

The Church of the Good Shepherd (COGS)

Carshalton Beeches



CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR 2017

Our mission statement is

"To know Christ and to make Him known"

And we want to be God's people, wherever we are

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Vicar's introduction

I want to begin by thanking you all for the welcome that we have received as a family since joining you in the summer of 2017. Having walked through some of the journey of the Good Shepherd in recent years, knowing both Christopher and Warner, and visiting the church in many different contexts, it has been a privilege to step up to being the vicar. I know that I joined the church at a difficult time, following two interregna, but I have found you to be full of energy and life, with a desire to be united and to know Jesus better. I have been well supported by the PCC, the Wardens, Peter Turrell, and many others, and I thank you all for that.

What have been the highlights? From the start I felt that I needed to encourage deepening discipleship across the age ranges, which led to a prayer focus on the youth and young adults particularly in November. This prayer has led to at least two tangible things: the **Shallowford Farm** trip in February 2018 (see Pathfinders report below) and the new **14+ Sunday Group** starting in March 2018. Alongside Junior Church, Pathfinders and Messy Church, this is a good platform on which to keep building disciples.

Another area of deepening discipleship has been the **Lent Course** (2018), this year focusing on Whole Life Worship, and set up in a way as to be as relevant as possible across the age ranges as we look at what it means to be faithful disciples 24/7; and not just at church. We have also been running **Alpha** (2018) concurrently – again across the age range from young adults to our more senior members!

Throughout the 8 months (written in March 2018 - ed) I have been here, I have been so pleased to see the generosity of this church, not just financially, but in terms of time and energy given to organising and supporting events and activities, and to encouraging each other. This Activities Report is a testimony to that, and I want to thank everyone who has been involved throughout the year in these things.

As we seek to be the people of God wherever we are, in our Sunday services and our daily lives – may we be people who always act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Revd Kevin Lewis

Churchwardens' report

After a difficult last few years it was a joy to welcome Kevin, Fran and Kieran to the Good Shepherd in June. We are delighted with the way they have settled into church life here at the Good Shepherd, and their great efforts to get to know people and to participate so fully in the various activities of the church.

We would like to express our warmest thanks to Peter, supported by Diane, for all his steadfast, committed and reliable help through a second interregnum in short succession, and we hope that he and Diane will now enjoy having more free time to relax while still continuing to be involved in the life and work of the church.

In the summer we said a fond farewell to Sarah Simpson and her family. Some of us attended her ordination in Southwark Cathedral and we wish her well in her new ministry at St Peter's in Lee, South East London.

We again need to say a big thank you to Janet and David Hill for all they do to ensure the upkeep of the church and its building, and also to Mark and Linda Taylor for their upkeep of the grounds.

So we look forward to seeing what God has in store for the Good Shepherd, under Kevin's leadership, in the coming year.

Sue Shale and Helen Moore – Churchwardens

Sutton Deanery Synod report

A Deanery Synod is a body which is representative and deliberative, a body which may pass motions to its Diocesan Synod, which may receive actions from Diocesan Synod or General Synod, and may provide a forum for its members and others to act. It is the Electoral College for the General Synod and its representatives (lay and clergy) comprise the Diocesan Synod. Southwark issued a new booklet in 2017 titled, "The Role of Deaneries and the Rules and Constitution of Deanery Synods". It was produced as one response to our Bishop Christopher's charge to, "breathe new life into deaneries".

COGS is within the Sutton Deanery Synod which convenes three meetings in a year hosted by different churches around the Deanery.

The size of our Electoral Roll means we can have four lay representatives on the Deanery Synod but only Janet Hill, David Locke and Martin Thompson put

themselves forward at the 2017 APCM; and they were deemed duly elected to serve for a three-year term. Their appointment also made them ex-officio members of the PCC to which they report on Deanery Synod proceedings.

A typical meeting is attended by 30-40, and is addressed by an invited speaker:

2017/18 commenced with a rallying talk explaining the four categories of ministry currently recognised in the Diocese of Southwark: Ordained (there are 500 clergy and 50 chaplains in Southwark); Licensed Lay Ministers (in Southwark, there are 168 Readers and 27 in training); and, Authorised Ministers (there are 185 Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries (SPAs) and 12 in training).

The fourth category is “Recognised Ministries” with Youth Worker, Worship leader, and Messy Church leader being just a few examples of the many kinds of ministry that happen in individual churches and where people – many hundreds of them across the Diocese – are trained and supported locally by their churches. And it was here that Bishop Christopher’s priority of ‘Empowering the Laity’ was brought into play. It is a call to the laity to exercise their faith and gifts in the service of their church ministry, and to the clergy to value the skills and experience of the members of their congregation. So the aim embracing COGS along with all other churches in the Diocese is to equip more Lay Ministers, and develop more kinds of lay ministries.

The year’s second meeting saw Mark Tomlinson from Sutton Community Works (SCW), saying that historically the Church of England had been at the forefront in serving the community, but now it is more commonly left to other local groups such as SCW. The final meeting in 2017/18 was a presentation on Discipleship and Vocations across the Southwark Diocese.

Martin Thompson

The other reports follow in alphabetical order:

ALPHA

There have been ALPHA courses given at COGS for many years but there was not one in 2017 when we were in an interregnum (the last ALPHA was in mid-2016 – at COGS in association with Springfield Church Wallington). However, preparations were started to run one, again with Springfield, in early-2018.

CHARITY APPEALS

This year the congregation of the Good Shepherd has been incredibly generous with both their time and resource for worthy causes. Our charitable giving in 2017 amounted to £40,903 given to 44 charities.

Our Lent Lunch scheme raised £5,100 for the Bishop's Lent Appeal – "I was hungry... I was thirsty" – which supported a number of Food Security Projects in Zimbabwe; and, some great missions in Southwark to assist vulnerable people locally. Thank you to all who hosted and/or attended our many lovely meals and supported these great causes.

Thank you also to all those who supported Christian Aid in May – many of us went door-to-door throughout Beeches collecting over £2,600. The Harvest Appeal was very successful again this year and we were able to give £3,500 to each of three causes – one local, one national, and one international:

- **Jigsaw4U** which helps vulnerable children and young people locally
- The Archbishop of Canterbury's **Mustard Seed Appeal** to aid people in financial distress
- **Wateraid** in its aim to make water, toilets and hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere – "We transform millions of lives every year in 28 countries with clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene"

Karen Barker

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CARSHALTON

Following earlier discussions between representatives of local churches, it was decided to set up a formal ecumenical body, and the inaugural meeting of Churches Together in Carshalton took place on 15 February 2017. The seven member churches are two Anglican (All Saints and COGS), two Roman Catholic (Holy Cross and St Margaret's), Carshalton Methodist Church, The Salvation Army, and Carshalton Baptist Church in Strawberry Lane. Frank Sole and myself were appointed as COGS's representatives on this body, with Frank succeeded in late-2017 by Martin Thompson. In addition, Kevin, being a minister, is an ex-officio representative.

A service during the week of Prayer for Christian Unity on 24 January took place at St Margaret's Church.

Lent study groups were attended by 54 people including seven from COGS, and provided an excellent opportunity to get to know other local Christians on a personal level. The six groups each met five times weekly during Lent, following a course recommended by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland entitled 'Returning Home: Christian Faith in Encounter with Other Faiths'.

Two hundred people attended the annual **Good Friday Walk of Witness** and ecumenical service in Carshalton Village (re-instituted in 2016 after not being possible in 2015 due to not having time to take new council regulations into account.) Because of safety concerns and the withdrawal of police supervision that had been provided in previous years, we no longer process along the High Street and so now the walk weaves through The Grove Park en route to the Memorial Gardens. Leaflets were distributed to onlookers with details of Easter services at the different churches. COGS was involved in providing stewards for the walk plus the playing by Julia James of music at the service.

Other events during the year included a talk by RC Bishop Paul Hendricks on 'What the Catholic Church can learn from Luther'. This was at the Methodist Church on 24 October, and attended by about sixty people.

And, finally, I can report that a mission statement was adopted during the year – namely: "Growing together as Christians, through prayer, worship, exploring faith, responding to need, and witnessing to the good news of Jesus Christ."

David Locke

COFFEE AND CRAFT

We continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month with usually between 8 – 12 ladies. Just meeting to have a coffee and socialise is as important as our craftwork, and it has been lovely to have the occasional opportunity to pray with the ladies who come – and all are welcome. We have a communal knitting project – so if you haven't got any knitting on the go, you can come and knit a few rows of a scarf destined for a Samaritan's Purse Appeal shoebox. Some of the ladies are already thinking about what we can knit for the shoeboxes this year so we will continue to be busy.

Sue Shale

CONTACT THE ELDERLY – Afternoon teas

2017 proved to be another successful year for our Sunday afternoon tea parties. We are forming real friendships with our elderly guests who tell us they really look forward to the monthly teas – which some describe as outings – where they enjoy a splendid tea and good conversation. Towards the end of the year, five more volunteers from the Good Shepherd joined our team and are looking forward to being involved this coming year. We ended the year holding our December party in church and invited some of our senior Church family to join us for the Christmas Tea. The Brownies, once again, came along to sing carols and the guests joined in enthusiastically.

Linda Munt

CRECHE

The crèche is available on Sundays for any children under three years of age, and is held at the same time as Junior Church (so toddlers spend a short time in the main service before leaving for the crèche after the songs and notices). There is a variety of toys and books available for babies and toddlers alike, and we do try to give any visitors or new families a very warm welcome.

Numbers of children vary considerably depending on whether there are visitors, or a christening when numbers can sometimes increase dramatically. In terms of regulars, there are probably between 2 – 5 babies and toddlers that use the crèche.

As we are currently short of volunteers, there is now only a helper-run crèche on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month. This is held in the crèche room and parents are free to leave their children with the (DBS cleared) helpers if they so wish. On the 4th Sunday of each month (and 5th when there is one), toys are placed in the font area outside the back of the church and parents are welcome to sit there with their children and let them play. Hopefully parents can still hear, and feel part of, the service in this area. However, as there are no official helpers, parents must stay with their children on these Sundays.

If you are interested in helping, even just every now and then, please do let me know. It would be particularly helpful to have volunteers who don't have their own children in the crèche. We would love to have you on board!

At the end of 2017, Dawn Mockett stepped down from organising the crèche after a number of years so I would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to her for all her loyalty and hard work over that time (and her continuing support in offering to stay on the rota!).

Katie Cady

Deputy Wardens, Sides-persons and Welcomers

The front of house team, comprising of the deputy wardens, sides-persons and welcomers are present at all services to welcome everyone, especially those who are not familiar with The Good Shepherd. This ministry is very important as each and every interaction may influence a newcomer's decision to join our Church. We are also there to ensure all are safe, and to provide assistance if anything is needed.

Welcoming is a ministry for the whole Church and does not stop when people walk through the front door, but should continue after the service. So the whole congregation should identify newcomers, and other attendees who have perhaps been before but are still looking a bit lost, to befriend them and make them feel welcome by talking to them and inviting them for coffee. Some new members joined the team during the year, and we always welcome anyone who may wish to join us.

Frank Sole led the team assuredly for many years including throughout 2017, but that ended when he and Petula moved out of the area, both having recently retired. We were sad to see them go but wish them every happiness in their new home, and hope that they will come to see us from time to time.

Martin Thompson

ELECTORAL ROLL

What is the Electoral Roll? It is your parish church's register of electors. In the same way that being on the civic Electoral Roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections and referenda, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC. Being on the Electoral Roll does NOT make you a "member" of the Church – simply

regarding The Good Shepherd as your spiritual home does that. Indeed, a condition of joining the Roll is that you are already a “member” of a Church!

Do I have to join? You can of course be a full and active member of COGS without joining the Roll. Being on the Roll does not entail signing up to any additional commitments. However, it does help the Church show its strength.

The number on our Electoral Roll as at March 2017 was 153 – made up as 93 resident, and 60 non-resident in the parish. Representation on the governing bodies of the Church of England depends on the number on the Electoral Roll, so it would be good if we can increase the numbers!

Please check to make sure your name is on the Roll. If not, please get an application form from me.

Peter Bloxham – Electoral Roll Officer

FAIRS – Summer and Christmas

The Summer and Christmas fairs provided us with the opportunity both to reach out into our community and bring people into the church who would not normally come, and to raise amazing sums of money for a variety of extremely worthy causes including: The Children’s Society, Diamond Riding Centre, Homestart, Radio Marsden, Refugee and Migrant Network Sutton, Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, St Raphael’s Hospice, and Sutton Schools Christian Workers Trust (Sutton Schoolswork).

Thanks to the generosity and commitment of many church members, over 30 stalls were offered at each fair. There were tombolas to win teddies, chocolate, bottles and more; side-show games and other activities for children (and the young at heart); hot food, tea and cakes, burgers and sausages, Pimms and strawberries in the summer, and mulled wine and mince pies at Christmas; stalls of homemade cakes, preserves and handicrafts, second-hand books, toys and games, jewellery and bric-a-brac – the list goes on!

The hall was a hive of activity for children with a wide choice of crafts, biscuit decorating and face painting – at Christmas this was taken a stage further and offered for free as an example of what happens at our monthly Messy Church. In the summer, there was a bouncy castle on the car park and soft play in the garden. And at Christmas, children visited Santa in his grotto (having been

moved around a bit over recent years, he was back up in the organ gallery) and the grown-ups bid for a huge variety of lots in the ever-popular Auction of Promises. The church was also filled with music courtesy of the Good Shepherd Singers and Tiny Tots.

In total, we raised almost £12,000 for charity and welcomed just over 1,200 people into the church across the two events. Attendance was a little down in the summer but those who came gave generously and proceeds were not noticeably affected. The biggest challenge is to continue to offer so many stalls with a falling number of volunteers. If you don't already, please put yourself forward to run a stall for all or part of the fairs, and do let any member of the fair team have your ideas for updating and improving what we offer in 2018.

Lisa Webster

FLOWER TEAM

We have arranged flowers each week for Sunday worship as well as for the festivals at Easter, Harvest and Christmas – and made up posies for Mothering Sunday. The flower team also decorated the church for Kevin's Collation and Induction on 29 June 2017.

I would like to thank my team for all their dedication and support throughout the year; and to invite anyone who would like to join us to see me – you will be made most welcome.

Dani Payne

GOOD SHEPHERD RUNNERS

In Hebrews 12.1, it is written "let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us". The Good Shepherd Runners take that literally and have now completed over 1000 parkruns, which represents a distance of almost 4000 miles! Running for fun, faith or fitness – there are over 50 runners in total who have run or walked for the Good Shepherd Runners, including young people under-7 years old, and more experienced individuals in the 70-plus category! The Good Shepherd Runners really are for everyone whether you walk 5K in about 50 minutes or if you are a sub-18-minute runner.

We usually run at the local established 'parkrun' events, and every other month we also run with other church running clubs in friendly competitions affectionately known as 'mob matches'. These are a great opportunity to extend our ministry and to meet with other Christian runners. Our 'home' parkrun is Nonsuch and each week there are usually a number of us who are present wearing our distinctive royal blue Good Shepherd Runners T-shirts. The T-Shirts generally have a bible related message on the back, and these provide a highly visible church presence among the runners who are there each week, which is generally about 500 people.

We regularly provide volunteers for the Nonsuch parkrun organisation team, and are always looking to extend the Good Shepherd Runners outreach by entering other running events as well. Please come and join us.

Jason Hudson

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The climate in 2017 seemed conducive to the rapid growth of everything green: grass, bushes, trees – and not overlooking moss (masses of it!) We were kept busy with the routine of lawn mowing, hedge trimming, moss removal and sweeping up leaves. As well as that, we have an ongoing programme of selective bush thinning and height reduction around the buildings and curtilage (boundary fence) to maintain visibility.

Working in the grounds is a great way of getting fresh air and exercise – and if you would like to do so ... please just ask – we've got all the necessary tools.

Mark Taylor

HOME GROUPS

There are six home groups at COGS. They meet on a variety of days – some in the morning and some in the evening. Each home group has a different flavour catering for everybody from COGS's young adults – right up to those of our Church family who are grandparents, or even great-grandparents!

The home groups offer an ideal opportunity for us to grow in faith and learn more about God's love. They also create a strong feeling of fellowship among the members as we seek to follow the Christian way of life.

Please feel free to ask Kevin about joining a group at any time, especially if you are new to COGS – it's a great way to make friends!!

Tricia Sztypuljak – Home Group Co-ordinator

JUNIOR CHURCH

We are thrilled to have around 50 children on the roll, of whom a good number attend regularly. We have had to merge our explorers and climbers groups due to the number of explorers transitioning this year into Pathfinders. We usually have about 8-10 seekers (3 – 6-year-olds) and 10-15 climbers and explorers (7 – 11-year-olds) on an typical Sunday; and have successfully integrated three children this year up from the crèche into Junior Church.

As a church we have welcomed a new vicar this year and so Junior Church has taken time to involve and welcome him. We have taken the opportunity to spend time on topics related to change, welcoming Kevin and exploring what we want our church to offer and have at its heart in terms of values.

2017 has largely been a year of consistency given the changes around the wider church and we have not made significant changes to the structure of our weekly sessions. We started the year studying Matthew and the Life of Jesus which ran us from January through to Easter. The Summer term between Easter and August focused on Pentecost and the disciples spreading the messages of Christianity post Jesus' death. Our Autumn term running from September to December focused on the Lord's Prayer. Rather than subscribe to Scripture Union we have written our own resources. We have made a conscious effort to include more activities and games in our Junior Church as opposed to, or in addition to, arts and crafts. This has landed well, particularly with the boys in the group.

We have struggled this year with experienced volunteers dropping out of Junior Church. We have lost Anthony French to Pathfinders, and Mark Crompton to lead YOBS; and other helpers have decided that they would be better placed to come off the rota and focus on other roles within the church. We do not have a flow of other helpers coming onto the rota. The benefit to this is that it means that we have three core leaders for each group who cover each week so that the children have a close friendship with their leaders and know them well. Seekers is supported by Kate Huggins, Anna Garratt and

Sarah van Rensburg. Climbers/Explorers is supported by Anna Woodman, Lisa Webster and Karen Barker.

We do sometimes struggle when Junior Church falls during a half-term or school holiday as all of the above leaders have children in school and thus go away for holidays – so we would benefit from attracting some new helpers as additional support and cover.

Looking forward to 2018, we have started the year covering the 10 commandments which ran us through to the end of February, and we are now looking at the Easter story. We have agreed with Kevin that Junior Church will start earlier in the service and that we will depart after the first song – this is to enable us to have a longer session than currently.

Our objectives and ambitions for 2018 are: to welcome new children into Junior Church and successfully integrate them into their relevant group; to effectively manage five children moving up from seekers to climbers; and, splitting out Junior Church back into three separate groups. This will leave a very small Seekers, and therefore it is important we try and grow our body of 3 – 5-year-olds so we will look to attract children from Tiny Tots, where possible.

Kate Huggins

JustOne @ The Good Shepherd

On 8 July 2017 we took a coach load of people to Arsenal's Emirates Stadium driven by our own private coach driver, Mr Peter Bloxham! We went to see J.John who is undertaking a huge evangelical mission over the next few years, to reach out to those who do not yet know the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

Before the event, we were all encouraged to think and pray about a non-Christian friend, relative or neighbour we could take with us to hear J.John speak. During the event, many people gave their lives to Christ and we pray that, as a result, their lives will be changed forever.

Although COGS is not involved with the next venue, please pray for this ongoing mission and especially for Canon J.John and his team – as they gather on Saturday 9th June 2018 at Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham – that many may once again come to know the Lord Jesus as their own personal Saviour.

Tricia Sztypuljak

Ladies on a Friday (LOAF)

We are a friendly group of ladies who, as the name suggests, meet at the church every Friday morning. We are a varied group, all at different points in our faith journeys, who meet to develop our relationships with God and each other. Our meetings alternate fortnightly between formal faith-based study and discussion sessions (which include plenty of cake, coffee and tea); and, informal sessions when we focus more on praying together, sharing our lives, and generally putting the world to rights. We aim to grow in faith by studying the bible, chatting and praying, as well as developing friendships and supporting one another. Over the past few years we have continued to grow in numbers, and we are always keen to have new members.

Any questions, speak to me or just turn up at church on a Friday at 9.30am.

Helen Moore

LOAF support for RMNS (Refugee and Migrant Network Sutton)

LOAF invited Olwen Edwards to tell us more about the work RMNS does to help integrate newcomers from overseas into their local community. RMNS provides friendship, advice, counselling and English classes to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants newly settled in Sutton. It runs a weekly drop-in on Wednesdays during term time 10am to 12 noon at Trinity Church, Sutton. Many of the clients helped by RMNS now come back to help as volunteers.

LOAF, supported by the wider church family, put on an International Meal on 6 May in order to raise funds for an outing for RMNS families. The meal was attended by over 60 people. Guests put an amazing array of culinary treats on their plates: from enchiladas to curry, Middle Eastern mezze to salade niçoise. They also dug deep in their pockets and raised over £800 (after costs) for a trip to Tilgate Park, Crawley, which took place on 7 October. On the trip, Good Shepherd and RMNS families joined in with parachute games, walks round the lake, fun in the playground and a visit to the nature centre. Despite distinctly autumnal weather, a good day was had by all. The RMNS trustees were delighted by the effort made by Good Shepherd families to be friendly and talk to their clients. We hope to be able to support them further as time goes on, building on this great foundation.

Lisa Webster

Maintenance and Hall report

The hall and meeting room have been used for nearly forty activities such as children's parties and other community meetings, in addition to the regular users such as the Rainbows Montessori Pre-School, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, Slimming World, yoga and fitness classes.

During the year, in addition to routine activities such as changing faulty lamps, we have dealt with a split water pipe, a blocked sewer, a leak in the hall heating system, replacement of a faulty air handling unit fan, and a high level gutter collapse that required the services of a steeplejack. The church's architect carried out the mandatory Quinquennial building inspection in October identifying some further items that will need attention.

David Hill

MAN ALIVE – Men's Ministry at the Good Shepherd

The men's ministry, in its current form, has now (March 2018) been in existence for over a year. Our first 'proper' meeting, which took place on 1 February 2017, was attended by over 10 men. This was an encouraging start which seemed to justify the desire for a 'males only' gathering.

Meetings have been held every month since then – and these now fall on a specific evening of the week, a Tuesday, which seems to suit the majority. Our gatherings have provided opportunities for socialising and friendships to develop while growing our faith and discussing serious life issues – all in a safe, confidential and convivial 'male only' environment.

Our first series of regular meetings followed the Church Army 'Faith Pictures' study series (which is designed to help Christians talk naturally to friends, neighbours and colleagues about what they believe) – this proved to be a popular introductory series for those that were able to partake.

Rev Kevin's timely arrival at the church mid-2017 has proven to be a real blessing to the group and a particular encouragement and support to me – he has been a regular, and is keen to help develop this important ministry.

Hot on the heels of the 'Faith Pictures' series, it was decided to embark on Restored's 'First Man Standing' study series which contains thought-provoking and extremely challenging topics and explores themes of masculinity,

relationships; and raises awareness of, and explores how we can tackle, violence against women. Constant reference is made to the Bible in our sessions and has given rise to some lively and honest debate.

Over the year the ministry has also held a few pub-socials and one of the regular monthly sessions was run as a quiz-night!

Although to date the ministry has comprised purely men from within the church family, it has been a time for growing relationships and for consolidation of the group. We usually welcome about 10 men to our monthly meetings but it has varied between 4 and 14 over the course of the year.

We hope that in future we will be able to be more active in the local community. Our promise in the Christmas Auction of Promises was, perhaps unsurprisingly, to offer 'man-power' to someone in need in the community. As it turned out, this comprised a small team of us re-claiming a local garden which was in need of attention. The recipient appeared pleased with our efforts – maybe just being kind?

'Helping you to be the man God created you to be' remains our strap-line – we aim to encourage, to equip and to evangelise while having fun and meaningful relationships along the way!! Our hope is that the ministry will nurture Godly relationships while complementing and offering expansion to the life of our church and out-reach to the local community. We wish to share and spread God's love.

So, if you're a bloke and you've not yet been, then please do come along and start to share the journey with us! Or, if you are unable to join us, then please pray for us anyway as we see where God takes us!

Paul Moore

MEALS WITH A SMILE

Over the last year we have cooked meals for 3 families with new babies, for 2 people following illness or surgery; and we also welcomed Kevin, Fran and Kieran by cooking some meals for them. My thanks go to the team of ladies who volunteer to cook, often at very short notice, and I know that the meals are gratefully received.

Sue Shale

MESSY CHURCH

2017 has been a year of change, challenge and excitement for the Good Shepherd Messy Church. Helpers and attendees are now accustomed to the regularity of the second Saturday in the month meetings, and each of these Saturdays sees the hall full of people chatting, catching up with friends, crafting, eating, singing and enjoying themselves.

The first two terms looked at men and women from the Old and New Testaments, with a range of fun activities, talks and songs. In June we were sorry to say goodbye to the Simpsons – we presented them with a scrapbook of photos and messages from all those who attend Messy Church, as we thanked them for all they had done for us – and, of course, there was a cake! The last Messy Church of the term, in July, was also Kevin's first, and it was good to see Kevin, Fran and Kieran there.

Over the summer, we decided to change the format of Messy Church. It had remained the same since its inception in November 2013, and feedback from helpers and Messy Churchers themselves had given us several new ideas we were keen as a team to try out. So, from September, not without some trepidation and plenty of prayer from ourselves and the LOAF group, we changed the timetable of the afternoons, incorporating a games session, and altering the programme of events. The four winter sessions of the new regime, were, we felt, a success, and although each session required a number of 'tweaks' by the next meeting, we were pleased with the new-look afternoons – and, more importantly, feedback supported this view.

We have also been blessed in finding more people who are willing to help with this wonderful ministry. With Chris Simpson's departure, Paul, Helen and Julia all came forward to lead the worship sessions, and several of our regular helpers stepped forward to take Sarah Simpson's place in giving the talks at each session. Enormous thanks are also due to the wonderful Messy Church team who plan, prepare, cook, shop, welcome and tidy up month-in / month-out, before, during and after each session.

However, most encouraging this year has been the number of non-Sunday families who are becoming regular attendees at Messy Church. Messy Church was created specifically as a form of outreach to attract families who do not attend Sunday Church, so it is wonderful to see many of these families appear month after month, creating our own Saturday congregation. As we move

forward into 2018, nurturing these families as well as attracting new ones must be our primary aim, as we seek to ‘know Christ, and *make Him known.*’

Anna Woodman

PATHFINDERS

With a focus on developing / deepening faith and becoming young disciples of Christ, this energetic group is comprised mainly of 11- to 14-year-olds who meet each week during Sunday morning services. The sessions are facilitated by a variety of fun and interesting activities resourced from the Lumen section of the ‘Youth For Christ’ website. There is always a focus on bible readings and the sessions are often part of a series depending upon the term’s focus. We also hold a number of socials which have included going to Afters and the now traditional termly Pathfinders’ breakfast! Most recently (actually in February 2018) there was a residential weekend away to Shallowford Farm in Devon which was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

The current group has a fairly even balance of boys and girls, and they are always brimming with insightful questions and comments in relation to the bible. They are also lively and engage really well with the activities which are often quite energetic and lots of fun. They are a genuine pleasure to teach.

We are also fortunate to have a small, but dedicated, team who have been teaching Pathfinders for quite a number of years now.

Jason Hudson

PCC and Standing Committee during 2017/18

Please note that church family members may have the minutes of PCC meetings sent to them upon request to the PCC Secretary, Martin Thompson – email: martin.thompson@virgin.net

Most of the reports in this church activities booklet are for the 2017 calendar year to align with the ‘Report and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017’, but this Parochial Church Council report covers the 2017/18-year of the PCC between the annual meetings – ie the APCMs held on 2 April 2017 and 18 March 2018. (APCM = Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

Kevin, who was inducted as COGS's new vicar on 29 June 2017, attended his first PCC on 18 July – that being the third meeting of the 2017/18 Council. So the PCC's initial two meetings were during the close of COGS's second interregnum in four years. During an interregnum, the person elected by the PCC members as the PCC Vice-Chair acts as the chair of the PCC – and Paul Wickham was landed with that role, as indeed he had been for the first interregnum. Paul's accomplished steering of the Council through a second and even more challenging and exhausting interregnum drew justified praise, and was greatly appreciated by the PCC.

With the arrival of the new vicar, the membership of the 2017/18 PCC numbered 18 – comprising of:

- the vicar, the two churchwardens, and the three lay members of the Deanery Synod – all as ex-officio members;
- the 11 specifically elected Representatives; and,
- one co-opted member, namely The Reverend Peter Turrell.

(Technically, there were three further seats that could have been filled on the PCC because of the size of COGS's Electoral Roll, but it was decided that the membership as it stood was adequately representative of the church family, and so no attempt was made to recruit others willing to serve.)

The 2016 APCM had seen COGS's first contested election for PCC representatives since 1994. But, while fewer candidates put themselves forward at the 2017 APCM than vacancies for representatives so that another contested election was avoided, there had to be a secret ballot to fill the two churchwarden positions for the first time, it was thought, since 1986 – Helen and Sue were declared as elected, with prayers for the three candidates led by the then vicar-in-training, Sarah Simpson.

The PCC has to establish a Standing Committee of at least five members from amongst its number – essentially the office holders – with their power being confined “to transact the business of the PCC between the meetings thereof subject to any directions given by the PCC”. However, it transpired that the SC did not have to be convened during 2017/18 as the few immediate, albeit relatively minor, matters that arose between PCC meetings and thus requiring SC decisions could be dealt with in email exchanges.

The PCC met seven times during 2017/18 with never fewer than 13 members in attendance – the average turnout was 15.

The main responsibility of a PCC in an interregnum is to support the Churchwardens as they maintain the operation of the church, and move through the steps involved in the appointment of a new incumbent. That was how the Council functioned for its first two months until Kevin arrived – noting that, throughout, the PCC was anticipating his impending arrival as he had accepted the appointment a few weeks before the start of the 2017/18 PCC. Thus there were two initial meetings at which the PCC tried to avoid making major decisions so as not to pre-empt the new incumbent's thinking – such as regarding the church refurbishment project. However, a few unavoidable matters did have to be dealt with before Kevin's arrival – including:

- With regard to SAFEGUARDING, it was necessary to address concerns about the safety of children playing in the church hall which put in doubt the acceptability of continuing to facilitate after-church play for children.
- The requirement of the Diocese for COGS no later than May's PCC meeting to make its Parish Support Fund pledge for 2018 led to the PCC agreeing to increase our contribution roughly in line with inflation from 2017's £97,500 to £100,000 for 2018.

When Kevin did arrive, he made an immediate impression on the PCC! Agendas were re-structured to focus the PCC on “Big Picture” strategy and, amongst other innovations, occasional breakout sessions were introduced for intense discussions in small groups. We were even ordered to have a go at the Parachute Game following Kevin's discovery of the necessary kit in a junior church cupboard – apparently we weren't very good at it!

Kevin asked us at his first meeting: “What were we here for?” He proceeded to say that he saw the Council as a body of people to “organise and administer”. He also believed that our roles on the PCC were different to the roles we played in any outside-church spheres of activity because God was using us as PCC members to steer COGS.

In that frame of mind, we then established what we thought COGS should concentrate on over the next five years – in the order raised rather than applying any prioritisation, the issues identified were:

- COGS refurbishment project

- MAP – Mission Action Plan (Being the People of God wherever we are)
- Youth – children and young people – including the Youth Worker question
- Pastoral care – including awareness of mental health issues
- Inclusion / Relationships
- Home Groups – their development, and encouragement of participation
- Making COGS relevant to the wider community – an Open Church
- Working with other churches
- Men’s ministry
- Prioritisation of activities – so perhaps doing fewer things better
- Prayer

The PCC sent delegates to the Diocese’s “Serve, Enable, Lead: Resourcing Discipleship & Lay Leadership” conference in Redhill on 10 June. A speaker’s telling contribution referred to the declining attendance figures in the Church of England such that, if the recent trend continued, in 30 years there would be 50% fewer people attending church than there are today. He went on to quote Albert Einstein who said, “you can’t keep doing the same thing over and over again and expect different results”. He also said that in the past people believed, then behaved, then belonged and then were blessed; but that today it is reversed and people want to be blessed, then they belong, then behave and finally believe. So the challenge for all churches is to find different ways of reaching out to those who don’t yet know Jesus.

Reflecting similar analysis to the previous paragraph, Kevin prefaced a PCC discussion by stating that, nationally, there was a huge drop-off in young people returning to church giving rise to the prospect, in apocalyptic terms, of the church being a generation away from extinction. He then said that he wanted to set a strategy for Youth and Young Adults in COGS in the context of there being quite a large number of older teenagers that weren’t being catered for at all at the moment; and the much wider issues generally as he had already alluded to.

Kevin also launched at the strategic level a review (which was ongoing at the time of writing in March 2018) of charitable giving, starting with the question, Whom do we give to, and why?

Notwithstanding Kevin’s reinvigoration of PCCs, each meeting still addressed standing agenda items of Safeguarding, Finance, Care of our buildings, Deanery Synod, and Churches Together in Carshalton. The Council was also

briefed on the significant implications of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) which was going to come into force on 1 May 2018.

Regarding Care of Our Buildings, it was reported to the last meeting of the 2017/18 PCC (6 March 2018) that it was still hoped to be able to proceed in 2018 with the major church refurbishment project at an estimated cost of £350k - £400k (involving new lighting and audio visual installations, and fabric repairs including the redecoration of the church interior.)

Pretty well the final act of the 2017/18 PCC was to formally adopt the 'Report and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017' (ie COGS's 2017 annual accounts) – see below for the Treasurer's report. Chris Nutting who was in his twentieth year (albeit including a few years when he had taken a break) as Honorary Treasurer was warmly praised by the PCC for all the time he put into the role, his attention to detail, and for his patient and masterfully clear explanations of COGS's finances.

Martin Thompson – PCC Secretary

PRAYER MINISTRY – including “Collies Prayer”

Prayer Ministry at the 9.30 services was again offered as communicants left the communion rail – and mostly everyone partakes. Blessings are usually administered along with a short personal prayer if requested. Longer prayer times are available after the service if requested.

Also, as in recent previous years in the exam season, there was an exam prayer team drawn together by Anthony French which prayed for those young ones who were away from home for the first few years at college / on apprenticeships – we call them Collies Prayer.

Cheryl Thompson

SAFEGUARDING of Children, Young People, and Vulnerable Adults

If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others please seek advice from your safeguarding officer or diocesan adviser. Contact details are on the Safeguarding Notice Board.

We have adopted and signed up to the Church of England Policy on safeguarding (House of Bishops 2017 ‘Promoting a Safer Church’) – a copy of which is displayed on the Safeguarding Notice Board (by the stairs to the organ loft). We have also adopted the House of Bishops and diocesan safeguarding policies and practice guidance documents listed on the C of E website:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding>

... all the while remaining responsive to our local parish requirements. These are largely enshrined in the Diocese of Southwark operating handbook ‘A Safe Church’ – a copy of which is kept in the church office. Therefore, for all activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults in the church (basically everything) there will be:

- Risk assessments which are reviewed at least annually by the leaders of the activities
- Leaders and helpers who are DBS checked and trained in safeguarding

There are currently (March 2018) 56 leaders and helpers on our DBS register. We recently (January 2018) had church training with 37 attendees, of which 29 were involved in children/youth work including 8 leaders, and others being those involved in such activities as music groups, serving, sides, prayer blessing, etc., with some overlap. This worked very well as discussion of local issues was fostered. Others have carried out online training. A huge amount of time is given voluntarily to these activities by leaders and helpers without whom these activities would not be able to operate. I commend these individuals to you and say ‘Thank you’.

My own personal thanks go to Judith Webster (who is standing down in 2018 as safeguarding officer) for all her moral and administrative support.

We all have a role to play in safeguarding: **“The Church is called to share the good news of God’s salvation through Jesus Christ. The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy. We must therefore take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has.”**

Cheryl Thompson – Parish Safeguarding Officer.

SHEPHERD SINGERS

The Shepherd Singers is an informal singing group, meeting on the third Monday of the month at 2pm in the Parish Lounge. Formed some five years ago, we have a core membership of around twenty to thirty singers, with some members coming from outside the Good Shepherd Church family.

There is no audition to join, and all are welcome, regardless of singing ability. Information regarding the Shepherd Singers, along with photos, may be found on the church website.

I take the singers through some simple warm-up exercises before we sing a selection of songs, often on a theme, ranging from traditional songs to numbers from musicals. The words are projected onto a screen in the Lounge via Powerpoint on the church computer, which is kindly set up for us and operated by Janet Hill. We end the session with tea and biscuits, and there is plenty of time for chat and fellowship.

Although I was unable to accompany the Shepherd Singers for the Summer Fair, I was very pleased that we had two singing slots at the Christmas Fair, where we were able to encourage fair attendees to join in by having the words for the songs displayed on the large screen.

I give thanks to God for all his blessings on the Shepherd Singers, especially for all the fun we have in coming together to make music.

Julia James

SOUL SURVIVOR 2017

This is a long established Christian Summer Camp for young adults headed by Mike Pilavachi and Andy Croft, with worship leads Beth Croft and Tom Smith. This year we went solo again (in previous years we have joined a larger group from other churches) at the request of the YOBS – with Anthony and I, assisted by Jill and Steve White, taking 8 young people to Stafford.

Soul Survivor put on two main sessions a day: 11am-1pm and 7-9pm with seminars and other activities such as cross country runs, UV Glow parties, Colour Chaos (good name) parties, silent discos, etc in the afternoon. The sessions majored on worship, talks, testimonies and prayer ministry.

Our little camp consisted of a girls' tent, a boys' tent and a leaders' caravan albeit with some delegates off-site in a cottage. It was a relaxed, blessed time with opportunities to forge relationships, discuss, debate, pray and play games. It is a privilege and an honour to spend such time with the young adults of our church who are so open, enthusiastic and dynamic.

Cheryl and Anthony Thompson

STREET PASTORS

Street Pastors in Sutton go out on the streets on Fridays and Saturdays – there are afternoon SPs and late-night SPs (the night time shift is usually 10pm to 3/3.30am!)

We are there caring, listening and helping, and showing God's love to those in need for all sorts of reasons. We are well represented at The Good Shepherd with SPs. Nick Boddy is the longest serving SP, then Miranda French, Tony Szt, Miriam Munt and Hannah Flowers – and not forgetting Fran Lewis who has come on board as our administrator, and writes up all the reports.

We help people who are homeless or have lost their friends, have had too much to drink, need flip flops when their feet are hurting, or very often they just want someone to listen to their problems. It is extremely rewarding and we all love volunteering for this wonderful ministry. Every time we are out we get incredibly positive feedback from so many people.

If you would like to come and observe a shift or find out more about being a street pastor, please speak to one of us.

Miranda French

SUTTON FOODBANK

Foodbanks are working to combat hidden hunger across the UK: 1-in-5 people in the UK live below the poverty line. Many struggle to put food on the table – thousands simply go without.

Sutton Foodbank has been working since 2009 to alleviate poverty and feed people in crisis in the London Borough of Sutton. They give boxes of nutritionally balanced food and support to people experiencing emotional or

financial crisis: last year they gave 2,147 three-day emergency food supplies to people in crisis.

COGS, and its congregation, help Sutton Foodbank in a number of ways. Several church members are regular volunteers, helping at the various stages of the support chain, and the YOBS helped with sorting food at the Big Yellow storage site. The congregation makes ongoing donations of food items, and a portion of the church's harvest giving of food is taken there. COGS also makes financial donations to Sutton Community Works, which facilitates Sutton Foodbank, from the proceeds of its various events.

Mark Crompton

TINY TOTS

Tiny Tots has continued to flourish this year. We meet each Wednesday during term time at 10.30am for an hour. We have a short service which includes songs, stories AND the ringing of the bell! This is followed by a cup of coffee (for the adults) and a time to play!!

We are really encouraged by the number of mums, dads, carers and grandparents who come along with their children to learn more about Jesus and to make new friends. Please feel free to come along and join us!

Tricia Sztypuljak – Tiny Tots Coordinator

Treasurer's report for the year ended 31 December 2017

General fund income for the year comprising stewardship, donations, legacies and collections amounted to £143,189 in 2017. This was £3,655 less than in 2016 despite a generous donation of £14,000 and a legacy of £2,000. Due in part to members of the congregation reaching retirement age and reducing their regular stewardship, the 2017 total raised from Stewardship was £10,544 less than in 2016. This trend is likely to continue over the next few years and the PCC has been made aware of this. The reduction in stewardship has a direct effect on the gift aid claimed which figure has thus also reduced in 2017.

Church hall and conference centre income for the year was £22,578 and £13,739 respectively. Church hall income increased by about £5,000, while conference centre income fell by a similar figure. Conference centre income is

dependent mainly on hirings by the local authority and NHS, both of which have cut back on training because of their own financial restraints.

General expenditure in 2017 (which is all church expenditure less than relating to charitable giving, the church hall, and the conference centre) totalled £159,501 – some £3,000 less than in 2016.

The net income from the two annual fairs, the Harvest Offering, and special collections enabled a record £39,503 to be paid in 2017 to 44 charities at home and abroad.

In August 2015, the church's architects estimated that £330,000 plus VAT would be required to carry out all the much needed renewals and redecoration to our building. Thirty months on, it is likely that those estimated costs will have increased, but at least there was £195,836 in the maintenance fund at the end of 2017 to put towards the work.

Chris Nutting – Honorary Treasurer

WEBSITE | www.goodshepherdcarshalton.org | Tweets by @GSChurchSM5

COGS has, for a number of years now, had a splendid website courtesy of Tricia Sztypuljak's son, David – though it has been Tricia who does the arduous labour of love (hopefully) work of collecting and organising contributions. But, with Tricia needing to wind down some of her COGS activities, Anthony French started in 2017 to familiarise himself with website running so as to be another person to turn to in the future about anything to do with the website.

Even so, for the time being, still send anything for uploading on the website – such as event details – to:

tricia.szt@gmail.com

So you can go to the website for the COGS calendar, podcasts of sermons, and loads of other information.

And we Tweet!

Martin Thompson (on behalf of Tricia and Anthony)

WEDNESDAY CLUB ...

... met in the Parish Lounge on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except August when we had an outing), usually at 8pm. All (ladies and gentlemen!) are welcome, and our regular attendance was around 20 during the year.

We had two Communion Services (September and Lent) and members continue to be involved in the Summer and Christmas Fairs (including supplying and running the jam stall.) Last year's programme included talks on: the Air Ambulance, ShelterBox (*"ShelterBox is made up of people who believe in shelter as a human right – such as for the Rohingya families fleeing Myanmar"*), the history of English personal insolvency, and Beddington Park.

Our July meeting was particularly well attended for a talk on birds of prey with 6 birds of prey and a kookaburra present. We also had a gardening quiz-night, a fish and chips supper with a film show, a games evening, and a New Year Party with a TV theme. In August we had an outing to another garden under the NGS (National Garden Scheme). **You don't have to be a member to come to our meetings, so we do hope you will join in the fun in 2018.**

Diane Turrell

Women's World Day of Prayer

With Churches Together in Carshalton not having been re-established by the time planning for the 2017 Women's World Day of Prayer started, it was agreed that any churches in the area who wanted to be involved could join with the Wallington group – which COGS did. There were three local committee meetings plus a National Preparation Day in London in the run-up to the day itself, 8 March.

For 2018, the interdenominational service was prepared by the Christian Women of Surinam, and our local services were held at St Elphage's and Ruskin Road Methodists. The services, held worldwide over 24 hours, are open to everyone and help to raise monies for projects run by Christian charities around the world.

For more information, or if anyone is interested in getting involved for COGS, then please contact me.

Diane Turrell

WORSHIP MUSIC

God has a unique way of doing things, and never fails to provide.

With so many of the gifted musicians that have provided worship music at the Good Shepherd in the previous year or so no longer available for a variety of reasons, 2017 was a period of transition and enforced change (one might almost call it ‘musical chairs’!).

Thankfully Julia James has continued to provide amazing clavinova and organ music to help us sing our praises to God. In order to provide some relief from the increased number of services that Julia was covering I was encouraged (cajoled) to venture away from singing with Julia to form and lead a new worship group. This has developed (hopefully in a positive way) over the year and a number of talented musicians and able singers have similarly come forward or been encouraged to share their gifts. Musicians that have stepped up not only include the natural talents of AJ Pararajasingam and Nigel Munt, but also, more recently, the Rev Kev Lewis – our multi-talented ‘drummer-boy’ incumbent. With many gracing us with their singing, I think honorary mentions must go to both Helen Moore and Jenny Crompton who have continued to bless us with their vocals and harmonising!

With this new influx of talent we seek to honour God by providing a variety of musical styles (from traditional to the modern).

Although we all have our preferred styles of musical worship, and that is fine and normal, sometimes it is timely to remind ourselves that whatever, and whoever, is playing or singing (it may even be a CD nowadays!) our musical offering is for God alone and our time to praise Him for His love, His grace and all that He is. Our aim as worship music providers is strangely to be invisible – to allow all to develop a deep connection with God through music.

Although there have been many services over the year, I think a special mention has to be made of the wonderful Christmas Choir which was formed purely to sing at a couple of December services – and thanks go to Nick Cady for organising and encouraging this. I am sure everyone is looking forward to the re-union performances!!

I would like to thank everybody involved in providing ‘live’ music in its various forms to allow us all to glorify God using the gifts that he has given us. As I have fast discovered, selecting songs and appropriate music comes with

practice and a good deal of commitment – we should all be thankful to be blessed by those that provide.

Last, but certainly not least, I would also like to give particular thanks to our wonderful AV team who do such a great and, let's be honest, often thankless job, ensuring that the sound and vision stuff works on the day!

Paul Moore

YOBS – Youth Oriented Bible Study (Age 14-18)

Club nights in 2017 (Sunday Evenings: 5.30-7.30pm) included a time of games and activities – usually a talk or bible study followed by a meal together. This year we had more bible studies on Ephesians, and we also began to explore pertinent issues for teenagers such as Anxiety. Guest speakers included Sutton Schools Christian Worker Cat Hubbard, and the new vicar, Kevin.

Outings and events included an annual trip to Soul Survivor Summer Camp (involving 6 YOBS plus a sister and a friend), helping at Sutton Foodbank, a trip to Nandos with Pathfinders and an outreach visit to Afters, Parish Visiting, a car wash fundraising evening, and culminating in an amazing Murder Mystery Night.

YOBS finally came to an end in June, when Anthony and I stood down as leaders. Led by Kevin, the church prayerfully reviewed the future for this group during November. He then said that he wanted to set a strategy for Youth and Young Adults in COGS in the context of there being quite a large number of older teenagers that weren't being catered for at all at the moment

In the meantime, our young people continue to join us on a Sunday morning and are on rota for duties for the Sound Booth, Junior Church and the Worship groups.

Cheryl and Anthony Thompson

CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR 2017

As produced for the annual meeting on 18 March 2018

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Website email: tricia.szt@gmail.com

Tweets: [@GSChurchSM5](https://twitter.com/GSChurchSM5)

Patron: The Bishop of Southwark

Vicar: Reverend Kevin Lewis

Day off: Mondays

Telephone: 020 8669 8956

Email: kevinlewis@btinternet.com

Church Administrator: Tola Oluwa-Dahunsi

Working days: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 09.30 – 12.30

Telephone: 020 8643 0411

Email: officegoodshepherd@btinternet.com

Associate Vicar: Reverend Peter Turrell

2017/18 Office holders

Churchwardens: Helen Moore and Susan Shale

Assistant Warden: Janet Hill

PCC Vice-Chair: Paul Wickham

Hon Secretary: Martin Thompson

Hon Treasurer: Christopher Nutting

Sutton Deanery Synod representatives:

Janet Hill, David Locke and Martin Thompson