



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

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2012

Presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on Sunday, 28 April 2013

FOREWORD

I was overjoyed when some of the friends arrived and testified to your faithfulness to the truth, namely how you walk in the truth (3 John 3) - words addressed to an individual, but presenting a challenge to the whole church. Though a small congregation, we seek to walk together confidently in God's truth, and to be known as a church which, keeping faith with God's purposes, offers a warmth of welcome to the many people who pass through its doors.

I commend to you this report (compiled by members of the Parochial Church Council), and our accounts, and ask 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 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 2012 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

Elected members

Anne Willer	
Kim Ali	
Susan Crocker*	Secretary (on maternity leave for part of the year)
Margaret Coulter*	Vice Chair
Toni Davey	Stewardship Recorder
Cathy Matthew	
Richard Powell*	Hon. Treasurer
Annadale Ramanoop	
Charles Reese	

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 members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and 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 2012 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 2012 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

At the 2012 annual parochial meeting, the numbers on the electoral roll stood at 67 (2011: 65), of whom 13 live within its geographically-small boundaries and 54 outside, mainly close by. One name was removed, and three added (all from outside the parish). This reflects the pattern of change common to most London congregations: we continue to gain new members, but lose old friends, who have died or moved away from the area. On a typical Sunday congregation is around 30 people, including a few children, and visitors from around the world, who appreciate the warmth of our welcome. We have a small number of baptisms, weddings and church funerals throughout the year. For most of the year we had no permanent organist - awaiting plans to fill the post in 2013 - but the excellent website run by Philip Norman Music Services ensured a succession of reliable players, with Elspeth, our former organist, playing regularly and the Rector helping out at quiet periods.

As well as encouraging our congregation to commit to regular stewardship giving to support the work of the parish and the national church, as a parish, in line with national policy, we give 2 percent of our unrestricted income to charitable causes, following the scheme we agreed in 2011 allocating 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 our committee structure, of Standing Committee, Building Committee, Worship and Nurture Committee and Publicity Committee does more detailed work on this. 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.*

As in previous years, the Worship and Nurture Committee planned a sequence of events through the year, combining spiritual and social activity, often around shared meals. This included, for instance, a gathering at the start of Lent; catering for the crowds at the London Marathon; a summer trip to Wokingham; the annual barbecue for our anniversary of consecration; a Harvest social; and a Children's Church visit to St Paul's Cathedral. The Bishop of Stepney (who at the start of the year had re-dedicated our church school premises) was with us for Remembrance Sunday, together with several local councillors and civic representatives.

The Rector and congregation continue to support members who are sick or increasingly housebound, and congregation members give time and expertise to a wide range of community projects.

Our commitment to making regular and appropriate provision for our children remains strong, with two people leading Sunday sessions most weeks, apart from the monthly all-age eucharist.

(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.*

The church has been more heavily used during the year, not only for student and other concerts, but by two more regular groups. For many years the Players of St Peter have presented parts of the medieval cycles of mystery plays in various City churches at the start of Advent, and we were glad to be able to offer them a new home for their rehearsals and performance (initially on a trial basis). We have also entered into an arrangement with the Orthodox London Mission, a Coptic congregation which meets here monthly for a Saturday morning liturgy in English, and mid-month for a prayer and study group, and we hope to build fruitful links between our two congregations. In addition, Soytyen Sen, the secular Bengali folksong/dance drama school, have now moved their office into the small room previously occupied by the Gardens Ranger and hold some midweek meetings here. All three of these groups have a wide catchment area as well as local links. They are mainly responsible for locking/unlocking and cleaning up after their sessions, but the Rector's presence on the doorstep is useful.

We move slowly but steadily towards a scheme for disabled access, and the remodelling of the south-west rooms in church to provide better community provision. A scheme for the restoration of the Nature Study Museum in the churchyard, as a drop-in/counselling centre, is finally under way.

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

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

Gathering our busy members midweek remains a challenge, though some come together in other contexts such as parties and quiz nights, as well as for community events. We know that what we offer (for instance, Evening Prayer and discussion during Lent) is limited, and we have yet to agree on when and how to restore our midweek eucharist which lapsed at the time of the Olympics. Through our various networks (which do not yet fully encompass social media!), we publicise details of some of the many excellent events going on all around us, plus online resources. Good publicity and information-sharing is important, but we need to be more than a “virtual church” during the week.

(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 highlight of 2012, of course, was the Olympics and Paralympics, which many of our congregation enjoyed, in person (for those successful in bidding for tickets) or at home. In the light of the severe warnings issued beforehand, we were anxious about the impact on the local community - getting around, and access to public services - since we lay on the Olympic Route Network. In the event, there were few problems. “Highway Neighbours,” a project funded by Near Neighbours (government money administered via the Church Urban Fund), sought to address the pressures and raise the profile of local places of worship, with an eye to “legacy,” and two Jellicoe interns from the Contextual Theology Centre at St Katharine's lodged at the Rectory. Austin Tiffany, from Texas, endeared himself to the congregation and made some local contacts - he hopes to return in 2013. But another Near Neighbours project, which we also sponsored along with Darul Ummah mosque, was more effective, because it focused on a specific place and time - reclaiming a local garden as community space during the Olympic period, which coincided with Ramadan and created pressures.

Alongside work with our own school (see below), visits to church by other primary schools - most pupils of Muslim heritage - increased greatly during the year, and the Rector led assemblies at a local Islamic school and participated in some Friday evening youth sessions at the local mosque. He continued to play an active part in Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum, and in the United Platform Against Racism and Fascism (which arranged Altab Ali Day, at which our area bishop was a speaker). This “institutional” engagement is matched by individual participation on the regeneration of St George's Estate (with community provision) and the redevelopment of the News International site.

The parish is also a member of **Churches Together in Stepney and Wapping**, and Alex Nelson, one of our churchwardens, is our representative. This is a local ecumenical grouping that brings churches of different traditions together in worship, work and for social events.

Canon Michael Ainsworth, Rector

FABRIC REPORT

In 2012, we have focused on the medium term actions arising out of the Quinquennial Inspection Report for 2011-16. Repairs to masonry have begun with an initial exploration using a cherry-picker and unstable stones removed to be copied for replacement. Water tanks for flat 3 have been replaced, and we have requested quotes for a programme of work to external metalwork.

A mobile phone aerial has been installed in the tower, and as a result the tower has been completely rewired and new light fittings installed. The aerial is yet to go live. Work has also been done to the sound proofing for the bells.

We have continued to plan for disabled access; we have been advised to go ahead with a proposal that incorporates a lift into the side of the west-facing rotunda. A disability access audit has been commissioned at the request of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, which advises the London Diocese on these matters.

The Terrier (a list of land relating to the church) and Inventory (a list of all items belonging to the church) continue to be maintained.

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.

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.

There have been a number of changes at the school since last year's report. The school building project has now finished and we have a purpose built Key Stage 1 unit where our Year one and two classes reside. The Early Years Unit is completed and the school has a studio for dance and music as well as a break out area where intervention groups can meet. Place2Be, a counselling group that work with children who have emotional barriers to learning, is firmly embedded in the school, as is their office and therapy room. There has also been a change in the staffing structure. Terry Bennett has now become our Interim Executive Head Teacher working with colleagues at St. John's Primary School in Bethnal Green following an Ofsted inspection that put St John's into "Special Measures" and saw the previous Headteacher (HT) resign. I am now Head of School at St Paul's with Mrs Meares working as Deputy HT and Miss Blake as Assistant HT. Mr Thompson and Miss Tropea have joined our senior leadership team. Despite the changes, everyone has risen to the challenge.

Our Key Stage 2 results continue to be outstanding and were significantly above national averages. Results have improved every year since 2007. Standards in terms of reaching level 4 or above in 2012 were very high. In English this was 100 percent of pupils, compared to 89 percent nationally, and in mathematics was also 100 percent, compared to the national figure of 87 percent. As a one-form entry school, every cohort presents a unique set of challenges and opportunities. Typically children enter the school with attainment well below the age related expectation. We work very hard to ensure that the gap in achievement is narrowed and overcome by the time they leave the school. We have a robust system of interventions in place so as to make sure that no child is left behind and everyone realises their potential.

Despite the emphasis on literacy and numeracy, it is important that our children receive a broad and balanced education. The International Primary Curriculum was introduced in January 2012 and both children and staff are very enthusiastic about this new style of learning. We continue to work hard in our community. We are currently working on an instructional DVD to give to parents to help them read with their children at home. St. Paul's took pride of stage at the Patronal Festival at St. Paul's Cathedral in January this year. We have started working with Trees for Cities transforming areas of the school into

growing zones, so much so that part of the car park is now an apple orchard! The school has good links with local businesses – approximately 75 percent of our pupils read with reading partners from City firms every week.

We have now achieved Advanced Healthy School Status; children's health and wellbeing is a topic that we feel very strongly about as our borough is fourth nationally for obesity. Finally, we worked on a partnership with the Jamie Oliver Foundation where the children learn how to cook the crops that we are growing. Plans are in progress to build a kitchen classroom. It has been a very exciting year at the school, which continues to go from strength to strength.

Darren Rubin, Head of School

REPORT FROM DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

The Deanery Synod in Tower Hamlets comprises clergy and lay representatives from each of the 18 Church of England parishes/congregations in the borough. It is a deliberative and consultative forum. 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 on the Synod.

2012 saw Fr Alan Green hand over his area dean's reins to the Rev'd Andy Rider, whose tenure was launched with Deanery evensong and "Celebrate the Deanery" evening at Christ Church Spitalfields. In addition to its regular business time was devoted to the "common fund," and the synod applied its mind to preparations for the Olympics and upon how churches could respond locally. The Synod also discussed and voted on the Anglican Communion Covenant (we voted against).

The Synod now has a web site <<http://www.thcofe.org>>

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 2012 and the notes therewith. The financial statements have been prepared on the accruals basis and have been the subject of an independent examination. *(The accounts are available on request.)*

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 (2011: £36,261), Planet Street Institute Trusts, £15,987 (2011: £16,066) and the Thomas Dickenson Fund £12,573 (2011: £12,573). Watney Street objectives are for the maintenance of the church premises. 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 £203,167 (2011: £166,178) whilst expenditure decreased to £96,415 (2011: £132,185). The increase in income was due to increasing

rentals from the occupiers of the church's crypt space (following rent reviews in 2011) and the operators New Edge Telecommunications of a mobile phone mast located in the church tower. While expenditure was incurred on quinquennial maintenance it decreased overall because unlike last year no further church flat refurbishments were undertaken.

Common Fund

The parish's Common Fund Contribution (CFC) paid out of unrestricted funds increased in 2012 to £50,000 (2011: £45,500). 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, the notional cost to the Diocese of providing us with a parish priest. In 2013 CFC has risen to £52,500, a five percent increase.

Reserves

It is the PCC's practice to budget for a surplus on unrestricted funds in order to increase its unrestricted general reserves, now £264,290 (2011: £171,803), 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 current Quinquennial Report are expected within the next few years. The most significant of these relates to the cost of replacing the early 1960s church roof that could exceed £200,000 excluding VAT.

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 £26,000 is invested annually in the CBF Church of England Investment fund, an equity based fund, managed by CCLA. This is currently valued at £150,416 (2011: £108,285). 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.

On a day-to-day basis our accounts are handled by Fiona Lawrence, our parish administrator, to whom I should like to express my thanks and appreciation and similarly, to our Paul Kellaway, our independent examiner who is a Chartered Accountant.

Hon. Parish Treasurer, Richard Powell

The Annual Report and Financial Statements were approved by St George-in-the-East PCC on 9 April 2013.