

St Stephen's, Canonbury

Summary Annual Report 2019

This is a quick digest of the headlines from the annual report for 2019.
See the full report for more detailed information.

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 2019 the PCC consisted of: Vicar; SSM; 1 warden; 2 Deanery Synod reps; 1 ex-officio General Synod member; 12 elected members.

The PCC met 8 times during 2019 including a PCC day. Agenda items have included: Staffing issues, appointments and salaries; Various building issues and projects; The Vicar's study leave; Church weekend away in 2020; Mission Action Plan implementation and review; Pre-school work project; Church notice boards; Issues regarding volunteer management at Manna; Relationship with St Mary's Eritrean Orthodox Church.

Following a full review of the Electoral Roll there were 96 members at the time of the 2019 annual meeting. The average attendance at Sunday services was 52 adults and 10 children

John Beauchamp writes

Thank you to all who are involved in the life and ministry of St Stephen's as reflected in these reports. Once again in 2019 we have maintained an extraordinary breadth of ministry and service. However, 2020 is the year to work on a new Mission Action Plan and vision for the next 5 years, so a time to acknowledge and own the challenges we face as well.

- The struggle to staff and sustain the number of things that we currently do.
- The need to really think through where mission and evangelism sit in the life of St Stephen's.
- The need to think about how we offer opportunities for personal spiritual exploration and growth.
- The need to build a new creativity into all that we do to enable us to keep moving and be relevant in the 2020s.
- The need to be a cohesive and united church that owns a common vision across all of our work and ministry.

Everyone will have the chance to contribute to our new MAP, so please take full advantage of all opportunities.

Urban Hope

UH has worked with 286 7-18 year olds.

26 young people mentored.

156 contacts through schools work.

24 young people attended residentials.

Joel Williams left us after 6 years as youth worker.

Anna Herold joined as female youth worker

New groups for girls in schools and in St Stephen's.

K'Journ Johnson joined us as male youth worker in January 2020.

Challenging holiday activities including 'snow camp.'

Growing work in Highbury Grove and Canonbury Primary schools.

New transitions groups for year 6 children preparing for year 7.

Fruitful partnership with XLP.

Thank you to all volunteers, supporters and funders.

Manna

3 weekly drop-ins supporting homeless and vulnerable adults.

2019 statistics reveal increase in rough sleeping in Islington.

Our showers and washing facilities are widely used.

Work by Manna and partner agencies has seen some significant results for several long-standing cases. Brexit has shaped some work, helping people apply for 'settled status.'
Kaaren has brought a shrewd and thoughtful approach to session management.
More attention to spiritual wellbeing for staff through retreats and prayer.
Volunteers are crucial and greatly appreciated.
Many generous donations of clothes, toiletries etc.
Tuesday evening – busy but relaxed.
Wednesday afternoon – creative and hectic key work demands.
Friday morning – quieter with small group of street homeless and St Mungo's outreach worker in attendance.
Gardening, poetry and art groups very fruitful.
Singing currently suspended as new leader is being sought.
Thursday outings and events – 'Culture Vultures,' the 'Rainy Day Club,' '10 mile club,' all bring valuable opportunities for those who attend.
Key work – PIP claims and appeals, Universal Credit, Housing and other benefits. Constant stream of cases and support needed.
Partnerships with Caris Islington, Shelter from the Storm, St Mungo's, Better Lives (alcohol service).
Thank you to all funders and individuals for financial and in-kind support.

Pre-school childrens project

2 year project ended in October 2019.
Delivery of Sunday School sessions for 0-5 and 6-11.
Following Diddy Disciple material through seasons of church year with singing, story and role play..
Monday 'cafe drop-in' did not attract enough interest to be sustainable.
March 'Messy Spring' session enjoyed by attendees.
'Gentle Parenting' at ARCC using mindfulness approaches.
Engaging children in all-age services and encouraging participation.
Summer family outing to Broadstairs.
In summer Lois recruited volunteers to sustain the Sunday work and handed this over in October.

Sunday School

We are grateful to Arezou, Dan Gleadall, Dave Titmas, John Woolf, Joy Faulkner-Mpeho, Katy Evans, Lois Gallagher, Margaret Evans, Rachel Lindley and Sarah Strang for working with Sunday School in 2019.
Margaret Evans and Joy Faulkner-Mpeho took over joint leadership in October.
Year 6 young people moved up to Dreams allowing Sunday School to be more age appropriate.
Diddy Disciples is good material with lots of good engagement from children.

Dreams

With new year 6 members Dreams is now a group of 8.
They share their passion and knowledge on issues like the environment.
Group are active in the church – performing plays, reading at special services, cooking breakfast for First Sunday.

Elders

Current Elders group have been meeting for 2 years.
Providing prayer support for John and Margaret.
Committed to pray for St Stephen's and those in leadership.
Getting to know each other and our own stories.
Meeting monthly to create time to listen to God and pray.
It has been good to hear different perspectives and thoughts.
2020 is the year to reconstitute the group.
Congregation to be asked again to nominate people to form a new Elders group.
Hope to commission a new group at Easter.
Thank you to all Elders: Janice Emslie, Bo shepherd, Joy Faulkner-Mpeho, Rufin Batota-Mpeho, Susan Mokogwu, Will Smart and Lizzie Evans.

Pastoral Care Team

Team did a lot during John's study leave to keep effective pastoral care going.

Supporting church members and visiting those who cannot get to church.

Work done behind the scenes springing from hearts of those who feel called to share care and compassion.

Phone-calls and visits encourage and keep people connected.

Thanks to all who have been part of the team in 2019: Janice Emslie, Stephen Spencer, Bo Shepherd, Mary Thomas and Margaret Evans.

Much care goes on naturally in the congregation as well – thank you to all.

Mission Action Plan

New MAP to be developed in 2020 for 2021-2026.

A number of 2016-2021 MAP aspirations achieved.

However, it has been difficult to sustain much of this.

We need to learn from this as we develop the new MAP.

The new MAP maybe needs to be much simpler and smaller.

How do we turn MAP aspirations into concrete actions?

Need to involve more people and own a common vision.

Everyone will be invited to contribute to the new MAP.

Please get involved.

Staffing Committee

Work of staff is greatly appreciated.

7 paid members of staff:

Rose Mwesigwa (Administrator - Finance and Buildings Management)

Kaaren Morris (Manna Project worker),

Kate Moore (Manna Project Worker),

Kemi Buraimoh (Manna Catering Co-ordinator)

Mat Barber (Director, Urban Hope),

Anna Herold (Youth and Community Worker).

K'Jaurn Johnson (Youth and Community Worker)

Joel Williams left Urban Hope in August.

Post of Communications and Lettings currently vacant.

Natalie Beauchamp has been managing lettings but retired in December – Thank you for all her hard work.

Cleaning has been contracted, Shellie Nelson gave this up and John Woolf took over.

Lois Gallagher completed contract as pre-school worker in October.

Will smart has been voluntary caretaker but left this in January 2020 when he moved out of the Maisonette.

Staff salaries paid by PCC and through Manna and Urban Hope funding.

Volunteers are also essential to our work – thank you to all.

Mission Support Group

Communicates with mission partners and recommends appeals.

Supported Tim and Rachel Green with £2,000

Supported Geoff and Caroline Shave with £2,000

Continued contact with St Stephen's, Luanda.

Lent appeal for Bishop of London's appeal for modern day slavery - £712.

Harvest appeal for Peace Direct - £802.

Advent appeal for Street Storage - £1,270.

Music and musicians

We are blessed to have a wide range of musicians.

Tom Barlow (bass) and Luke Ainger (piano) have joined the group.

Lois Gallagher has returned to the group after pre-school work.

Singers have offered special contributions – Max and Jeni's wedding.

Great to have a bigger choir for Christmas again.

Mew services trialled with recorded music and new liturgies.

We try to include a range of songs and more traditional hymns each week.

Sidespersons

Sidespersons need to be good observers of the congregation.

Offering welcome and support but not swamping visitors.

Thank you to the loyal team of sidespersons:

Fran and Vernon Trafford, Mary Thomas, Marian Coleiro, James Eddo, Bo Shepherd, Stephen Spencer and Stephen Thean, Joy Faulkner-Mpeho and John Creyke.

Luke Robertshaw moved away and Jide Fediora stepped down.

Maisonette Fellowship Group

Group has been using reflections from 'The Word for Today.'

Group discusses issues and experiences and then selects a relevant meditation.

5 regular members.

Enjoyed socials, trips to theatre and the pub and a Chinese.

Buildings Committee

2019 has been a busy year with our building.

Church steps and access ramps completed.

Quinquennial repairs completed and signed off.

LED lighting installed in Church.

18 KW Solar Panel array installed on south roof.

Projects for 2020

Tower structural survey and any remedial work.

Hall flat roof possible replacement.

5 year electrical inspection.

Rethinking the bin store.

Church decoration and improvement.

Health and Safety

Rose has H & S oversight of buildings.

Janice has h & S oversight for services.

No significant incidents or issues to report.

Fire Alarm given annual service and inspection.

Regular Fire Alarm testing takes place.

Kitchen deep cleaned regularly, retaining a 5 * rating.

First Aid boxes and incident logs are maintained.

New Key Holder Access Policy agreed.

Notification of criminal or illegal activity reviewed.

Deanery Synod

3 meetings held during the year.

Spring at St Augustine's, Highbury New Park.

Agenda included: Cloudesley Charity funding review; Capital Mass; Christian Aid.

Summer at St Stephen's, Canonbury.

Agenda included: Thank you service for Jess Swift who was leaving Islington after 20 months as Area Dean; appointment of school governors..

Autumn at St James, Prebend Street.

Agenda included: Safeguarding; changes in Church Representation Rules; discussion about diocesan 2020-2030 vision.

Church Wardens Report

Janice Emslie has been sole Church Warden in 2019-2020.

Seeing the benefit of LED lighting and Solar Panels – better lighting and electricity savings.

Janice and Rose attended fire safety training.

Thanks to Suzanne for her support, also Rufin and Joy, welcomers, Katie for refreshments rota,

Janice will step down at 2020 Vestry Meeting.

2 new Church Wardens are urgently needed.

Safeguarding

Grateful for the diocesan safeguarding policy and framework.

We support vulnerable children and adults in the church, Manna and Urban Hope.

Appropriate procedures followed and records kept.

Diocesan policy readopted.

Safeguarding officer appointed – Suzanne Roberts.

Childrens champions appointed – Joy Faulkner-Mpeho and Lois Gallagher.

Safeguarding audit completed and presented to PCC.

Responsibility for reporting serious incidents to the Charity Commission delegated to diocesan safeguarding team.

Hall use policies reviewed to ensure best safeguarding practice.

Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC agenda.

Finance

Total income for the year 2019 was £451,475

Restricted Income - £257,631

General Fund (Grants and Projects) - £167,704

Manna and Manna Welfare - £89,927

Urban Hope - £48,689

Unrestricted Income – £193,844

Church Giving - £91,269

Premises Hire and Rent - £43,493

Other unrestricted income - £59,082

Total expenditure was £467,855

Restricted expenditure- £255,376

Unrestricted expenditure - £212,479

Financial Position at the end of 2019 - £242,469

Restricted funds - £154,457

Unrestricted funds - £88,012

The General fund and the Manna and Urban Hope ministries all have sufficient reserves to comply with the PCC reserves policy requirement.

Thanks to all involved in financial management and accounting across all aspects of the work of the PCC.

We recognise that Covid 19 presents substantial challenges to our finances for 2020 and beyond.

Loss of income streams from collections and premises hire may not recover for some considerable time.

We will take what action is needed to protect the financial stability of the charity for 2020 and the future.