



St Mary with St George
Hornsey
Parish Church

**Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church
Council of Hornsey Parish Church**

(Financial year Jan-Dec 2023)

**To be presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on 19 May 2024**



**OPEN
DOOR**

Hornsey Parish Church, Cranley Gardens, London N10 3AH

Charity number: 1157748

Charity name: Parochial Church Council of Hornsey Parish Church
(The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary with St George Hornsey)
London Diocese

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1. Aims and Purposes

Hornsey Parish Church seeks to make Christ known to the people of Hornsey & celebrate His presence. The means by which we do this are with worship and prayer; by ministering to the whole community so the needs of the vulnerable are met; by calling lay people to varied service; working with children and young people by various means including maintaining close partnerships with our schools. We also aim to maintain our buildings to be sacred places and high quality resources for the community, and to be good stewards of our finances to resource our mission.

2. Objectives and Activities

Our current Mission Action Plan (MAP) set three main priorities for Hornsey Parish Church:

- Loving God
- Loving our Neighbour
- Loving Creation

Our mission is to be an open and engaging church. To achieve this, the PCC are leading a church that seeks to be a space where God can be encountered:

- Through Stillness, Prayer and Worship;
- In the compassionate service one with another, and especially those in need;
- By intentionally trying to live the gospel as an Eco Church
- Making the spirituality of children and older people a priority

The reports of the activities of our church over this past year bear testimony to the ways we are fulfilling these aims and hope to do so more in the years ahead.

3. Achievements and Performance

The reports contained in this document record the life of Hornsey Parish Church as it successfully offers opportunities:

- To worship God and to grow in prayer;
- Ministry to the congregation and throughout the parish, increasing our Compassionate ministry this year to include more presence in the east of the parish through our open-air Tower Eucharist;
- By calling lay people to serve the mission of the church both at home and in the community;
- To continue to prioritise the spirituality of our children and youth, and extending this through the ministry of our YMCA Christian Youth worker, Nina Saint, and Lay Schools worker, Naomi Malone;
- The buildings are well maintained, and their potential is being stretched through our community spaces renewal project HPC 60/60;
- Good stewardship of finances which are well budgeted, and the financial report shows a successful financial strategy;
- Given the effects of the pandemic, and whilst there has been inevitable reduction in weekly attendance at worship, this is now growing, and we have quite a number of new people worshipping with us;
- Our musical life is going from strength to strength under the leadership of our Music Director Caroline Worster;
- Also, with services offered online since the challenging times of COVID-19 show a flexibility and adaptability that is encouraging;

4. Financial Review

It has been another busy year for the Finance Team at HPC. The cost-of-living crisis is having a serious impact on our lives, but we are immensely grateful for all the support you generously give us through the year.

The most important things to note in the financial affairs of the Parish include the following:

Planned giving through Standing Orders are mostly holding steady, and Sunday plate collections have increased somewhat, however, the most significant way of Giving now is through the Sum Up card reader (or tappy thing) which our Givers now use at Services, Meeting Point – or Welcome Wednesdays as it's new name, and of course Noah's Ark. Through the monthly Sum Up reports, the data is analyzed, and the donations received are added to the appropriate accounts.

Once again, Church Hall lettings income has exceeded all budget expectations – a huge thanks to Jenny Goodwin for her sterling work – we took a total of nearly £70,000. Whilst this is the most significant income stream for the Church, we also keep a close eye on the costs through reports compiled by Grace Readings, a member of the church Finance Panel team, so that we do not lose sight of the expenses involved in running the Hall in the most cost-effective way.

Similarly, in order to be able to budget effectively, we have now set up a planned Schedule of Works with help from Richard Hodges and Lesley Matthew.

We are also conscious of being careful with our liquid assets, and to that end the PCC approved a move to amalgamate the N.2 bank account (where legacies are held) and our general Savings account, to take advantage of the best possible interest rates available to HSBC account holders. In so doing, we accrued interest of approximately £500 in the last quarter of 2023.

Our fund-raising events of late 2023 included a fun Quiz night, and a revamped Christmas Markets which together yielded profits of £2,500.

In terms of expenditure, the balance of £15,000 was paid off for the new Marian Centre windows, and a further £6,500 was spent on the 60/60 Project on architect's fees and the Access Audit in preparation for the planning application and works to take place.

Another important expense in 2023 was for Y Hornsey led by our Youth Worker Nina Saint. However, most of the expense was covered by grants awarded by the Greig trust, and paid over from St Mary's school, and the remainder is coming from the church's Catechist Fund, with the PCC's approval.

My grateful thanks go to Fr. Bruce, Mthr. Clemency, the church wardens (Annie, Richard and Angus), Natasha for her timely reminders, and of course, to Winnie who does all the groundwork preparing the accounts and helping me produce reports for the PCC.

It just remains for me to say to each and every one of you a big, big thank you for your kind generosity in your steadfast support for the Church and Parish. Thank You!

Lotti Wander
Treasurer

5. Reserves Policy

The PCC policy is to set reserves aside to act as a buffer for any times of difficulty or of development. Reserves are identified within the various funds held by the PCC. Funds designated as unrestricted for the general running and maintenance of the parish and its buildings or as restricted funds. A restricted fund can only be used in accordance with the purposes designated for it.

The PCC has reserves which were set aside for the HPC 60/60 project, to cover when the hall could not generate any income, which will be during refurbishment. To that effect, a separate savings account was opened, and funds from the hall account are now held there.

Plans for Future Periods

We plan to continue to make Christ known according to our mission statement through the priorities set in our Mission Action Plan. Central to this will be the next stages of our renewal project OPEN DOOR, the next stage in HPC 60/60, focusing upon how we can improve the access, welcome and invitation to the building and church community. Under the leadership of our talented Ministry Team, we continue to be open to new opportunities to serve the community, especially those in need, such as the elderly. We will continue our commitment to grow as a church with discernment at its heart, listening to the Holy Spirit and trying to respond to any as yet unforeseen needs that may present themselves.

6. Risk Management

The PCC are committed to managing, and if practicable to reducing, the major risks that they have already identified. They also seek to identify new risks as they arise and subject them to the same process of management and reduction. The PCC has professional support from Precision Services, who provide building management and health and safety services.

7. Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council of Hornsey Parish Church is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity, and the appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC consists of the Rector, the two Churchwardens (elected for a five-year term), twelve members elected by the APCM (each elected for a three-year term) and Deanery Synod members elected for a three-year term. Any other clergy attached to the parish are ex-officio members of the PCC. There can be up to three co-opted members as well. The PCC meets four to five times a year. There is a Standing Committee made up of the Churchwardens, Treasurer, Clergy, and co-opted members which meets regularly and has the authority to make some decisions on behalf of the PCC.

Day to day management is carried out by the Rector, Fr Bruce Batstone, and his delegates.

8. Administrative Information

Hornsey Parish Church, Cranley Gardens, London N10 3AH

Charity number: 1157748

Charity name: Parochial Church Council of Hornsey Parish Church (The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary with St George Hornsey) London Diocese

Website: www.hornseyparishchurch.org

For correspondence:

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E-mail: fr.bruce@hornseyparishchurch.org

Telephone: 020 8883 6846

The independent examiner is Beatty & Co, Chartered Certified Accounts, Muswell Hill, N10 3HL.

Contacts

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Assistant Priest: Fr Dennis Bury Tel: 07469 952112 Email: dennisscience@hotmail.com	Pastoral Assistant: Emily Clough Email: emily@hornseyparishchurch.org
Churchwardens: Richard Hodges Tel: 07792000061 Angus McIndoe Tel: n/a Email: rch@berwinconrad.plus.com Email: angus@mcindoe.com	
Church Office: Tel: 020 8444 3553 Email: office@hornseyparishchurch.org	
Lay Readers: Vicki Osborne Email: vicki@egtwo.com	Chaplain: Pam Curran Tel: 020 8888 1942
Lay Schools Worker, Baptism enquiries, Noah's Ark: Naomi Malone Tel: 07776 588602 Email: naomi@hornseyparishchurch.org	Children's Champions: Naomi Malone, Nina Saint, Natasha Warr, Coral Lowcock
Church Visiting Team: If you, or someone you know, might appreciate a visit from us, please speak to Pam Curran (Chaplain) or one of the clergy.	
Wedding and Same Sex Blessing enquiries: Please contact Fr. Bruce.	Music Director: Caroline Worster music@hornseyparishchurch.org
Youth Fellowship (YMCA Youth Work): Nina Saint: nina@hornseyparishchurch.org	
Church Hall Information and Bookings: Jenny Goodwin Tel: 020 8444 3553 Email: hpchalls@gmail.com	Church Secondhand Bookshop: Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays 10-1pm. Speak to Cathy Edis email: thebasementbookshop@gmail.com
Evidence Checkers: Annie Perkins and Lorraine Fincham Email: dbs@hornseyparishchurch.org	

For all other information please check out our website: www.hornseyparishchurch.org

Follow us on twitter @hornseychurch or join Hornsey Parish Church on Facebook

Ex-Officio members	
Fr Bruce Batstone	Rector
Mthr Clemency Fritter	Curate
Richard Hodges	Churchwarden
Angus McIndoe	Churchwarden
Elected Members	
Lotti Wander	Treasurer
Chris Arnold	PCC Member
Pam Carson	PCC Member
Mercy Cleland	PCC Member
Georgie Lyttelton	PCC Member
Paul Little	PCC Member
Michael Baker	PCC Member
Hazel Griffiths	PCC Member
Nina Saint	Deanery Synod
Hosein Mashayekhi	PCC Member
Natasha Warr	PCC Secretary
Co-opted Members	
Lesley Matthew	PCC Member

Safeguarding Statement

Hornsey Parish Church believes that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all those who are vulnerable (children, young people and vulnerable adults). We expect all of our staff, volunteers and those who use our premises to share this commitment and value the support of those who worship here in achieving this.

If you have any concerns please contact the Safeguarding Officer - Naomi Malone, safeguarding@hornseyparish.org Fr Bruce or any member of the Safeguarding Group.

Important numbers:

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: Michelle Burns 020 3837 5082

Thirtynine:eight helpline: 0303 003 1111

Family Lives (previously Parentline): 0808 800 222

Childline: 0800 1111

**THIS CHURCH IS
CONCERNED ABOUT
DOMESTIC ABUSE**



Hornsey Parish Church:

- Understands domestic abuse to be the abuse of a person physically, sexually, psychologically, spiritually, emotionally, socially or financially within an intimate or family-type relationship, which forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. This can include forced marriage and so-called 'honour crimes'.
- Holds that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable and irreconcilable with the Christian faith and Christian way of living.
- Accepts that domestic abuse is a serious problem, which occurs in church families as well as in wider society.
- Undertakes to listen to, support and care for those affected by domestic abuse.
- Will always place the safety of adults and children affected by domestic abuse as the highest priority.

Speak to a member of the clergy or the Safeguarding Team if you are concerned about domestic abuse, either for yourself or someone you know

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE: 0808 2000 247

LOCAL HELPLINES

Hearthstone 0208 888 5362 open Mon - Fri 9-4pm

Solace Women's Aid 0808 802 5565 open Mon - Fri 10 - 4 Tues 6-8pm

Rector's Report

Just before Easter, someone from the church said to me, "There is renewal in the air"! I found this very encouraging as it chimed in with a sense that I myself was feeling. It does feel like the Spirit of God is renewing the life of Hornsey Parish Church, and for this I give great thanks.

With congregation numbers up at all services during the week; the presence of children each week gifting our worship once again; with a choir brimming with talent and in size; new faces in church, bringing their talents and commitment; the Welcoming Wednesday lunch back to double figures every week: I hope you too feel that there is renewal in the air.

During this past year we said goodbye to Mthr Mitzi who brought so much to our community in so many ways, lovingly holding the tiller as our church sailed through the choppy waters of change and challenge. The parish of Clay Hill feel much blessed to have her as their Vicar, as well they should, and it is great to see her from time to time which is one of the many gifts of her living just up the road.

We said goodbye to Bishop Rob as Bishop of Edmonton in this past year too. Such a supportive bishop to Hornsey Parish Church, with a parting gift in the form of Mthr Clemency who was ordained deacon in July. Mthr Clemency is a fabulous colleague, bringing so many unique gifts. It is a joy to accompany her in these special and formative early years of ordained life, and we look forward to celebrating with her when, God willing, she is ordained priest on 22nd June.

Emily Clough has joined the Ministry Team as Pastoral Assistant in the past year. We are delighted that she will be with us for two years, and her leadership of the new Older People's Project is a great arena for her gifts of compassion and kindness, among others, that are a gift in our community.

I know that, like me, many of you are pleased we still see Harry Daniels back amongst us from time to time. As he establishes an academic career in Oxford, his involvement in cultural events at the Tower and occasional serving, are a tribute to the welcome he received here as congregant and then part time Pastoral Assistant for a year.

One of the great privileges of our life together here is that we are developing something of a specialism in supporting ministerial formation, particularly in younger people. As most of you know, we are part of the network of churches that form the North London Pastoral Assistant Scheme. This Scheme has been running for more than twenty years, delivering over sixty women and men to ordained ministry, as well as other just as important expressions of ministry in God's church too. Indeed, Mthr Clemency, and Fr Ben too, are alumni of the Scheme, and we look forward to cheering Emily on her journey of discernment as it continues.

One of the wonderful gifts of being Rector of Hornsey is getting to work with such talented people. This is not only you, the congregation, but the Ministry Team too. A huge 'thank you' to Nina our Community Children and Youth Worker, Naomi our Lay Schools Worker, Jean our Sacristan, Pam our Chaplain and Fr Dennis our Assistant Priest.

In this past year, we have waved loved friends off as they embark for new horizons. Among them I think of Philomena and Cliff, Clay, Jenny and Lucy. We also lost our dear sister Clare Goymer, such a beautiful daughter of God, gathered to her eternal rest somewhat unexpectedly. Clare was such a special presence, who served her church and community in many ways: school governance, through the sharing of art, supporting the safeguarding team, to name just a few. May she rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Our work with schools continues to flourish. St Mary's had a recent SIAMS inspection, which praised much about its qualities as a Church school, particularly singling out a very positive relationship with the local church which made us feel very proud. We also have received visits this year from Campsbourne School in Hornsey, Crowland School in Tottenham.

The 60/60 Open Door project will be launched officially by Bishop Sarah in the Autumn, and with positive results from fundraising being seen already, now possible since we gained planning permission, I continue to be grateful to Annie Perkins for her able leadership of the Development group, and for its faithful and committed members.

Our Church Officers are made up of very talented and loving group people, offering so much time and commitment to the governance of the church. At the risk of thanking only particular people, I do want to highlight the ministry of Lotti Wander our wonderful Treasurer, and Richard Hodges and Angus McIndoe our Churchwardens. Richard's term ends at the APCM, when we will show well deserved appreciation for so much that he gives, looking forward to him continuing to support his successors with the wisdom and abilities he brings in abundance.

I hope you will enjoy reading this year's Annual Report which reflects so much of what we must be thankful for as the Holy Spirit creates so many avenues and entrances for the people of God to become part of our family. We are grateful for your support in the many ways you offer it: without your generous service, financial contribution, prayer and encouragement we could not do what we do. THANK YOU.

With the assurance of my prayers

Fr Bruce

Wardens' Report

Introduction

Our Parish Eucharist, at 10.30 on Sunday, continues to be a focus for our parish devotions. The numbers attending have increased this year as we hopefully leave the pandemic behind us. In addition, on Sundays we have Morning Prayer in the Church Room, an open-air service at the tower at 4pm, and Sacred Space, Contemplative Eucharist at 6pm.

Social activities continue, with Welcome Wednesday, a weekly meeting time over lunch, and 'Going Places' trips to various places in the vicinity. The Christmas market was again our major fundraising event.

Mthr Clemency joined us at the beginning of the academic year, and is proving to be a wonderful curate. She has taken to her role exceptionally well, and is getting to know us. We are privileged to be involved in the development of such a talented young priest, and to see her progress through her three years with us. We look forward to her ordination in the near future and to her first mass.

We are exceptionally lucky to be considered as a training parish, largely because of the skills of Fr Bruce, who does an amazing job in supporting young talent to aspire to the priesthood, and develop the appropriate skills. Emily Clough joined us also as our pastoral assistant and has taken to this role with unusual talent. She has decided to stay with us for a further year which is very much appreciated.

Fabric Report

Over the past few years much attention has had to be given to maintenance of the fabric of our church, hall, St Mary's tower and curate's flat. Much of this has been catching up or fire-fighting and now that most, if not all, of the major items needing immediate action have been attended to the aspiration is in future to approach maintenance on a more proactive basis rather than respond to issues as and when they arise. To this end we are looking at drawing up a schedule of future works, based on recommendations in the quinquennial reports, arranged in order of priority over the next ten years or so. This should better allow work to be carried out in an orderly fashion and enable the PCC to plan its finances in advance. We shall see how this turns out. Work done over the past year is as follows:

West and east side garden gates

The old west side gate had rusted through in several places and could not be repaired. We had two quotes for a replacement, Arc Fabrications quoted £1,200 plus VAT whereas Dodals only asked £785 with no VAT for a bespoke gate. Dodals installed the new gate on 7th February; it looks very similar to the old. Those parts of the old hinges as are attached to the church wall have been reused. Sean has repainted the east side gate.

Church lighting

On 23 November 2022 the PCC approved new lighting at a cost of £13,806 (plus VAT) to be installed by Smart Electrical. The lighting would use Casambi wireless system to control the lights, with new control switches in the church. This would provide the flexibility of the DALI system, but depend upon wireless technology rather than running a DALI cable. This option uses current wiring, but not the existing Helvar control unit. The new system was installed in February 2023. There was subsequently

a problem with the downlighters which arose from use of the old wiring and has now been repaired by Smart Electrical re-wiring the circuit.

Church central heating pump

In March the pump leaked causing a flood in the church basement. Fortunately there was no serious damage. The Beaver Co. advised that the pump was old and could not be repaired; a replacement was procured and fitted at a cost of £1,700 plus VAT.

The old pump that was removed was a solid and extremely heavy lump of iron which could barely be moved let alone carried and I wondered how we could dispose of it. The Beaver engineer estimated its scrap value at around £20 which would be exceeded by the cost of paying someone to take it away. He suggested leaving it out on the pavement and, after a struggle, succeeded in getting it there. I was sceptical that anyone would want such a heavy, low value item but to my amazement it was gone within 5 minutes!

Church Hall, Marian Centre windows

In 2022 approval was given to accept the quote of £23,724.35 plus VAT from Original Sash. The company proposed retaining the existing architraves and cill boards and fitting the new windows within the old woodwork. After consulting Paul Jackson this was agreed this on the understanding:

- 1, that the old woodwork was sound enough and that the fitting was done tidily without any gaps;
- 2, That the new window cills would still be of sapele hardwood (which was confirmed).

The windows were installed as planned in the week beginning 31st July. The scaffold used was the firm's own at an additional cost of £650 plus VAT. Original Sash advised that the new windows were already weatherproof and should not need to be repainted for at least 8 years when the warranty expired. They should be inspected and cleaned annually. The new windows look very well and should go some way towards insulating the Dance Studio.

Peter the painter redecorated the main hall lobby and Marian Centre ground floor windows and external door to the garden at a cost of £320. At a further cost of £640 he repainted the upstairs windows not already repainted, the rear hall doors and the ballet school entrance door.

145a North View Road

Various items required attention during the year. Sean carried out some redecoration prior to Mthr. Clemency's arrival in June. Bracewell's had a leaking gutter repaired which it is hoped will address damp issues affecting the flat. The £160 cost was shared with the owner of the downstairs flat.

During the time the flat was occupied by tenants a serious infestation of bamboo in the garden, which had spread from next door, was allowed to develop. After obtaining a number of quotes I instructed Alison Chaib-Eddour. This required two visits and many hours of work eventually costing a total of £789. The bamboo will not necessarily have been permanently eradicated as it could creep back from next door, and it will continue to need attention to ensure it does not recur.

St Mary's tower and churchyard

It will be recalled that in August 2022 the PCC, on behalf of the Friends of Hornsey Church Tower, initiated the procedure for obtaining a faculty for installation of external lighting to the east side of the church tower, the addition of steps to either side of the terrace on the east side entailing the removal of two sections of the terrace wall and the installation of a secure external storage unit in the churchyard.

This has become protracted.

On 6th March Fr. Bruce, the Friends and I had a meeting with the new Haringey Head of Parks and Leisure, Simon Farrow and Parks Project Officer Glynis Kirkwood-Warren. There it was explained that so far as the terrace was concerned and whilst not denying responsibility for maintenance of the structure (which was created by the Borough of Hornsey in 1950) Mr Farrow expected there to have been fundraising by the Friends/PCC before Haringey could be approached to contribute. Glynis advised that Haringey required a licence to put up the new storage unit but could not at that time say how a licence could be obtained or from whom. We were subsequently advised that the matter was one for the Planning Department and an application for a licence was submitted in August. Six months later we were informed that the proposals were agreed so far as the Planning Department was concerned but that the licence would have to be obtained from the Parks Department where it is back with Glynis Kirkwood-Warren. NB, because of the cycle path running through it the churchyard is primarily the responsibility of the Highways Department although some functions are contracted to Parks.

Chris Horsfall of Precision (now 'Green Tree') inspected the tower as part of his visit on 28th April and identified as hazards a severely cracked step in the spiral staircase and other steps which had become very worn. Following confirmation that no faculty would be required a total of 10 steps were repaired by stonemason Mark Hooper at a cost of £3,150.00 plus VAT. This was the first notable tower repair expenditure we have faced in recent years.

Church Garden

The Church garden remains a work in progress but over the year has been much improved. It has the potential to be a 'hidden gem' concealed as it is from view from the road and deserves to be much more widely used than it is. It falls into four distinctive parts these being a formal garden behind the Church Room; the Memorial Garden behind the church, a large paved patio beside the chancel and what has become a vegetable garden beyond that. The formal garden was tidied up and the shrubs pruned by Luke Batstone for which we are most grateful as we are to Pam Curran who attends to the Memorial Garden. Recently a group got together on a Saturday morning for a much needed weeding of the patio. It was gratifying to see how much a group could achieve in a few hours and it is the hope that this was only the first of a series of such sessions. A garden shed has been ordered which will mean all the tools will be at hand and free up space in the Flower Room.

Dates for future Saturday sessions will be announced in due course and in the meanwhile anyone interested in helping with the garden can do so on Wednesday mornings or afternoons or, indeed, by arrangement at any other time.

One of the reasons the garden is underused is that it is relatively inaccessible. A new opening from the church nave such as the one planned will make a huge difference and mean that there will be level access from the main part of the church.

Welcoming Wednesday

Formerly known as Meeting Point the Wednesday lunches continue to be popular and thanks are due to all the regular chefs. Wednesday is becoming a regular day for activities and offers the option of a spot of gardening before or after lunch. A new departure is an early afternoon discussion and activity group, led by Pastoral Assistant Emily, for those whose memory is not as good as it was.

Health and Safety

Chris Horsfall's usual inspection took place on 28th April. As usual he had plenty of observations about ways in which hazards could be reduced and accidents made less likely. Inevitably his main focus was on the hall as our building most frequently entered by the public and we are very grateful to Jenny for her conscientious attendance to these. Precision, now known as 'Green Tree Ltd' also do our annual PAT, emergency lighting, fire alarm, fire extinguisher and lightning conductor tests. We continue also to be very grateful to Cynthia and Roger for their diligent testing of emergency lights and fire alarms and for monitoring the fire extinguishers throughout the year.

Conclusion and Thanks

We give thanks for the many contributions of a loyal team of workers and volunteers. Nina, Pam and Fr. Dennis contribute to the ministry team, and Jean does the behind-the-scenes role as sacristy. Jenny runs a very tight ship with hall management, with maintenance supported by Sean and Peter.

There are so many volunteers that assist in the running of the services, including the welcoming team, the flower arrangers, the sound team, and many others.

We conclude by thanking the ministry team for their unswerving loving ministry to us all in the past year.

Richard Hodges (Warden)

Angus McIndoe (Warden)

Curate's Report

Introduction

It feels both no time at all and years since I joined Hornsey Parish Church back in July last year. I have been touched by how welcoming everyone has been towards me and the way I have been embraced both by the congregation, church officers, and ministry team. It has been a big adjustment for me, both in beginning my ordained ministry and moving into a new place, so thank you all for all your patience and support.

Young Adults Group (AXIOS)

It has been a real joy this year to begin running a group for the young adults (18-40) in our church. So far, we have met a few times for faith centred fellowship, and I hope we shall continue to meet once a month. Having a young adults group means that we have more to offer our young people once they age out of groups like Youth Fellowship, and helps the church welcome people new to faith or new to the area. Young adults are both statistically less likely to be churchgoers, and the most likely to experience loneliness in London. I am excited to see where this group will go in the future and am delighted by the enthusiasm it has been met with.

Tower at 4

The service at the Tower on Sunday afternoons has been changed into a new format to seek to meet the needs of the congregation. Now that people are less concerned about shared indoor spaces, there was less need for the service to remain a eucharist with two other eucharists available on Sundays. The new format of a prayer and discussion group has led to some great conversations about the day's gospel passage as well as some time to reflect upon faith more generally.

Flat Chaplaincy

In July last year we said goodbye to Teus and Harry as Pastoral Assistants, and Karl also moved out of the PA flat. It was a delight to welcome new Pastoral Assistants Edith, Patryk and Emily; with this year being a full house! Being a chaplain to the new Pastoral Assistants has been a real pleasure and it has been wonderful to see the supportive and prayerful environment that the flat continues to be.

Open Church and Larder

I was delighted to note that our church is open each day for anyone to come in and use the space. I have often noted people using the church as a space to pray and reflect throughout the day. This has also helped with our charitable offering to the community, as we have turned our foodbank box into a community larder. This is thanks to the generosity of our congregation and those who have donated at the Nisa shop across the road.

Events

We have had several wonderful events both within our church community and alongside our ecumenical brothers and sisters. Our Quiz Night back in October was a particular success, raising a lot of money for the church as well as being a fun evening. The Christmas Market was the jewel in the crown of fundraising success, with huge thanks to Lesley for organising. Alongside other denominations across Hornsey we have also had some great missional activities such as Christmas Carol singing, children's activity days and the harvest lunch. I look forward to what the future holds in terms of events and fundraising.

Conclusion

It continues to be a joy to be your curate and I look forward to what the future holds. I would like to say thank you to all who have made me feel so at home here, and for the patience and kindness you have shown me. It has also been great to have such talented and supportive colleagues in both the ministry team and church officers. Thank you, Fr Bruce, Fr Dennis, Nina, Pam, Emily and Naomi, our Churchwardens, Jean our sacristan, Natasha our PCC Secretary, Lotti our treasurer and the members of the PCC for their love, support, and encouragement.

Mother Clemency

Pastoral Assistant Year-End Report

As I reflect on the conclusion of my first year as a Full-Time Pastoral Assistant at HPC, I am deeply grateful for the enriching experiences, meaningful connections, and transformative growth that have marked my journey thus far. I am excited to continue serve in this capacity for another year.

Youth and Children& Ministry

My involvement in youth work, toddler group, and school assemblies has been a cornerstone of my ministry this past year. Collaborating with Nina in the youth fellowship program, Assisting Noahs Ark with Naomi, and participating in school assemblies with the ministry team have provided valuable opportunities to nurture the spiritual growth and development of young people across various age groups.

These endeavours have fostered a sense of community, belonging, and connection among our youth and children, laying the foundation for a lifelong journey of faith. These opportunities have helped me grow not only in my faith journey but also engaging with the wider community.

Administrative Support and Outreach

In addition to my pastoral responsibilities, I have been actively involved in various administrative tasks, including printing service sheets and creating the Weekly Sheets. I assisted Mthr Clemency in preparations for the quiz night and other one off or occasional events such as Spaghetti Junction and the Christmas Market.

I have also been present and assisted at Welcoming Wednesday lunch program which is sometimes followed by the Forget-Me-Not group or the Pensioners advocacy group. These efforts have contributed to the smooth functioning of church operations and have helped to extend hospitality and support to members of our congregation and community.

Community Engagement

My engagement with the YMCA has been a significant aspect of my ministry, providing opportunities to connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds and offer spiritual support and companionship. I have also been a part of the pastoral team and been on home visits with Fr Bruce, Mthr Clemency and on my own. I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of love and compassion in building bridges and fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion.

Living in Community:

Living in community with Patryk and Edith has been a source of mutual support, encouragement, and growth. Our shared life together has strengthened our bonds of friendship and collaboration, as we seek to embody the values of hospitality, service, and love in our daily interactions and ministry endeavours. Mthr Clemency has enabled us to have such a productive living and working space through her support as flat Chaplain.

Looking Ahead:

As I look forward to my second year as a Full-Time Pastoral Assistant, I am filled with anticipation for the opportunities and possibilities that lie ahead.

In conclusion, I am deeply grateful for the trust and support of the congregation and leadership of HPC, and I am honoured to continue serving in this capacity for another year.

Emily Clough
Pastoral Assistant

Older People's Project Report

Over the past year, we have made significant strides in our efforts to support and engage with older members of our community through our Older People's Project. This project encompasses two main components, each aimed at enhancing the well-being and quality of life of older individuals and their caregivers.

Strengthening Links with the Older People's Advocacy Group:

One key aspect of our project has been the strengthening of links with the Older People's Advocacy Group, which meets monthly in our hall. Through regular conversations and interactions with the participants, we have worked to foster a sense of community, belonging, and support among older individuals in our midst. These conversations have provided valuable insights into the needs, concerns, and aspirations of older people in our community, informing our ongoing efforts to develop programs and initiatives that address their unique challenges and opportunities.

Forget-Me-Not Group:

In addition to our collaboration with the Older People's Advocacy Group, we have launched a new initiative called the Forget-Me-Not Group, named after the flower which is the symbol for dementia. This group is designed to provide support and stimulation for individuals with memory issues and their caregivers. Each month, the group gathers to explore a different theme through music, pictures, and interactive activities. These sessions are designed to stimulate memory, encourage social interaction, and promote emotional well-being among participants.

Evolution of the Forget-Me-Not Group:

The Forget-Me-Not Group is still in its early stages of development, but we have already seen encouraging signs of its impact on participants. The group provides a safe and welcoming space for individuals living with dementia to connect with others, share their experiences, and engage in meaningful activities. As we continue to refine and develop the program, we are committed to ensuring that it meets the evolving needs of those it serves and remains a source of comfort, joy, and support for all involved. The uses of music in the group is very popular and we hope to continue to incorporate live music into the sessions.

Looking Ahead:

As we look ahead to the future of our Older People's Project, we are excited about the possibilities for further growth and innovation. We remain committed to deepening our connections with older members of our community, listening to their voices, and responding with compassion and creativity to their needs.

In conclusion, we are happy with the progress we have made in our Older People's Project over the past year, and we are grateful for the support and participation of all those who have contributed to its success. With continued dedication and collaboration, we look forward to building on this foundation and creating a future where all older individuals feel valued, respected, and supported in our community.

Warm regards

Emily Clough

Safeguarding Report for the APCM, 19th May 2024

The Safeguarding Group members are Fr Bruce, Mthr Clemency, Naomi Malone (Church Safeguarding Officer), Nina Saint, Natasha Warr and Coral Lowcock (Children's Champions), Annie Perkins (Domestic Abuse Awareness) and Angus McIndoe (Church Warden), Coral Lowcock and Kathryn Johnson are safer-recruiting.

Many thanks to Annie Perkins for processing all the DBS clearance applications as Lead Recruiter and Evidence Checker and Lorraine Fincham for assisting. These roles are combined at HPC as they are both part of the DBS process.

The Safeguarding team meet once a term to discuss and adopt Diocesan advice, address specific Safeguarding issues, and to report on progress on various developments at the Pastoral meetings. This reflects the fact that many of the protocols for Safeguarding are now in place, and that the work of the group is now focused on offering support to those who need it. As this conflates with much of the pastoral work of the ministry team, it makes sense to hold our meetings together. Hornsey Parish Church takes its safeguarding responsibilities very seriously, and Safeguarding is an agenda item for every PCC meeting, in addition to the full annual report to the APCM and another to the PCC in May or June. This year the annual report to the PCC is for the June meeting.

We are a Domestic Abuse Aware Church. As a church and as individuals we have increased our understanding of some of the issues around this difficult and distressing subject, and also have a greater understanding of healthy relationships. There are information leaflets posted around the church and Hall for anyone needing further advice and support. If you or anyone you know is affected by Domestic Abuse, you can speak to any member of the Clergy and the Safeguarding Group. We have requested that anyone with a role in church, whether voluntary or not, sign the Confidential Declaration form. Thank you to those who have signed this, and also those who have completed the online Safeguarding Training when requested.

During the past year the Safeguarding Group has:

- Continued to employ a Safer Recruitment process.
- Members of the PCC have completed the Diocesan e-learning Safeguarding training. Anyone with a role in church signs the Confidential Declaration, and Code of Conduct.
- We regularly update the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard, and we are on Level 2.

YMCA Chaplaincy Report

It has been both a jolt of the familiar and the shock of the new as I rejoined the YMCA Chaplaincy team as curate.

The familiar has been focused on the continued ministry of presence that is offered to the residents and staff at the YMCA. It has been great to return to this ministry I found so rewarding as a Pastoral Assistant. It has also been a delight to see the odd familiar face among the staff; though it has been encouraging that nearly all the residents have moved on since I was last in the area.

By offering a presence at the YMCA we have been able to talk to the residents and staff as belonging to neither group, and therefore offering an impartial space for sharing ideas and seeking spiritual guidance and prayer. Another familiar aspect of my ministry here was the wrapping of Christmas presents for every resident and member of staff, which was a long but ultimately joyful task and I hope offered something of the festive spirit to everyone at the YMCA.

There have been some unfamiliar challenges to chaplaincy, mostly the changes to the structure of mealtimes and life at the YMCA that occurred over the pandemic. It is harder to have longer conversations with residents with few tables in the canteen, where previously it had been like a dining room. Another of the challenges had occurred just before Easter when the canteen was shut for weeks for refurbishment and residents were given little warning and had few ways of acquiring hot food. This challenge was one that the chaplaincy team was able to help with, through a hot meal offered at Holy Innocents on one evening. This was well attended and mostly organised by the Pastoral Assistants, and was a great success in their ministry at the YMCA.

As I'm sure we are aware, homelessness continues to be a major problem in London, and across the UK. The YMCA and local charities offer a key lifeline to young people who are facing immense challenges. Our ministry is centred on being a presence in this struggle, not removing any burdens directly but being alongside people. To be able to hear the stories of the residents and support the staff in their work is our privilege.

Mother Clemency

Deanery Synod, Report

Deanery Synod is committed to resourcing parishes in the Deanery for inclusive ministry, and in the past few years has had a series of excellent speakers on issues such as racial justice, disability, and youth. This year the Deanery was only able to host one session, which took place at the beginning of February. It was an excellent forum on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)--an issue that the parish started to look at several years ago.

Next year the Deanery is hoping to host more sessions--they are open to all and always interesting, and I strongly encourage members of the congregation to come!

Nina Saint
Deanery Synod Representative

Electoral Roll Report

This year we have added six new members: Hannah Buchan, Emily Clough, Hannah Lowcock, Matthew Johnston, Hossein Rokhsari, and Jean Wong. During the same period we lost nine members: seven people moved away, and Clare Goymer sadly died in September.

We also discovered that one member of the electoral roll needed to be removed for a very happy reason--Mthr Patricia Brown, because as an ordained person she is no longer eligible.

Our new total is 127.

Pam Carson
Electoral Roll Officer

Church Chaplain

As church chaplain, Pam's role asks her to place prayer and worship at the heart of our common life together. She continues to lead the Contemplative Prayer Group and keeping it with a high profile (please see Retreat Report).

With the return of in person meetings, Pam continues to meet with the Ministry Team, who have continued to keep pastoral contact with our community the highest priority. With regular telephone calls, emails, sending cards, and house visits when possible, we feel we have kept in touch with those who have wished to hear from us, and Pam is integral is helping us to do this.

What Pam wrote a recent report still holds true: "What has struck me most profoundly is the vital importance of prayer. How we can be spiritually present with God and one another in a very powerful way. All kinds of prayers are valid and especially when they deepen in contemplation, where we gradually move from our heads to our hearts finding in Jesus love, healing and peace in these very difficult days".

Our grateful thanks to Pam for her praying and prayerful presence amongst us.

Father Bruce

Nurture and Reflection Groups

Parish Retreat

In Summer 2023 we had our weekend parish retreat at Worth Abbey, a Benedictine monastery in East Sussex. Addresses were given by Fr Bruce. The retreat was fully booked (17 places) and next retreat is due to take place in June 2024, and has also had a good uptake.

The Contemplative Prayer Group has continued to meet weekly, at 10am on a Wednesday, and has a high number of attendees, with new members often trying it out. Any new members are always welcome.

Fr Bruce

Nurture Group

The Nurture group meets every Monday afternoon throughout the year. The meetings are online using Zoom. The majority of months we read a biblical text but in Advent and Lent we pause to participate in separate seasonal courses.

For this year's biblical text we have continued to read St Mathew's gospel. Reading the gospel line by line over a period of time, has enabled us to experience the gospel as it would have been seen by the first century Jewish Israelites for whom Mathew was writing, and to relate it to our own experiences.

Each session begins with prayer and an introduction to the day's passage distilled from contemporary commentaries led by Stephen. After approximately 30 minute discussion time, we enter into a period of Lectio Divina prayer related to the passage from St Mathew that we have been reading that day. Lectio Divina is a Benedictine style of prayer dating back to the 6th century. It has been valued ever since as a way of reading the scriptures that take us deeper into God's mystery.

Let us ruminate, and, as it were, chew the cud, that we may have the sweet juice, spiritual effect, marrow, honey, kernel, taste, comfort and consolation of them." Thomas Cranmer

Our Advent Course was led by Mthr. Clemency based on "The City is my Monastery" by Richard Carte. Selecting items from the book we read about his experiences in the Solomon Islands and how he came to set up the "Nazareth" community in London. Taking his inspiration, we looked at ways in which we can live a contemplative life within a metropolitan setting.

Our Lent course, "Listening" was led by Mirjam Ngoy-Verhage, the Diocesan Discipleship Enabler. She encouraged us to listen to the bible with our hearts and to respond with love. Our nurture group gently tries to foster this loving relationship with God both through bible study and prayer. We are group of about 7 regular members (usually between 5 and 7 present in a session). We welcome newcomers to come and share the bible with us and taste the experience of Benedictine Monastic prayer.

Annie Perkins and Stephen Driver

Welcoming Wednesdays

Welcoming Wednesday, formerly known as Meeting Point, has continued throughout the year. It's an opportunity to meet, and have lunch with, members of the congregation, the clergy and people in the community. There have been overseas visitors too. It takes place at midday in the church room, after the Eucharist, and nearly always involves a soup. The recommended donation is £4 but donations are voluntary.

This year it's been a pleasure to enjoy lunches provided by Fr Bruce, Margaret Battley, Anna Cumbers, Mthr Clemency, Emily Clough, Richard Hodges, Paul Little, Lesley Matthew, Annie Perkins, Judith Ross, Jean Wong and myself.

If you haven't been to Welcoming Wednesday please do come along. You will be welcome.

Ricardo Williams

Lay School's Worker Report

One of the main parts of my job I enjoy is going in to St Mary's School. I have been helping in Nursery and Reception on a Tuesday morning, followed by our Big Lunch Club with Year 1 and 2 in the Rainbow Room. On a Wednesday we have the Big Lunch Club with Year 3 and 4. I have extended the club to Years 5 and 6, because they were missing being a part of it. Both clubs are extremely popular, the children enjoy illustrating the bible story using the craft materials.

Nina and I started confirmation classes on the 16th of April, after school with Year 5 and 6. Confirmation is on the 30th June with Bishop Anderson Jeremiah. We hope to have a School Eucharist at church on the 12th June.

We were able to have our palm procession with Derek the donkey, and the whole of the Infants on Wednesday 27th March. We followed Derek along Hornsey High St to Rectory Gardens, where we met the Juniors on the green for our holy week service. St Mary's School also came to church on Tuesday 26th March, where they raised the roof with Year 3s great acting of the Easter story and the whole school's fantastic singing.

Noah's Ark

I would like to say a big thank you to Jean for setting up the group every Wednesday and Thursday. Thank you also to Chulani, Lorna, Emily and Mercy for helping to make our carer's and toddler group such a welcoming place.

Childrens Church

Nina and I have been starting Childrens Church in the Lady Chapel, with a Godly Play story and a time of prayer. We then return to the Parish Room for activities. The Creche continues to be in the same room. We have six new children. Thank you to Natasha, Peta and Coral for all their help with Children & Church.

Ecumenical Childrens Workshops

We held a children's workshop with the local Hornsey churches on the 8th of April. The children retold the story of the Road to Emmaus. They played parachute games, made pizza, painted jars, made felt flowers and decorated biscuits. We had a wonderful time! This was our second ecumenical workshop. The first one was in the October half term last year.

Naomi Malone

Youth Activities

Since the pandemic, our youth activities have tended to take place less at church and more in the community--an arrangement with both pluses and minuses! In particular, we are functioning more at St. Mary's School, and seeing young people more in their family settings.

Naomi and I continue to run sessions at school to help children discern whether First Communion and/or Confirmation are the right steps for them, and to prepare them. These aren't "classes", but groups in which children can create community and deepen their own spirituality, and then explore both Anglicanism and their own relationship to the sacraments. We bring the stories of our faith to them in many ways: through Godly Play, through guided meditations, etc. We particularly look at the Anglican way of doing theology, and how we read the Bible in the context of its own culture and also in light of the knowledge that humanity has gained over the centuries; this has led to many interesting discussions! We have been impressed by how open and thoughtful the young people are, bringing up profound questions about the nature of God and how God acts in the world; and also by how much they value stillness, and how fully they enter into it. Last year, in the vacancy after the departure of Bishop Rob, Bishop John Went came to the parish and confirmed 10 young people; this year we are looking forward to welcoming Anderson Jeremiah, the new Bishop of Edmonton.

Youth Fellowship continues to meet on Friday evenings. It has reconfigured itself many times over the past 7 years in response to the needs and desires of its attendees; at the moment, it is a small group that meets from 7 to 9 for a peaceful time of sharing and discussion. The group enjoys doing crafts together, and we have created marbled chocolate boxes, made jewellery, painted mugs, rocks, and shells, etc while reflecting together on how our weeks have gone. We always end with 30-40 minutes of silence in the beautifully candlelit chapel for writing, drawing or contemplation, and a short service of prayer for ourselves and for the world. While the participants enjoy the intimate feel of this small group, we would like to expand our offer; and, when staffing allows, are aiming to add an earlier session on Fridays for younger people aimed particularly, in the first instance, at those whom we have confirmed or welcomed into First Communion.

Our young people also contribute to parish life in a number of different ways--this year they have helped with concerts and other activities, made Christmas decorations which they sold at the Christmas Market, and contributed to our liturgies--reading at Christmas and other services, and burying the Alleluia for us on Shrove Tuesday!

It has been lovely to have Emily with us this year as our regular co-leader in Youth Fellowship, and Naomi has also been very generous about stepping in when needed. One of the great blessings in Hornsey Parish Church is the warmth with which our young people are embraced. I am always hugely grateful to the congregation for their kindness and generosity both towards our young people and also towards me; and my wonderful colleagues on the Ministry Team are sources of endless graciousness and support. Our youth ministry is sustained by the love and prayers of the parish, and I am grateful to you all.

Nina Saint

Y Hornsey

Y Hornsey is the parish's collaboration with the YMCA London City and North to reach out to children, youth and families in the local community, particularly those most in need and with least support. Our work is focused on improving the lives and long-term outlooks of the children, young people, and families we serve; we work in a flexible way to meet whatever needs we encounter. While we continue to work with families in the community who approach us or with whom we have links through previous work at Campsbourne School or the Kurdish Advice Centre, most of our work is currently focused in our parish school, St. Mary's. Children are referred to us by class teachers or senior staff, and we provide both one-to-one sessions and group work, depending on the needs of the child; we also provide support for parents and work with families at home when appropriate.

The one-to one work is generally attachment-based, and we use a variety of activities designed to engage the whole person (physical, emotional, social, cognitive, and spiritual) including talk, games, crafts, drama and art therapy, and using natural materials such as water or sand trays; we also grow and tend plants. Some children ask us to help them with their self-management skills; we work with them to identify their goals, which are usually around impulse control, anger management and interpersonal problem-solving, and then do exercises to improve their ability to make good choices for themselves. We strongly emphasise social skills, teaching children how to have respectful and appropriate interactions with peers and adults. We begin by modelling this ourselves--ensuring that as far as possible we always address children with courtesy and respect. This is often a surprise for those who spend most of their time being warned or told off!

We are also developing a "chill-out space" for children to de-stress, calm themselves, become aware of their bodies and their behaviour, and reconnect with their own sense of positivity and hope. As a refuge from the noise and bustle, it will use neutral colours and natural materials, and have lots of soft seating as well as some tented spaces to provide the safety of enclosure.

We continue to have very positive feedback about our work from children, parents, and staff, as they all face increasing challenges with ever-shrinking resources. While we are still coping with the long-term effects of the pandemic, we have also seen an exponential rise in issues arising from children's lives online, where they can end up involved in violent video games and social media feuds.

Finding funding to support Y Hornsey is a continual challenge. This year we have received grants for our work from the Greig Trust and from Hornsey Parochial Charities, to whom we are deeply grateful; and we feel a particular debt to the PCC for its generous support at a time when there are many calls on the parish's budget.

Nina Saint

Church Music Report

This year the choir has continued to sing regularly for Sunday morning services and has welcomed some new regular members. It's so wonderful to see the choir grow and have fantastic feedback of the welcoming community at Hornsey Parish Church.

Over the summer, we started doing short events of poetry and music at St Mary's Tower, including Shakespeare-themed music for St. George's Day and angelic music for Michaelmas. These are lovely events to step outside of the normal repertoire and combine different art forms together, as well as welcoming additional singers who can't come on a regular basis.

We have maintained a strong relationship with Holy Innocents Church, joining them to sing Faure's Requiem for All Souls and also combining forces to do a joint evensong.

We also held an incredibly moving service of readings and music for Advent at which the choir performed, with the Tower once again providing a beautiful atmosphere and setting. The Christmas carol service followed a few weeks later, with an ambitious programme and fantastic to again welcome some "regular extras" to the choir.

Ash Wednesday coincided with Valentine's Day this year, so on Shrove Tuesday, we held a service as a celebration of Love in all its forms, combining music and readings in the Lady Chapel. We included the ancient tradition of "burying the alleluia" before Lent began, processing the Alleluia up the nave to the altar, to the beautiful sound of plainchant. It was so lovely to have so many people there (and to share pancakes with afterwards!)

Enormous thanks to the choir for their dedication and support throughout the year, but especially during Christmas, Holy Week and Easter, where they contributed a huge amount of time to support the many additional services that take place.

The grand piano (on loan) and the upright piano are in good condition and have both been tuned in the past year. The organ has also been tuned recently and has had minor issues fixed through regular servicing.

We are also grateful for those who have filled in for me when I am unable to be at services, with particular thanks to Jeremy Jackman who has stepped in on multiple occasions.

Caroline Worster
Music Director



Mothers' Union Report

I would like to say another big "Thank you" to Pearl for all the hard work as our Treasurer, but also for chairing all our monthly meetings.

We have had a varied programme starting with our annual visit to Sumak Restaurant. We all enjoyed Emily's talk for Lent and our Flower arranging afternoon.

We have 23 members and we have a Bring and Buy Stall and MU Boxes and they are very generous. We raised £250 over the last year and Pearl is sending this with our Yearly subscription to Mothers Union to be divided between General Fund, Away from it all Holidays, Overseas, Prison work and London Initiative.

Members made the Daffodil bunches on the Saturday and Cakes on Mothering Sunday.

We are also making up Wash bags for the residents in the YMCA.

If you would like to come along to our meetings, we meet in the Church Room on the first Monday of each month at 2pm.

Ann Jones

Loving Creation

When the Loving Creation Group (LCG) got together last year to discuss the theme for our annual *Sowing the Seeds* event - now in its third year – we agreed to focus on championing local environmental educators, community gardeners and our very own Gardening Club!

Philip Jackson gave a tour of the Community Gardening Project in N17 which not only brings people together but provides an engaging and colourful backdrop in an urbanised area. Wier House provided an inside view of sustainable living and Sue Bennett and Earl Hyde, over at 5 Regis Close in Alexandra Park Road, gave a delightful talk and tour (and delicious homemade cakes) of their award-winning eclectic garden. Local author and environmentalist Bob Gilbert truly kept things local with an insightful tour of the church car park, to highlight just how much biodiversity there is right under your feet. Bob is an enthusiastic storyteller and we hope to have him back at this year's festival. Jean Wong did a fantastic job as interviewer, film maker and editor throughout the week and we now have our own Loving Creation You Tube channel!

A little further afield, and outside the parameters of the festival's theme, members of the LCG were 'struck and inspired' by a visit to Eco Church Gold plaque holder, St Paul's at Marylebone's and their beautiful tiny urban garden. Of particular interest was engaging the local school children to assist in the design and planting of this little oasis in the heart of London - to attract bees, butterflies and birds, as well as curious passers-by. Subsequent discussions took heed of the need to set up several gardening days this year, the first of which was led by Martijne and Fabiola in early April and had a good turnout.

On a practical recycling level, we are continuing to work with First Mile and monitor how best we can effectively minimise energy and waste in all areas of the church. In the latter half of 2024, we aim to carry out an audit of what's working well, what needs improving and what needs our attention, as we work toward gaining our Eco Church Silver award from Rocha. Recent analysis of the 2021 survey in January highlighted the opportunity to improve our community outreach with local sustainability groups and gardening projects to exchange knowledge and ideas. And we are sure that new LCG members Philip Jackson and Terry Anderson will provide invaluable guidance along with our long-established Gardening Club, who continue to maintain what we have, in preparation for what's to come!

Weekly publication of Green Tips from our PA Emily is well underway, and we have recently been advocating car sharing to and from our services and events wherever practically possible.

Our loving creation focus throughout the rest of 2024 will be inspired by nurturing the church gardens and external surroundings, to encourage members of our church and local community to come along and enjoy a peaceful and meditative space for pause and reflection, celebration and thanksgiving.

Georgie Lyttleton and the Loving Creation Group

Church Hall and Studio Lettings

Lettings

We started off the year with some disappointing news, Colourstrings (the North London Conservatoire) said that their classes had not returned to their pre-COVID numbers and so they had decided to reduce the number of hours they use the Studio (from 30 to 10 a week).

However, we were able to negotiate an increased hourly rate, so we only lost half of our income from them rather than two thirds. The vacant slots have been taken up with new regular bookings at an increased hire rate. We now have an additional ballet class who use the space for two sessions a week and a yoga class, who use the Studio on Sunday mornings and our main hall on Saturday mornings when it is available.

Generally bookings have kept at a steady pace and apart from Colourstrings we have not lost any regular bookings. As our new yoga class reserves any free Saturdays this means most of our weekends are busy. We hosted a karate group who were new to us last Summer and they have been renting our space at various weekends and have made enquiries about the Summer holiday which is our quietest period.

For the time being we have decided not to let the hall for events that end after 9pm. We hosted a couple of test events last year and they were not well received by our neighbours. On May 2nd we were the polling station for the 2024 Local and Mayoral elections.

Over the course of the year I have been asking people how they found the hall and most people said it was by coming to an event here. It is usually Noah's Ark, the Vintage Fair, a party or via our notice board. On that basis, I have removed us from the Sharesy website as they did not generate one enquiry but we remain with Halls. Hire which has brought in a few party enquiries.

Cleaners

We continue to use Cleaning Express and for the moment they are satisfactory. I will review the contract over the course of this year. One difficulty is that as our allocated cleaner gets in at 6am and works until 8am and so we only know if she is unable to come in after it is too late, a solution needs to be found.

Improvements

New windows were put in over the Summer of 2023 in the Marian Centre and the Studio space. Everyone, including the hall hirers were very pleased.

All of the outside windows and doors around the hall were painted and they look very smart. We also erected some screening along the section of fence between us and Dale Court so both properties have some privacy.

The doors to the electrical and gas cupboard in the basement bookshop were removed by a specialist company as they were identified as containing asbestos and one had very slight damage. They were replaced in September. The bookshop also had a metal grill put down outside their front door, no more wet feet or slipping when it rains.

Sean has helped enormously as usual, he put up another blind in the large hall at the request of some of the hirers, he moved the fire evacuation sledge to comply with Precision's advice and also installed

a second key box for the Studio. He repaired the ceiling in the disabled loo and a window in the men's loos which was broken during one of our evening parties.

Jenny Goodwin

The Church Bookshop

I am very happy to report that The Basement Bookshop continues to thrive and provide a focal point for many book lovers in the area surrounding the parish church. We are very grateful to all those people who help keep the enterprise going, notably: Wendy, Dorothy, Elaine, Connie and Ricardo.

Our opening times continue to be as follows:

10.00 to 12.00noon Friday morning (on alternate weeks)

10.00 to 1.00pm Saturday morning (on alternate weeks)

We have recently updated our list of dates and enclose a copy here. The opening times are published in the church's weekly newsletter and on the website.

There is a lovely atmosphere down in the bookshop and we would love to have more visits from the church congregation. We all know our regulars but continue to be sought out by new book lovers. We rotate the stock in the shop on a regular basis as we continue to receive lots of donations.

The bookshop has a presence whenever there's an event at St Mary's Church Tower and also at the church bazaar every November. The bookshop has made £1,400.00 (from Dec 22 to Dec 23) over the past year, all of which goes towards the church.

If you have any books you'd like to donate, please get in touch via our email address: thebasementbookshop@gmail.com, or ring Cathy on 07779 264085. Also, if you'd like to volunteer, we'd love to hear from you.

Those of you in the congregation who haven't yet discovered us, please come and take a look around! We have a wide variety of stock, lots of children's books, fiction, non-fiction, crime. All sorts. We look forward to seeing you!

Cathy Edis and Pearl Larney

60/60 Development Group

Members: Fr Bruce Bastone, Mthr Clemency, Nina Saint, Lesley Matthew, Annie Perkins (chair), Stephen Driver (Secretary)

The Development Group continues to meet on a regular basis, including recent meetings with our architect Paul Jackson and our fundraising Leah Stuttgart.

Planning permission was obtained on 15th February 2024 for the changes to the Frontage and Gardens. The changes listed in application were: Creation of new opening in boundary wall and entrance approach features to the church's main doorway; new external door to west side of the church in place of a window, with path and garden features; new wall and enlarged ashes area at the rear of the church; insertion of cycle racks; demountable parking bollards and lettering surrounds to church door.

The plans can be examined in detail by going on the Haringey planning portal, application number HGY/2023/3381.

Having obtained planning permission the Development Group (DG) went on to consider any additional changes that would need including in an application for a Faculty from the DAC. Notable amongst these was the cutting back of certain pews to allow wheel chair access. Mindful of the Standing Committee's view that the three pews beside the Memorial chapel should be cut back, rather than the single one originally planned, this modification was included in the Faculty application.

A memorial plaque will be incorporated into the memorial garden. After discussion on it wording on the consensus was that it should be: *May they have everlasting life "All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well"*

The DG has asked the DAC to approve its position on the back wall of the Apse, visible from the new benches in the enlarged memorial garden.

The Faculty was submitted to the DAC at the end of February and a couple of weeks ago we received a reply. The delegated member considering the proposal said that the proposals are broadly acceptable in principle, but additional details are needed. The DG in the process of providing those additional details.

Paul Jackson commissioned a costing of the proposed project, and the buildings estimate came to circa £112 800 + VAT. +VAT. Paul noted that whilst the surveyors costings have been itemised, it is not a simple adding and subtraction task. The surveyor added an additional column with the Prelim and OH&P costs apportioned to each item. These should be used with caution as an omission of a single item will not necessarily reduce the prelims by the apportioned amount. It does however give a budget to specific items for applying for grants etc. Doing the works for some of the items such as the green roof may be contingent on the amount of money raised and they could be deferred for a short time if necessary. Decisions on such priorities would need to be made in agreement with the PCC and the DG will bring back suggestions for these at a later date if they prove necessary.

Our architect has also started to put out feelers for building contractors to tender for the scheme with a view to start work next spring all being well. He has experience of working with firms that have a good record of working with churches and has been in contact with these.

As part of the project moving forward, a new name and Logo was chosen to reflect the ethos our latest 60/60 venture. In consultation with the congregation the name "OpenDoor" was chosen and Phil Harnett produced a new logo, examples of which are included below. The 60/60 logo will continue to be incorporated when a longer logo is appropriate. Thank you for all the suggestions proffered.

The DG is now at a place where fundraising is paramount. Some of the Grant awarding bodies require the church to have raised at least 50% of the funds needed, so this fundraising is important. Our Fundraiser Leah Stuttard has put in an application to the Rose Foundation. She is preparing applications for amongst others, The Charles S French Charitable Trust, the City Bridge Trust and the National Churches Trust. We, however, need to raise more money ourselves and are very grateful that Kelyn Bacon has offered to put on a concert in aid of the project this summer. We would like to officially launch the fundraising at this concert.

In summary, the Open Door 60/60 project is moving in the right direction and now needs to raise more money to make its full implementation a reality.



Annie Perkins
Stephen Driver

Friends of Hornsey Church Tower

INTRODUCTION

Friends of Hornsey Church Tower (FoHCT) continue to act as agent to the Rector to assist in respect of maintenance, repair and improvement works to the Tower, Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance. FoHCT is a registered charity and was founded in 1989 with the specific purpose of rescuing the Grade II* listed Tower from a state of accelerating dereliction. The current membership of FoHCT is dwindling and much effort is needed to gain more members. The committee consists of ten members. Of these, Richard Hodges represents the PCC, and Chris Arnold, The Intimate Space. We currently have no Hornsey Historical Society representative.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Our Summer Open Day was held as part of the Crouch End Festival and was a successful event. We also participated in London Open House (LoH) in September. Getting the organisers at LoH to properly publicise our event proved difficult. They first did so with no mention of the day the Tower would be open or of the opening times despite having confirmed that they had all the information needed. Only a small proportion of the many visitors came as a result of the LoH publicity. This led us to consider having a September Open Day independent of LoH for 2024, but have decided to try one more time to participate.

We ran stalls at both the St Mary's Primary School Christmas Fair and the Church Christmas Market.

We were able to illuminate the Tower with Christmas lights as usual. Comments we received showed that these were much appreciated.

The annual Christmas Carol Service was also held and was very well attended. As usual, mulled wine and mince pies were provided by FoHCT and the Garden of Remembrance was attractively decorated with coloured lights by Chris Arnold.

Richard and Jennifer Hodges took on the running of a FoHCT stall at the annual Lauderdale House Heritage Weekend.

Throughout the year, thanks to the organisation carried out by Jill Letten and Frances Sanders, the FoHCT volunteer group 'Keep Growing Going' has carried out gardening work in the Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance (GoR). This work has helped maintain both in a condition that makes them such attractive and usable spaces. This small group is always keen to gain new members.

The school Easter Egg Hunt took place this year and trips up the Tower were organised by FoHCT for the children, accompanied by adults. We had hoped that what had been an annual Year 5 St Mary's Primary School visit, and their end of year celebration in the GoR would take place, but they did not.

A number of gigs have taken place and a concert organised by the opera singer Mary Bevan took place in June. Also in June was the Mayor's Community Weekend Blues Festival.

We note that the open-air Sunday Eucharist in the GoR has been superseded by Sunday meetings in the Tower.

Use of the Tower itself has taken place throughout the year thanks to The Intimate Space, organised by Chris Arnold. This continues to bring in revenue to help maintain the Tower, and improve the Churchyard and GoR.

The twelve trees planted through the 'Trees for Streets' scheme as part of the 'Churchyard Tree Project' have become successfully established except for two. One of the two funded by the Council and not by FoHCT, has died, been removed and not replaced. Another, funded by FoHCT, is showing signs of disease. We are trying to find out how these are to be dealt with. A further tree has been planted by the

Council to mark Cllr. Adam Jogee's two tenures as Mayor of Haringey. We have requested Adam to let us know what he would like recorded on a commemorative plaque, but have so far not heard from him.

We have continuously held a Green Flag Community Award for the Churchyard and GoR since its inauguration and have been awarded the highest rating for the current period.

In April the local U3A Archaeological Group visited the Churchyard to examine the varieties of stone used in a number of graves noted in Dr Eric Robinson's FoHCT booklet 'St Mary's Tombstone Trail'. In order to see them properly they carried out some clearing, which was very welcomed.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

A serious financial issue arose when the FoHCT's bank, Barclays, closed our business bank account. This has, after a long period, been reopened and I have had a telephone call from Barclays confirming that this was 'done in error'. During the closure period all payments due from the FoHCT had to be made by members of the FoHCT committee, and I am particularly grateful to our treasurer Nick Allaway for paying for a substantial order of new FoHCT merchandise. We are still trying to find out what has happened to £1000 Intimate Space income sent to our Barclays account by Chris Arnold just prior to the sudden and unannounced account closure.

FUTURE WORK PLANNED AND REQUIRED

- After the very considerable period of waiting to receive faculty consent for the following:
- Installation of a new external store.
- Removal of the boarded ceiling in the basement.
- Installation of permanent lighting in the basement.
- Installation of external lighting to illuminate the terrace and steps.
- Rebuilding of the terrace south supporting wall and installation of steps at each end of the terrace.

No work has yet been started on anything.

We have been told that work cannot be started on the external storage unit until a temporary building licence is granted by the Council. The latest news on this is that it is now being considered by the Council Legal Department. We will then need to find a builder to install a base for this at a reasonable cost. The unit itself would be installed by the unit supplier.

The basement ceiling could be carried out if we were to find a builder to do so at a reasonable cost.

The internal and external lighting can only be done when the basement ceiling has been removed.

Works to the terrace are dependent on the Council's acceptance of their responsibility for the terrace as part of the GoR created by the Borough of Hornsey in 1950. At a meeting with Simon Farrow, Head of Haringey Parks Department, this issue was raised, but as yet no resolution has been achieved. It is now evident that Simon Farrow has no part to play in this as it is a Highways Department matter. We are very concerned that the continuing safe use of the terrace, and hence the Tower, could be jeopardised if the work is not carried out.

Much work remains to be done, including that noted in the 2020 Quinquennial Report.

CHURCHYARD MANAGEMENT

I noted in last year's report that we participated in a meeting with Simon Farrow, Head of Haringey Parks Department, and Glynis Kirkwood-Warren, Parks Zonal Manager for our area, in the hope that the Churchyard Management Agreement between the PCC and the Council would be signed. This has yet to happen. We have subsequently established that the matter rests with the Highways Department,

which is responsible for the management of the Churchyard and that the Parks Department has no direct involvement, and that Glynis Kirkwood-Warren has no remit to be involved. We are currently trying to find out who should be contacted in the Highways Department.

The Parks Department is subcontracted by the Highways Department to cut the grass. This used to be done by the Finsbury Park team, but is now done by the Priory Park team, which is very small, and which does not have a mower suitable for cutting all areas, including the large grassed area in the north east section of the Churchyard and in the Garden of Remembrance. Grass cutting in these areas is either now not done or is done by voluntary labour by the FoHCT, which consider to be unacceptable.

We have again notified the Council of the deteriorating state of the dwarf stone walls forming part of the GoR, including the entrance path from the High Street. I noted in my 2023 Report that a reply had been received to earlier notifications, but still no action has yet been taken.

During 2019 Haringey carried out a tree condition survey within the churchyard, which identified a number of trees at risk and a tree felling schedule was produced. A number of these are still in place and we understand that a further survey is considered necessary before these could be attended to, but, so far, we are not aware that this has been done.

As noted in my 2023 Report, we had many times reported malfunctioning of the street lighting within the Churchyard, but the malfunctioning is still continuing despite further reporting.

FUTURE FoHCT EVENTS

- Summer Open Day on either 22 June or 6 July, to be confirmed.
- Participation in London Open House Festival on 21 September.
- AGM on 17 October at 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm at the Church Room Hornsey Parish Church

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PCC

FoHCT will continue to communicate with the PCC via Richard Hodges.

CONCLUSION

The FoHCT is an organisation with a very limited number of active members. We would be grateful if every effort could be made to encourage more of those associated with St Mary with St George to become Friends of Hornsey Church Tower and, if possible, to become actively involved. We all need to ensure that the FoHCT can continue to assist looking after the Tower, Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance. For this, a larger and more involved membership is required.

Peter Sanders Chair: FoHCT

Intimate Space

The Tower is essentially at the centre of both the old and new community of Hornsey. Every Sunday the church is used for a prayer and discussion group at 4pm.

Internally (The intimate Space) it hosts small events, with a seating capacity of 25. Externally we can do concerts and host 300+.

It is mainly used Friday and weekends, and occasionally during the week.

Over the last year we have hosted small musical concerts, recitals, spoken word, workshops, comedy, dramas, film including and film night, charity fund raisers, kids art workshops and magic - Chris Dodd has done a number of performances inside the Tower. It has also been used for number of family gatherings and children's birthday parties. Additionally we have had a number of photo shoots and video shoots in the Tower, mainly for local student projects, Later in May a team plan to video a DJ on the roof with drones.

In July last year and June this year, we run the **Tower Music Festival** as part of the Crouch End Festival.

Last year, we ran a very successful folk night on the Friday.

On the Saturday, despite rain, around 300 turned up to see 6 different bands play.

Sunday we ran a community picnic blues day.

Highlight of the Saturday was the Fink Floyd style psychedelic lighting on the tower. (This was inspired by the fact that Pink Floyd use to play at the Hornsey College of Art and did their first light shows there, created by Mark Hammond).

June 14th will see a comedy night, on Saturday June 15th we have 6 bands included the KUT, plus the light show.

Sunday 16th will be at the Jimmy C Blues Festival and community picnic with an emphasis on families as it is Father's Day.

We are supporting the Music Venues Trust live music campaign #golocal and involved in the new initiative Explore Music More.

The income is modest, and we do give it free to local schools, charity fundraisers and discount for students. We have now listed it on Sharesy, though only had a few enquiries so far.

Now the weather is warmer we plan to promote it more and focus on weekday bookings.

We have been approaching local property developers, Berkeley Group Foundation and Western Homes to seek funding but to date nothing has been secured. Despite building over 1000 flats in the area, Berkeley are not interested in funding or supporting local community activities around their new builds. (It doesn't tick their CSR boxes.)

Chris Arnold

PCC Secretary's Report

PCC Meetings and Business

The PCC met 5 times during 2023-2024: 12 July 2023, 27 September 2023, 24 November 2023, 24 January 2024 and 24 April 2024

As well as routine PCC business, such as finance, fabric and safeguarding, there were discussions on a number of topics and planning of events affecting the parish listed below.

1. The HPC 60/60 Project (detailed report above;)
2. A visit from the Archdeacon
3. Fundraising activities such as the Christmas Market and Quiz night.

More information about the routine topics is given in relevant sections of this Annual Report.

I am grateful to the clergy team and the other church officers, for their support, cooperation and efforts in managing and progressing PCC business.

I would particularly like to thank Harry Daniels, former Pastoral Assistant for organising the Shakespeare readings which took place at the tower. We gathered in the beautiful surroundings of St Marys Tower for an evening/afternoon of fun and fellowship and I am looking forward to future events planned for this summer.

Another joy this year was to participate and fully follow the Easter story which culminated in a full church wonderfully decorated and to see the return of a Sunday school for children.

Natasha Warr
PCC Secretary



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Held on Sunday 21 May 2023 12pm

First Meeting: Vestry and Parishioners' Meeting

1. Appointment of Chairman of the Meetings

The meetings were chaired by the Rector, Fr Bruce Batstone. There were apologies from Lotti Wander and Stephen Driver.

2. Appointment of Clerk to the Meetings

Natasha Warr was appointed Clerk and proceeded to take the Minutes of the Meetings.

3. Election of Churchwardens

Fr Bruce offered his thanks and gratitude to Annie Perkins who had completed her term as a Churchwarden.

He also offered gratitude and thanks to Ricardo Williams for his term as Associate Warden and for his role as Administrator which will come to an end.

Thanks was given to Richard Hodges who has served for six years and will continue to serve for a seventh year. Fr Bruce reminded the meeting that a Churchwarden's term of office is usually five years, but Richard was willing to continue in the role for a seventh year. This extension was agreed at the 2022 APCM.

Angus McIndoe was elected to serve as a new Churchwarden:

Proposed by Lorna Shannon and seconded by Lorraine Finchman

The Vestry and Parishioners' Meeting was concluded.

Second Meeting: Annual Parochial Meeting

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 May 2022 had been circulated and are available in the 2022 APCM Report Pack. The Minutes were agreed and were signed by Fr Bruce.

2. Presentation of the Electoral Roll by the Electoral Roll Officer

Father Bruce thanked Pam Carson and Nina Saint for maintaining the Electoral Roll and encouraging membership.

There are **131** members on the Electoral Roll compared to 127 in 2022, whom two of these, we sadly lost and 1 left the parish.

The Electoral Roll will reopen immediately after the APCM.

3. Presentation of the Annual Report

Fr Bruce thanked Natasha Warr for organising and assembling the Annual Report and thanked everyone who had submitted contributions covering the business and activities of

the parish. The Annual Report had been made available to the congregation in advance of the meeting. Hard copies are available upon request.

The Report provided coverage of the wide scope of different activities that the Church had been involved in over the past year including our community involvement and spiritual development. Fr Bruce thanked all who donated both financially and with their time and re-iterated that every donation is gratefully received and appreciated. The accounts will be available once they are received back from the auditors and will be distributed via Rectors Jottings, again hard copies will be available on request. They will be also put onto the Charity Commission's website. Fr Bruce expressed his gratitude to Lotti Wander and Winie Cheung for their hard work in the preparation of these and mentioned that Lotti would be happy to answer any questions relating to them.

4. Questions relating to the reports or any aspect of church life

There were no questions.

5. Elections

5.1 Deanery Synod

Nina Saint will continue as our representative on the Deanery Synod, she was elected in 2020 APCM for a term of three years. Our current representation is set at one.

5.2 Nomination of PCC members

Fr Bruce explained that elected PCC members serve for three-year terms.

He thanked the retiring members Ricardo Williams, Lesley Matthew, Ian Blaney and Annie Perkins for their service and commitment. Retiring members normally stand aside for at least one year before being available for nomination for re-election. In particular circumstances, where their contribution or role meets a current need, someone can be asked to stay on the PCC as a co-opted member.

Lesley Matthew was co-opted this year back onto the PCC.

There were vacancies for three members of the PCC. The following nominations had been received:

Mercy Cleland (proposed: Kelyn Bacon Darwin seconded: Harry Daniels)
Michael Baker (proposed: Lesley Matthew seconded: Hazel Griffith)

The above were duly elected, to serve for three years. For information, the following were previously appointed to the PCC and their terms of office expire in the year indicated:

2024: Natasha Warr, Pam Carson, Paul Little, Georgie Lyttleton.

2025: Hazel Griffith, Lotti Wander, Chris Arnold

The Wardens, the Member of the Deanery Synod and the Rector are also members of the PCC with full voting rights.

5.3 Request for Volunteers on the Rotas

Thanks was given to all those who help with the organisation of rotas and further volunteers was encouraged.

5.4 Appointment of an independent examiner of accounts

Beatty & Co were appointed external examiner for the accounts in 2017. Alan Brady has been their accountant examining our accounts and has done a competent, effective job each year. Lotti confirmed she is happy for their continuation of appointment.

5.5 Any other business

Third Meeting: Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

The newly elected Parochial Church Council met with Fr Bruce as Chair. The following were present: Mthr Mitzi James, Mercy Cleland, Nina Saint, Richard Hodges, Pam Carson, Hazel Griffith, Lesley Matthews, Angus McIndoe and Natasha Warr

Apologies were received from Lotti Wander and Paul Little

The PCC appointed Natasha Warr to continue as Secretary.

The PCC appointed Charlotte (Lotti) Wander to continue as Treasurer.

The next meeting of the PCC has been scheduled to be held on Wednesday 12 July 2023.

There was a short discussion on the time of future meetings and the possibility of alternative times. All agreed that the meeting should remain at 4pm but asked to please get in touch if circumstances change.

The meeting concluded with Grace