



CHINGFORD PARISH
Ss Peter & Paul with All Saints

Got questions
about life

Report of the Parochial Church Council to the APCM 2018

Registered Charity number: 1127259

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1. Rector's Report

First: A Thank You

2017/18 has been another exciting year in Chingford in which parish life has continued to deepen and broaden and grow in all kinds of ways. With renewed confidence and a strong foundation, the several congregations here are continuing to grow in strength and depth. Weekend attendance since Christmas has regularly been over 300 people and our wider parish community must be closer to 400 people or more. That is a lot of people to thank!

So let me narrow it down: this year we have added others to our leadership teams and said goodbye to others. It was really great to welcome Fr Lee as our new curate in September. He has already made a great contribution and is a model colleague too. We welcomed back Diana Kennedy as a Licenced Lay Minister. Her learned sermons and writing in the magazine have been very welcome. Marilyn Claydon joined Katherine Ward as ordinands in training and we welcomed their experience of life and ministry on the Leadership Team and around the parish.



We continue to be blessed with two excellent wardens who work voluntarily yet tirelessly doing a myriad of small things, shaping, helping, leading across many areas. Particular thanks goes to Jan Harrison, who will step down as Warden at this APCM, her term having come to a close. Jan's role at All Saints has been as warden, priest, friend, vergers, administrator, server, problem-solver, money-counter, recruitment officer, encourager and more! You have our thanks for your continued help and service to the parish.

Thanks to Fr Rodney and Fr Maxwell for your sterling support again this year. Despite ill health you have been a constant and loyal support in the parish and your ministry here is highly valued.

We said a fond farewell to Mother Susan Sayers whose short ministry we all benefitted from, but who, having been unwell for much of her first year with us, retired in December. We are recruiting for a new Associate Priest as best we can at the moment.

It has been good to continue to work alongside Luke Lowrie and the team from Red Balloon Foundation this year. They have continued to provide Assemblies, Youth Clubs, (CY and CY+), In-School transition clubs at the CofE and Chingford Foundation Schools and have led two First Communion classes. Luke also helps at church during school and All Age Services. If you are not already joining in these- please do. If you haven't met Luke- please do and say thanks!

Our thanks go also to our hardworking staff and parish officers. To Ross and Hannah Clegg for the huge task of getting on top of, sorting out, and reporting on our finances we all owe our thanks. We hope to cooperate with our new partner parishes in the year to come to simplify that task and give you guys a break! Thanks to Colette Samuel, during a really

demanding year, as Parish Safeguarding officer. The crucial pastoral task of ensuring the proper and responsible care of our children, young people, and vulnerable adults is THE most important job in our parish. It needs to be front and centre and have our 100% backing. By thanking Colette and helping her help us fulfil our duty of care we can all demonstrate that. For Alison Goulter, the official Parish Secretary, we continue to give thanks. A tough year also for her, health wise, but she has continued to service the PCC and coordinate rotas at Ss Peter & Paul despite. Thank you.

To Charlotte Hay-Campbell, our Parish Administrator, we also owe a debt of thanks. Charlotte works 12 hours a week in term time and has a range of responsibilities. The weekly sheet is always smart and accurate, our bookings system is now up to date and efficiently stewarding this important resource. The electoral roll and our contacts database is getting up to date, the new E4 Prayer Lunch is being organised well, and we have a better system for handling funerals and interments than before. There are more tasks awaiting in 2018, not least handling all that through the building works but we can anticipate that with confidence!

Speaking of which it has been excellent to have Richard Vincent assisting more fully this year on our Major Projects. Initially overseeing a review, with Fr Maxwell, of the Hall on the Green program, Richard now chairs that working group, has overseen the appointment of new architects and quantity surveyors and a far more robust process of planning. He has also assisted me and is now leading on the delivery of our Project 175 Phase One works to fix the roof, guttering, masonry, and decoration at Ss Peter & Paul's. For this and for ongoing wise counsel and your other contributions you have our thanks Richard.

We thank all those DCC and PCC officers whose terms are coming to an end. Notably Mike Sansom and Sue Emerson. Both Mike and Sue have (many) other roles in church and community. You have our thanks for that and for your service in our governance too.

As always- thanks to Mike and his team and Jan Hawkins and hers. The Fabric Team and Gardening Teams who manage these important aspects of our ministry. The Finance Team and their work keeping a beady eye on all that goes on, offering encouragement, restraint and advice. To welcomers, musicians, sacristans, servers, Alpha volunteers, and Sunday Club teachers, to those who make tea, run rotas, arrange flowers, visit the sick, do assemblies, help at choir club join in daily prayer, edit magazines, teach, preach, pray, organise and lead others, to team members and team leaders, uniformed groups, gardeners, funeral arrangers, and cleaners, to occasional attendees and faithful regulars. As we build for growth we are indebted to all those who support parish life.

To one and all who add to the richness of life in this place and have contributed in whatever way to making the love of God visible- THANK YOU!

2017:

Back in Business

This year I really feel we are back in business as a parish. Despite the uncertainty around not having a full clergy team for the year the other elements of day to day business are in very good order.



We can either let that business and busyness spread to everywhere in our life together and then spend every gathering talking about chairs, rotas, and rising damp. Or we can commission smaller, well organised teams to take care of that and make space for the rest of us to talk more about our faith, our experience, and the Christian life. The latter is surely the better option for a growing parish and certainly the one we are working with here in Chingford.

This way of working has already made space for new things: Alpha, Youth Work, Quiet Days, Cherubs, new Social Events, All Age Services, and more. These spaces are the spaces for evangelism and nurture and that is where we should be spending our time. More of which in a moment.

Nevertheless, we can all contribute to those dryer aspects of our common life. We can serve on an organising team. We can be a trustee and join the PCC. You can always reach me and talk at length about anything of concern or that excites you. And of course, the importance of a continued increase in our own giving cannot be overestimated. The Church of England recommends that each parishioner tithe 5% of their income before tax. And we continue to ask that each person who benefits from this parish's ministry in some way would help that ministry remain available for others, moving towards that 5% target as soon as possible, and pay by standing order. Having a proper dependable and independent income is the surest way to lay proper long-term foundations for this parish.

Highlights

There were LOTS of highlights and I keep forgetting and then remembering more and more of them. Top of my mind are the many happy occasions that the children and young people gathered. Not just at All Age services and big school events but also at smaller class services, at the Sunday Special at the Old Church, at the Cherubs Picnic and again at a very moving Good Friday liturgy for families, (with that Egg Hunt beforehand!)



It has been great to see the Card Making and other social activities really getting going at the Old Church and the Ladies Guild pick up again as the Old Church Social Club. A really memorable trip to St Alban's Festival simply must be repeated (though not this year as it is Mike Emersons Big 40th Weekend) and with other Quiet Days at the Old Church and the Good Friday Meditations there have been lots of ways to get deeper into faith in a fresh and interactive way.



Speaking of interactive- having Purple Praise singing monthly- and at least two (that I remember) packed out concerts- has been a highlight. And with more singers than ever before the Parish Church choirs piled off to Paris for a memorable weekend of music and adventure. The singing in the Eucharist there inspired us to add some new settings which



have been sung at All Age Eucharist's at both churches in recent months- having Laura Alexander lead us has been really lovely. Then there were trips to York Minster, St Albans, and more recently, to that Gloriana of English Cathedrals- Derby. Upstairs in the Silk Mill Pub, next to the site of the world's first factory, we all admitted defeat in the face of the largest lunch ever served to humankind.

We haven't done too badly in Chingford either. The Holy Week meals and the Pentecost Celebration were both real highlights as always and there have been lots of other BBQs at the Rectory and beyond and two Welcome Lunches for newcomers- the most recent which was so full we had to make continual trips back to the Vestry Hall for more plates.

For a lot of people Alpha would have been the highlight of the year. It was super well organised by a lay team and our new curate Fr Lee, (nearly Fr Lee as he was dubbed over the summer before his ordination) and it has been a real turning point. It opened up new horizons, helping us to organise in a new way, and speak about faith and life in a new way too.

There have been over 70 funerals, 40 Baptisms, more than a dozen Confirmations and around 20 First Communions. Each of which represents a deeper commitment to faith, a participation in the life of the people of God, and a moment of deep truth in another human life. I think these events along with the many great occasions, (the Mayor's Civic Service, the Battle of Britain, Remembrance, the Requiem, our MMU launch and so on), really stand out for *me* as occasions where we are at our best and leading the way in accessible, friendly, high quality liturgical public worship. As each year this culminates in the great feasts of Christmas and Easter. The beauty of holiness where all are welcomed in.



2018: Our plans for the year ahead

I said last year, and I have written recently in the magazine- I don't hold much store by big strategies. I am far more interested in creating a sustainable and supportive culture. We have begun to see the fruit of that journey we've made in the last few years in the areas I highlighted above. More so in the feel of the parish. Now that this change is well under way we want to give it everything we've got in the year to come. To that end the Parish will be working at three main goals: Building a Relational Culture; Sharing Power and Responsibility; and Constantly Renewing Our Focus on People. These three goals have been taken from a set of seven which make up the 'Hallmarks of an Organised Church', a guide published by the Centre for Theology and Community, who have been helping us as leaders and the PCC think about using the tools of Community Organising in our life together.

1. Building a Relational Culture

Some of us, mainly the clergy, have been spending several hours a week in relational meetings, (121's). Think of it as 21st Century Parish Visiting. These conversations have been an amazing source of energy and community. Our goal in the next year is to have one with almost everyone in church and have five of us regularly meeting others in this way.

Our aim is to grow and develop the recently launched Parish Care Team and Small Groups establishing a team of learning leaders. We are already looking to adapt and develop our social events and occasions and we hope that through these 121s and our other ministry together that we develop new leaders and that more and more people will develop those meaningful relationships that bind us into the common life. They say you need seven meaningful relationships to commit to a church for the long term.

We have a goal- that we all need to work to- to grow our main Sunday attendance to 75 at the Old Church and 150 at the Parish Church over the next two years.

2. Sharing Power and Responsibility

This year the PCC wants to develop a new pattern of better Congregational Meetings. They won't look the same- they hopefully will feel very different- and we won't be using our DCCs for the entire year to free space for this new format to develop. It is being lay-led and we hope will continue to be lay-led throughout and we hope these new spaces will enable all of us to more easily have a sense of responsibility and care for our common life and find new better spaces to reflect on our faith together, to join in fully and to share openly.

We are going to continue to use the tools of Community Organising, not just by listening, acting, and broadening our public witness through Waltham Forest Citizens, but also in every part of our life together. Especially when we meet. Our aim is that every meeting, including those just mentioned, becomes an occasion to grow in faith and develop people- not just a place to get jobs done.

We also hope to deepen and develop our wider relationships within the Mission and Ministry Unit that has just been launched too and respond to deepening relationships with all kinds of partners across our wider area, in Chingford, E4, our MMU, and the Deanery at large.

3. Constantly Renewing our Focus on PEOPLE

All this means a lot more flexibility in what we do and how we do it. If it isn't helping our faith or deepening our relationships, then we don't need to be doing it. There are no sacred cows in the Christian Church. Having good core teams should provide a platform for this kind of culture but still it could be unsettling (to me first and foremost!). But it will be worth it.

We aim this year to use the practice of evaluation much more widely. In our services, of our meetings, of routine events. What is good, what could help make our worship more faithful, what is the newcomers' experience and how can it be deepened? How can we hear more stories and develop more people? How can we connect more deeply inside and out?

We will run Alpha again in the Autumn- are you coming? And we will be growing our new Small Groups- who know what will come out of them and where it could lead. We hope to create a culture here where anything is possible.

And to make space for this we will stop doing things too! Yes- that's right. No DCCs this year and what else needs some fallow time so we can renew our focus on people?

A final encouragement: All in!

In all this I want you all to be encouraged. The parish is thriving. Our challenge is how to sustain that and create a culture where all can find space for their life of faith in a community that worships, learns, listens and collaborates more deeply than ever before. How can we resource one another and our community so that our focus is on faith first and foremost.

And lastly a plug- on Pentecost 2018 (May 20th) it is the World Church's birthday. We are having a Big Festival Day of course and there are First Communion. But we are asking everyone- if you come some weeks or every week- to all come to church at once. Let's have an 'Everyone In' Sunday and be encouraged together as we see the whole body gather to worship God who is our reason for being, our goal for living, and our only hope now and in the life to come.

Yours in love,

Fr Andy Trenier, Rector of Chingford

2. Report from the DCC of the Parish Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul

Welcome

We've welcomed many more new friends this year with people of all ages joining to worship on a fairly regular basis. Congratulations to Rob & Jenny on the birth of Orla and Nicola and Rory on producing Alfie among others and welcome to the little ones, it's great to have lots of families and children in our church. When I first moved to Chingford I really admired the Catholic Marian Club for the way the older ladies of the parish looked after the children, while for an hour a week the mum's had time for themselves in an adjoining room. Now, 40+yrs on some of the older grandma's from our congregation support cherubs on Monday afternoon by making drinks, washing up, keeping an eye on the door and playing with the children. I think this is a terrific service from them and lovely for the children to feel the love of everyone around them.

Fabric Works

Unfortunately we had an unexpected problem with the concrete kerb around some of the large windows in church particularly when a lump fell down and landed near the seats, we have of course had expert advice and work done to make it safe for now. A similar problem has arisen in the small windows above the choir and moves are being made with the support of our architects to make that safe.

A health and safety inspection revealed one or two minor problems but overall it went well and all maintenance needs have been met either by our own fabrics team or by a local builder. Thanks to Simon Gaulter and team for quietly 'doing the necessary'.

The Churchyard has been mainly looked after by the council gardeners and they have done a very good job of keeping hedges and grass tidy. A new liaison man has made a great difference. A few of us still do our best to collect litter, plastic flowers and dead wreaths on the second Saturday of each month and help is always welcome; coffee and cakes are available in the church at the same time-10.30 – 12.

2017 wasn't a good year for some of the people we depended on with David and Diana having very debilitating strokes and others slowing down significantly. We are an ageing community and it is good to see some younger people supporting the parish in various ways.

Alpha and More

The ALPHA course did a lot to help communication both in the church and across the parish with the Old Church people being very supportive and we hope to build on that. Sadly because of ill health Mthr. Susan Sayers-Hill was unable to lead the course as planned and is

missed by all of us having retired to Southend at the end of the year but Fr. Lee did a very good job at the helm of a great team. We all wish Susan well as she recovers.

The choirs continue to delight and to encourage more and more young people into the church. They bring so much to services it isn't easy to quantify it. Long may they continue to lead us.

Thank you to everyone for supporting our many activities, everyone at the altar, coffee makers, stewards, Sunday club and Cherubs leaders, flower arrangers (we need more please!!), gardeners, and 200 club, thank you for your continued support and friendship.

Joyce Hilton, *Churchwarden*

2. Report from All Saints, (the Old Church)

An unsettling year

This year has been a very difficult unsettling year for everyone. It seems as if we have been in an interregnum for a long time but also strange as we had our “priest in waiting.” Mthr. Susan arrived in November 2016 but her ministry was blighted by serious illness. This took time to heal and recover. However, she did manage to conduct a Pilgrim Course, which proved to be successful and gave everyone a chance to get to know her better. Hopefully we can hold another one in 2018. Sadly Susan suffered another stroke later in the year and after a long period of recovery she decided that she would not be able to come back to and take up her position and she retired in January. Whilst here she made many friends and she is already missed by many for her calm and prayerful way. We wish her happiness and good health in her retirement.

In 2017 the oldest member of our congregation Ivy Trevett (101) passed away as did Cliff Wing and Lily Love. They had been part of the congregation for many years and contributed to the church in so many ways. May they rest in peace.

Continuing in Worship

Along with weekly Sunday and Wednesday Eucharists, Morning Prayer on Wednesday continues too and, as each day clergy or lay people lead. Joe Collins is always there and we thank Joe for his commitment. Jan Hawkins also continues to hold her monthly Hour of Prayer on the first Saturday each month. Purple Praise is another growing group who aid our worship by singing every third Sunday in the month. They also gave two concerts with lunch, during the year. Every seat was sold out, and all had a good time. It was lovely to welcome so many people.

In September some of the congregation joined in the Parish-wide Alpha course. Enjoyed by everyone who attended who explored their faith and discovered new things about themselves. We look forward to another course in 2018.

During the last year there has been five Baptisms, two Weddings and fifty-one Funerals and two internment of ashes with one memorial service held at the Old Church. Thanks have to go to the organisers, organist, vergers, and clergy for their attention to detail in making these occasions run so smoothly.

Sunday Club continues to grow, thanks to Val Lewis and her dedicated team. Apart from learning about their faith it is wonderful to watch the children grow in confidence as they tell us all about their mornings activities. They held another Sunday Club Special in July and

everyone had a great time. At Christmas time they collected over 100 boxes to be sent abroad to less fortunate children along with many more across the parish.

The food bank is well supported, as is Trade craft and Christian Aid, coffee mornings and card making.

Fellowship for all

As well as those activities the annual cream tea has now become a regular feature in the diary and again we were lucky enough to have beautiful weather, which encouraged people to join us and visit the church, some for the first time.

The Ladies Guild needed an overhaul, which was successfully done in December. Jenny Beardsmore had been leading it for many years but owing to ill health had to give it up. Our thanks and gratitude to Jenny for all that she has done over the years. Karen Fordham has now taken over, renamed it the Old Church Social Club, which will now include everyone, and membership has already started to grow. Good luck to them in the year ahead.

We had a river trip on the River Lea in September which Mthr Susan was able to attend, and despite the weather had a lovely afternoon tea on the river. The parish Lent meals and Harvest supper happened at the Old Church again which gives an opportunity to thank everyone that gets involved with the catering whatever the occasion.

The churchyard, gardening and general maintenance is an ongoing activity. A big thank you to all who do so much, some from the congregation some who do not attend church but enjoy the fellowship. August is the time when Old Church has its clean up and 2017 was no exception as like other years the hall was repainted by some of the congregation kitchen cleaned etc.

A farewell

During this past year it has sometimes been a challenge to arrange cover for both churches, and all their efforts have been very much appreciated. We hope that it will not be too long before we have more permanent leadership.

This is my last report as churchwarden as I will not be standing for re-election this year. I should like to thank everyone for their support during my time in office especially Joyce who has helped and guided me along the way. I wish the new Churchwarden every success. I know the Old church will continue to extend a welcoming hand to all that comes to its door and we look forward to 2018/19 and all that it may bring. In the mean-time, thank you to anyone who helps our worship and church life in whatever capacity.

Jan Harrison, *Churchwarden*

4. Report from Chingford Parish Children and Family Ministry Teams

Sunday Club has continued to grow in numbers, we now have an average of 10 children most weeks. They delight in checking bible verses, playing games and doing craft all relating to the bible story we have each week. As the children have grown older, their knowledge of God has also grown resulting in two children taking First Communion, and more considering the next course.

Our Sunday Club Special was very successful, and we plan to hold another in July, reaching out to families in the parish. The leaders are greatly encouraged that their love and passion for God is being passed on to the next generation.

Sunday Club at the Parish Church, led by a dedicated and enthusiastic group of leaders, is thriving and we welcome our group of regular children as well as a large number of visiting children throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming the Cherubs to Sunday Club when they are old enough. We are delighted that our older children are now able to attend the new Christian Youth group at the Rectory but we are always pleased to see them when they come back to Sunday Club to assist with the younger children. During the school holidays, when no Sunday Club is running, we are now able to offer the children activity bags containing Lego, Bible activity sheets and quizzes, which are proving very successful. In the past year we have joined the Old Church in organising shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and were able to reach out and involve local primary schools. Through Action Aid we support a young girl and her community in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Our regular events, Christingle, Nativity, summer picnic and Christmas party continue to be very successful and well attended.

Cherubs are thriving, especially in our Monday church service for under 5yr olds and their families. Everyone has a good time learning about Jesus and how to care about others, through play, prayer, bible stories, craft activities, action songs and music. It is a new expression of church and attendance is growing, between 30-40 children and adults every week. Our ministry is to show God's love in all we do.



5. Report from Chingford Parish Music Teams

Chingford Parish Church Choir - Chingford Parish Church Girls' Choir - The Chingford Singers – Chingford Parish Church Chamber Choir - Monthly Concerts' Series- Purple Praise

Purple Praise

Purple Praise are now 45 strong, and meet fortnightly for rehearsals and fellowship. Now into our nineteenth year, we continue to visit (in smaller groups) and sing in residential homes and clubs in the borough, bringing the spirit of our fellowship and Christian love to those who can no longer get to Church. We also continue to give sell out concerts with lunch twice a year, fundraising for the various items or projects our Church is in need of. Purple Praise use our subs to pay for the lunches, programs and raffle prizes so that every penny raised goes to our Church.

We welcome all comers, and many find their way into our Church through their membership in the choir. Purple Praise shows those who have never been to Church a welcome and demonstrate that worship and praise can also be fun! We sing, when invited, at funerals and weddings - generally we are very busy.

Been there – done that – got the T shirt!.....

In time to come 2017 may well be one of those years that goes down as one of the high points in the history of the choirs. With strong commitment from 24 boys, 36+ girls and 26 men we were able to sing high quality choral music very well consistently throughout the year, hopefully enhancing the worship at the Parish Church. In addition, we took 85 boys, girls, men and Chamber Choir for a long weekend singing in Paris at La Madeleine, St Sulpice and Notre Dame Cathedral; and 70 boys, girls and men for the choir week singing in York Minster, Selby Abbey and Wakefield Cathedral. During the year we also sang our regular slot at St Alban's Cathedral. To celebrate all that, we also produced new choir shirts which continue to be proudly worn by our singers.

The Grand Christmas Concert was another success, and Ernest Tomlinson's 'Fantasia on Auld Lang Syne' by the Chingford Sinfonia gained particular praise.

All this continued to be possible thanks to the generosity and support of Chingford Parish Church and its people, as well as a lot of hard work fundraising by parents and choirmembers, which meant that the choir's finances again remained secure. We were also able to



raise £1443.30 for the NSPCC: the choir's chosen charity for this year's carol singing.

There were a record number of Bishops' Award exam successes again – a total of 15 over the year, as well as two more Gold Awards. For one choir to have three current holders of that award amongst its ranks is a rare achievement. We didn't enter anyone for the Dean's Award as we were too busy with preparation for these higher exams, but that should be redressed in the coming year.

The Chingford Singers gave a full concert in the summer with the choir men as well as singing at various services, performed Cherubini's Requiem on All Souls' Day, and played their usual key role in the Grand Christmas Concert.

All our regular concerts were again well supported, and involved events by our own musicians as well as other organisations such as the London Forest Choir and South West Essex Choir, who are now performing regularly at CPC. This also enables the concerts to give more financial support to the parish generally.

The Music library was finally sorted out, re-boxed and re-catalogued as part of the Hall on the Green project – albeit with a third of the music in a temporary home in the gallery! We came very close to actually getting the building works done, but then another problem added a further delay. A new team at the head of the project has given it new life and we hope eventually to achieve our goal, now with new architects on board as well.

The choir looks forward to the coming years in which we can continue offer our many young people a great experience, with the choir being booked to sing in St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Southwark, Gloucester, Winchester, Derby, St Alban's, Llandaff and more cathedrals.

It was a great end to the year to discover that our latest recording 'A Christmas Blessing from Chingford' was now on the Classic FM playlist and we had been featured a number of times on the radio including on Christmas day!

As always, we are very grateful for the help, support and enthusiasm of our whole team of musicians who do so much voluntarily to organise, prepare, rehearse and perform our music. Particular thanks again are due to Tom Cowhig, Jonathan Marten, John Rippin, and Rory Thorndyke. Also to Joyce Hilton, Colette and the many wives, friends, parents and choir men who quietly undertake all the other necessary jobs that keep our music going. Fr Andy and Katherine Ward provided valuable Christian Training for the choristers, particularly in the preparation for RSCM Bishops' Chorister and Gold Award exams.

Mike Emerson, Director of Music

