



St George-in-the-East Church
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'St George-in-the East PCC' charity number 1133761

Diocese of London, Stepney Episcopal Area, Tower Hamlets Deanery

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST WITH ST PAUL

Registered charity no. 1133761

www.stgite.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2011

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday, 29 April 2012

FOREWORD

Welcome to our report for 2011, compiled by the various church officers. It is deliberately briefer than in previous years, for various reasons: to make it more accessible; because most of the routine information about the parish, and news of our activities, is readily available on our website; and because this year our accounts are subject to independent examination rather than a full audit.

I commend this report, and our accounts, to you and ask you for your prayers for the ongoing life and health of our parish.

Canon Michael Ainsworth
Rector

BACKGROUND AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The Anglican parish of St George-in-the-East with St Paul is proud to serve a diverse and rapidly changing community in London's East End. We are located between the City and Docklands, along the Highway that links the City with Docklands and Essex. The area includes extremes of wealth and deprivation, and has been home to many generations of immigrant groups (the majority now are Bengali), alongside lifelong East Enders, and City professionals.

The original church was built between 1714 and 1729 and was designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor. In the 20th century, the Church was severely damaged during the Blitz that left standing only the external walls, the tower (of 160 feet), the clergy vestry, the Lady Chapel and four turrets. The Church was rebuilt and reconsecrated in 1964 under a new design by Arthur Bailey. The former churchyard, St George's Gardens, has recently been restored with funding by from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

We are a parish of the Diocese of London in the Stepney Episcopal Area and the Deanery of Tower Hamlets, working with other Christians of many traditions and denominations. We are 'clustered' with St Mary Cable Street, St Paul Shadwell, St Peter London Docks and St Dunstan & All Saints Stepney. Our parish school is St Paul's Whitechapel CE Primary School.

The Parochial Church Council, known by its working name of St George-in-the-East PCC (PCC), is a registered charity with number 1133761. The Parish Office is located at St George-in-the-East Church, 14 Cannon Street Road, London E1 0BH.

PCC members who served during 2011 until the date of this report are as follows:

Ex officio members

Canon Michael Ainsworth*	Rector and Chairman
Rev. Janina Ainsworth	Hon. Assistant Priest
Allan Ramanoop*	Churchwarden
Alex Nelson*	Churchwarden & Churches Together in Wapping & Stepney Representative
Michael Page	Deanery Synod Representative (DSR) (from 1 June 2012)

Elected members

Kim Ali*	
John Allison	(until 10 April 2011)
Susan Crocker*	Secretary
Margaret Coulter	(DSR until 31 May 2011) Vice Chair
Toni Davey	Stewardship Recorder
Cathy Matthew	
Richard Powell*	(DSR until 31 May 2011) Hon. Treasurer
Annadale Ramanoop*	
Sybil Yates	(from 10 April 2011)
Danny Ramanoop	
Edith Wyeth	Churchwarden Emerita & Vice-Chair (until 19 March 2011)

Co-opted members

Terry Bennett	Head Teacher of the Parochial School, St Paul's CE Whitechapel
Wendy Ramanoop	Electoral Roll Officer (<i>non-PCC member</i>)

* member of PCC Standing committee during year or part thereof

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended) and the Church Representation Rules 2006 (Rules).

The members of the PCC are also managing trustees of the Watney Street Hall Trust, Planet Street Institute Charitable Trust and Thomas Dickenson Trust Funds being trusts established to benefit the inhabitants of the parish and neighbouring parishes subject to the terms of their specific trusts.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and the congregation is encouraged to stand for election to the PCC. In this regard, the PCC in welcoming new members is mindful of the need to reflect the diversity of the congregation. Elected members are limited to 9 plus the ex officio members, and co-opted members.

There are two Churchwardens elected at the Annual Vestry meeting (which immediately precedes the Annual Parochial Meeting) at which any person whose name appears on the public electoral roll and resident in the Parish may attend and vote. The Churchwardens are the officers of the Bishop and ex officio members of the PCC.

The PCC has ultimate responsibility for a wide range of matters affecting the parish, including such matters as compliance with health and safety, disability discrimination and child protection. Day to day management is exercised by (and as appropriate delegated to) the Rector and Churchwardens and officers of the PCC assisted by the Parish Administrator. During 2011 the PCC and its Standing Committee each met on approximately six occasions on average bi-monthly with other sub committees meeting as required.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Canon Ainsworth, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is also responsible for maintaining the fabric of the church building and its surroundings.

The PCC sought to achieve these goals in 2011 as follows:

- by continuing the worship and the mission of the church by pursuing its Mission Action Plan (MAP) discussed below under Achievements and Performance;
- by making a fair and affordable contribution to the London Diocese's Common Fund which pays for the clergy, their training and the running costs of the Church of England in London; and
- by supporting the Tower Hamlets Deanery and seeking to increase collaboration amongst parishes in the borough.

Amongst the specific activities of the parish are the following:

Regular public worship open to all	Taking of religious assemblies in schools
The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation	Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, and the distribution of literature
Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved	Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for children and other groups
Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups	Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

This review of the year's activities seeks to explain the performance achieved against the objectives set, particularly in the MAP.

The Life and Work of the Parish

The life of the parish, as a worshipping and serving congregation, continued through the year. At the 2011 annual parochial meeting, the numbers on the electoral roll stood at 65 (2010: 69), of whom 14 live within its geographically-small boundaries and 51 outside, mainly close by. Seven names were removed, and three added (all from outside the parish). This reflects the pattern of change in our congregation: we continue to gain new members, but lose old friends, who have died or moved away from the area. Many of our members have complicated lives and commitments, so are not with us every Sunday; so on a typical Sunday we are around 30 people, including a few children. We continue to be a splendidly mixed bunch of Christians from a variety of traditions and continents, and however few we may be we always manage to offer a warm welcome to visitors and newcomers.

The most significant loss to our fellowship - but in God's mercy not to the kingdom of heaven - was of Edith Wyeth, who died on 19 March, and we pay tribute to her here, for she was a key part of the story of our church for almost all her life, serving as a loyal and imaginative churchwarden for an astonishing 64 years, and living on site for most of that time. It is probably no exaggeration to say that it is because of her steadfast Christian witness that we are still here. The Bishop of London (who had appointed her as a member of the Order of St Mellitus for her lifelong service to the diocese) and many, many others attended her funeral eucharist on 1 April, and we are still continuing to discover tasks that she performed, and the worldwide contacts that she maintained.

Other valued members (like Beth and James Smith) left us during the year for pastures new, or (like Olive Wagstaff) became increasingly housebound. But we have continued to welcome new members, some of whom have been willing to take on responsibilities,

such as school governance. Hannah Brewer, our splendidly competent organist, left us as planned in the summer, to return to the USA - we wish her well.

Just as we encourage our congregation to commit to regular giving to support the work of the parish and the national church, we in turn, in accordance with national policy, seek to give 2 percent of our unrestricted income to charitable causes. In 2011 we developed and consulted on a new approach. We aim to give one-third locally, one-third to international development charities and one-third to specifically Christian charities or churches. Further details of our policy and recipients are available on our website.

How effective have we been in achieving the targets of our Mission Action Plan 2009-2012? We review each of the headings in turn at meetings of the Parochial Church Council, but during the year were helped by a more effective working of our committee structure, with the Standing Committee, Building Committee, Worship and Nurture Committee and Publicity Committee playing key roles. Here are some brief comments on our MAP.

(1) Growing, pastoring and nurturing the congregation:

- *Build and strengthen the congregation numerically and spiritually;*
- *Pastoral care and affirmation of existing congregation;*
- *Developing children and young people's provision; and*
- *Identifying individuals' gifts and callings.*

The Worship and Nurture Committee planned a careful sequence of events through the year, combining spiritual and social activity, often around shared meals. Among the highlights were the Ash Wednesday event, a summer visit to Elstow Abbey (and John Bunyan's hometown) in Bedfordshire, the summer barbecue, autumn quiz night and Children's Church brass rubbing trip. We remain strongly committed to providing activity for children every Sunday in term time; it's a struggle to find two adults every Sunday, but we regard this as a priority. During the year, some of our congregation have taken on major roles in the community - for example, in leading the campaign to save King Edward VII Memorial Park, challenging the details of Thames Water's plans - and we seek to support them in this.

(2) Develop the use of our building as a shared resource for the local community:

- *Identify caretaker needs for the church and hall;*
- *Develop our vision for the use of our building; and*
- *Develop a policy to implement the vision.*

We have made progress in achieving wider community use of our space, and some of the results will be reflected in next year's report (including responses to needs during the Olympic/Paralympics period). The secular Bengali folksong/dance/drama group Soytyen Sen continue to use the premises on Saturdays. We now appear to be "on the map" as a concert venue, with various one-off events, including a series of "avant-garde" concerts planned by a local musician and many more requests for 2012 resulting. Caretaking issues have been partly addressed, and provision for disabled access remains a priority, with sketch-schemes submitted to consultees. We have plans to remodel the southwest

corner of the church (in memory of Edith Wyeth - see above) as a café-kitchen area for church/community use, with improved WC provision.

(3) *Establish a balance between the various needs of the congregation and parish:*

- *Teaching/education;*
- *Social/community; and*
- *Spiritual.*

This balance is crucial, for a diverse congregation whose time commitment is limited: gathering our members midweek is a challenge. The sequence of events mentioned at (1) above sought to address this, and we continued to work on providing intellectual challenge to our congregation; circulating relevant material; through out email networks is part of this.

(4) *Develop our institutional engagement with other faiths and within the local community:*

- *Make St George's more relevant to our local community; and*
- *Also for our own information, growth and contribution.*

The engagement with other faith communities reported last year continues, through our active participation in the Presence & Engagement Network, the involvement of church members with friends and neighbours of other faiths, and through our schools contacts (which produced a significant number of requests for church visits in the pre-Christmas period). There will be more to report on this next year. Work with our church school (St Paul's CE Whitechapel) remains central to our activities, with good support from the congregation in governance and a variety of school activities. The PCC, as it does every year, purchased Bibles for final year pupils leaving St Paul's school.

The parish is a member of Churches Together in Stepney and Wapping. This is the local ecumenical grouping that brings churches of different traditions together in worship, work and for social events. Fr Peter McGeary of St Mary's Cable Street continued as chair. The Good Friday walk of witness was well attended.

Canon Michael Ainsworth, Rector

Fabric report

We received a comprehensive Quinquennial Inspection Report for 2011-2016 this year and work has been carried out on the most urgent actions identified and plans put in place prioritising other work in the report. The roof to the church proper has also been patched with copper where it is particularly thin, but after 50 years it is at the end of its lifespan and will need to be replaced within the next five years. The cost of this work is likely to be very significant, a minimum of £175,000, for which the PCC will need to make provision over the coming years.

2011 also saw the refurbishment of flats 2 and 3 and improvements made to the security of the area surrounding the church.

In 2012, we will focus on the medium term actions from the Quinquennial Inspection. We plan repairs to masonry with an initial exploration using a cherry-picker, to flat roof areas between the flats, and a programme of external metalwork. The church floor will also be polished.

Plans for two possible options for disabled access have been drawn up, with the potential for Section 106 funding allocated from the building of a hotel on the highway agreed. These plans will be sent to the relevant authorities for their input in early 2012.

The Churchwardens, Alex Nelson and Allan Ramanoop

Report of the school year at St Paul's

St Paul's is the parish's Church of England primary school situated at Wellclose Square, London E1. The Rector, Fr Michael, and others members of the PCC are School Governors.

In the same way that all children are individuals with their own characteristics, so are no two schools identical. St Paul's School is proud of its ethos where the Christian nature of the school caters for an ethnic, linguistic, cultural and socio-economic mix like few others. Half of the children receive free school meals, 80 percent speak English as an additional language, three-quarters are Muslims, many live in temporary, crowded homes. The school staff and governors are driven by a desire to see our pupils grow and achieve as well as any children nationally. We care deeply about their spiritual, cultural, physical, emotional and educational development.

Academically, the school's results last year were excellent. By the time the pupils are seven years old most have already caught up with the levels of attainment expected of their age group. By eleven they match or exceed national targets. The progress of St Paul's children is judged on the value added (VA) scores which, in 2011, were in the top 5 percent in England.

The school's Behaviour Policy, PSHE (personal social & health education) and Place2be counselling provide a secure supportive environment for children's emotional needs. Parents and carers continued to feature ever more prominently in school life. They were invited into school for pupil progress meetings, as classroom volunteers, for informal coffee mornings and to discuss forthcoming issues, like sex and relationships education. We ran a range of parent classes to extend their own learning and help their child's English, mathematics, computing, pottery, mosaics, sewing. There are courses on parenting and advice sessions for job seekers.

In 2011, there were enhanced opportunities for sporting activity partly due to pre-Olympic initiatives. We sent teams to football, cricket, swimming, athletics, handball, baseball and gymnastic tournaments. There were individual champions and team victories (water polo, girl's football). Pupils had coaching in judo, rugby, golf, fencing and sailing. Complementing this was a leadership course where older children learnt skills of fairness, consistency and conciliation, which they put into practice running activities for younger pupils. Our Sports Day took place at King Edward VII Memorial Park in the summer. St

Paul's was designated a "Bike-It School" in September, with a number of cycling activities planned over the year.

Like sports, creative activities offer less academic children a chance to succeed. Singing featured prominently all year with weekly lessons and Mr Rubin's choir. We had African drumming classes building to a concert by pupils in the spring. July's "Write On" week saw children's authors run creative workshops and our well-established Art Café showcased fine art in July. There was a musical collaboration with the Concordia Foundation in November. We also had cookery classes, dance lessons, gardening groups and after school art and craft clubs.

We encourage teachers to take their class out to enhance the learning that takes place in school. London is a multi-sensory classroom in its own right; we make use of its museums, galleries, theatres, cinemas, places of worship and open spaces. A number of activities raise awareness of wider issues; fundraising for charities such as Red Nose Day and Jeans for Genes, taking part in the Save Kemp campaign, Black History Month events and visits by the Fire Brigade reciprocated by a trip to the Fire station.

The school visited St George's Church during the year to celebrate sacred occasions and school milestones including Easter, Harvest and the end of the school year. In addition, St George's was the venue for the Diocesan Deanery Leavers' celebration, where the Revd. Jan Ainsworth spoke about the 200th Anniversary of the National Society. That event was also acknowledged through the passing of the Light of Christ from Sir John Cass Primary to St Paul's and on to St Peter's.

I am indebted to Father Michael for his invaluable contribution to school life and to Diana Woodbridge and Toni Davey in their role as Foundation Governors. Finally I offer my sincere thanks to John Allison who stood down from the governing body after four years' service. John will always be a good friend of St Paul's School.

Next year we will report on the completion of our major building project, and its re-dedication by the Bishop of Stepney.

Terry Bennett, Headteacher

Report from Deanery Synod representatives

The deanery synod in Tower Hamlets comprises both clergy and lay representatives from each of the 18 Church of England parishes/congregations in the borough. It is a deliberative and consultative forum. New lay representatives were elected for a three year term beginning on 1 June 2011, this parish's entitlement to lay representation being reduced to a sole representative who joins the Rector.

Amongst the key business considered were women and the episcopate. Every deanery Synod has been required to vote on the draft legislation and report to the diocesan Synod, which in turn reported its own voting to the General Synod, to assist its consideration of the current draft legislation. Opinion in our deanery Synod was divided, but it voted in favour, as did the vast majority of deaneries and dioceses.

2011 saw the appointment of Adrian Newman as Bishop of Stepney and Rachel Treweek, as Archdeacon of Hackney, both of whom attended the synod during the year.

Deanery Synod Representative, Michael Page

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Introduction

This review should be read in conjunction with the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet for the year ended 31 December 2011 and the notes therewith.

The financial statements have been prepared on the accruals basis and have been the subject of an independent examination. In recent years the PCC's accounts have been subject to an audit but as the threshold of income and assets above which an audit is required has increased an independent examination is now sufficient to comply with statutory requirements.

As is explained in the notes, the accounts are categorised into unrestricted and restricted accounts. The PCC may also designate unrestricted funds for particular purposes.

The restricted funds include Watney Street Hall Trust, £36,261 (2010: £36,138), Planet Street Institute Trusts, £16,066 (2010: £16,050) and the Thomas Dickenson Fund £12,573 (2010: £12,573). The Planet Street fund's charitable objects consist of educational purposes in the parish. Thomas Dickenson is a charitable trust having the object of helping the disadvantaged in the community.

The parish's principal sources of income are rental from Green Gables School and the London Diocesan Fund for the use of the crypt together with rent from the church's four residential flats. Further income is received by way of hiring fees for the use of the church and its office accommodation. Stewardship giving by the congregation also represents an important source of income. The PCC is grateful for people's continuing generosity. Details on how to give are available from the parish website.

Unrestricted income and expenditure

Unrestricted income increased to £166,178 (2010: £141,790) whilst expenditure rose to £132,185 (2010: £107,808). The increase in income was due to higher rentals from three of the four church flats following their licensing to new occupiers at commercial rates. Expenditure increased as the parish carried out works to the fabric of the church in accordance with the recommendations of the Quinquennial Inspection (QI) and refurbished two of the church flats.

Debtors

During the course of the year five-year upward rent reviews were agreed on our behalf by our surveyor, Simon Coe, with the London Diocesan Fund and Green Gables. As these reviews were back-dated the accounts show arrears of rent due from both

licences and arrangements are in place to pay-off these sums in early course. There are also shown arrears in respect of flat 4 but these relate to delays in banking payments received due to the parish changing its bankers from HSBC to Reliance Bank plc at the end of 2011. In contrast, the arrears in relation to flat 3 arise in relation to a former tenant.

Common Fund

The parish's Common Fund Contribution (CFC) paid out of unrestricted funds increased in 2011 to £45,500 (2010: £43,000). This is our contribution to the Diocese of London to pay for the Clergy, their training, pensions and central services. It is our policy to pay a fair and affordable sum gradually increasing the amount we pay toward the Diocese's Parish Standard cost. In 2012 CFC has risen to £50,000.

Reserves


It is the PCC's practice to budget for a surplus on unrestricted funds in order to increase its unrestricted general reserves, now £171,803 (2010: £163,389), to meet the costs of repairs and improvements to the fabric of the building in the long term. Substantial costs arising from recommendations in the QI are expected within the next few years.

In addition to its general reserve, the PCC has designated a Wellclose Square depreciation fund out of a proportion of the rental payments from Green Gables School. The objective is to create a redevelopment fund over the course of the 20 year licence period. To this end, up to £25,000 is invested annually in the CBF Church of England Investment fund, an equity based fund, managed by CCLA. This is currently valued at £108,285 (2010: £82,563). Its value has been subject to fluctuation during the period, but the PCC considers that it remains appropriately invested bearing in mind that it is for the long term.

Our gratitude and appreciation go to Fiona Lawrence, parish administrator, and to our new independent examiner, Paul Kellaway.

Hon. Parish Treasurer, Richard Powell

The Annual Report and Financial Statements were approved by St George-in-the-East PCC on 20 March 2012.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Ainsworth', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

*The Rev. Canon Michael Ainsworth
Rector and PCC Chairman*