meeting. The top priorities identified by the 'Dots' activity were: **Homelessness, Youth, Refugees, The Environment & Climate Change, the Elderly & Residential Homes, and Schools, including Church schools**. It was agreed that these priorities could usefully form the basis of a Deanery Mission Action Plan.

Children's Groups

Crèche



Crèche continues to provide a fun and friendly setting for the youngest members of the congregation and their parents. Each week we say prayers, read a Bible story, play together and chat. It is a relaxed way to meet other members of the church community whilst worshipping God. We have a number of regular attenders and provide a warm welcome to new members and visitors.

Scramblers

Scramblers had an interesting year, working around the scaffolding tower in the Sitzler Room. But, as ever, the children and leaders were adaptable and resourceful, thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to paint and draw on the walls!

We continue to use the Lightlive online resource for our curriculum and run a session structure comprising Welcome song, Scramblers Prayer, newshound, weekly themed Bible reading, interactive games and discussion, craft activities and finishing with songs and stories. Our children know the words to the prayers and the songs and understand the structure. They interact well with each other and we generally find even the most reluctant happily let their adult leave them after a very short introduction period.



Anne, Julie, Stuart and Wendy

Climbers

Climbers are the St Matthews church members aged 5-7 – at school in Key Stage One – Years 1 and 2. We meet weekly in the Chapel to learn more about Jesus and talk about what it means to believe in God.

Our sessions generally start with lighting a candle, which reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world. We also say our Climbers prayer, which the children write themselves at the start of the school year. The children are eager to lead in saying the prayer. We have a news session, a warm up activity, Bible study using mime or drama or a craft, game or colouring activity based upon the key message of the day. We follow a syllabus for this age group called Splash, which is provided by Scripture Union.

The children really enjoy doing craft activities so where possible we include one for them. In particular, on the third Sunday of the month Climbers join with the older group, Explorers, to study a particular theme and produce a joint craft activity related to that theme. This joint activity works very well and is always fun for both the children and their leaders, who also enjoy getting together to plan, teach and share ideas. This year we have looked at some of the parables told by Jesus.

At the end of the session, the children are keen to show the rest of the congregation in church what we have been working on and created. Their work is displayed on the Chapel walls, please do come and have a look.



For the month before Christmas we are busy preparing our Nativity to perform during the service. Climbers with Explorers take the lead roles in our tableaux and enthusiastically join in the carols. We have started meeting regularly with the Explorer leaders, sharing ideas as we plan. Training opportunities this year have included a day at St George's and ongoing Diocesan Safeguarding sessions.

Our leaders are Melissa Turner, Keith Hudson, Judith Jones and Jessica Johnson. There is still scope for more help, so please speak to one of the leaders if you'd like to help with this lovely group.

Explorers



Explorers is for 7-11 year olds and we meet in the Chapel. We have 16 children on our books and between 4-10 regularly attend each week. We learn about God by reading the Bible together, doing arts and crafts together with the climbers Group on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We follow Scripture Union Material but often go 'off-piste' from time to time. Our Leaders are myself, Jackie Farris and Mark Curzon, and this year we have been blessed to have Lila Powell join the Team. We are also grateful to Judith Mackie, Maureen Lydall, Joan Higgs-Smith and Mary Edwards who help too. You are very welcome to come and see us in action any Sunday whether this is out of interest or you may like to join our team in the future. We have a lively, enthusiastic group of children.

Lesley Kennett

Pathfinders

Our Pathfinders group caters for young people from year 7 upwards and we meet during the service on Sunday mornings, except for the third Sunday when our group stays in Church in preparation for receiving Holy Communion. The group has grown in number this year as those leaving Explorers have joined. Our Pathfinders get to know each other and their leaders better through lively debate, bible study and talking about issues of faith and the world. We usually open each session with an ice breaker activity followed by activities, bible study and a chance to reflect on the text. We close each session in prayer. It has been a privilege for the leaders to see the young people become a close-knit group and start to grow in faith as they question and challenge themselves.



Sureeni, Jen and Ian

Other Church Groups

Delta Homegroup

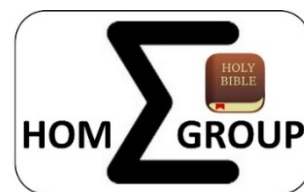


Delta meets on Thursday evenings between 8.00 and 10.00pm at either Joan Scriven's or David Itcovitz's house. There are now eleven members in the group. Each week we start with coffee and a chat, catching up on each other's news – this is an integral part of any Homegroup as it is a time when we share our successes, joys and worries and so know how to pray for each other during the week. We then start with prayer followed by studying a book of the Bible or a study following a theme. During the past year we have looked at three books in the Cover to Cover series; Parables, Rivers of Justice and Esther and we are now following a course on angels. Most of all we have fun and a lot of laughs. If you don't already belong to a group do think about joining us or one of the other groups, as it is a brilliant way to learn more about your faith, yourself and to get spiritual support to see you through the week.

Brenda Tyrrell

Sigma Homegroup

The Sigma Home group is named after the Greek symbol for 'the sum of' reflecting that we are diverse, yet come together for a single purpose. The group is hosted by Dave & Jackie Farris. The group have gathered on Thursday nights since the beginning of June 2017 and studied many differing aspects of the Bible, as well as having social evenings that naturally involved food.



An increasing sense of God's presence during our times together is a blessing.

Brunch Bunch



Brunch Bunch comprises about a dozen members of St Matthews, plus one member of Surbiton Hill Methodist Church. We meet in the Chapel on a Monday morning to follow our programme of study. Sadly this isn't accompanied by Brunch, but we do have coffee.

Typically our time together involves a Bible study followed by time for prayer together. In 2019 we completed a study on the Sermon of the Mount, we have looked at the book of Esther, and considered some of the examples of prayer within the Old Testament, uttered by characters as diverse as Moses through to Habakkuk. In the Autumn

we turned to the New Testament to study the parables through which Jesus taught.

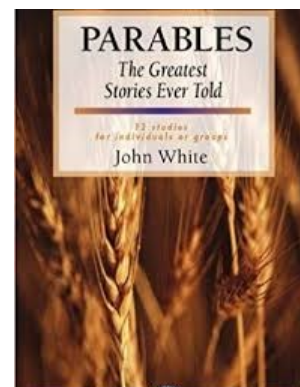
During Lent Brunch Bunch hosted a Lent group following the CTS wide study "The mystery of God".

If you would like to know more, or to join us, please speak to me or just drop in on a Monday morning.

Judith Jones

Inspire Homegroup

A relatively 'new kid on the block' in St Matthew's Home groups, Inspire has established itself into a weekly Monday night meeting with ten plus people on its roll. Not everyone can attend every session and we are very able to work flexibly to ensure whoever is present can have a meaningful evening. We usually start our evenings with refreshments and a chat, quickly progress to a discussion of the previous day's sermon(s), then move on to work on externally produced material, for example the *LifeBuilder Bible Studies* on *Parables*, and on *The Women of the New Testament*. We conclude with a prayer session in which all present are encouraged to contribute. Our Home group provides an excellent way to build our faith through discussion and mutual support. It also provides fellowship, friendship and even fun. It is a vital part of our week.



Beta Homegroup

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The Beta Home Group meets on a Wednesday evening each week and we have a regular group of 11 members following a range of topics throughout the year. We typically stop in March to offer a Lent course, welcoming new people from our own and other churches. We particularly enjoy following courses with engaging videos or CD commentaries. During 2019 we discussed a number of interesting subjects including a course on the Acts of the Apostles, a York course on the Psalms and a study on 'Mere Christianity' by C.S. Lewis. We also ran one of the services during August and enjoyed sharing in the Reading of Acts at the Lovekyn Chapel in Kingston. New members are always welcome!

Ruby Homegroup



Ruby Home Group has continued to meet on the first Tuesday of each month for Bible study, discussion, support and prayer. We currently have 9 members. Over the last year, we've enjoyed studying the Parables using a 'Cover to Cover' study guide, which helped engage us in some useful and enlightening discussions. We have also had one evening of Bible reading following the 'Lectio Divina' practice which is reported to have originated in 6th century monasteries. We found it to be incredibly peaceful and affecting, indeed providing the quiet and space for a deep communion with God and a very personal experience of the message.

We are now reading 'What's so amazing about Grace?' by Philip Yancey, contemplating a couple of chapters at a time using a study guide to support us.

Soup Lunch

In late January our year began, as always, with a special soup lunch held during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity when visitors from our neighbouring churches are invited to join us. This year 30 people attended and we raised £115 (plus Gift Aid) for KCAH. Our visitors remarked how pleasant it was to be in a warm church following the installation of the new heating system. Our next meeting was in March when we welcomed Les Jackson, a retired policeman, who now runs "Scamsafe" a company which advises people on keeping safe from scams etc. Everyone found it informative and he was invited back later in the year to expand on the subject. £70 was raised to meet his expenses and equipment.



We decided to discontinue the six weekly lunches usually held during Lent, instead holding just the one in April, when Jeff Akerman spoke about the Bishop's Lent Call for 2019, 17 people attended raising £200 plus Gift Aid for the Appeal Projects.

The monthly lunches continued from May to December (except August and September), where an average of 18 people attended – slightly up on the previous year. We were pleased to welcome other interesting speakers from Fircroft, four burly firemen from the Fire Rescue Service, a return visit from Les Jackson and the St Matthew's School Children who sang, so beautifully, their programme of carols and Christmas songs at our Christmas lunch. These raised a further £403 in support of various causes including the Tower & Spire Appeal.

Thanks, as always, to Joan Higgs –Smith who organises everything so well each month, to all the soup makers who provide such quality homemade soups, and to all the other helpers who work so hard. Thanks, too to Doris Lelliott for the delicious apple pies that we look forward to so much at Harvest time. Hopefully, we will have a successful 2020 and we are always pleased to welcome newcomers to join us for fun, food and fellowship (and the odd joke!) to help keep this long established and popular church activity going.

SMARTies Embroidery Group

SMARTies Group have been meeting at St Matthew's for 24 years now! The group currently has eight members, and new members would be most welcome. We have made several banners for the walls of St Matthew's and also two banners for a church in Malawi. We are currently working on stitched leaves to embellish the church's kneelers.

We used to have Open Days every other year. However, our artworks are now seen as St Matthew's 'New Heritage' and we exhibited as part of the Heritage Open Weekend in September. It was great being part of the whole St Matthew's effort to put our lovely church on show and reach out to the community.

We have regular summer outings to textile exhibitions at the Riverhouse in Walton or Sunbury Gallery.

Do come and see us any Thursday morning, 10 – 12, for coffee and a chat, or we would be delighted if you wanted to join our happy group.

Gill Davies.

A Chance to Chat

After a good run when Chance to Chat has had to put up with freezing conditions and rather inhospitable surroundings in both the Sitzler Room and the Church in turn, it has been decided to allow this group to fold, for the time being. This then is a good time to offer some thank you's to those who have been involved in running and supporting it over the last few years. Philippa writes:

I would like to thank Joyce and Susan for running this venture with me, over the years and the huge support given by our regulars, especially Norma and Carol, who I don't think have ever missed a session. A word of thanks also to the two Js! Julie and Judith for all their help and support, as well as to Helen, a regular and enthusiastic visitor. As for Simon! How lovely it has been to have his gentle piano playing to accompany the tinkle of cups and saucers. It maybe that Chance to Chat will reinvent itself at a later date. Perhaps somebody out there would be happy to pick up the baton?

Philippa Alexander

St Matthew's Mums' Group

Our Mums' group has continued to flourish as we moved towards holding meetings in the Church on Friday mornings (10-11.30am) or Thursday afternoons (1.30-3pm) each fortnight. Mums who are unable to attend our daytime meetings keep in touch about services and activities via our WhatsApp group. Our gatherings are very informal with children of all ages welcome to attend along with their mums, and we also welcome mums without children in tow. We offer support and friendship to each other and spend some time thinking and talking about those things in our lives which need prayer. We close each session with a prayer led by Jen. If you are interested in coming along to meetings or joining our WhatsApp group, please contact Jen on 07792 242 710.



Jen Houghton

Other Reports

The cornerHOUSE Community Arts Centre

The cornerHOUSE (which occupies what was the St Matthew's Church Hall in Douglas Road) continues to provide a distinctive and unique presence in the local community. The wide ranging programme of public events includes drama, music, comedy, poetry, film, and the visual arts. The managing Trust oversees the inHOUSE developments which include major drama productions as well as smaller scale events. The centre is also an in-demand venue for hire by outside companies and individuals. During term times there are ten regular hirers who provide a variety of daytime activities, after-school clubs and workshops. Increasingly the building is also used during school holidays for similar activities to provide interest and an outlet, predominately for children. Three examples of fresh initiatives during 2019: developed with an independent local promoter Out Of The Corner is a monthly acoustic music showcase for young musicians finding their feet in public performance, Singalong is a weekly gathering offering cakes, companionship and musical memories, and



The Surbiton Salon Festival relocated to the cornerHOUSE for an intense five days of professional classical music, talks and bonhomie. The centre is entirely run by local volunteers and receives no significant grants to fund its activities. The managing Trust is a partnership between St Matthew's and the community; the Trust acknowledges with great gratitude the continuing generosity of the parish in providing the premises for its activities.

To find out more, see www.thecornerhouse.org; you can get put on the mailing list from that website.

St Matthew's C of E Primary School



Believing, Achieving, Succeeding

We were absolutely delighted this year when our Friends of St Matthew's Primary School (FOSMPS) agreed to fund a mural for our Prayer room. This is a place much-used by the children – at times of prayer and of need for reflection and contemplation and also for hosting meetings of the children's Faith Team. As you can see from the beautiful design, it is a room that evokes feelings of peace and inner-calm and has a wonderful three-dimensional element to it as it wraps around a side wall too. It really helps keep our Christian values at the centre of school life.

1st Tolworth (St Matthew's) Scout Group



The Group is still thriving and offering fun and excitement to our members. The past year we have taken part in camps, sleepovers and expeditions, District and National competitions as well as exciting weekly meetings. We still place great emphasis on earning badges by offering the chance to learn new skills and knowledge and have new experiences and offering fun and excitement to our young members. As 2019 was our 110th Year we held a number of special events, the main one was a Disco and Firework Display which was well attended.

During 2019 the Scout Group once again were able to hold their St. Georges Day Service at St. Matthew's. During the year six of our Scouts were awarded the Chief Scout's Gold Award.

Within our Headquarters our climbing wall and air rifle range are put to good use and there is also the opportunity for members to join a District Archery Club – all as extra activities.

Four of our Scouts attended the 2019 World Scout Jamboree in America. And gave glowing reports on the event, all keeping memories for life, I'm sure.

The two Leaders who took over the Cub Scout Section in 2018 have really settled in to their leadership roles and are running a full program for our Cubs. In November we had a volunteer come forward to take on the leadership role for our Beavers; our current Beaver Leader is stepping down after many years of grateful service.

On a sad note, David Alan Thomas better known to us all as DAT passed away on 25th June 2019, or as we Scouts like to say Gone Home, aged 91 and his 83rd Year in Scouting. He joined the Scout Movement in 1936 with 3rd Tolworth. During his years in Scouting DAT held many posts and in 1982 he became Group Scout Leader of 1st Tolworth. He stayed associated with 1st Tolworth and in 1994 he became Group President. A roll he relished until 2015 when he retired from the post. A truly remarkable and extraordinary man who is missed by many.

We look forward to the challenges that 2020 will bring and we are all still proud to have the name St Matthew's as part of our official title; long may that continue.

Martin Smith

Children's Society Report



The Children's Society, originally The Church of England Central Society for Providing Homes for Waifs and Strays, is a United Kingdom national children's charity allied to the Church of England. Working with the country's most vulnerable children and young people, the Charity listens, supports and acts as necessary because 'No child should feel alone'. St Matthew's is one of nearly 7,500 churches who support the Society's

work. Our Christmas Eve "Christingle" service was attended by a congregation of 265 and raised £588.44 in donations (£182.00 of which was gift aided). There are currently 18 members of St Matthew's who contribute by saving in house boxes. The total donated was £485.69. Donations at a birthday party raised a further £265.00. These donations help the Society to continue its work with those in need. On behalf of the Society, thank you everybody for your continued support. Please take a look at www.childrenssociety.org.uk to learn more about the activities and initiatives taking place. If you would like to discuss how you could help in a practical way, please ask Dave Farris or myself.

Paul Mackie

Independent Examiner's report

2019 Accounts

**Thank you for making it all the way to the end of
our 2019 Annual Report!**

**We hope that you are encouraged by what you have read here
and feel excited about what is to come.**

**Please pray for our future together and consider whether you
might take a more active part in supporting the work of
St Matthew's in offering your time and talents and financially.**

***'Therefore encourage one another
and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.'***

1 Thess 5:11