

St George's Church, Campden Hill

Annual Report 2017



St George's Church, Campden Hill

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

Administrative Information

St George's Church is situated on Campden Hill, Kensington, in a United Benefice with St John the Baptist Church. It is part of the Church of England and is in the Diocese of London. The correspondence address is St George's Parish Office, Aubrey Walk, London W8 7JG. The Parochial Church Council constitutes a charity; its registered charity number is 1131866. The PCC members who have served from April 2017 until the date this report was approved were:

The Rev'd Dr James Heard	Chair
The Rev'd Neil Traynor	Associate Priest (from 1 July 2017)
The Rev'd Peter Wolton	Associate Priest (Curate until 3 July 2017)
William James	Churchwarden & Deanery Synod Rep.
Christopher Taylor	Churchwarden
David Buckley	Hon. Treasurer
Rob Waddington	Hon. Secretary
Howard Evans	Diocesan Synod & Lay Chair, Kensington Deanery
Natasha Tahta	Safeguarding, Deanery Synod Rep.
Clare Heard	Deanery Synod Rep.
Angela Lascelles	
Joy Puritz	
Janet Lloyd	

Structure, governance and management

The Churchwardens are as set out in the Churchwardens Measure 2001 and are *ex officio* members of the PCC. The PCC members are elected as set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC has the responsibility for co-operating with the Priest-in-Charge in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for St George's Church, its Vicarage and the surrounding land.

Worship and Sacramental Care

The Parish Eucharist is the principal act of worship offered by the parish. It is celebrated week by week in accordance with the apostles' teaching and fellowship in the breaking of bread and prayer (Acts 2:42).

The PCC is grateful to the sidespeople, readers and to all who contribute in many other ways to the life and worship offered to God by this parish.

This year we conducted 5 baptisms and 6 funerals/memorials.

Pastoral and social care

Pastoral and social care of the parish continues to be shared by the ministry team, and several pastoral visitors. Pastoral care is also exercised through such activities as the lunch and toddler groups.

Ministry with children and young people

The work of the parish with young people has been ably overseen by Margaret Houston; special thanks are due to her and the other Sunday School and toddler group leaders. Martina Sadovska has also been a huge help in leading our Wednesday toddler groups and occasionally at the under-5s Sunday School.

Evangelisation

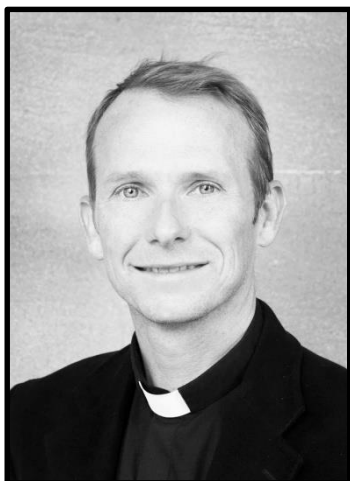
St George's is committed to the Gospel imperative to 'make disciples of all the nations; baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Matthew 28:19), and to rising in future to the challenge of engagement in active evangelisation amongst all the peoples of the parish it serves. The 'United Tuesdays' group continues with a growing number discovering together some of the richness of our faith.

Ecumenical links

As a catholic parish of the Church of England, St George's Church honours our Lord's High Priestly prayer that all Christians may be one as He and the Father are one (John 17:21), and seeks to foster its local relationship with Christians of the great communions of East and West in furtherance of the full and organic unity of the Church. To this end we play our part in the membership of the Kensington Council of Churches.

Review of the year

The PCC met six times during the year. A revised Electoral Roll was drawn up in advance of this Annual Parochial Church Meeting. There are currently 188 people on the electoral roll.



Report of the Priest in Charge

by James Heard

I am writing this just before I head off for a three-month sabbatical and after celebrating a wonderful Christmas season. With Sunday being Christmas Eve this year, we had a rather full range of services. In fact, six services over 24 hours in the United Benefice. And we had more people attending than I have ever seen since I started in 2013. Our community carol service, held at St John's, attracted over 200 people, including 40 in the St John's Singers choir. For our crib

service at St George's we welcomed over 140 people into a candle-lit church looking just spectacular.

One of the things I regularly wonder is whether the attempt that we make at following in the footsteps of Jesus makes any real difference to our lives. Does our faith have any real impact on the way we live and on the lives of those in distress? Or are we simply playing at religion? I was having these thoughts in the lead up to 14th June 2017, the date of the Grenfell Tower fire and it was in the aftermath of this tragic event that my question began to be answered. The church in this area, as well as many other groups, leapt into action. Many from the St George's and St John's communities offered clothes and food, many of us helped by simply serving tea/coffee and a meal, many were present to offer a listening ear. In countless ways the love and compassion of Christ was made real to those in distress.

Archbishop Justin in his Christmas message described how 'the depth of suffering was matched by a depth of compassion as communities came together'. People could choose which stories defined them, he said. 'The horror? Or the response? The darkness, or the light?' As we move into a new year, I pray our United Benefice will be a place where we choose light and hope, not only for ourselves, but to help those around us, in our homes and in our parish.

The wonderful people in the united benefice have been an ongoing encouragement, and I'd like to thank all those who contribute to the life and work of our churches. Running two parishes, two PCCs, two graded buildings (one needing major investment), without sufficient support has been a huge challenge, and I have very much appreciated Peter Wolton's ministry and support. I am thrilled that Peter has decided to stay with us following the completion of his curacy in June 2017. Peter works one day a week (usually Wednesdays) and three Sundays a month. Among many other things, his organisation of the Why Me? talks has provided inspiration for many people as we have listened to each other's journeys of faith.

One major feature of the year has been welcoming our new Associate Priest, Neil Traynor. Neil started in July and has already made a significant mark on the life of the United Benefice. His arranging and creative directing of major services, like the community carol service, has made such a difference. We have also had a variety of courses throughout the year as part of our **United Tuesdays** nurture programme. The highlight was the course organised by Fr Neil in the Autumn. At this 500th year anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, we had an opportunity to reflect on the impact of the Reformation, as well a chance to *experience* three eucharists of differing styles. Part of the course took place at Bickersteth House, where Jill Traynor is the warden, and the eucharists were held at St John the Baptist.

Our **children's ministry** continues to be inspired and led by Margaret Houston and the under 5s by Martina Sadovska as well as other volunteers. Margaret continues to work as the St Alban's Children's Enabler and we are thrilled that she continues to minister with us. One challenge, however, has been hosting a Sunday School with children aged 5 to 14 years of age. Recently, Clare Heard, our Licensed Lay Minister, has been taking our secondary-school-aged children to the vicarage for their own Sunday School. This has been hugely appreciated by our growing youth group and it is intended to take place approximately two Sundays per month during term time.

Our **charities committee**, led by Angela Lascelles, has again done a great job in raising over £15,000 this year. Highlights have included a quiz evening and a harvest supper. For the second year, some of our youth and congregation participated in the Glass Door homeless sleep out (and we were rather pleased it didn't rain as it did last year!). The charities we support include: Christian Aid, Glass Door, City Harvest, The Upper Room and Compassion Service Society of India. More information on each charity can be found in the community space notice board.

The musical tradition at St George's continues to flourish under the guidance of Andrew Wells who faithfully enriches and inspires our worship. This year it has been supported by Jenny Thorn with the 'mini-orchestra' twice a term which this year has seen small organic growth.

In the autumn the PCCs of both churches in the benefices agreed to join Inclusive Church which has the following statement of belief:

"We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

The IC website lists member churches (over 250 of them) and is a further channel for people to find their way to our churches.

It has been another major year of building works at St John the Baptist including the major transformation of the west end, the phase 2 building project. This work is now complete and has provided disabled access, a new west end roof, stained glass window repairs as well as proper facilities – lavatories and a small but well-equipped kitchen, whereby we will now be in a position to see greater community use. Many thanks to all who donated towards the £455,000 it cost to make this happen.

Another major change at St John's has been the ending of the Eritrean use. This followed many years of noise problems and was escalated when the Eritrean community breached the Noise Abatement Order that the RBKC issued in March 2016. In October, council officers witnessed loud drumming at 4.10am and decided that it constituted a statutory

nuisance and were taking legal action. It also constituted a breach of the hire agreement with St John the Baptist and, after taking advice from the Archdeacon of Middlesex, our agreement terminated on 26 November 2017. We are very sorry our agreement has ended in this way and wish the Eritrean Church every blessing for its future in the new premises they purchased last year.

Many thanks are due to our St George's Churchwardens, Christopher Taylor and William James, for their support and encouragement over the last year, as well our treasurer, David Buckley; to Graham Franklin, who over the last two years has completely transformed our garden; and to Victoria O'Neill, our Office Manager, who continues to hold together parish life.

I am also conscious that there are many things that make our common life flourish, with many people helping in unseen ways. This includes visits to people in hospital or taking communion to the housebound, helping run the lunch club, washing church towels, weeding in the garden, proof-reading the service sheets sending out anniversary baptism cards, counting the Sunday collections. Thank you to all for your hard work throughout the year.

Last but not least are my thanks to our 'ministry team' of Fr Peter, Fr Neil, Clare Heard and Margaret Houston.

Churchwardens' Report

by Christopher Taylor and William James



Overall it's been a fairly quiet year, Fr James has continued to serve the parish with his usual efficiency and charm, ably assisted by both Fr Peter and more recently Fr Neil, alongside our outstanding administrator Victoria O'Neill.



In September we were delighted to welcome Fr Neil Traynor as Assistant Priest to the United Benefice. Fr

Neil, his wife Jill and daughter Harriet moved into the parish in early 2017 when Jill took up the position of warden at Bickersteth House on Sheffield Terrace. Their presence has greatly enhanced our community, and we are very fortunate to have secured the services of such a talented and scholarly priest.

One of the most significant developments to take place this year was the resolution of our four-year dispute with Thames Water. As many of you will be aware, a flood in the basement of the Church back in 2013, due to a blocked pipe beneath the new extension at the property behind the church, resulted in us having to rely on a temporary pump for a full four and a half years while the issue was resolved. Thames Water finally managed to dislodge the blockage in the summer of 2017.

After much discussion, 2017 also saw the new paving stones laid along the path on the western side of the church. They are a great improvement to the look and safety of that area and we owe Graham Franklin a huge debt of gratitude for coordinating this and continuing to maintain the gardens so efficiently and beautifully.

One of the most popular social events in our calendar is the monthly meeting of the St George's lunch club, and we are very grateful to the organising team, led by Minh-Tam Janssens, for generously donating a brand new oven and dishwasher to the church kitchen.

As everyone knows, St George's has faced quite a run of battles with its boilers and heating systems over the years, regularly leading to freezing cold services on freezing cold days! This year we hope to have resolved this once and for all, by installing not one but two brand new boilers in the church. The intention being to ensure there is a backup if one should break down. At the same time as we fitted the Boilers, the Diocese granted us a faculty to place two new Radiators along the side chapel's eastern wall, which further improves the warmth of the church.

Finally, it is five years since Fr James was appointed Priest in Charge of the United Benefice. In that time, he has delivered tireless dedication, enthusiasm, energy and a wealth of new ideas and creativity to our community. It's exhausting work, and we are delighted that he has taken a three-month sabbatical to recharge his batteries, catch up on theology and other reading, and most of all to take a well-deserved break from us! His period away, from 16th January to 16th April, has placed a heavy workload on the whole team here. So the Churchwardens and PCC would like to express our gratitude to Fr Neil, Victoria, Fr Peter and Clare Heard for all the additional time and energy they have devoted to the parish during this period.

Assistant Priests' Annual Report

2017 was a special year for the United Benefice's two Assistant Priests. Father Peter Wolton completed his curacy and Father Neil Traynor joined the ministry team following the Traynor family moving to nearby Bickersteth House in Sheffield Terrace where Jull Traynor is the Warden of the Christian community.

A special service of Licensing and Welcome to the Assistant Priests was held at St. John the Baptist on the Feast of St. Thomas in early July with representatives of the two parishes bringing forward symbols of ministry, commencing with the Water of Baptism by Jaspar Crawley whose son Freddie had been recently baptised at St. George's. Angela Lascelles carried the Oil of Healing, Howard Evans the Bible, Tyrell Young representing the community who attends the service of morning prayer at St. George's on weekdays, carried the Book of Common Worship and Jenny Davenport, Churchwarden at St. John's Paschal Candle. Finally Charles Swallow presented the chalice and paten. The service was a wonderful start to a new phase of ministry at the United Benefice.



Father Peter Wolton writes:

I am learning of the huge range of activities, both spiritual and temporal, of the life of a Self-Supporting (volunteer) Minister, from gaining approval from the Diocese for small building and maintenance projects to parish visiting and taking baptisms and funerals as well as preaching!

One project was extending the paving on the west side of the church. We are very grateful to Graham Franklin for all the work he does in keeping the garden at St. George's looking so beautiful, including overseeing the laying of this new path. Another project was the substantial upgrading of the sound system at St John's, and special thanks are due to the parishioners whose generous donations made this possible.

During 2017 we had our third series of "Why me?" talks at St John's during Lent when parishioners reflect on their journey of faith in place of the sermon. We follow the format used at the church I attended before ordination, St Michael and All Angels, Bedford Park which has experienced great growth (spiritual and number of people attending) which the vicar believes is substantially due to the "Why me?" series which has run from the mid-1990s. It has also had four members of the congregation selected for ordination to the priesthood during that time. At our United Benefice, we are very grateful to Gill Rowe, Kelvin Roberts, Richard Davenport-Hines, David Buckley and Alexandra Taylor for their talks and hope that this series will have the same impact on the life of our benefice as it has had in Bedford Park.

The previous year, 2016, saw the monthly choir of the St John's Singers become firmly established and 2017 saw it develop further, giving us a series of uplifting 6.30 pm Sung Eucharists. The Singers meet at 5.00pm to rehearse, singing for God and for joy on a volunteer basis, and can number up to 40. Huge thanks to Marina Abel Smith and to the Director, Quintin Beer for making all this happen. 2017 ended with the Singers leading the community carol service with a full church of over 200.

Our "strapline" on our service sheets is "Two parishes worshipping one God." It has been a real joy over the last three years to sense the spiritual growth at both churches and the coming together of the two congregations, with each retaining its own distinctiveness. I am very grateful for all the encouragement and welcome I receive. It is a blessing to work with Fr James and Fr Neil and the entire team at the Benefice and I am therefore very excited to be continuing my ministry here. Finally, with so many clergy due to retire over the next decade, we pray that the call to ordination may be heard in the United Benefice.



Fr Neil Traynor writes:

With an agreed working pattern of 24 hours per week, I was delighted to join the Benefice on the 5th July 2017, with a welcome service at St John's. The parish generously supported me in covering the interregnum at St Thomas', Kensal Town until September 2017. Since then, I've been able to be much more visible on Sunday mornings.

I've been privileged to take a full part in the life of the parish, from Sunday mornings, to Wednesday, and Saturday Eucharists, morning prayer, and regular events such as the lunch club and toddler group. Much of my work seems to be 'behind the scenes', and working with all of my colleagues has been a pleasure. Christmas and Easter have both been highlights, and I'd like to thank all those who worked so hard to ensure that the liturgies were so memorable and prayerful.

I owe a great debt of gratitude to the Benefice in supporting my ministry in the two parishes, especially since my arrival was neither expected nor anticipated when setting budgets for the year. There has been such a warm welcome and generosity from all members of the congregations, and I look forward to the future.

Charities

By Angela Lascelles

During 2017 the United Benefice supported five charities. Three of them support homeless people in our part of London, a local need which we have supported in different ways for many years. Upper Room, based in Shepherd's Bush, works with the most disadvantaged people in West London, including ex-offenders and homeless people. We donated our Christmas collections to Upper Room, nearly £800. We also support Glass Door, which operates the night shelters in various churches in West London. In the last two years members of our congregation have taken part in a sponsored sleep out in October and in 2017 raised more than £3,000 to add to their funds. Our third charity which helps the homeless was City Harvest, which collects surplus fresh food, which otherwise would be thrown away, from supermarkets and other food sources, and delivers it to the charities, including Glass Door and Upper Room, which cook and serve it to their clients. This charity thus serves the environment as well as those in need. City Harvest received £2,500 which was raised at our Harvest Supper in October.



Overseas we support Christian Aid and sent to them just under £5,000 which was raised during a series of events. These included our annual Quiz and cake sales and also included money given to Christian Aid during Lent and Christian Aid week. Also overseas we support CSSI, which is an Indian charity concerned with education and is particularly known to Fr

James, who will visit it during his sabbatical in the early months of 2018. In total the fundraising has raised more than £11,500 during the year to support our chosen charities. Thanks are due to the charity committee of Minh-Tam Janssens, Helen Kass, Steve Eggett, Jenny Davenport and Fr James, who have worked very happily together as a most successful team, organising the two large events of the Quiz and the Harvest Supper. Special thank too to Minh-Tam for her cake sales. Our congregations have participated generously and all have enjoyed the fun and fellowship in these evenings.



Annual Report on Children's and Youth Ministries

by Margaret Houston, Families Pastor

Children and Young People

0-5s:

Thanks are due to Martina Sadovska and Tilly Culme-Seymour, who have been responsible for the Under-5s group on Sunday morning. They've been using the Diddy Disciples material, developed by Sharon Moughtin-Mumby - this is designed specially for babies and toddlers, to introduce them to the stories and rituals of church. Please do take a look at

<https://www.diddydisciples.org/> to learn more. Welcome also to Annabel Tregoning, who has agreed to start working with this group.



The baby and toddler groups during the week continue to be run by Martina. This is a secular drop-in group, to provide social time, play, and music to children and their carers.

During 2017, we had fewer christenings than before - a total of 5 children under 5 were christened in the Benefice. We are working on joining up our christening ministry to the other work done by the church, and providing a pathway for christening families to feel welcome on Sunday mornings.

Attendance on Sunday mornings has also been sporadic, both in the 0-5 range and the 5-11 range. With Margaret only available on Sunday mornings and special events, we need volunteers who are able to help with the administration and organisation side of things - if you feel you would be able to help in this area, please do let Margaret or Father Peter know.

5-11s:

This group has been doing New Testament stories this year, after doing the Old Testament last year. We are also working on creating an ad hoc children's choir for All-Age services, which Jenny Thorn has taken a lead on, and several of our children in this age group also participate in our intergenerational orchestra. In 2017, we also had children of this age group involved in special events - our All-Age Services, Christmas Pageant, Holy Week services, Pancake Party, and more.

Father James does assemblies at Hawkesdown House School once a month, and we had a visit from two Year-1 classes in January 2018 as part of their RE lessons.

During this time, it is important for children to explore the main stories of the Bible and to begin to take leadership roles in worship. Thanks to everyone who has worked alongside a child who is serving, singing, reading, doing sidesman duties, helping with coffee time, playing an instrument, and all the other jobs children do in church.



11-18:

We have a large number of teenagers now, who have grown up in St George's and are lifelong friends - a few new teenagers have also come along in the last few years. Clare Heard has started a youth group which meets occasionally in the Vicarage during the main Sunday Eucharist for discussion and Bible Study, and they have also participated in a number of special events - the Kensington Deanery Youth Weekend away, the church sleepover at Easter in 2017, the Glass Door Sleepout to raise money for homeless services, and more.

More help is needed to make the special events for both the 5-11 and 11-18 groups work smoothly - again, this doesn't need to be hands-on work with children, so even if you feel you're "not good with kids," you can be involved. If you can maintain a database, take charge of managing a rota, send out Mailchimp emails, write anniversary cards to christening families, publicise our events in schools and nurseries, make Christmas pageant costumes, or anything else, please do let us know.

Director of Music's Report

by Andrew Wells

The parish choir has been very active over the year. We continue to augment the choir with choral scholars from the Royal College of Music on special occasions. This is still something we hope to develop.

The Passion through music and readings in Holy week has become something of a fixture. This year the augmented



parish choir sang three motets in what was a very moving occasion. After Easter, we were joined by a visiting youth choir from Taiwan. Post service, they entertained the congregation with some traditional Taiwanese folk-songs.

The annual festival concert in May was entitled 'A World of Music for Choir and Strings'. The festival chorus gave a performance of a Haydn Mass with strings and harpsichord and we were joined by the now acclaimed choir of Holland Park School in some evocative English part-songs. Thanks go to all those who supported the concert and to all the musicians involved.

The organ has given us good service over this last year and has required no unexpected repairs.

St George's continues to host many concerts from many talented individuals and ensembles in aid of charitable causes. Thanks to all who contribute to the musical life at St George's.

Parish Band

Jenny Thorn (Leader) writes:

The Parish Band has grown around the idea of encouraging musical gifts within the church community, and finding ways we can meet together and enrich worship. One name we have had on the way is 'The Intergenerational Orchestra', which certainly expresses the range of involvement - truly of all ages - with parents and others of us joining with the children, in sensitive and effective arrangements with room for players from beginner's level on. Tribute and thanks to Andrew both for these and for shaping and directing our music making.

We aim to bring a special colour to services in keeping with the liturgy; finding out who is free to play and able to give a little time, as it works best with some preparation beforehand, and then having a short run-through on the morning.

Over two years we have played mostly but not only in All Age services; sometimes accompanying songs with the children and choir, sometimes playing a purely instrumental piece during communion, or a lively recessional. We have many possible combinations, between strings and piano, recorders and flute, wind and brass. Our most ambitious outing, at Harvest, saw the Chapel full - a bit like the Ark - with pairs of violins, celli and clarinets, and

four recorders. We also played for the end of the summer term, All Saints and the Christmas Pageant.

Thank you to everyone who has played or been willing to be included, this year; anyone out there who has not yet declared their, or their children's, hidden talent please be in touch !



St George's Church Lunch Club

by Minh-Tam Janssens and Mike Riggs

In 2017 we met monthly for 10 lunches in the community area and an annual Christmas Tea party in December. Mary Spain continued to provide the strong link we established with Holland Park school by coordinating the help of about six students to assist with these lunches every month. The students helped our less able guests to get out of cars, served at the table and chatted with them during the meals.



The attendance at the lunches was between 40-50 guests, drivers and helpers, with the Christmas Tea peaking at nearly 60, when we invited hard-to-reach guests from the Sheppard Trust and Open Age. We appreciate the joint effort from the team of volunteers in setting up and taking down tables and chairs, chauffeuring guests and serving in the kitchen.

Many thanks to the support of the PCC in providing the community space. We received a grant from the RBKC Local Living program for 1,000 pounds and a donation from a generous benefactor to cover the running cost of the lunch and to provide Christmas gifts for our guests at the Christmas Tea Party. We also acknowledge the support of our local restaurants: Kensington Wine Room, Portobello Restaurant, Kensington Place Fish Shop, Cook and Marks & Spencer for providing delicious food at a discounted rate.

From the surplus available this past year, the lunch club contributed to the replacement of a dishwasher and two ovens that facilitated serving the lunches and lightened the load for helpers in the kitchen. The lunch club continued to be run by a capable team of 15 volunteers and students from Holland Park School. Last year we served a total of just under 500 meals.

Deanery Synod Report

by Howard Evans (Lay Chair, Kensington Deanery)

St George's Kensington Deanery Synod Representatives in the House of Laity for this triennium, which began on 1st June 2017, are Clare Heard, William James and Natasha Tahta. I am a member of Deanery Synod because I am also a member of the Diocesan Synod. St George's Priest-in-Charge, the Revd Dr James Heard is *ex officio* a member of the House of Clergy. The Area Dean is the Revd Mark O'Donoghue, Vicar of Christ Church, Victoria Road, W8.



The Standing Committee currently includes only the Revd Dr James Heard, as well as the Area Dean and Lay Chair. An Hon. Treasurer, whose main task is to understand and encourage Common Fund contributions from deanery parishes, continues to be an

important unfilled vacancy but also more laity would avoid over-clericism as is required by the Church Representation Rules.

‘Anglicans in Kensington’ continues to be the flag under which active cooperation and support can be encouraged within the deanery by all willing parties – not just synod representatives. These latter retain their legal and representational responsibilities with, perhaps, two or three synod meetings per year but these meetings remain open to any interested parties.

The themes of last year’s synod meetings have followed the threefold strands of the diocesan Capital Vision: Confident, Compassionate and Creative.

At the meeting of 9th March 2017 at St Helen’s North Kensington, the Ven. Luke Miller, Archdeacon of London, and the Revd Charlie Skrine, Associate Rector at St Helen’s Bishopsgate, gave an account and encouragement to creative and incorporative prayer from their very different church traditions (catholic and evangelical).

At the meeting of 21st September 2017 at Christ Church, Victoria Road, W8, the Revd Joe Moffatt, Area Dean of Hampton, explained the various ways that ordinary daily church outreach from baptisms to funerals could improve connection with the parish neighbourhood.

And at the meeting of 21st November 2017 at St Barnabas, Addison Road, W14, several church-connected charities/projects from debt counselling to food banks explained how they began and grew to several ‘break-out’ groups within the session.

The eleventh Deanery Garden Party was cancelled as it coincided with the immediate aftermath of the serious fatal fire in the Grenfell residential tower of 14th June 2017. An informal network of support and assistance was provided by other deanery churches and parishioners to the parishes local to Grenfell, notably the most affected - and effective - being St Clement’s and St James Norland, whose long involvement in the community through its school and university supportive charity, enabled an excellent prompt humanitarian response that the manifest weaknesses of the local authority, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, could in no way match.

The customary Common Fund meeting of deanery treasurers, incumbents and, nowadays, church wardens or other principal PCC members with the Archdeacon, the Ven. Stephan Welch, and the Area Finance Adviser, Mary Spredbury took place at St John’s Church, Ladbroke Crescent, W11 on 16th May 2017. The purpose was to thank for previous and current Common Fund commitments and adumbrate the plans for the following year, in this case 2018. I am conscious that the content and tone of this meeting failed to address some of the concerns of St George’s officers.

During the past year, the implementation of the Deanery’s Common Fund policy and encouragement to parishes to follow it generously has remained a principal background activity of the Area Dean and Lay Chair (acting as Hon. Treasurer). Though still some way

from fully covering its costs, progress has continued towards that end in some of the commitments for 2018 – although unwelcome signs of insufficient effort occurred in one or two parishes. However, a pleasing, if unanticipated, outcome was that all the Common Fund commitments made for 2017 had been fully paid across the deanery by 31st December 2017.

Howard Evans
Lay Chair, Kensington Deanery
31st January 2018

Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31/12/2017

by David Buckley

The accounts show the income and expenditure of St George's during the year together with a balance sheet as at 31st December 2017. GMAK Services Limited (Chartered Accountants) has carried out an independent review and its statement is set out on the first page of the accounts.



The income of the Church derives principally from generous voluntary giving, income from its investments, and the rental of its space. Voluntary giving decreased during the year by 20% from £128,000 in 2016 to just over £102,000 in 2017. This reflects a reduction in the number of one-off donations and legacies gifted during the year and reductions in the planned giving programme. Investment income, which is derived principally from the Church's investments in property (Barlow House), M&G Charifund (a conservatively managed fund for charities) and cash, increased by 5.4% during the year to £73,308. Income generated from renting out Church space also increased during the same period by 9.8% from £16,990 in 2016 to £18,658. A rise in global investment markets during the year increased the unrealised value of the Charifund holding by 7% from £343,193 in 2016 to £367,167 at year-end.

The main items of expenditure are the Church's payment to the Common Fund, upkeep of the building and the salaries and pensions of the staff who enable the Church to carry out its work. The Common Fund contribution is the amount that St George's has to pay to the diocese to cover the salary and pensions of our clergy and the Vicarage, together with a contribution to cover the costs of the clergy of other parishes that cannot afford to cover their own costs. In 2017 this amounted to £91,825, a 4% increase over 2016. Building maintenance costs, at £15,528 came in below budget, a decrease over the £22,275 spent in 2016. Salaries and pensions increased during 2017 primarily through planned staffing changes within the clergy team.

Although we anticipated a small loss for the year, the objective we have set ourselves of achieving an operating surplus for St George's on an ongoing basis was not met during

2017, as the Church posted a loss of (£4,565) at year-end. This compared to a surplus of £35,475 in 2016. A surplus is essential to increase reserves to meet any unforeseen expenditure and to ensure that the Church is able to achieve its charitable objectives.

The PCC has approved the 2018 budget for St. George's, which forecasts a further loss for the year. In order to remediate this position, the PCC has approved the launch of a Stewardship Campaign. The campaign will be a multi-year programme and will be launched around the St George's day celebrations in April, with the objective of increasing overall levels of voluntary giving, and restoring the Church to profitability.

