

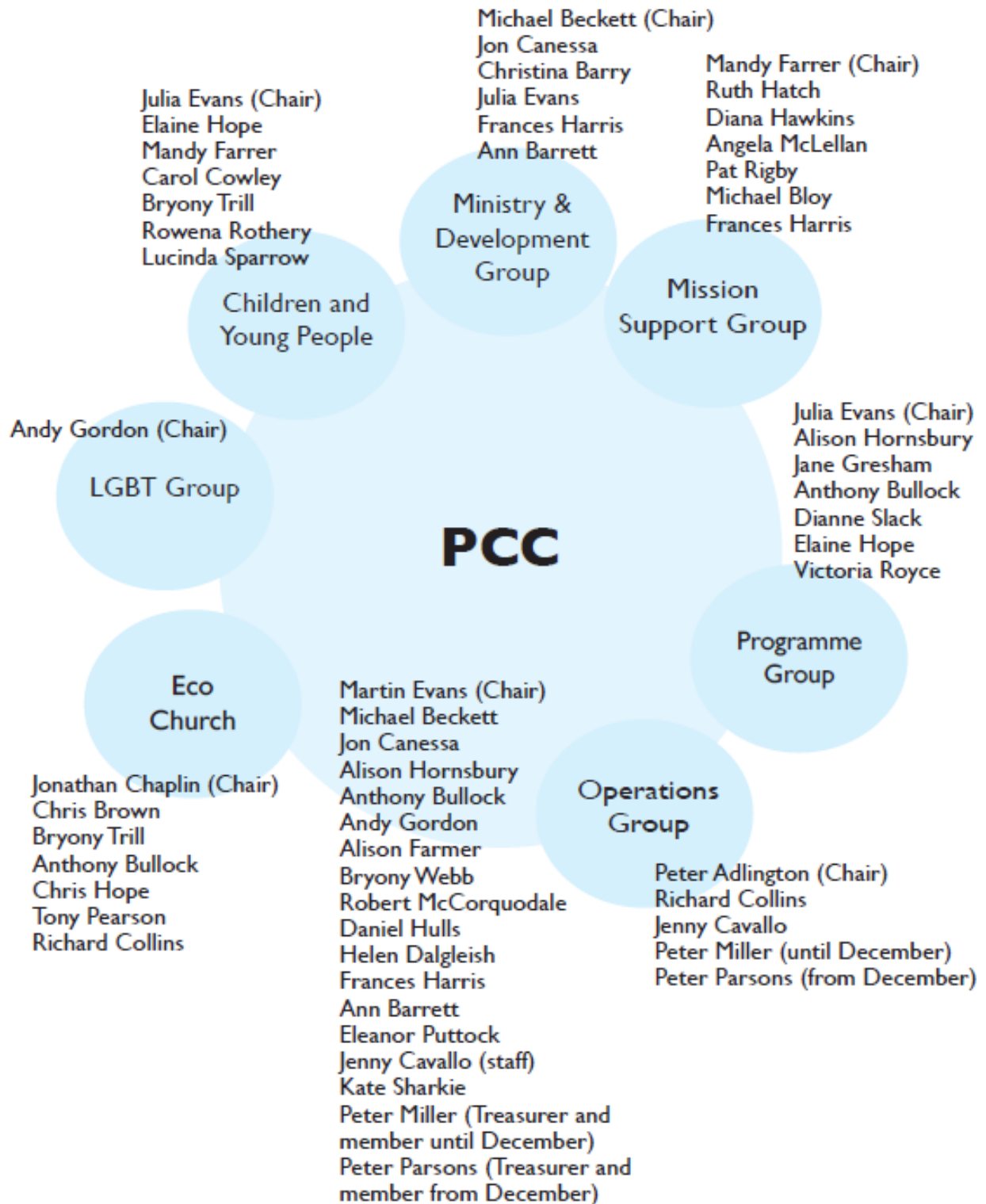
St Paul's, Cambridge Annual Report 2020-21



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Structure of St Paul's



About Us

St Paul's is an Anglican (Church of England) church in the heart of Cambridge serving local people, and is within the Diocese of Ely. We are an inclusive and informal community who are committed to creating a more just, peaceful and compassionate world. Through our services, our community involvement and our pastoral care, we seek to make connections within ourselves, with other people and with God. Our aim is to support one another to live authentically as we seek to respond to the love of God, who has already reached out to us in Christ. Our services and activities are open to everyone.

Our vicar, Michael Beckett, has been here for over 25 years and was joined in 2013 by Jon Canessa who is the Associate Priest. There is something for everyone and all are welcome, whether of longstanding faith or none.



From the Vicar



It would be a huge understatement to say this has been a difficult year, for all of us in different ways, for our city, our church, our nation and our world. We have learnt a variety of new terms as ‘lockdown’ seemed as if it was sprung upon us in the face of the worldwide ‘Pandemic’, and many went into ‘self-isolation’ from which they are yet to emerge. Subsequently ‘social distancing’ took on a whole new meaning and mask wearing became visible and normative, rather than a psychological defence mechanism or something witnessed only in a few arriving at Heathrow. ‘Lockdown lite’, as some termed it, came and went and as I write most of us are in ‘Tier 4’ as we all await in hope that the new more virulent strain of the virus will be controlled as the vaccine is ‘rolled out’.

I suppose, therefore, that in the light of all of this, I might hope that we have learnt some lessons about what is important to us as human beings, neighbours, members of families and our little church. I hope that, as we have moved through the seasons, both meteorological, pandemical and liturgical, that a deeper sense of our priorities has emerged.

The entire world has been experiencing the same storm, but, as someone reminded me, we have by no means been in the same boat, as together we discern the ‘new normal’.

We are very aware of the responsibility of those on the front line as well of the decision makers, whilst the plight of those incarcerated in ‘care’ homes has increasingly felt to be bordering on the criminal.

I am writing this as a very different Christmas draws to a close- small groups may have sung carols around the parish but a Zoom carol service, without our community choir in the building, seemed like a big loss. But Chris Rose’s AMOS carol service was a timely reminder, for me anyway, of the plight of so many others on this planet, of how lucky we are, AND of the Hope that we have in the light who shines in this darkness.

So, in our little church, what has happened this year?

Several of our number turned a major milestone; Pam was 80, Peter Parsons 70, John Thompson 60 as was Judy Reith, Larry was 50 and the vicar was serenaded as he reached the old retirement age!

These have not been able to be celebrated in the usual manner, and I may well have missed some others due to the circumstances. If you are one of those forgive me.

Similarly, we might have expected to have celebrated the weddings of Duncan Jones to his bride Christie, and David Mclean to Tilele but numbers were limited. Nevertheless, both weddings and that of Chris and Anna in the building were rendered the more special and intimate by the smallness of the congregation. Laura and Kristian were wed at St Johns, her parish church, and once again, for those of us who could be there, it was very special indeed to see such a loved couple wed.

We have not as a congregation suffered the loss of anyone directly because of the virus, but I was privileged to take the funeral of Gary's dad. Gary volunteers in the kitchen every week and I don't know where we would be without him week by week setting up and washing up.

Margaret Owen, a long-standing member of our Friday lunch club, finally succumbed to cancer and her funeral here, in what she would say is "my real church", was poignant and special.

The year had begun normally with special contributions from Swee Ang, Eeva John (once our own) and Margaret Barker, and we managed to host our annual gift day and AGM on March 15th - the last Sunday in the building. That Sunday also saw us welcome Sarah Davie as our new church secretary. I am so sorry that she has not been able to be integrated into our family as well as I would have hoped. Her contribution to the smooth running of the year has been immense and I am hugely grateful to her for that.

The following Sunday, Mothering Sunday, we live streamed for the first time and Bishop Dagmar, who was due to have joined us, remained safely at home. Thereafter in lockdown, what we have experienced as church this year was only made possible by Ian Trill and his team. Where we would have been without him, I simply do not know. I am tremendously grateful to him and Bryony for so generously giving of their time to enable the services to run so smoothly and so professionally.

I am also extremely grateful to Martin Evans who stepped in to chair what effectively became a standing committee until we returned to the building for the first time in September.

I am immensely grateful too, to Jenny and Dianne in the office for shutting things down so quickly and efficiently, and then for picking the threads up once again when we returned. We must thank too, Jonathan Slater, our bookkeeper, both for implementing the Government furlough scheme so promptly, saving us a considerable amount of money, AND for applying for and obtaining £13K in grants.

The lockdown term was really hard for children and their families, as well as for students at university and especially those finishing their studies and/or expecting exam results.

Final years are tough and not being able to celebrate achievements with friends and family especially so. This was felt not least by the retirement of Helen Christie. We owe her a huge debt for all that she has contributed so quietly in and around the parish. So many people's lives in our community have been hugely enriched by Helen and her time amongst us. Especially memorable also was Bev Jones' input at the Zoom leavers service in July. Our thanks go to her and Helen, the head teacher, for guiding the school back to calmer waters over the last two years.

So, Easter came and went and who knows what Easter will be like this coming year, but we live in hope. We were able too, to gather on a Monday evening thanks to Jon and then Eleanor Puttock, who took over when Jon was on sabbatical. Those services all felt very special.

Likewise, we found ourselves in new territory out on the street on a Thursday evening, clapping the front-line workers and especially those in the NHS. The rainbows in so many windows were really moving.

The loss of the meals in the Centre was badly felt. Some were provided with 'meals on wheels', and in the summer some outdoor hospitality was offered in the vicarage garden. Who will forget the faces of Wendy and Sylvia, on one of these occasions, when they met for the first time for months-their joy, their pain, and their love was very very special? Socially distanced meals were restored in September, suspended in Nov and returned again in Dec, and are now suspended once again. It was very sad that this meant cancelling the meal on Christmas day.

Our thanks to Julia for at least attempting to hold the families in St Pauls together by her inputs and visitations around the parish. She is a treasure. At the Andy Harrison performance, also in the vicarage garden, so moving for those able to attend, we were once again reminded of what we had been missing.

The Tuesday fellowship continued as best they could to fellowship by phone and gradually, as more of their number were enabled, via Zoom! Huge thanks to Margaret Hunt and Michael Bloy for this. The evening service has not resumed, but Iona and Wednesday morning prayer have continued in various fashions, as have men's breakfast and women's drinks.

We are so glad that Jon's work and his team and the efforts of CCHP have borne fruit this winter with the council taking up full responsibility for homing those who otherwise would have been our guests. It is really heartening too that Jon has been able to secure Diocesan approval for a post and a person to replace him when he moves on. AND Jon is more than halfway to securing three years funding for that post before he goes too. Well done Jon and thank you for inspiring so many of us along the way.

Alan Storkey was invited by the ECO group to speak and really stirred the pot in May. The V.E. Day service was moving. Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, the feast of Corpus Christi and Father's Day came and went.

But what was perhaps most special, at the instigation of John Wroe, was the input into our services of various members of the congregation sharing their stories, starting with our Jen, frontline Covid-19 nurse.

Catherine Duce from St Martins in the Fields provoked our thinking too about the 4 C's of the Heart-edge network- commerce, congregation, community and culture.

Ed Walker challenged us too to continue Jon's work by partnering with Hope into Action, a charity that homes the homeless and those coming out of prison.

In 2022, the C. of E. will vote in General Synod on whether or not members of the LGBTQI+ community should be welcomed as equal members of the church and the traditional teaching of the church be revisited. Consultation materials for churches' Living in Love and Faith' were published in November, this being the fruit of a process overseen by Eeva John. We shall be using these materials in the New Year.

Whilst our position as a church is still being discussed, a huge debt of thanks goes to Rob McCorquodale and his group who have been considering, whether or not we join the Inclusive Church network, how we rise to the challenge of being as inclusive as we can as a church.

For those of us who watch the Premier League it would seem that football has got there before us, the microphones of captains and commentators bearing the rainbow symbol for equality and diversity.

So let me finish as I opened, by saying that this Christmas has felt especially painful for me personally as I wished you all a happy Christmas at the end of the service on Christmas day for the last time as your vicar. I want to say how much I have appreciated the love and support you have offered me and my family all these years and especially so in the last few years and now this last year Thank you.

It would be fair to say that 2019 was my annus horribilis. In September 2019 I was on the verge of resignation but have been given this year paradoxically as a result of lockdown to retreat and recover. Thank you for your love and prayers and practical support and steadfast faithfulness to maintain and indeed develop the work of this church of which I have been so proud to have been vicar.

When I arrived here, I felt welcomed and accepted, warts and all. Nothing has changed in all this time. I feel honoured to have been allowed to have been part of this family.

And whilst I know that things will be different with the arrival of a new vicar, I hope and pray that the essence of St Pauls, which I have experienced as acceptance without judgement, will not be lost.

Michael Beckett



From the Associate Priest



At the beginning of 2020 I spent 4 weeks in the North East participating in the liturgical life of Newcastle Cathedral. My duties included leading the daily office – Morning Prayer, Midday Eucharist and Evensong – as well as preaching and pastoral work. I also advised the staff team about how to respond to people who experience multiple discrimination and exclusion as the cathedral develops its outreach programme.

I returned to Cambridge at the start of March just as the effects of the Covid-19 virus were becoming apparent in the UK. By the end of March, Cambridge City Council was trying to accommodate every homeless person including those who had been sleeping in our churches – something I never thought would happen. It took a global pandemic to focus local authorities across the country to take whatever steps were deemed necessary to house all of our homeless brothers and sisters. By April, 125 homeless people were placed into temporary accommodation in hotels, guest houses and student halls allowing everyone the opportunity to self-isolate from the virus. I remember helping with this process, spending many hours phoning colleges and hotels and being thrilled when Kings College offered one of their halls of residence to 25 homeless people. Much of my time this year has been spent responding pastorally and practically to those who are still being blessed by this transmogrified accommodation.

The virus forced organisations and individuals associated with the homeless sector to respond in new ways, focusing on immediate need, rather than operating from long established, conventional service priorities. Key Performance Indicators gave way to Kindness Pursuing Inclusion. These creative partnerships prompted many homeless people to express their gratitude, commenting how they have felt valued by volunteers and the agencies. I was especially grateful to the thirty-four congregants who took the time to write to

thank Cambridge City Council for prioritising homeless people when some local authorities effectively returned people to the streets after the first lockdown.

Helen Christy, our Community Development Worker retired at Easter. Sadly, the Covid-19 restrictions have so far denied St Paul's the opportunity to celebrate and thank Helen in person for her hard work and for the unique way that she has enabled so many individuals and families to make connections within themselves, with others and with God.

While Helen's work embodies what is often called incarnational ministry – *living* the Good News as opposed to *preaching* it – Helen and I met very regularly specifically to wrestle with how we communicate the love of God through our work. How do we make what is often implied, explicit? How do we point to God or to something that reflects the nature of God?

As a community enabler, Helen has spent endless hours on school playgrounds building relationships with parents and school staff; has enabled isolated neighbours to meet and bond; has helped residents to form an effective Residents Association; has enabled parents to successfully apply for funding for family days out; has set up cooking and life skills sessions with individuals; and has made time to listen to people talking about debt, domestic violence and desperation. Every year, Helen has made thousands of visits, phone calls and texts, as she has reached out in loving kindness to find different ways to say, 'You really matter'.

At the heart of Helen's work, is her ability to gently draw alongside people and listen attentively to their story. From this place of solidarity, of *being with*, possibilities emerge which Helen is able to respond to in such a way that transformation for those involved is possible. Helen is a bringer of hope; she exudes joy, kindness and thoughtfulness. The light of Christ shines out of her and this is apparent to everyone who has spent any time with her. I know everyone at St Paul's wishes Helen a long, happy and blessed retirement.

Throughout the year the Wednesday addiction group has continued to meet both in person and virtually via Zoom during lockdown. The group is an expression of church which explores spirituality and includes a form of confession. Talking about our addiction to other people is a way of pushing what shames us into the light; allowing the truth to set us free. We end the meetings with a meditation and The Welcome Prayer:

*I welcome everything that comes to me today, because I know that it is for my healing.
I welcome all thoughts, feelings, persons, situations and conditions.
I welcome the source of love and healing within me and beyond me.*

*I give to God my dependence on security and survival; esteem and affection;
power and control; and my need to change a situation for my own purposes.
I give to God all my fear, anxiety, anger, shame, guilt and my need to blame,
to find fault, compare and judge.*

[An adaption of The Welcome Prayer]

During the year, three regulars have committed to sobriety, each having been deeply entrenched in their addiction. Their respective transformations have been highlights in my year and it is perhaps not a co-incidence that all three are now actively engaged in some form of service to others.

The group has been a huge encouragement to me in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. As we seek to live our lives in the light, I have seen people demonstrate kindness and show compassion to one another. I have witnessed acts of empathy and kindness; of shared understanding; of striving to live a life not driven by self-centredness and delusion, but of treating others as you would wish to be treated. The group gives a voice to those who often feel powerless, recognises strength in vulnerability and understands more deeply than most the need for acceptance. Accepting and learning to love oneself, especially having come from a place of self-loathing, is to experience the love of Christ.

Vulnerability is not weakness; that is a dangerous myth.

Vulnerability is the birthplace of connection and the path to the feeling of worthiness.

[Brene Brown, 'Men, Women and Worthiness' Published 2013]

Finally, I would like to thank Rob McCorquodale and the Inclusion Group for being such a joy to work with this year and to thank Eleanor Puttock for her help with co-hosting the Monday night Simple Service. I would also like to thank Michael, Martin and the PCC for all their hard work and support and for allowing me a sabbatical during 2020. I continue to be deeply grateful to you all for the way my family and I have been blessed by everyone at St Paul's. Thank you.

Jon Canessa

From the PCC



The PCC met 6 times on a bi-monthly basis throughout 2020, mostly by Zoom. It also had a Saturday morning, 'blue sky' away time.

Members were: Alison Hornsbury, Alison Farmer, Anthony Bullock, Andy Gordon, Kate Sharkey, Eleanor Puttock. Rob McCorquodale, Helen Dalglish, Dan Hulls, Frances Harris, Ann Barrett, Michael Beckett, Jon Canessa, Jenny Cavallo. Peter Miller and Martin Evans. Peter Miller had to resign halfway through the year because of overwork and was replaced by Peter Parsons.

Key issues:

1. In an extraordinary year, the first thing I want to report might sound quite boring, but, in another light, is quite miraculous and, in many ways, a vindication of how St Paul's works. Basically, financially, we broke even. I have been told by people who know that we may be one of the few, and maybe the only Anglican church in the diocese, to achieve this. How did we achieve this when the community centre was closed down for six months and only partially open for a further three months at the end of 2020?

The answer is something to do with our history. We separated the building and created seven rooms when there was previously only one and opened the community centre 25 years ago. As it became more and more successful and was increasingly hired out to numerous community groups, the profits generated paid for the Church heating, cleaning, insurance and so on, plus in the latter years it paid for extra staff, in particular the innovative and highly successful community development worker, a post filled so well by Helen Christy. However, in 2020 everything turned around. The centre was no longer able to generate the necessary income. But expenditure was greatly reduced and Jonathan

Salter, our excellent and imaginative accountant, was able to achieve some grants, so that the centre deficit at the end of the year was £25,000.

But, because of the generous giving of the congregation, the church's income over expenditure for the year was £25,000 pounds. It demonstrates that we have a robust financial model. The centre helps the church and, when needed, the Church helps the Centre. It is, after all, all one budget.

2. Through the efforts of Michael and Jon, plus many volunteers and some spontaneous communications, we were able to provide co-ordinated pastoral support for many members of our congregation during lockdown. We were also able to offer lunches on Monday and Friday for several months in a safe, Covid-19 aware environment. Particular thanks to Jane and Julia for their hearty cooking which I know was much appreciated and for great support from Gary.
3. The PCC was asked to keep the foodbank open and it continued at St Paul's throughout the lockdown. More generally, the Cambridge Foodbank, served 10,000 people throughout the city in 2020.
4. We had a tricky leak in the Foyer which continued for several weeks and was attended to most diligently by Peter Adlington who persuaded the architect and the builders that it was their problem. It was fixed without cost to St Paul's. Well done, Peter.
5. Sarah Davie was appointed as the new church administrator and she is doing a great job. Thanks again to Steph for her many years in this role, always done so thoroughly and in good spirit.
6. In light of Covid-19, all policies and procedures have been updated. Thanks to Di Hicks, Sarah and Jenny Cavallo for this. Di also has updated our safeguarding policies and all PCC members have conducted on-line safeguarding training.
7. We have conducted an extensive consultation throughout the latter half of the year regarding joining the Inclusive Church movement. In light of the results of the consultation, we will make a decision on this at the February 2021 meeting. Huge thanks to Rob McCorquodale and his team for a sensitive, listening consultation.

8. Michael announced his forthcoming retirement in September for the following September 2021, after 27 years as our vicar, leader and priest. Jon also let us know that he, Lynn and their children will be returning to the North East in June 2021. Of course, we wish them the very best and we are enormously grateful for all that they have done at St Paul's, but losing both will be a massive body blow to the church. The PCC met with Alex Hughes, our archdeacon and Mike Dunn from CPAS, our patrons, to discuss the way forward. A Vacancy Standing Committee (VSC) will be established in February 2021 to take the recruitment of Michael's replacement forward.

9. At the away time in April 2020, the main points were: a concern expressed that the breadth of our activities is reliant on a small group of people. It was felt that we need to recruit more committed volunteers. This will need a proactive campaign in early 2021. We have the idea for volunteer teams for: working in and with St Paul's School; working with the elderly in the parish – Christina is already working with a team in St George's Court; launching Friends of St Paul's, a new initiative led by Alison Farmer; Artsfest 2021 in September; the new homelessness project led by Frances Harris.

Martin Evans, on behalf of St Paul's PCC



From the Centre Manager



2020 was a very odd year....

It started off superbly, with the building buzzing and in constant use by our long-term, regular clients including Salsa on a Monday, Tango on a Tuesday, Swing Dance on a Wednesday, Cambridge University Choir on a Thursday and Bodywork Dance & Theatre School filling the Church with music, dancing and laughter, Monday to Friday 9 to 5!

....and then Covid-19 reared its ugly head!

We closed the building towards the end of March and all regular usage was put on hold. Cambridge City Foodbank continued to provide their services from the Church every Monday and Friday, accessing the building independently and operating from the Lower Tower Room.

Working from home, Dianne and I began the vast task of working our way through the Church directory, calling all from A to Z, to see if people were

- A. Vulnerable in anyway and needed support
- B. Not vulnerable and happy to offer support

We then created a 'buddy' system where A's and B's were matched up and support was offered such as shopping, collection of prescriptions and so on or just simply checking in on a regular basis by telephone.

Calls were received with huge thanks and it really made me think about how lucky Church communities are- to have each other and the unconditional support and love that comes with them.

Dianne and I were furloughed full time from the beginning of April through to July. I returned to the office on a part-time furloughed basis at the beginning of

July, giving me just over 2 weeks to get the building in order for a funeral, ordering in all appropriate PPE equipment, completing risk assessments, creating one-way systems and so on.

On a more positive note we managed to host one of our wedding receptions scheduled for 2020, for just 30 guests. The Main Hall looked stunning and all guests were very well behaved, remaining at a social distance!



All other weddings scheduled to take place in 2020 have been postponed until 2021 & 2022.

Our twice-weekly hospitality meals resumed in September, which 15 to 20 guests attended, hosted in the Main Hall giving us more room to socially distance. A huge thanks to Jane, Gary, Julia, Christina, Dianne, Wendy, Sharon, Liz & Michael Bloy for all that you do for our lunch clubs.

Bodywork Dance and Theatre School and a Cambridge City Council Private Tuition booking resumed their use of the building in September, Monday through to Friday until the end of the year, which financially helped us hugely.

We also have Jonathan Salter, our freelance Accountant, to thank for all of the grants he has applied for. We have now received over £30k worth of grant funding, which is another reason we have kept afloat, covering utility bills, Covid-19 PPE supplies, Covid-19 cleaning, project work supporting the lunch clubs and so on.

I'd also like to thank Peter Adlington once again for his invaluable support with all things maintenance! I'm very lucky to have him on board!

Here's to a happy & healthy 2021!

Jenny Cavallo

From the Ministry and Development Group



Membership of the ministry development team during this period has included Michael, Jon, Christina Barry, Julia Evans, (service leaders) Frances Harris and Ann Barrett (church wardens). At the beginning of the year Debbie Beckett represented the programming group and Martin Evans was present as chair of the PCC to facilitate communication as a Standing committee during lockdown. Meetings were held weekly for most of the year and then reverted to a monthly pattern, alternating with the service leaders' group. The meetings have two main functions- to act as a support for the service leaders and liaise with all other relevant groups, and to function as an operational group for decisions that have to be taken between PCC meetings or which require actioning only.

The regular meetings give support to those who have conducted recent services. Feedback is given, such as highlighting appreciation from the congregation of the candle lighting and prayers and congregational contributions during Zoom services. A confidential discussion of pastoral needs ensures that appropriate support is given to those who need it. Any urgent operational issues, such as building, financial, staffing, recruitment, safeguarding, are considered, and action taken as appropriate. In this year because of Covid-19, we have discussed practical arrangements for services and hospitality, and staffing issues, such as applying for furloughing funding, and maintaining liaison with those in charge of

all the centre activities during the variable restrictions. The group has received and acted on letters from the Bishop relating to organisation during the pandemic. Arrangements were made for Jon's sabbatical, during which time Eleanor took responsibility for leading the Monday evening service which was much appreciated. Work has been done on updating policies and the website. Frances has ensured that all members of the PCC have completed the required safeguarding training.

Hospitality arrangements are always on the agenda and again have required imagination and flexibility during this difficult year to continue to care for those who attend the regular meals in the centre. Garden tea parties were hosted by Michael and Debbie and meals have been delivered when meeting in the centre was not possible.

The group has been particularly concerned with how to develop the inclusivity which St Paul's strives for. It encouraged the setting up of the inclusion group led by Rob McCorquodale which reported in February. It has welcomed contributions from charities with which we have had a long association such as the Amos trust and the Street Children's World Cup and has invited speakers to open up possible new directions for collaboration with Inclusive church, HeartEdge and Hope into Action.

Ann Barrett



From the Lay Ministers

Christina Barry



2020 started with high hopes: following my licensing in October 2019 I had created a routine of pastoral work on Mondays and Fridays; getting to know the older members of the church community better, expanding my weekly visiting time at St George's Court and meeting Helen Christie with the expectation I might continue some her valuable connections and work.

Members of the congregation joined me in short Sunday afternoon services at St George's Court in January and February. The residents valued the prayer and praise and speaking to new people. I was grateful for the input of the congregation members and we looked forward to continuing a fruitful outreach.

Of course, since March many things have been on hold. I kept the connection to St George's through letter writing and phone calls to residents and am in touch with the new activities co-ordinator, who is leading short services of hymns and prayers. Restarting lunch clubs in the autumn brought joy to all - despite distancing and masks. Sitting with just one other at a long table initially seemed strange but has allowed us to get to know each other in more depth.

Phone calls to older members of our community keep my faith buoyant; their wisdom in pandemic time is grounded in long experience of life's ups and downs. The Tuesday group has continued to share fellowship: each person at home reading a psalm chosen by Pat Rigby and praying, aware of everyone else doing likewise in their home. Although phone and email keep everyone in touch, many were delighted to meet in person in December for a Christmas afternoon tea hosted by Michael and Debbie.

I've been approached by a few people in our parish who know of my lay ministry. They are in sorrowful times and need a walking and talking partner. If you see me and I don't acknowledge you - it may be that we're in midst of a exploring a difficult issue, so I apologise in advance.

As we look to a new phase of ministry at St Paul's, post pandemic and later in the year without Michael's leadership, I retain confidence that we are in God's loving care and he will guide us on our path.

Julia Evans



Children and Young People

As you might imagine things have been very different this year and work with children and young people limited. Just before the first lockdown we were on the cusp of looking to appoint a Children/ Family/Community Worker and a Youth Worker. Applications had been received but then the whole process had to be cancelled as it became apparent it was not the time to be committing to new staff.

In the first lockdown there was a story time for younger children on Zoom and then once we were back in church, we managed one Sunday Event where some children came into church and others attended on Zoom. Since then we have arranged a children's slot in the Zoom service every month with packs of activities being delivered to the children's homes and at Christmas we put together a video of the children talking about favourite Christmas things, which was shown in the Christmas morning service. As we hopefully come back into church later this year, we look forward to welcoming families back, but in the meantime will continue with monthly slots with activities.

There is a group of us who work with Children and Young People but it would be good to have some new volunteers, particularly men and someone particularly interested in working with young people. As Michael is leaving in the Autumn, the appointment of a Children and Family Worker and Youth Worker remains uncertain.

Children and Young People associated with St. Paul's: 25 Families 42 children and young people.



Programme Group

The Programme at St. Paul's has been very limited this year as you might expect. There were plans for celebrations for VE Day and a Summer/Fair which had to be abandoned and for a time all meals in church were stopped. During this time Michael kept in touch with most of the people who attend the lunches and Michael and Debbie held a number of 'afternoon teas' in their garden. Once we were able to open up the building in a COVID-19 friendly way we provided lunches twice a week in the building. (See Hospitality report)

Jonathan Salter procured a grant for £2,000 for work with children in the community with an aim of enhancing their experiences during these difficult times. With the help of Jenny Cavallo and after much thought and a few cancellations of plans, we are now arranging to host a St. Paul's Kids Art Fest@Home event during the February half term with Full House Theatre Company. Initially this is advertised to St. Paul's School and Church but because numbers attending are not limited, we are advertising it to other schools and across the city and hope this is a good use of the money.

You might remember that we won a photography competition (Jenny Cavallo's entry). The money enabled us to buy a defibrillator which is installed outside the church. A group of six were to go to London for the final of the competition and to enjoy a meal together. This had to be cancelled but in its place there was a Zoom celebration and an afternoon tea delivered to the church for six people to enjoy while watching the event. We also have £500 to spend on a celebration event which we are planning to use for a meal of some kind for the whole church, initially to say goodbye to Helen Christie, our community worker who retired during the first lockdown. But also it might be a celebration for all of us when we are at last able to come together. Something to look forward to.

Finally, there were plans this year for a number of Artsfest events to be held over weekends. We managed one dance event with Body Works and Rosie Reith before lockdown and one in late Spring, between lockdowns, in our Covid-19 safe building. It was an inspiring and uplifting play about Michael Faraday, written by Murray Watts and performed by Andy Harrison. The Artsfest Group are now busy planning for a 3-day festival in the middle of September.

Julia Evans



Services

St. Paul's AV team

Like all other areas within St. Paul's 2020 proved a very difficult year with many new challenges. When the first lockdown was enforced, we were left with no other option than to provide a weekly service on-line. Michael was very clear that he wanted to try to do a live service if possible.

Zoom provided the best system as it allowed more than one contributor with everyone taking part remaining in their own homes. We soon settled down to a "normal" weekly service on Zoom and with very few technical difficulties it worked well. Initially, Ian did all the work on the service but by the summer we had started to introduce others to help – most notably Andy Gordon who rose to the challenge brilliantly.

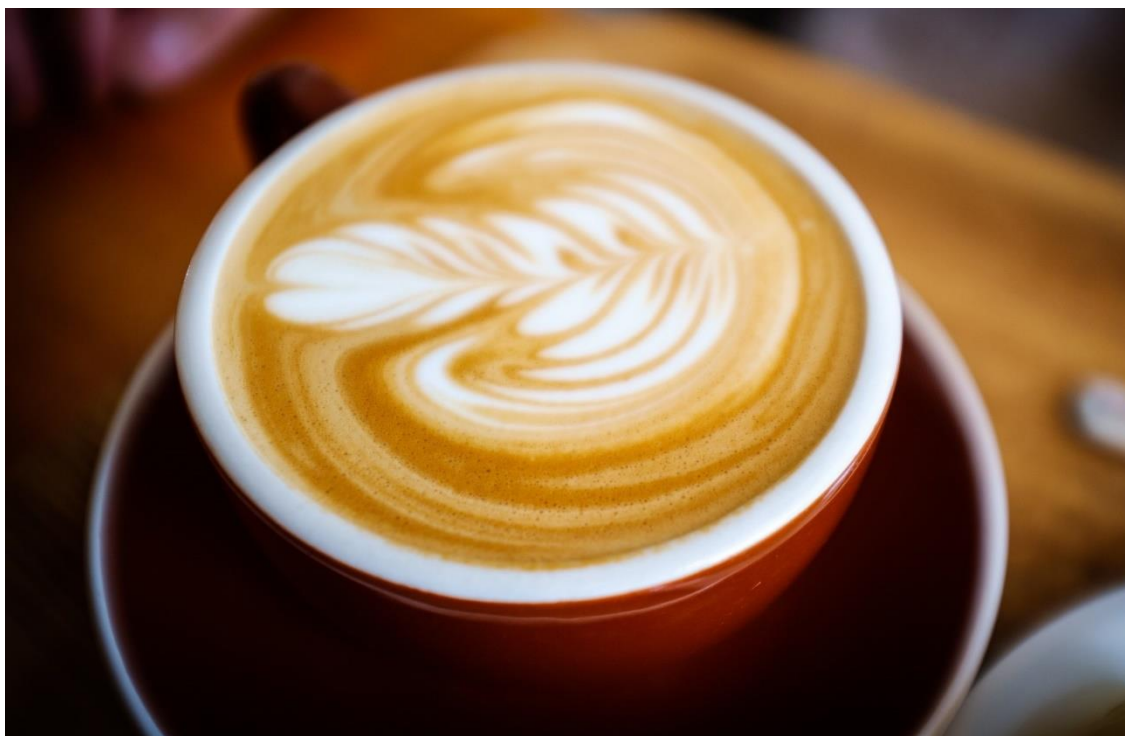
When the first lockdown was eased we were then faced with new challenges, notably the reduced number of people allowed in the church building and many people's desire to continue joining the Zoom service. A system was devised where the speaker in the church building could be seen on Zoom, as previously, but also the "virtual" congregation could be seen on the projector by those in the church. This proved popular and we have even had speakers joining from their own homes to talk to the whole congregation in this way. In August we took delivery of a new laptop which helped this system work – the old one was not up to the job. In addition to this, Ian has lent several pieces of equipment to the AV cupboard to enable facilitate this system.

Unfortunately, there was one week where we had two technical failures which meant the service could not go out on the web and was only heard by the people in the church building. One of the failures was the new laptop (this has now been replaced) and the other was part of our old trusty sound mixing desk. The problems were solved by the following week but shortly after this we went back into lockdown and, apart from one service in December, all other services have been done on-line via Zoom.

I'm pleased to say we had many people volunteer to help with the AV. Training has been difficult due to the moving goalposts, but special mention should be made of Larry, Gwilym, Steph, Jon and Richard Cragg who stepped up to the plate to help with the complicated church building set-up. Thanks must also be given to Anthony Bullock who has always been happy to help with the Zoom services.

Ian Trill

Tuesday Fellowship



As for everybody and everything, it has been a strange year for the Tuesday Fellowship. We met from January 14th to March 10th with the support of our usual excellent speakers and were looking forward to welcoming some new speakers to complete the term, but with advice from Michael we felt due to the age of our group and the impossibility of staying socially distant, we must cancel our meetings. We have tried to keep in touch with each other via phone calls, and Marion sent birthday and Christmas cards.

Sadly, Pat Judges, a long-standing member, died in October. She had moved into a retirement flat in Hauxton, which was more suitable and provided some care. Marion kept in contact with her in her new home. None of us could attend the funeral, but Michael did.

Every week on Tuesday at 14 30 (the time we used to meet), we read a psalm chosen by Pat Rigby. With the help and generosity of Michael Bloy, and Michael and Debbie, we were able to hold a socially distanced tea party on 15th December near our beautiful Christmas tree which had been decorated by Jenny. Julia Evans and Christina Barry came to help, and Jon Canessa popped in to say hello. It was very much enjoyed by all who attended, and it was lovely to see each other. We look forward to meeting again when it is possible.

Ruth Hatch

Iona

We've been a bit all over the place this year! Initially we stopped. Happily, I found the Monday evening service did a similar job to the Iona service - some of the liturgy is the same and the online access worked well.

We agreed to do the service in our homes at 7pm on a Tuesday and circulated requests for healing by email. Once the building reopened for prayer we met up, well distanced, in the main hall.

By the time we got to November, again unable to meet in person, we began meeting up via Zoom – thanks to Julia. Which is where we are now. We have had more need than ever for prayer this year and it is a blessing to be a part of this group. We look forward to meeting up and being able to “feel the touch of friends” again.

Jane Gresham

Wednesday morning group

13 of us meet regularly at 7.30 am every Wednesday morning for a service that is simple, profound and life-enhancing for all of us. We use a regular liturgy which includes a different reading each week (chosen by the person leading) and a lighting of candles following the sharing of prayer requests.

Before the pandemic we met in the chapel, and we hope to return there when circumstances permit. Since March we have been meeting on Zoom. This has actually led to a greater regularity of attendance and an increase in our numbers, since new people who would have found it difficult to attend physically have joined us, which is lovely.

If anyone else would like to join you are very welcome: details of the Zoom meeting are always in Family News along with the liturgy that we use. There is a very strong sense of fellowship between us and a WhatsApp group maintains contact between meetings. We rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15). Blessed be the name of the Lord!

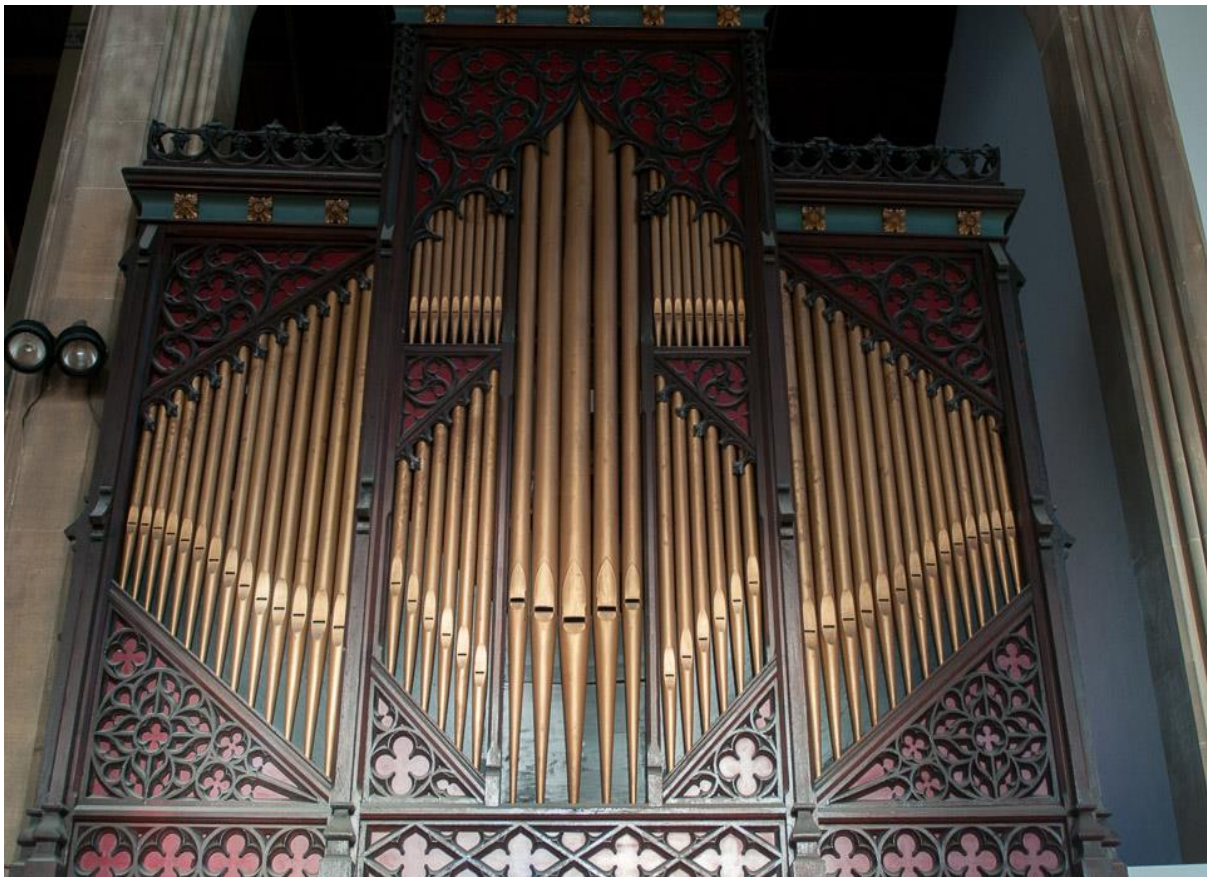
Richard Higginson

Music at St Paul's

To say it's been a different year for music at St Paul's is a serious understatement... The ban on singing together in church on Sundays as well as no Scratch Messiah, Carol Service, Thursday singers, have left large gaps and a sense of loss. It shows how important music is as part of our worship and community life. The return, when it finally happens, will be extra sweet.

Ian Trill has been extraordinary in his willingness, creativity, and professional skill to use music as part of our online services – hymns, songs and video. This means we can still sing along at home. We are eternally grateful to him. Music has played a significant part in the online services with Michael and other individuals sharing pieces that have meaning for them and this has brought an added dimension to our time together. The reflective carol service led by Jon also enabled several to share their favourite carol which was a special time.

Helen Robbins



Eating together at St Paul's



Since the last report, hospitality at St Paul's has had to reinvent itself several times.

We stopped, with everything else, in March and didn't cook any meals on site until September. During this time Michael kept in touch with most of the people who attended the lunches, delivering some meals that Debbie cooked.

Once we were able to open up in a Covid-19 friendly way we provided lunches twice a week in the building. These were facilitated by Dianne Slack and Jenny Cavallo with Michael Beckett and Jon Canessa hosting. Jane Gresham and Julia Evans cooked with the help of Gary. Support was given by Christina Barry, Michael Bloy and Rodney and Diana Hawkins. It felt so good to be back, but this was soon curtailed.

Following Debbie and Michael's work earlier in the year, during the November lockdown we decided to cook and deliver meals to those most in need and have continued to provide lunches for about 15 people, cooked by Jane Gresham and delivered by Michael, Jon and Dianne.

Jonathan Salter worked hard to secure grants for us to continue with the meals which helped cover some of the office staff costs, making the building Covid-19 safe and food costs for delivered meals.

We did cook a Christmas dinner on the 18th December and it was lovely to see the number of regulars who turned out. Sadly the Christmas Day lunch had to be cancelled.

We are now back to Thursday deliveries and know that it is appreciated.

For myself it was a blessing to stop in March as I was considering how to go forwards. The responsibility for running the hospitality had become difficult. What I do now is just cook which is the bit I've always loved. So we will continue to navigate our way through whatever this year brings and hope that we can find a way to return to the weekly social events that we so badly miss.

Jane Gresham

Men's Breakfasts

We met only 5 times in 2020 (for obvious reasons) : four times at our usual venue, The Earl of Derby (including once outside) and once on Zoom.

Subjects discussed included :

- gay marriage
- our experience of lockdown
- the legacy of Cain (to be continued in 2021)

We aim, as things (hopefully) return to 'normal' to provide a greater source of friendship and support.

Michael Bloy and Mark Rigby

Ladies Drinks

Our Friday night catch-ups have been on the “slimline” side this year! We hosted a couple of Zoom evenings in the autumn and it was lovely to see familiar faces and welcome new ones too. Thank you to all those who made generous donations to the breast cancer screening programme at Al Ahli hospital in Gaza via the Amos Trust appeal we support. We look forward to meeting up face to face again before too long but in the meantime do look out for our next Zoom date in Family News.

Sarah Rose and Caroline Bone

From the Eco Church Group

We continue to work towards the Arocha Eco Church Silver Award in spite of lockdowns. In January we produced a summary of progress, 'Are We There Yet?', and a survey of people's activities, showing we need to do more on environmental campaigning. We explored ways to fulfil that. The PCC agreed to endorse The Climate Coalition's Declaration 'The Time is Now', aimed at the UN climate change conference in Glasgow, November 2021. Several individuals also signed.

In spite of lockdowns, we continued with virtual activities. We held 2 eco-themed services in May (Alan Storkey on disarmament and the environment) and November (Jonathan Chaplin on a theology of campaigning), celebrated the global event 'Earth Hour' from our homes on March 28, organised two 'Eco Zoom Seminars' in July and November (postponed to January 2021) and produced an eco-themed poster with links to follow up. Janet Walker put her name down for an allotment that St Paul's people might work on in future.

Chris Brown worked hard taking the secondary glazing project further. Regrettably, by end of year all 3 bids for funding had been declined, but we can re-submit one while seeking extra funding from within the church and from other sources.

Anthony Bullock joined the committee.

Jonathan Chaplin



Mission Support Group

This year has brought great challenges with the Covid-19 pandemic, but our mission organisations are very grateful for our continued support as they have responded to the situation. Here is a brief snapshot –



Romsey Mill – Jon Sanders / Richard Beckett

It will come as no surprise that this has been a difficult year for the young people we support at Romsey Mill. Most are not keen on virtual contact, and therefore it has been really important to continue to meet them face to face where appropriate and safe through detached work and 1:1 support. Sadly, we are aware that domestic abuse has risen hugely and we have seen young people's mental health difficulties rise significantly too. We appreciate your prayers and support as we try to get alongside some of the most vulnerable young people in the city and share something of God's love for them.



Cambridge Money Advice – Frances Harris

One thing will always remain and that is our desire to see lives transformed by releasing people from the agonising hold of debt. Our 'average' client has over £10,000 of debt; many have council tax and rent arrears which they are unable to meet payments on. Our work is not always easy and can be emotionally draining but seeing someone who came in fear and as a last resort, leaving months later and knowing that things are now under control, makes it all worthwhile.



Cogwheel – David Farrer

During this pandemic year we have seen an increase in clients needing support for various reasons, including mental health, stress from work or lack of it, family relationships and finances. We have responded to the situation by training all counsellors to deliver sessions using Zoom which has enabled us to continue, and we are grateful for the support of St Paul's.

Divine Hope (Uganda)– Fred Bbosa

Fred has been delivering maize and other essential food supplies to the families of the children while schools have been shut. The health clinics he was running have been unable to continue, so he has been supplying drugs to rural health centres for the communities. Schools have restarted but only for children taking GCSE and A-levels. He thanks God for the continued support of St Paul's.

Fred delivering supplies to families



Dorothy and her son Daniel delivering food in Kampala

Chem U (Uganda) - Dorothy Agessa

With the outbreak of coronavirus, all the schools in Uganda shut in March, and most of Chem U's families have been struggling to live. Instead of school fees, they have been helping to fund essential relief supplies of food and malaria nets to these families in Rukungiri (SW Uganda) and also in Kampala. Schools have now restarted for exam students, and Dorothy thanks us for our continued support.

Catholic Relief Services – Bronwen

Bronwen remains working with Catholic Relief Services; she was based in Khartoum till Easter 2020, responding to the effects of Covid-19 in Darfur, an area already under great economic stress. She now oversees the programme quality of a large scale emergency operation in Ethiopia, where Covid-19, floods, locusts and rising political tension leave many people hungry and homeless. Visit [CRS' website](#) to read more about their work in Ethiopia.



Wycliffe
Bible
Translators

Wycliffe Bible Translators – the Naylor's working in S.Asia

Lockdown hit just before a major translation training workshop began. The 20+ participants were all national translators, learning to draft portions for their own language community. At very short notice and unable to travel, the workshop facilitators were able to pivot to a fully virtual format using Zoom. Each participant managed to join from their own home, some limited to using smart phones. Thank God that the work has been able to wonderfully continue, and please pray that the Word will transform the lives of those who hear or read it.

And finally...

*I am so grateful to the faithful members of the group - **Ruth Hatch, Diana Hawkins, Angela McLellan, Pat Rigby, Michael Bloy, and Frances Harris** - and to St Paul's for its encouraging support of 'mission'*

Mandy Farrer

St Paul's School Governors



Beverly Jones, Chair of Governors

Throughout this year we have seen the work of the church reflected in the way we work as a school, and the Church of England vision for schools has an increased profile in the Governing body:

“Our vision for education is deeply Christian, with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' at its heart.

In line with the Church of England's role as the established Church, our vision is for the common good of the whole community.”

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/vision-education>

Commitment to serving the community through the school has been shown by Katie Barron, Simon Jarvis, Kate Sharkie and Virginia Weston who have all joined the Governing Body. Each one of them has already made a significant contribution to accountability, inclusion and our school vision and values. All the Governors are delighted that they have joined us.

As Governors, Staff and pupils, sharing our work with you through the Leaver's Service in July and the Joiner's Service in September was incredibly special. We were also able to update you through our Governor reports and your response to our communication was much appreciated.

Helen Darrell enables the staff to create special opportunities for the children whether they are on the school site or via the remote learning offer using Google Classrooms and virtual learning. The Parent Teacher and Friends Association continues to actively provide additional resource. So too do the Church Schools of Cambridge and we are grateful for the work that Alistair Mack and David Farrer do as Trustees. A small school at the heart of the community has had benefits this year in enabling each child to progress with their learning through all the changes to their family lives.

The contribution Michael makes to the life of the school is valued by all. His assemblies continued in the classroom when social distancing made whole school assemblies a risk. He also has a lead role for Staff Wellbeing and is known to all the staff and children.

The big news was in October when the Local Authority confirmed that the school now meets national and local expectations. <https://www.stpauls.cambs.sch.uk/ofsted-and-performance-data/>

The School is a place where every child is taught by a strong team of staff in a beautiful, safe environment and it is exciting for us as Governors to share in plans. Please look at the website for photographs of the site and details of all the Governors and the work the school is doing.

Beverly Jones

St Paul's C of E VA Primary School <https://www.stpauls.cambs.sch.uk/>



Street Child United



Young Leaders Programme

Despite the obvious challenges of this year, our partnership with International Schools Partnership (ISP) has gone from strength to strength. Before the global pandemic hit, we ran several in-person visits to ISP schools across Europe, the USA and South America. Throughout the course of these visits, we are proud to say that we reached 10,280 students and teachers via assemblies, with a further 5,000 taking part in workshops. This year we have continued the assemblies but in a virtual format. The brilliant Laura Scott (as in Laura & Kristian) led many of the assemblies and was accompanied by some of our great Young Leaders.

'Change 10' is a strand of the Young Leaders Programme with a specific focus on investing in the personal and professional development of 10 young people, all of whom are previous participants at Street Child World Cups. It was created to celebrate SCU's 10th-year anniversary. The original plan was to have the 10 young leaders spending 10 weeks in Cambridge/London, having soft skills development sessions, English language classes, sports coaching, and work experience. Due to the Covid-19 situation, we have adapted the Change 10 programme into a 12-month programme (May 2020-May 2021) with a virtual element (lasting 20 weeks) and virtual support from SCU staff; an in-person element (in Cambridge), date tbc, and an in-person piece (back home), in which the young leader chooses some workshops they most liked and deliver them to the children/young people in their own community.

In November, we launched the "Skill Building" second phase of Change 10, designed to give support and guidance to the Young Leaders through a personalised mentorship scheme. Huge thanks to our supporters at St Pauls who have answered the call for help and worked closely with our young leaders to

guide each of them through the design and development of a personalised project tailored to their interests and ambitions. They will all shortly begin online English language courses with Studio Cambridge, and we remain hopeful that they will all be able to visit Cambridge later this year to complete the programme, so you can meet them all in person then- Covid-19 allowing.

We Are All Somebody

In December, Young Leader Samantha released her poetry anthology, 'We are all Somebody'. Inspired by her experiences at the Street Child World Cup in Moscow in 2018, and comprising poetry and artwork from street-connected young people around the world, Samantha's book is testament to the fact that our young people can achieve whatever they put their minds to. It is an inspirational read and highly recommended. You can pre-order her book – which will be officially released on February 19th - through her publisher [here](#).

Street Child World Cup 2022 – Doha

We have made excellent progress towards delivery of SCWC 2022. In February, John Wroe visited Doha, where the British Ambassador hosted our first Local Advisory Group. Potential delivery, campaigning and fundraising partners were gathered around the table and key commitments were made. We have subsequently held two virtual Local Advisory Groups, in July and October. 55 teams applied to take part in 2022 and we have now finalised the 24 who will represent their countries in Doha – a combination of new projects and old friends. We will have an equal number of teams of girls and boys and we welcome 3 teams of refugee young people from Darfur, Zadari in Jordan and Hungary. We are also hugely proud to welcome our first SCWC team from Ramalah in Palestine. The challenges of ensuring the safe passage and arrival of all these young people to Qatar in March 2022 is now occupying us, but we are people of faith and hope and belief and many of the right partners are now gathered around the SCWC 2022 table. At the first SCWC summit held at St Pauls in 2012, I've never forgotten that the leader of Team Nicaragua said "We don't often get invited to the top table, but now we have our own table". In 2021, we will host a virtual Summit in March and hope to be able to gather all our Team leaders together in Doha in November. The SCWC will take place in March 2022. They are all Somebody and we are determined to continue to tell their empowering and uplifting stories.

Volunteers – SCWC 2022

Applications for volunteers for the Street Child World Cup 2022 are now open. Whatever your skillset and experience, there is a role for you! All the information you need, as well as the application form, are available on our website [here](#).

Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023 – India

SCU continues to build our partnership with Save The Children India, who will co-deliver the SCCWC in 2023. We officially launched the SCCWC and opened Teams Applications in August and will look to make final selections early in 2021. We held our first Local Advisory Group virtually in October and, with the support of friend of SCU, Oliver Ballhatchet (Deputy High Commissioner in Chennai), have started to bring together a really strong group to help guide the SCCWC journey. The SCCWC will take place in both Chennai and New Delhi in September 2023. 600 of us, teams, media and volunteers will catch the specially commissioned “I Am Somebody Express” from Chennai to New Delhi calling to campaign along the way at sites including the Taj Mahal. St Pauls has always been well represented at every Street Child World Cup. It will be hugely encouraging to see so many members of St Pauls singing, laughing and crying in solidarity, demanding change for street connected young people, on the “I am Somebody Express”.

John Wroe



Amos Trust

Just before the first lockdown began, a small group of St Paul's members came back from visiting our partner CEPAD's work in Nicaragua - to look at the previous five years' work and the plans for the future. A few months later we were sad to hear that Gilberto Aguirre from CEPAD who was at St Paul's for the Climate Justice summit in September 2019, had died of Covid-19.

We feel tremendously supported at St Paul's as there are so many members who are involved in and pray for our work in Nicaragua, Palestine and with girls on the streets. Over the last year Covid-19 has swept through these communities, as well as hurricanes in Nicaragua and the threat of annexation for large parts of the West Bank. Throughout this, our partners' responses have been awe inspiring. Amos exists to bring Justice and Hope. Since March we have posted Seeds of Hope on our social media platforms and in December published a book of these. Each chapter has a piece of liturgy (or Words of Hope), so many of which were road tested at St Paul's. Thank you for the wonderful support.

Chris Rose

LGBT+ Inclusion Group

The St Paul's LGBT+ Inclusion Group aims to make St Paul's more inclusive of LGBT+ people. We had a few fun and prayerful meetings around a dining room table, and planned great things. But then came lockdown. During the pandemic, our activities have been based around a WhatsApp group, and we put other ideas on hold. If you'd like to join in please let us know; LGBT+ folk and allies are most welcome. Some of us attend the OpenTable service at Downing Place URC, part of the growing Open Table Network, founded at St Bride's Liverpool. We encourage you to engage with the Living in Love and Faith process, and to consider signing the Campaign for Equal Marriage in the Church of England <https://cofe-equal-marriage.org.uk/>. Point of contact and chair is Andy Gordon.

Andy Gordon

Friends of St Paul's

The role of the Friends is to raise funds to support the work of St Paul's. This year has seen the appearance of the Friends leaflet which provides information on our work and why financial support is needed. Information on how you can join and set up a one off or regular direct debit payment is provided, with information on donating through 'text giving' which has been set up with Donr.

Please return this form to the office at St Paul's or email to: office@stpaulscambridge.org.uk *

Name

Address

Postcode

By making a regular monthly payment of
£5 £10 £20 Other £.....

and I have set up a Standing Order for this amount.

By making a one-off payment of:
£50 £100 £150 Other £.....

and I enclose a cheque payable to Friends of St Paul's Church or have made an online transfer for this amount.

Bank details for standing order or transfers:
CAF Bank
Account Name: St Paul's
Account Number: 00015142
Sort Code: 405240

Reference: Your FULL NAME
Please state that your donation is for Friends of St Paul's Church.
St Paul's Church is a Registered Charity 1132965.

Signature

Date

*Personal data is held confidentially under GDPR regulations.

Gift Aid declaration
I confirm I have paid / will pay, an amount of Income Tax and/ or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25% of tax on every £1 that I have given. Please tick here:

SUPPORT OUR WORK



Please consider setting up an on-line monthly, or giving a one-off donation. Please visit our website or complete the form on this leaflet.

www.stpaulscambridge.org.uk

To make a easy donation please text
STPAULSFRIENDS
to
70085
to donate £10

Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate text message. This will opt you in to hear more about our work and fundraising, via telephone and SMS. If you would like to donate £10, but do not wish to receive marketing communications, please text:

STPAULSFRIENDSNOINFO
to
70085

BECOME A FRIEND OF ST. PAUL'S



We urgently need your help to maintain our services to our local community.

We make a difference

- Enriching lives
- Bringing hope
- Offering a sense of belonging
- Broadening horizons

It is hoped that money raised will contribute to a variety of ongoing costs including:

- Capital costs associated with the preservation of the fabric of the church
- Cost of building insurance
- Cost of repairs
- Costs associated with replacement of major items e.g. heating systems, kitchen equipment etc. And
- Maintenance costs of ornaments and furnishings
- Maintenance costs and upkeep of the church grounds/garden
- Advancing the Christian religion and ministry of the church

Funds will not normally be used for the general running costs of the church and funds received will be paid into existing accounts and held as a dedicated fund. Membership is open to anyone and will be drawn from a much wider circle than the church family. Members are invited to belong to a wider partnership to ensure the continued:

- Use of St Paul's as a community centre for future generations
- Use of St Paul's as a place of worship
- Use of St Paul's garden as an oasis of green
- Presence of St Paul's as a local landmark and significant building on Hills Road and within the Conservation Area
- Work of the church and outreach programmes

Members are likely to include:

- Local Residents within the Parish
- Residents within the wider city
- Local businesses
- Businesses that have an interest in architecture
- Businesses that run activities and use the building
- Users of the Centre attending clubs, activities and events
- Existing church family
- People who have ties with the church but have moved away
- General visitors/tourists

Although the Covid-19 pandemic will limit distribution of the leaflet in the short term, we hope to spread the word and encourage local businesses and organisations to become friends throughout the coming months.

The St Paul's website will also be developed this year to include a dedicated Friends page providing further information on fundraising and current projects as well as signposting to events and activities.

If you would like to become a Friend and donate today text **STPAULSFRIENDS to 70085** which will enable you to make a donation of £10. Texts costs £10 plus one standard rate text message. This will opt you in to hear more about our work and fundraising, via telephone and SMS.

If you would like to donate £10, but do not wish to receive marketing communication, please text **STPAULSFRIENDSNOINFO to 70085**.

Alternatively look out for the leaflet in the coming months or visit the St Paul's website for information on how to set up a direct debit.

Ali Farmer

Administrative reports

Church Buildings

The source of the leakage problem though the main foyer ceilings has been identified and fixed, at no cost to the church.

Rob McKinley from BB&C Architects was Church Architect for St Paul's from November 2020. He had already been working for us on the secondary double-glazing project for the main hall, as well as the tender documents for a major contract to carry out the external repairs to the building that were highlighted in the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection (QI).

The building has not been repaired for several decades, and we need to carry out remedial work to both the stonework and brickwork before more extensive repairs become necessary. It has been decided to carry this project out in 2022. It will be costly, but the hope is that the 2021 'Friends of St Paul's' appeal, combined with other sources of external funding support, will help to prevent us from having to draw too much on the church's reserves.

During 2021 we will install a safer means of reaching the top of the church tower. The existing wooden access ladder is still sound, but its single rise of 9.5 metres presents an unacceptable safety risk. Once safer access exists, some urgent stonework repairs to the tower parapets will be carried out.

There is constant wear and tear inside the building due to the number of people who use it, although this has been far less during 2020, of course. We took advantage of the first lockdown to have the floor of the main hall sanded and resealed, with excellent results.

Peter Adlington

Church Fabric

The building's working condition and contents have been monitored at intervals throughout 2020 by Jenny and Dianne. Jenny organises running repairs for everyday maintenance and ensures the security of the church's contents. To the best of our knowledge, our particular ornaments and monuments remain in good condition. The wardens are very grateful to Peter Adlington and to Jenny for all the care they invest in our historic building.

Frances Harris

Deanery Synod

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report

It is an understatement to say that 2020 has been a year like no other and like all organisations, St Paul's has faced challenging times. The lockdown and associated Covid-19 problems enforced the closure of the Church and the Centre for much of the year. Loss of income for the Centre room lettings was significant as both regular and one off events had to be cancelled. However, I am very pleased to report that due to excellent management of the Centre by Jenny Cavallo, supported and encouraged by our bookkeeper Jonathan Salter together with the continued generosity of Church members, St Paul's ended the year broadly breaking even on its overall income and expenditure. Judicious cost cutting together with both government and other third party grant receipts were instrumental in achieving this overall break even position. This has enabled the Church to maintain its strong reserve position and look forward this year to investing in further opportunities to enhance its services to the community, particularly those that were put on hold or postponed due to the effect of the pandemic.

We manage our finances in two broad groupings: Congregation and Centre and outline income and expenditure results are set out below. A full set of statutory accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020 is available on request.

Congregation

Income from regular giving by the congregation amounted to £108,000 (2019 £104,000). Expenses were £83,000 (2019 £84,000), principally the parish share. Last year the PCC had agreed to appoint both a children and families worker and a youth worker but these positions were shelved as it was felt that any surplus on the Congregation account would be needed to fund losses on the Centre. In the light of the results, the reserve position (see below), the PCC have agreed to review these positions this year.

Centre

In 2020 income from room lettings was £56,000 (down from £136,000 in 2019). However, as reported above grant income, furlough funds and the cutting of costs reduced the overall deficit on the centre to just under £25,000, matching the surplus on the congregation account.

RESERVES

St Paul's has therefore ended the year with a strong level of reserves totalling £243,000. The amount that is available to the PCC to spend at its discretion is £168,000. There are significant costs that will need to be expended on the stonework on the tower and church building generally. Current plans before the PCC are to carry out essential safety work this calendar year and deal with major repairs on the tower next year. Specific fund raising will be initiated for these costs. The PCC are therefore happy that the current reserve position will enable the proposed new positions mentioned above to be reconsidered.

Peter Parsons

Safeguarding Report

I want to begin this report by thanking my predecessor, Diane Hicks, for all her hard work and commitment as Safeguarding Officer. She has stepped down this year in order to focus on her family and her job. A gift of flowers was made to Diane in recognition of all she has contributed. Since September 2020, I have been Acting Safeguarding Officer.

For a large part of the year, services and other activities have been taking place online rather than in person. Consideration was given early in the year as to how we name others and share information publicly in the course of services, as these are now available online and accessible to all. For example, the ministry development group drew up guidance for those leading services or prayers to ensure that personal details were shared with regard to individual's/families' wishes for confidentiality and to safeguarding guidelines.

During the spring/summer of 2020, all the members of the PCC refreshed their safeguarding training certification, by taking online courses. The Licensed Lay Ministers (Julia and Christina), the ordinands (overseen by their training colleges), and the church wardens have also completed their required levels of training. The majority of those who have responsibility for the children's and

young people's groups have also completed the required levels, with just a couple outstanding to be completed soon. Thank you to you all.

The PCC is required to review and adopt the St Paul's Safeguarding Policy annually, and this was achieved at their meeting in June 2020.

The Diocese of Ely now offers an online 'Dashboard' which allows us to demonstrate that as a parish we are meeting all our recording and reporting obligations. I am very grateful to Frances for taking on the tasks required by this dashboard and for identifying any remaining administrative actions which may be needed, and to Ann as well, for providing support to me in this role. Meeting these requirements is essential to ensure all our activities at St Paul's are as safe as possible, whilst maintaining our ethos of "All are welcome".

If at any time you are concerned for the safety of another person, even if the concern seems small or insignificant, please do not hesitate to email me safeguarding@stpaulscambridge.org.uk. It is always better to record concerns appropriately, even if no other immediate action is needed, than to ignore them.

Steph Hoskin (Acting Safeguarding Officer)



Services

Monday, Evening Simple Service, 7pm

Tuesday, Iona Healing Service, 7pm

Wednesday, Morning Prayer, 7.30am

Sunday, Morning Service, 10.30am



Contact Us

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