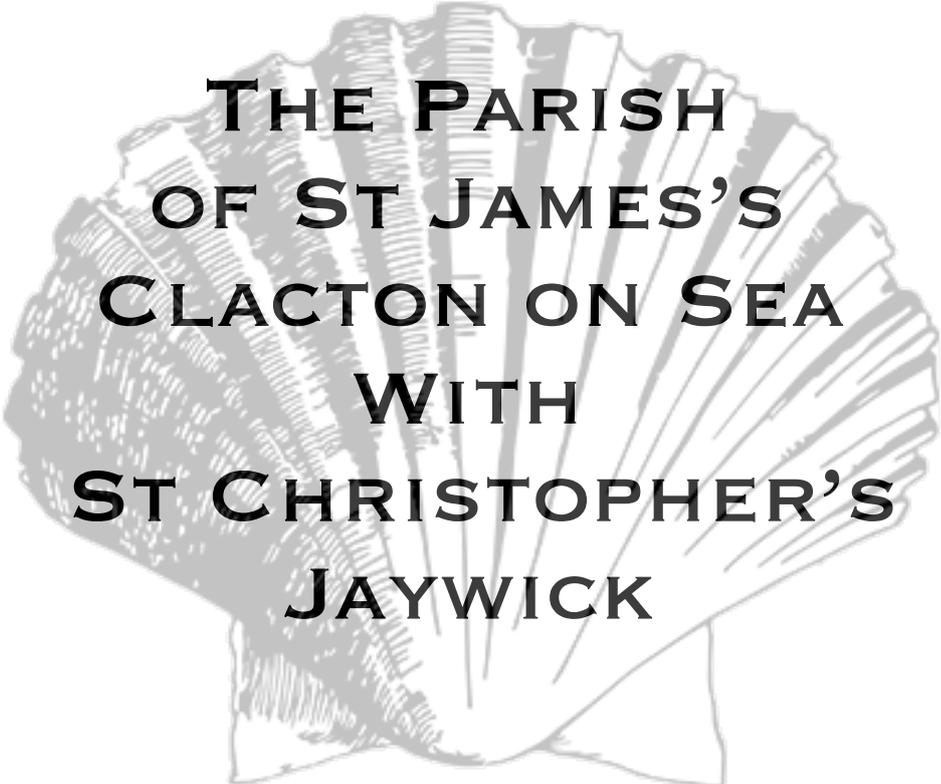


2019/20 APCM



**THE PARISH
OF ST JAMES'S
CLACTON ON SEA
WITH
ST CHRISTOPHER'S
JAYWICK**



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

Minutes of the APCM & Vestry Meeting at St James's, Clacton-on-Sea 22nd April 2019

Vestry Meeting

Appointment of Church Wardens

Two candidates were proposed
Pam Straw (Proposed P. Siddall, Seconded L Hughes)
Paul Siddall (Proposed S. Baldry, Seconded P. Luckin)
They were duly elected

APCM

Apologies for Absence

L. Highes, C. Osborn, Y. Danaher, M. King, D. Furlong, S. Gunn, R. Clements, J. Clements, L. Hazelton, C. Whitehead, J. Siddall, S. Siddall, M. Siddall, C. Farrow, D. Farrow, R. Maddox, A. Edwards.

Adoption of Minutes 2018 APCM & Vestry

These were adopted as a true record of the meeting and signed as such.
(Proposed P. Straw, Seconded C. Day)

Matters Arising

The meeting was informed that there was much work still to be done.

Reports

All the reports had been collated and circulated prior to the meetings. C. Day asked why there had been no sub-committee meetings held in relation to the fabric and grounds. He was informed that these matters were being dealt with at the PCC meetings and the necessary action taken. The meeting was informed that in May consideration would be given to the work needed to bring St Christopher's facilities up to standard we would wish them to be.

The report were accepted by the meeting.

Election of 3 PCC members for a period of 3 Years

The following had been proposed and seconded prior to the meeting. Matt Storkey, Elizabeth Ridout and Matt Siddall. They were duly elected.

Any Other Business

The yellow lines marking no-parking areas in the churchyard needed to be re-painted.
A query was raised regarding progress finding volunteers for the junior choir. Planning still on-going regarding the best way to proceed, the meeting was told. New adult members are also very welcome.

A vote of thanks was proposed for the out-going committee members, especially Peter Luckin for all his work during his time as churchwarden. Thanks also to the army of helpers making it possible for St James to function the way it does.

The meeting was closed in prayer.

Dear Friends,

The reports in this APCM pack represent the year April 2019-April 2020. Of course, much has happened since then and some of this is reflected in what has been written, but they represent what was otherwise a fairly normal year for us. It seemed strange to write this report from the vicar think about the Church before lockdown, but I have attempted to do that because it was a good year for us with many things started and coming to fruition.

The reports outline most of the 'goings-on' so I won't repeat what they have said. I do want to pick up on a couple of encouraging threads in them that I think are good for us to celebrate and reflect on as we think about moving forward:

1 - Our Messy Mass moved from being 2 monthly to monthly. This represents a lot of work from our volunteers, but the outworking of this has been to build some closer relationships with families in the parish. We have also had the opportunity to welcome them onto the electoral roll as 'members' of the wider St James's parish community.

2 - Building work is finally underway at St Christopher's. Works that have been listed as required from the 1980s are now being addressed and we can look forward to an exciting future for the community there.

3 - Edward Bear continues to be a success and we have seen our first 'cycle' of parents and carers come and go. We hope that this will continue to be a place we can send, and a source of, baptisms and families to welcome into our community.

4 - Volunteers have worked there socks-off across this year to make some wonderful events, courses, worship and fundraisers happen. This needs highlighting as it reminds us of the service of God and the love the people of this parish share. Thank You!

Looking forward is difficult in these times of uncertainty, but covid has already pushed us into new and exciting territory with the consideration of online worship (6 services a week) and the viewing figures we have enjoyed from them. We hope that this rich seem will continue to yield spiritual and missional gold for us in the months and years ahead.

Covid has also given us a time to reflect and begin to re-organise our structures in a way in which we can collective share in the work and the blessings of ministering to our community. When meetings are allowed to begin again, I am hoping that some of these new structures will allow the many lights we have in our congregation to begin to shine more brightly.

We also look forward to welcoming Mthr Louise and Fr Mark to the team here. A true sign that the Holy Spirit continues to move in our parish and that God intends wonderful things for us in the years ahead. We hope they find a home amongst us and find themselves richly blessed in their work.

May God continue to bless you and all the people of this parish richly in the year ahead.

Fr Justin

Financial

I would like to again thank Anthony le Cras for looking after things during my absences.

The 2019 accounts have not been as bad as I had expected although we have a deficit of £2947 compared with a surplus last year of £1302. Our overall income has risen by £4800 but expenses have increased overall by £8000 with the main increases being in heating costs, repairs and our Parish share.

The expenditure at St Christopher's is being offset by monies being contributed by Chelmsford but the overall costs will exceed the grant we have so reserves will be reduced but the church there will be in a far better condition and hopefully be able to generate more income from letting once the current crisis is over.

On that front this current year is going to be difficult as the effects of Coronavirus take hold. Hall letting income at St James has dramatically reduce and stop altogether for over 5 months. With no Tuesday coffee morning the income from that source has ceased and no church services means that collection are no longer being received although those parishioners paying by standing order have helped keep some continued income flow.

On a personal note Sue and I are now official residing in France and will soon be applying for residency. With the current situation of quarantining we are unlikely to be able to attend services at St James on our visits back to the UK. After over 30 years of worshipping at St James it was not the ending I had envisaged.

Matt Storkey - Treasurer

** The accounts are either appended or available for scrutiny on request.*

Fabric

The fabric and grounds continue to be in a good state of repair and to be utilised as fully as possible. There are a number of areas of ongoing focus which have progressed very little in the last year. The rendering on the South Side of St James continues in its process and has yet to have a contractor or a date confirmed. We await the quinquennial to undertake a list of required works.

There has been repairs to the roof lights in the kitchen area and flat roof area as a consequence of lead theft. The hedges have been trimmed to fence height and the overall look is very satisfactory and makes it much easy to use the car park.

A new parking system has been installed, and after the initial upheaval of entering number plates, has been successful in preserving the carpark for church, nursery and hall users rather than the general public.

All the usual annual checks have taken place, and this included a flushing of the radiators which has had a big impact on the speed at which they can heat the building.

The work at St Christopher's has been started and a scheme has been outlined which should see the building back in use come the late spring, all being well.

Future plans include the resurrection of the fabric and grounds committee within the PCC to keep a close eye on ongoing repairs and capital projects. We look forward to this committee making its report next year.

Electoral Roll

This year was one of those where the old Electoral Roll was 'scrapped' and a new one started; this is undertaken every seven years. On our new roll we now have 95 parishioners. This is made up of 50 people who live in the parish and 45 who live outside the parish.

You can add yourself to the Electoral Roll at any time, so if you are not on the roll at present, but want to be, just collect a form and hand it to me, or Pam, Fr Justin, Stella, etc. and I'll add you. It's good to be on the Electoral Roll as it is used to create such things as the prayer list.

Paul

Deanery Synod

St. James's Parish currently has 3 representatives on the St. Osyth Deanery Synod, namely Stella Baldrey, Paul Siddall and Pam Straw.

As you know we are currently entering into uncertain times as the world encounters the Coronavirus Pandemic and we do not yet know what this will mean for the UK. It will obviously have an impact on all our lives and the wider community. One thing is certain is that we will all, together with Fr. Justin, try to maintain all Church duties and responsibilities given to us.

The Deanery Synod has met 3 times during the past year and aside from business and administrative matters, we also deal with a variety of topics with guest speakers from time to time.

Some discussions/presentations over the past year have been:

1. CAP Debt Centre (Christians Against Poverty) – Roni Dickeson continues her role as the Clacton Debt Centre's Coach. We are now entering into its third year of funding from the Diocese Mission Opportunities Fund and the Synod agreed that this was valuable work which needed to continue in the future. As a Synod we also had a duty to Mrs Dickeson's future and the implications raised by current Employment Law, as to whether we could fund this for years four and five. The additional amount needed would be in the region of £12,000 per annum. Raising this additional sum on top of what Parishes already give would be essential. It was agreed that the CAP Project continues to February 2022 with the hope that it could continue into the fifth year; that a small group consisting of Rev Laurie Bond, Rev Andrew Fordyce, Rev Mark Mulryne and the Secretary look into fundraising for the CAP Clacton Debt Centre.
2. Link with Diocese of Chelmsford and the 4 Dioceses in Kenya Archdeacon Ruth gave a very interesting slideshow in November 2019 showing all aspects of the links over the past 40 years and how they came to be made in the first place. A land of many contrasts: lush with greenery and crop growth to the south, whilst to the north of the Equator were very dry, desert and unproductive. Worship was very important to Kenyan Christians who were apt to turn up at any time during a service, coming and going at will. Services were often many hours long with amazing, assorted presentations in the lead up to the sermon! She also spoke about how deeply Christians felt in Kenya with their faith and how they treated all aspects of life as discipleship including financial giving. Each time they received an increase in income they wanted to give it to the Church, something perhaps that western society could take a leaf out of their book.

Current Vacancies and Movers

Thorpe-le-Soken – being advertised as a “House for Duty” post under alternative oversight supervised by Bishop Norman.

Weeley and Little Clacton – Parish Profiles had been submitted to the Archdeacon and also to be advertised as a “House for Duty” post.

Bishop Stephen will be leaving our Diocese on his elevation to be the Archbishop of York. Although this is great news for him and his ministry, it is a sad loss for the Diocese of Chelmsford. We look forward to joining Bishop Stephen in his last Service on Easter Sunday.

Pam Straw

Choir/Music

It is a shame that I am writing this report as both Fr Justin and I had hoped that Steven would be the one doing this. However, Steven decided to leave us; citing various reasons, but we think one of the main ones was financial as he lives the 'wrong' side of Ipswich. All this is very disappointing, but we have to move on, and we are now in the process of looking for someone else to take over the role.

Again, the choir and I have been working closely with Fr. Justin and as most of you will recall, we added to the growing list of Mass settings by using a new one at Christmas. Also, a heads up that you will probably be singing a new one over the Eastertide period! As I write this, the choir have just started to learn this new setting. The 'good' news is that, once we have the new Easter service, there are no new ones. At least not that I know of...

You will all have seen that we have grown a little; always a good thing! We welcome Harry, his dad, Paul (great name!) and Linda to the choir. Part of the reason for getting someone like Steve was to start using the RSCM choral training and Harry and I are working through the booklet he has to do this training. When we get more youngsters, they, too, will undertake this training and work their way through the training.

As Fr. Justin has mentioned, we are also wanting to offer scholarships to the younger members of the choir too, which should help them progress musically.

Like last year (and previous ones), I must thank the members of our choir for their continuing loyalty and their support, too, after Steven decided to leave. We are carrying on the musical training for both those under 20 and those over that age. I am grateful that they turn out in all weathers and put in the extra time at Christmas and Easter.

Those of you who attend the Wednesday mass will have noticed the use of the pre-recorded hymns and also the hymns and mass settings when I am away. Thanks to those who 'man' the iPad! I hope you find this feature of the upgrades we did last year useful.

Finally, and once again, I would personally like to thank you, the congregation, for your support of me and the choir – and our efforts - we really appreciate it. Let's see what the next year brings...

Thanks,
Paul

Social Committee

We were rather short on social activities during the year as our two coach trips had to be cancelled. The first to Cambridge had to be cancelled due to lack of interest due to the fact that much of the city is now inaccessible to coaches. The coach would have had to drop us some 10 to 15 min walk away from the centre this was felt by many of our older folk to be too much.

The second trip a pilgrimage to Westminster Abbey was cancelled during the week before. The coach company had reservations as to how close to the Abbey they would be able to get as a demonstration was planned in parliament square. The committee were also concerned about the safety of pilgrims if caught up in the crowd. The coach company agreed that we should cancel and fares were returned to all. I sent a letter thanking the company as they did not wish to charge us a cancellation fee.

The two events which did go ahead was the Cream Tea and Harvest fish and chip supper both were a great success and enjoyed by all. They also ended up as fund raising events!

We held two Jumble sales and five table top sales. Two of the five were incorporated in the Summer and Christmas Fetes for the first time and this proved a worthwhile venture which we hope to repeat.

Jan Trendall

Flower Guild

We all continue to enjoy arranging the flowers in St James and hope you enjoy the arrangements too.

There are twelve members of the Flower Guild at the moment who are on a fortnightly rota. The names are at the end of this report. We arrange flowers every week (apart from Lent and Advent) on a fortnightly rota which is organized by Sandra Oswick. I would like to thank Sandra for all her support and hard work. She fills in when members are unable to cover their rota slot for one reason or another, looks after the arrangements, keeps them watered and does so much of the clearing up. This year we also have had Yvonne Danaher and Sue Green helping us at festival times, and Rosie (under Sandra's supervision!).

The treasurer for the Flower Guild is Jan Day, ably assisted by Charles. I would like to thank both of them for looking after our funds, it is much appreciated. As we do not receive money from the PCC, we try to have a fund raising event each year to help pay for the weekly flowers. My thanks to many of the Flower Guild members who personally pay for the flowers when doing their arrangements. We try to have four arrangements in the church, one in the Sanctuary, one on either side of the main body of the church and one on the back table. As you probably realise, flowers can be expensive, so we have an annual fund raising event which helps to keep our funds healthy. On the Tuesday after Easter Sunday each year, we hold a Flower Guild coffee morning with cake stall and sales table. Visitors to this coffee morning are given the opportunity to view the Easter arrangements. Many thanks to all who support this event in any way.

We are happy to arrange flowers in memory of a loved one or an event. Your donation, in an envelope with the person or persons names, can be handed to Chris, Jan, Sandra or any member of the flower guild. This is well supported at Christmas when the names are displayed on the trees in the sanctuary. Now that the church is open most days we have taken away the postbox we had by the cloister door. One of the locked wall safes has now been allocated to flowers and any contributions will be gratefully received.

If you feel you would like to learn to arrange the flowers in church we would love to have you join us. None of us are professionals, we just continue to learn from each other. We wouldn't start you off with a large arrangement, just something small. Do speak to one of us if you're interested. My thanks to all the members of the guild for their love, help and support. Finally, a big thanks to all in the congregation who support and encourage us with your kind comments.

Chris Aguda

Tuesday Coffee Morning

The coffee morning continued to run through out the year and has become an essential part of some of the attendees week. It was always seen as a place that the older person would come to be able to converse and meet with others in similar circumstances. Some were members of our congregation others were not. However the trend started last year to attract young mothers has increased and from there they have been drawn in to the wider church. Watching the development from baby to toddler was enjoyed by all the participants. Older school age children looked forward to attending in school holidays.

Support groups have also been formed by sharing experiences of cancer treatment, cataract surgery and Parkinson's etc. To talk informally has help so many. It has also led to an invite to attend a church service and for some an absorption into the congregation .

We are also able to celebrate birthdays and this year were able to congratulate Dennis Moye on reaching his 90th. Although he doesn't attend church services Dennis has been a loyal supporter of the church activities for many years.

The team this year was joined by Elaine and Alan Farren. Alan and Ron were in charge of getting tables and chairs out by 9am and packed away at the end. Elaine Flo and I set up the kitchen and were joined later by Corrine ,Marjorie and Sue who acted as additional waitresses. Rosie helped by washing up ,Jo acted as Overseer and standby help if needed.

Although not intended as a fund raiser the morning does bring in around £50 to £60 a week when the book and bric a brac stall run by Pauline Luckin and her friend Anne is open (They took over from Sylvia when she became ill.)and Fr Justin is serving bacon rolls in addition to the teas and coffees! Thanks go to all who have helped in anyway.

Some members of the above team are not able to continue so if anyone would like to volunteer to help please have a word with Jo

Jan Trendall

Edward Bear

Edward Bear is a mother and toddler group run on a Friday morning between 10am and midday. It is structured in such a way, that it begins with free play, whilst the mothers/carers/childminders are offered a tea or coffee. Towards the end of the session, we then have a story, an associated craft activity and singing to finish.

Leonie Hazell and I began this initiative back in November 2018. The idea was to create a group aimed at this age group within our parish, as there is not much available presently. It also offered an opportunity to invite more young families into our church and make them more aware of what we offer. This can be seen by the increase of interest of families to Messy Mass, Sunday School and our Christingle Service.

This group is funded purely by donations, which presently, is running at a surplus. We hope to use this surplus to replenish some of the craft and toys supplies, as well as buying a sign to be placed outside to make us more prominent to the community. The local community has donated the majority of the toys, with people still donating now. We have also been gathering toys to begin another Edward Bear at St Christopher's.

We currently see, on average, around 60 adults and children each week. We have a group of regulars but will often see new faces each week. Having spoken to lots of the attendees, lots saw it advertised on social media to begin with, but now it is more by word of mouth. We seem to be a popular group as we are one of the only few who allow childminders, are open during the holidays and allow older siblings whenever they are off school.

Last November we held Edward Bear's first birthday party. During this event, we hired a bouncy castle, soft play equipment and bought food to have laid out during the event. We even had a pass the parcel and played songs for the children to dance to. This was the one event where we asked for a contribution, meaning this paid for event. The birthday party was well received, and the community loved that we had done that little bit extra.

Our next steps are to begin our new group in Jaywick now that the building work has finished and to try and rebuild our group through use of social media and word of mouth as a lot of the children who were attendees have now began school.

Anna Hutcherson & Leonie Hazell

Messy Mass

Messy Mass was our last service before lockdown and had continue to enjoy welcoming its regulars on its new, Thursday night, time. An encouragement has been the maintenance fo regular attendees despite the increased frequency of these services. We now have 12 messy mass services across the year and that has lead to a number of people being eligible for, and subsequently joining, the PCC.

We have also had to say goodbye to a number of our volunteers and continue to review this services, looking for new ways to generate volunteer capacity, and so continue this ministry among our children and families.

We hope to have a meeting of all those involved or interested in the coming months.

TEECH (Moldova)

We at St James and St Christophers, along with Christchurch Clacton URC, continue in our support of the work of TEECH in Moldova, Eastern Europe.

We continue to receive contributions from many knitting groups in the area as well as individual people. Blankets are always really appreciated, especially in the homes of the elderly, where the need is always great. Sandra Oswick's knitting group at Alton Park School continue to knit squares to make blankets for us too. Hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and all new knitted items are always sent and gratefully received.

Many thanks for your help with donating items for the gift bags whenever we send out an appeal for different things. We have been made aware there is always a shortage of gift bags for the older children, boys especially. We therefore sent 100 gift bags out to Moldova in July and in December last year for children aged 11 - 16. We will continue to try to do more for them if we can.

Towards the end of 2019 we were made aware of changes within the charity. Unfortunately, British Telecom, who were the founders of TEECH over 20 years ago and who have always supported the charity by providing transport and funding for fuel, border taxes and so on, have now withdrawn all aid. A spokesperson for BT said that they no longer support small charities. Obviously, this is a huge blow to TEECH. Rob Brown, who is chairman of the charity, is determined to continue providing aid for Moldova and is seeking other sponsorship. Hopefully, they will be able to go this summer. Rob is also the person who collects all gifts from us, and drives all aid to Moldova. So, we wait for updates to see how things progress.

When TEECH go out to Moldova in the summer, as well as taking gift bags for children, the team complete a requested project in one of the rural villages. For example, it might be flushing toilets for a school, showers for a hospital or maybe decorating work in an orphanage or care home. The team is made up of volunteers, and building items are usually donated. In December the gift bags are taken to needy families known by the team.

We also send out boxes of clothing, bedding, toys, in fact anything that will be useful. We know that things go to where they are most needed. If you would like to help us, please look out for notices in church asking for items we are collecting. Photographs and information about the trips can be found on the noticeboard and on the TEECH website.

www.teech.org

So many people and so much kindness enable us to continue helping in this way. Many thanks for your support.

Chris Aguda (St James/St Christopher's) and Eileen

Soup Run

The soup run continues to provide sandwiches on a Thursday to the homeless of clacton. Thank you to Jan and Flo for shopping they do, Yvonne for the prayers she leads and the many other volunteers who help us undertake this mission in our parish. In the light of Covid-19 how this is done needs to be reassessed, but it is hoped that we can continue this work as soon as possible.

Bible Study Group

The Bible Study group has been running for the past three years and during that time we've read and discussed several books from both the Old and New Testaments, with some very lively conversations taking place.

Up until March of this year (2020) a group of 1 or 8 of us were meeting in the home of one of our members on alternate Thursday mornings, and it's been both interesting and helpful to share our beliefs, experiences and concerns with each other.

Covid and lockdown have put a temporary stop to home groups, so we've been delivering and posting a variety of material to our group (about 14 people in total) to give them the option of having something to exercise their minds, if they felt like doing so!

Jo Jellis and Corrine Osborn

Sunday School

Sunday School runs on the fourth Sunday of every month during the main service at 10:30am and is aimed at children of all ages. The children begin by being in the main service, but then process through the congregation during the Gloria. From here, the children are then taken to hall. Children under 7 are accompanied by their parents/carers. During this time, the children sing songs, tell a bible story through actions and complete a series of crafts linked to the theme of the session. We follow the 'Diddy Disciples' book. We then return to service during the Eucharist, where the families are invited up for communion/blessing. The children are then invited to share what they have been learning about with the rest of the congregation.

The first Sunday School was our Easter Service in 2019. During this service, we had 40 children attend. We currently see, on average, around 10 children each month, but this has been as high as 15 at times. It is generally the same people who attend each time, but there have been others attend who we haven't seen before at any of our other events.

Our Sunday School is advertised a lot on social media, with sharing of the activities that have taken place.

My aim for the coming year is to try and increase our numbers further, with the hope that eventually we can have a series of groups running tailored to different age groups to make it more relevant to the children themselves. A lot of what we do at the moment is aimed at children aged 5 and under, but we do have some older children who will need more.

Anna Hutcherson