

St Stephen's, Canonbury

Summary Annual Report 2017

This is a quick digest of the headlines from the annual report for 2017. You can read the full report at www.ststephenscanonbury.org.uk or by picking up a copy from the Church or church office

In 2017, the PCC continued to meet regularly to support John Beauchamp as vicar and to help shape the life and ministry of the church. There were 138 people on the electoral roll with an average of 64 adults and 15 children attending each Sunday. The PCC appointed John Woolf as Secretary and Ralph Dunham as Treasurer for the year. Each PCC meeting includes the care of our buildings, Safeguarding and Health and Safety as regular items.

John Beauchamp writes

2017 has seen some significant achievements, a number of disappointments and some new beginnings as we have once again tried to be the church that God is calling us to be here in Canonbury. Our core life of worship and ministry has continued Sunday by Sunday and in Manna and Urban Hope, with some 400 or more people each week connecting with what St Stephen's is able to offer as a place of prayer, support, sustenance and solace. This though is a demanding ministry to maintain and it is only the dedication of staff and volunteers that make it possible for St Stephen's to be the consistent presence that it is in the community and the lives of individuals. So, thank you to all of you who contribute to the life of the church both through your prayers and in your actions.

Urban Hope

- 206 young people supported; 112 young women, 96 young men
- 222 sessions and 3 residential attended by 30 young people
- Funding secured for female youth worker to replace Tanya who left during the year
- Work with local schools - clubs, mentoring, supporting young people to transition from primary to secondary school
- 15 older Urban Hopefuls turned 18 and said goodbye to Urban Hope

Concrete

- Continued work through Think Tanks, one-to-one mentoring, seminars, and partnerships
- Helped support the establishment of a new £2 million youth initiative with the Diocese of London
- Held the Concrete Conference with 50 people; Bishop Karowei spoke
- An evaluation commissioned, especially on the 'Think Tanks', with very positive feedback
- Concrete to move to the Salmon Youth Centre in order to expand their activities nationally by seeking a further £250,000 in funding

Manna

- 3 drop-in sessions a week providing food, showers, laundry, postal service, one to one advice work and wellbeing groups
- A team of 50+ dedicated volunteers; seeing 150-200 clients a week on average
- Introduced the Day Centre Forum
- In October 2017, Lukasz Fila was hired as a Tuesday Sessional Worker
- Developing Manna Partnerships across the sector with the Mitsubishi Financial Group joining as a Manna Corporate Supporter and providing a Christmas Dinner for 169 clients

Preschool Childrens Project

- The project officially began on 1st November 2017

- 7 families interviewed about preschool children at St Stephen's
- Improvements to the crèche room and space for younger children
- Messy Church begun: Messy Advent, Messy Lent, Messy Easter. More planned
- 15 young children and parents/guardians attended a Crib Service on Christmas Eve
- Exploration of 'child theology' on First Sundays in 2018
- Twice-monthly under 5's Sunday school group
- 2 weekly mid-week groups planned: one a parent and baby group, and the other a Messy Church Café for young children and their families

Deanery Synod Report

- St Stephen's representatives: David Ainger and Fola Faleti
- 3 meetings during the year. Topics have included:
- The appointment of a new Bishop of London
- The Richard Cloudesley's Charity 500th anniversary grants for environmental improvements in Islington Churches
- Islington Deanery motion on urging C of E to disinvest from fossil fuel companies
- Departure of Area Dean, Jonathan Brewster, to join staff at St Paul's and appointment of Jess Swift as Area Dean
- Reports on Area and Diocesan budgets

Church Weekend Away

- John Bell, from the Iona Community, will lead a weekend on 19th – 21st October 2018
- Weekend to take place at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hertfordshire
- The weekend will include groups for children and young people, worship together, sessions with John Bell and free time and fun for all
- Early booking recommended for what we are sure will be a popular weekend

Church Wardens Report

- Suzanne Roberts joined by Janice Emslie at the 2017 annual meeting. Their work has included:
- Measures implemented to improve Church cleaning
- Coffee now served in the Church on Sundays
- More work to improve and tidy Church and hall storage
- Archdeacons Triennial visitation in October
- Continuing 'health and safety' oversight
- Preparing for services and events
- Suzanne and Janice offer thanks to all who support and assist them in their work

Safeguarding

- Suzanne Roberts has continued in the role of Safeguarding Officer
- We are grateful for the clear framework provided by the diocesan safeguarding policy and advice
- Manna and Urban Hope have supported vulnerable adults and children/young people within the procedures and provision of the policy
- PCC adopted the Diocesan Parish Safeguarding Policy in May 2017. Copy of this on display in the Church and halls
- Suzanne Roberts reappointed as Safeguarding officer; Joy Faulkner and Rachael Owens as Childrens Champions
- Diocesan Parish Safeguarding Audit completed and action plan approved: ensure that hirers have adequate safeguarding policies; carry out risk assessment for all areas of the building; continue to renew DBS certificates

Health and Safety

- Rose Mwesigwa with Suzanne Roberts and Janice Emslie have maintained health and safety oversight
- No major incidents have been reported
- London Fire Brigade fire safety inspection highlighted areas for improvement, action plan now being implemented
- New risk assessment for the building will continue to be created and reviewed

- First Aid kits now regularly checked and restocked

Buildings

- Several completed projects: relocation of Church office; installation of sound and video system; new heating controls and hot water system; roof repairs; Quinquennial inspection; repairs to showers and toilets; general repairs and improvements
- Richard Cloudesley's Charity 'Sustainable Church Buildings' grants. Projects begun to consider: solar panels on south roof, LED lighting in Church and halls; Boiler replacement; other carbon reduction improvements
- Fire safety: in 2018 we need to install a fire alarm and other fire safety measures particularly in the maisonette
- Storage cupboards in the Church: plans have been drawn up to install these in the south west corner. Funding needed to do this
- Church steps: unfortunately, we have not been able to complete the Church steps project, but we are determined to move this project to completion in 2018

Staffing

- At the end of 2017, the PCC employed 8 paid members of staff (2 full-time, 6 part-time)
- Staffing changes during 2017: Rose Mwesigwa agreed to change her role to become the Administrator (Finance and Buildings Management); the post of 'Administrator - Communications and Lettings' was advertised, but no appointment made. Tanya Battams (Youth and Community Worker - female) left in August 2017; and Bisi Fadiora (Cleaner) left in November 2017
- The following posts were vacant at end of 2017: Cleaner for Church and halls and Urban Hope Youth and Community Worker – female
- Thanks to Natalie Beauchamp who continues to do the job of Lettings Manager on a voluntary basis, which ensures significant revenue, and Will Smart who agreed to take on a range of care-taking duties on a voluntary basis
- Thank you to all our staff who give generously of their time and talents for the Church

Mission Action Plan

- 5 key areas of the MAP: Church family and social life; social and community engagement and involvement; working with children and young people; spiritual development and nurture; and Church buildings
- Particular things highlighted in the MAP that we have achieved are: a programme of social events and a growing concert programme; plans for a Church weekend in October 2018; exploring the principles of mapping; establishing an 'Environmental Responsibility Group, marked 'Creationtide'; recruiting a preschool childrens worker and beginning this project; starting 'Messy Church' and an early years Sunday ministry; running several 'What's God got to do with it' series; relocating the Church office; installing a new sound and video system; and completing the Quinquennial Inspection
- At the 2018 APCM, a revised version of the MAP will be presented
- A new area has emerged – 'Administration and Communication'

Elders

- In September 2017, John Beauchamp spoke about plans to develop a group of Elders at St Stephen's: a group of 8 or so people who are committed to praying and listening and supporting those involved in ministry within the Church
- This group took several months to 'emerge' but in January 2018 it was formed and began meeting in February 2018
- The new Elders group comprises: Bo Shepherd, Susan Mokogwu, Will Smart, Lizzie Evans, Rufin Batota-Mpeho, Joy Faulkner, Janice Emslie, along with John Beauchamp and Margaret Evans

Pastoral Care

- Many people in the church offer pastoral care and support to others
- The Pastoral Care Team has not functioned recently, but care has continued
- Plan for 2018: to establish the role of 'Pastoral Assistant' and have a small team of recognised people offering care to others
- Churches often measured by the quality of care, this is something we can all be involved in.

Sunday School

- A team of dedicated volunteers. Thanks to Jane Thurlow who is stepping down in 2018 after 18 years of service
- Average age has lowered as several younger children have moved into Sunday School
- Average attendance is 7, but up to 20 can turn up
- Topics covered: the stories of Jesus' preparation for ministry; the stations of the Cross; what goes on in Church; creation
- One of the highlights of the year was the Sunday School summer trip to Broadstairs
- Other long-serving leaders leaving in 2018 so the team will need new members

Dreams

- 17 young people participated in the Sunday morning sessions
- Themes explored included: 'What does the Bible say about mental health?', and studying the Bible, including the Book of Judges
- 2 children and young people's lunches after Church, with 18 children and young people attending
- A 2017 highlight was Cecelia's Confirmation

Mission Support Group

- Mission support fund for 2017 was £9,000
- £2,000 to Tim and Rachel Green working with Interserve in Kuala Lumpur; £3,000 to Caroline and Geoff Shave working with Agape in Cape Town; £1,500 to ALMA for St Stephen's, Luanda, primary school education; £500 was given to support the 'Life Festival'; £2,000 allocated to a Bible College in Nepal but this project could not be supported
- Appeals: Lent 2017 - £500 for Clean Sheet; Harvest - £706 towards Tear Fund's agricultural project in Malawi; Advent and Christmas - £1,320, to be shared between two charities that support refugees

Music and Musicians

- Much to give thanks for: a great group of volunteers giving their time; a new sound system with foldback; Lizzie and Rufin drumming regularly
- Things to pray for: some new volunteers; an extra pianist or guitarist who could lead; some additional instrumentalists; more diversity in the team; more musicians available in the evenings
- New songs have been introduced with traditional hymns/songs still included

Sidespersons

- No major changes to the team over the last year – thank you to all
- Currently, the team comprises: Vernon and Fran; James and BO; Stephen and Stephen; Mary and Marion; Jide and Bode
- A great welcoming service provided for all who attend services and some concerts and events
- Important to keep a watchful eye over the congregation, particularly on First Sunday's when the layout of the Church might be confusing to newcomers

Maisonette Fellowship Group

- The group currently has 5 regular members and other valuable people have visited from time to time
- Evening starts at 7.30pm and includes food, conversation and Bible study
- Bible study finishes at around 9pm - giving some time for fellowship before the evening finishes
- New members are welcome to join

Coffee Shop

- Coffee Shop is open at 3pm on Saturdays fortnightly and is enjoyed by all who attend.
- This year Coffee Shop supplied refreshments and support for: Urban Hope/Local Community Fun Day; Cross Street Baptist Church Fun Day; and the Carol service. All held at the Almorah Community Centre.
- November Coffee Shop quiz night with fish and chips well attended and enjoyed by all.
- Traditional Christmas party well attended and a great success.
- More volunteers to run the sessions would be greatly appreciated.

Finance Report

(This is a draft report. Figures may be amended following the Independent Examination. Summary and full accounts will be available before the annual meetings)

- Total income for 2017 £ £477,330
- Manna income £88,254
- Urban Hope income £136,943
- Concrete income £36,750
- Church income (including rents) £197,459
- Total expenditure across all activities in the year £505,272
- Restricted funds carried forward at yearend £198,370
- Unrestricted funds carried forward at yearend £79,699
- Manna, Urban Hope and general funds are all within their reserves policies of a minimum 3 months operational costs
- Significant continuing fundraising and grant funding will be needed to sustain our ministries
- We have contributed £70,000 to Common Fund (87% of the standard cost)
- Budget has been set for 2018 to keep us within reserves policies
- Thanks to all past and present finance team members and treasurers for their work