



St Paul's Church Clapham
Annual Meeting
Sunday 18th October 2020

In the Parish Church of St Paul's, Rectory Grove, Clapham, SW4
At 11:00am after the Parish Eucharist

Annual Parish Meeting (open to all residing within the parish and on the Electoral Roll of St Paul's Clapham)

1. Approval of the Minutes APM Sunday 28th April 2019
2. Election of Churchwardens'
3. AOB
4. Close of meeting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (open to all on the Electoral Roll)

1. Introduction
 - 1.1 Present
 - 1.2 Approval of the minutes APCM Sunday 28th April 2019
2. Objectives & Activities
3. Achievements & Performances
 - 3.1 Vicars' Report
 - 3.1a Mission Action Plan
 - 3.2 Churchwardens' Report
 - 3.3 Readers Report
 - 3.4 North Lambeth Deanery Synod Report
 - 3.5 Electoral Roll Report
 - 3.6 Parish Safeguarding Report
 - 3.7 Stewardship & Parish Statistics Report
 - 3.8 Sunday School Report
 - 3.9 Music Report
 - 3.10 Church Hall & Eden Report
4. Financial Review
5. Reserves Policy
6. Structure, Governance and Management
7. Risk Management
8. Administrative Information
 - 8.1 PCC Report
 - 8.2 PCC Elections
 - 8.3 Deanery Synod Elections
- 9 Independent Examiner's Report
- 10 Financial Statements
- 11 AOB
- 12 Closing prayer

3. Achievements and Performance Reports

3.1 Vicar's Report APCM 2020

Russell T. Davies' TV series 'Years and Years' was one of my favourite shows broadcast during the period covered by this report. It relates how surprisingly things can change (for worse or better) even within a short time frame, and how other things don't change - its Mancunian setting was for me a perfect location since I have witnessed so much development in that city since my childhood, and continued to love it because of, and in spite of everything that's changed. I've been writing reports for APCMs now for what seems like 'years and years' but fortunately it has only been the blink of an eye as far as church history is concerned - what is more important about our assessment of our church life on an annual basis is to consider how it stands in the balance of God's eternity rather than through our own experience of time. We use the logic and the shape of what God created for us - 'Time', 'A Year' and how we respond to that 'Annual Reviews and Reports' - so that we can size up to the infinite and reach for eternity. Oddly enough this kind of 'work out' requires stillness, meditation and contemplation rather than pushing our physicality or thinking too far. It becomes an achievable goal when we flex and train our spiritual musculature in worship, scriptural and theological reading and regular disciplined prayer, when we become better at aligning ourselves with God's will rather than our own. As your vicar in my second year of office I had hoped to lead our community in exactly this direction but as we know only too well our ability to assess any actual achievements was seriously skewed as Covid-19 hit. My own ill health, physical and mental, and the death of my mother as Spring began, gives further notice of the limitations which we need to acknowledge and own. What we achieve as a church comes, as the psalmist so often points out, not through our own merits or effort but through God's love and power, his mercy and his blessing.

So to start unusually at the end of the year to be reviewed:

In March 2020 as I began three months of sick leave and we all went into lockdown, so many members of St Paul's committed themselves to keeping our community together and worshipping. The development of a social media profile which provided Sunday and weekday services as well as space for virtual social activity on line was essential in this, as was the delivery of a weekly newsletter by email. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the worship, the socials, the newsletters and their production. So many people were involved that I can't name them all: but without the commitment of our administrator Allison Clark and Jonathan Biggs in working across the whole range of this lockdown manifestation of St Paul's activity we would all have been far poorer. Thank you so much Allison and Jonathan. We were so fortunate in having Allison recruited during the Summer and starting in the Administrator's role in September. I value her presence in the office immensely - for her efficiency, her dedication and watchfulness, her care and kindness. She attended a Diocesan Training Day for Administrator's, helped organize our Parish Away Day at the Royal Foundation of St Katherine, and has done a great deal to review and then reorganise the office filing systems on both paper and computer. As someone who works a relatively short week I am astonished at the way she has expanded the role in the best way possible - to trouble shoot and to be prepared even for the unexpected. I assure you St Paul's has a real winner in Allison.

And if it were considered a win to fill one staff vacancy so successfully perhaps we should call it a triumph also to have recruited Alan Saggerson as our Director of Music and Organist. But what I'd really like to say is that Alan (like Allison) has been a timely gift to St Paul's - commitment and accomplishment, imagination and good judgement - well, what else should we expect from someone who works as a judge? Alan's provision of 'Hymn of

the Day' in Lockdown was a work of genius - as were his contributions to the liturgical plan of Advent and Christmas carol services as well as those seasons' regular worship. We reached Lent after our usual fashion with the added flavour of Alan's musical choices and his outstanding ability. Thank you Alan - we now look forward to so much more!

The full return of the organ itself was of course another blessing of this year and the concert on 8th November which garnered the talents of three former organists and debuted Alan publicly was particularly special. Thank you to everyone who raised funds, gave money and saw the restoration through to completion. This wonderful instrument makes such a difference to our worship and the artistic life of our community. In June St Paul's Opera hit a peak with a remarkably fine performance of *Le Nozze di Figaro* by Mozart, and held a series of excellent concerts and a master class with the celebrated young British tenor, David Butt Philip. I think we often underestimate the quality of what SPO delivers - thanks go to Tricia Ninian and all who contribute to making this happen through commitment and hard work. An artistic novelty this year has been the inauguration of 'Paul's Players', an 'In House' theatre group. Working with the volunteers from our membership (and a few other people who filled the gaps for us) we were able to put on one of Shakespeare's most difficult plays - 'The Winter's Tale' - to considerable acclaim. Thanks to everyone who took part in the production on stage or as front of house, and thanks to all who came along to watch. We certainly hope to build upon this experience in the future.

This year we have welcomed The Rev'd Dana English, The Very Rev'd Dr Jeffrey John, The Rev'd Caroline Clark and (at very short notice) The Rev'd Louise Boulton as presidents and preachers at the eucharist, as well of course as our Hon Asst Priest, Fr Richard Lloyd Morgan, to whom we remain as ever perpetually grateful. Fr Richard was also the principal deliverer of what St Paul's had to offer to Just Church, the LGBTI+ friendly worship which we have shared with some other local churches. Our carol singing at the Two Brewers Pub was memorable and enjoyable, assisted by the input of the Drag Queen compere, Miss Poppycock. Our Reader, Rosemary Palmer, preached to great effect as ever according to the pattern set out in her working agreement. I am always impressed by Rosemary's ability to set herself ministerial goals and then to achieve them: her leading of our Advent Study group was exemplary. During the year I preached outside the parish at Choral Evensong marking the close of The Winchester Festival in Winchester Cathedral in July and in August at Coxwold Parish Church, in the Diocese of York, for the memorial service of a former parishioner.

We rededicated the restored memorial to the Armistice of 1919 situated in the Lady Chapel on the centenary of its inauguration, and shortly afterwards reorientated the layout of altar and seating in the chapel. Until lockdown the pattern of eucharists on major feast days continued but has since been discontinued. We will review it for the future. The celebrations of All Age Eucharists continued on suitable Sundays - Harvest, Third Sunday in Advent, Candlemas - and the Sunday School weekly presentations remained a highlight of our major Sunday worship. Thanks to Rod Clark and the whole team for such wonderful educational, prayerful and exciting input designed for our youngest members. A number of funerals were conducted from St Paul's, as well as a great many baptisms. This year I hosted with Fr Richard's help a tea party for families who had celebrated their children's christenings with us and we had hoped to hold more - it remains on the agenda. Other celebrations I was glad to host in the vicarage were the Bring and Share lunch following the last APCM, the Harvest lunch masterminded by Sylvia Philips, and a Christmas Eve Supper for those on the rota for the midnight mass.

Both the Summer Fair and the Bonfire Party were their usual successes despite both being slightly compromised by the weather: thanks to Edwina and Richard Coltart, and Axel Maier and Allison Clark respectively for their management of these two major fundraisers and community celebrations. We welcomed Michael McNish as the new Stewardship secretary, and benefitted significantly from the Stewardship Campaign with some reasonable growth in giving and pledges. In her usual ultra-efficient manner Cynthia Woodhouse continued as our PCC secretary, and David Pearson as Treasurer. Thanks are due to the whole team which so capably and positively fulfil these administrative roles for our community. And the lay team leadership also depends so significantly on the commitment, hard work and intelligence of our churchwardens, Charlotte Hendrie and Nick Curtis. Personally I want to thank them for the support they have offered me unfailingly and with so much love even when it was not always clear what I needed. That's what I would reckon as true generosity and deep wisdom. It is a loss now that Charlotte has resigned from this post, but her extraordinary contribution to the thriving of this church makes it possible for us to rely on the talents and insights of a successor whatever they may be, since the extended period of Charlotte's office has made so much here stable and happy. Thank you Charlotte.

Five members of our community were confirmed on the Eve of the Feast of Christ the King at the Cathedral following preparation classes which I led. The Serving Team attended the Cathedral's Servers' Festival in January, and over twenty members of the congregation gathered for our Away Day on The Feast of St Andrew, 30th November. This was led by The Rev'd Canon Jay Colwill, the Diocesan Missioner, and the vision promoted by the day resulted immediately in an improvement of our engagement with Social Media and the award of a Bronze Medal as Eco Church. Thanks to Kate Paul and others who have formed an environmental group within our membership. The renewal of our Mission Action Plan (MAP) is ongoing and has further been shaped by more recent occurrences but this APCM will learn further of the opportunities and needs which we have identified as key to our parochial future, and be asked for its support.

Change is the common feature of human life: fortunately God remains the same. In his wonderful novel 'The Leopard' Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa puts these words into the mouth of one of his principal characters, a young but impoverished aristocrat determined to join a revolution - a revolution which would lead to the Unification of Italy. "Everything must change so that all can remain the same." Enigmatic as this seems it does catch something of how our striving to extend the Kingdom of God is set against the fact that God is already ruler of all, and Jesus is Christ our King. Not years and years to wait then, just a moment in which to glimpse the truth.

The Rev'd Canon J T Boardman
Vicar

3.1.a Mission Action Plan

30 November 2019

St Paul's Mission Action Plan (MAP) Day at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine facilitated by Revd Canon Jay Colwill, who is the Diocese Director of Mission and Evangelism

MAP groups' reports of ideas

Tell

This group led by Fr Jonathan with Jonathan Biggs and Charlotte Hendrie considered these options:

1. Welcome packs for new joiners/visitors
2. Stock taking of website and social media, what works, what doesn't
3. Better signage
4. Develop engagement strategies for teenagers possibly through CTiC joint events e.g. music
5. Improve engagement with Westbury Estate part of parish. Find out what advice the Diocese/Church of England provides on this type of outreach already. Fr Jay said he has a budget for outreach which we could apply for funding, tell Archdeacon Simon Gates first.
6. Make St Paul's more attractive for weddings
7. Have a low carbon footprint

Teach

(Rosemary Palmer, David Pearson and Roger Hird)

1. Stewardship Programme – 'What is St Paul's' leaflet.
2. For Newcomers suggestions of termly welcome events throughout the year, follow up house visits from vicar or trained lay person.
3. Courses could be offered, along lines of Lent and Advent groups, for regular members. House/bible study group, book group, social events.
4. Youth, a children's DIY service and interest in trying to create a CTiC Youth group across churches.
5. Invitations to guest speakers.
6. Take workshops for opera/musical events out to local schools.
7. Provide 'teaching' services to help one understand what is going on in the liturgy.

Tend

(Rod Clark and Barney Shaw)

1. Become a Beacon Church for disabilities. To look especially at young people with special needs.
2. Dementia, does the Diocese offer any special services for those with dementia and their carers, who may find normal services no longer possible.
3. Weekday WhatsApp group for prayer for the day, or advertising events.
4. Reintroduce toddler group, coffee mornings and social groups.
5. Help people put God in their lives on weekdays without having to go to a service or meeting.
6. Do more for the lonely/isolated.
7. Offer advice service for those with financial queries.
8. Build on the Robes project to do outreach with the homeless throughout the year.

Transform

(Rachel Pearson, Nick Curtis, Tricia Carter and Rob Cowley)

1. This mostly needs to be in partnership with other organisations to share their expertise including local police.
2. CTiC forum on Youth Provision. Could we jointly fund a youth worker? Westbury estate, is there a youth centre?
3. What pilot schemes already exist at schools to combat youth violence?
4. How to use Eden and the hall to support initiatives. Fr Jay mentioned a knife disposal scheme in the diocese.
5. Using existing arts resources (music and singing) to get more children to church.
6. Do we need better a/v equipment in the hall to attract different groups?

Treasure

(Judith Strong, Allison Clark, Kate Paul, Sue Roberts and Cynthia Woodhouse)

1. Join Eco Church scheme, do their audit/checklist.
2. Identify four areas to change our practice and timescale (maybe 3 easy targets and one more ambitious). Hall hirers should be encouraged to follow eco aims too.
3. Strengthen ties with Eden and raise awareness.
4. Draw in more young people
5. Develop lower churchyard possibly through planting of trees and wildflowers. Offer Eco weddings receptions there.
6. Communicate our aims to all stakeholders and ask for their cooperation.
7. Encourage engagement through sustainable intent. All social events should be plastic-free. Encourage people to bring keep-cup, etc.

3.2 Churchwardens Report

This has obviously been an exceptional year but despite the challenges some things have continued, with various works to report.

This would have been the year for our Archdeacons inspection, which instead took the form of a Skype meeting in April.

Parish Statistics

Our online return was completed in the usual way, and the statistics for 2019 church attendance showed an increase overall in congregation size, an increase in number of baptisms, and also confirmations. The picture is of a healthy steady congregation size, with some new joiners and potential for lots of growth, but vulnerable as always in Clapham to a fairly mobile population with frequent change.

Church furnishings and grounds

The war memorial in the Lady Chapel was repainted by a specialist firm, recommended by our architect. I am sure you will agree that it now looks very smart and befitting of those that it commemorates.

The completion of the organ restoration project last year was marked by an organ recital concert in November which was well attended and featured music by our past and present organists and director of music.

The long running saga of the Eden garden wall is nearing a conclusion after a hugely frustrating time of broken promises by the housing association Metropolitan who were

responsible for the demolition of the wall, and endless chasing for new agreement and progress.

They have accepted responsibility for its reinstatement, but this entailed our architect working with their engineers and surveys to agree exactly what should be done to repair the grade 2 listed wall and buttress, and to obtain a Faculty.

At the time of writing work is about to begin at last. Metropolitan are also responsible for our architects fees. We have throughout liaised with Philippa Gould who chairs the garden committee and Benny our wonderful gardener.

Eden has seen a very busy time through lockdown, with many visitors, and a number of new volunteers, so they have also done some planting for us in the churchyard, especially the attractive area by the main doors, now with new drought resistant plants.

Nick and Michael McNish has re planted the yew hedges for the memorial garden, after the box hedges fell victim to box moth, the yew plants were donated by Lambeth at his request.

We have had an inspection of all trees, by Lambeth, who are responsible for their maintenance as routine pollarding is overdue and one poplar fell in high winds in March, fortunately doing no great damage in Eden. Work has been completed on three of the poplars but for reasons only known to Lambeth the other two remain to be done. We are chasing!

Following recent PCC decisions about the memorial garden headstone, a firm has been commissioned to produce a stone with the chosen inscriptions.

Eden has had to be closed from time to time, in addition to the regular night time lock up by Nigel, because of anti-social behaviour and drug use, this generally helps to stop a problem becoming established.

An attempted break in during the lockdown caused damage to the two sets of main church doors, and some lesser damage to the side door. Quotations for repair have been obtained and approved by our insurers. We should consider whether any additional security is needed before repairs.

The fallen polar tree was also notified to our insurers but as no damage requires work to repair, there is as yet no claim.

Covid

The impressive way that others led the move to online services during lockdown and after, will be covered in other reports, but we add our thanks to all who worked so hard to make this a success, especially Allison and Jonathan Biggs whose efforts were quite amazing.

We have followed weekly bulletins from the Diocese on the changing rules regarding churches closing, then opening for private prayer, then for services resuming, with risk assessment requirements, and this continues.

Baptisms, funerals and weddings continue to be subject to restrictions, as do all social events.

3.3 Reader's Report

Covering period May 2019 to April 2020

Here is my report for the year. It seems a little odd to be writing about a period that now seems far distant, as a result of the coronavirus so dramatically changing the way we live our lives, both personally and as a church. However, I can draw upon notes I keep for my annual report to the Diocesan Warden of Readers.

In terms of assisting with worship at St Paul's, I preached on four occasions at the Sunday morning Eucharist and led Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel on eleven occasions. Like many other lay people here, I have also administered Communion, led intercessions, sung the psalm and read the lesson. I organised practices for people who had recently joined the Readers Rota.

I prepared and led an Advent Study Group on aspects of the texts about the birth of Jesus in the Gospels which was attended by about 6 people and took place in the vicarage with the support of Fr Jonathan.

Work 'behind the scenes' has included (with others): assisting the temporary and then the new permanent Parish Administrator settle into role; helping with the recruitment of a new permanent Director of Music and Organist and producing the twelve-week rota covering all Sunday duties for the Eucharist.

I have been a member of the PCC and the Standing Committee, including attendance at the PCC Away Day on 30 November 2019 which gave consideration to ideas for a new Mission Action Plan.

I helped to cover some parish arrangements while Fr Jonathan was on medical leave of absence for an operation in May and June 2019.

From 15 March 2020, a period in which the Coronavirus outbreak and lockdown coincided with Fr Jonathan's absence due to ill health, I worked with the Church Wardens, Fr Richard Lloyd Morgan, the Parish Administrator and others to ensure that the life of the local church could continue as much as possible. I led the ecumenical service of Evening Prayer for sister churches in Clapham on 15 March. I wrote a weekly letter that was issued as part of the parish bulletin. I worked in some detail on all the services for Holy Week and Easter in conjunction with others.

Outside the parish, I gave a talk at the Christmas service in December 2019 at a local small hospital ward (Minnie Kidd House), at the invitation of a friend who was an assistant chaplain there. I led Morning Prayer at a neighbouring church on numerous occasions (the time of 9 am being more suitable for me than the time at St Paul's).

On 22 October 2019 I attended a seminar on preaching on St Matthew's Gospel given by Revd Joshua Rey. On 15 January 2020 I attended a seminar on 'Unconscious bias' led by the Revd Dr Mandy Ford at Trinity House. Both these events were part of a very large range of training and development activity provided free of charge to ministers and lay members of churches in Southwark Diocese.

I was the Minutes Secretary of the Diocesan Readers Board in 2019 until it was dissolved on 31 December 2019, to be replaced by a Board covering all lay ministries.

In January 2020 it was agreed with the Vicar that I would take a step back from Reader duties as a result of increased family responsibilities which would take me on more frequent visits to Colchester. These arrangements had only just been put in place when the lockdown meant that I could provide telephone support only, thereby making time available after all for work at St Paul's. Now the lockdown is eased somewhat, I am endeavouring to provide what direct support I can to my family and so it is still likely that most of my ongoing work will be 'behind the scenes'.

I have enjoyed my Reader ministry, as ever, and look forward to another year at St Paul's. Thank you all for your support and interest.

Rosemary Palmer
22 September 2020

3.4 Deanery Synod Report

Your representatives

Sylvia Phillips and I represented the Lay members of St Paul's church Clapham on the North Lambeth Deanery Synod for 2019/20. There is a vacancy for a third Lay representative from St Paul's.

About deaneries

We are one of 16 parishes that make up the Lambeth North Deanery. Deanery Synods are the formal meetings of a deanery which focus on the mission and ministry in the area as well as being a channel for sharing information among member parishes.

The Deanery Synod contains the clergy of those parishes and representatives of the laity elected by the parishes. Every three years, churches elect deanery representatives at their APCM. The next election is due to be at this APCM, in 2020.

The Deanery Synod is the link between a local church and diocese level, electing representatives to the Diocesan Synod and its major boards. Deanery Synod members are also the electorate for the House of Laity on the General Synod.

Local churches, through their PCCs, can put motions to the Deanery Synod which can make their way, eventually, to General Synod. Equally, issues like the ordination of women as bishops can be sent down from General Synod to Diocesan Synods who can choose to pass them on further to Deanery Synods.

The Deanery Synod is also usually consulted about key operational issues such as parish changes and clergy staffing.

Lambeth North

The Lambeth North Deanery Synod is co-chaired by the Area Dean Caroline Clarke, and the Lay Chair William Garood (St Andrew & St Michael Stockwell).

There were three meetings of the Synod in the year April 2019-March 2020.

Services of Prayer and Dedication for same-sex couples

In October 2019 the Deanery Synod voted in favour of recommending the Hereford Diocese Motion to the Southwark Diocesan Synod.

Activity in 2019/20

- Deanery social evening
- Summer holiday play scheme July-August 2019 based at Christ Church Primary School (Oval, SW9). Activities and food provided for children of disadvantaged families to combat 'holiday hunger' often experienced in school holidays when school meals are not available. There were volunteers from 8 of the Deanery's parishes.
- Lambeth Country Show: Christian presence with Services, hymn singing, free café, children's activities, prayer tent, hand massage, pastoral care.
- A joint Synod meeting with Lambeth South Deanery Synod

Plans for 2020/21

- Deanery social
- Summer holiday play scheme July-August 2020
- Lambeth Country Show 18-19 July 2020
- Deanery Synod to recommend the Hereford Diocese Motion to Diocesan Synod.
- Further plans to be considered in due course beyond the corona virus lockdown.

Rob Cowley, APCM October 2020

3.5 Electoral Roll Report

In these strange times due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was decided simply to add new names to the roll, in the hope that it will be possible to do an accurate revision at the next APCM in April 2021.

3 names have been added to the roll bringing the total from 111 to 114.

Jennifer Pearson
Electoral Roll Officer

Number on the roll: 114

18 October 2020

3.6 Parish Safeguarding Report

- Rachel Pearson is the Parish Safeguarding Officer. Judith Strong is the second Safeguarding officer.
- There have been no reported incidents or situations where the Child Protection Officer has been required to act.
- 2020 has been an extraordinary year with the Covid-19 Pandemic seeing the closure of worship, Sunday School, the crèche area and the Parish Office. No action was required from the Safeguarding Officers to establish measures to protect the St Paul's Community, as Government guidelines were followed at all times.
- Making sure all Sunday School teachers have been DBS checked is an ongoing priority. The majority of teachers remain un-checked. There was a big push at the start of the year to change this, but since the beginning of the pandemic this has fallen behind target.

- Safeguarding literature and updated information from the diocese office is noted and passed on when required.
- The up to date policies, procedures and guidelines put together by the DSA (Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor) can be found online at <http://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-and-procedures>
- There is a standing item on the PCC agenda for the discussion of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
- If anyone has any safeguarding concerns or questions, please feel free to raise them with Rachel or Judith at res_pearson@hotmail.com and jmistrong@btinternet.com respectively, or speak to Father Jonathan.

October 2020

3.7 Stewardship Report (Giving and Gift Aid Secretary Report)

As of today's date, there are approximately 58 regular givers to St Paul's, a number slightly reduced from the average of around 65 during 2019. Of current givers, all but less than a handful give by monthly or quarterly bank standing order, the remainder using the long established envelope system. It should be noted that the total of current regular givers includes perhaps around 15 who are former congregation members or local "friends" of St Paul's.

Regular giving pledged (and expected) for 2020 is approximately £64,000, which would though be close to the total received for 2019.

The great majority of regular givers to St Paul's have made Gift Aid declarations and thus tax can be reclaimed on all their giving. We continue to aim to keep our records of tax paying givers up to date, in order to reclaim as much tax as we are allowed, while not reclaiming in respect of non-taxpayers.

I would like to discuss with the PCC the future of the long established weekly envelope system and also the future use of the blue Gift Aid envelopes. The latter are today effectively redundant as for some years now we have been able to reclaim tax on all cash given via the plate. I also hope we can shortly set up a permanent contactless/tap giving machine at St Paul's, which many will find helpful. We can also recover tax on all giving via such a machine.

Finally, we have this year also been able to reclaim tax on giving generated by St Paul's Opera, which has grown over the past three years.

Michael McNish
28 September 2020

3.8 Sunday School Report

Aiming to have a good time and discover about God and the Bible.

Most Sundays during term in the Church Hall during the service until re-joining the main congregation before Communion – around 45 minutes.

Subject	Grade	Comments
Attendance	<i>B+</i>	<i>Numbers vary but plenty of fun to be had even for a few. Lessons were suspended during lockdown from March to August 2020 but numbers have bounced back encouragingly since reopening in September.</i>
Covid-19 safety	<i>A</i>	<i>Reopening was based on a detailed plan and risk assessment approved by the PCC.</i>
Bible stories	<i>A/B</i>	<i>Sessions draw on stories usually taken from the Gospel lectionary. Feedback to the congregation always a time of surprise, discovery and insight.</i>
Craft activities	<i>A+</i>	<i>Much fun had from a range of different media. Highlights included a giant size postcard from Malta from St Paul himself (coinciding with the congregation's own pilgrimage there) and a poppy covered memorial ("my redeemer lives") to contribute to the remembrance dedication in the Lady Chapel.</i>
Overall	<i>A</i>	<i>Huge fun for children and teachers giving insights into God's word for us all.</i>

Rod Clark, 28 September 2020

3.9 Music Report

1. Introduction

My original draft Report has been overtaken by Covid-19 events. It is unlikely that the APCM will take place as planned – save perhaps for statutory necessities by remote link. Nonetheless, I submit a Report for the record. My appointment as Organist and Director of Music officially took effect on Advent Sunday 1st. December 2019. I could not have hoped for a more supportive welcome. I am greatly enjoying my exploration of the wonderfully restored organ and getting to know the St. Paul's community.

2. The Organ

2.1 The organ was in magnificent condition for the inaugural concert in November 2019 at which 3 former St. Paul's musicians played to a forbiddingly high

- standard (supported by the Clapham Concert) – and at which I played a walk-on part at the end. The event was well supported.
- 2.2 A few “issues” have arisen with the instrument since then, but nothing to be concerned about. There are annoying rattles, wheezes and sticking notes. Such things are inevitable; as are tuning matters that are caused by wildly fluctuating temperatures within the building. I have been in regular contact with the builder (Andrew Cooper). The major “tune” planned for 23rd March was postponed until (as the tuner puts it) the coast is clear. The postponed “tune” has now been undertaken.
 - 2.3 Given that there are thousands of mechanical moving parts it is always likely that some things will need attention on a rolling basis. For me this is an occupational hazard. It is not evidence of an unsatisfactory refurbishment – a rebuild with which the Parish can be justly proud. (Our cathedral organs have tuning attention *once a week* and their spaces heated to a uniform level 24/7 – without which they would be the same. I am not recommending this level of intervention!).
 - 2.4 The organ was going to feature on *National Organ Day* (18 April 2020) as a central part of a whole day of varied events in conjunction with the Royal College of Organists, The Organ Club and the Southwark and South London Organists’ Association. This flagship event has been postponed until 17 April 2021 on the advice of the Royal College of Organists. When circumstances allow, I also plan to introduce a summer/autumn organ recital series – perhaps on Sunday afternoons – featuring myself (naturally) and visiting organists. Early experiments will tell us if this is worthwhile.
3. Choirs & Other Singers – New singers always welcome at all ability/experience levels.
 - 3.1 Both the Advent Liturgy and the Christmas Carol Service 2019 were supported by In-House singers and visiting amateur and professional guests. The choirs on each occasion (numbering 30 at the carol service) performed to an astonishingly high standard and are to be congratulated. We had a visiting, professional baritone for Christmas Eve and Christmas morning who joined the small Choir and treated us to some stunning solos.
 - 3.2 I am working towards introducing more frequent “Choir Sundays” throughout the year for which it seems I am able to call on ten or so highly competent and musical participants. Their contribution cannot be over-valued. We have room for more. It is difficult to convince adults that “learning participation” is a good thing and that it takes time to develop confidence and that intermittent participation is entirely acceptable in our environment. I am working on it. I have been approached by a couple of potential, local, new singers – I am working on them too!
 - 3.3 The presence of a small choir for *Candlemas* and *Lent 1* was received well and feedback was very encouraging. I was optimistic that planned Holy Week and Easter choirs would be equally well received. We were to have another Choir Sunday on 14th June (RSCM Music Sunday). All these events were cancelled. We hope to resume with our Risk Assessment in place on 4th October.
 - 3.4 Our singers were to have featured at Choral Evensong on Saturday 18th April with guests (National Organ Day). Choral Evensong has not been sung at St. Paul’s for some time. When rearranged I hope this event may be the first in a modest revival.
 - 3.5 Our cohort of cantors must not be forgotten. Each presents regularly and well-prepared; and performs to a good standard. Some have stepped up to the plate

and sung solos during communion. This has been received well and I hope to continue and build on it.

4. Congregational Participation

4.1 We have a fine, forthright singing congregation.

4.2 However, we must work towards achieving a brisker pace (without "Methodist" gallop). It is my job to try and bring this about without spoiling the effect. I am hoping the Choir will help over time.

4.3 I regard it as necessary to change the Mass setting periodically - but not too frequently. Familiarity is positive, but within limits. Early feedback on the Lent "metrical setting" has been mostly (but not entirely) positive. We will, I hope, introduce more options over time to which this congregation will easily acclimatize.

4.4 I have been fascinated to discover that several "new" hymns and songs I have included on the play-list have been readily adopted by the congregation (or already known). Perhaps I need to be more adventurous? I have a tambourine and assorted percussion instruments at my disposal – any takers?

4.5 Introducing new and different things (in moderation) is positive – but inevitably has patchy results for any congregation as things take time to settle and become familiar. My ambition is to maintain an eclectic mix of different types of hymns and psalms.

5. Administration

5.1 I have rewritten the Music Pages on the website. Take a look.

5.2 I would like our music web pages to be more interactive, so that (at least) they can be updated regularly and include evolving details and added pages about upcoming events. I am happy to do this myself rather than create work for others, but am anxious not to tread on the sensitive toes of others or crash the site.

5.3 My thanks are extended to Allison Clark whose long-suffering good-humour has made my first few months so much easier than they might have been.

6. Covid-19

6.1 During the emergency I have instituted a "*Hymn of the Day*" which is circulated by email and Whatsapp to known contacts. This has been positively received by those who have commented. I have not had any adverse comments.

6.2 Plans to live-stream and record short organ recitals from St. Paul's and a series of short lecture-demonstrations exploring and explaining the St Paul's organ to any interested parties had to be abandoned.

6.3 I have written a pamphlet on the organ at St. Paul's and the builders (Forster & Andrews). I am hoping this will, in time, be uploaded onto the website. Hard copies are available but are currently being held back to avoid any chance of infection.

7. Conclusions

7.1 It is a pleasure to play for such a musically informed congregation – especially one that appreciates the organ music of JS Bach.

7.2 I am always open to feedback (positive and negative), suggestions and offers of help; either in person or at alansaggerson@yahoo.co.uk; I can't know if you like or don't like it if you don't tell me.

3.10 Church Hall & Eden Report

Church Hall

The Church Hall (also called St Pauls' Community Centre), is a separate charitable entity with its own governance structure. There is a long term lease of the hall with the church for a peppercorn rent.

The Hall continues to serve the needs of the community in providing a resource for local activities. The Eden community garden has become increasingly popular during the pandemic and many new volunteers have come forward to help in the garden.

The electrical upgrades were completed in the period from Jan to Dec 2019 at a total of cost of £22,500. This cost included passing the annual five year electrical inspection. Safety lights have been fitted throughout the hall, conduits replaced and earthing tested. The new lights in the hall were long overdue and make the hall both more inviting and safer when using the steep steps to the upper levels.

In 2019 and 2020 it was our intention to move to replacing the windows which are a source of considerably heat loss. Unfortunately, due to CV19 we have decided to put this on hold. A grant has been applied for under the emergency CV 19 funding measures to assist in the replacement, but no response received to date.

It was decided that the £5,000 p.a. donation to the church should be put on hold as the funds were required within the Hall to upgrade the windows. Once the windows have been replaced we can move on to redecorating the fabric.

The current trustees are Sarah Barton (Treasurer) Nick Curtis (Chairperson) and Fr Jonathan Boardman. Charlotte Hendrie has agreed to become the secretary of the Hall Committee replacing Sylvia Phillips.

In addition to Clapham Montessori, regular user groups in the hall: Clapham Community Choir, Baby Ballet, Perform, Scottish Dancing and of course St Paul's Opera. The London Beekeepers hold 2 weekend and 1 day workshops at St Paul's every year with all money going to Eden. Arty Party books the hall during most school holidays. The party bookings have been very busy again, pre-pandemic.

Eden

The garden continues to thrive under the care of the part-time gardener Benny Hawksbee and has benefitted from Benny's increased hours. We have noticed an increase in visitor numbers during the good weather and in general during lockdown. We have secured funding of £4,000 from Kew Gardens to work in partnership with WildCity Art with the aim of introducing 'new' groups of visitors to Eden. This is being done by offering a series of art workshops in the garden, inspired by wildflowers. Repairs to the path and benches are to be undertaken by Lambeth Council and we will continue to seek funding for small capital projects in the garden.

4. Financial Review

Treasurer's report for the year 2019

I am pleased to be able to report that the PCC finances continued to be healthy in the year 2019. Our core income rose once again, driven by increases in our regular giving and, for the first time in several years, higher loose plate collections. This reflected generally higher attendance at services, new members joining the planned giving scheme and many existing members increasing their monthly contribution. As most of our planned giving members are tax payers, this also results in a higher tax reclaim, meaning the PCC benefits twice. Our regular income is essential to our long term financial stability, so it is particularly pleasing to see continued strength in this area.

Once again, our income was augmented by the successful fundraising events which ran during the year. The bonfire night achieved record receipts from ticket sales and sales of goods on the night. Summer fair takings were down on the previous year, but this was partially offset by reduced expenditure, and the event still made a healthy profit. St Paul's Opera put on another very successful show in the summer, as well as a number of other events during the year, resulting in a net positive contribution to PCC finances.

On a less favourable note, as of 2019 the church hall decided that it would no longer make an annual donation to the PCC. The overall impact of this decision is that our total income is slightly down on the previous year, when otherwise it would have increased.

Expenditure was mixed. Some of the cost line items increased significantly, including the cost of music. Despite successful efforts to control the office administration costs, which were reduced compared to 2018, overall expenditure increased in the year.

Our financial strength enabled us to increase again our contribution to the diocese through the Parish Support Fund (PSF). Although in recent years we have increased our contribution to the diocese by at least the rate of inflation, and usually more, we still have work to do to achieve our aim of matching our contribution with the nominal cost of ministry. Nonetheless, we have been able to increase our diocesan contribution whilst absorbing the loss of the church hall contribution, and still achieve net surplus on Unrestricted Funds for the year.

Moving to the situation in 2020 so far, our finances have of course been impacted by the pandemic, though not to a greatly worrying extent. Obviously we have not been able to run our key fund raising events this year, and loose plate collection is, inevitably, very significantly down compared with the first six months of 2019. Income overall is lower. However, it's at a time like this that the importance of our regular income is highlighted and I'm pleased to report that this has remained highly resilient so far in 2020. In addition, some of the significant increases in expenditure witnessed in 2019 have moderated in the first half of 2020. The net result is that although we are likely to witness a deficit in our income/expenditure account for the year, it is not as great as might have been feared. We have built up a strong capital position over recent years, and we are able to draw on our reserves if need be to make up any shortfalls, though I do not anticipate that these would be very significant.

As many of you know, I informed the last PCC meeting that I wished to step down as treasurer as from our forthcoming AGM. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve in the role for the last 5 years. In this time the PCC has raised over £200,000 across several fundraising campaigns, including for repair and refurbishment of the church interior and

restoration of the church organ. I have learnt a great deal in that time. The fact that I leave the PCC finances in a strong footing is attributable entirely to the generosity of the church community, both in terms of financial giving and giving of time and talents in delivering such successful fundraising events. I would like to take this opportunity to thank in particular Euan Kennedy for his invaluable support as assistant treasurer. The PCC finances will be in very safe hands in future, as Michael McNish has agreed to stand for election to the PCC and, if so elected, to take up the post of PCC Treasurer. I wish him well in the role.

David Pearson

8.1 PCC Report

The parochial church council known as the (PCC) had 4 meetings during the last year May 2019 – April 2020 in June, September, November and January. In addition there was also an 'Away Day' in November held at The Royal Foundation of St. Katharine with the PCC discussing the Mission Action Plan (MAP) for the next 3 – 5 years. The scheduled March meeting was cancelled due to the chair's absence and the APCM was cancelled due to the Covid -19 pandemic.

The meetings during the last year discussed the church mission within the parish, the church finances and the church fabric and maintenance. Some of the topics that the PCC were called upon to discuss and make decisions upon were the Parish Support Fund, the recruitment of the Organist & Music Director and Parish Administrator appointments, the painting and gilding of the panel in the Lady Chapel.

The PCC consisted of the following members:

PCC elected members

David Pearson - Treasurer

Lorene Cameron

Judith Strong

Cynthia Woodhouse - PCC Secretary

Anthea Bishop

Susan Roberts

Denize Belingy

Kate Paul

Helen Simpkins

Co-opted members

Rob Cowley

Sylvia Phillips

Ex-officio members

Jonathan Boardman (Vicar)

Rosemary Palmer (Lay Reader)

Charlotte Hendrie (Churchwarden)

Nick Curtis (Churchwarden)

Helen Simpkins resigned in September 2019 to join her husband at his church but still continues to support St Paul's with the opera events. The PCC would like to thank her for her time and talent during her period on the PCC.

David Pearson our treasurer and Lorene Cameron have both served two consecutive terms and will now stand down. The PCC would like to extend our gratitude to both for their contributions and commitment during their time served.

My thanks to all current PCC members for coming together for the meetings and their support, contributions and PCC service throughout the last year.

Thank you to Allison Clark for all her administrative support in preparation for the PCC meetings.

Cynthia Woodhouse
PCC Secretary