

Ecumenical Partnership of Stantonbury

St James New Bradwell
an open, growing presence for Christ.

Annual Review 2019-2020



St James Church community warmly welcomes EVERYONE to journey with them as they live out their calling as followers of Jesus, in the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

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Church Officers

Vicar	Reverend Doctor Paul Smith
Methodist Minister	Reverend Nicola Martyn-Beck
Licensed Lay Minister	Helen Rouse
Stewards' co-ordinator	Peter Lovegrove
Chairperson	Graham Crisp
Treasurer	Mary Kennedy
Secretary	Irene Farr
Safeguarding Officer	Gill Wood
Electoral Roll Officer	John Porter

Church Council Members

Revd.Dr. Paul Smith ex-officio
ordinator

Revd. Nicola Martyn-Beck	ex-officio
Jeanette Smith	ex-officio
Peter Lovegrove	ex-officio
Helen Rouse	ex-officio
Denise Hockley	
Graham Crisp	
Irene Farr	
John Porter	
Mary Borrett	
Mary Kennedy	
Roy Laurent	
Gill Wood	
Peter Galsworthy	

Stewards

Peter Lovegrove	Co-
Graham Crisp	
Roy Laurent	
John Porter	
Irene Farr	
Peter Galsworthy	
Robert Llewellyn	

Stantonbury Ecumenical Council (SEC) Representatives

Mary Kennedy, Peter Lovegrove

Mission Partnership Representatives

Irene Farr, Denise Hockley, Mary Borrett

Parochial Church Council of Stantonbury and Willen Councillor

Jeanette Smith

Deanery Synod Representative

Peter Lovegrove

Methodist Circuit Representative

Peter Galsworthy

Wedding Administrator

Shelley Sullivan

ST JAMES ANNUAL MEETING 2020 MINISTERS' REPORT

Building Partnership

St James Ecumenical Church is part of the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership which is itself part of the wider ecumenical church scene in Milton Keynes. This can be quite a complex structure to grasp and the temptation is to focus only on our own congregation and its life. But we are dependent on wider structures which is why awareness of at least the Stantonbury partnership is a need and is helpful. To this end my ministerial colleagues and lay leaders throughout the "SEP" have tried to build partnership through joint events which include the ministerial pulpit exchange, a parish pilgrimage, prayer morning and the Tree Cathedral service. We have been delighted to welcome Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe onto the team during 2019 as minister in charge of Cross & Stable, Downs Barn. Sam is self-supporting, so we enjoy his ministry without needing to support it financially.

We intend to continue with building partnership initiatives in 2020. This will be especially important as we look to the development of our local and partnership life through the LEP Review. A major change which should take place in 2020 is the adoption of a new fit-for-purpose constitution for our LEP known as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation.) We are awaiting final details before introducing it with a view to making local adjustments and progressing towards adopting and implementing it. A constitution is necessary both to help us get our structures right as well as to be able to register with the Charity Commissioners once the church exemption ends on 31 March 2021.

St James' Life

Our life as a congregation continues to evolve. In 2014 a list of things we could do better without changing much included the following suggestions: review seating arrangements, including disposing of the pews; keeping the notice boards up to date; improve communication; introduce a formal choir; improving lighting inside and out; permanent ramp access; improve/move the welcome table; new sound system; security gates on porch; cover for porch notice board. Looking back over the last 6 years, many of those improvements have been achieved. Others are in hand and some may not seem like a priority any longer. We trust that some encouragement is drawn from reviewing this expression of hope for developing life! Improvements to the building in making it a more amenable place has meant a growth in its use for community occasions, such as concerts, a place for regular rehearsals and a good venue for meetings of groups other than our own church committees. This involves individual volunteers giving time and concern in providing access, and for this we are grateful.

There are joys and sorrows to mention such as the deaths of significant and dear members (since 2012) including Jean and Ron Thorn, Kathleen Grew, Maureen Varney, Ron Gray, Barry Fleming, Molly Irons, Olwen Crisp, Phyllis Drinkwater, Eddie Saunders, Joyce Swanell, Betty Beasley, Thelma Lambert and Mary Lovegrove. Members have also lost close family during this period. We hold one another in prayers and loving concern for each other. A joy over the past year has been to see Helen Rouse through to her licensing as a Lay Minister by the bishop of Buckingham in Oxford Cathedral in November 2019. Helen is developing her ministerial experience and skills not just in St James but in other congregations in Stantonbury.

Nicola's year

Reflecting back over a year at St James I recall the enjoyment and privilege of leading young people on their faith journey towards confirmation, hosting the children and staff of New Bradwell School for Christingles, Easter and Christmas Cracked and welcoming the local community to the popular band concerts. In Creationtide we focused our worship services on themes of the environment and have been trying to be more conscious of the wide ranging impact of our decisions here in St James. Receiving the gift of new chairs was both a grace and a challenge as we have learned how to accommodate and adjust to them. I am grateful to all those who generously gave their time to move out the pews and transport the chairs.

Personally, this past year has involved a change in station as I have assumed the role of Circuit Superintendent and am conscious of having made further adjustments in the exercise of my ministry. A process which is ongoing. Following the process of reinvitation I was grateful to the partnership and circuit for allowing me the stability of remaining here for a further six years.

My year has included attending both a superintendents' induction course and supervision training to help me develop the skills and knowledge for this new role. Opportunities for retreat and reflection are always welcome and I have been privileged to join both my training colleagues from Queens, Birmingham in April and the Stantonbury ministers in November. Personal reading this year has included theological understandings of suffering, styles of leadership for contemplatives and ways for the church to speak into contemporary society. In my wider ministry I have been involved in supporting members of the partnership and circuit to engage in the conversation about the God in Love Unites Us report which will return to Conference in the summer. Here in St James and in the partnership we are continuing with the review process, a time for us to think about our understanding of what partnership means to us now and going forwards and to face some tough decisions about our use of resources of people, buildings and money.

Paul's Wider role

During 2019 I took over the role of being Ministerial Team leader from Rev David Lewis. This is normally a 3-year responsibility and involves providing leadership to the team of ministers licensed to the partnership as well as within the structures of the ecumenical council. I have managed to avoid taking this on since my first stint in 2003-6. I also play wider roles in the areas of education (at all three levels of primary, secondary and tertiary in Milton Keynes); in the Oxford diocese and in interfaith relations. As you may be aware, I will be taking 3 months' study leave from May to July this year to prepare a book for publication on the subject of interreligious marriage. I am grateful to the support of the bishop, ministerial colleagues and the church and ecumenical councils for this. It is part of a contribution to the wider mission of the Church and developing an area of theology which is both timely but limited in its breadth. I'm sure you will enjoy the ministry of others, including Steve Barnes, Peter Dudeney, David Lewis and John Beazley, as well as Helen Rouse in my absence!

Conclusion

As we look forward, we are aware of challenges as well as opportunities, and commend each other to living with faith in the Lord Jesus, and a growing sense of dependence on the Holy Spirit. There are, as ever, financial concerns and we will always depend on the generous giving of the few. The constitutional changes that the whole Partnership will have to adopt will probably mean some turbulence for us. Sometimes, in launching out to adventure on the sea, you have to ride the waves of the surf in order to get to calmer, deeper waters! Where we hold fast to a vision, we will be able to steer a course ahead. At present our vision is to be an open, growing presence for Christ: so may the Lord lead us as we seek to live for him!

Nicola Martyn-Beck and Paul Smith

Safeguarding Report 2019

Safeguarding is the responsibility for all those who attend St James, New Bradwell. In all that we do we strive to ensure that everyone feels and is kept safe. It is an item that remains permanently on the Church council meetings and all who are members of the Council have been urged to attend training provided by the SEP to consider how to maintain our church as a safe place to be.

I have this year maintained contact with other safeguarding officers of other churches in the SEP and have appreciated the open and honest conversations that we have been able to have at our regular meetings.

In November 2019 I attended a day's training in Creating Safer Space Advanced Module. This was held in Banbury and was designed to support the work we all do to ensure that the Church is a safe place for all, and that our procedures, policies and behaviour reflect that. This church follows the safeguarding policy of the Methodist Church and all up to date policies, procedures and guidance can be found at:

www.methodist.org.uk

There is a separate safeguarding section on this website.

A copy of St James' safeguarding statement is kept at the back of the church.

Gill Wood
Feb 2020

St. James Church Council chairman's report 2019

As a member of St. James church, my past 12 months here could never be described as dull and boring.

They have been very varied indeed and have produced some pleasant surprises and the odd nasty one too! I have met many interesting people and made many new friends.

The church recorders meet in church once a month and I now join their monthly progress meetings. In December I had the pleasure of joining them at their Christmas lunch. Their project to record and document the history and life of St. James church is now over halfway to completion and I look forward to seeing the finished book, although I will miss our friendships and regular meetings when it is finished.

Through their visits to the church, I have also got to know tree surgeons, locksmiths, gas boiler repairers, fire extinguisher repairers, architects and even a couple of Beekeepers, following my well documented "incident" with our resident bees back in April! All are willing to explain about their work and to pass on tips of their trade to help with the running of the church and they always show an interest in the history and life of St. James church and the New Bradwell area.

I have also hosted several visits to the church by pupils and their teachers from year six of New Bradwell combined school who visited the church as part of their studies. For some pupils this was their first visit to St. James. On one occasion, Helen was in church and so was able to play the organ for them, many had not heard it played before.

On their subsequent visits, the pupils became much more relaxed and were much more at home in church. For me, the highlight of their visits came at the end of their final visit when a group of pupils were invited by their teachers to stand next to the chancel steps and to read aloud what they had written about their thoughts, experiences and what they had learnt from their visits to St. James. Their readings were honest, true and from the heart and included words to describe the church such as beautiful, welcoming, warm and peaceful. I did find it quite emotional as I stood up to thank them. There then followed an impromptu question and answer session during which I was asked a host of questions about the church and about growing up in New Bradwell.

The church has hosted visits from several schools in the area including Pepper Hill, Stanton Middle as well as New Bradwell combined. On all their visits to the church, including Easter and Christmas Cracked and Christingle services, the children have been well behaved and courteous, a credit to their schools, their teachers and to their local communities.

To see what is happening in the area, I frequently visit the "I grew up in New/Old Bradwell" Facebook pages. There are times when I find it very sad to read the negative comments about New Bradwell with frequent comments saying that the town isn't what it used to be. Having been born and bred in the town, I do agree with the comments that the town has changed over the years and that it does have its own problems, but New Bradwell isn't alone in this. It's always nice to look back to the past but life and society move on and we should look to the future and not dwell too much on the past.

We should be positive and celebrate what we have in New Bradwell, its growth and connections with the surrounding areas, thriving schools, a fantastic band, Cricket and Football teams, well-stocked and friendly shops, pleasant parks, riverside and canal-side walks, and a beautiful church and churchyard at the heart of the area !

As always, it is the people who form the heart of any community. As a church, we strive to help, and to reach out to, our local communities of Blue Bridge, Bancroft, Oakridge Park, Stantonbury, Bradville and New Bradwell .We organise community events such as Tiddlers, Glow in the dark, Saturday café, Fetes and other events and a big thank you to those volunteers who organise and help at these events.

One of the last books to have been written by local author, the late Sylvia Mead was entitled "New Bradwell a Unique Community" and I believe that this title description still holds true.

We at St James will strive to support our local communities, to help them to become even better places in which to live and at the same time fulfilling our mission statement in being an open, growing presence for Christ.

Graham Crisp

St. James church council chairman.

Stantonbury Ecumenical Council (SEC) Report for 2019

Hi, as one of your reps for the SEC it is my task to write a report for you of what has been happening at the SEC meetings. I must admit that although I have attended most of the bi-monthly meetings most of what has been discussed has been lost in the mists of time in my memory, so bear with me while I try to re-cap. If you've glazed over already, I don't blame you!

As far as I can remember most of 2019 was focused on our Parish Review, we welcomed Rev Neil Popham who has joined us to undertake this review and is based at St Lawrence. So far, his funding is only for two years.

We also welcomed Rev Sam Muthuveloe who has offered his spare time to look after Cross and Stable Church.

We were happy that Rev Nicola was able to stay on with us at the same time as becoming the Superintendent for the Milton Keynes Circuit.

We also welcome our own Helen who is now a fully licensed Lay Minister and will be a much-needed asset to the Parish.

The retired Rev Peter Green agreed to become the SEP treasurer after Sean Miles relinquished the role.

Sadly, Bob Cross one of the Parish Wardens passed away which leaves Dr Adrian Prisk as our remaining Warden, so a new Warden will need to be appointed.

As I have already mentioned the main focus has been on the Parish Review and Neil has visited all the churches and is valiantly trying to get each congregation to give him some idea of how they want the Parish to look in the future.

The key to this review is that as a Parish we cannot afford the level of Clergy that we have at the moment and as Rev Chuks Iwuagwu is a house for Duty post so he does not get paid an income and Rev Sam Muthuveloe is non-stipendiary (doesn't get paid) we are not doing too well.

So, it is important that we seriously consider the way forward regarding what kind of services we want in the future and who we would like to lead them. The number of people attending Church is dropping all around the Parish so we have to accept that it is not sustainable to continue as we are which is why it is vital that we give serious thought as to how it could be. This doesn't need to be a negative thing we just need to use the very valuable resources that we have in the most productive way. Obviously, all the congregations in the Parish would like to have their own full-time minister but we cannot afford this so we need to say what we would like to do with the funds that we do manage to give.
Mary Kennedy

Fabric Report

During the past 12 months the fabric group have been dealing with the ongoing maintenance of the building and churchyard together with finding ways to progress our development project aspirations.

Maintenance

There are no works outstanding as identified within the Quinquennial Report except for repairs to high level West elevation stonework which are not urgent and can wait for a few years.

Ever since I joined this church the boiler has given us cause for concern. Due to its location in a damp environment there has been deterioration of the current boiler meaning we need to replace it within the next few years. We will need to raise a large sum to cover the costs of a replacement.

Another major problem is the part of the boundary wall adjacent to the Community Centre car park which is collapsing and requires a substantial sum of money to rebuild.

Development Project

This past year has seen us employ an architect to produce plans for an accessible ramp to the main entrance and for an internal ramp to allow disabled access to the Lady Chapel. The basic plans have now been produced and we are in the process of obtaining estimates for

the work to allow us to apply for a faculty for these works. At the same time, we will be exploring grants to help pay for the work.

Our consultations with the architect have shown that the need for porch gates is now not as essential as we thought as the combination of the porch lighting, inclined ramp and new door lock will be sufficient to deter anyone stopping in that area or trying to get into the church. We have identified some modifications to the lighting installation and the replacement for the defective fitting is being actively pursued. Once funds are available we will introduce these changes.

Roy Laurent
February 2020

Environmental Issues

I think this is the first time we have had an environmental report for the AGM which perhaps reflects the general awareness of the threat of climate change and the fragility of our planet. Environmental issues are now a regular agenda item at Church Council meetings.

During Creationtide last September, church services focused on the issues facing us and included a talk by Peter Galsworthy on the work of the Urb Farm in Wolverton which is one of the projects run by MK Christian Foundation.

Some time ago I completed an audit of the things we already do to protect the environment and further actions we could take, both in the church building and in the churchyard. Some of the things are quite easy to do; for instance we buy environmentally friendly cleaning products and hand wash and try to restrict the use of plastic. A copy of the audit has been on the notice board for a while so please take a look and if you have any suggestions as to what else we might do then please let us know. Using the audit we plan to produce an Environmental Policy for St James in the near future.

Re-cycling is one of the small ways we can do our bit for the environment. Please take care that you follow the guidelines as to what can and cannot be recycled. The MK Council website gives advice and also explains what happens to our recycled items and rubbish. The website is www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/recycling. It was hoped to arrange a visit to the recycling factory but unfortunately they no longer do group tours although you can still visit as an individual. It is possible to have tours of the MK Waste Recovery Park which I could arrange if people are interested.

There is an organisation called MK Charity Recycling which will take things such as crisp and biscuit packets, pet pouches and cosmetic containers, which MK Council do not collect. You may want to support this personally.

Graham, Tony and Mike do a wonderful job to keep our churchyard tidy so a huge 'Thank you' to them. Graham has made a number of hedgehog houses and bug hotels using offcuts from the tree surgery. We also have some wild areas set aside in order to encourage wildlife and insects. You will be aware that we have had bees in the church wall for some time but they were beginning to cause concern. To avoid extermination we were, after consultation, able to procure the services of a local bee keeper who was able to remove some of the bees and during their dormant period the entrance to the air brick has been blocked off. Thanks to Graham again for organising this.

Mary Borrett February 2020

Open Door report

Open Door continues to be inspiring, thought-provoking and interactive – especially to those who lead it! The service was originally envisaged to complement the well-established Communion pattern at St. James'. Through the 15-or-so years of its existence, this monthly service has aimed to provide a short, inclusive church experience, beginning where people are and linking together the needs of the world with a God-perspective. The team has

evolved through the decade, and widened to involve different ideas and interests, yet the flavour of the services remains constant.

In 2019-20, there have been many memorable moments:

- the moving **Palm Sunday** stations, where the congregation were able to move around the church at their own pace, contemplating the excellent table-top resources that had been created;
- the famous **Outdoor Open Door** in July, when we were visited by a band of runners who re-enacted the notorious wedding saga in front of our eyes, and when we sang hymns by voting for the most popular;
- the brilliant **Ethical dilemmas** service in June, where we met Professor B. Sting, who regaled us on why we should destroy the bees in the churchyard: this led to wider discussions about food miles and climate change;
- the **Cafe Church** services, where the congregation have benefitted from the new chair layout to find out about each other; at these services, our young people have taken an exciting lead;
- the **Christingle**, which has now established itself as a popular annual event, the **Christian Aid Big Brekkie** in May, and a powerful service about the **Crucified earth** in September.
- the surprising service in October where the 'planned' service was interrupted and taken over by members of Young Church wanting the congregation to listen to their concerns about what is happening to the world – **Extinction Rebellion** style!

Now we come to think about it, we did a lot! Open Door benefits from the once-a-month format, which gives the necessary time for a good idea to ferment. This past year, the participation team has grown to include: Ruth, Esme, Aderyn, Tony, Jean, Gill, Mary, Graham and Duncan.

We continue to appreciate the mix of liturgy and spontaneity, enjoying the written resources from the Iona Community, Christian Aid and other traditions. We love it when the young people of our church play a lead role and remember with fondness those who have moved on to higher education or other things: we continue to remain part of their journey.

Above all, the service is intended to inspire us to look beyond the church's walls – and the door-opening at the end of each service reminds us that church is the time given to God for him to give us the gifts and resources we need to serve him every day. As our opening song states: *The love of God comes close where stands an Open Door ...*

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our Open Door services this year, through prayers, talking, action and music.

Young Church report – February 2020

Due to the commitments of the Young Church team and the reduced number of regular children attending, it was agreed at the end of 2018 that Young Church would be held once a month instead of twice.

Although now a smaller group, the Young Church sessions still involved a mixture of games, music and crafts. Those attending enjoyed taking part in games and drama and telling us about their week and what is going on in their lives.

Some highlights in 2019 included coming together to create a beautiful sign for the Summer Fete, Esme and (past Young Church member) Sean being Confirmed in November and making recycled decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival.

The Good Friday workshop and Glow in the Dark party continue to be successful and attract a large number of children from the local community.

Sadly, the number of children regularly coming to Young Church has reduced even further, with quite often only 2-3 children turning up (if that). In light of this, we have taken the decision to stop the regular Young Church sessions. However, we hope to continue involving the children in St James with events such as the Good Friday workshop, Glow in the Dark, the Crib Service and also with the Open Door Services.

Ruth and Duncan

Tiddlers report 2019 – 20

Another busy year of worship and fun for the under-fives, their parents and carers: numbers have remained high and from the many kind comments we have received, it seems that Tiddlers is greatly valued by the local community.

Much of the excitement of helping at Tiddlers comes from opening the door and welcoming many regular friends and some completely new ones each time. These include grandmas and grandads providing care for their grandchildren while their own children are working and new mums needing some grown up company. We also have a regular group of child-minders, providing good quality, affordable childcare for working parents, and again valuing some adult company during the day, and not forgetting 30 plus pre-school children!

We found that these regular high numbers mean that our 20 small chairs are not enough to allow all the children who are able to sit unaided to join the group around the tables at snack time. This is an important social time during the morning and you will see in Mary K's finance report that church council have agreed that money from the Junior Church fund can be used for an additional small table and 6 small chairs. This fund is restricted to use for children's items.

We are blessed with a dedicated team of regular helpers in Mary B, Mary K, Maureen, Shelley, Trudy, Robert, Becci and Graham who share in setting up, welcoming, replenishing activities, leading worship, playing music, providing drinks and snacks and clearing it all away again!

We have been pleased to have Paul and Nicola with us on a regular basis, a good opportunity for families to meet our ministers who chat, read stories, lead action songs, eat cake and help to pack away.

Tiddlers presently has an age range from 0 – sixty plus, which everyone seems to appreciate and enjoy, and meeting once a fortnight has become a time of fellowship for all involved.

We are now in our thirteenth year of Tiddlers, I wonder how many cakes have been baked, and eaten! How many kilos of flour, water, salt, oil and colouring have been stirred together on the hob until it magically thickens into playdough for rolling and squeezing by little hands? (At least 3 kilos every few weeks.) How much rice has been swept, and gluepots washed by kind and dedicated helpers? Sadly, I have no statistics for this.

Tiddlers activities have always involved using recycled materials: Toys have been from donations; wool, fabric, paper, card always seem to turn up when needed. Trudy supplies lots of interesting 'scraps' for gluing. We support and use the Play Association 'Scrap Store', where paper cups donated from industry become planters for seeds; plastic bottles with a few pieces of pasta added, or rice grains, become musical shakers. Twigs, leaves and pinecones are collected, to bring the natural world in. Recycling plastic and using natural materials has become increasingly important and supports our church environmental focus as outlined in Mary B's report.

Many of our activities involve considering the natural world, in planting seeds, transplanting small plants to grow at home, observing tadpoles and snails, making pinecone feeders for wild birds. Children need to engage with nature if they are to care for it.

These activities are high in learning value, low in cost; however, heating the church isn't, and after much consideration, and consultation with the families and carers, it was agreed to put up posters with a 'suggested donation' amount per family. This has been well received by those attending.

At story time we gather together in front of the chancel steps and often our story includes Teddy Horsley, a little bear who likes to look out of his window to see the changing seasons; he skips into church to see all his friends, just like Tiddlers, and notices the changing church seasons.

One or two Tiddlers are already at New Bradwell nursery and were fascinated to hear that children from New Bradwell, Bushfield and Radcliffe schools had written a special song about St James':

*St. James', St. James' is a wonderful place.
We love St. James' because it gives space -
the tower,
For all the lovely people to laugh and dance and sing
bell,
And to learn that God - is in everything!
well;*

We love ribbons, we love flowers,
We love the spiders in

We love music and the

We love Open Door as

We love festivals and
fetes,
We love the heating when
it breaks,
But most of all - we love
the cakes!

Thank you Young Church for being inspirational!

This year Christmas at Tiddlers was very quiet as many families were ill. It was then especially pleasing to have several Tiddlers' families, past and present, along with other local families and members of St James joining together in the Christmas Eve Crib Service led by Nicola, sharing the wonderful story of Christ's birth.

Families were greeted outside by two motley shepherds bearing lanterns and a sheep, and welcomed at the door by Grace and John. Trudy and Robert were in the kitchen serving mulled wine and mince pies instead of coffee and snacks

Families were pleased, if surprised, to see many faces they recognized from Tiddlers and the Good Friday workshop, maybe dressed a little differently.

Finally, a very big thank you to all who helped with the replacement of the pews with our 'new' chairs; this involved extra work in ensuring that the church remained safe at all times for lots of small, fast-moving visitors!

Irene, February 2020

Mission Partnership report 2019 - 2020

Five Marks of Mission:

- To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of our society
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation

The Mission Partnership vision statement is 'MK a city alive to God' and the partnership continues to focus on prayer for our city with The Call and also at assemblies throughout the year.

The AGM assembly in July took place at St Mary's Church, Whaddon Way, Bletchley, the opening worship was led by Tim Norwood, Area Dean.

The Mission Partnership annual report was accepted, and church representatives were commissioned with prayer: Irene and Denise continued to serve as reps. for St James', joined by Mary B.

Those present were introduced to the idea of a Learning Hub for Milton Keynes and were asked to look at, and contribute to, the various ways of learning and teaching needed to help us grow wise disciples, leading to wise churches to engage in mission: wisdom, and growing in wisdom, being the main focus.

All assemblies encourage us to discuss and put forward ideas which we can act on, as a whole, through our individual churches which will make a difference to important issues that affect the city and its communities, and make the vision statement become a reality for all.

The November assembly, held at Christ Church, Stantonbury, centred around the Community Foundation publication of the most current research on the communities of Milton Keynes. Dr Vasco Fernandes, a retired consultant physician, introduced and discussed the research with us with great expertise. The Vital Signs research publication is available in church or at www.mkcommunityfoundation.co.uk.

An important aspect of Mission Partnership is to provide education and training, and the CoMPass courses provide adult learning about Christian Faith and I would encourage everyone to try one of the courses available to all of us; they are varied, interesting and helpful when wanting to grow in faith.

One of the courses last Summer was led by Peter Ballantine and entitled 'Mark and a glass of wine', a relaxed approach to the Gospel of Mark; Irene, Mary B. and I attended and found it very interesting.

Mission Partnership Assemblies are open to all and the next one takes the form of a Mission Fair to be held on Saturday, March 21st, 10am - 4pm at Water Eaton Church Centre, Bletchley.

Mission Partnership continues to make a difference to churches throughout MK, through the Assemblies and courses so that we can as a whole make a difference to our city and truly make it, 'Milton Keynes, a city alive to God.'

Denise Hockley, February 2020

100 CLUB REPORT 2019
Club run by John Porter

1200 Shares @ £1.00 per share	=	£1200.00
Prizes paid out		£600.00
Payments made to church funds		£600.00
Total		£1200.00

Charging policy for hiring St James Church 2019

1. The charge for use of the church was £10 per hour/part hour including any time involved in setting up/clearing up which might /might not involve the presence of a church member to supervise.
2. Alternatively, organisations can split their share of the income 50/50.
3. In addition, a £40 charge will be made to cover heating and lighting costs between 1st October and 31st March.

However, if the organisation is fund raising for the church or is a group which we support, this fee may be waived. The Treasurer and 2 Church Council members will have the power to make the decision on this.

4. This policy to be reviewed annually.

ST JAMES NEW BRADWELL
Financial Report 2019

Luckily, we did not have any very large unexpected costs in 2019 although we did have to pay £307.00 to have our locks mended after an attempted break in. Thanks to some very generous donations from congregation members we were able to pay £26,500 for our Parish Share which was £500 more than we promised. We pay our share to Stantonbury Ecumenical Parish (SEP) to cover the ministry costs of the whole Parish. Unfortunately, the six churches of the Parish are not paying enough to cover our ministry costs and we have been underpaying to the Mission Partnership. Peter Green has forecast a £15,000 under payment for the next two years and the churches need to find an extra 14% for us not to go further into debt. Peter understands that we are unlikely to manage this so we agreed as a Parish to at least increase our giving by 4% which means that we as a church needs to find £27,040 at least but ideally Peter would like us to find £29,770.

As a church we believe in supporting other agencies as part of our Mission and we were able to raise the following:- £635.00 for Christian Aid, £141.00 for the Disaster Emergency Committee for the Cyclone Ida appeal, we donate £100 a year to the Bridgebuilder Trust for books for year 6 leavers and we raised £400 from our Christmas services for the Toilet Twinning charity which will be paid in 2020's accounting year.

With regards to the various restricted funds we have a healthy balance in the Junior Church fund so it has been agreed that I can buy another small table and six chairs for Tiddlers as we cannot always seat the tiny visitors that we get and this doesn't seem very welcoming. I will also take some money from this fund to cover some of the heating during the winter months. The Fabric fund has only just got back into the black after I had to borrow money from the Project fund to pay for the tree work last year. The only money we get for this fund is from any fund-raising events which is why it is important to continue to hold them. We paid £1950.00 from the project fund to Architects who have drawn up plans for a ramp, more will have been said about this in the Fabric report. The Fund for new chairs has increased by £950.00 which we got from selling most of our pews. The chairs that you are sitting on we got free from Buckingham Church which entailed a huge amount of hard work from congregation members and their partners. The Diocese would still like us to replace these chairs with brand new ones hence the fund!

I would like to thank everyone for helping with all our fundraising events which included a Summer Fete, Tree Festival and of course the Band concerts. My thanks also go to all those who made the effort to support these events. Below will be the 100 Club figures and my thanks goes to John who continues to run this for us.

St James may not be a financially rich church but we are very rich in the time, care and passion that its members unstintingly give, and I believe that it is this that will keep us going as a church into the future one way or another.

Mary Kennedy (Treasurer)

The accounts follow on the next page:

Account Name		
<i>St James Church council</i>		
Balance as per Bank Statement 31st December	a	<u>3247.39</u>
Unpresented cheques		
		Amount £
	b	<u> </u>
Detail		Amount £
Total	c	<u> </u>
Net	a-b+c	3,247.39
Balance shown of financial statement		
Difference equal to zero		3,247.39

Account Name		
<i>St James Church council No 3 D/A</i>		
Balance as per Bank Statement 31st December	a	<u>8014.97</u>
Unpresented cheques		
Cheque number		Amount £
	b	<u> </u>
Detail		Amount £
Total	c	<u> </u>
Net	a-b+c	8,014.97
Balance shown of financial statement		
Difference equal to zero		8,014.97

Account Name		
<i>St James Annex CAF A/c</i>		
Balance as per Bank Statement 31st December	a	
Unpresented cheques		
Cheque number		Amount £
	b	<u> </u>
Detail		Amount £
Total	c	<u> </u>
Net	a-b+c	
Balance shown of financial statement		
Difference equal to zero		

