

ST PETER'S CHURCH, HAMMERSMITH



ANNUAL REVIEW & REPORT 2021

St Peter's Church is a Registered Charity No: 1135462

The Annual Report contains informal reports from the various church groups, regarding events and activities that took place in 2021. It also contains the Treasurer's Report, as well as the Independent Examiner's Report and the Financial Statements.

The document is available in printed form and on St Peter's website: www.stpetersw6.org

St Peter's Church Parish Office
Black Lion Lane, W6 9BE.
020 8741 4848 or office@stpetersw6.org

Office hours: Mon, Tues & Fri 9.30am-2.30pm

Vicar: The Rev'd Dr Charles Clapham
Curate: The Rev'd Heike Prentice (until Spring 2021)
Churchwardens: Jane Fryer & Richard Woods

Vicar's Report

If (as I commented in last year's report) 2020 was the year of covid, 2021 will be remembered as the year when vaccinations were rolled out, and we slowly adjusted to the 'new normal'.

After offering worship online only over Christmas and in the New Year, we re-opened the church for public worship at the beginning of March 2021, though still with heavy restrictions in place: social distancing and masks were compulsory, communion was offered in one kind only, and no congregational singing was allowed. Several weeks later, we reintroduced choir singing in church, and were also able to sing as a congregation outdoors, celebrating a wonderful Easter service with a joyful rendition of 'Thine be the Glory' in the sunshine outside the church at the end of the service. By summer we were able to reintroduce congregational singing indoors, and by the beginning of September, we resumed offering children's clubs, crèche, and coffee after church. With the exception of the reintroduction of the chalice, the worshipping life of St Peter's had resumed more or less in full by the end of the 2021.

Covid nevertheless has had some long-term effect on the life of the church. On the positive side, even after re-opening fully for public worship, we have continued to live-stream services for the benefit of those who cannot come physically to church for whatever reasons. The 10.30 am Sunday Communion typically attracted between 20 and 30 online views per week; bigger services (such as Remembrance, Confirmation, or the Carol Service) attracted up to 100 online views. We have also been able to offer live-streaming for funerals, baptisms, and weddings, as well as for school services: a facility which has been much appreciated.

The pattern of worship for children and families we had developed during covid - as a way of providing for children at a time when separate children's clubs were not allowed - also seemed to be popular, and we continued in this pattern subsequently: from September 2021, offering a short Family Worship most Sundays at 9 am during term time (with a song, bible story and craft activity for children), in addition to providing a crèche and Sunday Club at the 10.30 am Sunday Communion. This has been a challenge to resource consistently in terms of leaders, but the overall numbers of children and families attending on a regular basis suggests it has been a worthwhile move. On the negative side, the finances of St Peter's (as with other churches and charities) continue to need attention as we regroup post-covid.

In terms of people, we were sorry to say farewell to our curate Heike Prentice and her family shortly after Easter in 2021 after almost three years at St Peter's, but delighted in her appointment as Vicar of Coggeshall (and five other churches!) in the diocese of Chelmsford, not far from family members, and wish her well for her ministry there. We also said farewell to Bishop Edward Holland, who has been a valued and wise friend and colleague for many years at St Peter's, who moved to spend the remainder of his retirement on the south coast. But it was the loss of our dedicated and much loved virger Steve Haude that was a particular shock for us all. Steve passed away peacefully following the confirmation service at St Peter's in November, where he had



been delighted to verge the Bishop of Kensington, and to see a full and busy church, with numerous confirmation candidates young and old. His death was sudden and unexpected, and leaves a big gap in the church, but we take some comfort from the fact that he died serving the church and congregation he loved, and is now at peace with his maker.

We are indebted as always to all those in the church community who serve St Peter's in so many ways, both publicly, and behind the scenes: our fantastic church wardens Richard Woods and Jane Fryer; Lucy Miller in the church office; Lulu Crutchley and her team who help with children's work; Sam Hanson and the choir; Leslie DuCane and all those who help with finance; as well as members of the PCC, the social committee, stewards, readers, flower arrangers, coffee makers, those who help with building maintenance or in the church garden, and those who continue to contribute so generously financially. Without you all, there is no church! My deepest thanks to you all!

Revd Charles Clapham

Churchwardens' Report

Covid

After the challenges of 2020, we were praying for an easier year for St Peter's but, sadly, the pandemic roared on. Which meant the year began in lockdown and the closure of the church in accordance with provisions imposed by both the government and the Anglican hierarchy. This second major lockdown, in the dark winter months and without the extraordinarily good weather (or novelty) of the first, was much harder for some.

So thank goodness for the agility of Charles Clapham our vicar, very ably helped by Heike Prentice, our very resourceful curate (and her unfailingly helpful husband Alistair) who, overnight, swung the church back online and into the homes of our congregation. Once again, our services - beautiful celebrations of the Eucharist, thought-provoking sermons, readings, intercessions, hymns sung by our wonderful choir and superb organ solos by our director of music, Sam Hanson, many recorded remotely – were live-streamed into our sitting rooms. And, once again, the parish remained functioning. Indeed, the online services were so good, they attracted several new congregation members.

With spring, came a relaxation of the rules, but not normality. Alternate pews were again roped off, stewards had to take registers, enforce mask wearing and social distancing - and occasionally encourage the more garrulous members of the congregation from chatting for too long in the parish rooms. Sadly, while the choir members – all socially distanced – were permitted to sing, the congregation was not. (It was only in July that singing was once again allowed, and it was a moment that moved many to tears.)

Church fabric

As we emerged from lockdown, we looked again at the Quinquennial Review of December 2019. In March 2021 we asked Andy Burrell, our architect, to identify all the recommendations that had not yet been acted on and prepare an invitation to tender to carry out all this work.

In May, Follett Balch noticed new damp on the inside walls of the nave, mainly high up at the west end. With the help of CCTV inspection, we found a defect in one of the outside downpipes. But from observation during two of the torrential downpours, which now seem to occur quite often, we realised that a lot of water is spilling down the outside of the pipes because they are not large enough to cope. The brickwork near the pipes has suffered. So at our request Andy included relevant work in the invitations to tender, which went out in June. In July we received the tenders. They ranged from £199,000 to £275,000. These sums were clearly well beyond our resources. Therefore, we decided to go for a much reduced scale of work, to deal only with the water damage problem. (In 2022 the PCC has approved acceptance of a quotation of £47,000 to carry out this work. It is to be done during the next few months, perhaps during the summer holidays.)

We wish to acknowledge Follett's ongoing contribution to our handling of these issues. His professional background and attention to practical detail (including often removing leaves, pigeon droppings and other detritus from the water channels on the roof) have become indispensable. We are most grateful.

On a happier note, we were delighted to introduce new kneelers into church to ease our knees as we receive communion at the high altar! Hand-embroidered with beautiful and imaginative details (including some tiny and well-hidden coronavirus symbols!), we are extremely grateful to Oliver and Gabrielle Leigh-Wood, Joy Birney, and all those who have worked so hard on these additions to the church's fabric.

Farewells

In April we bade farewell to the wonderful Heike and her family. It was an exciting moment for her – off to her own church, as the vicar of St Peter ad Vincula Church in Coggeshall, near Colchester. But a very sad one for us. As well as being a wonderful curate, Heike was a great friend to many and a huge support to Charles, but also a beacon of warmth, empathy and common sense in tricky times.



Another goodbye came unexpectedly in November. Steve Haude, our vergers for as long as most of us can remember, felt as much part of St Peter's as the font, the pews, the altar and the church's wonderful sense of community. He was a constant presence in his vergers robes – at all services, including weddings, funerals and baptisms, as well as being a vital choir member. Behind the scenes, he was just as busy – fettling the choir vestry, ordering candles, polishing the silver, laundering the communion linen, setting up the crib, or having a puff, a coffee and a gossip by the church front door where he was always ready with a hug – when

covid allowed - a friendly word and a twinkle. Steve passed away peacefully on November 21st, after a morning of true celebration at St Peter's. He had been on duty first at the family service, then a confirmation service led by the Bishop of Kensington, followed by a baptism - when the church could not have been more packed or looked better, just as he liked it. His funeral - and the very well attended wake at the Cross Keys pub - was a true celebration of a life lived well and with joy, kindness and great generosity. Steve's verger community - of whom he was a key member - attended in force, in their finery, from all around the country and did him proud. Steve is deeply missed, but also feels surprisingly present. Many of us still expect him to pop out of the choir vestry at any moment, with a big smile on his face and either a screwdriver, chalice or electric cigarette in his hand. If only he would.

Throughout the ups and downs of yet another rather torrid year, we were sustained by the behind-the-scenes work of so many - among them Ruth Hawkins (who wrestles on our behalf with the HMRC over gift aid rebates), Leslie Du Cane, our Treasurer, Follet Balch, see above, Stephen Downer and others for many hours spent livestreaming services and, right up until his death, Steve Haude. As always, a few others deserve very special mention:

- Our Administrator, Lucy Miller - the relentlessly efficient, but always cheerful, beating heart of the parish office. Without Lucy, we would be in permanent disarray. With her, everything works.
- Sam Hanson, our brilliantly talented and committed Director of Music.
- Charles - our wonderful vicar, who brings good energy, enthusiasm, superb (and not overly long) sermons and a wonderful dry sense of humour to St Peter's. By all accounts, he even made the year 6 confirmation classes the 'most fun club ever'.

With very best wishes to all and thanks to God that we are - hopefully - now back in more normal times.

Jane Fryer & Richard Woods

Music

2021 was another year of challenge for music at St Peter's! After celebrating Christmas 2020 with as many festivities as the restrictions allowed, we found ourselves in lockdown once again, producing virtual services for the first two months of the new year and continuing to practise our now well-honed skills in remote performance. When physical services returned in March, the congregation was still unable to join in with the choir's singing, so it was a particular pleasure to end our service on Easter Sunday morning with a rousing communal rendition of "Thine be the glory" in the open air. The congregation would have to wait until the end of July to be able to sing indoors again, after a gap of sixteen months; it came as such a relief to me to hear everyone singing again. Our services for Remembrance and Christmas marked a return to the kind we had all known before, supported by beautiful playing from Simon Sturgeon-Clegg and his brass quintet.

A great and sudden sadness was losing our beloved virger, and stalwart tenor of the choir, Steve Haude, in November. Steve's last service was a big confirmation with Bishop Graham, a great celebration, and he was in his element. Although his death came as such a shock, and we

miss him deeply, he left us on such a high, doing what he had loved to do for so many years. His funeral in January of this year was a fine occasion, in which we were joined by members of the Glee Club in a liturgical performance of Fauré's *Requiem*.

My thanks to everyone who has made or supported the music at St Peter's during another difficult year, including all the choir, Eleri, Charles, Lucy, our churchwardens and stewards, all who arrange flowers, coffee and livestreaming, all the congregation, and my fiancée Rioghnach. The community at St Peter's is a special one, and I am glad to be a part of it.

Sam Hanson, Musical Director

Children's Work & Sunday Clubs

There was a very difficult start to 2021 with another lockdown, this time in the winter months when it was even harder to get out and about. However in March, the church opened up again and the 9am Family Service started up again as it was a great success before Christmas. This included individual craft packs, Christian action songs, and prayers created and read by children. There has been a good turnout of parents and children at this service; however, some families felt like the 9am service was too early for them. To get round this, we have created an All Age Family Service on the first Sunday of every month. This service is much more child-friendly and there is a craft activity for children to do whilst the service is going on. In the autumn we also brought back Sunday School at the 10.30 service. This has been reasonably well attended and gives families the option of coming to the 9am or the 10.30 service.

We managed to squeeze in the Christmas Art Morning, which was great as always. This was a chance for families to get together and enjoy some wonderful Christmas crafts. Unfortunately, due to Covid, the Christmas Party had to be cancelled. We are hoping the 2022 is going to be Covid free and we can pack in lots of children's events and activities.

Lulu Crutchley, Children's worker

Hammersmith and Fulham Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod resumed live meetings last September. Meetings start with an introduction to the host parish by the Vicar and continues to focus each time on a main Topic:

- Care for Creation: Be an Eco Church
- Safe families
- Enabling well-being in a Season of Exhaustion and Extension
- Compassionate Communities for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The presentations by experts on their subject are topical, committed and extremely interesting; there is always a great deal of relaxed audience participation. The host parish makes its guests warmly welcome and the meetings manage to be both informative and enjoyable. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind the St Peter's PCC and congregation that they are welcome to attend any meeting.

Marie-Pierre Moine, Deanery Synod representative

St Peter's Church of England Primary School

St Peter's is a single form entry school, with up to 30 pupils in each of the seven year groups from Reception to Year 6. Of the current pupils, 24% speak English as an additional language. The proportion of children identified as having a special need or disability is 13%. 11.5% of the pupils are on the Pupil Premium register.

The school continues to be oversubscribed, with approximately five applicants for every Reception place. Some pupils have left during the academic year, due to families moving out of London, but their places have been filled and there is a waiting list for most classes. There are eleven governors, several of whom are regular worshippers at St Peter's church. We are looking for an additional governor with an employment law/HR background; if you are interested, or know someone who might be, please let me know. We are very keen to continue to improve the diversity of the Governing Body.

The head teacher, Karen Frazer, returned from maternity leave last September at a time when Covid was still causing maximum disruption and adversely impacting on many of the school's planned activities. The last two years have been exceptionally challenging for the school, and the impact of Covid is still being felt, but the staff have worked extremely hard in difficult circumstances. Catch up teaching sessions are continuing until at least the end of the academic year, with a particular focus on writing and maths.

The school and the church have a close relationship. Charles leads a weekly whole school collective worship session and is also on the working group preparing for the next SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) visit. A consultation has led to an ongoing review of the school's values, vision statement and its adopted Bible verse (Micah 6.8: Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God). Based on feedback, from next September the school will focus on the values of perseverance, kindness, respect, courage, thankfulness and service. During the last 12 months, the school has also formed an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion working group, comprising staff, parents and governors and chaired by a very experienced external facilitator.

In addition to academic work, the school offers a wide variety of enrichment opportunities, some of which are in conjunction with local independent schools. 39% of the pupils learn an individual musical instrument. Other optional school clubs include a variety of sports plus drama, yoga, Lego, coding and French (Spanish is taught in school).

Challenges post Covid include the recruitment and retention of staff, which is increasingly difficult with so many leaving the teaching profession. Finance remains the dominant issue, however, with income decreasing, expenditure increasing, and the budget pared to the bone. The school is grateful to the PTA, led by Charlotte Reed, and its fundraising activities, which make an enormous difference.

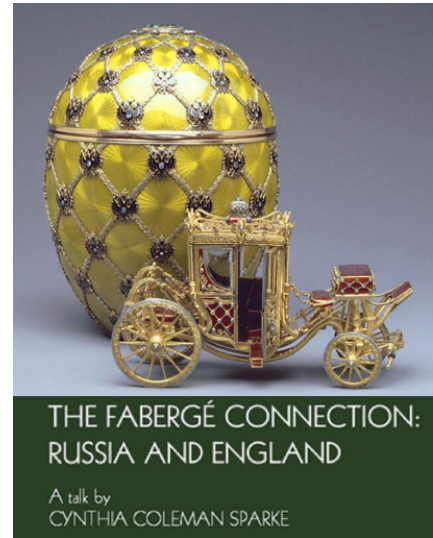
***Vicky (Russell) Lawrence, Chair of the Governing Body
(governors@stpetersce.lbhf.sch.uk)***

Events

2021 was another year of Covid restrictions and we battled to host any events.

In May the Leigh-Woods generously allowed us to sell tea and cakes again during their Open Garden Day. The weather was kind to us and it was wonderful to be outside, safely distanced, catching up with friends we hadn't seen in a while & enjoying the glorious garden. On Harvest Sunday we had a BYO Lunch out in the garden. People brought platters of food to share and we had a cash bar and a collection for the church. It felt good to be mixing safely with friends again.

In September Cynthia Sparke gave a fascinating talk on "The Faberge Connection between Russia and England". Again, there was a cash bar and a retiring collection for the church. The 2020 Virtual Advent Calendar had been so popular that MP Moine kindly organised another one in December and people made a donation to access the daily offerings.



So, after rather a sparse fund-raising year we are looking forward to 2022, a more normal, restriction-free time and a chance to get events up and running again!

Caroline Illingworth

Talkback

Talkback is a monthly prayer and discussion group that is led by the members themselves. We discuss a certain topic each month from conditional/unconditional love to trust to temptation. We look at verses from the bible and then have discussion about it. We then are led in prayer.

It is truly relaxing and provokes much thought around our subjects. It is a place where any opinion is welcomed and not judged in any way.

New members are always welcome.

Vicky Lambert

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE CHARITIES COMMISSION AND THE DIOCESE OF LONDON:

INTRODUCTION

St Peter's is part of the Church of England, following a moderate, inclusive, Anglican tradition. It is a parish church in the Diocese of London. The church was built in 1827-1829, the architect being Edward Lapidge, and it complements the Regency houses in St Peter's Square and Black Lion Lane. The parish is bordered by the River Thames on the south side, Goldhawk Road on the western and northern sides and parts of Ravenscourt Road and Furnival Gardens on the eastern side. The Parish is bisected by the A4 Great West Road which runs beside the church garden.

The Annual Review sets out the mission and objectives of St Peter's and describes our activities during 2021.

MISSION

St Peter's Church in Hammersmith strives to be a generous, inclusive, all-age Christian community, serving all in the local area.

BANKERS

National Westminster Bank PLC
22 King's Mall
London W6 0QD

TREASURER

Leslie DuCane

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr Q E Robey BA FCA
34 Homefield Road
London
W4 2LW

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ('PCC')

The PCC works with the Vicar in promoting our mission. It shares the pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical work of the church. The PCC is responsible for the administration of the church property, the setting of an annual budget and the raising of funds to carry out the mission and to maintain and preserve the fabric. The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity, number 1135462.

The PCC comprises the Vicar, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer, the Deanery Synod Representatives, and members who are elected at an Annual Parochial Church Meeting to serve for a period of three years. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

The following served during 2021:

The Vicar The Revd Dr Charles Clapham

The Curate Revd Heike Prentice (left April 2021)

Churchwardens Jane Fryer (first elected Warden APCM 2017)
Richard Woods (first elected Warden APCM 2016)

Treasurer
Leslie Du Cane (elected to PCC APCM 2018, re-elected 2021)

Directors of Music
Sam Hanson (joined September 2019)

Deanery Synod Representatives:
Simon Brooke (elected APCM 2020)
MP Moine (elected APCM 2020)

Elected members of PCC:
Marion Ashworth (elected APCM 2019)
Tony Matthews (elected APCM 2019)
Caroline Illingworth (re-elected APCM 2020)
Zoe Fletcher (elected APCM 2020)
Clare Berry (elected APCM 2020)
Henry Barda (elected APCM 2020)
Miles McInnes (elected APCM 2020)
Jonty Graham (elected APCM 2020)

Amanda Willis stepped down in 2021, and we want to express our thanks to her for help over the years, including her role as Treasurer some years back.

The Events committee is responsible to the PCC. The PCC also receives reports from those who are responsible for fabric, children's work, and safeguarding. Reports of these groups can be found in the Annual Review for 2021. Messumba did not have any reported activity in 2021.

The PCC met on six occasions in 2021. Meetings were usually held via Zoom. The APCM was held in April. In addition to discussing administrative and financial matters, the PCC covered many areas over the year. Much of the discussion was around Covid 19 and its effects on church services and events: singing, social distancing, distribution of communion, children's

work, coffee, and social events. Second only to covid was discussion regarding fabric: stone repairs, drains, guttering, damp and leaks as previously mentioned on this report. The PCC discussed the new pattern of services and introduction of the 9am Family Service to aid social distancing and encourage families. Other matters included: further technical upgrades, the garden and employing Sarah Heaton Gardens, telecoms mast proposals, safeguarding, Beanstalk rent, Common Fund, plus the ongoing need for a fundraising drive.

Electoral Roll

Helen Kelly reported at the 2021 APCM that we are at 211. Many thanks to Helen for continuing in this role.

Church Attendance

Church attendance during 2021 was dramatically affected by covid. Attendance on Easter Sunday in 2021, for example, when public worship was held in church but with restrictions still in place (social distancing, no congregational singing) was 186 in total (136 adults and 50 under 16's). This compares with a total attendance of around 300 on Easter Sunday in 2019 (unusually high because a confirmation service), and about 260 on Easter Sunday in 2018. Average Sunday attendance for the month of October in 2021 (when services were more or less back to normal) was 103 adults and 27 children (under 16); compared with 137 adults and 40 children for the same period in 2019 pre-covid. Total attendance on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in 2021 was around 600, compared with pre-covid levels of over 1000.

During periods of lockdown at the beginning of 2021, St Peter's continued to offer pre-recorded worship online via the church YouTube channel; viewing figures for these services (when the church was still closed) were typically between 80 and 100 each week. After public worship resumed in church in March, we live-streamed the 10.30 am Sunday Communion service each week on YouTube, as well as live-streaming school services, and occasional funerals. On a typical Sunday during 2021 (after public worship in church had resumed), live-streamed worship attracted between 20 and 30 views each week, but with substantially increased figures on special occasions: the Carol Service or the Confirmation Service in 2021, for example, attracted about 100 views; Remembrance Sunday about 65 views; and Midnight Mass and Christmas Day each about 50 views.

There were 28 baptisms during 2021, and 24 candidates (13 children, 3 teenagers, and 8 adults) were presented for confirmation at a service at St Peter's on 21st November with Bishop Graham Tomlin presiding. There were no weddings at St Peter's during 2021 (in part because of covid), but the church was used for 5 funerals or memorial services during the year.

Safeguarding

The PCC confirms that it has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Jackie Hall serves as the church's safeguarding officer, and the children's worker Lulu Crutchley oversees DBS applications. The church

operates in accordance with the Diocesan policy and good practice guidelines in terms of safeguarding.

Fabric

Detailed in Warden's Report.

FINANCE

The Accounts and the Treasurer's Report which set out the financial position are contained in the attached report.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to maintain general (unrestricted) reserves of around £100,000, which equates to approximately six months' unrestricted expenditure. However, in 2016 the PCC decided to reduce the reserves to a minimum of £50,000 and use the remaining capital to fund the fabric project.

We are still working to rebuild the reserves, but the closure of the church because of the Covid-19 pandemic reduced cash receipts. With the church reopened, the introduction of contactless giving, and the savings on rent with the departure of our curate, we hoped to be able to resume building reserves during 2021. However, we will soon be facing major expenditure on fabric; and intend to launch a new stewardship campaign in 2022.

The PCC annually assesses the major financial risks affecting St Peter's Church and makes plans accordingly.

Richard Woods and Jane Fryer
Churchwardens, on behalf of the PCC
April 2022

This report was approved by the PCC on 26th April 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



(Revd Dr) Charles Clapham
Vicar, St Peter's Hammersmith