Welcome to St Peter’s Bethnal Green

We are an eclectic, cross-tradition Anglican parish church that is here to worship God, make friends and change the world. We have been since 1841 and this is a report on what we were up to in 2015. We want to see a group of people worshiping Jesus on every street in the parish and we like to say that we are into ‘show and tell’ Christianity. This should give you a flavour or what God is up to here and some of the challenges and opportunities in 2016 and beyond.

Worship God

We try to make worship our number one priority and we do that in many styles, encountering God through the scriptures, the sacraments and the Spirit.

Services

The liturgical Sung Eucharist service at 10am averaged 52 adults & children. The informal service at 11am with children’s groups was 50. On Sundays in August and other times when we had just one 10.30am cross-tradition morning service there were 82. A 6pm service, usually with Communion, continued and relaunched at the new time of 5pm from September with almost 30 weekly.

There was Morning Prayer in the Chancel at 8.30am Tuesday to Friday and a weekly Communion service on Thursday at 7.30pm. The clergy and lay people at St Peter’s lead and preach and pray at services. We follow the Church of England lectionary and the rubric of Common Worship. Other 2015 services included:

• 8 Baptisms and one Thanksgiving for the Life of a Child
• Roughshod Theatre Company performing ‘Irresistible’
• Maundy Thursday meal, watch & pray, Good Friday reflections, liturgy
• Training with Tierra Nueva Europe, led by Bob Ekblad
• A Harvest Festival Evening Prayer with our church partners
• An act of Remembrance and WW1 storytelling
• 1300 people at ‘Carols on Columbia’ on the Wednesdays in December
• ‘Carols by Candlelight’ and the ‘Jesus on the Green’, outdoor service
• Midweek forum on development with the CEO of Tearfund

Olly joined St Peter’s two days per week as worship pastor. Isabel continued as a much-valued volunteer organist. A small choir under leadership of Graham contributed greatly to 10am worship.
Children

The children’s work during the 11am service takes place in a room shared with Spear as their main mid week training venue. A number of new babies appeared during the year and a 0-3s crèche was started to run alongside the 4-11s. The children are in the centre of the worship space for the beginning of the 11am service before leaving for groups, though remain in the service once per month for an all-age, interactive talk.

The children’s work is led and run by volunteers Kathy and Becca. They plan the curriculum and organise the children’s church and crèche. It remains our ambition to employ a children’s worker. Children have the potential to be a major area of growth. We experimented with ‘Godly Play’ at the 10am service and Becca went to New York to train with Metro City church in their Sidewalk Sunday School ministry.

Prayer and Bible

Prayer is foundational to all the work we do. Any visible action and growth is built on the unseen life of prayer. Staff-led Morning Prayer and Communion on Thursday offer a relentless rhythm of scripture and contemplative prayer. They have a small loyal following, including some who do not come on Sunday. Other seasonal prayer events take place, which this year included a week of early morning silent prayer. A new, free ‘old-school’ lending library of good Christian books was established.
Make Friends

Good relationships within St Peter's help us spread around life and love. In this busy and beautiful city you can make surprising friends through church.

Life Groups

Life Groups are the midweek meetings at the heart of the church. In 2015 Life Groups, often of people at a similar age and stage were ‘Cardigan Street’ led by Rob & Helen and Magaly, ‘St Stephen’s Road’ led by Tim & Elizabeth, ‘Clarkson Street’, led by Hannah & David, ‘The Basement’, led by Jon and Sarah, ‘Hollybush House’, led by Caitlin and Katie, ‘Youth’, led by Beth T and Joel, and ‘Daylight’, led by Pam and Joy.

Youth work

Our Youth Work Student from St Mellitus, Beth T led work with young people in on discipleship and small group settings on Sundays before the 6pm/5pm service. We were able to support some younger youth to go on Longbarn East End, a camp co-run by David, a member of St Peter’s. We took two tents of young people to Focus.
Focus 2015

40 adults from St Peter’s, with 10 youth and 11 children, joined other HTB church plants and friends for a week’s Christian teaching holiday at Camber Sands in July. Focus offers a variety of different activities, a wonderful children’s ministry, great worship and inspiring talks and seminars. External funding supported some on bursaries. St Peter’s hosted the increasingly popular Focus 8am Daily Holy Communion. A day trip was organised from Bethnal Green with 11 adults and 4 children.

Discovering God

Steve & Michelle Addison who had moved to the UK to be part of St Peter’s and resident in the Missional House moved to Leicester in the Summer. They were replaced by Jamie & Sophia from Canada. 6 couples had banns read at St Peter’s. Marriage Preparation was offered by Adam & Heather and we referred couples to the course at HTB. We fully intend to to run Alpha again in 2016.

Relationship building

The pop-up garden café was held on a Summer Sunday afternoons, run by a small team of volunteers. This connect strategy created a buzz of goodwill as well as a small income. We joined in ‘Open Garden Squares’ with Zander Court Garden Club. A ‘Back to School BBQ’ and bouncy castle party was held in September. The annual visit to Stapleford and villages in Hertfordshire took place in July.

The first St Peter’s Ceilidh was held, with dancing in the church and a bar. This was very well attended by many ages and is our ‘Winter/Spring Party’. The Petertide ‘Summer Party’ was held on 28th June with a barbeque in the church gardens. The ‘Autumn Party’ was the Harvest Supper and dancing on 18th October. All these events were very much appreciated and could not take place without the help of staff and congregation volunteers.
Change the world

We all have a dream to change the world. At St Peter’s we run a laboratory of civil society focussed on employment, health, creativity and in sharing good news.

Employment

Spear Bethnal Green, which runs a employment skills coaching for NEET 16 – 25s continued into the second year of operation with 70 trainees. Bethnal Green Spear Trust is a separate charity but St Peter’s offers office space and training facilities gratis. The Bethnal Green team of coaches are part of the St Peter’s staff team by extension. Most of the gathered events such as mock interviews and the ‘Graduation’ (now known as ‘Celebration’) are held at St Peter’s in the church or Mission Hall.

A new partnership with Maker Wharf Bethnal Green was established. This is a co-working space, encouraging community among especially local businesses with a social purpose and which are in the start up phase. Maker Wharf staff run the Mission Hall midweek and businesses are direct tenants of St Peter’s.

Health

The Mission Practice continues to look for St Peter’s to be their local church, for example through praying/listening with patients. Wilma who had been working as the ‘Networker for Wellbeing’ with the Mission Practice, linking patients with community-based projects to meet needs, became employed by the NHS in this role.

The Henry Fawcett Fund identified the need for a Parish Nurse, fundraised and recruited Beth H. Beth works 16 hours a week and Room 2 at the back of church is adapted as a quiet consultation room.

Creativity

We are an active member institution of Citizens UK and have been micro-organising a ‘Cross The Road’ campaign with local residents. Having persuaded the Council to renew the St Peter’s Close road surface we pressed for a zebra crossing over Warner Place. This was completed in July and celebrated with a dance across it.
The ‘2 Line Collective’ is a group of local artists convened by Lulu, who ran an exhibition in the Hall in the 4th quarter called ‘Marking Spaces’. This space will continue to be used by the Collective for exhibition and display of visual art works.

**Partnership**

We were one of two parish churches to exhibit at the launch of Capital Mass, the Diocese/CUF joint venture. We continue to partner with Foodbank by making collections and can hand out food vouchers. We worked with St Andrew by the Wardrobe church to help develop their social transformation projects. We hosted three visits by overseas church groups to hear about life and growth at St Peter’s.

Congregation and staff are encouraged to be involved in work, volunteering and the management and governance of Christian ministries, local and national projects and NGOs and institutions. For staff in 2015 the wide range included Cinnamon Network, Hackney Foodbank, The Centre for Theology and Community, Oaklands School, Citizens UK, The Mission Practice, Arch 76, Ella’s Home, Resurgo Spear.
Management & Administration

Staff

Bob, the Outreach Pastor left in the Summer to take up a post with a church plant in Kuala Lumpur before starting as an Ordinand. Helen B, who was employed through Henry Fawcett Fund as Social Transformation Coordinator also left to work at a charity in Kuala Lumpur. Heather, who had been an Ordinand on placement at St Peter’s left in the Summer to take up a curacy at Michael’s London Fields. Wilma moved from being employed through St Peters as Networker for Wellbeing at The Mission Practice to being employed in this role via the NHS. James left in the Summer, following his Worship Central placement, to become an airline pilot. Stephen, an intern who stayed as volunteer and who had led worship in many contexts, left to become a farmer.

Tim M joined the staff as Ordinand, studying for two years at St Mellitus. Tim is married to Lulu, an artist. Together they now lead the evening service. Tim is on the staff team three days per week and helps lead on mission, groups and connections with Maker Wharf. Olly joined as Worship Pastor two days per week. Angus continued for a day per week as Assisting Priest in conjunction with his role as Director of CTC, though was also licensed as Priest in Charge at St George in the East and increasingly moved the focus of his ministry there. Helen M continued as Operations Manager at St Peter’s 25 hours per week. Beth T continued as Youth Work student placed at St Peter’s two days per week. We hosted 2 July ‘Jellicoe’ interns. Beth H began work as Parish Nurse 16 hours per week.

Spear Bethnal Green is run by a Trust separate to the church but involving church members as Trustees and which operates from the church site. Tessa joined as Lead Coach to replace Katie A who left to career coach at another centre. Chianne joined as Graduate Coach to replace Josh as the Intern. We were joined by Alice as career coach, a new post in the team. Staff meetings were held weekly at church on Tuesday mornings with occasional visits to St Paul’s Shadwell to participate in a staff team ‘Learning Community’.

Media

A new St Peter’s Bethnal Green logo was designed by gifted volunteer Nick, simplifying and building on previous design, and continues to be rolled out. Term cards were produced quarterly. The weekly St Peter’s ‘News from the Pews’ video was continued. The website remained content-managed in house. Our Twitter account gathered 528 followers.

Site

Mission Hall

In addition to first floor staff office and the fit out and use of the Hall midweek by Maker Wharf other users of the Hall included Church Resource Ministries (CRM) who rent the downstairs office. Alas de Salvacion, a Spanish-speaking church and Eleos Church continue their longstanding use on Sunday. Fellowship Church held a monthly prayer and worship night which ended during the year. Shaddaiville maintained bi-monthly meetings. The hall was used weekly by Bethnal Green First Class Learning. Civitas Schools Programme meet regularly on Saturday.

Maintenance

We hosted ‘KSR Day’ in September, community-based social responsibility of Ketchum, a PR company. They built garden equipment and planted 500 daffodils. The restoration of the railings on the South side was completed. The new South gates were celebrated by the new Mayor of Tower Hamlets and our MP in July and then officially opened in October by the Lady Mayoress of the City with the Chief Commoner plus the Prime Warden of the Ironmongers’ Company which had funded the new gates.
The project arrangement with Community Payback to host offenders on Thursdays who would keep the grounds in order was regretfully ended at St Peter’s. Catherine contributed much to improve our biodiversity and plants able to thrive in our different environments. Graham, the key garden volunteer, kept the place looking great, ably assisted by Savvas, who latterly took on a grounds care role. Prompted by persistent rainwater leaks the flat roof at the East end of the building was repaired, with coping stones replaced and new asphalt laid.

Development

Our application to Heritage Lottery Fund for grant funding for the redevelopment of the church building having been awarded in 2014, the project was in its development phase throughout 2015, during which time we needed to have match-funded £1.6m. Because of an upturn in the construction industry the costs for which we were liable were revised to £2.2m. We then undertook a value engineering exercise of the project to reduce our liability back to £1.6m. A consequence of this was to significantly alter the project outcomes as far as HLF were concerned. At the same time the major risk to the project was fundraising and this was not forthcoming to a sufficient degree from the many sources to which we turned. By the end of the year senior staff management and governance capacity as client had reached breaking point.

Dialogue was held with the PCC on two development meetings. The project team, including The Vicar as client and Project Managers met with HLF officers at strategic meetings and informal discussions. Latterly advice given by HLF was to withdraw the St Peter’s project from the development phase as we were not in a position to gain a pass to proceed to the delivery phase. The PCC, albeit with a heavy heart, agreed to this course of action and looked again at the priorities for development of the church building. All are agreed that some development will take place and our readiness for development was noted in that our contribution had resulted in £100k worth of technical and statutory documents and a planning application was submitted to cover development in the coming years. The major congregational fundraising push was called ‘The Big Idea’ in June and July and resulted in about £20,000 of contributions and pledges. Development grant fundraising continued and the groundwork has been laid to improve a variety of areas of the church buildings.

Structure & Governance

The PCC of St Peter’s Bethnal Green, has the responsibility, together with the Vicar, the Rev’d Adam Atkinson, to promote in the parish the whole mission of the Church. This includes the pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical aspects. It is responsible for the maintenance of the buildings of St Peter’s Bethnal Green. As a Church of England Parish church, the PCC and Vicar follow requirements of Church of England Canon Law.

The objectives of St Peter’s Bethnal Green are to promote in the parish the whole mission of the Church with a focus to worship God, make friends and change the world.

The 2015 electoral roll had 99 registered members at the APCM. Those on the Electoral roll are able to nominate candidates for the PCC. The PCC and Church Wardens are elected annually at the APCM. The PCC organises itself to carry out its aims and objectives by having regular meetings and various sub-committees. The PCC held five formal meetings over the year.

The Finance Working Group of the PCC prepares summary information for explanation and decision-making for the PCC and takes forward management matters with the Vicar and Operations Manager. Day-to-day management of the church is delegated to the Vicar, Rev’d Adam Atkinson and his staff team. An ‘Executive’ operated as Standing Committee with Vicar, church Wardens and Assisting Priest.
Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2015

### INCOMING RESOURCES

Incoming resources from generated funds

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<tr>
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Voluntary income

Activities for generating funds

Investment income

Incoming resources from charitable activities

TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES

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TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES

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### RESOURCES EXPENDED

Costs of generating funds

Rental Income

Charitable activities

Governance costs

Other Resources expended

TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

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TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

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### NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

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<td>15,383</td>
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<td>(8,765)</td>
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### Reconciliation of Funds

Total funds brought forward at 1 Jan.

Total funds carried forward at 31 Dec.

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Balance Sheet at 31 December 2015

### FIXED ASSETS

Tangible

Intangible

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### CURRENT ASSETS

Debtors

Cash at bank and in hand

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### LIABILITIES

Creditors - amounts due within 1 year

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### NET CURRENT ASSETS

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### TOTAL NET ASSETS

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### PARISH FUNDS

Unrestricted

Restricted

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<td>983,490</td>
<td>983,490</td>
<td>1,030,208</td>
<td>1,047,205</td>
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2. INCOMING RESOURCES

2(a) Voluntary income

Planned giving:
- Regular donations through bank: £520 (2015: £572)
- Stewardship - envelope scheme: £572 (2015: £1,068)
- Income tax recoverable: (£1,068) (2015: £167)
- Church Plate Collections: (£738) (2015: £167)
- Grants: (£155,498) (2015: £1,068)
- Donations and sundry income: (£3,855) (2015: £167)

2(b) Activities for generating funds
- Church hall lettings: - (2015: £30,584)
- Crypt lettings: - (2015: £20,000)
- Rents received: - (2015: £20,958)
- Fund raising: - (2015: £71,542)

2(c) Investment Income
- Interest including reclaimable tax: -

2(d) Incoming resources from charitable activities
- Fees for weddings, funerals, etc.: - (2015: £867)


6. The major debtors relate to a claim to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Development work carried out but not received in 2015 (£24,541). We were also due £117,637.77 from the major hall tenants for Sep-Dec, and grants committed towards the Nurse project and by Mercers totalled £82,333. Other debtors related to December activity and were received in January 2016. We are grateful to be supported by the City Bridge Trust who have offered a grant of £16,833 for the costs of commissioning and independent access audit.

8. The deferred income is made up of received funds for the Parish Nurse project (£11,995.10) to be completed through to September 2016 initially. Another £4,800 relates to a grant received for the Storytelling project happening in 2016. £16,833 is for the Access Audit from City Bridge Trust. The other £10,950 relates to a grant for roof repair work happening in January 2016.

Members of the PCC are elected as Trustees at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:
- Vicar: The Rev’d Adam Atkinson, Chairman
- Assisting Priest: Canon Dr Angus Ritchie
- Wardens: Elizabeth Ker, Andy Walton
- Representative on the Deanery Synod: Andy Walton (Triennium to 2017)
- Elected Members: Rebecca Adlington (Safeguarding Officer), David Butler (Treasurer), Helen Crane, Pam Haluwa, Tim Ker (Chair, Finance Working Group), Joy Middleton, Katie Purser (Secretary), Maria Wyard (resigned August 2015)

The PCC members confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit. St Peters’ Bethnal Green works alongside a number of organisations as partners in undertaking mercy, justice and evangelism. We support these practically, financially and/or in encouraging people to volunteer and we receive support from them in fulfilling our calling as a local church.
The church of St Peter’s Bethnal Green benefits the community by the activities described in the section entitled ‘Change the World’, notably through outreach and supporting others through our volunteer programme, prayer and financial input.

St Peter’s Bethnal Green uses the banking services of Reliance Bank Ltd at Faith House, 23-24 Lovat Lane, London, EC3R 8EB. Stewardship of 1 Lamb’s Passage, London Ec1Y 8AB, were appointed, following an EGM, to carry out the independent examination of accounts for 2015.

St Peter’s Bethnal Green is a registered charity number 1154668.

Postal address of the church: St Peter’s Bethnal Green, St Peter’s Close, London E2 7AE
Administrative address: The Mission Hall office, 56 Warner Place, London E2 7DA