



ANNUAL PARISH AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2020
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2020 AT 8PM IN THE ST JAMES CENTRE AND
VIA ZOOM

CONTENT

1. Agenda for Annual Parish Meeting 2020	1
2. Agenda for Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2020	2
3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 April 2019	3
4. Rector's Report	9
5. Electoral Roll Report	12
6. Report on the proceedings of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2019	13
7. Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019	17
8. Annual fabric report (Wardens' report on goods and gifts)	18
9. Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod	20
10. Safeguarding report: Compliance with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016	21
11. Reducing the number of elected representatives of the laity on the PCC from 12 to 9, to be effective from the 2021 APCM	22



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2020

TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2020 AT 8PM IN THE ST JAMES CENTRE AND
VIA LIVE STREAMING

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome and introduction
3. Election of churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2020

TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2020 FOLLOWING DIRECTLY AFTER THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IN THE ST JAMES CENTRE AND VIA ZOOM

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies of absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting – for **APPROVAL**
3. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting
4. Rector's update on the proceedings of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2019 – for **NOTING**
5. Reports to the APCM – for **NOTING**
 - (a) Electoral Roll report
 - (b) Report on the proceedings of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2019
 - (c) Annual Fabric report
 - (d) Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
 - (e) Safeguarding report: Compliance with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016
6. Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2019 – for **NOTING**
7. Election of lay representatives to the Deanery Synod
8. Election of PCC representatives
9. Appointment of Auditors
10. Reducing the number of elected representatives of the laity on the PCC from 12 to 9, to be effective from the 2021 APCM
11. Questions

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM) OF ST JAMES GERRARDS CROSS AND FULMER HELD ON TUESDAY, 30 APRIL 2019 AT 8PM IN THE SAINT JAMES CENTRE, GERRARDS CROSS

PRESENT: Chairman: Matt Beeby
Vice Chairman: Andrew Bell
109 People signed in as being present
15 People sent their apologies

OPENING

The Rector opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 115; we sang God's praises together and prayed for the meeting.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Rector welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting to be followed by the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM).

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. Election of Churchwardens

The Rector reminded the meeting that, in addition to members registered on the church Electoral Roll, any resident of the parish whose name is on the register of local government electors is entitled to vote at the election of the churchwardens.

The Rector further reminded the meeting that Churchwardens are always elected to serve for one year at a time.

The Rector informed the meeting that:

- Andrew Bell and Francesca Hall-Drinkwater had agreed to stand for election as churchwardens for another year; and
- Edwin Clark and Anthony Bargioni are standing down as churchwardens after each serving four years.

The Rector thanked the churchwardens and particularly Edwin Clark and Anthony Bargioni for their godly, gospel-minded, servant-hearted, sacrificial hard work. The Rector further explained the role of the churchwardens and requested that the church family pray for the churchwardens in the execution of their task and leadership.

The Rector shared with the meeting the nominations for Churchwardens, duly proposed and seconded and received before the meeting as follows:

Andrew Bell	Proposed by: Frances Cunningham	Seconded by: Mary Russell
Wendy Shingleton	Proposed by: Andrew Bell	Seconded by: Amanda van der Walt
Francesca Hall-Drinkwater	Proposed by: Edward Guinness	Seconded by: Wendy Blinco

As no further nominations were received and in terms of Rule 11 (3) of the Church Representation Rules the Rector **DECLARED** that Andrew Bell, Wendy Shingleton and Francesca Hall-Drinkwater were elected as churchwardens until the 2020 Annual Parish meeting.

The Rector **CLOSED** the Annual Parish meeting.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

The Rector reminded the meeting that only those who are on the Electoral Roll of the Two Saint James are permitted to vote at the APCM.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Edward Guinness, Tanya Wilson, Penny Clinch, Lenny Topham, Jacqui Pannett, Yve Stewart, Joyce Moore, Ann Arthur, Michael Arthur, Anne Turner, Keith Wilson, Lesley-Jane Spector, Richard Stone, Sue Stone and Nici Johnson.

2. Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Parochial Church meetings held on 24 April 2018, proposed by Cobus van der Walt and seconded by Geoff Thompson, were approved by a majority with one abstention and signed by the Rector as a true reflection of the meetings.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Statutory Report 2018

The meeting noted the content of the statutory reports and specifically the new Electoral Roll numbers as follows:

Total 662 (a reduction of 65 made up as follows: 75 fewer in Gerrards Cross and 10 more in Fulmer).

The meeting noted a question by John Wertheim concerning the purpose of the Amersham Deanery Trust which holds charitable funds (£95K). Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chairman of the Deanery Synod) replied that the purpose of the trust was to support all the churches in the Amersham Deanery, especially those that had difficulty in meeting their Parish Share. The Trust also made individual payments for individuals or charities supported by the Deanery Churches. A more detailed explanation is available on request from Deanery Treasurer Mrs Julie Dziegiel.

The Rector invited all present to read the Annual Report and to pause and thank God for the many who serve in so many different ways.

5. Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2018 and the Financial Report

David Steel, the Treasurer, reviewed the financial statements and financial results for the financial year ending 31 December 2018 and gave an overview of the church finances, how the finances are organised and the income and expenditure for 2018.

The meeting was advised that full sets of audited accounts were available from the Treasurer, that summaries were distributed with the Annual Report and that further copies were available in the church office.

The Treasurer thanked God for his amazing provision and the church members for their support.

The Treasurer thanked, in particular, Richard Lawrence and Hazel Robinson for their support and dedication.

The Rector and the meeting thanked David Steel for his dedication in stewarding our finances.

The Treasurer addressed the following questions raised by the members of the church family:

Question		Response
Martin Josten	Why have the Mission Envoy funds not been paid to Nat Schluter directly and in full	The fund is “drawn down” by Nat Schluter as and when he requires the cash and transfers are approved by the Schluter Advisory Board.
Jonathan Rushworth	Why was the deficit only partially reduced by transfers from other designated funds and not eliminated completely?	It would not have been good stewardship to use the church growth fund to eliminate the deficit. It was also important to communicate that the actual giving did not meet the budgeted needs.

James Beaton	Nearing the end of the year it was indicated that the deficit in the budget had been dealt with via donations / pledges. What changed?	The message given to the church family during late Autumn that the forecast deficit had been fully closed turned out to be over optimistic. Unfortunately, a £18k donation which was received in early January 2019 and may have been intended to help close the deficit, could not be counted as the financial statements reflects income received up to 31 December 2018.
Grant Masom	Is it possible to calculate the residual amount that could have been Gift Aided from the 'Non gift aided income'?	It would be very difficult to identify which portions of giving could have been Gift Aided as the tax details of the "Giver" are not available to the Treasurer.
Jacky Hughes	Will the £58k deficit be reduced by the £18k donation received in January 2019?	In theory yes, but this will only be true if all the other elements of income and expenditure come in on budget.
John Wertheim	Would it be possible to create an Audit Committee to assist in the analysis of the financial position on a quarterly basis?	This matter will be referred to the Leadership Team for discussion.

6. Election of a lay member to the Deanery Synod

The Rector reminded the meeting that lay members of the Deanery Synod are normally elected every three years; however, one of the current Deanery Synod representatives, Jean Meakin, has asked to stand down. This leaves a casual vacancy for someone to serve one year.

Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, who graciously stood down in 2018 to allow Lawrence Tebboth to be elected as Deanery Lay chair, has agreed to stand and has been duly nominated by Amanda van der Walt and seconded by Cobus van der Walt.

As no further nominations were received and in terms of Rule 11 (3) of the Church Representation Rules the Rector **DECLARED** that Francesca Hall-Drinkwater was elected as a lay member to the Deanery Synod for a period of one year.

7. Election of members to the PCC

The Rector thanked those who have served on the PCC in 2018/19, including Yve Stewart, Jacqui Pannett, Jane Sheldon and Ian Mitton who have completed their terms. The Rector

thanked Yve and Jacqui for their considerable contribution to the work of the PCC and Ian also for his valuable contribution as a member of the Leadership Team.

The meeting noted that Jane Sheldon had been requested to stand for election to the PCC for a further term in order to allow her to continue as a member of the Leadership Team.

The following members of the church family had agreed to stand for election to the PCC to fill each of these vacancies, each duly proposed and seconded:

For Fulmer:

Andrew Nealon	Proposed by:	Francesca Hall-Drinkwater	Seconded by:	Robert Mason
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For Gerrards Cross:

Tom Kitching	Proposed by:	Andrew Bell	Seconded by:	Kathryn Lovewell
Jip Mawditt	Proposed by:	Martin Josten	Seconded by:	Penny Clinch
Jane Sheldon	Proposed by:	Andy Sheldon	Seconded by:	Andrew Howard

As no further nominations were received and in terms of Rule 11 (3) of the Church Representation Rules the Rector **DECLARED** that Andrew Nealon, Tom Kitching, Jip Mawditt and Jane Sheldon were elected as members of the PCC.

The Rector thanked them for standing and welcomed them onto the PCC.

8. Appointment of Deputy Wardens and sides teams

The meeting noted the appointment of church family members as Deputy Wardens and members of the sides teams; a copy of the list of names is available from the church office.

9. Appointment of Auditors

It was proposed by David Steel and seconded by Megan Brodie that Cansdales, Chartered Accountants be re-appointed as auditors to the PCC for a term of office ending at the close of the 2020 APCM. This was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

10. Chair of PCC Committees

The Rector thanked those who served as chairs of the PCC sub-committees for 2018/19 as follows:

Mission: Nick Leake

Buildings and Churchyards: Ed Clark

Stewardship Committee: David Steel

Fulmer Leadership Team: Jill Roth

Love Africa: Pete Hodson

11. Any Other Business

Robin Summerell thanked Ben Topham and the staff team for their commitment and dedication during the vacancy period.

The meeting noted the following questions and answers:

Question		Response
Jon Willcocks	Why has the external signage at Gerrards Cross and Fulmer not been updated?	The updating of the signage is a matter that will be addressed in due course.
Robin Summerell	Matt, do you have any big dreams?	Many possibilities are being considered and developed; however, the details will only be shared in September during a series of "Vision Dinners".
Elizabeth Bounds	May we have an update on improving the LOOP system in the centre to assist members with hearing loss?	This will be investigated and dealt with going forward.

The meeting further noted the Rector's hope that the believers at Saint James Gerrards Cross and Saint James Fulmer will be one in heart and mind as detailed in Acts 4:

- Together in evangelism – A passion for the lost;
- Together in holiness – Becoming more like Jesus; and
- Together in ministry – For the collective to be more important than the individual, a willingness to give up a little part of self for the larger benefit.

12. Thanks

The Rector thanked:

- The church family for welcoming him, Amy, James, Emma and Edward to Saint James;
- The staff team and leadership team for their support since his arrival and their hard work and leadership during the vacancy period; and
- Ben Topham for his leadership during the vacancy and his sensitivity and support in the handover and settling-in of the Rector.

Andrew Bell thanked:

- Ben Topham for the efficient, generous and godly way in which he led through the vacancy, and the rest of the staff team and many others who stepped up to take on additional tasks during the vacancy; and
- Matt and Amy for joining Saint James and Matt for his godly example and teaching.

Andrew Bell closed the meeting in prayer at 9:35 pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE

RECTOR'S REPORT

It is fast-becoming a cliché to say that we live in 'strange and uncertain times,' but to be writing this report in October (having previously drafted another section back in January) does indeed feel somewhat disorientating. Over the past six months we have been learning more of what it is to trust God – through both a pandemic and also a period of change.

At the vision dinners back in September 2019, the big idea was that church is a lifeboat, not a cruise ship. There are no passengers; we're all crew. We looked at Romans 1:16, in which the Apostle Paul writes that he is: *not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe*. With the gospel at the centre of everything we do, our mission, as a church, is clear: we're to take the good news of Jesus to people who need to be saved.

Over the course of the past year, we have seen God at work in many different ways, as the gospel has been proclaimed here at Saint James. There are signs of spiritual growth right across our church family, as people have responded to the teaching of God's word and the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. We have also, by God's grace, been able to launch a number of new initiatives, including:

- Prayer Central: because we need God's help in all that we do.
- Discipleship pathway: for people at every stage (explore-connect-grow).
- Connect Groups: for newcomers to the Christian faith...and to Saint James.
- Investing in Growth Groups: so that we're growing in Christ together.
- Frontline: practical training to help us talk to others about Jesus.
- EQUIP: ministry training to strengthen our leadership pipeline.
- 20s & 30s Growth Group: to invest in future leaders.
- The 6:30: practical training to help us talk to others about Jesus.

There are many other things we would like to have done, but for various reasons we haven't managed to get to them this year. In many ways, ministry should always feel a little bit like that – because our ambitions for the gospel should always run ahead of our resources. However, there are many reasons to be thankful as we look back on the past year.

Change in our church family has not been easy, however. It rarely is. For some of us, it has meant saying farewell to people we have known and loved over many years as they have moved on – from both the staff team and the church family. However, 1 Cor 1:10-12 reminds us that we follow Christ, above all others and so we continue to press on in his service.



We also have reasons to be thankful as we think of newcomers whom we have welcomed in to our church family over the past year. Furthermore, there are new faces on the staff team. As we have built the team for our vision to see every life transformed, God has blessed us with some very exciting new team members. We are a work in progress, but there is a growing sense of alignment behind our vision and momentum in our ministries. All of this has been accomplished in the midst of a pandemic that has brought challenges few of us ever imagined. Covid-19 has brought fear, suffering and uncertainty to our church family and our communities. However, in Jesus Christ we have a message of hope, comfort and life. And we must continue to get that message out to a world that needs it.

Many of us have grown spiritually, over the past few months, as the testing of our faith has developed perseverance (James 1:4). However, many of us have had to battle with the many challenges of lockdown and we are weary and uncertain as we head towards what could be a long winter. That is why our theme for the coming year of 'church as a family' is so poignant. We want Saint James to be 'a place to belong' for everyone. Please join me in praying that as the gospel takes root in our hearts, we are, increasingly, a church family in which everyone is cared for and everyone is welcome.

Relationships, of course, are key to that sense of family and so I hope that in the year ahead we will be looking out for others in the church family – particularly those who are new or less-connected – to welcome them in. Amy & I are finding the 'rule of six' to be quite frustrating, but we are trying to find time when the children are at school to invite people in for lunch at The Rectory. I am also planning to 'visit' Growth Groups in the coming weeks and months (either in person at church, or virtually, if necessary). I have asked Rachel, my PA, to be in touch with group leaders to arrange that. It is always a joy to spend time with people and to pray together as we follow Christ here at Saint James.

Finally, you may be wondering why there isn't more detail included here with this report. It was our intention to provide a comprehensive 'Ministry Review' for our July Prayer Central, a few months ago, with reports from our various ministries. The reason for doing this in July was to provide a more up to date 'year-end' summary that reflects the academic year (which, like many churches, we tend to follow here at Saint James). Covid-19 put paid to all that, but we hope that we will be able to do this in July 2021 – so look out for that in July and the opportunity to give thanks to God for all that he has done.



I look forward to being with you at the APCM itself and the opportunity to take questions and share more with you then. As we look back, there is much for which to be thankful. As we look forward, there are reasons to be excited. Let us remember, however, the words of the psalmist: *His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior; the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.* (Psalm 147: 10-11) God does not delight in physical strength or human achievement. He delights in those who fear him and who look to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Do join with me in praying that would be true of us, at Saint James in the coming months.

Your brother in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt".

Revd Matt Beeby

Rector

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

Following completion of the annual revision, the church Electoral Roll has been amended as follows:

	<u>Gerrards Cross</u>	<u>Fulmer</u>
Names removed – those who have died	10	14
Names removed – those who have moved away	64	8
New additions	21	8

The number on the Roll now stands at 593; 494 in the Gerrards Cross section and 99 in the Fulmer section.

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2019

AIMS, OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

During the course of the year we have developed and clarified our vision as a church. Our Vision is to see every life transformed. Through Jesus. For God's glory. This means a church where, by God's grace, we are reaching, growing and resourcing:

- Reaching... our communities with the gospel.
- Growing... disciples to maturity.
- Resourcing... the kingdom beyond our postcodes (regionally, nationally and globally).

To realise this vision, and on the back of an organisational review, we have a launched a new structure built around our 5 Biblical purposes, each of which flows out of the gospel message: Jesus is Christ the Lord. These 5 Biblical purposes are set out below and were launched at the end of September at our Vision Dinners:

- Magnification: rejoicing in God with all our hearts and all of our lives.
- Mission: living to see God's kingdom grow as more people are saved.
- Membership: welcoming people into a family that cares for each other.
- Maturity: growing in the likeness of Christ through the gospel and by his Spirit.
- Ministry: serving God with the gifts his Spirit has given us.

Each of our 5 Biblical purposes is underpinned by prayer, because 'unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labour in vain.' (Psalm 127:1) With that in mind (and as one of our key 'Magnification' initiatives) we launched Prayer Central in September 2019: a monthly prayer meeting for the whole church family. This is in addition to various smaller prayer initiatives already in existence and it has been hugely encouraging. Numbers have been consistently strong, and we are coming together from across our different congregations in both Gerrards Cross and Fulmer, to express our dependence upon God for all that we are seeking to do.

STAFFING

In terms of staffing, we have said goodbye to a number of the team over the period 1 January to 31 December 2019: Chris Lion, Andrew Howard, Kathryn Aboud, Breffni Potter, Tim & Sandie Norton and Ben Topham have all moved on to new things. It's encouraging to hear that all are thriving in their new opportunities.

In the Ministry Team we welcomed Ben Clarke as a curate and Ben has been leading both our Mission and our Membership work, alongside plenty more besides. In the Operations Team, we welcomed Debbie Leach and Simi Gill to strengthen our administration and Rachel McCarthy joined us as PA to the Rector. All three have made a great contribution and are a great blessing to the team.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and in 2009 was registered with the Charity Commission as The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St James Gerrards Cross with St James Fulmer with Charity Registration Number I 129332.

During 2019 the PCC of St. James, Gerrards Cross with Fulmer has had the responsibility of working with the Rector, the Revd. Matt Beeby (from Feb 2019) and the Associate Rector, the Revd. Ben Topham, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, as set out in Our Vision statement and in the Mission Action, and Mission Execution plans.

It also had responsibility for the maintenance of the two parish churches, their graveyards, The Saint James Centre and four houses occupied by members of staff.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are Trustees of the Parish of St James Gerrards Cross with St James Fulmer, members are ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules or co-opted by the PCC. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Ex Officio

Incumbent	The Revd. Matt Beeby (<i>from Feb 2019</i>)
Associate Rector	The Revd. Ben Topham (<i>until 31 Dec 2019</i>)
Curate	The Revd. Meyrick Beebee
Curate	The Revd. Chris Lion (<i>until June 2019</i>)
Curate	The Revd. Ben Clarke (<i>from June 2019</i>)
Associate Pastor for Adult Spiritual Formation	The Revd. James Leach
Associate Minister for St James Fulmer	The Revd. Jill Roth

Wardens

Dr Andrew Bell	Mr Anthony Bargioni (<i>until April 2019</i>)
Mrs Francesca Hall-Drinkwater	Mr Edwin Clark (<i>until April 2019</i>)
Mrs Wendy Shingleton (<i>from April 2019</i>)	

General Synod Representative

Dr Andrew Bell

Diocesan Synod Representatives

Mrs Stephanie Summerell

Mr Lawrence Tebboth

Deanery Synod Representatives

Mr Martin Josten

Mr David Kidner

Mr Keith Lucas

Mr Steven Cooper

Ms Jean Meakin (*until April 2019*)

Mr Lawrence Tebboth

Mr James Scorer

Mr David Mackie

Mrs Stephanie Summerell

Mrs Francesca Hall-Drinkwater (*from April 2019*)

Mr Cobus van der Walt

Elected Members

Mr Brian Weild

Mrs Jip Mawditt

Mr Phil Hines

Mrs Jacqui Pannett (*until April 2019*)

Mr Grant Masom

Mrs Yve Stewart (*until April 2019*)

Mr Bob Mason

Mr Ian Mitton (*until May 2019*)

Mrs Jane Sheldon

Mr Paul Walker (*until June 2019*)

Mr Andrew Nealon

Mr Roland White (*until August 2019*)

Dr Tom Kitching

Mrs Laurianne Griffiths (*until October 2019*)**Co-opted**Mr Richard Lawrence (*PCG Secretary*)Mr David Steel (*Treasurer*)**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Members of the PCC (Trustees) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have, in their view, met the public benefit requirement through the parish's many and varied activities and events. In particular, through the provision of 'Friendship Lunches' for the elderly, Parenting Courses for a variety of age groups and for parents of children with Special Needs and by providing a weekly morning toddler group 'Tiny Tots'. We also take every opportunity to become involved in local community events e.g. by providing volunteers for the GX Fun Run, and by supporting local events with the Accord Community Choir.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

There are detailed Terms of Reference for all the PCC's Committees in the Leadership Structures Paper approved by the PCC in 2001 and subsequently revised in May 2009.

The PCC's Committees are as follows (more detail in the Annual Financial Statements):

- Leadership Team
- Buildings and Churchyards Committee
- Stewardship Committee
- Fulmer Leadership Team
- Mission Committee
- Love Africa Steering Group

SAFEGUARDING

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults)



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

*Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 available from the
Church Office*

ANNUAL FABRIC REPORT (WARDENS' REPORT ON GOODS AND GIFTS)

As churchwardens, we are enormously grateful to Edwin Clark who continues to manage the maintenance, repair and enhancement of our buildings. He is ably assisted in this major undertaking by the other members of the Buildings and Site Development Committee Diana Mann, Martin Paine and Stuart Crawford.

It has been another busy year catching up on remedial work emanating from the Quinquennial inspections in December 2017. The biggest item of expenditure was full inspection and repairs to Gerrards Cross Church Roof including repairs to slate elevations, cracked corbel stonework, dislodged leadwork, some new gutters and repairs to all four sides of the South East Tower Roof. Work will continue on the roof during 2020 involving lead repairs to the Main Dome, the Cross and the remaining three towers.

Martin Paine continues to take ownership of all our annual maintenance contracts, ensuring that regular service arrangements are in place. In doing so he has also released time for others on the committee to concentrate on the ever-growing list of maintenance requirements to the fabric of our buildings and church houses that fall outside of contract.

Many others give of their time and energy to ensure our church buildings and churchyards are clean, tidy and welcoming. We are grateful to them all.

Listed below are the main tasks carried out this year on the buildings:

St James Fulmer

1. Buttresses to the front and rear of the church have had major repairs.
2. New Boiler installed.
3. Painting of the newly refurbished Porch and new Oak Benches fitted.
4. Painting of newly fitted kitchen.
5. External gas meter housing repaired.
6. Tower Clock repair.
7. Bell Tower treated for woodworm.
8. Fire exit window fitted in clergy vestry
9. Security Grilles fitted in rear corridor.
10. Added relay to existing panic alarm.

St James Gerrards Cross

1. Major works to the Church Roof.
2. Repairs to roof light in the 'Space'.
3. Emergency lighting installed.
4. Tower treated for woodworm.
5. Replaced roof access door and frame in the tower.
6. Replacement of main door hinges between foyer and nave.

St James Centre

1. Empty and clean main drain sumps also surface water drains.
2. Decorated exterior woodwork and stonework
3. Repaired garden sheds after burglary.
4. Repaired a leak to main roof lead joint.
5. Repaired garden tap and boxed in.
6. Installed hearing loop in MMR.
7. Repairs to blinds

Staff Housing

1. 38a Lovel Road – New Alarm and front door lock.

***Andrew Bell, Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Wendy Shingleton
Churchwardens***

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DEANERY SYNOD

The function of the Amersham Deanery Synod and Team is to equip enable support and facilitate growth and renewal in the local church throughout the Amersham Deanery.

Formally the Area Deans are responsible for a number of items including: -

- Support to parishes in financial, pastoral and advisory capacities
- Setting the Parish Share within the Deanery contribution to the Diocese
- Participating in the Clergy appointments in the Deanery
- Holding Parish Inspections with Churchwardens (Included two St James in 2019)
- Holding Deanery Synod meetings.

Synod has met three times in 2019. Presentations and Minutes of Meeting are posted on the Deanery Webpage <https://www.amershamdeanery.org.uk/>

June Synod was focussed around the theme of “Creatively connecting church and school for the sake of the Gospel” with presentations from Beaconsfield families’ worker and the Diocesan Education Advisor. A report was received on the Oxford Diocese Common Vision Day.

Diocesan representatives were welcomed at the September Synod speaking on the “Working with schools” and “Personal Discipleship Plans”. Synod was also advised on the latest C of E National and Diocesan publications relating to Safeguarding Policies and Handbooks. The Parish Planning Tool produced by the Diocese was also introduced.

At the December Synod the allocation of Parish share for the coming year was agreed. Rev’d David Heywood from Oxford Diocese spoke on “Locally Based Training in Oxford Diocese”. A video was shown produced by Deanery supported missionary Steve Poulsen who works with street children in Honduras. The Synod concluded with the showing of the Bishop of Oxford’s Diocesan Synod Presidential address “How to pray for the General Election”.

Following emergence of the global C-19 pandemic, the planned March Synod was cancelled. A meeting of Synod members via Zoom was held in June, which included a discussion in groups around: “Church Next – Emerging from lockdown. What is church going to look like in the coming months and years.”

Lawrence Tebboth
Amersham Deanery Lay Chair

SAFEGUARDING REPORT: COMPLIANCE WITH THE DUTY UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE SAFEGUARDING AND CLERGY DISCIPLINE MEASURE 2016

The PCC takes very seriously the requirement to safeguard children, young persons and potentially vulnerable adults who attend any activity organised by the church.

Anyone having direct contact with any of the above groups are required to obtain a clear Disclosure and Barring (DBS) report with these checks being renewed every five years. Church officers & volunteers are also required to attend safeguarding training at a level appropriate for their role – provided both on line, ‘in house’ by the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and the Diocese trainer. Training at all levels is renewable every three years. All PCC members are required to complete the online Basic Safeguarding training module. All church officers and volunteers completing in house Foundation training are provided with detailed links to the Diocese of Oxford/Safeguarding website, Safer Environment & Activities handbook and Parish Safeguarding Policy. Leadership training is provided by the Diocese trainer.

Training requirements and records are stored safely on ChurchSuite and regularly reviewed by the PSO and Church Manager.

The St James Safeguarding Policy is to be found on the front page of the church website and gives clear details of who to contact if any concerns arise with a link to the urgent referral procedure and emergency contact details. This is reviewed annually by the PSO, with the Diocese of Oxford Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) in receipt of a copy.

The whole church family will be aware of the enormous damage allegations of abuse can inflict on any organisation and they are encouraged to bring forward any concerns they may have. Any such issues would be resolved with confidentiality and would be fully recorded with the appropriate referrals to the DSA and other agencies where required.

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of bishop’s guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults)

Ann Green
Parish Safeguarding Officer

REDUCING THE NUMBER OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LAITY ON THE PCC FROM 12 TO 9, TO BE EFFECTIVE FROM THE 2021 APCM

St James PCC is quite a large body. It includes our clergy, churchwardens and representatives elected to Deanery Synod (and Diocesan and General Synod) as well as the lay people who we elect directly to the PCC. This gives a membership of over 30. It is difficult for a group of this size to hold meaningful discussions or make decisions of a strategic nature. In order to enhance the effectiveness of the Council, we therefore propose modest changes to reduce its size: firstly, by avoiding or minimising co-option of additional members, and secondly by reducing the number of lay members elected by the APCM from twelve to nine. We will still have an additional nine Deanery Synod members, also elected by the APCM and also serving as full members of the PCC. We therefore propose the following motion to this year's APCM:

According to Church Representation Rules M15 (9), this Annual Meeting resolves that the number of representatives of the laity elected to the PCC shall be nine; three to be elected each year. This resolution will take effect at the next annual meeting, in 2021.