

St. Alban's Annual Report 2019

From the Chaplain

The Annual Report is the opportunity to say thank you to each and everyone for your presence, participation and witness in the life of St Alban's Church. Our worship is a cherished aspect of the life of the international, English-speaking community in Copenhagen. Our chief end and calling is to glorify God; and we have done this in 2019 by cherishing the gifts of all members and newcomers alike.

The pages of this Annual Report are a record of God's goodness. I want to thank our Chaplaincy Council and its wise and wonderful members who have continued to be a source of blessing and challenge to one another and for their hard work in so many different areas of church life. Thank you to the Chairs of Sub-Committees who together subsequently became the Bishops' Interim Group assisting in matters of church governance. I acknowledge thanks and extend good wishes to the former Churchwardens too.

I want to thank all who attend worship, give generously and support willingly the mission and ministry of St Alban's. You are part of "Building a Welcome for All" the strap line for the Building Project which saw a new addition to the church building. The bricks and mortar are part of our ongoing story which is not complete without all the people who are nurturing youngsters, talking to visitors, making meals and cleaning up, offering hospitality, fellowship and prayer.

I am grateful for the dedication of the Ministry Team, Safeguarding Officers, Children's Church Leaders, Sidespeople, Readers, Intercessors, Home Group Leaders, Servers, Choir, Organists, Altar Guild, Flower Team, Guardians, Coffee Team, Cleaners, Caterers, and all others who without title or rank undertake a host of activities to enhance and inspire worship and our community life. Thanks also to our partnership in the Gospel with Tværkulturelt Center and the local ecumenical churches.

My thanks to all whose term of office on the Chaplaincy Council ends; and to the Deanery Synod representatives who hand the baton on. Notable among them is Pauleen Bang without whose hard work as Secretary, the Council would have struggled.

I single out unsung saints: Rebecca Mathen and Alex Onea whose kindness and service knows no bounds and whose work extends in innumerable directions.

Our Safeguarding Officers have been diligent in honouring Diocesan Policy and promoting a safer church by encouraging volunteers to comply with procedures. This has not been easy and I applaud their courage and resilience.

This year we have lived through the unexpected and unthinkable: financial shortfall, resignations of key church officers and stalwarts seeking their spiritual home elsewhere, Yet for those who are here and those who visit, there is a vibrant community made up of talented, dedicated, faithful individuals who are willing to create something beautiful for God. To whom much is given, much is expected.

We have been given much. A beautiful building, a growing community and the freedom to worship. As we turn towards the new church year, can we turn our focus outwards in a significant and sustained way? Can we expand our work to caring for more than ourselves? Can we turn our faces to the park, the city and the world where God already is so that we can be the face of Christ out there?

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St Alban's is home, club and sanctuary for many, and for many years. Can we widen our embrace such that we can help people find faith and learn more and grow to a deeper understanding of God? Can our members find new ways of linking and building relationships with those who are different from us? Can we find living water together?

"We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one Body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you." Amen

Revd Smitha Prasadam

The Chaplaincy Council

Purpose and Structure

The Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Chaplain in promoting, in the chaplaincy area (in our case the country of Denmark), the whole mission of the Anglican Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. We have an historic church building at St. Alban's Church Copenhagen and a congregation in Aarhus. The Church Council has maintenance responsibilities for the St. Alban's Church building and its grounds, and for the vicarage. We are part of the Nordic and Baltic Deanery, and of the Archdeaconry of Germany and Northern Europe (in the Diocese in Europe). The Diocese in Europe is the 42nd diocese of The Church of England, which is part of the Anglican Communion. Our bishop is the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe. As a church, we are episcopally led and synodically governed. We elect representatives to Deanery, Diocesan and General Synod.

Membership of the Chaplaincy Council

Chaplain: The Revd Smitha Prasadam *Ex Officio*

Readers:

Victoria Wadsworth-Hansen: *Ex Officio*

Graeme Lloyd Roberts: *Ex Officio*

Ursula Sonnewald: *Ex Officio*

Peter Prasadam: *Ex Officio*

Churchwardens:

Philip Davies: *Ex Officio* - resigned

Nigel Rowley: *Ex Officio* - resigned

4 elected representatives to Nordic and Baltic Deanery Synod (2017 - 2020)

Maria Kvan Mortensen: *Ex Officio*

Pauleen Bang: *Ex Officio* /Council Secretary

John Mills: *Ex Officio*

Victoria Wadsworth-Hansen: *Ex Officio*

Elected members:

Alex Onea	2019-2022
Anna Christine Christensen	2019-2022
Frances Jacobsen	2017-2020
Joyce Adda	2019-2022
Martin Rasmussen	2019-2022
Mathen Thomas	2019-2022
Owen Prewett	2018-2021
Samuel Walton	2019-2022
Sarah Sørensen	2018-2021
Shelley Noble-Letort	2018-2021

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Steven Harrod
Angela Hansen - resigned

2019-2022

Sidespeople:

Anna Christine Christensen, Alice Thomas, Alex Onea, Christopher Osborn, Faith Hatani, Frances Jacobsen, Joseph Simon, Joveeta Menezes, Junior Williams, Liz Jensen, Lucky Yaru, Pramila Fernandez, Rebecca Mathen, Rosemary Bohr

Address of St. Alban's Anglican Church:

Churchillparken 11, 1263 Copenhagen K, Telephone: 33 11 85 18

Address of the Aarhus Anglican Congregation:

Møllevangskirken, Møllevangs Allé 47-49, 8210 Aarhus V

Bank: Danske Bank, Copenhagen

Auditor: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Copenhagen

The Council Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the Church Council between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The membership is: the Chaplain, the Churchwardens, the Council Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer. The Standing Committee meets between each Council Meeting and agrees the Council Agenda.

The Trust Funds:

The Princess Viggo Fund for St. Alban's Church is to assure the continuance of St. Alban's Church by providing a source of finance, which in case of need may be applied to supplement the normal resources of the church

The Lindholm Fund is to support the maintenance of St. Alban's Church and the church choir, and is chaired by Richard Petersen.

The Wendy Vigild Fund is to support the training of Readers and laity in theological study, in memory of the late Wendy Vigild.

The Cray Jensen Fund exists to renew and maintain the furniture and equipment of St. Alban's Church.

St. Alban's Church does not receive any financial support from The Church of England, nor from the Danish or British states. We are self-funded by the generous giving of the congregation, and voluntary fund-raising events. We thank all our givers - large and small.

Attendance in 2019

Our main weekly services at St. Alban's Church are Holy Communion at 10:30 on Wednesdays, and the Sung Eucharist at 10:30 on Sundays. On the second Sunday of the month, St. Alban's now also holds a non-Eucharistic service at 14:00, where the theme of the service varies (i.e. a Taizé service, Blessing of the Animals etc).

Number of communicants at services on Easter Eve and Easter Day was 339, total number (including communicants on Easter Eve and Easter Day) was 375.

Total number of people attending special services held for the congregation and local community during Advent was 683.

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Number of communicants at services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was 233. Total number of people attending worship (including communicants) on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was 373.

Chaplaincy Council meetings in 2019

There were 10 Chaplaincy Council meetings in 2019 plus the ACM (14-04-2019) and SCM (14-07-2019). Among the subjects discussed at these meetings were:

- amenities update and fundraising
- finances incl. outward giving
- summer fête cancellation and other possibilities for fundraising
- safeguarding incl. training and new safeguarding officer
- guardians
- vocations
- new Electoral Roll
- General Synod elections
- GDPR
- new sub-committees
- resignations of churchwardens
- ministry experience scheme (MES) candidate
- Brexit meeting in church (proposed but not seconded)
- new environmental officers
- appointment of current sub-committee chairs as “bishop’s nominees” (interim wardens)
- emergency building work on tower

Mission and Ministry in Jutland

Aarhus

We have held monthly services throughout 2019, though not in July.

Our attendance is variable, usually between 20-30 people. At the Carol Service we had a congregation of about 100. This year we had a small, local choir singing and a violinist playing as well.

After all our services we have refreshments and share small dishes and cakes brought by our members. This is always well appreciated and there is usually lively discussion.

It has not been possible to hold Lent discussion groups in 2019, but we hope to again in the future. The question has been raised as to whether 6 pm is the best time to hold Services. A poll however, showed clearly that 6 pm is the most popular, though we will be holding some services earlier to make it easier for families.

Angela Hansen decided to step back from the Church Council at the end of 2019, and as co-ordinator of the Aarhus Congregation. She has worked tirelessly in these positions and leaves a hard position to fill.

Thea Clemson Andersen

Church Warden's Report

Following the resignation of both churchwardens in 2019, Bishop David appointed an interim group to assist Revd Smitha until the ACM, where churchwardens are expected to be chosen. The interim group was Peter Prasadam, Graeme Lloyd-Roberts, Victoria Wadsworth and Julian Simpson.

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Execution of churchwarden duties by the interim group has been complicated by a series of challenges, largely due to non-compliance by the former wardens of church governance rules for resignation, as well as the lack of any formal handover of knowledge and assets.

In the latter half of 2019, the interim group focused on continuity of worship, execution of the church mission, paying of overdue invoices and ensuring the most urgent building maintenance. The interim group have also focused on continuing to chair the subcommittees (PR, fundraising, finance, mission and outreach, building and works) and to assist and consult with Revd Smitha as well as report to council on progress made. Reports from the subcommittees are available in this report.

Victoria Wadsworth (on behalf of the interim churchwardens)

Bible Study

St. Alban's Bible study group met every Thursday evening at 18:00 in the Upper Room throughout the year for in-depth studies on relevant issues, to ascertain God's views on these subjects. Two presentations were also held in the church after the Sunday morning service during the late spring, on Heaven & Hell, and on The Gift of Tongues. The Bible Study group also ran a passover seder meal on Maundy Thursday, attended by about 50 people.

Phil Clarke & Graeme Lloyd-Roberts

Registrar's Report

Baptisms: 10
Funerals: 2
Blessing: 1
Weddings: 2
Confirmation: 0

Lis Rasmussen

Altar Guild

As always, our effective team of ladies (gentlemen welcome), has kept the silver, brass, wrought iron, linen and hangings in order. We try to keep order in cupboards, but due to the building project over two years, they were in a mess. Finally, we managed to clear the Vestry and Sacristy cupboards and re-organise the contents.

Both spaces had been dumping grounds for a long time. Under Junior's leadership, six of us managed to treat all the oak doors and furniture with our special wine/linseed oil mixture. (Cobwebs were also removed!!)

Purificators wear out very quickly, due to removing heavy stains, and our seamstresses are kept busy sewing new ones. We would also appreciate any offers of help with the washing of Altar linen.

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An anonymous person has kindly donated money to help pay for the weekly flower arrangements. However, it seems that the lack of helpers is not so much due to the money. but finding time to come into church to arrange the flowers.

Thank you to all the helpers in the Altar Guild, and their dedication to keeping our church looking so welcoming.

Carole F.Rasmussen

Electoral Roll

The final count at last year's ACM was 191 Electoral Roll members and 27 nationalities. Today, there are 136 Electoral Roll members and 22 nationalities, as follows:

36	Danish
56	British
2	Malaysian
3	Australian
2	New Zealander
6	USA
3	Canadian
1	Zambian
9	Indian
2	Ugandan
1	Iranian
1	Sierra Leonean
1	Russian
2	Ghanaian
1	Hungarian
1	German
4	Nigerian
1	Philippines
1	Syrian
1	Egyptian
1	Japanese
1	Romanian
136	22

Safeguarding

The protection of children and vulnerable adults is of utmost importance and a matter of top priority for St Alban's. Much valued work is being done by volunteers in our church every week and the contributions they make can never be over estimated. Their work, however, can only be possible if safe spaces are provided, not only for them but also for every single person worshipping/visiting in our church, be it an adult or a child. As a church, we believe that all people are created in the image of God and are sustained and loved by Him. Therefore, we need to protect every individual entering our doors and be vigilant at all times.

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To date, the Safeguarding Policy has been implemented. Signed copies of the policy/Safeguarding Agreement and posters with the contact details of the Chaplain and the Safeguarding Officer, together with the helpline numbers are displayed on all the noticeboards inside and outside the church, the Sunday School area and the crypt. This includes the church's website which has been updated.

The Volunteer Application/Self-Certification forms have been sent to all the volunteers: the Church Council, the Lay Ministers, the Ministry Leaders, the Choir, the Sidespersons, the Guardians, the Children's Ministry and to our church in Århus. This has been quite challenging and complete cooperation from the volunteers is urged. Thank you however to all those who have completed and returned their forms together with their police checks.

Safeguarding training, Refresher and Level 2, was conducted on 8 and 9 November 2019, thanks to Susan Boyd. There were 20 participants for the Refresher course and 17 for the Level 2 course. The online Level 1 training is ongoing using the new system.

Risk assessment, for all the ministries that the church is involved in, will be carried out in 2020 and completed by March 2020.

Christopher J D Osborn and Alice Thomas

Music and Choir

2019 was the Year of Two Organists at St Alban's - in the Spring, James Sherlock, virtuoso keyboard player and an assistant conductor at the Royal Opera, joined Michael Emery in sharing the musical duties, sometimes independently and sometimes together. The advantages, and greater range of musical opportunities, possible when both a player and a conductor are on hand were vividly demonstrated on Easter Day when the choir performed the anthem 'Rise, heart, thy Lord is risen' (from Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*) with James conducting, Michael playing, and - for good measure - Sofie Elkjær Jensen (a rising star of the opera world and James' soon-to-be wife) as soprano soloist.

On less exalted Sundays our small band of loyal choir-singers were always present and while during the year we had to say farewell to Mona Conrad (who was leaving Denmark) we were delighted to welcome Tom Henderson, Jessica Bebb, and Helen and Sam Candy to the ranks of the choir. We shouldn't underestimate the commitment of them and all our regular singers who, week in week out, lead and support our worship - not least, as happened on a few Sundays this year, when there was no organist available to play: we owe them all a big debt of thanks.

As well as Holy Week, Easter and the other great church festivals this year, the choir was present for Remembrance Sunday, helped lead the music for our new All-Age services, and also introduced some new hymns to our worship. The year concluded with a couple of roof-raising carol services at which we welcomed several guest-singer friends, and which included beautiful 17th-century pre-service music showcasing the recorder-playing talents of choir-members Sam Candy and Lauren Machin.

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James and Michael found - as the year drew to a close - that increasing work and other commitments meant they would both have to step back from taking a regular role in the music provision at St Alban's, but they both look forward to contributing occasionally in the future.

Michael Emery

Coffee Team

The coffee team appreciates the support they have been given by the many members of the congregation who have volunteered their time to make coffee and bring in scrumptious treats every Sunday, come rain or shine. Coffee hour after Sunday service is a special and enjoyable time when the congregation can mingle and rekindle old friendships. In the past year, we have been blessed with a lot of volunteers to help serve coffee and we look forward to keeping this tradition going. Newcomers are always welcome to sign up on the rota. We will match you with an experienced partner, if you haven't already found one, who will guide you on your first time.

Thank you in advance, and we hope to continue serving together in God's ministry.

John Fernandes

Children and Young People

St Alban's has been built up on families and people of faith. Sunday morning Children's church and Messy Church activities are the main means of supporting and inspiring current and future families to growth in faith and fellowship at St Alban's.

Messy Church is a regular separate informal act of worship for young children and their families that takes place on the second Saturday of each month from 3 to 4:30pm. Parents attend with children for a themed afternoon of worship through craft, play, drama and storytelling. There are plenty of opportunities for children and families to explore the transforming love of God and meet new friends through the activities and shared tea. Numbers including parents and children present have been between 15 and 20. Messy church has been well supported by a range of people from the congregation who have led the craft activities, baked cakes and been sides-people.

Children's Church meets every Sunday in the upper room for worship through craft, play, drama and storytelling linked to the Sunday readings. Children are present in the eucharist from the giving of the peace onwards. Numbers attending are usually between 5 and 10. The sessions are led by the licenced readers.

To help children understand and appreciate more formal worship, some services with a special focus on being more inclusive to children have been held. These included Harvest and Christingle for example. The children really enjoyed being part of them.

Some children are beyond the age range of this group ie 11+ and we are planning some activities for them.

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The Aarhus community have indicated that attracting families is something they would like to encourage and we are looking into ways of supporting them.

All leaders have the appropriate level of safeguarding training for all activities.

Peter Prasadam

Ecumenical Activities

St. Alban's still plays a role in the ecumenical Church Walk, an ecumenical prayer event which is growing from year to year. The Chaplain was also present at the 'Himmelske dage på Heden' event in Herning, which gave St. Albans the opportunity to enter into fellowship, meet members of other denominations in Denmark, and exchange ideas and experiences with them. The Chaplain led evening prayer and told Bible stories on Herning High Street. A similar event is planned for Roskilde in 2021, and it is hoped that St. Alban's will be able to attend and contribute again. As a congregation, we have been invited to think about ways that we can fully engage with and participate in this event. The National Council of Churches in Denmark (NCCD) itself has been in crisis since the summer, where the organization was the victim of embezzlement that robbed it of most of its funds. The Council of Churches has made an appeal for donations and contributions to help cover the huge short-fall in their annual budget.

The meetings planned by the National Council of Churches in Denmark for 2020 are as follows:

- Meeting March 7 in Roskilde on visions for the Himmelske Dage event in Roskilde in 2021
- AGM June 20, Købnekirken, Amager, Copenhagen.
- Council Meeting , September 10, Roskilde.
- Theme day on August 29.
- Fellowship meeting, October 24.

Owen Prewett

The Guardians Team

The guardians are pleased to report that financially they had a more successful year, banking just under Dkr 335,000 as against Dkr 287,630 in 2018. They are glad to make such an important contribution to the church's income.

Once again the number of guardians remained around 50, which is testimony to the satisfaction that we feel on being able to welcome visitors to the church which means so much to us all, whether we are members or not. As an elderly visitor said to two of the guardians one day: "I feel God is in this place". When asked if he could put a finger on what made him say that, he said: "It's you people being here and sharing your love of the place with us. It's really good that you're here."

Rosemary Bohr

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Mission and Outreach sub-committee

The mission and outreach committee has met four times during 2019. It is chaired by a member of the church council and made up of a mixture of council and congregation members who volunteer or are invited to join. It has worked to support the Chaplain and the Council in achieving the mission action plan.

Work has focused on planning worship and fellowship events that will help people draw closer to God, love each other as neighbours and have a regard to the church community serving the wider community of Copenhagen and beyond.

Supporting growth in spirituality initiatives have included: the organization of Bible Study groups during Easter and Advent, a Passover meal on Maundy Thursday, Taize services, Wednesday Eucharist – well being and worship, Christmas singing on Strøget, all age worship for young children and Messy Church.

The committee does recognize that it is important for different expressions of faith to be possible. Hence there are currently a range of services to suit all: messy church/children's church – children and family focused; Main eucharist service - Sunday sung worship; Taize services – meditative and quiet; Wednesday eucharist – meditative and quiet.

Opportunities for increased fellowship with each other and fundraising have included: a curry and quiz evening, Men's social evening, Pancake meal, Guardian's lunch, St Alban's BBQ, Harvest Fair and a bring and share meal after a Sunday service. Work will continue to build on developing a range of fundraising and fellowship activities organized throughout the year.

The committee has worked with the music committee to organize a number of music concerts including welcoming the Yorkshire Military band for a fundraising concert.

Members of the committee have also worked to review policy and practice of sides people and guardians.

The committee has worked with the Aarhus community and are currently exploring ways of having more active links. In particular, to support them as they reach out to Aarhus university and young families.

The committee has advised the council in outward giving. So for example, a significant part of the outward giving budget was donated to a refugee appeal in Casablanca. More work on what it means to be a global Christian partner is planned.

The mission and outreach committee works closely with the chaplain and church council, to engage and inspire all people to be part of a Christian community, that grows people in faith and loving service of each other and the wider community. It works for the inclusion and common good of all church members, visitors and those beyond. Congregation members can talk to members of the mission and outreach committee about the life of the church, raise issues of concern or suggest new ideas.

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Peter Prasadam

PR sub-committee

“Love God; love your neighbour” is the mantra for this committee as it seeks to communicate with people on the doorstep, in worship or on the world wide web.

The PR team is responsible for adequate and appropriate publicity, profile-raising for St Alban's and working in tandem with all other sub-committees to communicate essential work as well as maintain a chain of communication for the annual round falls here. There is also the work on pewsheets, magazine, posters, press coverage, social media, for pre-and post-event information.

We established we have a great group of people with varied backgrounds and tenure at St Albans. We have some people with great experience within communication and digital marketing, advertising, branding and photography.

Members of the team are Joyce, Bev, Sam, Rebecca, Helen and Victoria. We are also lucky to work with Jim Pannell who is helping us with the website.

We have met a few times, from July 2019, and have agreed on the importance of framing our communications within the church profile and use this as guiding document for our focus and prioritization. We believe that it is important to communicate consistently and in alignment with our church profile which outlines who we are, what we do, what our focus is. (brand)

We have some IT challenges but are looking forward and working towards having an overview of all the important milestones and activities of the church both liturgical and social so we can plan and support important initiatives in the church's year with publicity.

Social media is identified as one of the key communication channels for St Albans will be an important focus for the team going forward. In 2019 we updated the social media strategy and have reviewed administration rights for all social media channels and developed a clear social media strategy and plan. It was crucial for us to get some alignment with the church council on how we wanted to use social media, what content was appropriate and the frequency of communication.

You may have noticed that we have significantly increased and improved our social media and started to have eye catching posters for all our 'extra' events and services. We now have pre-printed pew sheets to try to cut the work down of production. In addition, we are still responsible for producing the church magazine and for updating the notice boards. In 2020 we are working on updating the website and supporting the other sub-teams with their communications.

We are always looking for new members with a passion and experience of communication so if you want to join us, please let us know!

Victoria Wadsworth

Finance sub-committee

The finance sub-committee is comprised of Graeme Lloyd-Roberts (chair), Martin Rasmussen, Maria Kvan Mortensen, Mathen Thomas and Steven Harrod. The sub-committee's remit is to assist the chaplain and churchwardens in managing the finances and budget of St. Alban's, including projects for fundraising and cost reductions. The finance sub-committee met five times in 2019 since its

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creation, on 9th July, 5th August, 1st September, 21st October and 24th November. During this period, both churchwardens, both of whom were part of this committee, left their posts, so there was a hiatus in the receipt of financial information, but the treasurer, Roger Moore, stepped up and provided the committee with up-to-date figures which formed the basis of the budget for 2020. The finance sub-committee discussed among other things which funds to apply to for funds in 2020 and how to enable credit and debit cards to be used to pay into church funds. To this latter end, the sub-committee ordered a Sum-up terminal as a pilot.

Graeme Lloyd-Roberts

Buildings sub-committee

Following the resignation of both churchwardens in 2019 the continuity for building and works management was lost. In the last quarter of 2019 a newly-formed Building and Works Sub-committee were obliged to “start from scratch”. The following projects were identified:

- Quinquennial report due in 2020. (A survey/inventory of the building and fabric done every five years) (Status: Pending)
- Flush the church guttering for dead leaves to prevent overspill (Status: Complete)
- Reinstating telephone, internet and alarm cables (Status: Passed to engineers)
- Review the cleaning contract (Status: under review)
- Add security cameras covering the nave/sanctuary/side chapel (Status: Engineers have been instructed)
- Bird infestation in the Spire (Status: Complete)

Not mentioned above are general maintenance tasks that are undertaken on an operational basis, for example light-bulb changing, thermostat regulation,...)

Julian Simpson

Music sub-committee

Organists

Whilst there has been no individual appointment to the position of Director of Music at St Albans in 2019, there are three musicians, in particular, to thank for their contribution to the direction of music at St Albans through the year: James Sherlock, Michael Emery and Karsten Hesse.

James Sherlock and Michael Emery announced their intention to step down from their shared role at St Albans, finding the commitments to be incompatible with their regular employment commitments, with effect from the end of the year.

Choir

Throughout 2019 the choir has continued to support the 10.30 sung Eucharist services.

The usual choral highlight was, of course, the two services of Nine Lessons and Carols, on 8 & 9 December, expertly planned and directed by Michael Emery, and enhanced by the extended choir membership. Everyone who took part is thanked.

Ecumenical events

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Members of the congregation including representatives from the choir joined members of other local churches to sing carols along Strøget on 30 November.

Concerts

St Albans welcomed the following groups performing in our Church during the Summer months:

Sunday 2 June, 1600	Søborg Motetkor (DK)
Sunday 9 June, 1600	Decem Voces (DK)
Monday 10 June, 1015	Czech Children's choir
Sunday 16 June, 1300	Carina Sofia Herrera, soprano, Trung Hoa Tran, classical guitar (DK)
Thursday 20 June, 1015	Voices in Harmony (US)
Saturday 22 June, 1500	Kammerkoret Broccoli (DK)
Sunday 7 July, 1300	Estampe piano trio (US)

St Albans welcomed the following groups during the Autumn:

Friday 27 September, 1600	Band of the Yorkshire Regiment
Saturday 2 November, 1900	Suoni Chorus & Children's Choir directed by Siobhan Lamb

A number of impromptu concerts were established by visiting groups during the visiting season including by the Academical Choir of Far Eastern Federal University Vladivostock and the Renwen Philharmonic Trebel Choir from Wuhan China.

Helen Candy

Deanery Synod

This year's Deanery Synod was held in Stockholm, hosted by Revd Nick Howe, our Area Dean, in the Princess Hall, which is attached to the Church of St. Peter and St. Sigfrid.

Revd Nick Howe, welcomed everyone on Friday 13 September at 14:00 in the Princess Hall. Apart from the Lay delegates and the Deanery clergy, Bishop David was present, as was Andrew Caspari, Diocesan secretary, and Canon Ulla Monberg, Director of Ministerial Development for the Diocese. The first item on the agenda was a talk by Revd Ulf Lindgren, a Swedish priest and Canon Precentor at Stockholm Cathedral. His talk was entitled "What do you say when you have said Hello" and he started by explaining that when someone rings 112 in Sweden, they are asked whether they want Police, Fire, Ambulance or a Priest.

Ulf is one of the priests on the rota and he talked about how to deal with grief and suicidal thoughts. His approach was to ask questions: about the person who had died, about what food they liked, what made them laugh, what music they liked : or about the potential suicide - who will find you, why did you phone, how will you do it.

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This was a most inspiring talk and many participants thought it was a great addition to the 112 options.

Later in the afternoon, while the Lay Chapter was in progress, the clergy cooked supper for the Lay delegates - and it was delicious. After this Bishop David gave us all an update on what was going on in the Diocese.

On Saturday, after Morning Prayer, there was Bible Study led by our own chaplain, Revd Smitha Prasadam, followed by the Business Session, which covered safeguarding, the Common Fund rules, terms for Deanery Synod and much more.

In the evening we had a "marketplace". Each participant had written down a question to be answered by other delegates and had 10 minutes for each group to come up with answers. This was an interesting exercise and hopefully those with the questions got some useful answers.

This was followed by Evening Prayer and the evening meal (delivered by an Indian Restaurant).

On Sunday there was a festive Eucharist in the church followed by a "pot luck" lunch provided by members of the congregation.

Since this was the last Deanery Synod in the triennium, there will be new members next year, so hopefully someone new will write a report of the proceedings.

Pauleen Bang