



St Paul Old Ford



Annual report 2019

Vicar's report

From the Vicar

Given the events so far of 2020, 2019 seems a lifetime ago to most of us. However, I want to recap on a few key things from that year.

One of the stand out moments was the starting of St Columba, our new church by the Olympic Park. Despite setbacks with the delivery of the barge in that year this worshipping community continued to grow. We also said goodbye to Dan Hayward, our Youth Worker, and welcomed Jessica Lawrence as our new Youth Worker. Jessica grew up through the St Paul's youth and it is wonderful to have her now helping other young people to encounter God. We also said goodbye to two dear members of St Paul's; Pat Knight and Ivy Gallivan. The final moment I remember clearly was the joy of welcoming nearly 2000 children from local schools to the church through the year to hear the story of Christ.

It was announced only a few weeks ago that I will be finishing as Vicar of St Paul's with my final Sunday being on the 13th December, so this will be last Vicar's report. 2020 has been a very strange and very challenging year. Yet in the midst of that God has continued to work through the life of St Paul's: The new barge and home for St Columba arrived; We welcomed Debbie as our Youth Work Apprentice; God provided financially for the church; People's faith stayed strong during the difficult lockdown; and the church has continued to grow. All these things give witness to the God who never stops working in our midst. St Paul's is a church where that has been and I have no doubt will continue to be true. I want to thank our wonderful staff team, volunteers and clergy who have worked so hard to support the life of this church over the last difficult few months.

I want to encourage you all to be praying for what lies ahead and for God to not stop working. Be hopeful about what God will do in your life and in the life of this church; celebrate and rejoice with one another over what God has done and is doing; welcome everyone with open arms of love as God welcome us.

I and Caz would value your prayers for us as a family as we move, you will all be in my prayers over the coming months. May all we do and all we are be for the glory of God and the building of God's Kingdom.

Rev. James Hughesdon

Our staff team:

Rev. James Hughesdon

Rev April Keech

Kay Norman

Rev Dave Pilkington

Anne Zakiewicz

Chris Watson

Karen Diss

Divya Beeharry

Christine Fryer

Christina Ganasegaram

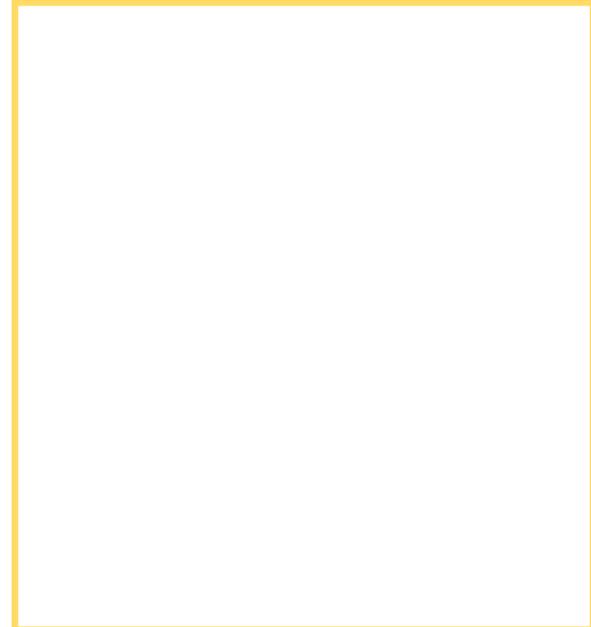
Jessica Lawrence

Sharon Hartman

Mark Hutin

Debbie Mack

Welcome and hospitality



From the Premises Manager

It's been a very unusual time, with lots of changes to the way we operate. In particular, lots of new rules to make us a Covid safe venue. During the lock down we took the opportunity to have the walls brushed down which both cleaned them and prevented any more loose brick pieces and brick dust from falling into the space. The pillars were repaired at the same time.

From the Churchwardens

The wonderful staff team have risen to the challenges of the last few months. Where possible the downtime in the use of the building was used to allow some decorating and repairs to take place. Since use of the buildings has resumed the team has done a brilliant job of making sure that social distancing measures are in place, additional and comprehensive regular cleaning takes place and safety features are widely available throughout. During the next uncertain phase we know that the team will continue to prioritise the safety of our team, visitors, congregation and tenants. We'd like to thank them for their hard work and flexibility during this time.



Worship and prayer



It was wonderful to welcome Rev. Billy O'Reilly as our new SSM priest. It is lovely to have him and Melanie firmly back as part of St Paul's. It was also great to celebrate in 2019 Rev. Dave's ordination and in 2020 his priesting. A particular thank you to the Churchwardens, Neil and Fiona, and to Rev. April and Rev. Dave for all they do in the life of St Paul's.

Worship and Prayer Report

2019 saw the launch of our Thursday evening gathering at St Columba, and this has continued to grow throughout lockdown. Our Sunday morning services and midday prayer at St Paul's also continued to welcome new people and we give thanks to God for the growth of the church. A special thank you to all those who volunteer as part of the welcome team and in different roles on Sunday.



Deanery Synod Report

The deanery synod met several times in 2019 and it was good to be together with churches from across Tower Hamlets. Thanks to Shola and Tracey who have served so faithfully and diligently as our Deanery Synod reps.

From the PCC Secretary

We held regular PCC meetings in their usual format, on Sunday afternoon after the morning church service, until lockdown began in March. Meetings took place in May, September, November, January and March. The meetings discussed various aspects of church life and were chaired by James Hughesdon. Attendance at these PCC remained high. In Feb, we hosted the Archdeacon for her visitation and many members of the PCC met with her to discuss their experiences of St Pauls Old Ford. This was a positive meeting.

Following lockdown, the Standing Committee met regularly on zoom to discuss aspects of church life that required discussion and decision. In July 2020, a zoom meeting was held with the PCC by way of updating and discussing how St Pauls was running in light of the coronavirus pandemic. The PCC met as a mixture of face to face and zoom attendees in October. This took place on a Tuesday evening but the format of returning to Sunday afternoons will be looked at for the next meeting.

Youth and children

As you all have experienced, the past year has been a strange one. But God has still been working throughout the youth work and the young people. There are many things to be grateful for, and many blessings.

Rise and Bible Study

At the beginning of the year, our youth groups began to see an increase in number, with lots of young people attending our Bible Study group. Even throughout lockdown and once we were able to begin to open our doors to small groups, the want for learning more of God's word was clear! We have also welcomed a young leader to the Rise team, we are enjoying supporting a young person taking a step-in leadership.



Online

Throughout lockdown, the young people were a huge support to each other via Zoom and WhatsApp messages. The young people were a wonderful example of caring for your brother and sisters in Christ. It is safe to say, we are very proud of how amazing they all are.

Schools Work

Between September and March, we were working alongside youth charity Canaan Project in Raines Foundation School and Morpeth Secondary School running lunch clubs. We also welcomed Raines girls to St Paul's for an after-school cooking course to aid in the transition of their school closing down. We are excited to be continuing our relationship with Morpeth as we begin our new lunchtime clubs in October.



We have seen a huge increase in people engaging online with over 200 people on Instagram

Youth Apprentice

A huge answer to prayer was the new addition to the youth team! Debbie Mack has been with us since the beginning of September and is taking part in the Diocese Apprenticeship Programme. Debbie will be with us for 3 years while studying her Youth Work certificate.

Please keep Debbie in your prayers as she begins this new chapter.



St Columba



www.stcolumbaeastlondon.org

This year has been obviously challenging in terms of dealing with Covid-19 but also extremely encouraging.

We started the year with a small group of around 6- 8 regularly meeting on a Thursday and have seen this number steadily grow over the year even during lockdown to a regular 12 – 14 people.

It has been a huge support to have a team working with us to develop the programme and feedback to us regularly in what works, we have a group of 6 people who support me and Christina as we go on this journey which has proved invaluable. Over lockdown we added another 5 people to the group who have joined us weekly and a few more have signed up as we begin again the new boat which is encouraging as people have been finding the work we are doing transformative.

We are also working on developing a youth version of the Journey alongside Jessica that will allow older teens to have a space where they can discuss deeper issues.

The arrival of the Genesis has been hugely exciting as we come out of lockdown. The very nature of the boat's design has caused many people to stop and talk to us, and enquire about what happens on the boat, so it is already proving to be a helpful tool to reach out to the community.



Finance and governance

Treasurer's Report

2019 has been a very challenging year for the finances of St Pauls Old Ford. After many years of running a surplus of income over expenditure, this is the first year that we have to report a deficit of expenditure over income. In part this was because one of our tenants, Ability Bow was unable to meet their rental payments and a full provision was made in the accounts for the £15,213 that was owed by them to the Church. Ability Bow is a charity that has been closely linked to the vision of this Church in its provision of physical healing, while St Pauls Old Ford provides the spiritual healing. We were therefore as accommodating as we could be, supporting Ability Bow, both in prayer and financial understanding and God has rewarded our faith by providing Ability Bow with a substantial grant during 2020, which will help the charity to re-organise itself financially going forward.

It has also been a year in which we have had to wait patiently for the arrival of St Columba barge, where our curate Dave will be leading a small congregation at its moorings at Near East. It had been hoped that the boat would have provided a revenue stream from hirers, who could have taken the boat along the canal. Because of delays in the arrival of the boat, which was not received until the autumn of 2020, it was not possible to realise this form of income. This disappointment was further compounded by the fact that health and safety provisions, in relation to the design of the boat, meant that it was no longer possible to hire the boat in the way that was anticipated. Nevertheless, we do have a spectacular boat, which has drawn the attention of many who pass by the canal and I am sure that God will use it for His great purposes.

We have been blessed in having sufficient cash resources, built up over the years, to bring us through the current Covid-19 pandemic. We have a bountiful God, who has provided for us, when our reserves were much smaller and we remain confident that He will continue to bless this Church, if we remain faithful to the teachings of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

St Paul Old Ford Parochial Church Council members 2019

Rev. James Hughesdon (Chair)
Neil Gilbert (Churchwarden)
Fiona Lowther (Churchwarden)
Michael Zakiewicz (Treasurer)
Helen Quail (*Secretary*)
Ceri Durham (*Lay chair*)
Macey Murray
Tim Murray
Lorraine Beer
Olayinka Kupoluyi
Rev. April Keech
Anne Zakiewicz
Israel Ubani
Victor Cummings
Jennifer Redman-Hubley
Shola Ogunlade
Andrew Walters (Licensed Lay Minister)
Taf Muguwe
Gerry Spiteri
Joy Redman

This financial snapshot has been extracted from the independently *examined* accounts of St Paul and St Mark Old Ford for the year ended 31st December 2019*. It may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. (*Ableby and Wood, 40 The Lock Building....) For further information, copies of the independently examined accounts can be obtained from St Paul Old Ford Church, St Stephen's Road, London E3 5JL or by

We have **157** on our Electoral Roll



Get involved

Serve:

There are many ways to give of your time and skills to support God's work here at St Paul Old Ford; whether it's by volunteering in the cafe, with the youth, on Sundays, joining the PCC or in many other ways. Speak to one of our wardens or get in touch using the contact details below to find out how you could get involved.

Give:

We believe that our financial giving is part of our worship to God and one way of saying thank you, as well as supporting the mission and ministry at St Paul Old Ford. You can give regularly through our parish giving scheme. You may also want to speak to someone about leaving a legacy to St Paul Old Ford in your will. To find out more, speak to Mike Zakiewicz, our treasurer, or contact us using the details below for further information.

Pray:

All we do is supported by prayer so keep praying that God will work through us here at St Paul Old Ford and for faithfulness to follow where the Holy Spirit leads. Specific prayer requests are on our notice sheet or join us each week day for midday prayer.

Get in touch:

St. Paul Old Ford, St. Stephens Road, London E3 5JL

Registered Charity No. 1133963

Telephone: **020 8981 4655.**

Email: hello@stpauloldford.com

www.stpauloldford.com

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[facebook/stpauloldford](https://www.facebook.com/stpauloldford)