

Agenda item 2 Meeting Membership

Membership of Circuit Meeting as of 01st January 2016

Circuit ministers	Revd John Amankwatia, Revd Dave Dickinson, Revd Gill Long, Revd Mark Wakelin, Revd Mark Williams, Revd Des Williamson, Revd Nicola Wooller, Rev, Revd Rosemary Richter, Revd Ernest Yu.
Chair of district	Revd Jenny Impey
Circuit stewards	Miss Shirley Breeden, Mrs Janet Angel, Mr David Forty, Mr Chee Hong Fui, Mr Ravi Saravanamuttu
Circuit Treasurer	Mr Richard Smith
Lay workers	None appointed by Circuit
Meeting Secretary:	Miss Raj Kalsi
Secretary to LWP Meeting	Mr Nick White
Circuit Property Secretary	Vacant
Circuit Manses Secretary	Mr Philip Sandiford
Missions Secretary	Vacant
Circuit Treasurer for Connexional and other Funds	Mr Tom Styche
Risk Management Group Chairman	Mrs Sue Forty

Elected representative to Synod: Jacky Waite

Elected church representatives

Sutton	Deacon Treasurer Elected (3)	Mrs Jacqueline John Mr Malcolm Booth Mr John Wroe, Dr David Gooch
St John's	Steward Treasurer Elected (1)	Mr Darren Murton Mrs Eileen Rice
Wallington	Steward Treasurer Elected (2)	Miss Judith Yates Mrs Christine Asirwatham Mr Stanley Jeyaraj
Epsom	Steward Treasurer Elected (5)	Mr John Riley Mr Richard Smith Mr Tim Cheung
Cheam	Steward Treasurer Elected (1)	Mr David Worthington Mrs Audrey Saunderson Mr Tony Brett Young
Carshalton	Steward Treasurer Elected (2)	Mrs Caroline Kingsnorth Mrs Caroline Cook Mr John Kingsnorth, Mr Geoff Gunton
St George's	Steward Elected (2)	Miss Kathleen Garner Mr Paul Masters, Mr Howard Hampton
Banstead	Steward Treasurer Elected (2)	Mr Philip Sandiford Mrs Margaret Kercher Mr Gordon Fleming, Mr Vernon Tucker
Bandon Hill	Steward Treasurer Elected (1)	Mrs Sally Palmer Mrs Maureen Patel Mr Alan Jameson
United Church of St Mark	Steward Treasurer Elected (1)	Mr Colin Batty Mr Martin Trenaman Mr John Miller

Agenda item 7a Report from the Circuit Leadership Team

Circuit Stewards Report

We are pleased that the Rev. Barnabas Alexander has accepted an invitation to the Sutton Circuit to have pastoral oversight of Wallington and Bandon Hill Churches from September 2016. Rev. Rosemary Richter will from that date continue to have oversight of Carshalton and St. Georges and then add Banstead to her pastoral care.

We are still praying for a presbyter for the Chinese Congregation at Epsom.

With the Circuit staff, we are trying to identify the needs of the various churches and to see if and how the circuit can help.

We continue to pray for our presbyters and thank them for their hard work and commitment to Gods work.

Shirley Breeden

7b Circuit leadership team – Statement of Purpose

The Conference document “What is a Superintendent?” states that the Circuit Leadership Team meets to articulate vision, to formulate recommendations for practical strategies to enact that vision, to prepare business for the Circuit Meeting and to act in the light of its decisions (§18).

At Sutton Circuit Leadership Team’s Away Day on October 28th 2016, it was agreed that shared expectations and agreed goals assist in the effective and purposeful work of any CLT. To that end and to mitigate the dysfunctions caused by any lacks of trust, commitment and accountability, this document expresses Sutton Circuit’s Leadership Team’s statement of purpose.

Sutton Circuit Leadership Team, comprising its staff, stewards and administrator, is committed to listen to

- God that it may discern the nature and focus of God’s mission by listening to scripture, to the stories of our tradition and to the quiet voice within.
- the local churches for their expressed concerns and needs
- the wider community and its cries for help

It aims then to encourage, inspire, inform and resource the mission of the local churches. This will involve being alongside the local churches and providing alternative insights and larger perspectives. It may include supporting local Churches, both as exciting opportunities present themselves and as uncomfortable decisions are made. It will include practical matters such as the deployment of ministers, the provision and upkeep of manses and other general administrative arrangements, under the auspices of the Circuit Meeting.

Sutton Circuit Leadership Team aims to be both visionary and the practical means by which vision is enacted.

Proposal: that Circuit Meeting adopts the above Statement of purpose for the Circuit Leadership Team.

Agenda item 8 Circuit Manses

Manses Report to the Circuit Meeting for the period 1st Sep 2015 – 6th February 2016

SUMMARY OF WORKS

The outstanding manse renovation and changeover works at West Hill Avenue were completed after the Oborskis moved out in August, and before the Wakelins moved in at the end of September.

I am grateful to Mark and Judith Wakelin for delaying their move to the manse in order to provide a window of opportunity to carry out some major refurbishment works.

Several significant and unexpected maintenance items have arisen at most of the manses during this period including the replacement of central heating boilers at Waverley Way and Manor Green Road, and extensive fencing replacements at Hall Road.

This means that all the manse boilers except Tattenham Way, and the majority of the manse fences have failed and been replaced during the last four years.

A small number of minor ongoing maintenance items have also been completed.

The overdue Quinquennial survey was carried out at Tattenham Way in November 2015.

The minor items in the "of utmost urgency" category have been addressed. A serious damp issue in the front small bedroom was also identified.

The damp is being attended to, and the room will be redecorated when it has dried out.

Most of the items in the "required during the next 12 months" category will be attended to in budget year 2016/17

These include window replacement and external painting.

MANSE CHANGEOVER PLANS

The works required at West Hill Avenue were completed in time for Mark and Judith Wakelin to move at the end of September 2015.

The existing tenants at Waverley Way are due to move out on or before 30th June 2016. The manse will be prepared for the Rev. Barnabas Alexander by the beginning of August 2016

The Rev. John Amankwatia will be leaving the Tattenham Way manse during August 2016 and this manse will then be prepared for letting, or occupation by a minister.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE TO DATE BUDGET YEAR 2015/16

Completion of West Hill Avenue Renovation and Changeover Works -	£28,728.50
Maintenance/replacement items over £200 -	£18,299.33
Maintenance/replacement items £200 or less -	£669.50
Total expenditure (1st Sep 2015 – 6th Feb 2016) -	£47,697.33

SUMMARY OF FUNDS AVAILABLE BUDGET YEAR 2015/16

Funds available 2015/16:

B/f from 2014/15 -	£ 8,531.61
Annual budget 2015/16 -	£30,000.00
Net income Waverley Way, say -	£ 9,000.00
Total funds for 2015/16, say -	£47,531.61

The unforeseen major maintenance items during the first six months of this budget year means that there will be an over spend this budget year.

PLANNED REMAINING WORK, YEAR 2015/16

Fortunately most expected, and probably the unexpected expenditure has taken place during these first six months of the budget year.

The following items will need to be carried out during the remainder of this budget year:

Waverley Way changeover – probably only minor maintenance as all major items were completed before the most recent tenants moved in (Feb 2015).

Waverley Way – tree felling/pruning

Waverley Way – new thermostatic shower to replace the failing electric unit

Tattenham Way – redecoration of damp-affected bedroom

Hall Road – minor drive widening to assist access across from front garden

5 year electrical inspections
Gas safety inspections and wheelie bin contracts
Minor ongoing maintenance/repair items

It is estimated that the items above will cost in the region of £6-8,000.

Additionally there would be some essential works (say approx. £3-4,000) required at Tattenham Way if a new minister wants to move in during August, otherwise these could be left to budget year 2016/17.

LIST OF WORKS COMPLETED – 1st Sep 2015 – 6th Feb 2016

West Hill Avenue Refurbishment & Changeover:

The refurbishment works included a complete kitchen refit, external walls repair and painting, replacement of much of the double glazing, new study fire, upgraded shower unit and screen, new gas hob, replacement and extension of small and unusable rear patio area, some new centre light fittings, replacement kitchen radiator, new door furniture, renovation of garage, major tree felling/pruning and garden clearance works, replacement pond liner and removal of redundant garden electrics and pumps.

The changeover works included several new carpets, new curtains throughout, a few curtain tracks, complete internal painting and some minor general repairs.

The cost of these works was £28,728.50

Replacement/maintenance Items Costing Over £200:

West Hill Ave – repair of central heating faults – new pump, radiator valves and system flush - £468.00

Manor Green Road – central heating boiler replacement - £4,488.00

Manor Green Road – unblock severe drains blockage and flush clean - £250.00

Arundel Road – renovate, resurface and re-seal failing hall wood block flooring - £270.00

Tattenham Way – replacement of garage roof - £1,650.00

Tattenham Way – remove two condemned gas fires and replace with electric fires - £1,250.00

Tattenham Way – start attending to damp in bedroom (identified via the Nov '15 Quinquennial Report) - £350.00

Tattenham Way – install radiator in bathroom and cap off defunct gas pipes - £450.00

Hall Road – new back garden side and end fences and a new front garden fence - £3,300

Hall Road – replace and upgrade failed electric shower - £550.00

Hall Road - install external security lighting - £439.33

Waverley Way – central heating boiler replacement - £4,164.00

Waverley Way – supply new basin and taps and repair leaking pipes under bath – £670.00

(the last item above is the subject of an insurance claim)

Total of replacement/maintenance items costing over £200.00 - £18,299.33

Replacement/maintenance Items Costing £200 or less:

There continue to be relatively few minor ongoing repairs required.

	West Hill Avenue:	
n/a	No minor maintenance	
	Manor Green Road:	
11.11.15	New single light switch upstairs bedroom and Yale Superior lock in front door	79.14
	Arundel Road:	0
20.11.15	Repair shower leak	20.00
19.12.15	Re-attach alarm box to wall	15.00
06.02.16	Re-fix wall cupboard bracket and hang and fix unit	50.00
	Waverley Way:	
06.02.16	Fix leaking gutter after storm	50.00
	Hall Road:	0
09.09.15	Premier H&P- Install washing machine	156.00
27.10.15	Supply and install outside tap and connector elbow	57.28
05.12.15	Painting of white line in the road (Sutton Council)	75.00
	Tattenham Way:	
27.10.15	New flush valve upstairs cistern Adjust dining room door handle	40.08
02.11.15	Reigate & Banstead Brown Wheelie Bin	50.00
20.12.15	Fire blanket, fire extinguisher and dehumidifier	77.00

Total of replacement/maintenance items costing £200 or less - £669.50

Philip Sandiford
Circuit Manses Secretary

Agenda item 9a Annual Report and Accounts year ended 31st August 2015

Annual Report and Accounts

The Annual Report for the Circuit for 2014/15 has been prepared and circulated previously.

Sutton Methodist Circuit					
Proposed Budget for 2016/2017 & Accounts for 2014/2015					
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	2016/2017	2015/2016	2015/2016	2014/2015	2014/2015
INCOME					
Contributions from Churches	333,258	163,260	329,923	327,000	327,000
Lay Pastor Salaries	39,000	15,091	28,000	33,319	28,000
Ryelands Donations	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-	-
CFB Interest	1,000	354	1,500	1,178	1,500
Manse Lettings	-	8,750	10,000	38,044	21,000
Total Income	373,258	187,455	369,423	399,541	377,500
EXPENDITURE					
Manses Expenses					
Repairs & Renewals	30,000	40,763	30,000	30,410	30,000
Insurances	7,000	5,993	7,000	6,857	7,000
Quinquennials & Surveys	-	490	-	485	-
Removals	2,500	-	5,000	4,972	5,000
Council Tax & Water Rates	15,375	8,203	15,000	14,267	15,500
Letting of 7 Waverley Way	-	4,834	2,000	19,623	2,000
Renting costs	-	-	-	25,261	17,000
Ministerial Expenses					
Stipend, Retirement Fund, NHI	176,800	67,788	173,200	170,088	171,400
Expenses	16,500	4,176	16,000	15,952	17,000
Connexional Funds					
Mission & Service	56,937	26,803	53,940	51,034	51,034
District Assessment	10,845	5,304	10,274	9,771	9,771
Circuit Expenses					
Lay Pastor Salaries	39,000	15,489	28,000	33,319	28,000
Circuit Plans	-	-	-	-	-
Local Preachers' Expenses	1,000	252	1,000	1,140	1,000
Supernumerary Expenses	1,500	141	1,000	778	1,000
Invitation Expenses	250	543	250	114	250
Secretarial Support, Stationery & Postage	12,000	4,957	12,000	1,422	1,800
Training	2,000	450	2,000	600	2,000
Accountancy and Audit	250	(250)	250	250	250
Sundry	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	371,957	186,703	356,914	386,343	360,005
Excess (Expenditure)/Income for year	1,301	752	12,509	13,197	17,495
Balance at the end of the year	167,275		165,974	153,465	
Chinese Ministry					
Income	42,000	-	42,000	18,000	10,000
Less: Salary and Expenses	58,000	502	58,800	(1,835)	2,000
Excess (Expenditure)/Income for year	(16,000)	(502)	(16,800)	16,165	8,000

Notes:

INCOME

1. Assessments. These were all received satisfactorily. Thank you.
2. Interest was slightly lower than budget because of the current rates still being low.
3. Manse lettings. See note 4 below.

EXPENDITURE

1. Repairs and renewals were on budget, but this was because of the timing of invoices. There was still a further £28,700 spent on 29 West Hill Avenue after the year end. This was simply because the refurbishment continued into September due to Mark moving at the end of September. The manse secretary's report covers all the manse costs in detail.
2. Insurances and removals were within budget.
3. Council tax and water rates were slightly under budget.
4. The balance of the income from the letting of 16 Hall Road was offset against costs on this manse and the renting of 91 Hazon Way. The balance on the letting of 7 Waverley Way of £9,773 was set against manse expenditure. This produced an overall deficit on the rented manses of £6,840 which was well below the £10,000 ultimately hoped for.
5. Ministerial stipends and expenses were slightly below budget.
6. Connexional and District assessments were already known.
7. Overall circuit expenses were under £2,000 budget.

SUMMARY

The overall surplus on the account was slightly below budget, but still acceptable at £13,197. The final balance on the general fund was £153,465 which is £4,275 over the required reserves level of £149,190. The reserves level does not include any other expenditure on manses apart from the standard amount referred to in the budget.

BUDGET for 2016/2017

1. The assessments have already been set in the 3 year rolling cycle which was agreed at the treasures' meeting in January 2015. The allocation for each church is shown in the document circulated with the circuit meeting papers.
2. The only other main increases are the stipends which have risen in accordance with the standard formula, the connexional and district assessments which are set by their relevant bodies and the secretarial support. The secretarial support was set back to the circuit paying for the administrator's salary in 2015/2016 and will continue, it having been met by the Model Trust Fund for the previous 3 years. No allowance has been made for manse lettings because 7 Waverley Way is likely to come back into use for a circuit minister and a decision has not been taken about the possibility of letting 37 Tattenham Way.

BUDGET for 2015/2016

Some points arose at the September 2015 Circuit Meeting and these have been incorporated into the budget for the current year. They were an increase of the manse letting income from £6,000 to £10,000 and for the removals from £2,500 to £5,000 (2 removals in the year).

Agenda Item 9c Assessments

Proposed Assessments for 2016/2017

	Total 2015/16	Total 2016/17	Increase/ Decrease
Sutton Trinity	69003	71530	2527
Wallington	40251	39943	-308
Carshalton	43489	43368	-121
Epsom	105975	109329	3354
St John's	1131	1901	770
Banstead	24008	23262	-746
Cheam	19568	19559	-9
St Mark's	1735	1160	-575
St George's	7680	7788	108
Bandon Hill	17083	15418	-1665
Total	329923	333259	3335

Richard T Smith
January 2016

Agenda Item 10 Circuit Appointments

**METHODIST CHURCH – SUTTON CIRCUIT
APPOINTMENTS for Connexional year 2016-17**

Circuit Stewards	Ms Shirley Breedon
	Mrs Janet Angel
	Mr David Forty
	Mr Chee Hong Fui
	Mr Ravi Saravanamuttu
Circuit Treasurer	Mr Richard Smith
Circuit Administrator and Circuit Meeting Secretary	Miss Raj Kalsi
Leaders of Worship and Preachers' Meeting Secretary	Mr Nick White
Circuit Manses Secretary	Mr Philip Sandiford
Connexional Funds Treasurer	Mr Tom Styche
Missions Coordinator	Vacant
Methodist Homes and Ryelands Link/ Events Coordinators	No appointment to Circuit Meeting
Circuit Auditors/Examiners	Harry Wilkinson

Agenda Item 10 Representatives to Synod 2016/17

Proposed Representatives 2016/17

Mr Alan Jameson
Miss Shirley Breeden
Mr Phil Sandiford
Miss Jacky Waite
Mr Chee Hong Fui

Agenda Item 11 Leaders of Worship and Preachers

REPORT OF THE LEADERS OF WORSHIP & PREACHERS' MEETING

The Leaders of Worship & Preachers' Meeting reports the following items:-

Full Accreditation

We were delighted that the Circuit approved the recommendation that Shirley Leung and Nellie Showers be fully accredited as Local Preachers in the Circuit. They were recognised at the Circuit Celebration service at Sutton Trinity on 22 November 2015, together with Rabin Lok whose recommendation had already been approved.

New Local Preacher

We welcomed Hannah Chun as a Fully Accredited Local Preacher at the November meeting, by transfer from the Forest Circuit.

Local Preachers on Note

We were delighted to unanimously approve the recommendation of Rev Nik Wooller, that Rebecca (Becky) Gonyora be given a Note to Preach at the January meeting.

Tim Cheung has now managed to reorganise his commitments to enable him to give more time to his studies and to sharing in services and he was continued on Note.

Abby Janes has continued to be indisposed, and we pray for her health to improve.

Local Preachers on Trial

John Dawson is now approaching the end of the London Course, and successfully completed his half-way interview at the most recent Local Preachers' meeting.

Ernest Tsui has progressed with his studies and will be the subject of service reports during the next Plan period.

Circuit Recognition Service, 22 November 2015

In addition to recognising the three new Fully Accredited Local Preachers, as noted above, Peter Thompson's 40 years as a Local Preacher was acknowledged, as was the ministry of Jean Jones, who has now ceased to be an active Local Preacher.

Local Preachers' Meetings

Since the last report, meetings were held on Thursday 3 September 2015 at Epsom, Wednesday 18 November 2015 (including Worship Leaders) at Cheam, and Tuesday 19 January 2016 at Wallington. At the most recent meeting, Ministers and Local Preachers began discussion of the book, "Alive to the Word", by Stephen I Wright.

The remaining meetings in 2016 will be held on Tuesday 17 May at Sutton (including Worship Leaders and Holy Communion), Wednesday 14 September at Banstead, and Thursday 17 November at Epsom (including Worship Leaders).

NICK WHITE
Local Preachers' Secretary
27 January 2016

Agenda Item 12 Safeguarding

a. Circuit Safeguarding Policy

Approval of the Circuit Safeguarding Policy by Circuit Meeting, copy Policy circulated previously with agenda papers.

b. Training Update

Next Foundation Module Courses will be held on Tuesday 15th March 2016 from 7.30 -10.00pm at Carshalton Methodist Church and on Saturday 4th June from 10.00am – 12.30pm at Epsom Methodist Church. Seventy Five people attended the Foundation Module in 2015 of which twenty nine people were those who completed the Module A in 2010 and are still in their role and therefore were required to retrain.

c. List of People Required to Attend Foundation Module Course

A. Core list of people required to attend:

- Presbyters with an active preaching or pastoral ministry
- Deacons with an active preaching or pastoral ministry
- Pre-ordination students and probationers
- Lay employees & Volunteer Workers with pastoral responsibility
- Pastoral Visitors
- Anyone working with 0 – 18 year olds in the name of the church
- Anyone working in activities targeted at adults who are vulnerable (e.g. luncheon club for the housebound)
- Church stewards
- Circuit stewards
- Local preachers
- Worship leaders
- Those training for local preaching or worship leading
- Church and circuit safeguarding representatives
- Choir/music group/drama leaders – where there are 0-18 year olds or vulnerable adults in the group.
- District staff especially policy committee members, complaints and discipline, mediators
- Core teaching staff at Methodist Church Training Institutions
- Connexional staff with direct safeguarding links e.g. children and youth workers

B. People Warmly invited but not mandatory

- Evangelism/mission enablers
- Leaders of other organisations, working with 0-18yr olds or vulnerable adults, who use church premises
- Remaining Choir/music group/drama leaders
- Any other group leaders within the church, who may have adults within their particular group who are vulnerable.
- Property stewards and other keyholders
- Caretakers
- Church/circuit meeting secretaries
- Church/circuit/district administrators

- Remaining District and Connexional staff
- Remaining teaching staff at Methodist Church Training Institutions

The Circuit Meeting proposes that local Church Councils may require people in Group B who have direct contact with vulnerable groups to attend the training.

Agenda Item 14 Reports from Circuit committees

Circuit Model Trust Fund Committee Report to the Circuit Meeting on Tuesday, 1st March 2016

Circuit Model Trust Fund statement of accounts for year ending 31st August 2015			
Income		Expenditure	
Balance at 1st September 2014	135540.47	TMCP Administration 2014/2015	175.85
		District Levy 2014/2015	2198.15
Interest for 2014/2015	735.57	St Marks (Family Worker)	32580.00
		Epsom Families and Children's worker (2012-2015)	10000.00
		Wallington Families Worker	3010.00
		Sutton Circuit administrator	7632.00
		Balance at 31st August 2015	80680.04
	136276.04		136276.04
		Balance at 31st August 2015	80680.04
		Less outstanding commitments	
		Epsom Families and Children's Worker (2015-2018)	30000.00
		Wallington Families Worker	6020.00
		Available balance at 31st August 2015	44660.04

Please note: There is still the interest for August to add.

Raj Kalsi
(Secretary to Committee)

Mission funds

Church House – Finance Office - reported the following donations were received from our Churches in the Circuit during the year September 2014- August 2015

	Sept 2014 - Aug 2015	Sept 2013 - Aug 2014
Fund for World Mission (embracing Easter Offerings, Network)	£1,712.15	£2,954.68
Mission in Britain Fund (formerly Home Missions)	£1,628.04	£1,079.97

Tom Styche
(Acting Circuit Mission Secretary)

Agenda Item 15 Good News from Churches

Good News from Banstead

We continue to welcome some new regular members of our congregation and there is a good spirit among the church family.

We had a wonderful 80th Church Anniversary celebration Day on Sunday 30th November when we welcomed back many previous members and friends who have moved away over the years. We also welcomed local families and friends who have various connections with our Church. A superb lunch was enjoyed followed by social activities culminating in tea and the cutting of a special anniversary cake.

Our Christmas services were again enjoyed by members and friends. The Christmas Eve "Christingle and impromptu nativity" service was attended by many local families and friends and continues to be an excellent outreach opportunity.

We again teamed up with the United Church of St. Marks to provide a Christmas lunch and fellowship for anyone who felt they would like to share with others on Christmas Day. Over 50 lunches were served and the event was appreciated by all who attended.

**Philip Sandiford
Steward**

Good News from Cheam

Our usual outreach activities have been Family Fun Days on Mondays during February Half Term and October Half Term, each bringing into the Church many families, enjoying the craft and other activities. The Messy Church, Easter, Summer and Christmas Services have been well attended with families, and the regular Tots Meeting on Tuesdays has brought several baptisms over the year. Thanks to our minister Nik, who leads this parents', carers and Toddler Group with help from members of the Church.

For the first time, several members helped sort out the books for Epsom Book Fair, which helped us raise funds for our Church. Sutton Schools Work is located at our Church, and arranges the Easter Experience which tells the story of Jesus from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection to many hundreds of primary school children each year. Two of our members again took part in last year's production. Our usual fund raising activities were for Christian Aid, Crisis, and Action for Children. The Women's Friendly Hour, charity of the year is for the Ministry Aviation Fellowship and donations are also given to various charities before Christmas. During the year donations are given to speakers for their special charities as well.

We also support Ryelands, helping on the cake stall at the Coffee Morning and Summer Fair. Two of our members also volunteer weekly at Seability in Leatherhead. We invite friends at Seability to the Church for refreshments and songs and Carols during the Summer and before Christmas. Several friends attend the shows that they perform in Leatherhead. We celebrated our 80th Church Anniversary on 7th June, with the unveiling of 3 paintings by Artist Shirley Veater, a friend of Rev. Nik Wooller depicting Father, Son and Holy Spirit. After the service we shared an excellent lunch together. During the Women's Friendly Hour Anniversary in May, a new Pulpit Bible was dedicated in memory of Mrs. Doreen West. A new pulpit bible stand was given in thanksgiving of members Golden Wedding. We are pleased to have a new music system, which enhances our worship with videos and words of the hymns on a screen.

Our Christmas Services, and street carol singing was very successful raising more money than before for Action for Children. The 6th Formers of Cheam High School made up beautiful hampers

for families and individuals as their special charity and gave them to us to distribute. Needless to say, all the recipients were delighted with the gifts.

Our house groups, pastoral care, visits to housebound, cleaning and decorating of the Church and Hall, bring many volunteers from our members. All our Services, activities and updates are advertised in our monthly Newsletters and on our Church Website, with thanks to Tony and Sue. Special thanks to our Minister Nik, for all her excellent and thought provoking services, her skills in craft and cooking. God bless her and her family and all the ministers and local preachers that visit our church during the year.

Mary Freeman

Good News from Epsom January 2016

Held successful events and services throughout the Festive Season

A new team has been formed to look after EMC and the facilities

The Stewards Team meet twice a month and are working well together.

Looking at what we can "do" during Easter

Appraisals of all paid staff have taken place

New Youth group has been formed for a Sunday evening.

Organisation for the Book Fair is coming along fast!

All uniformed organisations continue to put on a fun and varied programme for all young people.

Harvey Morris
Senior Steward

Good News from St Mark's

The past year at St Mark's has been, as usual, full of activity as we continue working to establish our church as an important centre of our community.

An exciting initiative was **The Living Advent** - a wide variety of events each day of Advent for the people of all ages living and working around us. It was organised by St Mark's and Merland Rise Church in partnership with community representatives including our local councillor and with the active support of shopkeepers and other businesses. There were too many events to mention but they included a Christmas Tree Switch-on by Tim Vine, a Sheep Trail, crafts, concerts, as well as specifically Christian events such as reflective prayers, a remembrance event round the tree for the bereaved, and other church services. You can see the whole programme by clicking on this link <http://www.tattenhamcorner.co.uk/>

Fun and Faith for 10 year olds up has expanded to another group for 7-10 year olds. Both groups are aimed at children who want to develop their faith through discussion, food and fun. We are especially delighted that some of our Messy Church 'graduates' have joined the groups.

We can hardly believe that we've been a United Church for only 10 years as no-one feels Anglican or Methodist anymore; we simply get on with serving God together. But we celebrated our **10th Anniversary** in October with a visit from the Bishop of Guildford, fittingly serving some fizz after the service alongside the usual excellent coffee.

Messy Church continues successfully, as does Star Trail and Easter Days when we welcome schools to learn about Christmas and Easter in an exciting, interactive way. Our community choir *Sing!* continues to perform at events and fundraisers; the monthly cinema, community lunches and craft market continue, as does Christmas Together shared with Banstead Methodist Church.

We feel we've made great progress in being a real presence in our community, but know there's much work to be done. Our worship continues to evolve and we continue to learn and grow as individuals, too. At least, we try to!

John Miller