

**United Benefice of
St James & St Anne,
Bermondsey**



ANNUAL REPORTS

'Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus'

Hebrews 12.2

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ANNUAL REPORTS

Vicar's report

Welcome to the Annual Report for our United Benefice in 2018.

In the following pages you will find the annual reports for the PCC of St Anne's, and the Annual Report of the PCC of St James, together with reports from a whole host of church activities and organisations in the Church Life reports which follow.

Sabbaticals

Paul and I both had the opportunity for a sabbatical in 2017, an opportunity for rest, study, and refreshment. We are so grateful to the Diocesan authorities for making this possible for us.

I had the opportunity to travel to the southern states of the US to research the history of race, civil rights and black Christians. On return I read widely on this subject and in due course prepared a report the contents of which I shared with both congregations. In addition I had the wonderful opportunity to co-lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, attended by members of both congregations.

Personnel

2017 was the year that we said goodbye to Jos Downey as he came to the end of his curate and was appointed as the UK Manager of Mission without Borders. Jos was a popular

member of the ministry team and congregation. We are grateful for all he gave to St James and St Anne's and we pray for God's richest blessing on his new ministry.

At the same time we were delighted to welcome the Reverend Simon Lewis, Dean of the Anselm's Community at Lambeth Palace, to Bermondsey as our honorary curate, serving in both parishes of the benefice.

Developing our buildings

Both churches continue to take steps to secure and improve their buildings for the future in the past year.

St Anne's has continued to be involved in a discussions with developers, council officers, and the Diocese as we seek to find the way forward for the church building which is badly in need of repair. The church is much more than the building, but the church needs a good building to serve its mission for the future and that is our aim through this process of exploration.

St James's Church is now open nearly every day and there are an increasing number of uses of the building. We are delighted that a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund will enable much needed repairs on the church stonework to be made before too long. We are grateful for this beautiful landmark building at the heart of Bermondsey which has witnessed to the message of God's love for nearly two hundred years.

In 2017, on 24th September, we marked the 50th anniversary of the late Michael Whinney being made vicar of St James. Michael, then the warden of Cambridge University Mission, brought a congregation from CUM with him, and the church, which had been closed for much of the 1960s, reopened for worship, and the long process of restoring the building could begin. It was good to mark with thanksgiving this process of new life and

renewal, which began 50 years ago year. We were delighted that the Right Honourable Sir Simon Hughes was able to be our preacher for this occasion.

In addition to my duties in the benefice, I continue to serve on the General Synod of the Church of England, on the Council of St Augustine's College of Theology and as Vice-Chair of the Church Pastoral Society's patronage trusts which are responsibility for the appointment of vicars in 530 parishes across the country.

We thank God for all the activities described in these reports. We thank God for all the hard work and dedication that makes all these things possible, and as churches here in Bermondsey we continue to 'fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith' (Hebrews 2.2) as we seek to hold out the word of life to the people of our community. May God fill us again with his love, peace, and joy.

Canon Gary Jenkins
Vicar, St James & St Anne, Bermondsey

**St Anne & St Augustine,
Bermondsey**

PCC Annual Report

Aims and Purposes

St Anne's Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

St Anne's PCC is specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church hall and parish church of St Anne's.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of the parish community of St Anne's. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church and the church hall of St Anne's.

Achievements and Performance

Fuller details of church activities and achievements in the past year are given in the Church Life reports that are appended to these accounts.

Worship and Prayer

Services of worship take place on Sunday mornings at 10am. In addition there are Prayer Meetings each month on Sundays for seasons of six months at time, as well as a regular weekly act of Morning Prayer on Tuesdays at St Anne's

The total number of funeral services conducted by the United Benefice in 2017 was 30, of which 5 were at St James, one was at St Anne's, and the remainder were at crematorium or cemetery chapels. There were two burials and 28 cremations.

There were six marriages, and one marriage blessing (all at St James). During 2017 there were 4 baptisms at St Anne's, and at St James, 9.

Deanery Synod

Lay representatives of the Deanery Synod are also members of the PCC. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. A report on the activities of the Deanery Synod is appended to this report

The Church Buildings

A report on the state of the fabric of the church buildings is appended to this report.

Mission and Evangelism

We are committed to sharing the Gospel of God's grace with our community in word and deed. Fuller details of mission and evangelistic activities are given in the church life reports which are appended to this report.

Ecumenical Relationships

St James and St Anne's church are members of Church for Transformation in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, an informal network of churches of various denominations that work together in the area in the work of mission.

Financial Review

The accounts for St Anne's in 2017 looked very similar to 2016 with most items remaining consistent.

As we became up-to-date with our missionary donations in 2016 we didn't need to draw down as much money from the reserves in 2017. The reserves do however remain very low and so we decided as a PCC to reduce our Parish Pledge for 2018 so to give ourselves a chance to build these funds back up. We would hope to increase the pledge again once there are sufficient funds in the savings account.

There are a few highlights that I would like to mention. The team at St Anne's have worked hard in regards to not only getting the hall hired but making sure the rent is being paid on time. As a consequence the hall hire receipts have increased by an additional £3,500 which is good news. This will continue in 2018 as we have already had some new interest from potential tenants and one-off hirers.

We also welcomed the Global Harvest Church to St Anne's in 2017 to use a place of worship on Sunday lunchtimes and this has also added extra rent money for us.

On a personal note my sponsored bike ride around Regents Park in October raised over

£2,000 for the work of the church and this has now been added to the current account this year. With this I mind I am optimistic that St Anne's accounts will be looking healthier in 2018. Graham Russell, Treasurer

Deborah Irish
Jackie Weise-Henry

This report was formally adopted by St Anne's PCC at its meeting on 26th March 2018

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership each PCC consists the licensed clergy, churchwardens, members of the deanery synod and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

Administrative information

St Anne's Church is situated in Thornburn Square, Bermondsey. It is part of the Diocese of Southwark within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 4 Thurland Rd, London, SE16 4AA. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The members of the PCC are:

Clergy	Gary Jenkins Simon Lewis
Urban Missioner	Paul Warren
Churchwardens	Mavis Shute Graham Russell
Deanery Synod	Deborah Beyioku Ruth Reid
Reader	Penny Molyneux
Lay representatives	Ken Bedford Tracey Cavanagh Fenella Fyle Jennifer Weise-Henry

St James with Christ Church & St Crispin, Bermondsey

PCC Annual Report

Aims and Purposes

St James Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC of St James is responsible for the maintenance of the parish church of St James.

Objectives and Activities

The PCCs are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of the parish community of St James. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try

to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

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We are committed to sharing the Gospel of God's grace with our community in word and deed. Fuller details of mission and evangelistic activities are given in the church life reports which are appended to this report.

Ecumenical Relationships

St James and St Anne's church are members of Church for Transformation in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, an informal network of churches of various denominations that work together in the area in the work of mission.

Financial Review

The finances of the Church are broadly healthy as we prepare for extensive repair works on the building.

Total income in 2017 was £137,400, which was broadly similar to the previous year. However, £48,600 of this was due to grants from Government bodies related to specific building works. Congregational giving through standing orders and service collections was down on 2016 (£32,300 vs £37,300), but taking account of a restricted gift in 2016 means giving is broadly similar. Our rental income was significantly lower in 2017 (£24,600 vs £38,300), following the closure of the Doctor's surgery in the North Aisle, but we should see a pickup for 2018 as this is now rented out as Artist studios, albeit at a lower rate.

Day to day expenses (including our payment to the Diocese) were very similar to the previous year, at £86,000. Our other expenses, mainly related to building work, are very variable, and will continue to be so as we

continue with our building work. We are holding significant reserves in anticipation of this, with unrestricted assets of £106,500 and a designated fund for Church fabric repair.

Further details are given in the accounts and footnotes. The accounts are compiled on a receipts and payments basis.

As Treasurer, I would like to thank our Administrator Ruth Reid, Jill Mitchell for handling and banking the cash, and the other volunteers who count the collections. Nick Herbert (treasurer)

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership each PCC consists the licensed clergy, churchwardens, members of the deanery synod and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church.

.St James PCC has a buildings committee which oversees matters concerning the fabric of the building.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

Administrative information

St James Church is situated in Thornburn Square, Bermondsey . It is part of the Diocese of Southwark within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 4 Thurland Rd, London, SE16 4AA. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission (charity number 1176709).

The members of the PCC are:

Clergy	Gary Jenkins Simon Lewis
Reader	Penny Molyneux
Urban Missioner	Paul Warren
Churchwarden	John Finch Marian Greenwood
Deanery Synod	Simon Hughes Nick Herbert Jean McCorry
Diocesan Synod	Adrian Greenwood
Lay representatives	Andrew Garran Parisa Herbert Alexandra Lawson Alice Lutalo Pat O'Connor Cath Squelch

This report was formally adopted by St James PCC at its meeting on 26th March 2018

St James & St Anne, Bermondsey

Church Life Reports 2018

Bermondsey Brew - every Monday

2.30-4.30

Bermondsey Brew celebrated its first birthday at the end of February 2018. The time has flown by, and the café doesn't seem to have lost its appeal. Far from it, on a recent afternoon we counted that over 50 people had been in (that includes babies asleep in buggies!).

We started off providing coffee, tea and cakes, and a table with play-dough and other activities for the children. We now provide bread as well, because some people, both children and adults, seem very hungry. We have also bought some board games, table tennis table and table-football table, to keep the older children (and some of the adults) occupied. At the beginning, people would come for their refreshments and then go again after half-an-hour or so. Now, there is a group of men that come early and stay for the whole afternoon, and it seems to have developed into a real friendship group, with them even staying to help put away the chairs and tables afterwards. Several of them are currently attending the Alpha course on Wednesday evening too.

A number of child-minders come in with several children, either while waiting to go and meet another child from after-school club, or just enjoying the extra space and time to spend with friends. When Little Angels had to close because Pat O'Connor was needed at school

on Thursdays, we asked two of the child-minders if they would be interested in running something similar in the South Aisle again, and this is due to start after Easter, once DBS checks have been completed. So this is another way in which informal contacts made through Bermondsey Brew are extending the role of the building for the community.

There were several aims when we first set up Bermondsey Brew. One was to have the building open and welcoming so that people who would not normally come to a church activity felt comfortable to enter the building. Another was to offer a friendly setting to people in the community who might be lonely and have few contacts. And the opportunity to 'gossip the gospel' has always been very important. There have been many occasions when people have been distressed or are questioning their beliefs and it has been very special to be able to pray with people and share our faith at those times. Please pray for us, that we will be able to show God's love equally to all visitors and to find the right words to say.

Thank you to everyone who has made cakes or come to help. All offers very welcome!

Parisa Herbert and Marian Greenwood

Bluegrove and Rock Grove

Services take place every month at Rock Grove Sheltered Housing at the Blue and at Bluegrove Care Home, Southwark Park Rd.

The service at Rock Grove is led by David & Pam, and at Blue Grove by Gary or..

Gary Jenkins

St James Electoral Roll Report

Yvonne Lubwana

In 2017, there were 157 people on the St James Church electoral roll. There have been 10 additions to the Electoral Roll during the year 2017-2018 since the last AGM.

We now have a total of 49 members for the next year 2018-19.

Fenella Fyle
Electoral Roll Officer 2017/18

Surname	First name	Residence status
Bell	Gareth	NR
Gitau	Anne	NR
Kesaasi	Phionah	R
Koroma	Hawa	R
McNally	Tim	NR
Mayne	Claire	NR
Nwuba	Chinemerem	R
Platt	Susan	R
Tashobya	Emmanuel	R
Westney	Tanya	NR

St Anne's Fabric Report

St James Fabric Report

The Faculty to allow for disposal of the Hammond organ and the two associated speakers was obtained in August 2017 and they have now been sold to a community church in Liverpool. The man who came to collect it used to work for Bishop, the company that made our big organ in 1829, so he was very interested to go up to the organ loft to see it. He was confident that he would be able to set up the Hammond organ and solve any problems that might develop. It is very good to know that it would be used in another church and not just broken up for spares, as had been considered a possibility. Permission also had to be obtained from the Archdeacon to fit lighting, including emergency lighting, in the staircase on the north east side of the church, going up from the back door of the artists' studios to the paupers' gallery. This work was completed in autumn 2017. Now that it is lit, it is clear that the whole area needs a good clean!

It is proposed that the following 2 names should be removed from the roll:

Surname	First name	Original status
Kanneh	Moses	R
Momodu	Nathaniel	NR

This would then make a total of 165 people on the roll.

Of these, 74 are resident in the parish and 91 are non-resident.

Marian Greenwood

St Anne's Electoral Roll Report

We started the year with 47 members and there have been some changes.

One member passed away – Steven John Merser.

There are three new applicants.

Gunjan Bohra
Vijay Michael Joseph

The second stage of the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund has been successful and the PCC has been awarded a grant of £232,700 for repairs to the stonework, tower and clock. We expect the work to begin in April. The PCC contribution will be £57,259 out of a total approved cost of £346,990. The project also provides for improved access to and within the building and for improved heritage

information to be provided in a range of media. Many thanks to the Building Committee for the work on this application, and other fundraising applications that are in hand.

As part of this grant application, we have had to show how the building is in use for the benefit of the community, and what plans we have for making the heritage of the building accessible to more people. We have been keeping a record of the numbers of people who visit the church, not including the congregation, and found that there were 1900 visits made by people during 2017, either individually to use the building for prayer and peace, or for organised events and activities during the week, so this is very pleasing. There will soon be a new education section on the church website, with old photographs of the church and local area, information about the industrial history of the area, and ideas for school groups to use on visits to the church, across all areas of the curriculum. (For example, how could you measure the height of the church ceiling? Use a helium balloon on a long piece of string, then measure the string.) There is a regular need to replace light bulbs, both inside the church and on the floodlights. In an effort to lengthen the life of bulbs, we are gradually changing over to LED bulbs, which should help to reduce running costs. Thanks to John and the team of volunteers who organise this, as well as numerous other practical tasks throughout the building. Also, thanks to Tina who cleans the building on a regular basis.

Redecoration: we asked for estimates to have the south aisle and toilet area repainted but these were very expensive. So we are very grateful to Lawrence Mann, who has redecorated parts of the South Aisle where paint had become marked or scratched off. There are other areas that would benefit from redecoration, so any other offers of help would be much appreciated.

The systems for heating the hot water in the toilets and kitchen had both become worn and the tanks overflowed on several occasions, so the valves have been replaced. New taps have been fitted in two of the toilets, now placed on the correct sides of the sinks to meet H&S requirements.

Other issues that the Buildings Committee have dealt with are the appointment of building contractors for the masonry contract, drawing up a Management and Maintenance Plan (this is a requirement of the HLF grant), replacement of the small ramp, communications with the Bellringers and safety issues in the bell-tower, issues connected with the nursery premises, final defects works and payment of the final invoice for the roof repairs, funded by the LPOW Grant, and links with the Friends of St James Churchyard regarding drainage, new lighting and the Joy-slide project.

Finally, discussions are underway about a master plan for the redevelopment of the whole building to make it much more flexible for shared community use throughout the week. This includes creating internal access to the crypt from the Narthex, so that it can become an integral part of the building and be more readily used for community activities. The Bible texts painted high up on the outside of the building at the west end are very faint, and negotiations are in place to renew these. This work could take place during 2018.

John Finch and Marian Greenwood
(Churchwardens)

Friends of St James Churchyard

The Friends of St. James Churchyard Group was established in January 2015. Its purpose is to work together to promote the good management, maintenance and development of

the churchyard in relation to its primary uses as (a) the setting for a Church building of architectural and historic interest, with an active congregation (b) a park for use by the local community and (c) a pedestrian thoroughfare. There is also interest in developing the ecological and educational aspects of the churchyard. There is a Core group of people comprising the local ward councillor (Anood al Samerai), officers from the Council Parks Department and its contractors and representatives of the PCC and the local community, including members of the Friends of Southwark Park, who meet regularly to take forward the purposes.

Activity in 2017 was focussed on the **joy - slide project**, where considerable progress was made. Amazingly, at the Community Fun Day held on 22 July 2017, the great great grandson of Arthur Carr attended, together with his father. Fergus Carr is an architect and immediately offered to provide his services free of charge for the project. Fergus has produced a new design which replicates some features of the old slide and the original steps of St James. The design has been checked with both LB Southwark Parks Dept. and with a health & safety expert for children's play equipment. We are now waiting to hear from LBS whether we will need to obtain planning consent from them before we start the process to apply for a Faculty. Meanwhile, fundraising has begun in earnest and in January 2018, the project was awarded a grant of £12,000 from LBS's Cleaner Greener Safer fund. We hope to get up to, or close to, the target of £40,000 by the end of 2018. All funds raised are held in a Designated Account of St. James PCC. We hope that we will be in a position to commission the works during 2019.

We have made some progress with two other pieces of work:

- **provision of lighting to the pathway to the south of the church building** (to

match that on the north side) – we expect works to start shortly.

- **repairs to the damaged monuments** – we expect the Faculty to be issued shortly.

Adrian Greenwood

Ladies Bible Study Group

Women's Bible Study continues to meet on a Tuesday morning from 10am until 12 noon at St. James' Church, either in the crèche or the South Lounge, depending on numbers. Our numbers have varied over the past year, with sometimes only two of us meeting, but that is not very often. You may think it not worth running the group with just two people in attendance but we are taking Jesus at his word when he said "where two or three gather in my name, there I am with you". We do have a regular core of about four or five ladies who attend most weeks, and our other members come along when work or other commitments permit. Marian Greenwood and I have shared the leadership of this group. I think the two of us would agree that we have benefitted from doing so, gaining deeper insight to what the Bible says through the preparation of the studies.

For our latest study we have been on an epic journey studying 1 Samuel. Our original intention was to look at the life of David, a man after God's own heart, but on the way we couldn't help but also spend time with Eli, Hannah, Samuel, Saul, Jonathan and others. We have also met with God in the pages of the Bible. The Old Testament certainly isn't boring! It is so jam packed with wonderful things for us to discover about God. We have used Tim Chester's study on 1 Samuel and Eugene Peterson's Leap Over a Wall, to help us get the most from our study, and to help us to apply what we have learned to our own lives today.

We take the opportunity when meeting together to also pray for each other and the needs of others. We encourage each other and bear each other's burdens. All this is done in the strictest of confidence.

We have had a couple of new ladies join this study group this year which is great and we would love it if there were more new faces. You don't need to know a thing about the Bible or you could know a lot, you don't have to pray aloud if you don't want to. You don't have to have been good at school. If you are wondering whether to come or not, go on, give it a try. We would love to see you. Many Blessings

Mandy Warren

Monday Fellowship

The Monday Fellowship for retired people at St James and St Anne's takes place on the first Monday of every month at 1.45pm in the south lounge at St James.

David and Pam Gilbert lead an informal service of hymns and prayers and then Gary or Paul, give a short talk on the Bible. Refreshments follow.

New members are always welcome and a big thank you must go to everyone who takes part, especially David and Pam who do so much to make it all possible.

Gary Jenkins

Online presence

In the days of social media the Church's online presence continues to be an important of making contact with our community. Our church websites
(www.godlovesbermondsey.co.uk)
(www.godlovesbermondsey.co.uk/St-annes)

continue to attract a good number of visitors (about 8,000 visits in the year to the St James site and 1,300 to St Anne's).

I continue to blog as the BermondseyVicar (<http://bermondseyvicar.blogspot.co.uk>) and quite a few non-church members in the community keep in touch with us through this means.

The blog has had 165,000 visits since it began in December 2012. In 2017 the peak month was September when they were 6,000 visits. That is supplemented by Twitter where I tweet about church and Bermondsey-related activities and currently have 350 followers.

It's another way of getting the word out. You can read the tweets on the blog or on Twitter @GaryJJenkins

In 2017 we have also developed a Facebook presence with a St James & St Anne Facebook page. Our most popular post, a video about the joyride had 4,688 views.

Gary Jenkins

Open Church at St James

The aim of having the big doors of St James Church open as often as possible is to enable local residents and visitors to the area to have access to our wonderful building at times which suit them. And through this access, and the related **welcome**, information and **hospitality**, to reach a stage where they feel at home in the building, to reach a stage where they begin to discover the presence and voice of God in their lives, if they do know Him already.

During 2017, the building was open for part of the day on 5 out of 6 weekdays. And access was enhanced by the great success of the community café (tea/coffee & cake) which is

called **Bermondsey Brew** – see the separate report.

During 2018, we expect access to increase further through David Davoll's coffee project every weekday morning (Monday to Friday) from 7am. And perhaps we will introduce a mid – week service. We expect that the quality of the 'visitor experience' will be enhanced as we implement our **Access Audit** and provide improved literature and visual images as part of the HLF project. In so doing, we are always looking to recruit and train more **volunteers** to join the existing teams, which already include Andrew Garran, Pat O Connor, Beattie Martin and Cath Squelch, as well as our Administrator, Ruth Reid.

With the masonry repair contract set to start in April and finish by September 2018, we are now able to give our full attention to an ambitious plans for **internal re-ordering of the interior**, including making a direct internal link with the crypt.

The ultimate goal is to get to a position where the building (a) can be left open while unattended and (b) is much more flexible for and useable by local residents and community groups.

All for the worship of the glory of God who has been revealed to us through Jesus Christ and is with us by His Holy Spirit; and for the spreading of His Kingdom here in Bermondsey.

Adrian Greenwood

St Anne's PCC Report

Parochial Church Councils were set up by Act of Parliament in 1919. The aim of the PCC as stated in the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 is to 'co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.'

During January –December 2017, St. Anne's PCC held four joint meetings with St. James' PCC and two separate meetings in February and May. The following matters were discussed: the update of St. Anne's building project; keeping the main building and demolishing some of the building to build houses to fund the refurbishing of the church; the pattern of PCC meetings with the option of each PCC holding separate meetings if required for special business; future patterns of teaching and discipleship; safeguarding of our Sunday School; apportionment of expenses between both PCC's; applying for a small grant to convert the church office into a prayer room for 'Thy Kingdom Come'; the requirement for PCC members to have a DBS check with a PCC safeguarding training session organised by the Deanery; St. Anne's rent reviews for 2018; application of a Licence Under Faculty for Global Harvest church to use St. Anne's Church for their Sunday Service at 12pm; the appointment of a new inspecting Architect for St. Anne's; a 9.30am communion service once a month at St. Anne's for a three-month trial; a scheme for children in year five to be admitted to communion before confirmation; St. Anne's pledge for the Parish Support Fund in 2018 and income, discussing how we can improve our giving; we met with Vanessa Elton Mission Advisor from Trinity House to consider the best approach for our Mission Action Plan (MAP) for the next season, advised to pray, respond and hold a PCC away day in the future;

In terms of key decisions, the PCC agreed to implement joint PCC meetings with St. James' PCC with separate PCC meetings when required; Ruth Reid was elected as secretary, the following were re-elected; Graham Russell as treasurer, Fenella Fyle as PCC member, Jacky Weise as safeguarding officer and Jennifer Weise-Henry as Health and Safety Officer. We entered into a Licence under Faculty for Global Harvest Church to use St.

Anne's Church and hall 12pm to 2pm each Sunday;

Ruth Reid

St. James PCC Report

Parochial Church Councils were set up by Act of Parliament in 1919. The aim of the PCC as stated in the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 is to 'co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.'

During January-December 2017, St. James PCC held four joint meetings with St. Anne's PCC and three separate meetings in February, May and October. The following matters were discussed: Admission of children in year five to communion before confirmation; future prayer meetings and 'Thy Kingdom Come'-the Archbishop's call for prayer with St. James hosting the C4T prayer meeting on Ascension Day; the Joy Slide Project (taking forward through Friends of St. James' Churchyard) to replace the former slide with a fundraising event at the churchyard to be held in summer 2017; Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) grant for St. James with the application being for the repair of fabric, stonework and windows; future patterns of social events; future patterns of teaching and discipleship; safeguarding of our Sunday School; apportionment of expenses between both PCC's; holding a Church Café in the week; rent review for regular Church hirers; the budget for 2017 and the Parish Support Fund Pledge for 2018; fire risk assessment; selling of the Hammond Organ under Faculty; staffing, preaching rota and service times.

In terms of key decisions, the PCC agreed to implement the following: the election of Adrian Greenwood as Lay Chair, Ruth Reid as secretary, Nick Herbert as Treasurer, Marian Greenwood as Electoral Roll Officer, Pat O' Connor as Verger and Safeguarding Officer

and Cath Squelch as Health & Safety Officer; The Building Group becoming a formal sub-committee of the PCC, Bermondsey Café held at 2.30pm to 4.30pm at St. James church on Mondays; Completed the development stage successfully with key elements being: activity plan, managing and auditing plan, evaluation; St James' 50th Anniversary Celebration; held a community Fun-day in July for the Joyslide project; entered into a faculty for new lettings in North Aisle with Paul Larricart and the South Gallery room to the Liberal Democrats; increased rent income with regular church hirers; added a new post box of St James Church outside South Aisle entrance; Becoming a registered charity in January 2018 Charity No:1176709.

At the special meeting held in October 2017, the PCC considered a proposal for the re-ordering of the interior which had been prepared by Roger Molyneux. The aim is to create much more flexible spaces so they can be better used by the community as well as the congregation. One of the proposals is to provide internal links into the Crypt so that this can be used more creatively.

Ruth Reid

Adrian's Reader Report

With Gary and Paul both taking a sabbatical during 2017 and Jos moving on in October, it was inevitable that I was involved in more activity 'up front' at both St. James and St. Anne's. But now with Simon Lewis already in the team and Jacob Mercer joining in July 2018, I guess that this will reduce. What I really hope for is that the scope for identifying and bringing through the next generation of local lay leaders is not diminished – indeed, I remain convinced that the main duty of a 'minister' is to equip others for ministry – both within the 'gathered church' but, much more importantly in their 'Monday to Saturday' discipleship and mission.

Reader Ministry is, at long last, some would say, beginning to change, both at national and diocesan level, so as to encourage a much stronger focus on ‘Monday to Saturday discipleship’. This has all been galvanised by the Report ‘**Setting God’s People Free**’ which was approved by General Synod in February 2017. Aimed at the 98% of Christians who are not ordained, it aims for a twofold culture change within the Church within 10 years – our very own ‘moon-landing’ project (a reference to President Kennedy in 1962). First, to re-focus the discipleship of every Christian onto the whole of their life and not just what happens on Sunday and within the 4 walls of Church. Second, to ensure that lay and ordained alike feel equally valued and able to offer their gifts equally for equipping the Body of Christ (the Church) for the work of building God’s Kingdom here on earth – Thy Kingdom Come – so that we together become a community of missionary disciples.

Within St James, I continue to co-ordinate the work of the ‘joy-slide’ project and to lead the work with Heritage Lottery Fund on the repair of worn masonry on the tower and portico. With that work set to finish in September 2018, we are turning our full attention to the long-delayed and much overdue re-ordering of the ground floor and crypt, so as to enable the building to be much better used by more groups of people – guess when?, from Monday to Saturday

Away from the United Benefice, I have continued to serve as Chair of the Trustees of Salmon Youth Centre (the 4th member of the Group Ministry) and as Lay Chair of both Bermondsey Deanery Synod and Southwark Diocesan Synod. I also continue as a member of General Synod for the period up to summer 2020 and in November 2017 I was elected to join the Archbishops Council – a huge privilege and responsibility at this time of

hoped for Renewal & Reform in the Church of England.

Adrian Greenwood

Penny’s Reader’s Report

It’s been a busy year! With Gary and Paul both taking Sabbaticals during the year, and then Jos moving on, I seem to have been leading or preaching at more services than in past years, at both St Anne’s and St James. That’s a real pleasure for me - I hope it is for you too! But it is great that Simon has joined our team, and also that we can look forward to welcoming Jacob as a full-time curate later this year, together with his family.

Having been a Reader for well over 20 years now, I decided that it was time to “give something back”. So when I was asked if I would be willing to support a group of third year Readers-in-training as what is called a “Pastoral Tutor” I agreed. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the group, from various parts of the Diocese, as we meet together a couple of times each term. We share an evening meal, which gives them a chance to relax together, to compare notes on how they are getting on with both their academic and practical tasks, and to support and encourage each other with any difficulties or worries. Later on I will have a conversation with each of them individually as we review their year, and look towards their readiness to be licensed. I would much appreciate your prayers for me in this new role.

You will all be aware (I hope!) that I have also taken on the challenge of being a “Lay Champion” as our Parishes are part of a Diocesan Pilot scheme to encourage and develop Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry. This new initiative is partly based on last year’s national report “Setting God’s People Free” The main thrust is to find new ways of encouraging and equipping ALL OF

US to live out our Christian faith every day of the week, particularly Mondays - Saturdays. If you have any ideas of ways in which what we do in Church on Sundays could help or support you in what you do for the rest of the week, please do tell us.

The rest of my week is still shared between working in Roger's office, looking after our grand-daughter, and being a governor at St James' School. I hope I do all those things in the light of God's love and service. There is part of one particular prayer we sometimes use on Sundays which I think sums it up: "May we who share Christ's body live his risen life, we who drink his cup bring life to others, and we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world."

God bless you all in whatever you do Monday - Saturday

Oh! I nearly forgot: I never seem to find the time or opportunity to do Traidcraft stalls these days. Is there anyone out there who would like to help me with this? Please talk to me. Thank you,

Penny Molyneux

Ready Steady Grow:

Ready Steady Grow continues to meet on a Wednesday morning at St. Anne's Church Hall from 9am till 11am. We meet during term time only and not during the school holidays. The structure of our morning is on the whole pretty much the same as last year: free play, story, thank you prayer, craft and singing. At the end of the Christmas and summer terms we have a party.

We continue to see our numbers increase over the year. Some children have moves onto nursery and others have joined. As before our children are brought by a mixture of parents, grandparents and

childminders. We are delighted they enjoy bringing their children to RSG and that they are recommending us to their friends. We have built up some good relationships and are grateful to God that we have this wonderful opportunity to not only serve our community and meet new people; but also to share the love of God through stories, songs and relationships.

I was possible, due to some extra volunteers, to keep running during Paul's sabbatical. So a big thank you to them for all they did. Also thank you to the rest of the team that enable this work to continue week by week.

We continue to value your prayers for Ready Steady Grow.

Paul, Mandy, Mavis, Cathy and Dave
Ready Steady Grow Team

Bermondsey Deanery Synod

At the APCM in April 2017, Nick & Parisa Herbert and Jean McCorry were elected to represent St James on Bermondsey Deanery Synod and Debbie Beyioku and Ruth Reid St. Anne's. Later in the year, St James PCC elected Simon Hughes to fill the 4th space. Simon's election will need to be confirmed at the 2018 APCM.

At the first meeting of the newly elected in Synod in June 2017, the main focus was on the future of **Bacon's College** after it had 'failed' an OFSTED Inspection in February 2017. The Chair of the Governing Body, Caroline Donne, herself a Lay Reader at St. Mary's Putney, spoke to us about the plans to find a Multi Academy Trust to join.

The Synod followed this story through the year and on 1st March 2018, Bacon's College formally joined the United Learning Multi Academy Trust. Under the new governance arrangements, the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) has the right to nominate

5 of the 9 members of the Local Governing Body (LGB), at least one of whom shall be 'nominated & elected' by Bermondsey Deanery Synod. We have agreed a Procedure for this to happen and the process will get underway after Easter. Meanwhile, Simon Hughes, Caroline Donne, Jane Marwood and Joshua Rey are the other 4 SDBE nominees. One of the SDBE 5 members will Chair the LGB.

The main item at the October meeting was to consider the Council's approach to the regeneration of north Southwark through the **Southwark Plan**, which is at an advanced stage of consultation and will soon be tested at a Public Inquiry. The Lead Member for Regeneration, Cllr Mark Williams., spoke to us and answered questions. The Plan sets ambitious targets for new residential development, including at Canada Water, and a considerable growth in population in the period to 2033. This poses significant challenges and opportunities for the Christian churches in the area.

Vanessa Elston, Mission Adviser from Trinity House, spoke at our January meeting about **Mission Action Planning**. Simon Hughes challenged all parishes to take up regular leafleting and **home visiting** as a way of raising our visibility and profile. At St James and St Anne's, we are likely to respond to this challenge in the run up to **Thy Kingdom Come 2018**, which runs from 10 – May 2018 and starting with a special **Ascension Day** service with + **Karowei** at St. James on **10 May 2018**.

In January 2018, our Vicar Gary, was appointed **Area Dean** for Bermondsey Dean. The usual term is 5 years. And in February 2018, the Deanery organised a Deanery Training Day on **Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults** aimed at PCC members and others.

Adrian Greenwood, Lay Chair

Southwark Diocesan Synod

As usual, there were 3 meetings of Diocesan Synod in the year under review. In July 2017, the main item was a presentation by Matthew Frost, the Chair of the Lay Leadership Task Group which had produced the Report '**Setting God's People Free**'. This had been received by General Synod in February 2017 and a detailed Implementation Plan approved. In Southwark, Bishop Christopher has decided to establish the **Lay Leadership & Lay Ministry Advisory Group** under the chairmanship of Anne Deering with a brief to report back to Synod by July 2018. It was this Group that set up the concept of 'pilot parishes' of which our United Benefice is one. The aim is to encourage and develop lay people to be confident witnesses for Jesus Christ in their weekday activities and to adjust what we do on Sundays when we meet together to support that – all very exciting and potentially transformational for how we understand and do Church.

The November meeting considered the latest iteration of the Southwark Vision – '**Walking Welcoming Growing**' – with Hearts on Fire. This phrase will now appear on much of the Diocesan publicity material. This meeting also approved the Diocesan budget for 2018, showing an increase of income pledged through the **Parish Support Fund**.

The main 2 items in the March 2018 meeting were the presentation of the Report of the Deaneries Advisory Group (DAG), which I chaired, and consideration of how churches can assist 'refugee professionals'. The two main recommendations of the DAG Report were for each Deanery to establish a **Deanery Leadership Team** and to appoint a **Mission Accompanier**, both so as to refocus the Deanery and its Deanery Synod onto mission.

Hopefully there will be good progress with implementation by the end of 2018.

Finally, elections to Diocesan Synod will take place in summer 2018. There are places for 2 lay people and 2 clergy people to be elected to represent Bermondsey Deanery. The electorate are the members of the respective Houses on Deanery Synod.

Adrian Greenwood

St Anne's Safeguarding Report

'Safeguarding' is the term used to describe the duty on all to protect children and 'adults at risk' from significant abuse or harm.

What kind of Abuse or Harm? There are many types of abuse. For example, **physical, financial, verbal, emotional and/or psychological, sexual and discriminatory abuse.** Adults and children could also be abused due to **neglect** and/or because they are forced to work for long hours with little or no money. This is nowadays referred to as '**modern slavery**'.

St Anne's would like to think that everyone who comes to our church feels safe to go about their daily business inside and outside of the church, free from abuse or harm. If you do not feel safe and/or are being abused and/or know someone who is being abused, please come and talk confidentially to me, Jacky Weise, your Parish Safeguarding Officer, (PSO). I promise to listen to you and with your consent, to link you with the right people who can help. In the first instance, our Vicar and/or one of his Deputies will be informed. So long as there is no one else at immediate risk of harm from the person *causing you* harm, the police do not need to be involved.

How Many Safeguarding Concerns have there been at St Anne's during the F/Y 2017/18?

As St Anne's Safeguarding Officer, I am aware of 1 incident only.

What Proactive Measures Does St Anne's have in Place to Minimise Potential Abuse within the Church?

All paid staff and volunteers, particularly those helping to run the Sunday school, have had enhanced police checks carried out and/or are working alongside someone who has. Last year enhanced police checks were carried out on 3 people at St Anne's. All checks came back clear. These were for *Mandy Warren* who leads a regular toddlers group, *Chioma* and *Yesside Beyioku* who run the Sunday School with Debbie Beyioku. There have been no enhanced police checks carried out this F/Y, 2017/18.

How Does the PSO Maintain a Level of Competence in her Role?

Jacky has completed the *Foundation in Safeguarding* Course put on for PSOs by the Diocese. She has also recently attended a non-church organized workshop on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and as part of her own continuous professional development, takes it upon herself to read information around the subject area.

Jacqueline L. Weise

St James Safeguarding Report

It is now a formal legal obligation for the PCC, in its report to the ACPM, to state whether or not the PCC: has complied with the duty under section 5 of the safeguarding and clergy Discipline measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops'

guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The PCC were invited to a safeguarding Training in Feb 2018 which unfortunately very few attended. However everybody that works with, or is involved with children or vulnerable adults should make sure that,

1. They have a DBS (for Church)
2. Should attend Safeguard training. This should include Sides people, Sunday group leaders, and anyone involved with activities in church.

All Sunday group leaders and helpers have all got up to date DBS's.

I have just cleared two new people that are going to shortly volunteer in the south Aisle.

“A Safe Church”, the handbook containing comprehensive Policies, Procedures and Guidelines issued by the Diocese of Southwark in accordance with the national legal framework for safeguarding children. This is kept in the Vestry. It is also being updated this year.

I will undertake to get another training day for all members who haven't as yet attended the safeguarding training.

Patricia O'Connor
Safeguarding officer

St Anne's Sunday Groups

The Sunday group for children at St Anne's has continued throughout the year on the 2 Communion Service Sundays a month. Numbers are fairly small with the group consisting of about 6 or 7 children regularly attending and others on an occasional basis. We have had a change of leaders during the year. Thank you to Fiona who stood down at the end of the summer holidays after leading the Sunday school for a number of years.

Choima and Debbie have come forward to continue this important work with our children for which we are very grateful.

We are still using the 'Friends and Hero's' DVDs that give good stories and are popular with the children. Often some sort of craft reinforces the teaching point for the session. Once again the children were able to perform a fantastic nativity tableau at the Christingle Service.

I would like to be able to extend the group to run for 3 out of 4 Sundays but at the moment that is not possible. So on the Sundays that the group does not run we have worksheets for the children to do in church that are linked to the bible passage being studied that particular week.

Capt Paul Warren CA
Urban Missioner
United benefice of St James and St Anne's
Bermondsey.

St James Sunday groups

We continue to run Sunday groups in the South Aisle usually three Sundays per month. It is run for children of 4- 11 year olds. We continue to use the 'Friends & Heroes' material each session, we have a small clip of a video and use the activities linked to it. It is very easy to use so would be great if we could get more adults involved.

It would be great if we had the continuity of children each week especially as the material we use follows on.

We had another enjoyable Nativity play during the Christmas Carol service where the children looked wonderful in their great costumes.

It's still good to see the children each Sunday playing musical instruments during praise/worship and a prayer said for them as they go off to their groups.

I would like to thank Ruth, Jill, Mary, Innocent and Adrianna for their commitment during the last year and the parents for their continued support.

Pat O'Connor Ruth Jenkins Mary Kim
On behalf of Sunday Group & teams

Urban Missioners Report.

2017 was an unusual year in many ways for ministry in the united benefice. Gary and I both had 3 month sabbaticals and Jos moved on at the end of the summer. We had to put on hold some of the things that we would have liked to have done, but that said, I think that we have made some encouraging progress in the mission of the church. A big thankyou to everyone who has helped in any way, however small, to enable this to happen.

Over the year I have continued to be an active part in many of the ministries of the church life. Leading and preaching on Sundays, taking funerals, assemblies and 'Bible Zone' in the school, RSG and men's breakfasts. For the moment I continue as a governor of Cherry Garden School (because the schools move to Peckham has been delayed) I also continue as a foundation governor at St James School. As focal minister for St Anne's congregation it is good to be seeing a more consistent number of people coming regularly. Particularly in the later part of the year. Easter and Christmas numbers remain encouraging with the exception of the new crib service we introduces last year. The prayer room set up for 'Thy Kingdom Come' has been well used beyond the 10 days of the initiative. There is still plenty of opportunity for people from both churches to make use of the space though. The St Anne's building project has taken a step forward after some disappointments and a time of nothing much seeming to be happening and I am hopeful that we can now see a positive future for the building and its various uses.

Men's breakfasts remain popular with good numbers attending. It is encouraging to see some new faces that are on the fringe of the church coming along.

Monday night men's group is currently on hold. Numbers dropped over the summer which prompted a relaunch in September. However this was unsuccessful in attracting new members.

RSG is very popular with the local families. Some of which have come along to St Anne's for family services. We continue with the format of free play a story and craft then finishing off with some songs.

I had not previously had a sabbatical and having been in full time ministry since 1999 it was a real blessing. I visited 6 Churches that were from a similar context to ours to observe and then to spend some time with the minister. The intention was to seek out any common issues that are encountered in urban contexts and to see if any of the visited churches had any knowledge to share about how they had addressed them. I was also able to attend London Bible week hearing some first class speakers and spend a week on retreat in north Devon. The remainder of the time was an opportunity to rest, read and make some visits to some friends that would have otherwise been not possible.

I think that all in all 2017 has been a good year in the missional life of the churches. I have been particularly encouraged to see the success of Bermondsey Brew, a great initiative to welcome people into the church and develop relationships. What is particularly good is that it is lay led and run. As we look to 2018 let us keep in mind the great commission from Matthew 28

Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing

them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Capt Paul Warren CA
Urban Missioner
United benefice of St James and St Anne’s
Bermondsey.