

A Report on the 2019 – 2020 Pastoral Assistant Year, generously supported by a Bernard Mizeki Grant

Following the withdrawal of one candidate, we were able to invite Jordan Kay to take the spare place and he joined Stephen Miller to make up last year's Pastoral Assistant team. Here they both are with some parishioners on a visit to Canterbury Cathedral.



The first part of the placement year was happy and typical of many others. Stephen and Jordan enjoyed working alongside our parishioners.



They led a group of parishioners to look at religious paintings in the National Gallery



This is a great way to help our Pastoral Assistants prepare for the teaching and preaching element of divine service, which they hope will be the focus of their future lives.



They took part in the liturgical life of the Parish. Here is Stephen, administering the laying on of hands with prayer at one of our Healing Masses.



And here is Jordan, with his back to the camera, at a Servers' Lunch

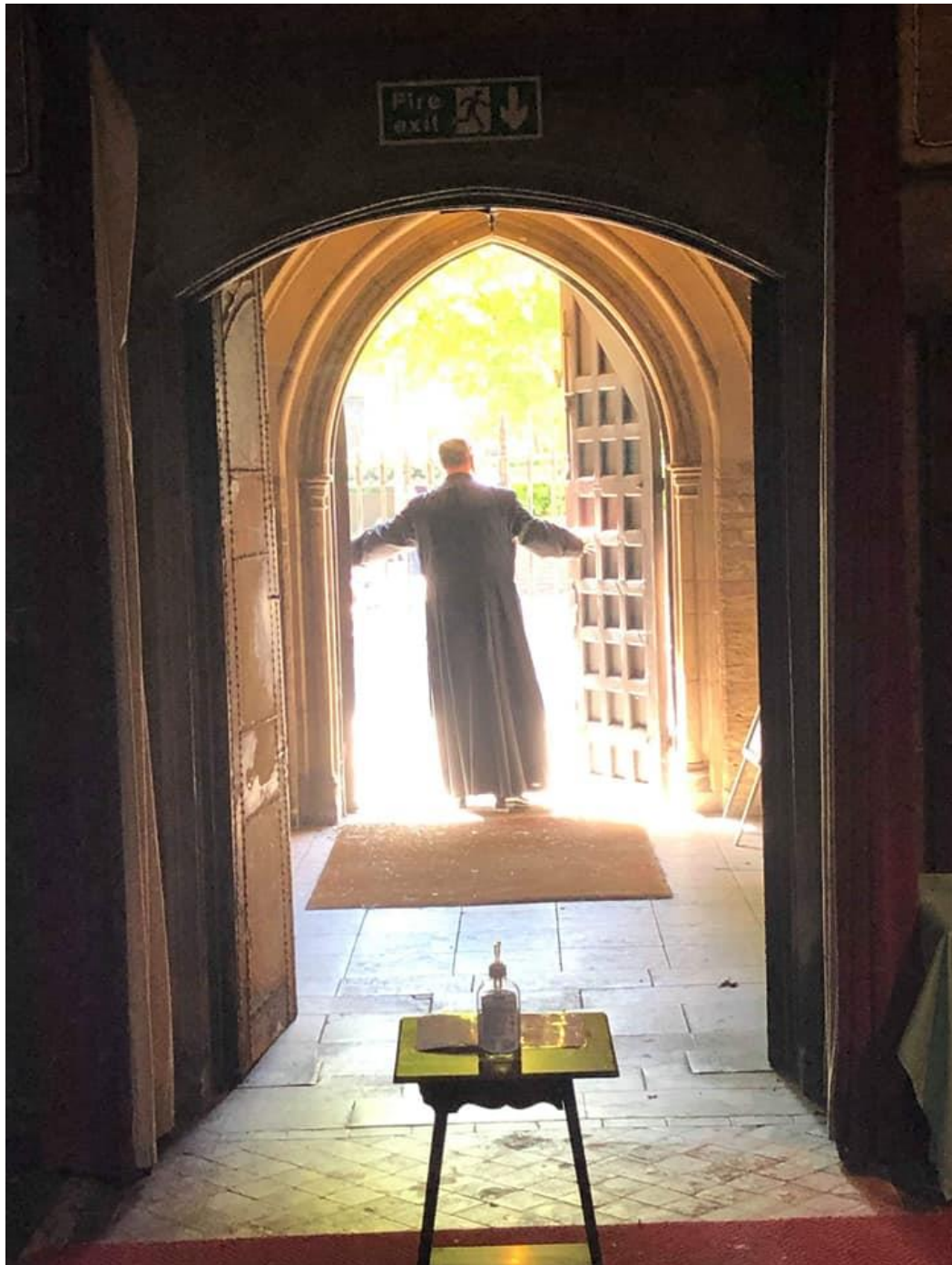


When the Coronavirus Pandemic began and the lockdown was introduced we sent Stephen and Jordan home to be with their parents. We continued to give them their monthly

Pastoral Assistant allowance and asked them to maintain their daily prayers and studies at home. They were able to join with us in spirit for our daily Mass which was live-streamed.

It was during the lockdown that Stephen had his BAP. We were delighted that he was recommended to train for ordination. He decided to opt for St Stephen's House.

Although Pastoral Assistant placements usually run from September to July, we were delighted that both Stephen and Jordan expressed a willingness to work all the way through this past summer. This meant our Parish was able to take maximum advantage of each relaxation of the lockdown as soon as these occurred. Stephen took this photo of me in June, opening the Church for private prayer the first time in three months.



We were able to use grant monies that we had saved during the lockdown months to pay Stephen and Jordan to work over the summer. They helped us to set up the Church

for private prayer and to welcome the many people who visit St Michael's.



We wish Stephen well as he begins his theological college training in Oxford. Jordan is now starting a second year with us and we are delighted to have him.

We are truly grateful to the Trustees of the Fellowship of St John the Evangelist for their grant and we trust that they consider their money has been well spent, in accordance with the aims of the charity.

