

It's always good to review the year and note with thanksgiving how God has blessed us. We have seen a number of new families settle with us and some of these have come from the new estates.

It's also been a year when some of our longest-standing members have been promoted to higher and loftier experiences of God's presence and we continue to pray for God's comfort towards those left behind.

We have welcomed Kate Bailey as the first ever curate at St John's and she has already made a significant difference to the life of St John's, as has John, her husband who was recently licensed as reader to this Parish. It's been lovely to see them settle in to the life and work of St John's so quickly.

We will start the new church year with the licensing of Brian New as Assistant Priest at St John's giving part-time help to the ministry here. It will be great to welcome both Brian and Liz back to St John's.

We are grateful too, to Chris Robertson who is giving some time each week to co-ordinating the children's work - and his input is already being felt and appreciated.

Within the life of St John's it's been good to see seven new Homegroups starting after Christmas - three of which are on the Wickhurst Green estate. We have also worked on a new website which, although is still a work in progress, is far better on handheld devices than the previous one.

Looking ahead - we note that the present Kinderool leadership will be stepping down at the end of the school year and this is a great opportunity to consider whether St John's could have more of a role in it. Please pray if this is something you could commit to for the next year or so.

St John's camp was a highlight again with a star team that worked together very well to produce an imaginative and successful weekend.

I would like to thank the Pastoral Team for all that they do in caring for those in need and ensuring the pastoral care is adequately covered. This is largely a work that is unseen until you are a recipient - but it's there and is a blessing to us.

Paddy Beresford, April 2017