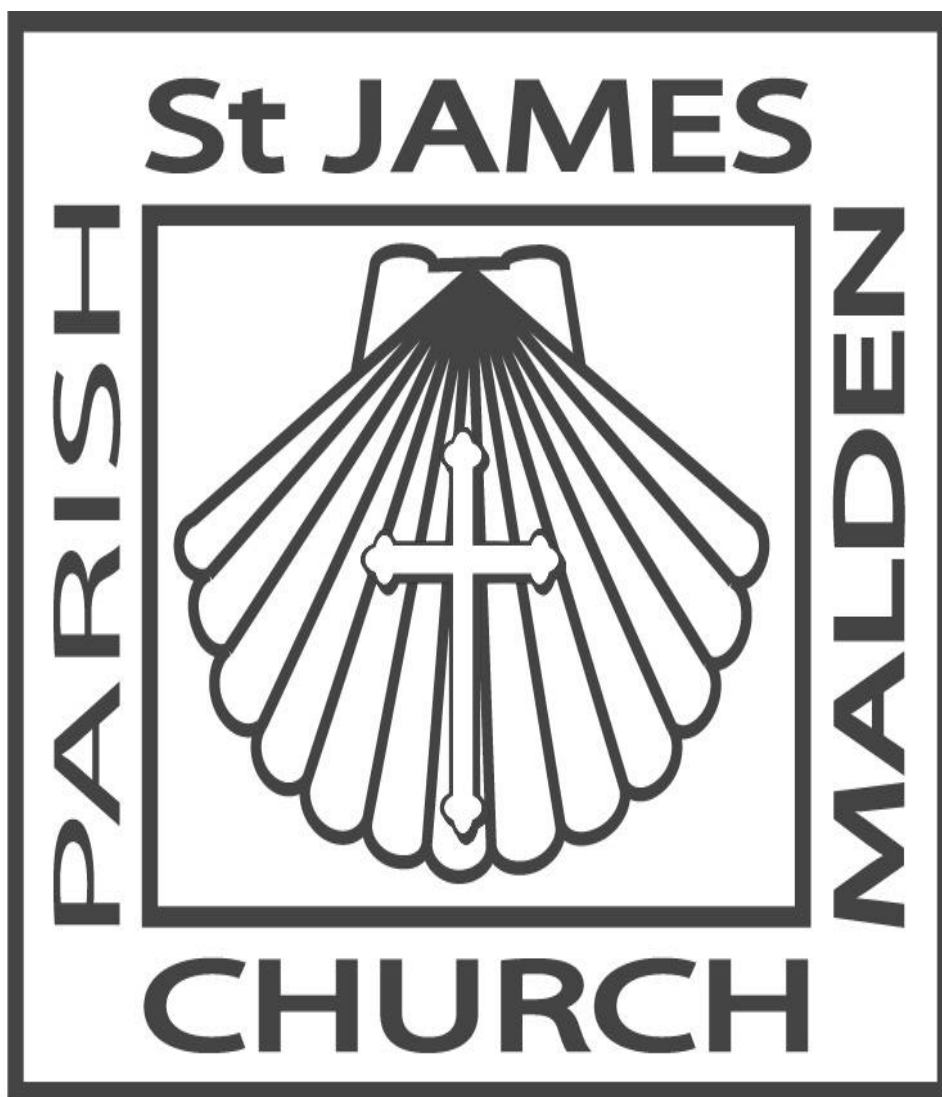


The Parish Church of St James, Malden



A Year in the Life of the Parish

2021

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

15th May 2022

ELECTORAL ROLL

Summary Figures

<i>Electoral Roll number</i>	2021	140
<i>Electoral Roll number</i>	2022	128
<i>Moved away or no longer worships at St James</i>		10
<i>Passed Away</i>		3
<i>New Members</i>		1

Detail of Numbers

Moved away or no longer worships at St James

Mrs E Chambers
Mr P Chambers
Mrs C Edge
Mr J Edge
Mrs S Leeson
Mr P Nelson
Mr C Norman
Mrs A Norman
Mrs G Sinclair
Mr M Thomas

Passed Away

Mrs J Das
Mr D Fraser
Miss D Hodson

New Members

Juliet Kean

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

The past year saw a partial improvement on 2020 with a stop/start gradual release from the Covid restrictions. Consideration also had to be given to the sensibilities of various members of the congregation for the remainder of the year. Much time was taken at PCC meetings (which continued via Zoom) with associated discussions. A return to regular services did not happen fully until September.

At the May APCM, we re-elected Chris Feltham and Nigel Ransom as churchwardens and welcomed Sophie Anderson to the PCC.

Regular reports were received, as appropriate, from the Vicar, Treasurer, on the church fabric and the Deanery Synod as well as from the Health & Safety and Kitchen committees. The reports from each are included in this paper and, for the most part, I will not duplicate the information.

Technology has continued to play a major part in the life of the Church throughout the year and thanks must go to Mthr Katie for her continuing outreach using social media platforms for services and other activities, some of which have returned to in person attendance. Thanks must also go to Catherine for running a musical reflection the WhatsApp group and to Peter for his continuing posts to the website.

John Taylor must be sincerely thanked for once again guiding and controlling our finances so efficiently. We have met our financial obligations to the Diocese. A slight increase in payments to the Diocese were agreed and we still hope to be a self-supporting parish within five years.

We must sincerely thank Mthr Katie for all the work she has so ably undertaken in the most trying of circumstances in the past year. The ministry team having been much reduced, an unsuccessful application was made for a curate. We were briefly encouraged when Kirsty arrived for training in October as she could provide some support to Mthr Katie but she quickly discovered that it was not for her and resigned from the scheme in November.

We were delighted that the St James Players could once again perform their take on the Nativity as part of our Christmas range of services along with some new service ideas. Our thanks go to Trevor for looking after the choir and maintaining the choral life of the Parish after Jason's departure.

Thanks are also extended to the much reduced Kitchen committee for overseeing the provision of Sunday coffee from September and at the various Christmas events. Wendy Morris and Mike Green must be thanked for continuing to oversee the safeguarding of our Vulnerable Adults and Children.

Around the Church

St James is registered as an Eco church but as there is a need for a lead player working towards our Bronze accreditation is on hold. If anyone is interested in taking this forward, Mthr Katie would be pleased to hear from you.

The completion of the Green Lane lease is still awaited as the original solicitor resigned.

School Use

Due to the shutdowns caused by the pandemic, we were unable to host the schools in the past year.

Inter Faith Initiative

Conversations were ongoing with the Syrian Church and the Little Coptic Orthodox Community during the period. The Ammadiyya Muslim Association and a Buddhist Group meet at Green Lane.

Kings Church had been making use of the Church between lockdowns until the end of May.

Social Events

There have been none due to the pandemic.

Christmas Lunch

The decision was once again taken fairly early not to have a lunch in 2021 due to the uncertainty which continued over Covid infection and regulations. It was a pity as the event is enjoyed by so many and is a major outreach source with some helpers and diners coming from outside the parish.

Finally, our thanks go to Sandra Feltham for her sterling work in the office and keeping an eye on happening outside of her office hours. Congratulations are also required for her colourful Easter candle

Val Gibbens

PCC Secretary

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St James's Church, Malden

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and the Charities Act 2011 (the act).

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and Section 133 of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Peter Chugg AMCT, ACIB
14 Motspur Park,
New Malden, Surrey KT3 6PN

Report on Accounts for Year Ending 31 December 2021

Report on Accounts for Year Ending 31 December 2021

Most differences in 2021 accounts against 2020 are a knock-on effect of the Covid-19 pandemic. A further explanation to certain items is given below:-

INCOME

- Donations
 - Overall decrease in regular and voluntary donations - Down £3712
- Legacy
 - £10,000 received
- Operating Activities
 - Church Hall – Up £4360 (Mostly RaaRaas)
 - Green Lane Hall – Up £1092
 - 48 Selwyn Road Rent – Down £3300 (2021 – 11 months, Dec rent received Jan 22; 2020 – 13 months collected)

Overall Annual Income DOWN on 2020 - £618

EXPENDITURE

- Charitable Donations – Up £401
- General Expenditure
 - Parish Support Fund (Quota) – Full 12 months with no hangover from previous year
 - Organist & Choir – Up £618
 - Utilities – Down £523
 - Minor Repairs/Cleaning – Up £1174 (mostly Covid safe cleaning)
 - Hall Expenditure – Up £1116 (goes hand-in-hand with increased use of hall)
- Maintenance
 - Church & Hall – Up £6164 (increased activity from 2019 requires increase in maintenance and upgrades)
- Administration
 - Office costs – Down £3054

Overall Annual Expenditure UP on 2020 - £5297

Income v Expenditure for 2021 – UP £511

Balance Sheet

- Income Bonds showing as separate balance
- Pipe Organ Fund – shows temporary deficit (improved from 2020) – further regular anonymous donor contributions expected in 2022

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

Looking back, 2021 was another Covid effected year, the church was open only for restricted, socially distanced or 'internet only' services.

General maintenance of the church and hall continued. Certificates were obtained during the year for the fire extinguishers, gas safety, employer's liability insurance and the hall fire alarm system.

In 2021 we continued our commitment to reduce our carbon footprint by replacing the spot lights for the Lady Chapel, pulpit and lectern with LED units. The church sound system is now operated via a smart plug, so it is now easier to check if it has been inadvertently left on.

The organ blower and humidifier were serviced in May and December. Following the December service the company informed us the humidifier was reaching the end of its life and we would need to look for a replacement in the not too distant future.

The architect's report following the quinquennial inspection of the condition of the church carried out in 2020 has now been received. The issues raised have now been added to the church's ongoing maintenance programme.

The Christmas lights were again upgraded this year. In addition to the clear lights hung in the church hall, from the side aisle beams in the church, around the top of the church tower and along the outside of the south wall adjacent to Bodley Road, battery operated lights were used around the pillars in the church.

Throughout the year our property at 48 Selwyn Road required minor repairs. The same tenants are still occupying the bungalow.

The Gardening Group continued to maintain the gardens around the church to a very high standard and the gardens always receive praise from the public. Thanks again go to Christine Menhennett and her team. Also, thanks to Dave Betts who mows our lawns on a regular basis.

Finally Chris and Nigel would like to thank the many people who help to keep our church in good order and continued to contribute time and effort during another challenging year.

Nigel Ransom
Chris Feltham

Churchwarden
Churchwarden

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

I would like to say I could once again thank the members of the Health and Safety Committee for their forbearance in a year when no formal inspections took place.

The people who need to be given hearty and sincere thanks are the Church Wardens and Mthr Katie who have given their time in the past year in ensuring that we are Covid compliant both around the buildings and church activities. Any work required was promptly undertaken and I would ask everyone to take care with storage and stacking to maintain safe areas, walkways are kept clear, unwanted items are removed and disposed of safely and that plug sockets are replaced after use. Renewing yellow markings to steps around the Church is a constant exercise.

The team kept a working watch to ensure that established procedures were maintained despite the restrictions imposed. Relaxation of Covid restrictions commenced in the latter half of the year.

I would like to thank the garden team for the work they have done in maintaining the outside space behind the Hall.

Val Gibbens
Health and Safety Committee

KITCHEN SUB-COMMITTEE

We met six times during the second half of 2021. Since March 2020, the committee had overseen the kitchen when it was able to be used, replenishing supplies as necessary.

At the first meeting, the Chair resigned her membership of the Committee for health reasons. We did not feel able to offer any social activity in light of the Covid restrictions.

Sunday Coffee: We subsequently discussed ways of re-opening Sunday Coffee provision and a plan was drawn up which was approved by the PCC. We were open from the beginning of September until Christmas, including a small (very successful) produce sale for the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal, hosting the Scout Group after the Remembrance Sunday services and two Christmas sales. When Covid rules were tightened on 11th December, we slightly changed our procedure to enable people to sit socially distanced at tables so that they could remove masks to eat/drink. With the onset of the omicron variant and very high local infection rates,

and with very low numbers expected to attend, we closed for the last two Sundays in December.

Christmas Activities: At the MARKET we ran a Bakes and Preserves stall and also served mulled wine with mince pies from the hatch. At the CRAFT afternoon, members assisted with refreshments and on 18th December, we served mulled wine and mince pies after the evening service.

Committee Matters: One member has resigned for personal reasons and another is taking leave of absence for a few months, largely because of the Covid situation. Our low membership is limiting what we can offer as we all learn to live with Covid.

Sue Cox
Kitchen committee.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

We met three times during the year - all via Zoom - with all meetings chaired by the Reverend Robert Stanier, Vicar of St Andrew's and St Mark's, Surbiton and Area Dean. The main topics were how parishes were dealing with Covid, the prospective new secondary school in the Royal Borough, 'Living in Love and Faith', the Diocesan Environment Policy, the Deanery Mission Action Plan and the Environment and Climate Change.

In the first meeting Covid discussions were initiated by a talk that was given by Canon Jay Colwill (Canon Missioner, Southwark) and centred on what we had let go of but now felt we could do so permanently; what we had stopped doing (or reduced focus on) and now needed to restart; what we had started but now needed to discontinue (as lacking strategic importance); and what we had started on that needed to be builded upon/developed. At that time it was deemed too early to say in most areas.

A later meeting focused more on how parishes were, in practise, dealing with mask wearing, congregational seating, hymn singing, contactless giving as the new form of funding generation, the giving of the peace and the methodology of receiving communion.

The proposed new secondary school was finally given approval by Kingston Council at a meeting on 17th June 2021. The delay in approval was occasioned by procedural objections from the Humanist Society and means that the opening is now likely to be in September 2025.

The age range will be 11-16 (NB The Department of Education was not approving sixth forms at the time of the bid). 180 pupils will be admitted each year (thus, eventually, 900 in total). Of the 180, 60 will be foundation places (ie church related) with 120 'open' places. An additional 20 places (in total, across all year groups) will be allocated to those with social communication issues eg with some form of autism.

It will be a voluntary aided school - 90% Government funded with the remains 10% funded by the Kingston local authority.

'Living in Love and Faith' was introduced by the Area Dean as a CofE project which addresses questions about how identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit with the bigger picture of the good news about Jesus Christ.

Questions to consider related to whether there should be an acknowledgement of gay/sexual marriage or should the CofE hold to the doctrinal position of “no”; then there was the question of Ecclesiology ie options being first the CofE’s position remains unchanged, secondly individual churches/parishes change (or not) on an individual basis (as with each vicar’s approach to the marriage of divorcees) and, thirdly, the CofE changes or re-aligns it’s doctrinal position by blessing relationships.

A series of meetings (five in total) were held in the Autumn (open to all) on this matter which, not surprisingly, gave rise to a wide range of opinions. The topic is to be discussed by clergy in 2022. The guest speaker at the final meeting was Nicola Thomas (Head of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, Diocese of Southwark- phew!). She showed a video from the Diocesan Youth Forum, emphasising the need for environmental justice as part of our Christian responsibility. Some of the areas in which diocesan environmental planning was developing were Carbon Net Zero (for 2035), firmer commitment to training, Mission Action Planning, maintenance of vicarages and a network of Eco-champions across the diocese.

Kingston Deanery is working towards becoming an Eco-deanery. Various resources are available via the Southwark website, including blogs and Twitter feeds. Parishes are involved in reviewing heating and lighting strategies, the planting of trees, the provision of bicycle racks and developing links with overseas churches to become more aware of the effects of climate change.

Trevor Deadman

Safeguarding Report

St James’ Malden Annual Safeguarding Report 2021 – 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

The Parish Safeguarding team comprises two Safeguarding Officers who are Wendy Morris and Mike Green, the two church wardens, and the Vicar. The team have been working closely throughout the year.

By definition the safeguarding work within the Parish cannot be made public, but it is a continuous system of protection which advises and takes action if appropriate. There are diocesan requirements to undertake self-audits and to apply the appropriate Safeguarding Policies when necessary. Meetings are held with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor when required and the team meets during the year as necessary. All officers at St James’ are up to date with their safeguarding training.

The PSO’s visit the choir during rehearsals on an occasional basis, to remind the members of the presence and role of the PSOs, with details of how to contact them if necessary. A system has been introduced to ensure that next of kin/first points of contact can be contacted if necessary.

An important element of Safeguarding relates to the secure retention of any data that the Parish holds on individuals. This has become more important since the introduction of the GDPR Regulations in 2018, and as a result considerable effort and training took place as appropriate to ensure that all regulations are fully complied with.

For most of the year the Church has been operating within the various restrictions placed upon worship and our everyday lives caused by the COVID 19 situation. This has created considerably different challenges, in terms of ensuring that the St James’ team of clergy and officials are keeping well, and able to perform their duties/roles in the virtual environment that the church currently finds itself in.

The whole of the PCC has had to apply for new or refreshed DBS Checks and this has now been completed. Having completed their Basic Level of safeguarding training in 2020, all PCC members and relevant staff were encouraged to complete their enhanced Foundation level in June 2021, as recommended by the Diocese.

At the time of writing, COVID regulations are being eased, and it is hoped that a more normal church year will return in 2022.

Wendy Morris

Mike Green

Music at St James – Annual Report

As it was for most organisations it was a year that was very much affected by Covid and both governmental and/or Church of England rules, requirements and prohibitions.

The year saw the departure of Jason Edge as Director of Music and the contribution of both him and his family members to the musical life of St James were greatly appreciated.

In September the choir resumed under my (temporary) direction. The main morning services had the hymns played through Nigel Ransom's phone which was a strange experience indeed. For Evensong (and the Carol Services) we were extremely fortunate to have a former Director of Music here, Barry Eaton, as our organist which gave the choir significant confidence.

As with many choirs, returning numbers in the "emerging slowly from Covid world" together with changing lives meant that the available choir numbers for the morning service were reduced although Evensong numbers held up quite well (to the extent of being able to sing a weekly anthem as well as my beloved psalms).

In spite of all the trials and tribulations that Covid brought, as we returned we have sought to lead the praises of God (as is our function) and, whilst this must always be so on a cold November day as much as at any other time, with the aid of some retuning singers from the past the annual Carol Service was a particular joy.

As music returned, an innovation was the beginning of a community choir (rehearsing on Wednesdays) under the direction of professional soprano and voice coach Jane Wilkinson. This choir sang (in addition to the church choir) at the new 'Blue Christmas' service.

Trevor Deadman



Children's Church Activities - 2021



Unfortunately, Covid-19 meant that Sunday School has yet to recommence since being paused in March 2020.

Our thanks were extended to an anonymous donor who provided a large Brio train set which is placed at the front of the Church during the Sunday service. Two tables are placed on the opposite side of the nave with books, drawing

materials, books etc. for older children. Our thanks to Mthr Katie for sourcing the activity material.

Report on St James' Visitors Group (Pastoral Committee)

Mainly due to Covid, we have been unable to meet together but have still kept in contact by telephone to find out how people are coping, particularly those who are unable to attend Church .

Serena Josolyne
Group Leader
St James, Malden

Gardening Group Report

The Coronavirus Pandemic regulations meant that our group had to change how we met on a monthly basis. On some mornings we were only able to have 6 people in a group working and on others we were able to have 10 people working. We were lucky to be able to be working outside as this reduced the risk of getting the virus, but still keeping our distance from people. Meeting up was important for our mental health and well being in such unusual times.

The Gardening Group meet regularly on the 1st Tuesday of the month between 9.00am and 11.00am with refreshments and a chat afterwards. Recently the times have changed and they are now 10.00-12.00pm with refreshments and a chat afterwards.

On a good month we can have as many as 10 people working on the church gardens and grounds.

Sadly in 2021 Dermott Castles passed away, he had helped with the gardening group for many years.

Recently Marina McGloin joined our team to help us as she had visited St. James during lockdown and was helped by our church and wants to give something back to us.

The team now consists of me and my husband Peter, Sue and Dave Betts, Diana and Duncan Clements, Ed Schuldt, Heather Lucas-Brown, Judith Pelham and Marina McGloin.

Mark Thomas for many years trimmed the trees and hedges but no longer does this and we have thanked him for his many years of helping to keep the trees neat and tidy. The gardening group has removed several of the fir trees on the lawn to make it easier for the lawn to be cut. Two fir trees have been kept on the lawn.

Dave Betts continues to cut the lawns and the team as a whole has taken on the task of trimming the hedges and the trees which are on the lawn and at the entrances to the church and the vestry.

We continue to make our own compost to put back goodness into the flower beds. All the woody branches and Rose clippings are shredded with our shredder and this material is used as a mulch to stop the weeds. The coffee grounds and tea bags (PG Tips which are

biodegradable) from the kitchen are also being collected for the compost as an added bonus.

The bulbs donated by many parishioners a few years ago continue to give plenty of colour in the Spring as they continue to flourish.

Another area of concrete has been laid at the back of the garage to tidy up that area and to store the BBQ.

We still need to tackle the project behind the gates, to pave a small area with paving slabs that have been donated by a member of the congregation, so that a new tool shed can be put on it.

We continue to keep the area behind the gates free from weeds and ivy that grows on the fence.

We are always looking for more people to help us as the grounds to be worked on are extensive, so we are grateful to anyone who can give even just an hour of their time to weed, sweep or prune in the gardens. We always stop for a coffee or tea break after our sessions so we can chat and catch up together.

My details are, phone 0208 974 1596 or email Christine72m@yahoo.co.uk.

The only thing to stop us gardening is wet weather and then we try to meet the following Tuesday.

I am really grateful to those people who come to help me as I know I could not do the job alone.

Christine Menhennett and the gardening team (Peter Menhennett, Sue Betts, Dave Betts, Diana Clements, Duncan Clements, Ed Schuldt, Heather Lucas-Brown, Judith Pelham and Marina McGloin)

Report on St James, Malden Branch of the Mothers' Union

Our programme was unavoidably disrupted this year, due to the Covid pandemic restrictions, so we started the year with meetings on Zoom. The Mothers' Union Deanery and Diocesan meetings were also held via Zoom.

Several members met together to pray at the weekly Celtic Communion service while we were unable to hold our monthly Corporate Communion Service. The Mothers' Union normally holds a monthly prayer service in the Harvard Chapel at Southwark Cathedral from 11.45 to 12.15 pm on the last Wednesday of each month. All branches in the Southwark Diocese have continued to receive this Service by e-mail during the closure of the Cathedral.

Throughout the year, Christine Menhennett has continued to maintain the gardens at St James Church and several members helped, in separate areas of the garden, to keep the gardens tidy. Many people comment on how much they enjoy the gardens while we are working, so this was a particularly worthwhile activity during the lockdown.

Meetings resumed in the summer, when we could meet outside, and we hosted a very successful Deanery Garden Party on 25 August, attended by 25 members from branches in the Deanery. We also enjoyed our postponed branch Summer Celebration on 25th September, and our raffle raised £60 for Mothers' Union projects.

We welcomed MU members from the Kingston Deanery to a meeting in the Church Hall on 26 October, and in November we enjoyed a social meeting with coffee in The Watchman in New Malden High Street.

The popular Christingle service was held on 12 December and members donated and prepared the christingles. The Christingle service raised £109.55 for The Children's Society.

We ended the year with our traditional Carols and Readings meeting, which was held in Church to allow for social distancing, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

We look forward to returning to a more 'normal' programme in 2022.

Sue Betts
Committee Member

7th Malden St. James Scout Group

This report covers the period to 31st December 2021

Membership

Despite continuing effects of the CoVID pandemic the group has grown substantially in the last year. In addition, the number of children on the waiting list to join the Group has roughly doubled.

Figures submitted to the Scout Association in the Annual Census are given below.

Section	Youth Membership (January)				Maximum	Waiting List	
	2019	2020	2021	2022		2021	2022
Waiting (0+ years)	0	0	0	0	n/a	12	23
Beavers (6+ years)	24	22	21	24	24	12	24
Cubs (8+ years)	30	34	32	31	35	20	36
Scouts (10+ years)	25	23	22	29	36	3	0
Totals	79	79	75	84	95	47	83

Activities

Face to face Scouting was not possible in the Spring term and so Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were offered activities to do at home each week to keep them in touch. Activities were adapted according to age group but followed common themes across sections so that siblings could do activities together. Examples included exploring outdoors, building survival shelters or fairy dens, problem solving (escape room), paperclip magic, Chinese New Year, how Scouting began, making Welsh cakes, researching genealogy, geo caching.

After Easter, face to face activities were able to resume but were subject to complex and constantly changing arrangements for social distancing, etc. In the Autumn Term restrictions gradually eased and residential activities were also permitted.

Beaver activities have included themes of: teeth, food and exercise ; planting sunflower seeds ; nature ramble ; sports day ; team building ; fire lighting and safety ; making catapults ; making and using maps ; making paper airplanes ; other air activities ; international day of peace ; the hare and the tortoise (Scouting and moral values) ; decorating biscuits ; making remembrance day poppies ; thinking about community ; how to tie knots. All these mixed with loads of fun and games.

Cub activities have included themes of: home skills ; navigation ; sedan chair racing ; visiting Hogsmill Nature Reserve ; community ; problem solving ; making a bug hotel ; emergency aid ; exploring other faiths ; book reading ; night navigation ; origami.

Scout activities have included themes of: fire lighting ; air rifle shooting ; sedan chair building ; navigation ; expedition first aid ; hiking ; trek cart racing ; Danish longball ; international cooking ; making rope from nettles ; pumpkin carving ; fawkes burgers ; robot wars ; Warhammer (modelling).

With a massive sigh of relief the Group also arranged nights away experiences for the first time in the Autumn with a Scout Camp at Bentley Copse on the North Downs in Surrey and a Cub Pack holiday at Walton Firs near Cobham in Surrey. A full programme of events is in preparation for 2022.

Leadership

The Group is making progress to attract adults to join the leadership team. The Executive (parents, leaders and other adults who oversee the management of the Group) is increasingly active and has

organised fund raising and social events. A number of adults have joined as section leaders or helpers:

- Lucinda, Gemma and Sally have joined the Beaver Colony as uniformed section assistants
- Roland and Ian have joined the Cub Pack as section assistants
- Sean and Eoghan have started helping frequently in the Scout Troop

The Group has also benefitted from Young Leaders:

- Jack in Beavers
- George and Holly have proved valuable members of the team in Cubs
- William has recently joined the Troop and has made a good start

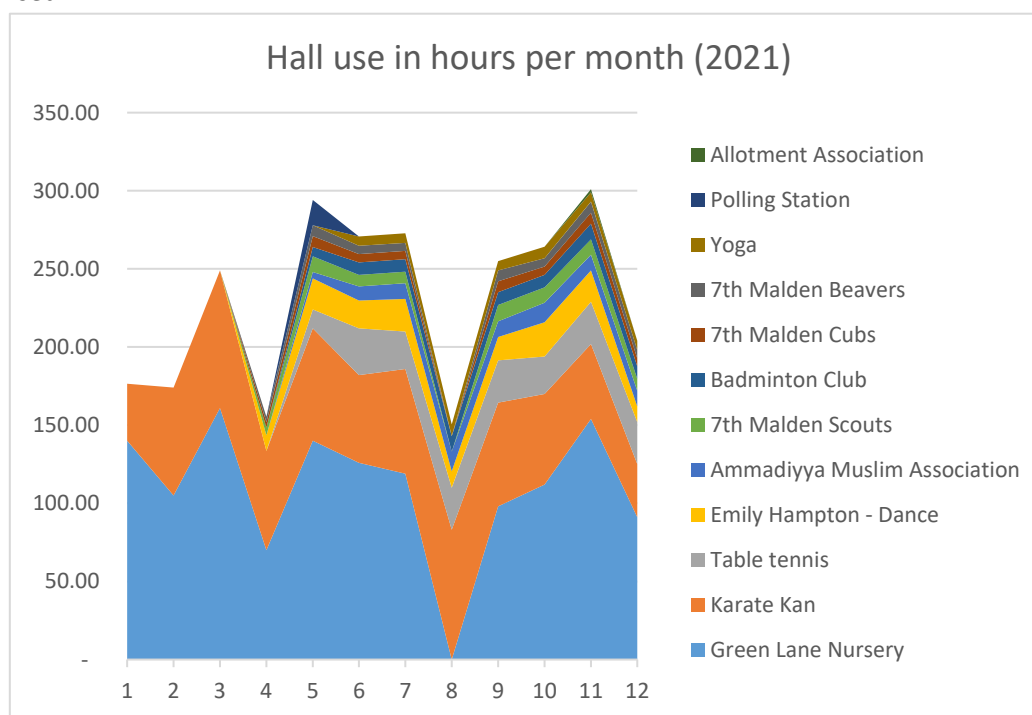
To sustain its success the Scout Group needs to find adults prepared to become uniformed leaders. If anyone can think of anyone to help out in this regard please contact us.

St James Church

The relationship with the Church is highly valued. It was great to get back into Church on Remembrance Sunday. A number of Church Parades and visits have been planned for 2022.

Green Lane Hall

The Scout Group's lease on the Hall expired in May 2019. The Group is hugely grateful and encouraged that the PCC voted unanimously to renew the lease but is frustrated that it remains unfinalised.



Use of the hall has been strong throughout the year sustained primarily by the Nursery and Karate Classes. All users returned after Easter as can be seen in the above graph of hall usage.

In relation to the year to 31 March 2021 the Scout Group has paid the PCC £2,313.02 as its share of profit on the hall despite the effects of CoVID on use and substantial one-off expenditures such as electrical refurbishment following a condition report, upgrading hall lighting to LED, installing emergency lighting and renewing the foul water plumbing on the west side of the building.

The year to 31 March 2022 is expected to yield a much higher profit share being less affected by CoVID and one-off expenditures but at the time of writing this cannot be quantified as the accounts have not been finalised.

Peter Morris
Group Scout Leader

Churches together in New Malden (CTIM)

The CTIM meet to share the news of events between Churches of different denominations in New Malden and in 2021 meetings were held via Zoom to discuss the organisation of the following events:-

Week of Prayer and Unity – No services were held in 2021 due to Covid but we expect things to return to normal in 2022.

Oxygen

This group is based at St Peter's Norbiton and is run by staff and volunteers who are helping young people to learn about Christ. They also give guidance as and when required. Although Covid restrictions have created some problems, the group has still made some useful progress.

The Joel Project

Following the death of Peter Holmes, this has been discontinued for the time being.

The Food Bank

It has been reported that the 'Food Bank' is still going well in the Kingston area with all churches giving contributions throughout the year. At present, requests are being made for Pasta, Mashed Potato, tinned veg and soup. At Easter all churches have been requested to give chocolate eggs and toiletries for both men and ladies.

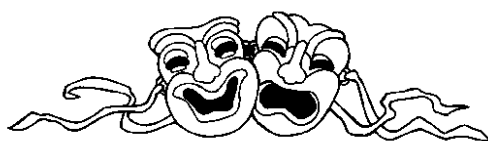
Lent Course

This was discontinued due to Covid limitations.

The Good Friday Annual walk of Witness did not take place due to Covid restrictions.

Malden Fortnight did not take place due to Covid restrictions.

Serena Josolyne
Rep. St James



St James's Players

We continued to meet virtually for the first half of the year. About once a week, but sometimes fortnightly, we met via Zoom to do play readings or quizzes. Seeing each other on a screen was not the same but meant we could keep in touch until we were able to meet again in person, which happened in June when we had a lovely social gathering including a

compilation film made by two of our members with short clips from a number of previous productions.

We then cast and rehearsed two one act comedies, “Womberang” by Sue Townsend and “Getting Away” based on a Victoria Wood sketch. These were directed by Linda Dunn and performed in early October to a socially distanced audience.

We then went straight into rehearsals for the pantomime “Beauty in Boots and the Beanstalk” written and directed by Tony Kirkham – but as this was performed in January, more about that in our next Annual review! It had a cast of 25 plus those very valuable members who do lighting, sound and work backstage - we cannot put on any drama without their help. They are invaluable, and a strong part of the team.

On Christmas Eve a group of members performed a Nativity Panto, written and directed by John Taylor which was warmly received.



Womberang: In the waiting room of a gynaecology clinic in the early 1980s.



Getting Away: waiting for a holiday flight that keeps being delayed.



The Nativity Panto - Mary and Joseph with two of the Wise Men

And we also managed to hold one social event, a quiz set by John Taylor in October which was a fund raiser for both the Church and the Players. This was great fun and the income was split, as each year we choose a charity to support and this year it's Alopecia UK. We also ran a stall at the Church Christmas Market.

Thanking you for your support and hoping to see lots of you at our next production " " created and directed by John Taylor. This promises to be really enjoyable with songs and sketches from each decade of the Queen's reign in order to celebrate her platinum jubilee plus a fish and chip supper in the interval. Put the dates 11-14 May in your diary now!

Thank you.

Judith West	Zoe Peters	John Taylor
Chairperson	Secretary	Finance and box office

Vicar's Report 2021 - Rev Katie Thomas

We began this year, the second in a global pandemic in lockdown.

This was extraordinarily hard – harder than the first year – people were no longer unified in their feelings about the pandemic and, as a vicar, it was my job to carefully balance the needs and desires of all the congregation – and although I think we got this right most of the time inevitably we did not get it right for everyone all of the time.

We lost some very precious members of church this year too – and I took the funerals of people I had grown to really love and whom we all really miss.

Against this quite difficult background I think we can be very proud of what we did achieve.

We continued to build our online presence – many thanks are due to Peter for running our website and I have run the Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. We now have more than 200 followers on Facebook and over 100 on Twitter.

We tried our best with live streaming through Facebook and meeting on Zoom – both Sunday services, a book club and Evening Prayer during the week.

Evening Prayer on Facebook has remained popular and attracts a regular 'congregation' of about 30. There are no plans to stop this – and it has become

a regular part of the prayer rhythm of St James. We no longer live stream the main services and the book club has returned to meeting in person.

During lockdown we introduced opening the church for private prayer – this continues and has been developed to include a short service of Celtic Communion every Wednesday at lunchtime.

Lockdown produced some very creative responses from the Parish – we made our own palm crosses and this year even our own Paschal Candle thanks to Sandra Feltham. Sandra melted down all the part used candles from the year and made the most beautiful candle for us – complete with symbols that represented the year – including a rainbow for the pandemic. This a tradition we hope to continue.

We produced our own Lent booklet for the first time and I was deeply impressed with the standard of the contributions from people in the parish; another tradition we hope to keep up.

After consultation in the parish, PCC discussion and a questionnaire we reviewed the services we offered and changed the times of the morning service. We also produced a new order of service for both 8am and 9.30am. We also began to produce a 'term card' to give people advance warning of important parish dates coming up – including the now very popular Quiz nights!

We held some lovely weddings and baptisms and moved the children's tables to the front – providing new toys and crafts - which has proved very popular with families and increased our average attendance by children by 50%.

It was a delight to prepare a group of 7 in our parish for confirmation – the classes all took place on Zoom and at the end of the course we took 6 to the Cathedral for a beautiful service led by the Bishop of Croydon.

We launched two new choirs as a mission project. The children's choir and the community choir have both got off to a great start – starting from scratch – with Jane providing excellent teaching for those attending. The children's choir provided a soloist for one of our Christmas services and the Community Choir sang for those attending the new Blue Christmas service. They also took part in charity carol singing in New Malden.

All Christmas services were well attended and well received – special mention must go to the St James Players for providing us with an excellent ‘Nativity the Panto’ service on Christmas Eve with an original script written by John Taylor; the Mothers Union for helping run the ever popular Christingle; Trevor and the choir for producing very high quality music for us and excellent carol services and last but by no means least the kitchen committee who provided superb refreshments and were so helpful at the Christmas Fair.

Our services at St James are very much a team effort and I’m very grateful to Val and the team servers; those who read; our intercessors; deputy wardens and welcome team and above all Sandra in the office and our Wardens Nigel and Chris. I could not have asked for better support this year and I am deeply grateful for all they contributed to our Parish life.

Outside of the parish church I came to the end of my 3 year term as a trustee for the Diocese and decided not to stand again as, post pandemic, I think I need my focus to be more local. Although I remain an elected member of Diocesan Synod for the Kingston Deanery.

I continued in my role as Commissary for the Bishop of Seoul and trustee for the Korean Mission Partnership – all of these meetings were moved to Zoom which has become an excellent tool for our times.

And as part of Diocesan Role as Advisor on Women I helped organise and plan a national conference and I was elected to serve on the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Transformations Group.

I also agreed to become a Vocations Advisor for the Diocese and started my training for this new role at the end of the year.

I was honoured to be asked to give a keynote speech at a Muslim Women’s conference and received wonderful feedback.

And delighted to be asked to join the Board of Governors at Burlington School. I have slowly built a relationship with this state school and now, as well as assemblies, I help out with things like their school fairs and we organised Christmas Gifts for cared for children and those families who could not afford much. This was very well received.

I was asked by the British Legion to lead the civic service for Remembrance Day – this was my second time leading the main service on the Sunday and the

smaller service at 11.00am on the 11th November. It was a deep honour to be asked again and very moving to take part in both services.

Finally, I became co-chair of Churches Together in New Malden along with Rev Karl from the Methodist Church – this will be for a 3 year term.

There is much to give thanks for, and I am grateful to God and everyone in the parish who has helped us in these hardest of times. It has not gone unnoticed.