

The Church of the Good Shepherd (COGS)  
Carshalton Beeches



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**CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT  
FOR 2018**

*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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## EVENTS 2018

- January 3** First weekly **Tiny Tots** of the year – see page 20
- 5 First weekly **Ladies on a Friday (LOAF)** of the year – 10
- 11 First monthly **Coffee and Craft** of the year – 6
- 13 First monthly **Messy Church** of the year – 12
- 14 First monthly **Contact the Elderly Tea** of the year – 6
- 15 First monthly **Shepherd Singers** of the year – 16
- 16 First monthly **Man Alive** of the year – 11
- 18-25 Week of **Prayer for Christian Unity** – 5 (Churches Together in..)
- 20 First **Good Shepherd Runners** of the year – 8
- 24 First monthly **Wednesday Club** of the year – 22
- 25 First weekly evening of **ALPHA** – 3
- February 18** Treasurer's **TRIO** presentation (The Responsibility Is Ours)
- 18 First weekly evening **Lent course** (Whole Life Worship) – 2
- March 17** **Big Lent Breakfast** – 5
- 18 **Annual Meetings (APCM)** – 14
- 30 **Good Friday Family Service**
- 30 **Good Friday Walk of Witness** – 5 (Churches Together in ..)
- April 19** **Ladies Curry Night** – 10
- May 10** First evening of **Thy Kingdom Come** – 9
- 14-19 **Christian Aid Week** – 5
- June 23** **Midsummer Fair** – 7 and 20
- July 15** **COGS Summer BBQ**
- 28-4 Aug **New Wine week** – 13
- October 7** **Harvest Appeal / Harvest Lunch** – 5 and 20
- November 4** **All Saints' Memorial Service** for the lives of loved ones
- 4 First ever monthly **Holy Roast** – 2
- 6 PCC agrees contract award for £400k refurbishment – 2 and 15
- 11 **Armistice Centenary**: Bell rung for 11 mins in the national ...
- December 1** **Christmas Fair** – 7 and 20 ... commemoration
- 9 **Contact the Elderly Christmas Tea** – 6
- 9 **Sutton Community Works Prayers** for those in authority
- 23 **Carols by Candlelight** – 24
- 24 **Children's Nativity Service | Midnight Communion**



## Vicar's introduction

It is a privilege to serve this community across my many and varied roles of: pastor, teacher, leader, priest, and running coach. So I want to begin by thanking you for YOUR presence, commitment, and support. These pages are testimony to so many who serve, some doing things you love to do, and feel called to do; some doing things because somebody has to; but all doing them faithfully.

A key part of my role is to support you in your life as a follower of Jesus, and us as we live it out as a church community. Some of that involves reminding us – including me – that our identity is not to be found in what we do, how much we do, or how well we do it, but our identity is in who we are in Jesus: **adopted children of God, forgiven, free and full of hope**. And it is that that inspires our doing. So, thank you for what you are able to do; but thank you more for who you are, and for who you will be.

At the PCC Away Day we asked ourselves “what would the PCC be thanking us for in 30 years’ time?” How can we show courage and vision in our faithful stewardship, strategic planning, and prophetic thinking? What risks do we need to take, what do we need courage to do, or not do? To be, or not to be?



As we have thought and prayed about these things this year, our work with the young people has grown, as have our community outreach and our Small Groups. We have an extensive refurbishment on the go, are restructuring our church administration, have faced the disruption and opportunity of worshiping in the Lower Hall, and we are getting ready to welcome a new Curate to the team. This (and more) is no coincidence.

**At the centre of all this is Jesus.** Without him and his life-giving Spirit, it is all worthless. As Paul says in Galatians 3, we consider all things worthless compared with knowing Christ Jesus as Lord, for whose sake we are prepared to lose everything. May we be people who know Christ and the power of his resurrection, who are filled with the Holy Spirit, and who are looking hopefully together towards the future.

Reverend Kevin Lewis

## CHURCHWARDENS

This booklet for the 2019 APCM (annual meeting) is a review of COGS's activities in 2018, and we are grateful to those who

have contributed entries that so vividly describe the range and vibrancy of our church life – and we thank every member of the church family for all your hard work that was crucial to making everything happen. But, as your churchwardens, our report here celebrates the excellent start we have had to 2019, and how that bodes well for another fulfilling year ahead.

Last year we ended our report by saying “we look forward to seeing what God has in store for the Good Shepherd under Kevin’s leadership”. We are excited that we do seem to be moving into a period of change and new beginnings at our church.

With the long-awaited ‘**Essential Repairs and Refurbishment Project**’ starting in January and due for completion this coming summer, many people have told us that they are enjoying the more intimate atmosphere of the Sunday services which are temporarily and necessarily being held in the Lower Hall. Having had to wait for so long to get the project works started we now feel that this has been a blessing in disguise as we move forward with God’s plan for our church.

Over the year a number of new initiatives have started which are helping us to get to know each other better while also reaching out to the local community. We must give particular mentions to, and thanks for, the **Holy Roast** (first on 4 November 2018) and the started-in-2019 **Community Cuppa / Suppa** events, so ably conceived and organised by Paul Flowers and Lisa Webster respectively (delivered together with their respective support teams) which are proving both popular and successful. Both are wonderful expressions of God’s love in action!

Through Kevin’s teaching, the **Lent course (Whole Life Worship)** and Thy Kingdom Come (Nine Days: Journey through Matthew 6) we have been encouraged to think how we can deepen our faith and be the people of God wherever we are every day of the week.

It was a delight to see seven of our young people confirmed on 17 February 2019 (with another pair due to follow later in the year) and we hope and pray that they will continue to meet together and be strengthened both as a group and in their personal journeys of faith. And it must be said that it is not often that we get the opportunity to welcome two bishops to our church!

Sue Shale and Helen Moore – *Churchwardens*



## Sutton Deanery Synod report

COGS is one of the 20 churches brought together in the Sutton Deanery Synod which held three meetings in 2018/19:

- In June our Archdeacon, Chris Skilton, stressed that reaching out to our communities means **coming out of our churches to proclaim the Gospel afresh for every generation**. While not necessary to abandon our heritage, he said The Church needs to return to its pioneering roots in order to reach the 98% who are not active members.
- In October the Diocesan Web Manager described how social media was being used, including that pages on the diocesan website carry the diocesan Vision:

### **Walking | Welcoming | Growing**

- The February meeting returned to the strategic imperative that the **church needs to become more mission focused in order to survive**; with this seen in the context of the Bishop's aspiration for each deanery to have a **Fresh Expression of Church** (such as a Messy Church), or a church plant, over the next five years; and that the deaneries should work more effectively.

Janet Hill, David Locke and Martin Thompson  
*COGS's Deanery Synod representatives*

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*The other reports follow in alphabetical order:*

## **ALPHA**

We held a very encouraging Alpha course in collaboration with Springfield Church starting in early 2018. The leaders held a pre-Alpha training session and met each week to pray for the guests. We welcomed over 40 guests between the two churches, with some familiar and new faces. Everyone learnt something and grew in faith and understanding as a result. We had lively discussions and challenging questions throughout; and many people have gone on to join Small Groups to continue discovery.

Our thanks to everyone who was involved from cooking, serving coffee, tech support, praying, meeting and greeting, and the wonderful Good Shepherd hospitality.

Katrina Whittaker



## The Bishop's Certificate 2018/19

### The Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship

Two members of our church family, Sue Shale and Paul Moore, decided to enrol on this Diocese of Southwark course. The weekly 2-hour-sessions take the best part of a year to complete, and the aim is to develop and deepen our understanding of Christianity. As a bonus, we have met some inspiring people, and made some great friends, along the way!

The course has six modules:

- ✚ **Following** – *Jesus through the New Testament*
- ✚ **Remembering** – *the people of God and the Old Testament*
- ✚ **Exploring** – *our identity and the Church*
- ✚ **Believing** – *the teachings of the Church: questions of faith and doctrine*
- ✚ **Challenging** – *the world and ourselves: ethics and mission in the modern world*
- ✚ **Responding** – *in the power of the spirit: in prayer, worship and understanding our vocation*



We have been given thought provoking theological assignments for each module which has involved heaps of reading, research, study and brain-power! It's tough, but extremely rewarding. We will conclude the course at a residential weekend in June 2019 and, if we pass, be recognised with a certificate from the Bishop (yes – the course does what it says on the tin!)

I am thoroughly enjoying the experience with the seminars and discussions; and all the assignments being really informative, helpful and challenging. I strongly recommend the course to others should there be another opportunity!



Paul Moore

## CHARITY APPEALS

Once again, the congregation of the Good Shepherd has been very generous with both their time and resource for worthy causes. Our charitable giving in 2018 amounted to £24,719 to be paid to 32 charities at home and abroad.



Our **Big Lent Breakfast** and Lent Lunches raised £3,445 for the Bishop's Lent Appeal which supported a number of projects: education in Zimbabwe; health provision in the Holy lands; and some great missions in Southwark to assist vulnerable people locally. Thank you to all who hosted and / or attended our many lovely meals, thereby supporting these great causes.

Thank you as well to all those who supported **Christian Aid Week** in May, which saw many of us walking the local streets on our way to collecting over £2,600.

The **Harvest Appeal** was very successful again this year which meant that, through Tithing, we were able to give £4,315 to Kevin's former church, Bishop Andrewes' in the parish of St Helier, to enable them to improve their sadly dilapidated toilets.

Karen Barker

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CARSHALTON**

2018 was a busy and active year for our seven member-Churches with the growing involvement of clergy and laity in the development of local ecumenism.

CTiC made the arrangements for **The Good Friday Walk of Witness** and service which, despite very wet weather throughout, still achieved a good show of support.

Forum events: During 2018, CTiC supported the Lent House Groups which gained increased participation with 78 people signed up to attend seven groups; and, Forum members ran a stall at the Sutton Environmental Fair in August which raised awareness of Churches Together locally, witnessed to the Gospel, and was a fine example of co-working.

The **Unity Service for the Week of Prayer** is always well supported by our member churches and, in addition, a service to mark the end of Pentecost held at the Church of the Good Shepherd was appreciated by those who attended.

A Documentary shown in November on the life of Frank Buchman "The Man who built Peace" highlighted his influence in enabling nations to reach out and forgive each other.

COGS's Lay representatives on CTiC are Martin Thompson and myself.

David Locke



## **COFFEE AND CRAFT**

We continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month to enjoy a drink and socialise as we do our craftwork. 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 Christmas shoebox.

Sue Shale

## **CONTACT THE ELDERLY – Afternoon teas**

Our monthly afternoon teas were again enjoyed by our elderly guests during 2018. We ended the year holding our Christmas tea party in Church enabling us to invite some of our senior church family to join us. Everyone had a lovely time and also enjoyed singing carols with the Brownies leading.

Linda Munt

## **CRÈCHE**

**See report under new title for 2018 of *Sunday Tots***

## **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 elections etc, joining the church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the APCM (annual meeting) and stand for election to the PCC. Being on the Roll does NOT of itself make you a “member” of the Church – simply regarding COGS 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. Please be assured though that being on the Roll does not entail signing up to any additional commitments, whereas it does help our Church show its strength.

**The number on our Electoral Roll as at March 2018 was 153: made up as 88 resident, and 65 non-resident in the parish.**



The number of persons on the Roll is used in the calculation of the number of representatives who may be elected to our PCC; and, the number of representatives COGS can have on our Deanery Synod in the following year – thus it would be good if we could increase our numbers, so check to make sure your name is on the Roll and, 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 for outreach and fundraising. Our invitations are delivered to almost every household in the parish, and this year we extended our offering of free Messy Church-style activities with free Christmas Special tickets for the local primary schools to make available to their families in financial need.

In total, we raised around £12,000 for very worthy causes including: Sutton Schoolswork, Diamond Riding Centre, Homestart, Refugee and Migrant Network Sutton, Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, and St Raphael's Hospice – and we welcomed about 1,200 people into the church across the two events.

Lisa Webster and Chris Nutting

### **FLOWER TEAM**

The team has arranged flowers in church for the main festivals as well as for regular Sunday worship. We also made up posies for Mothering Sunday; and are happy to arrange flowers for other special occasions. Sadly, two of us stepped down in 2018 and I thank them for their creativity and support over many years which, of course, I thank all the continuing members of the team for too.

Dani Payne

### **GOOD SHEPHERD RUNNERS**

In Isaiah 40.31, it is written "they will run and not grow weary". The Good Shepherd Runners take that literally, and have now completed almost 1250 parkruns which represents a distance of almost 4000 miles!



Running for fun, faith or fitness: there are almost 60 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 (and we have a few of these!)

We usually run at the local established 'parkrun' events, and we also run with other church running clubs in friendly competitions affectionately known as 'mob matches'. These are great opportunities to extend our ministry and meet with other Christian runners. This year we even won one of the mob matches!

Our 'home' parkrun is Nonsuch and, each week, there is usually a good number of Good Shepherd Runners 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 600 people.

Further to this, we had a very successful a **Couch to 5K programme** which enabled people, who had never run before, to be able to run a whole 5K parkrun and actually enjoy it!

Jason Hudson

## **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

2018, inevitably, again kept us busy with the routine lawn mowing, hedge trimming, weeding, litter picking, moss removal and sweeping up leaves – so it was most welcome that our small team was boosted by two enthusiastic new volunteers. Albeit that the PCC agreed to having a professional tree surgeon cut back trees and most of the large shrubs around the curtilage, together with the removal of a tree that was in a poor state of health. Working in the grounds is a great way of getting fresh air and exercise: so, if you would like to volunteer ... please just ask – we've got all the necessary tools.

Mark Taylor

## **HOME GROUPS**

See report under new title for 2018 of ***SMALL GROUPS***



## JUNIOR CHURCH

We have around 40 children on the roll, of whom a good number attend regularly albeit we had to merge two of our three groups due to low numbers coming up to Junior Church from Sunday Tots. We usually have 8-10 Climbers (3 > 7-year-olds) and 8-10 Explorers (7 > 11-year-olds) on a typical Sunday.

2018 was essentially a year of consistency given the changes around the wider church, and we did not make significant adjustments to the structure of our weekly sessions. We reverted to studying Scripture Union material and 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 landed well, particularly with the boys in the groups.

Looking forward to 2019, we have a challenge to address in how we split the children in age groups from September as we will have very few in the junior group. However, we have a stable group of confident leaders, and we work well together to work through all issues.

Kate Huggins

**NiNE DaYS**  
 journey through Matthew 6  
 The Church of the Good Shepherd will be  
 open for prayer and reflection  
 for four hours each day:  
 10.05.18 - 19.05.18  
 see website for times  
 secret place

## Thy Kingdom Come 2018 – Nine Days – Journey through Matthew 6

May 2018 saw the celebration of **Thy Kingdom Come**, a Call to Prayer from the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Good Shepherd opened our doors for **NiNE DaYS** as a way of setting time aside to pray. A small team of folk sought to create a **'Secret Place'** to enable people to engage with God through prayer in ordinary and creative ways. Using liturgy, a labyrinth, creative prayer and being available: we encouraged those who came to encounter God in fresh ways.



It was a delight to see people gently open themselves up to the Father's Love as we looked at the words painted in Matthew's gospel. Some were surprised by how deeply God met them. One person found they were able to move on from something that has held them back for decades.

God is our refuge and our strength; and we look forward to seeing what he does as we enter the 'Secret Place again in May / June when our theme in 2019 will be 'Work in Progress'.

Fran Lewis

## LADIES ON A FRIDAY (LOAF)

We are an informal, friendly group of ladies who meet at the church every Friday morning. We are all at different points in our faith journeys, and meet to develop our relationships both with God and one another. Our meetings alternate between faith-based study sessions and more informal mornings which focus on prayer, reflection and chat – sharing our lives and generally putting the world to rights. Somehow our sessions always tend to include cake, biscuits and refreshments! We aim to grow in faith by studying the bible, developing friendships, and supporting each other.



In 2018 and the early months of 2019, our more structured sessions were themed to study 'The Fruit of the Spirit' (Galatians 5:22-23), 'The Armour of God' (Ephesians 6:11-12), and 'God's Rescue Plan' (Finding God's fingerprints on human history).

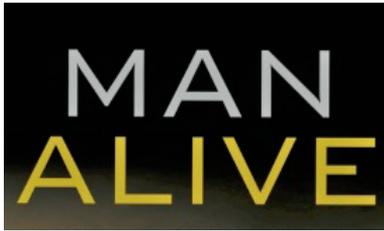
We usually get going with refreshments and chat until 10-ish, and then the study-time ends around 11.15.

Our informal gatherings are just that, from around 9.30 to 11am; and friendship, faith and food can (usually!) be guaranteed.

In addition to our weekly meetings, we have held two very successful and well attended **ladies meals** during the year (we like talking, eating and drinking – after all, we must nourish our minds!). In the same vein, please do watch out for our planned 'pizza, prosecco and puddings' meal – all ladies welcome!

We are always keen to have new members so please do come along if you are able: see me ... or just turn up at church on a Friday at 9.30am.

Helen Moore



Our men's ministry, in its current form, has now been in existence for over 2 years. We have a core of around 10 regular attendees at our monthly gatherings, and have welcomed almost 30 men from church to our meetings at one time or another. We'd have to find another venue if they all turned up together!

Our meetings, which take place at church, generally fall on a Tuesday evening around the middle of each month. During 2018 and into 2019, our main sessions focused on themes including:

- 'First man standing' (a challenging study series by the charity Restored about: masculinity, relationships, and how to tackle the problem of violence against women)
- 'The Lord's Prayer' (reflections)
- 'Learning to hear God's voice' (a New Wine series whose title speaks for itself – pun intended!)
- 'The dark night of the shed' (discussing men, mid-life crises, spirituality – and, of course, sheds!)



We have also enjoyed a few informal gatherings including: a ten-pin bowling night; nights of hope (i.e. socials at the Hope pub in Carshalton!); a film night (we showed the film 'Courageous' on a big screen); and, a Christmas meal at a local restaurant.

Community outreach included showing England's World Cup football matches live at church. This proved to be a winner (sadly not for the team, but certainly for our church family and a few other locals!), being surprisingly popular probably because all-comers were welcomed with drinks and nibbles, coupled with the fact that England progressed further in the tournament than any Englishman could have anticipated!





Several of our group recently delivered our **Auction of Promises** promise (helping at the **Community Suppa** events in February half-term), and some of our more adventurous blokes attended The Forge, a weekend gathering at New Lodge Farm, Carshalton for Christian men in September.

Our sessions continue to provide opportunities to grow our faith, to discuss life issues, and to encourage friendships – all in a safe, confidential and convivial ‘male only’ environment.

‘**Helping you to be the man God created you to be**’ remains our strap-line. We aim to encourage, equip and evangelise while having fun and meaningful relationships at the same time! So, if you are a bloke and you’ve not yet managed to join us, then please do come along and share the journey with us! If you are unable to make it, then please just pray for us anyway as we see where God takes us next!

Do watch out for some family / community events that we have planned for later in 2019, including a post-Easter film night, and live showings of some of the Rugby World Cup (TBC – To Be Confirmed!)

Paul Moore

### **MEALS WITH A SMILE**

2018 was a quiet year and we were only called upon once to provide meals. Please let me know if there is someone you feel would benefit from receiving meals for a couple of weeks when, as an example, they are unwell.

Sue Shale

### **MESSY CHURCH**

2018 has been another good year for Messy Church, with an increasing number of families attending regularly to enjoy an afternoon of games, crafts, worship, and excellent food. Numbers vary between 40 and 70, with a good mix of church families and those who worship at other churches, or none.

During the spring term we enjoyed a trio of unrelated themes; this was followed by parables in the summer term, and Old Testament stories in the run up to Christmas.



The new format of Messy church, started in autumn 2017, seems to be working well – we start with a games period and the story for that particular session. Further ‘tweaks’ to the programme are to be discussed over Easter 2019 – particularly ways to include the pre- and young teen age group; and ways to cope with periodic surges in attendance which occur unpredictably!

Helper numbers are steady (though, ideally, we could do with expanding the team), and we are grateful for all the help we receive each month. As a ‘**Fresh Expression of church**’ (see Deanery Synod report on page 3) Messy Church seems to be fulfilling its role well – and we are looking forward to yet more numerous ‘congregations’ during 2019.

Anna Woodman

### **NEW WINE 2018**

Over twenty of us set off for Shepton Mallet last summer – many with trepidation as first timers, or at the thought of camping. Several people came and went for various reasons during the seven days but, to a person, the whole experience was well worth it.

We cooked and ate together, shared multiple drinks and conversations, walked miles, had warm showers (sometimes) went running, had water fights, made new friends, and met up with old ones too. Some people stayed in brick tents off-site (!), while others really did camp and braved the elements.

There was a smorgasbord of teaching and worship with each person going at a pace to suit them. Some went to lots of teaching while others chilled and chatted. The speakers were challenging, funny, knowledgeable, real and uplifting. Groups for children and young people were exciting and fun as well as informative and inspirational. There was healing and several light bulb moments for everyone as we found out more about ourselves and grew closer to God ...

... and so now onwards to 2019 at a new place, Peterborough – the East of England showground.

Cheryl Thompson



## **PCC and Standing Committee during 2018/19**

*This report is only a summary as church family members may have the minutes of PCC meetings sent to them upon request to: [martin.thompson@virgin.net](mailto:martin.thompson@virgin.net)*

The reports in this church activities booklet generally are for the 2018 calendar year to align with the 'Report and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2018', but this **Parochial Church Council** report covers the 2018/19-year of the PCC between the annual meetings – ie the APCMs held on 18 March 2018 and 31 March 2019. (APCM = Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

Membership of the 2018/19 PCC numbered 18: the vicar, the two churchwardens, and the three lay member representatives on the Deanery Synod – all as ex-officio members; and, 12 PCC representatives. No one was co-opted. Ten was the least attendance for the seven meetings in 2018/19, with the average being 13. The Standing Committee did not meet in 2018/19 as the few decisions it needed to take between PCC meetings were dealt with in email exchanges.

### 5 functions of a PCC:

- to enable the church to play its part in God's mission to His world
- to co-operate with the minister in sharing leadership
- to ensure legal compliance with charity law and ecclesiastical law, in particular in areas of safeguarding, finance, employment and appointments
- to care for the buildings (in the context of best suiting ministry and mission)
- to be a channel of consultation within the wider Church through its synodical structures on matters that affect the church locally and nationally

### 3 key values: **Faithful Stewards | Strategic Planners | Prophetic Thinkers**

In setting up '**The Sounding Board**' as a non-decision making (and thus not usurping the PCC) 'fluid membership' team drawn from across the church family with strapline: **thinking prayerfully | discussing honestly | planning creatively | listening effectively** – Kevin said its aim was to help him with strategic thinking and planning, including the future development of the Mission Action Plan; and that he envisaged the SB as the first of a number of 'task teams': All-age Worship | Social Events | Fund Raising | Finance | Youth & Children | Premises.

2018's PCC "Away-Day" was an opportunity for the new Council to: establish Vision, set Strategy, and Pray. Of particular note was that the PCC's vision for COGS's future (up to 30-year horizon) identified needs / hopes for:

**A Focus on Youth | Growing the Church | Further Community-outreach**



After careful consideration and consultation, and having gained support at the PCC's September meeting, Kevin reported to the November meeting that Bishop Jonathan had responded very positively to the proposal in principle to **admit to Holy Communion Baptised children before Confirmation**; and so formal institution was planned for January thus allowing time for Kevin to meet with parents and children for the purpose of preparation.

Standing agenda items addressed at each meeting were: Safeguarding issues; Church finance – which included agreeing to set the **Parish Support Fund pledge for 2019 at £102.5k** (having been £100k for 2018); Care of our buildings; and reports on Sutton Deanery Synod and Churches Together in Carshalton matters.

The June meeting voted unanimously to establish a new **Church Centre Manager (CCM) post**, meaning that the then current Church Administrator post filled by Tola Oluwa-Dahunsi would become redundant. Then, at the March meeting, it was announced that church family members Fran Lewis and Lisa Webster had been successful in their application for the CCM post on a job-share basis.

The planning stage of the **Essential Repair and Refurbishment Project** for the church was the other major matter taken through the 2018/19 PCC – culminating in the resolution at the November meeting for the contract (with a projected duration of 5 months and likely commencement in January 2019) to be awarded to Stone Edge Ltd. The Council was united in gratitude to **Paul Wickham** for his astute handling of all aspects of the project.

Martin Thompson – *PCC Secretary*

## **PATHFINDERS**

With a focus on developing faith and becoming young disciples of Christ, this energetic group is comprised 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. There is also the ever popular termly Pathfinders breakfast!



The current group 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. There has even been a number of pathfinders who have decided to become confirmed, which is great. We are also fortunate to have a dedicated leadership team, most of whom have been leading Pathfinders for many years.

Jason Hudson

### **PRAYER BLESSINGS**

One of the ways we encourage our church family is through the short prayer blessings we offer to individuals and groups straight after Holy Communion at the 9.30 Sunday services.

However, this does not allow much time to address some specific prayer needs. So, if you have something you want prayer for, **we want to encourage you to seek someone out to pray with you.** It could be a member of the prayer ministry team, someone in your home group, or anyone else you trust and feel comfortable with – and in church, or over coffee, or ... .

We all have a 'direct line' but sometimes it helps to talk. It may seem trivial or huge; it could be something which you are facing which is troubling you; or you may be looking for encouragement or guidance:

**"... there should be no division in the body, its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers every part suffers with it, if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it."** (1 Cor 12:25-26)

We want to be a church where we continually seek the Lord's grace and mercy in every situation, asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit – so please do ask for prayer.

It is a great blessing to be on this rota and, if you might be interested in coming aboard, then please speak to me.

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 – then you MUST seek advice from your Parish Safeguarding Officer or Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser ...***

***... their contact details are on the Notice Board***

Key points as we move through 2018 into 2019:

- We welcome **Isabel Goddard** who has come forward to join the team in April 2019 as DBS Administrator (Disclosure and Barring Service).
- New Diocesan policies and procedures – in line with National and Church of England standards – have been encapsulated in the new document ***A Safe Church, 2018*** which can be viewed on ...

<http://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-and-procedures>

... and a paper copy is kept in the church office. As well as the issues touched on below, the new document covers: Domestic Abuse; Health and Safety; Holidays and Residential trips; Transport; Church Hall Hire; and Signs of abuse. **Please read! ... as we all have a role to play in safeguarding.**

- We have recently adopted a new Safeguarding Policy which endorses Safer Recruitment. This means that as well as Risk Assessment, Training and DBS checks – volunteer leaders and helpers of Activities for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults must complete application forms and provide references. I have started this process and thank everyone for their co-operation as well as the endless hours they spend on activities for these valued individuals.

But, above all, remember that if you have **immediate** concerns about the safety of a child or adult, **then you MUST contact:**

**the Police on: 999 – and ...**

**... for a child – the LB of Sutton Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

**on: 020 8770 6001 – or: [mash@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:mash@sutton.gov.uk)**

**... for an adult – Sutton Council's Adults and Safeguarding Referral Point**

**on: 020 8770 5000 – or: [referralpoint@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:referralpoint@sutton.gov.uk)**

Cheryl Thompson – *Parish Safeguarding Officer*



## **SHEPHERD SINGERS**

The Shepherd Singers is an informal singing group, meeting on the third Monday of each month at 2pm in the Parish Lounge. All are welcome regardless of ability (**so no audition to join!**), and we usually have between thirty and forty singers, including many from outside the church family. After some simple warm-up exercises, we sing a selection of songs, often on a theme (such as traditional, or pop songs, or songs from musicals); and we finish with tea and biscuits, along with plenty of chat and fellowship.

Information regarding the Shepherd Singers, including photos, may be found on the church website.

I give thanks to God for all.

Julia James

## **SMALL GROUPS**

As well as being so blessed with our clergy team and our supportive loving church family, we also need fellowship in smaller, more intimate, confidential groups. Here we can investigate how to apply biblical truths; and we can grow together in a mutually nourished and protected way.

There are currently ten Good Shepherd Small Groups (formerly called Home Groups) meeting on various days of the week: some evening, some daytime, some weekly and some fortnightly, around the parish, catering for all ages – from 11 up to 91 and counting!

Please ask Kevin if you wish to join a group.

Cheryl Thompson

## **SUTTON STREET PASTORS ...**

Street Pastors are Christians who go out in uniform on the streets to listen to people and to help and care for them. It is an international movement overseen by Ascension Trust. In the UK there are over 6,000 SPs from an initial 18 in Brixton in 2003.



Street Pastors in Sutton started in December 2005. There are now about 50 SPs and, locally, our deployment is overseen by Sutton Community Works: 19 churches combined in a legal entity to initiate and sustain work by Christians. We go out on afternoons and nights (until 3.30am) on Fridays and Saturdays.

There are six SPs from COGS: Nick Boddy, Miranda French, Tony Sztypuljak, Miriam Munt, Hannah Flowers and Fran Lewis (who is the SP administrator). Do talk to us to find out more – is God is calling you to serve Him here .... ?

### **... SUTTON SCHOOL PASTORS**

School Pastors are Christians who go in uniform into schools to listen to young people. The work was developed by Ascension Trust from Street Pastors. Three School Pastors started four years ago in Greenshaw, and now 18 SchPs also visit Glenthorne, Overton Grange, Stanley Park High, and Cheam High. On each visit we as listeners encourage young people who come to talk openly of their difficulties and challenges.

The SchPs at COGS are: Fran Lewis and Nick Boddy. If you have a heart for young people in need, more SchPs would allow the work to be extended to all 17 secondary schools in Sutton – is God is calling you to serve Him here .... ?

Nick Boddy

### **SUNDAY TOTS**

Sunday Tots, our youngest children's group on Sunday mornings (formerly known as the **crèche**) has been remodelled drawing on the Wednesday service for Tiny Tots. It is now for babies and children up to, and including, reception year (age 4 or 5). Songs and a Bible story are offered alongside playtime with the crèche toys. Parents can leave their children with our volunteers if they wish, or can stay and join in the fun.

Katie Cady



## **SUTTON FOODBANK**

Sutton Foodbank has been working since 2009 to alleviate poverty and feed people in crisis in the LB of Sutton. We give boxes of nutritionally balanced food and support to people experiencing severe emotional or financial distress – and, in 2018, we gave 2,350 three-day emergency food supplies to people in crisis. COGS helps Sutton Foodbank in a number of ways: several church members are regular volunteers; the congregation makes ongoing donations of food items including a portion of the church's Harvest giving of food. COGS also makes financial donations to Sutton Community Works – which facilitates Sutton Foodbank – from the proceeds of its various charity fund raising events.

Mark Crompton

## **TINY TOTS**

Tiny Tots, together with their parents / carers, meet most Wednesdays from September to July. We start by ringing the bell at 10.30am, singing songs and listening to a Bible story – and then move into half-an-hour of playtime at 11am, with tea and coffee for the adults. Numbers vary from about 20 up to a record of over 50 when we said our goodbyes and thanks to Tricia as leader just before Christmas 2018; and we're always happy to make new friends – our youngest is currently only a few weeks old, while our oldest will soon be starting school.

Lisa Webster – *Tiny Tots Co-ordinator*

## **Treasurer's report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

General fund income for the year comprising stewardship, donations and collections amounted to £129,452 in 2018. This was £13,737 less than in 2017 due, in part, to members of the congregation reaching retirement age and reducing their regular stewardship, or moving away from the area, such that the 2018 total raised from Stewardship was £6,797 less than in 2017. This trend is likely to continue, and the PCC has been alerted to the implications.

**Church Hall and Conference Centre** income for the year was £26,816 and £14,028 respectively. Church hall income increased by just over £4,000 while conference centre income increased by just under £300. 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 2018 (which is all church expenditure less that relating to charitable giving, the church hall, the conference centre, and maintenance) totalled £154,087 – some £5,400 less than in 2017. This is good news considering the level of regular activities which are now carried on in the church and have to be paid for from the general fund. The greatest increase in expenditure from the general fund in 2018 was on heat and light which rose by just over £4,000. In part, this was due to the very cold period suffered in February/March.

The net income from the two annual fairs, the Harvest Offering, and special collections **enabled £24,719 to be paid in 2018 to 32 charities** at home and abroad. This was significantly lower than the record amount of £39,503 paid to 44 charities in 2017 due mainly to, in the context of fund raising towards the refurbishment project, only 10% rather than all of the Harvest Offering being given to charity. Also, there had been numerous special collections in 2017 for various world disasters and one-off events.

At 31 December 2018, approximately £281,000 was in our General Maintenance and Development Fund giving a very good basis upon which to carry out the refurbishment project planned for 2019 at an estimated cost of around £400k – the fund having been boosted by the Harvest Offering in October 2018 when nearly £54,521 was given on the day, or pledged to be paid by 31 December 2018; with a further £26,444 pledged to be paid over the next three years.

Chris Nutting – *Honorary Treasurer*

**The Church of the Good Shepherd**

<http://www.goodshepherdcarshalton.org/>

**WEBSITE ...**

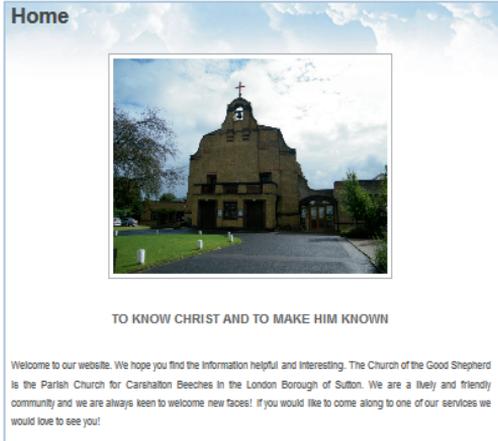
**... TWEETS**

**Tweets by: @GSChurchSM5**

*If you find anything incorrect or requiring clarification on the website, please email: [goodshepherdtop@gmail.com](mailto:goodshepherdtop@gmail.com)*



## WEBSITE and TWEETS continued ...



Grateful thanks go to Anthony French for so ably overseeing our **website** in 2018 (and counting!), and for collecting contributions from our church family and uploading them.

With the push to become compliant with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) together with the planned launch of **ChurchSuite** (our new church management software system) in early 2019, one of the many things

remaining on the 'to do' list is to give our current website a total refresh so that it is more user-friendly, modern and inviting to our website visitors! The goal is eventually to have a shiny new website that shows how we are changing, and how we are interacting with our community.

In the meantime, we are proposing a few tweaks to our existing website. Anthony and I met in March 2019 to discuss what needs to be done to deliver this initial refresh. In simple terms, we will be asking those running our various activities to take responsibility for their web-page by regularly reviewing, updating, providing interesting and informative articles, and submitting same to Anthony for uploading.

Watch this space! ... with all suggestions, and more volunteers, most welcome!

Before logging off, I have to share with you that there is evidence that we have a number of tweets in our midst. The tell-tale signs are there on our website as **tweets** continue to be regularly uploaded with current news and events!

Thank you for watching. 😊

Paul Moore (on behalf of Anthony French)



## **WEDNESDAY CLUB**

The Wednesday Club's 2018 programme featured: a talk about the Diamond Riding Centre; an evening of (not too strenuous?) physical exercise; a travelogue; hand bell ringing; a film show with a fish & chips supper; a reindeer drive; hand drummers from the Gary Mason Rhythmical Empowerment Charitable Foundation; and, following a Lent communion, a talk on pet therapy.

Our Summer Party's theme was the coronation; while for the New Year it was Winnie the Pooh – commemorating the centenary of A. A. Milne. Over 80 people attended our second live Birds of prey evening – which was hugely informative and great fun. Our August outing was to the garden at Nymans.

Members continue to supply and run the jam stall at both annual fairs.

All are welcome, not just members, to any of our meetings which are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month – save August – at 8pm in the Parish Lounge. Please ask me or Janet Hill for more information.

Diane Turrell

## **Women's World Day of Prayer ...**

... is held on the first Friday of March. It's a worldwide ecumenical organisation, led by women, and takes place annually throughout the world over 38 hours. The services, which are open to everyone, help us learn about other countries' hopes, concerns and prayers (for some women, their only means of being heard) alongside raising monies for projects run by charities around the globe.

In 2018, the interdenominational service was prepared by the Christian Women of Surinam; and our local services were at St Elphege's in Wallington, and Ruskin Road Methodist Church.

The recent 2019 service was prepared by Christian women of Slovenia – the theme being: "COME, Everything is Ready". And COGS hosted an afternoon service attended by over 50 people including the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Sutton. Everyone received a red carnation – representing celebration; and shared some Slovenian honey biscuits, and apricot & almond bread.

Please ask me for more information, and about how to become involved.

Diane Turrell



We continue to worship God in our services through the medium of music. We like to think that a healthy mix of musical styles is offered: from contemporary worship songs to more traditional hymns; from solo instruments to full band; not overlooking from choir, acapella and even worship CDs and downloads.

I must start by flagging up the 17 February 2019 **Confirmation Service** when we all felt very uplifted to receive some kind comments from Bishop Ignatius (who was visiting from Central Zimbabwe). He said that it was lovely to visit a 'singing church' and that he hoped to return to us when next in the UK. You might say high praise indeed! And, in front of Bishop Jonathan to boot. 😊

In 2018 we encouraged, and witnessed, the participation of more church members in leading sung worship. Through the leadership of both Julia James and Paul Moore, we continue to actively promote more involvement of younger members – and this saw a youth band perform in January; and some of our truly still young church family sing with our now less-than-youthful worship bands!

We all have our own preferred styles of musical worship, which is fine, but sometimes it is timely to remind ourselves that – whatever the songs, and whoever is playing / singing – our musical offering is for God. However, naturally it's a bonus if we are able to enjoy the sung worship too! Perhaps strange to say, but our aim as worship music providers is to be unnoticed! We are there to allow all-comers to connect with, and worship, God in community through music.

It is always good to get feedback from the congregation. While obviously welcoming positive and heartening comments, we are genuinely just as happy to receive constructive thoughts on how we might improve the sung worship.

Although there were many services over 2018, a special mention has to be made of the superb Christmas Choir which re-formed to sing at the **Carols by Candlelight** service. Thanks go to **Nick Cady** for organising and inspiring this for the second year running.



I would like to thank everybody involved in providing 'live' music in its various forms to allow us all to glorify God using the talents that he has blessed us with. Was it Abba that sang "Thank you for the music"? Well, maybe it would be more appropriate to sing the song to Abba, our Father!?! 😊

Finally, I would also like to give particular thanks to our amazing **AV team** (Audio Visual) who do such a great and, if truth were told, often thankless job ensuring that the sound and vision stuff works on the day!

And as we have started 2019 with our 9.30 Sunday services being held in the Lower Hall while the church refurbishment project is underway, recognition for the smooth transition for the move is primarily due to the amazing technical contributions and time devoted in the closing weeks of 2018 by **Nick James, Anthony French** and **Mark Taylor**. We give our thanks to, and for, them – indeed, they did such a good job that there have even been murmurings that some church folk might prefer to keep our services in the hall after the refurbishment works have completed!

Paul Moore

### **YOBS – Youth Oriented Bible Study (school years 10-13)**

In 2018, we resumed YOBS on Sunday mornings during the 9.30 service with a lively group of young church members and leaders.

Using the 'Mettle' materials from the 'Youth for Christ' on-line resources, we have had enjoyable discussions about how our faith affects our lives, society and the world. Our discussions have been wide-ranging, and always infused with thoughtful comments from the young people ... we look forward to many more to come.

And the Pathfinders also invited us to their termly breakfast ... which was great.

Mark Crompton

# CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR 2018

As compiled for the annual meeting on 31 March 2019

Church of the Good Shepherd  
Queen Mary's Avenue  
Carshalton Beeches  
SM5 4NP

Website: [www.goodshepherdcarshalton.org](http://www.goodshepherdcarshalton.org)  
Website email: [goodshepherdlaptop@gmail.com](mailto:goodshepherdlaptop@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: [kevinjlewis@btinternet.com](mailto:kevinjlewis@btinternet.com)

Church Centre Manager: Fran Lewis and Lisa Webster (job-share)  
Church office hours: *See [website](#) for new office hours from April 2019*  
Telephone: 020 8643 0411  
Email: [officegoodshepherd@btinternet.com](mailto:officegoodshepherd@btinternet.com)

Associate Vicar: Reverend Peter Turrell

## 2018/19 Office holders

Churchwardens: Helen Moore and Susan Shale – Sue  
Assistant Warden: Janet Hill  
PCC Vice-Chair: Paul Wickham  
Hon Secretary: Martin Thompson  
Hon Treasurer: Christopher Nutting – Chris  
Sutton Deanery Synod representatives:  
Janet Hill, David Locke and Martin Thompson