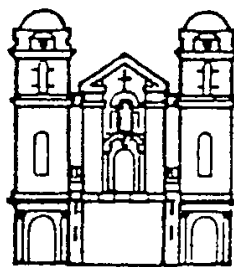


The Church of St James the Greater

Annual Report 2016



THE MISSION OF ST JAMES THE GREATER
is to welcome all people,
to share with them the knowledge of God,
to encourage them to follow the Christian way
to celebrate the joys of life and to support each other through its sorrows,
to serve those amongst whom we live,
and to address the needs of others in the world.

WE ENDEAVOUR TO FULFIL OUR MISSION BY:

1. **welcoming** people regardless of age, race or social status.
2. **worshipping** in ways both old and new, combining words and music, movement and stillness with skill and imagination to glorify God and to inspire people in their life and work.
3. **belonging** to the Church of England and taking an active part in the life of the Diocese of Leicester.
4. **listening** to different points of view to discern God's will for the church and the world.
5. **preaching** and teaching a thoughtful response to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the light of the Spirit for today.
6. **studying** the Bible and Christian life in groups and linking with Diocesan courses.
7. **praying** for the well-being of one another, for those who ask for our prayers, and for the church and the world.
8. **caring** pastorally for the needs of the congregation and of the parish and contributing to charitable causes.
9. **conducting** services at special moments for people - including baptisms, weddings and funerals - and for organisations.
10. **providing** opportunities for people of all ages to meet socially and as members of organisations.
11. **promoting** cultural excellence by making available space and facilities for concert performances.
12. **raising** the money needed to maintain and improve our buildings, and to meet the costs of our church's ministry and mission.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING OF ST JAMES THE GREATER HELD ON APRIL 24th 2016

The Vicar opened the meeting with prayer and paid tribute to the faithful departed since the 2015 meeting.

Present: The Reverend Canon Glynn Richerby and 55 members of the congregation.

Apologies for absence were received.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on April 26th 2015 were taken as read and signed as a true record by the Vicar.

2 Election of Church Wardens

Warden	Proposer	Seconder
Julia Walker	Rosemary Freer	Michael Molloy
Keith Vaughan	Angela Hefford	Mike Bull

There were no other nominations for either of these positions.

Deputy Warden	Proposer	Seconder
Angela Hefford	All Proposed And Seconded	
April Rule		
Simon Edwards		
Phil Jones		

There were no other nominations for either of these positions.

Barbara Penrose and Ian Stapleton both stood down as deputy wardens the Vicar thanked them and presented each with a book as show of our gratitude.

All these proposals were carried unanimously.

The Vicar announced that the wardens will be sworn in at the Archdeacon's Visitation Service on Wednesday 4th May at Holy Apostles.

The meeting closed at 11:55

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ST JAMES THE GREATER HELD ON APRIL 24th 2016

Present: The Reverend Canon Glynn Richerby and 55 members of the congregation.

Apologies for absence were received.

1 Statement Concerning The Conduct Of The Meting.

The Vicar advised that due to the ongoing police investigation following John Sharp's arrest the Financial Report for 2015 cannot be given.

2 Minutes

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on April 26th 2015 were taken as read and signed as a true record by the Vicar.

3 Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll now stands at 170. It stood at 172 at the 2015 meeting.

4 Statement of Accounts

The Vicar welcomed Alan Fletcher to his first APCM as Treasurer. Alan gave an update on the accounts and the policies and procedures now in place. Alan introduced John Cox to the APCM and thanked him for his efforts in putting the new accounting system in place.

5 Reports of Committees to be received

The reports had already been published and were available to be read.

The Vicar moved that the reports be received; which they were.

6 Appointment of Tellers

Tellers were not appointed as nominations for vacancies were equal to the number of vacancies.

7 Elections

The Vicar thanked those retiring from the PCC at the meeting

7.1 Election of 5 Members Of The PCC For 3 Years

Lin Mawer, Michael Molloy, Vicky Roe, April Rule and David Sharman had all been proposed and seconded to serve on the PCC. As nominations closed before the meeting, they are to be our representatives.

The first meeting of the new session of the PCC is on Tuesday 17th May.

7.2 Sidesmen

The Vicar moved that the sidesmen be elected en-bloc and this was carried by the meeting.

8 Appointment of Independent Examiners of Accounts

Alan Fletcher introduced John Orridge (Diocesan Director Of Finance) and moved that John be appointed as our Independent Examiner. This appointment was approved unanimously.

9 Report of Church Sponsored Organisations

These have been published and are available to read but the Vicar gave an overview of the life of the church. He thanked everyone who gives their time throughout the year to support the church.

The Vicar moved that the reports be received and they were approved unanimously.

10 Vicar's Report

The Vicar's report is attached to these minutes. The Vicar announced to the meeting that following his 65th birthday in November he intends to retire at the end of that month. He thanked everyone who has assisted and supported him since he was appointed to St James in 1993 and identified some of the key landmarks since that time.

11 Any Other Business

Julia Walker thanked the Vicar, on behalf of the meeting, for his ministry over the past twelve months and for his faithful service over the past 23 years.

The meeting closed with prayer and the Dismissal at 12:40.

Annual Report of the Church of St James the Greater in 2016

Background

St James' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also represents those who, although living outside the small parish, choose to be associated with the worship and witness of this church.

Membership of the Parochial Church Council (PC)

Ex Officio Ministry team	Jane Sharp Angela Jagger John Raven David Brunning	
Ex Officio Church Wardens	Julia Walker Keith Vaughan	(first elected 13) (first elected 15)
Diocesan Synod	Margaret Terry	
Deanery Synod 2014 – 2017	Michael Rule Margaret Terry William Woolley Annabel Cowley	(ex officio) (ex officio)
Elected Members retire 2017	Hannah Cowley Simon Edwards Angela Hefford Jo Stapleton Phil Jones	(Deputy Churchwarden) (Deputy Churchwarden) (PCC, Standing & Finance Secretary & Deputy Churchwarden)
Elected Members retire 2018	Alan Fletcher Emmanuel Okoli Mike Rule Andy Judge Sarah Kirby	(Treasurer) (Co-opted 2015)
Elected Members retire 2019	Lin Mawer Michael Molloy Vicky Roe David Sharman April Rule	(Electoral Roll Officer & Deputy Churchwarden)

COMMITTEES

The PCC operates through a select number of sub committees which meet between full meetings of the PCC.

Charitable Giving Committee

Implements a policy to raise awareness of and support for charitable causes.

Fabric Committee

Oversees repairs to and maintenance of the buildings, but excluding the Vicarage which is in the care of the Diocese.

Finance Committee

Provides stewardship of all the financial resources of the PCC. Safeguards against the misuse, loss or unnecessary depletion of PCC funds. Has oversight of all the procedures and documentation which relate to all and any aspect of the finances of the PCC.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

Stewardship & Communication Committee

A team of visitors maintain contact with everyone associated with the church through distributing the *Quarterly* magazine.

Worship & Mission Committee

Reviews the pattern and content of services and advises on education and mission.

Youth & Children Committee

Implements the policy "To build up contacts with as many young people as possible, so that they may grow up with an understanding of the Christian option for their lives".

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

There are 170 members on the Electoral Roll.

The majority of worshippers are resident outside the parish.

Attendance at services on Sundays – as recorded by Churchwardens – averaged 173 including children, and those attending more than once.

Sunday evening services are almost as well attended as Sunday mid-morning services.

A team of leaders has provided a children's Sunday Club on Sunday mornings in term time attended by up to 8 children.

There is continued demand for the church as a venue for funeral and memorial services but a disappointing level of demand for baptisms and weddings.

Festival services attract many visitors – a feature of the public ministry of this church.

Friends of St James the Greater held their third Annual General Meeting followed by attendance at the Patronal Festival Service.

Tuesday morning Eucharist has been suspended during the Interregnum.

Thursday mid morning Eucharist followed by a coffee drop-in are well supported
Monthly luncheon club.

Housebound members of our fellowship were remembered in prayers at Sunday services and a number regularly received communion at home.

The *Quarterly* magazine has been distributed by the Stewardship Committee to the congregation and sent by post to *Friends of St James the Greater* and others who wish to keep in touch.

Two house groups regularly met.

The Church sponsors the 41st Scout Group which meets in the Undercroft on Thursdays.

Saturday Stop-by – a joint initiative of the British Islamic Society and St James the Greater – providing socialising and a hot meal for local people with housing and employment issues.

The Hall is used for a Muslim after-school Madrassa.

St James continues to financially support a detached youth worker in the Southern Edge

Mission Partnership of which St James the Greater is a constituent member.
Vicky Roe monitored adherence to the church's Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) Standing & Finance Committees each had six scheduled meetings.

The PCC received management accounts from the Treasurer; reviewed our Child Protection Policies; responded to Deanery, Diocesan and Southern Edge Mission Partnership developments. Sub Committees and working groups reported to the PCC.

Our Diocesan Parish Contribution was **£43,350**

The Charity Committee has been active in encouraging support of charitable objectives.

The Choirs have maintained a high standard throughout the year at the direction of Matthew Haynes and Mike Rule. Roxy Summerfield stood down from Assistant Organist in June
St James Singers directed by Michael Rule have sung monthly for services.

Church sponsored concerts with a box office provided through the Church Office have reinforced St James as an excellent concert venue.

Francis Ciza continues in charge of our morning & evening security.

The Halls are now cleaned by Contactors twice weekly.

The Sanctuary Guild attended to the regular cleaning and polishing of the Church

The Flower Guild provided beautiful flower arrangements to highlight the church's year.

The Churchwardens, Church Administrator and Sidesmen in conjunction with many others have ensured the efficient organisation of the church.

The Associate Priest, Readers, Honorary Clergy, Pastoral Assistant, Sacristans and Servers support overall ministry exercised by everyone at St James.

LOOKING AHEAD

The appointment of our new Vicar

Quinquennial Inspection of the Buildings & Fabric.

The completion of deferred Phase 2 repairs to the outside walls and drains around the church

Mission though Music this Southern Edge Mission Partnership event will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 2 July at St Andrews Aylestone.

God bless our church and parish, and prosper all our attempts to be faithful to
you and to draw others into your Kingdom.

On behalf of the PCC
Miss J Walker & Mr Keith Vaughan
Church Wardens
1 April 2017

11-Apr-17	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2016 - MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS - ST JAMES PROFIT AND LOSS BY MONTH													
INCOME:													
Plate Collections	601	696	654	481	581	416	432	396	657	759	1,651	1,388	8,712
GAD Envelopes	347	687	660	428	617	398	311	245	283	248	869	405	5,496
Envelope Scheme	663	889	985	691	747	571	544	953	688	606	804	424	8,563
Standing Orders	4,836	4,972	4,884	4,226	5,440	5,331	4,971	5,404	4,881	4,961	5,169	4,510	59,586
Tax Reclaims	0	0	0	0	3,753	0	0	0	576	0	0	0	4,329
Donations & Legacies	470	821	772	612	437	1,513	1,553	2,308	328	457	917	1,071	11,258
Wedding & Funeral Fees	13	28	181	0	0	0	119	421	0	82	0	0	844
Hire of Church	2,300	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	450	350	1,620	0	4,870
Hall Hire	1,093	660	815	2,238	240	120	210	945	541	1,425	1,685	2,162	12,134
Concert Income	0	80	0	2,725	759	1,222	0	0	890	261	1,016	884	7,835
Charity/Receipts	5	1,052	339	-535	322	13	0	0	20	143	35	1,337	2,731
Miscellaneous Income	0	10,117	64	0	1	42	33	70	0	51	0	74	10,452
Properties	375	375	375	375	375	375	375	375	375	375	375	375	4,500
Bank Interest	15	0	0	43	0	0	43	0	0	41	0	0	141
TOTAL:	10,718	20,527	9,727	11,283	13,272	10,001	8,590	11,117	9,688	9,758	14,140	12,630	141,451
EXPENDITURE:													
Parish Contribution	3,666	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,000	0	0	11,666
All Maintenance / Repairs	1,733	0	0	-4,705	833	321	131	9	353	41	771	384	-129
Insurances	600	930	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	945	7,875
Gas & Electricity	1,054	1,319	1,298	1,207	871	820	678	621	573	645	641	12	9,740
Water	76	76	76	103	56	56	56	56	56	-597	56	56	128
Altar Expenses	0	291	14	0	16	0	0	515	121	0	34	0	991
Clergy Expenses	180	195	151	219	133	181	236	281	189	166	287	108	2,326
Salaries - Admin	1,062	1,069	1,097	944	1,037	1,084	1,054	1,080	1,110	1,084	1,110	1,128	12,858
Salaries - Music	2,058	2,205	2,066	2,121	2,121	2,121	2,176	2,027	1,927	1,927	1,927	1,927	24,606
Salaries - Caretaking	599	569	589	569	569	569	569	569	318	318	318	318	5,870
Telephone	189	98	0	207	101	0	206	103	0	185	103	0	1,193
Administration	318	182	114	238	215	58	629	102	98	453	304	138	2,850
Choir & Organ	1,322	0	0	910	478	250	1,267	60	300	0	18	889	5,495
Southern Edge MP	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	0	0	2,000	0	4,000
Charitable Giving	0	0	0	2,988	1,144	0	0	0	0	117	0	623	4,852
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	35	30	0	0	0	100	60	0	30	309	0	564
Re-charges	-1569	-505	-895	-10	-73	-134	-244	-332	-1,291	-566	-539	-116	-6,263
Concert Expenses	616	69	149	318	164	424	6,969	73	2,552	166	163	782	12,446
Properties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	230	0	0	230
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Charges													
TOTAL:	11,905	6,533	5,287	5,688	8,267	6,350	16,427	5,824	6,907	12,811	8,102	7,196	101,298
NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT:	-1,187	13,994	4,439	5,595	5,004	3,651	-7,837	5,293	2,781	-3,053	6,038	5,434	40,153

11-Apr-17										
2015 ST JAMES MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS										
PROFIT AND LOSS		ACTUAL	BUDGET		ACTUAL	ACTUAL			Bank Accounts	
SUMMARY		JAN-DEC	JAN-DEC	VARIANCE	JAN-DEC	JAN-DEC	VARIANCE			
		2016	2016		2016	2015				
INCOME:										
Plate Collections	8,712	7,000	1,712		8,712	8,831	-118		NWB	8,597
GAD Envelopes	5,496	5,000	496		5,496	5,361	135		Santander	22,382
Envelope Scheme	8,563	7,000	1,563		8,563	8,190	373		CBF	34,386
Standing Orders	59,586	54,000	5,586		59,586	51,499	8,087			
Tax Reclaims	4,329	20,000	-15,671		4,329	11,240	-6,911		Total	65,365
Donations & Legacies	11,258	15,000	-3,742		11,258	24,111	-12,853			
Wedding & Funeral Fees	844	2,000	-1,156		844	1,997	-1,153		Creditors	5,185
Hire of Church	4,870	3,000	1,870		4,870	2,715	2,155			
Church Hall Hire	12,134	15,000	-2,866		12,134	14,138	-2,004		Balance	60,950
Concert Income	7,835	30,000	-22,165		7,835	30,137	-22,302			
Charity Receipts	2,731	0	2,731		2,731	3,171	-441			
Miscellaneous Income	10,452	200	10,252		10,452	257	10,195		Balance equals sum of	
Properties	4,500	4,500	0		4,500	240	4,260		Restricted & Unrestricted Funds	
Bank Interest	141	150	-9		141	172	-31			
TOTAL:	141,451	162,850	-21,399		141,451	162,059	-20,608			
EXPENDITURE:										
Parish Contribution	11,666	3,666	8,000		11,666	54,666	-43,000			
Rep's / Maint./Cleaning	-129	17,500	-17,629		-129	5,567	-5,696			
Insurances	7,875	7,530	345		7,875	7,285	590			
Gas & Electricity	9,740	12,500	-2,760		9,740	12,391	-2,651			
Water	128	700	-572		128	779	-651			
Altar Expenses	991	1,000	-9		991	1,063	-72			
Clergy Expenses	2,326	2,400	-74		2,326	2,436	-110			
Salaries - Admin	12,858	12,209	649		12,858	12,595	263			
Salaries - Choir	24,606	25,406	-800		24,606	25,292	-686			
Salaries - Caretaking	5,870	6,894	-1,024		5,870	2,892	2,978			
Telephone	1,193	1,200	-7		1,193	830	364			
Administration	2,850	6,750	-3,900		2,850	4,963	-2,113			
Choir & Organ	5,495	5,000	495		5,495	5,394	101			
Church Organisations	4,000	4,000	0		4,000	4,000	0			
Charitable Giving	4,852	0	4,852		4,852	1,792	3,060			
Miscellaneous Expenses	564	2,000	-1,436		564	13,360	-12,796			
Re-charges	-6,263	-9,500	3,237		-6,263	-8,394	2,131			
Concert Expenses	12,446	25,000	-12,554		12,446	44,488	-32,042			
Properties	230	400	-170		230	80	150			
Depreciation	0	0	0		0	26,099	-26,099			
Bank Charges										
TOTAL:	101,298	124,655	-23,356		101,298	217,577	-116,279			
NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT:	40,153	38,195	1,958		40,153	-55,518	95,671			
Unrestricted Funds										
				Ashman Unrestricted Fund	for the purpose of any future property investment or other purposes approved by the PCC					
				Balance	45210					
Restricted Funds										
				Holyoake Fund	to make grants at the discretion of the vicar					
				Opening Balance	1513					
				Income	0					
				Expenses	0					
				Closing balance	1513					
				Organ Fund	to repair and renovate the church organ					
				Opening Balance	1049					
				Income	1010					
				Expenses	0					
				Closing balance	2059					
				Youth Fund	to contribute to youth work within the Church					
				Opening Balance	1408					
				Income	0					
				Expenses	0					
				Closing balance	1408					
				Fabric & Furnishings	to repair and renovate Church buildings and furnishings					
				Opening Balance	32697					
				Income	0					
				Expenses	23872					
				Closing balance	8824					
				Choir Fund	to provide support for the choir and its projects					
				Opening Balance	90					
				Income	1284					
				Expenses	0					
				Closing balance	1374					
				Peggy Tearle Fund	to support the music of the church					
				Opening Balance	3879					
				Income	0					
				Expenses	3320					
				Closing balance	559					
									Total Restricted Funds	15738
									Total Unrestricted Funds	45210
										60948

CHARITABLE GIVING COMMITTEE

During 2016 - 2017 the members of the committee were Caroline Beardsmore, Mike Bull, Hilary Simpson, Emma Jones, Liz Turner and Karen Scrimgeour. During the course of the year, Karen resigned from the committee. We thank Karen for all her help.

During 2016 we organised the following events:

May 2016:	Raffle, a talk and a supper - Bees for development:	£117
October 2016:	Harvest quiz ARUK – Alzheimer’s Research UK:	£226.05
March 25th 2017:	An afternoon movie with light supper - Help for Heroes:	£84

The total amount of ALL Charitable Giving events in 2016-2017 was £427.05

In addition money was raised for the Stop By Project, DEC, Macmillan and other good causes through Church events and donations.

Emma Jones
Charity Committee 2016

CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATOR’S REPORT 2016-2017

In my role as Child Protection Co-ordinator, I have worked with the Youth Committee and the PCC to update the Church’s Child Protection Policy in line with revisions to the Diocesan Handbook and changes in regulations. I attended the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinators Conference in September 2016, which was held at St. Martins House.

I attended a Safeguarding C1 Training Course in November 2016 at St. Martins House and will attend the C2 Training in May 2017, since these are now a requirement for all those in lay ministry. I arranged for the C1 Training to be done at St. James the Greater on 16th February 2016 for those involved with children’s work and members of the PCC. Those unable to attend are making arrangements to go on a centrally organised course in the future or have already attended one. A record is kept of all those who have attended the training.

I continue to oversee the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly Criminal Records Bureau) checks for those in contact with children, a process which is now done online through CCPAS (Churches Child Protection Advisory Service). I make occasional visits to the various groups and help with the Sunday Club on a rota basis.

Vicky Roe

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2016

March

Our March meeting took place at St Theodore's Rushey Mead when the Rev'd Chris Webb-a Benedictine Anglican Priest, author, speaker and Deputy Warden of Launde Abbey-joined us and led an interactive presentation on prayer for the Lenten season, including worship and song based on three themes:

Praying the Psalms
Praying the gospel
Praying the silence



He then gave a presentation on Launde Abbey, the Diocesan Retreat House which is open to the whole church and wider public. There is a life of daily prayer against a background of conferences, retreats, events and visits. Information on forthcoming programmes can be found on their website. Martin Gage, a volunteer for Christian Aid for the past 35 years in the East Midlands introduced the theme of this year's Christian Aid Week: 'Turning the world upside down'. The focus would be on Bangladesh and families affected by climate change in the hope of giving them the means to help themselves.

Rev'd Terri Skinner then updated us with news of St Theodore's and Shayne Ardron gave a report on the recent meeting of General Synod.

July

In July we met at the Church of the Martyrs and the main focus of the evening was the offering of Parish Gifts. Andrew Nutter, Director of Parish Funding and Fundraising, talked to us about the Parish Giving Scheme, Generous Giving and the new system of TRIO. Information packs on these were made available to Synod members.

Rev'd Richard Worsfold gave the Parish Report before the main business of the evening: the offering of the Parish Gifts by member churches for 2017. The list of gifts already pledged was read out and people were given the opportunity to speak about the reasoning behind their church's gift if so desired.

November

This meeting was held at St Paul's and St Augustine's Worship Centre and the main theme of the evening was 'Nurturing Faith'. The main presentation-'Sharing the story with children'-was given by Andy Hefford, who is in charge of education at Leicester Cathedral. He gave an interesting insight in to the large number of groups of children who now visit the Cathedral and the different ways in which he seeks to engage and interact with them.

There then followed a short presentation on the Cursillo movement which started in Spain (at Santiago de Compostela) in 1938. The movement is now quite strong and centres around weekend retreats or 'pilgrimages'.

Anne Dewdney then talked to us about Eco Churches, a scheme which was launched at St Paul's Cathedral in January. This was followed by a report on St Paul's and St Augustine's by Rev'd Steven Burnham and a report on General Synod by Shayne Ardron.

In September I hosted an evening in the garden of the Martyrs' Vicarage when Synod members were invited to share in food, wine, music and fellowship on a lovely late summer evening.

Richard Worsfold
Area Dean

REPORT ON THE DIOCESAN SYNOD

The Diocesan Synod met three times in 2016, in May, September and November.

The meeting in May was the first to be presided over by Bishop Martyn, whose Installation in the Cathedral had taken place only a week earlier. It soon became clear that his style would be less formal and more interactive. His Presidential Address was followed by a group discussion and he joined one of the groups to take part in this, a pattern which has now become the norm.

Over the three meetings the usual business of the Diocesan Boards of Finance and Education, the Diocesan budget, the Growth Fund, safeguarding and updates on Launde Abbey and St Martins has continued but several new topics for discussion and approval have been introduced.

I. The proposal to request that a Suffragan See should be created in our Diocese. Bishop Christopher, the present Assistant Bishop, is retiring in May and no more Assistant Bishops are to be appointed. No other Diocese with the size of our population has only one Bishop. This proposal,

which had previously been extensively discussed throughout the Diocese, was carried unanimously. It then went to General Synod where it was also passed and it has recently received the Queen's consent. The new Bishop will be the Suffragan Bishop of Loughborough and a job specification is in the process of being developed.

2. A new Monastic Community was proposed to be housed in a property next to the Richard III Visitors Centre. This would consist of 12-16 young adults aged 20-35 from around the world, each giving a year of their time to go deeper into prayer, learning and service. It would be a three-way partnership between the Diocese, the Cathedral and Launde Abbey. This proposal was accepted unanimously and already the Revd Rachel Bennetts has been appointed Prior and will oversee the development of this project.

3. Resource Churches. The Church Commissioners have released significant money for starting 'Resource Churches'. Such churches would be asked to resource mission and ministry across a wider area and would be given additional staffing in order to develop teams of pioneers who could be sent out to establish fresh expressions of church. This gave rise to a great deal of discussion but the proposal was passed and already Market Harborough has been designated the first Resource Church in the Diocese and the new Incumbent is to be installed in May.

4. On his arrival in Leicester, Bishop Martyn soon realised that BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Christians) were conspicuously absent from leadership roles in a diocese where non-white people are in the majority. Furthermore, of the 80 black or Asian churches in our Diocese only two are Anglican. As there is central funding for BAME posts, it was proposed that the Diocese should appoint a BAME Mission and Ministry Enabler. This was carried and the post is currently being advertised.

In his Presidential Address in November Bishop Martyn set out the areas on which he particularly wants to focus as: children, young people and BAME Christians; areas of multiple deprivation and rural areas. Much has been set in motion in his first year in office. The next year, which should include the addition of a new Bishop of Loughborough, promises to be just as interesting!

Margaret Terry **Diocesan Synod Member**

FABRIC REPORT 2016

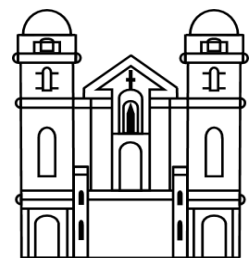
In readiness for our 2017 Quinquennial Architect/Surveyor inspection all the outstanding repairs listed in the last report as requiring attention have now been addressed.

Phase 2 of the West End repair project, which covers the brick walls, pillars and drains on the north and west sides, after careful monitoring has shown the north corner pillar in line with the footpath to continue to deteriorate and will inevitably need attention very soon.

Our required annual inspections which have to be entered yearly in the Church Logbook, including the electrical servicing, boilers, organ tuning, organ blower servicing, lift maintenance and fire extinguish testing, have all been completed as required throughout the year.

I am most grateful to Chris Morfey for carrying out the annual inspection of our emergency lighting; to David Roberts our in house sound & lighting engineer for all his support with the systems, and to David Nisbet for his building advice.

Julia Walker



FLOWER GUILD ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Our **Membership** stands at 10.

Mothering Sunday - 100 bunches of daffodils were prepared for this special day.

Holy Week – Traditionally at St James we arrange flowers for the Maundy Thursday's Altar of Repose and for the first time this year we placed three Wooden Cross in the front Garden on Good Friday morning.

Festivals - Easter, Harvest and Christmas flowers have once again given great pleasure to all attending Church on these special days. Easter is the only festival totally financed by the generous donations from our congregation via the Envelope/Gift Aid scheme, and without this income, we would not be able to decorate our beautiful church to the standard we have all been accustomed to for so many years. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Advent Wreath & Crib - once again Guild members ensured both were assembled in preparation for Christmas.

Commemorative Flowers - four Guild members consider arranging these flowers a privilege and willingly undertake this duty on behalf of members of our congregation past and present.

The Guild was privileged to host members of **NAFAS** on the occasion of the Memorial Service of the late Dorothy Cooke, a nationally and internationally known flower arranger. Eight of their arrangers placed stunning floral art throughout the church.

Additional flowers were arranged for the Funeral Service of our beloved **Henry Evans**, a long time supporter of the Guild.

Donations - the Guild is most grateful to all who give so generously to our funds. Without your support our work would not be possible.

This year our **Coffee Morning** was held by kind invitation of John & Barbara Raven. We are most grateful to the faithful few for supporting the Guild.

For the second year running our lunchtime **Drinks & Canapés** fundraiser was well attended. This year it gave the Guild an opportunity to say Farewell to our President Glynn.

Our **AGM** was followed by coffee & cakes at Hilary Simpson's home.

The **Porch** flower arrangement during the Interregnum will be replaced with silk flowers. This is due to the decision to keep the church outer porch doors closed except for Sunday & Thursday services.

In closing this report, I would like to thank the Guild Members for their support, for without their time and talent, given freely each week, our lives at St James would be without the beauty of flowers. May God give us strength to continue our work.

Julia Walker
Co-ordinator

MUSIC AT ST JAMES THE GREATER

BBC recording

BBC Songs of Praise recorded various hymns to be presented throughout the year. The choir, as ever, gave a hugely positive account of themselves and have been featured twice so far.

Glynn Richerby Retirement CD

A CD was created of the concert that was presented in late November 2016. This is due to go on sale shortly with all proceeds donated to the choir fund. The CD is a double disc of music through the church seasons including highlights such as Finzi 'God is gone up', Wesley 'Blessed be the God and Father' and Michael Rule's 'Farewell Prayer' (specially commissioned for the recording)

Ely Cathedral Cantata Choir Evensong

A fantastic Evensong was presented by St James Cantata Choir in October 2016. A choir of over 45 voices sang at the service. Canon Vicky Johnson credited the choir as being the best visiting group she had heard in her time at Ely.

Samworth Outreach Project

Another fantastic carol service was held in school at the Samworth Academy. The choir came together with 50 students from Leicester High School and 40 from the Academy to produce a wonderful evening of music and readings. Over 300 parents and relatives attended the service in support of their children. Attendance from St James' congregation was very poor once again and only attended by a handful of people.

Recruitment

Recruitment continues to be a challenge but some success has been had through connections with the University and various other schools and colleges. Notable recruits include Ian Jones returned as part time tenor and brings with him two of his sons. Amalia Young was recruited as an alto choral scholar from Leicester High School. Transport continues to be an issue for young people in the choir and much has been done by several parents and choir members to support youngsters without lifts to and from the church.

Choir numbers

Numbers have increased slightly since April 2016.

Current membership

Treble / Soprano

16 Girl Sopranos (2 to leave for university in July 2017)

6 Boy Trebles + 3 boy probationers

3 Altos

5 Tenors (4 students – 2 to leave for university in July 2018)

7 Bases

Looking ahead

The choir are to tour the Southwest and Devon this July for a week at various Abbeys and churches. The tour will run from July 15 to July 21 with services and performances at Tewkesbury Abbey, Bath Abbey, Sherborne Abbey, St Michael & All Angels, Exeter and Downside Abbey. All are welcome to come and support the choir on the various legs of the tour (a full schedule will be published for those interested in coming)

The Music Department

PASTORAL ASSISTANT'S REPORT 2016-2017

As my recovery from a heart attack in March 2015 has continued during the year, I have resumed more of my Church and Parish duties, including visiting people and taking Communion to the housebound, being a Eucharistic Assistant, leading intercessions in Church and meeting with the Vicar, until his retirement in November 2016. I was recommissioned as a Pastoral Assistant in October 2016.

I continue to lead a team who help with schools visiting the Church as part of their RE curriculum, using a child-friendly Church Trail leaflet for the purpose, where appropriate.

I am grateful for other members of the congregation who visit people regularly and keep me informed of pastoral concerns.

I attended the Pastoral Assistants' Study Day with AGM at St. Martins House in February 2017 and I continue to be responsible for taking and typing the minutes of PA Council meetings.

Vicky Roe

SANCTUARY GUILD

My grateful thanks to Barbara Penrose and Cherry Fulloway in keeping the church dusted and polished over the last year. If anybody could spare half an hour occasionally to help in any way, would you kindly contact me on 0116 288 5315

Doris Makepeace

SERVERS REPORT

We currently have 18 members, but are always looking for new servers who would like to join us. On Saturday 21st January we had a social evening at The Black Dog pub in Oadby, for a fun game of skittles, followed by some traditional home cooked food of Pie, sausage and faggots. We were put into two teams with Mandy Stephenson and William Woolley keeping the score. Congratulations to Angela Finn for achieving the top score of 65 points. The winning team were awarded a trophy and the runners up were given the wooden spoon prize. A great evening was had by all and our thanks to William for organising it.

I would like to thank all the Servers for their support and dedication over the past year and it is most encouraging to have such a reliable team. Thank you

Emma-Jane Hunt

SIDESMEN REPORT

There are now 23 Sidesmen doing a good job greeting the Congregation, handing out Service Sheets & the Weekly Newsheet, and generally helping. They take the Collection, and tidy up the leaflets afterwards. It is a monthly rota of regular commitment. If anyone is interested in being a Sidesman, contact Julia Walker or Angela Hefford.

Angela Hefford
Deputy Churchwarden

LECTORS REPORT

At present there are 40 names on the Lectors Rota. 2 resigned during the past year and 6 are "resting". 3 people are deciding whether to join the team.

If you would like to read a lesson periodically please contact Angela Hefford Details on the back of the Quarterly

Angela Hefford

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee has met at intervals during the Liturgical Year and has made small amendments and improvements to maintain and enhance the worship offered at St James the Greater, whilst noting the good inheritance we have received both musically and liturgically. Further such work is planned in the next year. The Minutes are available for inspection to those who wish to see them. If you have comments or suggestions please give them to a member of the committee or to its Chairman.

We were pleased to hear a range of visiting preachers in a Lent series on "My Faith Journey" and we are grateful to the Ministry Team and choir for leading our worship so well.

Tony Bentley

SOUTHERN EDGE MISSION PARTNERSHIP (SEMP)

St James, along with 6 other churches with adjacent parishes along the south side of Leicester, make up the Southern Edge Mission Partnership (SEMP). The aim is to share talents and to work together reaching out to new people in new ways. It began 9 years ago, in 2007, as part of the Leicester Diocese vision of being "Shaped by God" to seek the growth of His Kingdom through deeper discipleship, through the number of disciples and through loving service of the world.

The four of us represent St James on the Action Group which acts as a link between the work that is going on and the PCCs. For this report we have chosen three reasons, one each, which make us enthusiastic, and why we want St James to be enthusiastic, about SEMP's outreach :-

- because when we work together, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. The needs of young people, for example, do not map to parish boundaries. Groups and individuals from the different parishes within SEMP can make contributions without which the Youth Work and the Mission through music might not happen.
- because it enables me to give something back to my own Church and, at the same time, to play a small part in developing inter-church initiatives which are having such a huge impact on the lives of young people in the SEMP area.
- because it is what people want to see from the church, different churches working together and helping each other rather than competing.

SEMP has two special projects. "Mission through Music", which seeks to bring people together through a shared love of music, and "The Edge", which is what we call our Youthwork project in the deprived area round Saffron Lane. For that, the churches help to fund and support a full time Youthworker, Ali Simpson-Smith, working out of St Christophers church, which, being newly built and actually sharing the buildings of the secondary school seems uniquely well placed for working with young people. Ali came to our Evening Service on 5 Feb to tell us about how she was doing. Ali is very good at working with young people, but In 2015/6, some outside factors came into play which have made it more difficult for her. Sadly the school was put into special measures, safeguarding restrictions became more stringent, and spending cuts by the City Council took away their Youthworkers, with whom she had previously been able to work well. So, what she has tended to do has been to try to grow the young people in both a social and a spiritual way, and she has been able to do this, and to bring more in, through her weekly Youth Cafe, through her various Discussion Groups, and through "Highlight" a group of young people who went through her Youth Alpha course and wanted to stay together.

Our funding this year did allow us to arrange for some sessional work and Ruth Hutchinson has been a really useful help for Ali. But as well as having Ruth, she appealed to our Churches for voluntary help, and it is really great that, at the time of writing this report, there are 5 people from St James, who are on a rota to help on Wednesday evenings at her Youth Cafe. As she takes her work forward, Ali hopes she can train and make use of more volunteers from the SEMP churches.

Looking ahead

Our PCCs have recently agreed to try to run the “Edge” project on for 2 more years, 2018/9. An added aim to this Stage 3 will be to share a programme of worship, alternative worship around a shared meal, using liturgy and prayer in a creative way. It would be great to have this type of Fresh Expression of Church on offer, particularly for young people and teenagers, in our area.

As part of the “Mission through Music”, an exciting new SEMP Musical event involving all our Churches is planned for Sunday afternoon, 2 July, at St Andrews Church Aylestone. This could be a real outreach, please let us all be there.

John Raven

Caroline Beardsmore

Jan Geere

Lindy Forbes

representing St James the Greater in SEMP

STEWARDSHIP AND QUARTERLY CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT 2016-2017

I took over this role from Pam Spokes after the February 2016 deliveries and am supported in it by a faithful band of people who deliver the magazines to people in their localities. For the November 2016 deliveries, I asked each distributor to contact everyone on their list, in order to check its accuracy. As a result of this exercise, quite a number of people who had moved away without informing the church, chosen to view the magazine online or no longer wished to receive it, have been removed from the list. Others affirmed their enjoyment in reading it.

Some people were allocated new numbers in the Stewardship Envelope scheme in December 2016, in order to rationalise the numbering. There are now 34 people using this method of regular giving, while others prefer direct transfers through their bank or the Parish Giving Scheme.

Vicky Roe

SUNDAY CLUB

The Sunday Club continues to meet during term time. The running of sessions is shared between Tracy Tobin, Liz Turner and family and Jo Stapleton. The teaching aims to reflect the content of the church service, using child friendly and fun ways to convey the central message. The ages of children has been getting lower, but on some mornings we have a group aged between 2 and 16 years which presents quite a challenge. The group continues to offer a place for young people in the church. The rest of the congregation are often so supportive and the positive comments and welcoming smiles for the children are always such an encouragement.

Jo Stapleton

SUNDAY COFFEE TEAM

I have taken over the responsibility for organising refreshments served on Sunday mornings in the Large Hall after the Sung Eucharist. There is a warmth of atmosphere, as the congregation catches up with news and views of friends and fellow members. It is a chance for new members to be included and to be introduced to the social life of the Church.

This weekly event is made possible by the small, but faithful, band of helpers, who, on a rota of once a month, give of their time to serve and wash up. There is always room for more volunteers! From the financial contributions made, the provisions are purchased and any remainder is set aside to replace crockery, glasses and other domestic requirements.

Liz Turner

COFFEE DROP-IN

Many thanks to all who support the Coffee Drop-In on Thursday mornings (10.45 – 11.30). We continue to increase in numbers and enjoy a friendly chat over a cup of tea / coffee and biscuits before going on our busy way once more. Anyone who would like to “drop-in” will find a very warm welcome – we look forward to seeing you!

Liz Turner

THURSDAY LUNCHESES

This year our programme of monthly lunches has proved even more popular with up to 30 people enjoying a two course lunch following the Coffee Drop-In once a month. Everyone is welcome and special diets are catered for with notice. In the summer we enjoyed a coach trip to a Garden Centre for lunch and at Christmas we enjoyed lunch at the Old Horse with over 30 people attending. For further information please contact the Church Office.

Barbara Penrose and Annabel Cowley

TRINITY HOUSE GROUP

The Trinity House Group Report can be "Another year has rushed by, and we have again shared fellowship, wisdom and ideas. I think it helps and we do all love it.

Barbara and John Raven

YOUTH CLUB

Despite big efforts, including efforts by the young people themselves, we have not been successful in recruiting, and I think that is not only about how the young want to spend their time but also about parents turning out to deliver and collect. The Youth Club was suspended in June 2016.

John Raven

A FINAL THANK YOU

To the many volunteers who, throughout the year, give their time freely to sweep leaves, keep the building in good shape, assist the administrator, and the many other tasks that keep the building and organisation running – too many to name individually. Many thanks to you all!

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

11.30 REFRESHMENTS SERVED IN THE HALL

11.45 VESTRY MEETING

1. Welcome & Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 24 April 2016
3. Election of Churchwardens & Deputy Churchwardens

12.00 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Conduct of this meeting
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 24 April 2016
3. Electoral Roll Report
4. Statement relating to Accounts
5. Reports
6. Appointment of Tellers (if necessary)
7. Elections:
 - 5 members of the PCC for 3 years
 - Sidesmen
 - 3 Deanery Synod Reps for 3 years
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts
9. Churchwarden's Report
10. Any other business

CLOSING PRAYER not later than 13.00