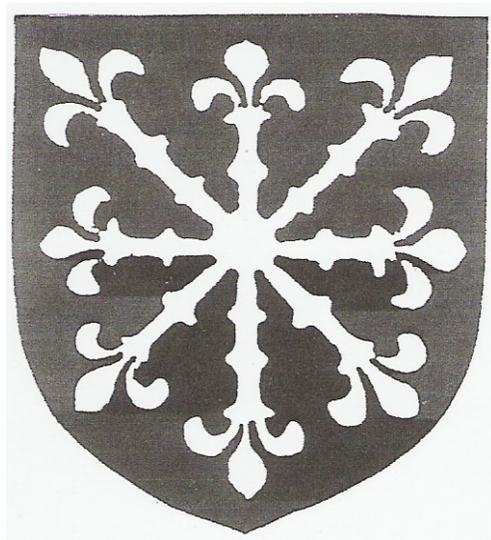


# **St. Martin's Church West Acton**

**Parish Reference Number: 22.14  
Registered Charity no. 1132976**



## **Annual Report 2016**

# **ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, WEST ACTON**

## **Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2016**

### **Administrative information**

St. Martin's Church is situated in Hale Gardens, Acton. It is part of the Diocese of London within the Church of England. All correspondence should be sent to: The Parish Office, Rear of Church Hall, Hale Gardens, London W3 9SQ.

The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Saint Martin, West Acton is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (registered charity number 1132976). Throughout this report the charity will be referred to as the PCC.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

*Incumbent:* Revd Dr Nicholas Henderson Chair

*Licensed SSM:* Revd Brandy Pearson

*PTO Priest:* Revd Rob Pearson

*Commissioned Lay Minister:* Mrs Jacqueline Nicholls

*Commissioned Lay Minister to the Japanese Anglican Church UK:* Mrs Yuki Johnson

*Reader:* Dr Margaret Jones

*Reader Emeritus:* Mrs Lynne Armstrong

*Churchwardens:* Mrs Elizabeth Ambridge  
Mr John Wilson

*Deputy Churchwarden:* Mr Jeremy Thorpe-Woods

*Representatives on the Deanery Synod:*

Mr Sam Boundy (until APCM 2017)

Mr John Wilson (until APCM 2017)

Mrs Bryony Franklin (until APCM 2017)

*Elected members\*:* Mrs Lynne Armstrong

Mrs Tara Bramwell

Mr James Hyde

Mr Jonathan Jones

Mr Ben Mason

Mrs Shelley Merrick Lay Vice Chair

Ms Amy Page

Mr Lyndon Plant

Miss Angela North

Mrs Emma Stehlin

Mr Jeremy Thorpe-Woods Deputy Churchwarden

Ms Ellen West

*Appointed Secretary:* Mrs Lynne Armstrong

*Other Information:*

*Representatives on Central Ealing Churches Together; and on Ealing Christian Churches:*

Mrs Lynne Armstrong

Mrs Jacqueline Nicholls

*Sidespeople were:*

Arden Anderson	Betty Anderson	Michela Antonello
John Beastall	Jill Burton	John Clark
Mary Cook	Angela Doe	John Holt
Margaret Jones	Lyndon Plant	Emma Stehlin
Brenda Ward	Ellen West	John Wilson

*Bank:* HSBC, 69 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EY

*Deposit Account:* CCLA Investment Management Ltd, CBF Church of England Funds, 80 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DZ

*Independent Examiner*

Mr Amandeep Singh Bhogal, 56 Scarle Road, Wembley, Middx HA0 4SN

**Structure, governance and management**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Members of the PCC with specific responsibilities attend training courses where appropriate. The PCC revises its Risk Assessment Policy on a regular basis.

The members of the Standing Committee were:

The Incumbent, the Churchwardens, the Lay Vice-Chair, Lynne Armstrong, Sam Boundy, Jeremy Thorpe-Woods.

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checking Officer was Mrs Shelley Merrick .

The Safeguarding Officer was Dr Bryony Franklin.

The Children's Champion was Mrs Jacqueline Nicholls

The Electoral Roll Officer was Mr Michael Franks.

The Stewardship Officer was Mrs Denise Taylor

**Objectives and Activities**

St Martin's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Nicholas Henderson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

**Achievements and Performance**

The APCM 2016 recorded 213 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2016, was 74 adults and 22 children and young people. This number increased at festivals.

A PCC Digest follows later in this report. Committees met between meetings and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

Other group reports contained within this booklet detail their respective achievements during the year.

## Financial Review

Total receipts on ordinary restricted and unrestricted funds were £165,833 and are detailed in the Financial Statements.

£149,116 was spent to provide the Christian ministry from St Martin's Church, including the contribution to the diocesan Common Fund (£78,691), which largely provides the stipends, pension and housing for the clergy.

The net result for the year was a surplus in receipts over payments of £16,717. After adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December for restricted and unrestricted funds totalled £25,633.

### Reserves policy

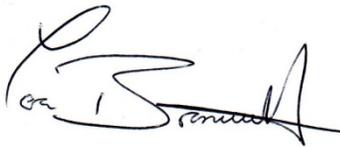
It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to approximately six months unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

It is our policy to invest our funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund

**Approved by the PCC on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and signed on their behalf by Revd Dr Nicholas Henderson (PCC chairman)**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Henderson', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

And PCC member Tara Bramwell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tara Bramwell', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

## **St Martin's Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 23rd April 2017 Vicar's Report 2016 - 17**

This last year has been another good one for St Martin's. In some ways I have a sense of déjà vu as much of what I wrote in last year's Vicar's Report has continued.

Once again of particular note has been the growth in our Junior Church numbers who continue to be led by a team of teachers. It is good to think that we are laying some foundations for the next generation of Christians. The next older stage is important although unfortunately our Youth Group under the leadership of Maria Jones and Jackie Nicholls has ceased. This is because Maria has had another baby and family commitments have taken priority. However we have gained the 4<sup>th</sup> Acton Brownies and Guides who have already started parading their colours at our All - Age services and who will take up use of St Martin's Hall from late April 2017. This is a most welcome development as we have not had a Brownie or Guide group for many years. Our thanks go to leader Jennifer Dudley for this.

I am grateful to Liza Ambridge and John Wilson our current churchwardens and to Jeremy Thorpe Woods as deputy warden for their help and encouragement. The role of warden is as vital these days as ever as indeed is that of our new treasurer in the person of Kenneth Chan. Kenneth has succeeded Clive Davis who has faithfully served us for many years in an exemplary fashion with clear concise and well-managed accounts as well as being a source of good advice borne out of long experience. Clive will continue to edit our monthly magazine until the summer.

There are many others who contribute regularly and faithfully to the life of the church. Rotas run smoothly, a wide cross-section of people take part in our services and ministry and overall we receive reports of a happy church community, which is how it should be.

The fact that we are a very large contributor to the Diocesan Common Fund brings concomitant burdens as well as joys. As usual we will have to work very hard in the coming year in particular to increase our number of planned givers as part of our Christian commitment. We will need to continue to stress the important link between Christian Faith and practical and financial commitment.

In this finances are also required for some large projects, the re-roofing of the Hall lobby, the certification of our aging church electrics and the installation of a new Church Hall kitchen. For this latter our particular thanks go to Rosemary Milne who has helped us to gain a Lottery funded grant of £10,000.00 and to Phil Barnes as project manager. Phil has created an imaginative scheme to incorporate not only a new kitchen but also new storage facilities and direct access to the church. The end result should be a first class new facility.

These essential works require fundraising and we have embarked on our 32.5K fund project ably overseen by Ellen West and with the new 'Just Giving' page on the website a good deal has already been raised through sponsorship.

This coming year will be my last full one with you at St Martin's as I am due to retire in April 2017. The Parochial Church Council has started the process of producing a Parish Profile to enable us to prepare for the coming interregnum and the selection of my successor. I will cease my liturgical work with the parish at Christmas 2017 and the APCM in 2018 will be earlier in the March before I finally leave.

In the meantime there is much to develop and build on and I am encouraged that there is such a good 'buzz' about the parish and during worship.

Nicholas

## **ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, WEST ACTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL DIGEST 2016/17**

### Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016

This was the first meeting of the new PCC elected at the APCM, and all the officers were elected. The meeting was informed that Clove Davis had stressed that we really need to find another Treasurer, as it was increasingly inappropriate for him to continue in the role. The meeting discussed the problem of finding a new treasurer. We had been fortunate enough to receive another gift from an anonymous donor, of £5,000, which mean that our finances were in better order, but we were still unable to accrue reserves as recommended by the diocese. The Archdeacon's Quinquennial review had highlighted works outstanding works, including the electrical audit of the church and works to be done on the roofs of the toilet block, the entrance and the Hall. This was in addition to refitting the kitchen to a commercial standard as it would very soon not meet with H & S standards, which would mean that we could no longer hire the hall out. Nick told the meeting that he had asked Rosemary Milne to assist with fundraising for the new Kitchen, she had had considerable success in All Saints fundraising and he hoped for a similar result for us. The meeting talked of the future programme for the church, including dates for the Fair and Bazaar, and Nick had an item of other business, which was that Catherine Southern, an antiques expert, to hold a valuation day in the church. We would gain financially from this as we would be paid a percentage of the value of the items seen. The proposal was agreed nem con.

### Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016

The meeting was told that the charitable giving fund had been boosted by the sale of cards and lavender bags by Anne Oughton, and sponsorship gained by Emma Stehlin for her "Tough Mudder" run. The Common Fund payments requested by the Diocese had gone up by 1.8%, now standing at £79, 263. There was a presentation available to explain to the congregation why this money should be given, when we seemed short of money ourselves.

The diocese had set up a scheme where giving could be managed by Direct Debit, This would enable the amount given to be raised at 1.8% per year, and administer the Gift Aid scheme payment more easily. It was noted that we have a very good stewardship officer who administers our scheme, and direct debits might well not be popular with our givers. The meeting therefore agreed to note the scheme but continue as we were.

We had quotes for the work highlighted by the Archdeacon.

The safeguarding report for the year May 2015 to April 2016 had been completed, and Bryony confirmed that all the hall hirers had signed that they were aware of and agreed to abide by the policy that we had developed.

### Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Nick welcomed the committee to the first meeting after the summer holiday. He told us that he had managed to find a new Treasurer, Kenneth Chan, which very much pleased and relieved everyone. Clive had said he would give him a long handover. Kenneth is not retired, so a new method of banking church monies was suggested, to involve a rota of people being trained to take part in counting the money and completing bank book etc. It could then be stored in the office safe until Monday when it would be ready to be banked by either Tara Bramwell or Richard Armstrong. Rosemary Milne had managed to get £10,000 from the

Lottery fund to go towards our new kitchen, and other money was also being donated to the 32.5K fund from various sources and just giving efforts. We needed to change the way in which we managed our Charitable giving budget too, sadly we had not yet been fully able to pay the pledges we had made from 2014, due to unexpected and major calls on our funds. We had arrived at a method of separating the finances which were truly 'ours' to do as we wished with, and therefore this issue should not occur again.

Three faculties had been applied for, one for the kitchen and two more minor ones, for bike racks to be placed by the entrance to the church and for two small brass memorial plaques to be placed, one on the font and the other on Flagpole.

Nick would be leaving us in April 2018 when he reaches 70, so we need to create a Parish Profile to help us recruit another vicar. As if Nick could be replaced!

#### Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016

This meeting was the first attended by Kenneth Chan, as Treasurer. He told the meeting that he had met with Clive Davis, and would have several more meetings over the course of this financial year, as he would be working in tandem with Clive until then. Changes in the signatories for the church were in progress. We had just been able to pay off the last of the Charitable giving budget for 2014, and it was good to know we would not find ourselves in this position again due to the new way in which we were dealing with the Charitable giving of the church. There were two items still outstanding from the Quinquennial review, awaiting funds to carry them out, hence the 32.5 K fund. An update was given on the funds being raised, and Nick was able to update the meeting on the giving from a very successful Gift Day.

The War Memorial has been granted Grade 2 listed status, which means it is safe from any future plans to knock it down or remove it etc, and all ashes etc buried there will remain in a sacred area.

Bryony was able to say that there was nothing to report on Safeguarding issues. She reminded the meeting that although she was the nominated officer, Safeguarding out children and vulnerable people was the job of the whole church, and especially of the PCC.

#### Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017

The committee discussed some financial issues, such as the importance not confusing the fundraising we were undertaking to enable necessary works in the Church and Hall to be done, the reserves we needed to build, and the need to continue contributing to the Common Fund, which is a diocesan fund raised each year to contribute to the expenses of the national Church, and also to churches much worse off than ourselves. They also spoke about the Community Kitchen that Rosemary Milne had managed to get us the Lottery finding for, and the progress of the faculty to alter the present outdated and very shabby kitchen. Kenneth Chan, our new Treasurer, is continuing to work in tandem with Clive Davis. Several items of maintenance for the church and hall had been carried out, and work had started on the creation of a Parish Profile. Nick and Jean had done sterling work ridding the church of clutter, some of it decades old, from the organ loft. The programme for Lent and Easter was also discussed; a talk on Thursdays followed by a Lenten Supper and a Sermon on the same subject the following Sunday. The 5 topics were the difficult subjects which many people feel the Church avoids. The full programme would be on the website and in leaflet form.

## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT 2017 ON THE FABRIC OF THE CHURCH (draft)**

The Churchwardens are required to report to the Annual Meeting on the fabric and ornaments of the Church. We have pleasure in complying with this requirement for another year.

### **The Church**

Maintenance was carried out where necessary throughout the year. In continuing battle to deter the ever-present problem of pigeons nesting in the church gutters and hoppers bird spikes were fitted to all the hoppers affected, and they are proving generally effective.

In an attempt to reduce noise from the banging of the Church doors a new 'soft closer' mechanism has been fitted to the inner door, which now no longer slams shut with a loud noise. We are all developing increased strength in our arm muscles as a result of the greater effort needed to open the doors. At the same time the lock on the door was reset so that it works in a more effective and predictable way.

The organ, considering its age, continues (with regular maintenance) to play its part in general worship.

### **The Cottage**

There have been no major incidents requiring attention in the Cottage.

### **The Church Hall**

As usual, minor repairs and maintenance have been carried out where required. A new heater has been installed in the female toilets. No major fabric issues arose during the year. A faculty has been requested to allow us to implement plans to upgrade the Hall kitchen facilities, with the help of a grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

### **The Church Grounds**

The gardens continue to be maintained in good order. Following an incident in the latter half of the year new security floodlights were fitted outside the Church main entrance and outside the Hall entrance, improving visibility and security for those using the doors during the darker periods of the year.

### **The Future**

Following the recent Quinquennial Review of the church fabric we know we are going to have to deal with some fairly major maintenance items, including repairs to the flat roofs over the Church porch and the Hall toilet block, plus the essential appraisal and upgrading of the entire electrical installation within the church within the very near future. We will be facing significant costs, at a time of financial constraints. We pray that we are able to maintain and manage the finances effectively so that we can find the funds to undertake all this very necessary work. Fundraising efforts are already under way to enable St Martin's to raise the monies necessary for these works.

Finally we offer our sincere thanks to everyone who in their own way has helped to keep St Martin's in very good order over the past year.

*Liza Ambridge  
John Wilson  
Jeremy Thorpe-Woods*

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL/JUNIOR CHURCH REPORT**

The Junior Church continues to be well supported. Junior church sessions run every Sunday throughout the year except when there is an all-age service. During school term time we usually have about 15-20 children attending, with lower numbers during school holidays. We are now consistently inviting the children to share with the congregation what they have done each week to help the children feel integrated and an important part of the church. The children continue to contribute to all-age services by writing and reading prayers, and scripture readings. We continue to maintain our Diocese of London Children's Charter status, following our commitment to achieve a number of new objectives each year around the four areas of welcome, worship, nurture and mission for children and young people. There are eleven volunteer leaders who participate on a rota in the leadership of junior church sessions.

All in all, this is a thriving part of the Church, and a source of optimism for the future.

Bryony Franklin

## **SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

The Diocese of London introduced a safeguarding policy in 2012, which was then updated in 2015. In line with this policy, we review its implementation and all associated procedures and good practice annually. Copies of the full policy are kept by The Parish Office, Bryony Dean Franklin, Jackie Nicholls and with the church Log Book; a copy is also available on the Diocese of London website. A summary of the policy is available on the notice boards in the church porch and in the hall. The safeguarding policy requires that a full annual report be presented to the parochial church council (PCC) by the Church Safeguarding Officer, at the first PCC each year after the Annual PCC meeting. A more detailed annual report will therefore be presented in May. However, below is a brief summary of the key points:

- There have been no allegations or concerns relating to safeguarding.
- The annual safeguarding audit required by the Diocese has been completed, with no actions outstanding.
- The Diocese safeguarding policy requires that each parish appoint a safeguarding officer, a children's champion and one or more evidence checkers for those applying for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Bryony Dean Franklin is our safeguarding officer, and Jackie Nicholls is our children's champion. Shelley Merrick and Bryony Dean Franklin are nominated evidence checkers.
- All staff of the church are up to date with safeguarding training and have up to date DBS checks as needed.
- All twelve of the current junior church and youth group volunteers have completed their DBS check, volunteer agreement and all associated paperwork.

Bryony Dean Franklin, Parish safeguarding officer

## **EALING DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

The Feb 2016 meeting focussed on **Healing Ministry**

Four speakers had been invited to explain the ministry they are involved in.

Revd John Ryeland, Director of The Christian Healing Mission, Hammersmith.

They seek to create **space** where people can meet with Jesus, take time to be soaked in the love of God, **light** to experience the presence of Jesus and ask where is Jesus for you now, and **peace**, to wonder and hear his voice and to continue speaking to him.

Revd Matthew Grayshon, Rector of St Mary's Hanwell

**Deliverance.**

He met Jesus in his early 20s and after ordination Matthew discovered that the devil does exist and people are affected by devils and demons. He gave examples of people being released from a history of bad spirits and coming to know Jesus, and houses also being freed of bad spirits.

Father Andrew Davies, Vicar of Christchurch Ealing Broadway

**Sacramental Healing**

Just as people received healing from Jesus, they were touched by him or people touched him, so we draw others into closer union with him. Anointing with ashes was available all day on Ash Wednesday; people were asking for prayer, which is available every evening. Some make pilgrimages to Walsingham or Lourdes and receive healing, some miracles occur. Special oil blessed by the Bishop is used. It used to be the last sacrament before death, their forward journey to heaven. It is now offered to those who are seriously ill, or in trouble or distress. God works in his own power and intention; inward healing for soul and body

Revd Chris Fox, Associate Vicar at St Paul's Ealing

**Ealing Prayer on the Streets (POTS)**

POTS meet every fortnight in the grounds of Christchurch Ealing Broadway, where between 600 and 700 people have received prayer for over 2 years. Flyers are distributed inviting people to request prayer, where they may meet and encounter Jesus. Just as Jesus demonstrated who he was by praying for anyone as he went, never turning anyone down, so Prayer on the Streets meets people in the market place making it open to all, not just in church. The POTS team are often involved in local events offering prayer and want to grow the team. Chris gave examples of people often being led to faith, encountering God through the prayer offered.

In June 2016 the meeting dealt with **Mission Fund** grants 2016

Nine parishes presented their projects, with grant requests.

Everyone was thanked for their interesting and enlightening presentations; the total requested grants being within the money available from Pathways this year, all were agreed. The evening ended with groups praying with individual applicants

The November 2016 meeting addressed **Capital Vision 2020**.

The Rt Revd Pete Broadbent, Bishop of Willesden, gave an inspiring talk, encouraging us to look outward in mission, to communicate well through twitter, facebook and up to date websites, conveying the Gospel to others, challenging them.

As ambassadors for Christ how are we doing all the other days of the week? Are we living our 'Faith on the Frontline? Clergy have been invested in, through the conference, study, discussion and spiritual feeding. People can be called to ordination, through preaching on God's calling. Women and BAME should be encouraged to follow their calling.

How can we best serve our community? Maybe get involved with Food Banks, Street Pastors. Maybe make individual churches more open and appealing through modernisation initiatives.

On the education front, one new school has been opened (William Perkin) and soon a further school (North Ealing) will open. We want children to find faith. The introduction of Messy Church offers a bridge between own way of living and church. Churches may be able to work together to resource this project. Church planting: Ealing is doing well, additional services and new worshipping communities engaging locally as in Gurnell Grove our newest venture. We can engage with people through sport and the arts.

Your Representatives are: Sam Boundy, Bryony Franklin and John Wilson.

## **JAPANESE ANGLICAN CHURCH (UK)**

In February 2016 we took part in the preparation for the Memorial Service at Southwark Cathedral marking the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2011 Great Eastern Japan Earthquake. This included arranging meetings for the guest speaker who travelled from the NSKK (Anglican Church in Japan). On 11<sup>th</sup> March we held a Memorial Vigil at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, which was appreciated by many people, including the Ambassador of Japan who visited from the embassy. In June we helped Mr Jason Kouchak organize a charity concert for victims of the April 2016 Kyushu Kumamoto Earthquake. Through these events we were pleased to share with others in the church here information about the situation in Japan, the NSKK and the projects that are supporting victims of these natural disasters.

In November I and some of our members attended an event run by the Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns, which included a Eucharist at All Saints, and we also attended choral evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral when our group was included amongst those being prayed for. Both occasions were very precious opportunities for our members as most are not yet Christians. We were also very pleased to join both the summer and Christmas Fairs.

Despite continuing health problems, our spiritual leader, Mr Sonoda has been with us to inspire us with his great knowledge of the bible at our regular monthly meetings. Twice we had Japanese speaking priests to celebrate communion services. We continue to produce our newsletter each month, which is distributed to more than 70 people both in the UK and Japan and which is much appreciated.

It has been another full year and we are very grateful for the support and encouragement of all at St. Martin's.

Yuki Johnson, Commissioned Lay Minister

## **INTERCESSIONS ROTA REPORT**

We continue to be grateful to those who prepare and deliver our Intercessions at the 10am Eucharist Service. They unite us in our prayers for the church, the world and for those in need. We are very fortunate to have a group of loyal members of our congregation who contribute to the leading of our worship in this thoughtful and devotional manner.

This year our prayers have been led by Liza Ambridge, Lynne Armstrong, John Beastall, Sam and Leika Boundy, John Clark, Bryony Franklin, Rosemary Hart, Gill Hull, Margaret Jones, Jackie Nicholls, Karen Staartjes and John Wilson.

Margaret Jones

## **SIDESPEOPLE**

I wish to record thanks to all the loyal band of volunteers who perform the invaluable duties of sidespeople Sunday by Sunday. They are the welcoming face of St Martin's to all who attend, both regulars and visitors, and I know that people new to us find their kindness and helpfulness encouraging. We would welcome more people to join the rota, so if there are any other members of the congregation who would like to assist then please let me know. The duties are not onerous, and you will be rewarded with a warm heart and the grateful thanks of the churchwardens.

We have recently started to develop a group of people who are responsible for counting the offerings taken at Sunday services. Training is underway, and so far three people have started to take on this responsibility. I trust, as time goes on, that more of the sidespeople will be trained up to do this essential task, as will members of the PCC. In this way the task will be neither frequent nor onerous for those involved.

Liza Ambridge

## **REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

As ever, I have great pleasure in extending my thanks to our choristers for their continuing support Sunday by Sunday, and for other occasional services as and when they arise. The annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 18<sup>th</sup> was, once more, a great success.

Once again I would like to say that we rejoice in any new addition to our ranks. We do encourage others to come and sing with us: any age, any stage! Singing music to the greater glory of God is not just good for the soul; it's great fun too!

Ken Bartram

## **ST MARTIN'S PLAYERS**

We are pleased to report that, having had a successful Mini Panto and Soiree with refreshments in 2016, we plan to present the full, short, Pantomime of 'Old King Cole' with Soiree and Refreshments in September 2017. We would like to thank everyone for their continuing support.

On behalf of the St Martin's Players Committee

Jackie Nicholls

## **COFFEE ROTA**

The Coffee Rota has been very successful this past year with everyone's fantastic support. I put together the Rota on a 3 month cycle , so everyone is on it , every 3 months. I team up people for the Rota and contact them a week in advance , just to confirm their availability and the items that they will require to provide for the morning. I encourage the volunteers to bring cake and biscuits. This then results in the congregation staying a little longer after the service. Then everyone gets a chance to socialise and catch up with each other. Everyone feels welcome and looked after. It would be great to have a few more homemade treats too, but of course this is subject to people's time available.

It has been great to get more people on the Rota , and as the Sunday school grows , there is an opportunity to engage more people.

I think the church is very lucky to have such great support with the congregation. As always it is also great to know in advance for any important services, especially baptisms, as it draws other people to St Martins, who might have never been to the church . It is then the job of the Coffee Rota team to make them feel welcome.

Fiona Stuart