

President's Report 2016

Hello to LSM Members and all those who have visited our church this year.

As we move into spring with all the wonderful new growth and flowering to be experienced around us I'm glad to be able to report that the LSM is also flowering and growing too. Everywhere one looks there are fantastic signs that the LSM is truly advancing and growing.

Our development groups are now really well established. In fact, we are having to plan additional times to allow for all the people that are now pursuing a path of spiritual development. Some are seeking to pursue their own personal spiritual development, some also wish to become healers and some want to develop their mediumship. We were also able to award the first LSM certificates for the first year of development, and people are now into their second year. In order to accommodate all of these paths and to continue taking newcomers we are already planning next steps with probationary groups soon to be announced for potential healers and mediums along with opportunities for shadowing current LSM healers.

Which brings me to another blossoming area for our church. Healing forms a major part of working with spirit and we are now seeing a significant growth in awareness of the healing the LSM can offer. Increasingly people are coming to the LSM on a Mondays and Thursdays to receive healing, people of all ages including children. Please encourage anyone you know of in need of healing to attend, we are only too happy to help everyone. We have also established an online healing book.

Our services are also getting increasing numbers in the congregation and also increasing numbers of people serving from the platform. We had nearly one hundred different people serving our church in 2016 and plan to invite more. It is important that the LSM invites high quality mediums who can lead our services guided through spirit and, as our principles demand, demonstrate the phenomena of spiritualism to all who attend. We have also trained some new people to chair our services and thanks to Sarah Robertson for explaining the intricacies of the iPad to all new chair people.

It also gives me great pleasure to report that regular devotional services on the first Sunday morning of each month have now been reinstated. This is now becoming more widely known and attended. Devotional services have a long history in the LSM and the tradition of Nan Mackenzie, Don Galloway, Ivy Northage, Marjorie Osbourne and many others who have addressed our congregation is now being continued. Each month the committee invite a well-respected medium to give their inspirational address through working with spirit, their guides and helpers.

One service was very special for us this year. It took place on a wonderful, sunshine filled, summer's day with the garden in magnificent condition. The church was full of flowers and full of happy people too. We celebrated the first marriage for some time in the church and it was between our Vice-President Doreen Quinnell and our Honorary Treasurer Chris Norris.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to them both. We hope it is also the start of more marriages happening in a beautiful setting of peace and tranquility in the heart of London.

The LSM website (spiritualmission.co.uk) has been totally revamped and now reflects all that is going on in our church. Services, Healing, Special Events are all covered together with a membership section too. It is a mobile friendly site so there's no excuse for missing that one medium you always wanted to experience or that special event on healing or mediumship that you wished you had known about. We will soon take bookings online and will expand into social media so that you can always be up to date with all that is happening at our church.

Although we no longer maintain the church organ we do plan to keep the music in the church alive. A great example of that was this year's carol services where a wonderful band of LSM troubadours helped put together a wonderful celebration of Christmas. This proved very popular (plus 2017 Prelude to Easter) so look out for further musical interludes through the year.

The fabric of the building is also being continually attended to with the inevitable maintenance being done, various improvements having been made and more being planned. For example, the disabled toilet is now complete and we next plan to revamp our 1950's kitchen into something more modern and up to date. Which is a great opportunity for me also to say a big thank you to Mick and Mirna for their sterling work at our evening services – not only in the kitchen but chairing too.

Finally, although our newly married Treasurer will update us more fully at the AGM, our finances also reflect the blossoming of the church. Collections, Healing and Development groups are all, in their own way, providing an increasing source of income. We also had our first bequest from a will in many years. Legacies used to happen regularly when those who cared about our church passed to spirit. The great thing about the increase in income is it enables us to do even more to encourage spiritual development without having to continually look over our shoulder at the bank manager.

Last year I extended a big thank you to those members who tirelessly help to keep our church clean, warm and welcoming for all who attend. I'd like to once again thank everyone. Last year I said our church was a hidden gem but now, like bulbs coming forth and flowering in springtime, it's not so hidden, although, I must say, it's still a precious gem in the heart of London and in the wider spiritualist world.

It is a great honour and privilege to serve such a thriving community of members, congregation, the people serving them and most importantly spirit.

Thank you ALL for being part of the LSM.

Gordon Smith
President of the LSM