

ST PETER'S CHURCH, HAMMERSMITH



ANNUAL REVIEW & REPORT 2022

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 2022. It is to be read in conjunction with St Peter's Financial Statement and examined accounts for the year 2022.

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

St Peter's Church Parish Office
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Office hours: Mon, Tues & Fri 9.30am-2.30pm

Vicar: The Rev'd Dr Charles Clapham
Churchwardens: Simon Brooke & Caroline Langton

Vicar's Report

If 2021 was a year in which we were still adjusting to life after covid, 2022 felt like a year in which 'normal service' was fully resumed, and we returned to much of the pre-pandemic life of St Peter's – though with some changes.

In terms of worship, there have been some alterations to the previous pattern before covid. The numbers attending Evening Prayer has continued to decline, and we now offer Evening Prayer only twice a month, rather than weekly; we have also let the pre-covid midweek Communion lapse, due to low demand. But the pattern of 'Family Worship' offered most Sundays during term-time continues to be popular, and I have enjoyed spending time getting to know some of those who are relatively new to the church over the last year - inviting myself (rather shamelessly!) for a coffee or glass of wine to any who will host me! We have continued the practice of intinction of the wafer for Holy Communion, though will keep this under review. The practice of live-streaming services, begun under covid, has also continued and is likely to remain part of ordinary church life in the future, proving invaluable for those unable to attend in person, especially for funerals and weddings, and even for the occasional baptism (where we have had at least one god-parent, unable to make it in person, say their vows over Zoom!).



As a community, as well as the events run by our own fantastic and enthusiastic Events Committee and by Lulu in her capacity as Children's Worker (outlined later in this report!), we were pleased to join together with St Peter's Residents' Association and St Peter's School for a wonderful celebration of the Queen's Jubilee in St Peter's Square in June, followed later in



the year by a sad but moving commemoration of the Queen's death and funeral, at which many of us lined the Great West Road outside the church to pay our respects to the funeral procession. I also continue to work closely with the Headteacher, governors, staff and pupils at St Peter's School, leading collective worship in school on a weekly basis, welcoming children and staff into church for regular services, with a particular focus over the last year on helping to prepare for the church school inspection regime SIAMS.

As always there are so many to thank for their invaluable work in keeping the church a vibrant and welcoming community. We are hugely grateful to Richard Woods, who stepped down as church warden in May of 2021, for the great diplomacy, gravitas and hard work he brought to the role for six years: his performance as Pontius Pilate in the pre-recorded passion narrative will live on forever on St Peter's YouTube channel! We were also sad to say farewell to Jane Fryer, whose time as church warden came to an end over summer on her move to the south coast; her tact, good humour and laughter will be missed! We were very pleased to appoint

Simon Brooke as church warden in May to replace Richard, and are already reaping the benefits of Simon's kind and thoughtful presence among us; and (after promising her I would not leave her with an interregnum to cover!), we managed to persuade Caroline Langton to return as church warden with all her great experience and commitment when Jane Fryer unexpectedly had to step down.



We also want to thank Lucy Miller for her great efficiency and organisational ability in the church office; Lulu Crutchley and all those who have helped with children's activities, crafts and events; Sam Hanson and the choir for another year of memorable and exceptional music; Leslie DuCane, Philip Back, Ruth Hawkins, and the financial team of counters and bankers; Jackie Hall for her work in Safeguarding; Follet Balch for particular help with building maintenance; as well as stewards, readers, intercessors, members of the PCC, the Events team, flower arrangers, coffee makers, gardener,

those who organise regular Men's and Women's lunches, and those who continue to support the church so generously financially. It's a team effort, and you have all been fantastic!

Revd Charles Clapham

Churchwardens' Report

In many ways 2022 proved to be a bit of a respite after what had gone before, so apart from some high jinks at No 10, we all started to feel that life was getting back to some version of normality. The redoubtable Richard Woods and Jane Fryer, having guided us so brilliantly through the pandemic years, handed over in April to Simon and in September to Caroline. It's no secret that being a warden at St Peter's is enormous fun and richly rewarding. Our thanks and love go to Richard and Jane for maintaining very high standards of good humour, hard work and faithfulness which marks them out as excellent wardens, and St Peter's as a great church to be part of.

Richard and Jane spent their final months in office overseeing the completion of the drainpipe project before they stepped down. Providing a sufficiently generous route for excess rainwater to be guided down from the enormous roofscape and away from the stone and brickwork became increasingly essential given the changing weather patterns. Unglamorous as it sounds, this was no insignificant piece of work, but one that will really help to secure the wellbeing of our old building. So, thank you to everyone who donated so generously, and everyone who was involved at the planning end. A particular mention has to go to Follett Balch, who helped to keep the whole show on the road with his efficiency, experience and attention to detail. Thank you, Follett.



The death of our dear Steve the Virge in November 2021 revealed to us all what an enormous amount he actually did around the church on a weekly basis. He kept telling us he was 'knackered' but now we know why! Thanks go to all the people who have quietly stepped up to take over Steve's tasks on a regular basis – brass and silver polishing, candle and lamp maintenance, linen washing, ordering goods and laying up for the services. He would be very proud of you all.



Our church continues to grow. Charles' vision for St Peter's as an all age, all-inclusive community is being realised. We are all part of this success story, and we can take great pleasure in it. But in no small part this is down to Charles himself, who (although claiming to be an introvert) brings style, humour, enormous intellect and spiritual content to his sermons, week after week, delivering them with energy and excellent comic timing. He doesn't usually hang about in the coffee room after the ten thirty service, preferring to speak to people outside, but if he did, he would hear his praises being sung by very many

satisfied 'customers'. Meanwhile, the nine o'clock family service has become another success story, happily packed with parents and grandparents, babies and children (and some spiritually questing dogs) singing, snipping, clapping and colouring to their heart's content. Our morning and evening prayer services are peaceful, reflective opportunities to start or close the day in prayer and are loved by all who attend.

We all have so much to be grateful for. Let's start by enthusiastically thanking God for our church!

Simon Brooke and Caroline Langton

Music

In 2022 we enjoyed our first somewhat normal musical year since the beginning of the pandemic, singing our usual four or five hymns and an anthem each Sunday, and marking all the extra services of Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Christmas. At the beginning of the year, we were able to reinstate our arrangement with West London Free School for four choral scholars to join the choir on a fortnightly basis throughout term-time, working with Molly, Poppy, Max and Deano between January and June, and Elena, Mwelwa, Rayhan and Isabel (who approached us independently from Godolphin and Latymer School) since October. My thanks go to Ed Watkins, Director of Music of West London Free School, for his enthusiasm for and support in this endeavour.

Other highlights in the year included celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June (which included a very rousing rendition of Handel's "Zadok the Priest"); our usual services of Remembrance and Six Lessons and Carols (a format I think works quite well!) with our excellent Simon Sturgeon-Clegg on trumpet, along with his wonderful brass quintet; and

watching a livestream of a service in July from home when I had Covid, in which congregation and choir continued valiantly in singing hymns and anthem with no accompaniment at all, led by Penny Thomson's fine conducting! I was very proud to be part of such a community who refused to crumble in the face of adversity!

Our search for a professional tenor continues, and re-advertising the post in the near future would probably be a good idea. I would also like to return to the plan of introducing a second congregational mass to our repertoire which, once gradually introduced, would operate on a rotation with the existing *Thorne Mass of St. Thomas*. A likely candidate is a setting by John Rutter, and I'll look to move this forward soon.

As always, my thanks are due to many people at St. Peter's who support our music so warmly, including all the choir, Eleri, Charles, Lucy, our churchwardens and stewards, all who arrange flowers, coffee and livestreaming, all the congregation, and my fiancée Riognach. My particular thanks to you all for your support as Rio and I approach our wedding in a few weeks' time!

Sam Hanson, Musical Director

Children's Work & Sunday Clubs

With Covid finally behind us, the family service at 9am is in full swing with a congregation of between 50 and 100 each week. The story, craft and prayer combination seems to be a big hit with the wider community and it is great to see so many families attending. The 10.30 service now has a Sunday school every week which has also been well attended and takes place in Parish Rooms. We hold an all age communion on the first Sunday of every month which is well attended with a craft available to keep those who find it hard to listen entertained.



All children's events have been able to take place and the Christmas Party continues to be one of the highlights of the year, with a very special guest all the way from Lapland! We are building on the current congregation and holding art mornings for the younger children and art afternoons for the older kids which are more skills based. The Teddy Bears' Picnic was a great success which brings the whole congregation together. We are also grateful to Hamish and Rosie Shephard, who helped to organise a glorious 'Summer Olympics' for children and families in St Peter's Square.

An area that needs much thought is the crèche as since we run the 9am Family Service each week, most families with babies attend this service and very few have a need for the crèche.

Lulu Crutchley, Children's worker

Hammersmith and Fulham Deanery Synod

It was St Peter's turn to host the Deanery Synod's meeting in December 2022. The evening introduced by our Vicar Charles Clapham was well attended and – this won't come as a surprise - a convivial occasion thanks to a great spread laid out by members of the Events Committee. The newly appointed Financial Officer of the Deanery Synod, our very own Michael Illingworth, was able to welcome and meet representatives of local parishes. He looks forward to working with parishes in the hope of increasing the proportion of standard costs contributed sustainably by each parish to 100% within as short a period as practically possible while taking account of the very difficult financial situation.

Meetings start with an introduction to the host Parish by the Vicar and focus each time on a main topic. In the last year we heard about, and exchanged experiences about:

- Creating more compassionate communities for refugees and asylum Seekers.
- Stories of hope during and after the pandemic.
- Ways of keeping parishes warm and welcoming during this difficult financial time, as well as practical ways to help people in the community.
- Exploring new services and ways to reach out to, and bring together, people living in our parishes.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind the St Peters PCC and congregation that they are welcome to attend any meeting. Please get in touch with me if you are interested.

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. The school was ranked 'outstanding' by Ofsted in 2017 and has recently retained this ranking, following a two day Ofsted inspection at the end of February 2023. Of the current pupils, 24% (49 children) speak English as an additional language. The proportion of children identified as having a special need or disability is 14% (29 children). 11.7% of the pupils (24 children) are



on the Pupil Premium register. The school continues to be oversubscribed, with more than five applicants for every Reception place. There is a waiting list for most classes.

There are twelve governors, several of whom are regular worshippers at St Peter's church. The school and the church have a close relationship. Charles leads a weekly whole school collective worship session and is helping the school to prepare for the next SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) visit, which will examine how the school is meeting the requirements of the new SIAMS framework.

A widespread consultation led to a 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, the school adopted a different Bible verse (Matthew 5:16 Let your light shine before others, so they see your good works and give glory to God) and the values of perseverance, kindness, respect, courage, thankfulness and service.

In addition to academic work, the school offers a wide variety of enrichment opportunities, some of which are provided in conjunction with local independent schools. 35% of the pupils learn an individual musical instrument. Other optional school clubs include a variety of sports plus drama, street dance, Lego, athletics, computing and French (Spanish is taught in school).

Challenges 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

Plans to hold a Burns Night in January were once again thwarted by Omicron but by March things were improving and we were able to hold a Quiz Night, run by our excellent Quiz Master, Simon Crutchley, and fuelled by a curry supper and quantities of wine! May saw us serving tea and cakes again in the Leigh-Woods' beautiful garden on their Open Gardens Day and the Leigh-Woods generously gave the profits for tea to the Church. In June people gathered in the Vicarage for the start of an ever popular Safari Supper and then navigated the streets of Hammersmith for their main course and pudding, forging new friendships and renewing old.



We had a glorious day in July for the Parish Lunch and Teddy Bears' Picnic in the Church Garden, with a splendid buffet and barbecue and fun for the children. It was wonderful to be back in the Church for the Harvest Supper in September and all donations from this were given to the Upper Room and Glass Door.

Huge thanks as ever to all the Events Team for their unstinting support and hard work and we look forward to holding more events for you all in 2023.

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 2022.

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 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 2022. Messumba did not have any reported activity in 2022.

The PCC met on six occasions in 2022. 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. Major topics for business over the course of 2022 for the PCC were fundraising, the pipe work / building project, tech up-grade, choral scholars, a memorial for Steve Haude, EcoChurch, the need for a de-fibrillator, banking signatories, the Beanstalk Nursery – and importantly the increase in fuel bills. The need for additional funding from the congregation – especially from the newer family attendees (who often don't know the church is self supporting) was also discussed, as was the need for a fire officer. Safeguarding also remained a standing item on the PCC agenda.

Electoral Roll

Helen Kelly reported at the 2022 APCM that we are at 218. Many thanks to Helen for continuing in this role.

Church Attendance

As reported to the Diocesan Statistics for Mission, St Peter's Usual Sunday Attendance (spread over two to four services, but excluding those attending for baptisms) for 2022 was 137 adults and 50 children. Attendance at Easter 2022 was 241 (including children). Numbers attending church services over the Christmas period were 241 at the Carol Service, 177 at Christingle, 481 over two school Christmas services, 250 at Crib Service, 110 at Midnight Mass, and 230 on Christmas morning. Whilst on-line viewing is not at the levels (happily) it was in covid years, the average views for a 10.30 Communion Service were around 20-30 in 2022.

There were 21 baptisms during 2022, and no confirmations as the previous years service was held in November 2021. There were 2 weddings and 1 blessing after civil marriage at St Peter's during 2022. The church was used for 4 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 served as the church's safeguarding officer, and the children's worker Lulu Crutchley oversaw 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. In 2016 the PCC voted to reduce the reserves in order to use some of the capital to fund the major restoration project. Since then we have been working to rebuild the reserves again.

The Covid pandemic closed our church in 2020 and this had serious long term consequences for our income stream. We have since been making slow progress towards building back our reserves. However, 2022 brought another major expenditure on essential fabric maintenance.

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

Simon Brooke and Caroline Langton
Churchwardens, on behalf of the PCC
May 2023

The financial report was approved by the PCC on 23rd March 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



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