

St Stephen's, Canonbury
17 Canonbury Road, London, N1 2DF
Registered Charity Number: 1131839

Exploring Faith – Sharing Hope – Growing in Love

Summary Annual Report 2018

This is a quick digest of the headlines from the annual report for 2018. You can read the full report at www.ststephenscanonbury.org.uk or by picking up a copy from the Church or church office

PCC Report

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent to promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church. It also has maintenance responsibility for the Church building and halls

In 2018 the PCC consisted of: Vicar; SSM; 2 wardens; 2 Deanery Synod reps; 1 ex-officio General Synod member; 12 elected members and 1 co-opted member.

The PCC met 7 times during 2017 with one away day

Agenda items have included: migration of 'Concrete' to The Salmon Youth Centre; Elders team; revision of Mission Action Plan; Richard Cloudesley 'Sustainable Churches' initiative; implementing the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

In 2018 there were 125 people on the electoral roll. The average attendance at morning services was 59 adults and 12 children.

John Beauchamp writes

As 2018 comes to an end I come close to the end of my 4th year as vicar of St Stephen's. People often say that in their first year a new vicar can do nothing wrong, in their 2nd year they can do nothing right, but after that the opportunity to work within a church for growth and development begins to emerge. In 2017 and through 2018 this has certainly been the case as we have seen growth and development and change in a number of areas of our life as a church as the following reports reveal.

It is a characteristic of St Stephen's that everyone can find a way of contributing to the life and worship of the church. There are multiple ways to serve and many of you do so with dedication and commitment week by week. So, without naming individuals, my thanks go to all of you for being part of the St Stephen's community and bringing your unique and individual contribution to the work that God is enabling us to do.

Urban Hope

- 267 young people aged 7-18 worked with over the past year
- 24 young people mentored
- 114 young people seen in schools
- 25 young people taken on residential trips
- 5 young people attended 'Snow Camp'
- 2 young people working for 'Snow Board Instructor' qualification
- Joy Faulkner and Alex Elliott left their roles during the year

- Mat Barber became Urban Hope Director
- Anna Herold joined as Youth and Community Worker
- Joel as become Senior Youth Work Coordinator
- Partnerships with Mary Magdalene Academy; Highbury Grove Academy; XLP on Marquis estate
- Year ended with successful Christmas party and events
- Thanks to all volunteers, funders and supporters

Manna

- Supporting local homeless and excluded people via 3 drop-in sessions a week and providing food, showers, laundry, postal service, one to one advice, well-being groups, and outings
- Supported people who are homeless, being evicted, facing benefit cuts and sanctions
- 100% success at 14 benefit tribunals
- Resilient, experienced and knowledgeable team with dedicated volunteers and a positive and empowering environment
- Average of 150-200 clients a week
- Gardening, singing, poetry and art groups
- Partnerships with other support organisations
- Rachel Woolf left during the year and Kaaren Morris joined us
- Thank you to all involved and partners and funders

Preschool Children's Project

- 6 Messy Church services
- Gentle parenting group at Almorah Road
- Under 5s Sunday School twice a month
- Advent sessions for Rotherfield reception classes
- 'Child in the midst' explored at First Sunday services
- Christmas Eve crib service
- Improvements to crèche and facilities
- New young families joining and finding a warm welcome

Deanery Synod Report

- 3 meetings held in 2018
- March: Stepney Eco Conference – Caring for God's creation; Church Commissioners disinvestment from Fossil Fuels; Islington Mapping led by Bishop Ric Thorpe
- June: evening of prayer and reflection. Praying for our communities in the 'Thy Kingdom Come' season
- November: Georgina Wright spoke on the implications of Brexit and the role of the church; other general business was done and appointments were made

Church Weekend Away

- 60 adults and 20 children spent a weekend at High Leigh
- We were led by John Bell from the Iona Community
- Our theme was 'Worship as a way of life.'
- John Bell led us in lots of singing and reflection on worship
- Pre-school sessions with Lois
- Primary age children with James and Hannah Moss
- Teenagers with Mat and Mahla
- Lovely grounds to enjoy and some lively social time as well

Church Wardens Report

- The year seemed to be all about the building
- Hard work to keep Church fit for services amidst the work
- Family circumstances meant Suzanne could not be fully involved on Sundays, so Janice has carried much of this responsibility
- Warden's assistants greatly appreciated
- Need for someone to take on organising coffee after services
- Suzanne will stand down in 2019 after 3 years in the role

Safeguarding

- Suzanne Roberts is church safeguarding officer
- Diocese provide a clear safeguarding framework and policy
- We support vulnerable children and adults in Urban Hope and Manna and put appropriate safeguarding measures in place
- PCC adopted the Diocesan safeguarding policy in May
- Reappointed Suzanne Roberts, also Joy Faulkner and Lois Gallagher as childrens champions
- Diocesan safeguarding audit and action plan was completed and presented to PCC in September

Health and Safety

- Rose Mwsigwa is H & S officer along with Suzanne Roberts and Janice Emslie as wardensh
- No significant H & S incidents this year
- Fire safety and precaution work carried out
- Regime for testing Fire Alarm is in place
- New chair transport trolley purchased
- Ladder storage reviewed and improved
- Thanks to all for vigilance and care in the building

Buildings

- Lots of work done this year
- Storage cupboards installed in the Church
- Church steps rebuilt with handrails soon to be fitted
- Quinquennial repair programme completed
- Fire alarm installed and fire safety improvements made
- LED lighting installed in halls and kitchen
- Plans completed for LED lighting in Church
- Plans completed for solar panels on south roof
- General repairs and improvements carried out through the year
- Grateful thanks to Richard Cloudesley Charity for their support

Staffing

- The PCC employs 7 staff, 3 full-time and 4 part-time.
- Rose Mwsigwa – finance and buildings administrator.
- Kate Moore – Manna project worker
- Kaaren Morris – Manna project worker
- Kemi Buraimo – Manna catering coordinator
- Mat Barber – Urban Hope director
- Joel Williams – Urban Hope senior youth work Coordinator
- Anna Herold – Youth and Community Worker (female)
- Lois Gallagher – contracted as pre-school project worker

- Shellie Nelson contracted as Centre Cleaner
- In 2018 Rachel Woolf left the Manna and Joy Faulkner and Alex Elliott left Urban hope.
- James Fawcett left with the migration of Concrete.
- Thanks to all volunteers who do so much

Mission Action Plan

- We are 3 years through our 5-year MAP and we still feel that its values represent what we aspire to be
- The PCC has found it difficult to sustain MAP groups to work in all areas. But we have achieved many of the MAP objectives
- Continuing to organise a number of social events
- Holding our weekend away at High Leigh
- Constituting a small pastoral visiting group
- Offering continuing support for the work of Manna
- Supporting Canonbury Responds
- Working to reduce our carbon footprint
- Continuing to develop our preschool ministry
- Continuing to support the work of Urban Hope
- Distributing 'Season of invitation' fliers and Christmas invitations
- Working to improve our building and facilities
- Completing plans and securing funding for the installation of LED lighting in the Church and solar panels on the south roof in 2019
- Undertaking a financial systems audit and making plans to adopt a new cloud-based accounting system
- It is necessary to scale down on further aspirations though and highlight a few achievable goals
- A redrafted MAP will be presented to the APCM

Elders

- Elders began meeting in February 2018
- Group made up from people nominated by congregation
- Reflecting the breadth and diversity of the church
- A prayerful support for John and Margaret
- Committed to pray for the church and its ministry
- Meetings include sharing and prayer for each other; prayer for the church and ministry; piloting 'Praying Together'

Sunday School

- A year of change, several team members stepping down or moving away. Dan Gleadall, Katy Evans and Margaret Evans joined the team
- Themes covered: animals in the Bible; identity in psalm 139; Baptism and Confirmation; Communion; The Magnificat
- Several children admitted to Communion before Confirmation
- Summer trip to Broadstairs
- High Leigh weekend sessions by James and Hannah Moss

Dreams

- 6 young people attended Sunday sessions and enjoyed the church weekend
- Sessions included: how does the Old Testament relate to us today; how can we find God each day; how we connect with God

- We need to work more on how young people participate in services and have their own space for reflection

Mission Support Group

- MSG advises PCC on Mission Support allocation and appeals
- Nurtures relationships with mission partners and gathers information about appeal organisations
- £2,000 given to Tim and Rachel Green in Kuala Lumpur
- £2,000 given to Geoff and Caroline Shave in Cape Town
- £314 to London Diocese 'Tackling Homelessness Together'
- £815 for ALMA projects in Angola
- £1,043 for 'Young Roots'

Music and Musicians

- Worship is at the heart of our life and services
- We use a variety of songs and more traditional hymns
- Our regular pianists and singers are greatly appreciated
- Good to welcome Ben Husser on Flute and Tom Barlow on bass
- High Leigh weekend gave us lots to think about for our worship

Sidespersons

- Thank you to the team who welcome people to our worship
- Important to make newcomers feel comfortable and connected, to give everyone a warm welcome
- The team often help with teas and coffees and clearing up
- Sidespersons are: Mary Thomas and Marion Coleiro; Luke Robertshaw; Vernon and Fran Trafford; James Eddo; Stephen Spencer and Stephen Thean; Jide and Bodunrin Fediora; Bo Shepherd

Maisonette Fellowship Group

- Small group have met regularly for chat, Bible study and prayer
- Close and supportive friendships have been formed
- Several outings have been arranged
- Will's work commitments have made meeting a little more difficult
- Group try to meet each fortnight
- Others are welcome to join

Pastoral Care

- This year a small pastoral care group was brought together helping in many ways, including visiting the housebound and those in care and hospital
- We want to continue to nurture a spirit of care and support across the church

Visit from St Stephen's, Luanda

- 8 people visited in July including Rev Emmanuel Da Costa and his wife; thanks to all who hosted and helped organise the week
- The groups experienced the ministry of Manna and Urban Hope, met with John Beauchamp, joined us in prayer and worship, visited sights and enjoyed shopping
- Attended the annual ALMA service at St Paul's
- Pastor Emmanuel preached at our morning service
- They shared with us the work in Luanda and thanked us for support
- We gained: an insight into a different cultural expression of faith; their joy in worship; hearing about their work in a difficult political and economic climate

Finance report

- Total income for 2018 £615,266
- Restricted funds £399,770
- Manna and Manna Welfare £65,826
- Urban Hope £127,751
- Other donations and grants received for specific projects and improvements
- Unrestricted funds £215,496 (giving and income from property)
- A 10% reduction in unrestricted giving from the congregation
- Increase in premises hire income of 50% to £37,579
- Total expenditure £630,173.
- Restricted funds £421,434
- Unrestricted funds £208,739
- Concrete moved to Salmon Youth Centre, all funds transferred
- Restricted funds in Surplus £25,537
- Unrestricted funds in surplus £28,674
- Yearend reserve restricted £192,064
- Year end reserve unrestricted £66,807
- General fund and projects all within reserves policy.
- All budgets for 2019 approved.
- Support from PCC to Manna and Urban Hope restored to £8,700
- Common Fund contribution of £70,000
- Pre-school childrens work grant from BLMF continues in 2019
- New 'Cloud based' accounting package to be adopted in 2019
- 'Parish giving service' adopted and regular givers encouraged to use this