



St George-in-the-East Church
Cannon Street Road London E1 0BH

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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

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ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2013

Presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday, 27 April 2014

FOREWORD

Do good, be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up the treasure of a good foundation for the future and take hold on the life that really is life (1 Timothy 6.18f) - a challenge to an early Christian congregation that rings just as true for us today. Having inherited treasures from the past - the gospel faithfully lived out in this place - we offer them for the generations to come, and claim for ourselves the true life that we find in Jesus Christ.

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 2013 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, Vice-Chair, & Churches Together in Wapping & Stepney Representative
Michael Page* (<i>until 17 September</i>)	Deanery Synod Representative & Hon. Secretary
Philip Hogan (<i>from 17 September</i>)	Deanery Synod Representative

Elected members

Margaret Coulter*	
Richard Powell*	Hon. Treasurer
Annadale Ramanoop	
Philip Hogan	
Rowena Loverance	
Diana Woodbridge	

Co-opted members

Terry Bennett / Darren Rubin	Executive Headteacher & Head of School, St Paul's CE Whitechapel School
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 2013 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 2013 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.

The Life and Work of the Parish

At the 2013 annual parochial meeting, the numbers on the new electoral roll stood at 60 (2012: 67), of whom 8 live within its geographically-small boundaries and 52 outside, mainly close by. As with many London churches, we continue to gain new members, but lose old friends as they move away from the area. This year we 'lost' Michael Page, who has served us loyally and generously in several capacities (though having been a churchwarden in two previous parishes we spared him that role here!) who moved to Southampton following his retirement and marriage to Linda, joyfully celebrated here: we thank him for the warmth of his friendship and for his contribution to our life, always informed by sensitive and well-informed obedience to the scriptures. We also face the loss of Richard Powell, who with Elisa and Marta (confirmed during the year) has moved to Blackheath, but continues as treasurer until our 2014 meeting, so a tribute must await next year's report.

Our congregation, though never large, is wonderfully varied and lively, and visitors both local and global appreciate the warmth of welcome. In 2013 we had more baptisms and weddings than in previous years, though no funerals in church. We remain without a permanent organist, but Elspeth Wilkes has continued to play regularly and we have had no difficulty arranging cover for other Sundays.

We are currently reshaping our Mission Action Plan in line with Capital 2020 Vision, the London diocesan programme launched in the autumn of 2013, and are considering each of its challenges at successive PCC meetings, but because it is a seven-year programme we are not rushing into making all our commitments at once! The following comments on achievements during the year are linked to its three major headings: Confident, Compassionate and Creative.

CONFIDENT

Our commitment to offering good and properly-staffed **provision for children and young people** on Sunday mornings, however small the numbers may be, and however difficult it is to maintain the rota, has paid off: numbers increased towards the end of the year, and the feedback on their activities at the end of the service are invariably interesting and positive. We make careful provision for those who remain in church with their parents and we have set up a system for planning the monthly all-age services in a more coherent way.

We have introduced **Hot Potato Sunday**: once a month, we invite members of the congregation to stay on and discuss 'hot potatoes' - current issues, as informed by the Sunday readings - in the context of a simple lunch with baked potatoes and salad. Numbers vary, but with a dozen or so participants all bringing their varied life experiences some fascinating discussions result; and it is telling that some of them say that sharing a meal, particularly across the generations, is a rare experience.

The **Worship and Nurture Committee** has continued to plan a series of events, both social and spiritual, throughout the year. Our summer participation in the Bradwell Pilgrimage was one highlight, but we also had a very successful mini-fair for St George's Day (involving the children from our school - the first external outing for their drummers - and with the Rt Revd Graeme Knowles as preacher at the Eucharist), and events on Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day and Harvest (all involving food!) were appreciated. We are confident that we can sustain such a programme for the future, to offer the riches of the gospel to those with whom we have contact.

Work with our parish **school**, St Paul Whitechapel, continues to be rewarding. During 2013, it received an 'outstanding' assessment both from OFSTED and from the denominational inspection, and our governors were happy for the headteacher, and colleagues, to take on extra responsibilities for a school in difficulties: see his report later for more details. There has also been an increased number of visits to the church from other local primary schools, as part of their curriculum work, recognising that we are able to provide a good experience for children (the vast majority of them of Muslim background - and parents come too).

COMPASSIONATE

The day-to-day **pastoral ministry** of the parish, to those who are sick, in trouble, or bereaved, continues - not only through the Rector's contacts via sacramental and funeral ministry, but through the involvement of the congregation with their neighbours and indeed their own families. This does not require detailed planning; it is part of the normal life of any congregation that is open to the needs of others.

We are keen to respond to local **social needs**, and members of the congregation are involved in various projects. As a matter of priority, we are working to make our church premises more accessible so that we can offer our space to appropriate groups; proposals have been put forward, but funding and permissions, secular and ecclesiastical, for a Grade I listed building are taking time. During the year plans to restore the mortuary chapel / nature study centre in the churchyard as a drop-in centre moved forward, and it is hoped this will come to fruition in 2014. Meanwhile, various individual and group bookings of our space have been made, and we are able to offer more affordable rates than other churches.

As for **wider needs**, we give 2% 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.

CREATIVE

With its excellent acoustic, two good grand pianos as well as an organ, and reasonably flexible space, we are glad that our church is used by a growing number of musicians, actors and artists of various kinds (classical, popular and *avant garde*) for rehearsal, performance and recordings, and we seek to make our premises affordable to them. Some of these groups are committed to Christian mission (such as the Players of St Peter, who perform mystery plays here for a week each Advent); others are not (such as the Soyten Sen School of Performing Arts, a secular Bengali group dedicated to teaching children and young adults their rich tradition of folksong, dance and drama; they rehearse here every Saturday, and hold some special celebrations here). Many of those who perform here speak appreciatively of the spiritual qualities of the building. All are welcome; we do not proselytise, but hope that some will be drawn to explore the life of the church.

We have continued to develop the **publicity** of our events through our website, and through regular emailings of the newsletter and a range of other information, both from ourselves and from other sources, to a large number of people. The introduction of a monthly flyer, with details of Sunday and other major events, has been welcomed. We are reticent about greater involvement with other social media.

ECUMENICAL

The parish is 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.

Since 2012 the church has been used by the Orthodox London Mission, which is affiliated to the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate, for a monthly liturgy (in English) on Saturday mornings, and a monthly midweek prayer and bible study session. We have a cordial relationship with them, attending each others' events when we are able, and they keep us in prayerful touch with the plight of Christians in Egypt and the Middle East. Their website is <http://britishorthodox.org/directory/london-mission-st-george-paul-the-hermit/>

Canon Michael Ainsworth, Rector

Fabric report

In 2013, we continued to focus on the medium term actions arising out of the Quinquennial Inspection Report for 2011-16. A major piece of work was the

re-asphalting the majority of the flat roofs. We also began an extensive refurbishment of Flat 1 at the end of the year, installing secondary glazing, new electrics and heaters as well as a new kitchen and bathroom. Flat 2 has had work to fix a leak which has been coming through into the church and damp removal.

We have continued to plan for disabled access with a proposal that incorporates a lift into the side of the west-facing rotunda. A disability access audit was completed and submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee, which advises the London Diocese on these matters. In November, we submitted a large application to Tower Hamlets' Faith Buildings Fund; we are still waiting for the result of this application.

The mobile phone aerial has had further work done to it but is still is yet to go live.

The Terrier (a list of land relating to the church) and Inventory (a list of all items belonging to the church) has been updated.

The Churchwardens, Alex Nelson and Allan Ramanoop

Report of the school year at St Paul's

Spring

The year began with the school providing support to our sister school, St John's Bethnal Green, who had had a very difficult Ofsted inspection in 2012. Our Headteacher, Mr Bennett, was sharing his time between both schools and making use of St Paul's staff to model good practice for teachers at St John's School.

The school had its SIAS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) inspection just before Easter. We were inspected on all aspects of R.E. & worship at the school including an observation of the Rector delivering a lesson at the church and a discussion with members of the PCC. The school was judged to be 'Outstanding'.

We encourage our pupils to be live healthy lives and to make healthy choices. Spring sees a focus on cycling with a number of activities including the 'Big Pedal' competition where schools earn points for each child that cycles or scoots to school over a ten day period.

Summer

Our popular Science Week this year was linked to literacy on the theme of Ted Hughes' Iron Man with a large scale model of the metal giant that talked to the wide-eyed children about his adventures and inspired some fantastic science work.

In May our long-awaited Ofsted Inspection took place; the school was challenged to demonstrate its impact on the children. Concluding that St Paul's is an 'Outstanding' school, the inspectors noted the "culture of high aspirations and success for all" remarking, "how the school, through its distinctive character, is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners."

The school was commended at the borough's Healthy Lives Awards in June being the only school to receive four awards: Healthy School, Advanced Healthy School, Healthy Early Years and Healthy Lives Champions.

Our end of year performance data in July showed the school to be in the top 1% nationally for the progress children make from Year 2 to Year 6.

Autumn

We launched our Trees for Cities project to provide 'edible garden' areas around the school. This supported our introduction of a Cookery curriculum in partnership with the

Jamie Oliver Foundation. We aim to build a kitchen classroom on the school grounds in 2014. In December Jamie Oliver visited the school to meet the school staff and work with groups of children.

Local MPs, Jim Fitzpatrick and Rushanara Ali, took part in Year 6's Democracy project.

The school took on a Speech and Language Therapist one day a week who is training our support staff and giving valuable input to those children who have speech and language difficulties, particularly lower down the school at foundation level.

We value the support of the Canon Ainsworth and the Foundation Governors in the work of the school enabling our children to enjoy their education and achieve at a high level.

Terry Bennett (Executive Headteacher) / Darren Rubin (Head of School)

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.

The diocesan allocation of places, based on electoral roll numbers, meant that for the current Deanery Synod, St George-in-the-East had only one lay representative: this was Michael Page, until his resignation on relocation, and thereafter Philip Hogan. But from 2014 our allocation will return to two (plus the Rector).

The Synod, under our new Area Dean, Andy Rider, Rector of Christ Church Spitalfields, spent more time on group work and activities rather than on specifically synodical business. It met on 19 February at the Royal London and discussed hospital chaplaincy issues and clergy support; on 23 May (with wardens and Treasurers) for the first stage of a new process in putting together parish Common Fund bids; on 23 June, at St Benet's Chaplaincy, where the recently-launched diocesan strategy Capital Vision 2020 was the main theme; on 12 September at St Peter Bethnal Green, with minimum business and a deanery barbeque including the licensing of the minister of St Peter's Barge; and on 21 November at St Peter's Barge when "strategic direction" was the theme, with members invited to add parish and other information to a map of the deanery.

For more details, see the deanery website <<http://www.thcofe.org>>

Deanery Synod Representative, Michael Page/Philip Hogan

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 2013 and the notes therewith. The financial statements have been prepared on the accruals basis and have been the subject of an independent examination.

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 (2012: £36,261), Planet Street Institute Trusts, £15,934 (2012: £15,987) and the Thomas Dickenson Fund 12,791 (2012: £12,719). The Watney Street charitable objects are for the maintenance of the church premises while Planet Street's 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 (but reducing) source of income.

Unrestricted income and expenditure

Unrestricted income increased to £215,842 (2012: £203,165) whilst expenditure also rose to £123,952 (2012: £96,415). The increase in income was due to higher returns on long term investments, more church lettings and a great number of weddings and baptisms. A reduced rental from the church's residential flats reflected a void period while one of the flats underwent refurbishment to bring it up to modern standards. Although church collections were marginally higher, overall giving was lower. Expenditure increased because of planned quinquennial maintenance, which will continue for the next few years, and the flat refurbishment.

Common Fund

The parish's Common Fund Contribution (CFC) paid out of unrestricted funds increased in 2013 to £52,500 (2012: £50,000). 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, the notional cost to the Diocese of providing us with a parish priest. In 2014 CFC has risen to £60,000 a 14 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 £286,223 (2012: £248,479), 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 being incurred and will be over the next three to five years. The most significant of these relate to the cost of replacing the early 1960s church roof that could exceed £200,000 (excluding VAT) and a scheme to improve disabled access to the building.

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 £27,000 is invested annually in the CBF Church of England Investment fund, an equity based fund, managed by CCLA. This is currently valued at £202,907 (2012: £150,416). 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.

The Parish's gratitude is owed to Fiona Lawrence, our parish administrator, who keeps our accounts and undertakes the book keeping on a day-to-day basis. We also greatly appreciate the work of Paul Kellaway, a Chartered Accountant, who is our independent examiner.

Hon. Parish Treasurer, Richard Powell

The Annual Report and Financial Statements were approved by St George-in-the-East PCC on 18 March 2014.

