



CHINGFORD PARISH  
Ss Peter & Paul with All Saints

195

Gormes Farm

BM 158  
Smithy

222

24



Sur 151

193



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Chingford

# Report of the Parochial Church Council to the APCM 2019

Registered Charity number: 1127259

Paul's Church

38

Grave Yard  
1487

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BM 141.9

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# 1. Rector's Report

## A BIG THANKYOU!

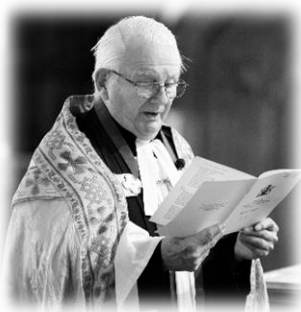
2018/19 has been a great year in the parish. Growing in depth and breath our life and ministry together seems to be flourishing. And of course, that doesn't happen by accident. We give glory to God and thanks to one another.

Firstly to my ordained colleagues- Fr Lee, who was only priested in September, feels like a permanent fixture such is the impact his ministry has made. Always sensitive and careful, he leads several areas of our life, including the Alpha Teams, Parish Care Team and Small Groups. He preaches excellently and we continue to be obliged to him. Thankyou.

It was wonderful to (finally) have a new permanent priest leading the congregations at the Old Church. Hilary has begun her ministry here with great wisdom, listening and hearing the story of our parish. She has been a real encouragement to the leadership team and, I know, already much appreciated at the Old Church who are glad to have a regular minister again. It makes, and is already making, such a difference. Thanks Hilary.



Thanks also to Diana Kennedy, Licenced Lay Minister for all your contributions, in particular leading several funerals of late. Your writing in the magazine and contribution to the new History are very welcome. Marilyn Claydon and Katherine Ward, now Licenced Lay Worker, both lead in really important areas of parish life and both do so part time and alongside their final year of studies. We welcome their experience of life and ministry on the Leadership Team and around the parish.



Fr Rodney and Fr Maxwell have both continued, not just to provide cover, but to contribute to the leadership of the parish. We all enjoy Fr Maxwell's preaching and his wonderful radio voice! But his much-needed old-fashioned catholic devotion also inspires and enriches our offering. Fr Rodney is a rock. Always reliable. Always cheerful. Always open and honest and always a cracking contribution- pastorally as well as presiding at services. Rodney and Rosemary you are jewels in our crown. Thankyou.

This year we welcomed Richard Vincent to our team as a new churchwarden, to work alongside Joyce Hilton. It has been a joy to see the impact of his contributions- managing entirely our Major Projects Team and taking on, in the middle of the year, responsibility for the Parish Fabric Team too. Details, processes, and proper attention are what you get with Richard but also a serious churchmanship and great fun too. I wonder if you know how much difference you have really made? A lot! Thanks for your first year.

Thanks- I think I live in thanks- to Joyce Hilton, who is now in her second term as churchwarden, voluntarily yet tirelessly doing a myriad of small things, shaping, helping, leading across many areas. In the depths of winter Joyce battled with the boiler company for us and won the day. Joyce manages the church cleaners and organises monthly open mornings. She always ensures the welcome at the door, at each service, is well coordinated and open. Joyce is a great recruiter of volunteers and helps people feel involved as a result. And, personally, Joyce is a great support- of the parish and of our approach. Thanks.

It has been good to continue to work alongside Luke Lowrie and the team from Red Balloon Foundation this year. What a success it has been having your team support our many and various children and youth work. They have continued to provide Assemblies, Youth Clubs, (CY and CY+), In-School transition clubs at the CofE School and have led First Communion classes, and provided weekly Sunday Club resources and support. Luke also helps at church during our increasing number of school and All Age Services. And, now that we have a joint partnership with our Mission and Ministry Unit Partners, provides support and training across our four sites. Not many people know much you do Luke- thankyou.



Our thanks go also to our hardworking staff and parish officers. To Ross Clegg for continuing the huge task of getting on top of, sorting out, and reporting on our finances and in transitioning all our staff to contracts, PAYE, and our accounts online we all owe our thanks. This year we have been glad, again thanks to our Mission and Ministry Unit partnership with the Parishes of Walthamstow and Cornerstone we have been able to employ Silvia Garrido Kemp. Silvia not only organises great parties and is a devoted Christian but is also a finance whizz and, in effect, leads on all our financial management. Quite a change from a year ago. Working with Ross, Silvia has got us up to speed and in a very complex year financially all has gone well and our end of year position is very strong. Silvia- it is great to have you in the team. Great job!

Thanks to Colette Samuel, entrusted with the crucial pastoral task of ensuring the proper and responsible care of our children, young people, and vulnerable adults. I say it all the time but it 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 enthusiastically-without whinging or complaining about red tape- we can all demonstrate that we too, share these values.

To Charlotte Hay-Campbell, our Parish Administrator, we say thanks again. Charlotte now works 12 hours a week in term time managing bookings across the parish, sorting our correspondence, electoral roll, weekly sheet and more. Charlotte also arranges the practical details for the very successful E4 Prayer Lunch several times a year and takes part in the

Parish Leadership Team meetings every fortnight. For all this- and for your contribution to our 2019/20 parish Focus- thank you.

Further thanks must go to Jan Harrison and Gil Hoxby for managing another six months without a minister at the Old Church and for all that you have done since. It was a real blow to have a break-in this year and to lose some valuable historical silverware but the way you all responded has been splendid.

Thanks to Joe and Alan, our Sacristans for incredible care and attention and your service in the liturgy and leading your teams. As always- thanks to Mike and his team and Jan Hawkins and hers. What a year it was for Parish Music. We thank Diane Alexander for her funeral arranging, Katherine Ward for coordinating Wedding Ministry, to Keith Robinson for doing the funeral finance returns, to Ian Rampton as Parish Planned Giving Officer, to Christine and Gill for running Fair Trade stalls, Gary and the team for the Christmas Fair, Nicky for her photography, and to all those who run rotas, or lead teams, groups, mentor others, to those of you who arrange flowers, turn up to welcome, staff, make, supervise, serve, play, sing,



arrange, fix, deliberate,  
edit, publish, join in,  
give, garden, sort, sift,  
sell, clean, create or  
pray-

THANK YOU ALL!

## 2018- A REVIEW

Alongside the normal run of things the PCC had some quite deliberate foci this year taken from the Centre of Theology and Community's Hallmarks of an Organised Church.

### 1. A relational Culture

This year we continued the practice of meeting people for 121s- a deliberate meeting to learn each other's story and experience of Christian faith and to try to uncover our passions and drivers. Our aim was to have five leaders doing this regularly and that has worked out. For me- the two or three 121s in my week are the best part. If you are a group leader- why not join in. Our goal for next year is to extend the practice much more. We've definitely had more people feeling and getting more involved in parish life as a result.

We also wanted to take the stories from these 121s and share them in church but I don't think we have done that to any great extent. We will try again next year because hearing one another's stories is such a powerful witness to faith at work.

Another of our goals in this area was to establish the Parish Care Team with fifteen people on it learning together as they went. Thanks to the group and Fr Lee's leadership this has been a real success. We hope in the year to come to extend this great work with the Extended Family project. I hope your experience of parish care has been good- please do let us know if it has, or if you feel something has been missed. It is pretty tough for the clergy to be on top of everything with the other responsibilities we now have. We do like to know if we can help and try to make sure we help when it is needed.

We were looking to adapt and develop our social events and occasions and we hoped 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. I think, again, we did this to a limited extent. The new pattern at Christmas works. The great weekend of events for Mike's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Director of Music was a roaring success. As were the two new events in the spring. What does that teach us? And what to do this coming year alongside the 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday events?

Alongside all this have a long term 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 coming years. Attendance at the Old Church is now bobbing just under that figure with a healthy mid-week group and new small groups on the horizon. Attendance at Cherubs Children's Church has regularly exceeded its goal and the main Sunday congregations at the Parish Church have hit 150 twice (aside from the major festivals) but are normally between 100 and 120. Our own more regular devotions could alter this drastically as at the moment a lot of us come only once or twice a month.



## **2. Sharing Power and Responsibility**

The future of the healthy parish is a higher level of participation by more confident Christian lay people. Here in Chingford- that door is wide open.

This year the PCC wanted to develop a new pattern of better Congregational Meetings. The idea was that they would *not* look the same- they hopefully would feel very different. We paused the DCC structure- I think this has not been missed- to free space for this new format to develop. Our evaluation is that this has not happened yet but the hope remains that 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.



The future of the healthy parish is also a higher degree of cooperation across parish boundaries and this year we have taken great strides to deepen and develop our relationships within the Mission and Ministry Unit and beyond. We have done leadership training and support together. We have funded and hired a Finance Officer. We have funded and commissioned joint Children and Youth Work. We have taken part in the recruitment at Cornerstone. We have met monthly to pray and share together. We have just been awarded several hundred thousand pounds to Church Plant together. And more. The Mission Unit is certainly worth it and going from strength to strength.

### **3. Constantly Renewing our Focus on PEOPLE**

As I suggested last year all this means a lot more flexibility in what we do and how we do it and it means our focus must be on the one thing that really matters- people! All our work is now done in teams, most of which have clear goals and terms of reference. I can feel the difference as I lead none of them! Good news for all.

We aimed also this year to use the practice of evaluation much more widely. In our services, of our meetings, of routine events. We are getting there. But we are not there yet. We aimed to run Alpha again in the Autumn and did. We aimed to grow several new Small Groups and did. Both need perseverance and patience but we started.

And we said we would make space for all this by stopping doing things too! So we paused our DCC structure with no harm. We focussed the Christmas fair at the Old Church- with great success. Are there more things we shouldn't be doing any more?

### **Other Highlights**



There was so much again this year to pick out I am afraid I will miss something. Mike's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was certainly one.

But the other major concerts, including by Purple Praise, and the great Sung Eucharists were also fabulous. A great tour to Gloucester and several other Cathedral trips have given 2017 a run for its money music wise.

A highlight was also the super response to the Organ Scholarship Appeal- we raised the needed £5000 in five weeks and interviews are on the cards as I write.

Welcoming in Hilary was brilliant. Fr Lee's ordination was very special- happening at St Mary's Walthamstow. The confirmations and receptions in the Autumn. The building up of the youth clubs and the success of Cherubs Church have been very encouraging- as well as the recent OFSTED Good at our church school. The renewed partnership with them is to be celebrated and we can barely keep up with the demand for services and support.

Ministry at Life Events continue to offer a great deal of pastoral reward and the wide team dealing with these many occasions of baptism, marriage, and at death. We improved our resources for this ministry and it is bearing fruit. What a privilege to serve the community openly and happily another year.



The incredible turnout for our Waltham Forest Citizens Accountability Assembly in April was a joy- and the promises made by the council ambitious. These are now beginning to see fruit as our power to do good and, with our Bishops, be a proper and positive influence for the change we want to see has been growing ever since.

What stands out most I think for me is the number of people who feel welcome and supported to make a spiritual home here. Old and new. Young and old. I often get great feedback including, the other day, someone saying to me of an Ash Wednesday Mass, that it was the most beautiful service they had ever been to in their life. That is the result of a load of great people ministering together harmoniously and working hard for each other. And that team spirit is a mark of a fantastic parish. I am very proud to serve it as Rector.

## **2019- Our focus for the year ahead**

In my April remarks in the Parish Magazine I noted that there is a paradox in the heart of our Church. We feel, I hope, that it is timeless, always here when you need it, even never-changing. And yet upon closer reflection it is clear that the only constant is change itself. The story of the Parish of Chingford is a story of constant change just as the story of our 'village' is one of constant change too. But unlike the happenstance of the world, there exists in the Church a happy and wonderful paradox. It is only because of constancy that change can be confidently embraced. And only because of change that the constants in our life together remain fresh and powerful for each generation.

And we will be refocussing in the church and calendar year ahead on three things- again from the Hallmarks of an Organised Church. Hopefully these represent change for good- but again we pray they are keeping constant to our calling:

Firstly, we want to help parishioners- to help one another to develop a greater confidence in our faith. Many of us are new Christians. Many are new to the parish. Not all of us feel at home yet in our faith or in this place. We want to help that change. In order to help we will



be doubling the number of small groups and running Alpha through these groups this year. We will be continuing to offer practical devotional aids, more guidance on spiritual practice, instruction on churchmanship, and better, more consistent, teaching and preaching.

Secondly, we want to help this confidence by deepening our relationships with one another and helping foster a relational culture in the parish. Our Extended Family Scheme will be a big part of this and we hope more of us will take up the practice of 121s. We also aim do the storytelling that got lost last year.



Lastly we want to strengthen our readiness to look outward. A big part of that will be the establishment of a new Lay Community ready to plant out a new worshipping congregation. We have financial resources for this and the resources of our traditions. But it is a big challenge nevertheless. Likewise, the church continues to face the big challenge of offering moral leadership in public life. Our aim is that many more will participate in the events put on by the Waltham Forest Citizens alliance and that we have a dozen people on our core team by the end of the year.



### **An Invitation to Join In**

Lastly, let me invite you to join in. Join in by deepening your faith and growing in love for God. Join in by coming along more regularly and giving faithfully. Join in by taking news steps this year. Join in by cooperating with others in small and large way in the parish, by considering what we do, why and how we do it and

learning together. Join in by leading others into faith and into new relationships and into participation in the body of Christ. Join at the big Joint Services at Pentecost and at Petertide. Join in by offering your time and energies to God. Join in by giving us yourself. We will give ourselves to you. And together we will grow in faith and hope and love.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Fr Andy'.

*Fr Andy Trenier,*

**Rector of Chingford and Acting Area Dean of Waltham Forest**

## 2. Report from the Parish Church of Ss Peter & Paul

### A Productive Year

It has been another busy and challenging and productive year at the Parish church with remedial work to the roof, repairs to the inside structure of the church, removing flaky and loose paint from church walls and problems with our church boiler. The present work is coming to an end and the church will soon return to its former dust-free self. After three months of very cold days on occasion and numerous visits by engineers the boiler seems now to be working well too. All should be back to normal in time for our 175th anniversary in the early summer.



### Growing and Happy Congregations

Numbers of children and young people at worship continue to grow along with the rest of the congregation, and all are very welcome. The parish offers Sunday Club and Sunday Club+ to children aged 4-14 while little Cherubs up to 3yrs have their own activities. The boys and girls choirs attract up to forty young people each Sunday so we are investing a great deal of time and effort in our youngsters and their futures.

The growing numbers saw four hundred and thirty-five people at the Easter services and nearly three thousand during advent. Several local schools held carol services at this time and then approximately nine hundred and fifty participated in Christmas eve/day services.

As ever the choir were superb and led us tirelessly at a very busy time. Congratulation to Mike Emerson on reaching your 40<sup>th</sup> Christmas in Chingford and thank you!

It is refreshing to hear the views and ideas of new people and to share their excitement at finding a happy group of church members who want to share their faith and their worship. The church has hosted Parish Alpha. The course provoked a lot of discussion and sharing of views across several churches. Hopefully it will be repeated this year.



We distributed potted primulas to ladies on Mothering Sunday and hollow chocolate eggs to everyone at Easter and we are aware that sometimes this is the only time some of our people will get such a gift and it is very important to them. I should add that extra plants are given to any men present, by the end of the service!

### Good News for a New Year

In October Rev. Hilary Musker, a new part time Associate Priest with responsibility for All Saints, was welcomed to the Old Church and has preached at several Parish Church services. I wish Hilary a long and happy time with the parish and look forward to hearing more wise words from her.



The plans for 2019 are concentrating on our BIG anniversary with the main event being June 29th/30th at Petertide. Many activities are being planned with the highlight being a visit by Bishop Stephen to a joint Parish Eucharist on Sunday 30th. It's going to be another full and happy year thanks to all the work put in by our clergy and many members of the congregations.

Thank you everyone for all your help and support, we pray now that God will continue to be with us as we continue to spread his good news to the people of Chingford.

Joyce Hilton,  
*Churchwarden*





### 3. Report from All Saints, (the Old Church)

#### The Year Past

The year past has been another year of challenges as the parish started off with no regular Associate Priest. However, with the help of all the other clergy and Lay persons we managed, and increased our Sunday Club membership too.



Activities included card making, a Lent supper, a spring coffee morning, an afternoon cream teas, and a Purple Praise concert. We did not hold our Harvest Supper owing to the large amount of catering involved in autumn 2018 including Fr. Lee's First Mass and Rev. Hilary's welcome service. That First Mass at the Old Church was a lovely occasion and in September we welcomed Rev. Hilary Musker, Associate priest, into the Parish, with special responsibility for All Saints. She has already settled in and we are look forward to working with her and growing our congregations over the next months and years.

Gill Hoxby works tirelessly throughout the year raising money for Christian Aid. Her jam is now famous and she raised £1000 this year. Chris Rampton and Gill also work raising money for Trade Craft across the parish and donated £500 to parish funds through their work.

Owing to the renovations at the Parish church, all funerals have been held at The Old Church and we have been kept very busy.

In November, the shocking discovery that the hall and Vestry had been broken into on two occasions, and on the second the safe containing church plate stolen caused great distress. We lost a valuable 400year old chalice plus a ciborium and two flagons that had been donated and recently renovated in memory of loved ones; not all necessarily financially valuable but very special to many in the congregation. Security is now upgraded and the incident is being investigated by the police.

Purple Praise held their annual Christmas concert, which was well attended and raised just over £1000. Christmas was a joyous occasion, as always, with the Sunday Club performing their Nativity play then the Lighting of the Christmas tree



service in aid of the Children's Society, culminating in Midnight Mass. All of the services and activities were very well supported and we're grateful to all who joined in so enthusiastically.

## Goodbyes

Graeme King moved away to pastures new and we wish him well. Sadly we also lost two of our older parishioners. Lily Love who had been a member of the congregation for many years was never down and her funeral was one never to be forgotten, as the congregation came out singing, at her request. More recently Ted Reynolds, who for nearly thirty years was always there to give a hand with whatever needed doing and was a central person helping to keep the churchyard looking at its best. They are both greatly missed. May they rest in peace.

Our thanks goes to everyone in whatever capacity has helped, worked and given their time so freely to help with the smooth running of the Old Church. We're looking forward to another happy and successful year under Hilary's leadership.

*Jan Harrison/Gill Hoxby*

Deputy Church Wardens at the Old Church



## 4. Report from Sunday Clubs

### At the Parish Church

Sunday Club (for children aged 4 to 11) continues to thrive and is led by a dedicated team of volunteers. Each week we tell a Bible story and offer a range of related activities including art and craft activities, puzzles, quizzes and games. We now have the benefit of lessons and resources provided by the Red Balloon Family Foundation.

In July we took part in the Fun Day at the Old Church and in December we had a great Christmas party followed by a Christingle Service which was very well attended and enjoyed by children and adults alike. The Big Nativity Service goes from strength to strength – 25 children aged between 2 and 14 took part– and the church was bursting at the seams!

Looking outward the Sunday Club regularly take part in the All Age Services and give money each month to a chosen charity. This year loads of shoe boxes were packed for a coordinated Christmas appeal.

### At All Saints (the Old Church)

Sunday Club at The Old Church has been running for five years this month with great success. Many children have attended during this time and have participated in the Nativity Service and Easter Egg Hunt. There are fifteen children on the register at the moment, and three waiting to join when they are old enough later this year. Ten of these attend most weeks. Seven have attended the First Communion courses and now receive Communion. The team have also started using The Red Balloon Box resources, which have been a great success.

Looking outward the Club children sponsor a little girl in Bangladesh, through World Vision, and correspond with her during the year. We have also packed shoeboxes with others in the parish, combining to send over 400 boxes to disadvantaged children at Christmas in the past four years. At harvest time the children decorate a large box and fill it with items for the food bank. This has been a great opportunity for us all to compare our lifestyles to others in the world, and give practical help and send love in the name of Jesus.

In July we will be holding another Sunday Club Special fun day. Volunteers serve lunch, have crafts and games and a bouncy castle for children from the parish Sunday Clubs, their family and friends, all of which is free and open. Most importantly the children who attend Sunday Club have grown in knowledge and love of Jesus and each other.

*Helen Chilvers and Val Lewis,*  
Sunday Club Team Leaders



## 5. Report from Cherubs Children's Church

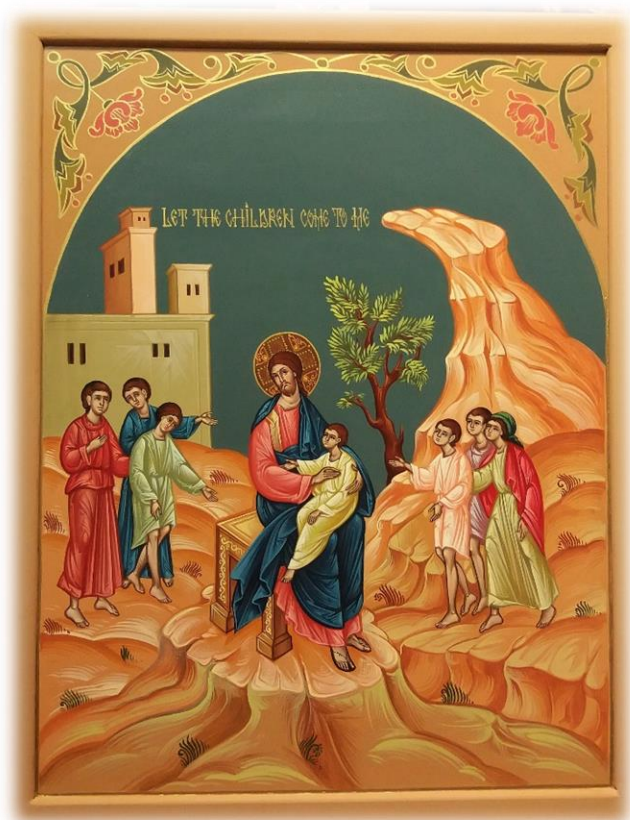
Monday Children's church for young children and their families is now an established fresh expression of church and has a regular attendance of around thirty-five people every week. The aim is to share and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a way that is exciting and relevant to both children and adults and show God's love in all we do.

Each session is based on the Sunday service, delivered with age-appropriate worship songs, prayers, bible stories and activities. It has been encouraging that several of our families have also been baptised or confirmed this year.

As in many church activities, growing leaders who have a gift for ministry to young children and families is a continuing challenge. This year we welcomed Sarah, from Red Balloon Foundation to join and resource the team. Alongside her we are building a sustainable leadership team, and providing a place and space for our young children and their families to get to know God and the Church.

A huge thank you to all the team for making Cherubs such a success.

*Marilyn Claydon*  
Ordinand



## 6. Report from CY Clubs and Schools Ministry

Alongside these activities for Children and Families the parish also provides lots of outreach activities.

### At School

At School we are reordering the weekly service schedule and establishing a new liturgy for Collective Worship, both in assembly time and in the class room with resources for teachers, prayers, candles and a 'worship box'. We are also investing in a new load of music that we can share between church and school.

Alongside weekly church assemblies delivered to a syllabus in partnership with Red Balloon Foundation staff, we also deliver weekly support to the Infant Site Prayer Club and the Junior Site Year 6 Transition Club. The latter takes every Year 6 child through a term-long process of preparation and reflection on moving to secondary school.

### In Church

This transition is marked at Ash Wednesday in one of several new class-level services open to children, parents and staff helping every child mark every festival of the church's year during their stay at CofE. Several classes throughout the year also visit to learn about the Christian faith and the role of the church in society.

At the end of every term the whole school and lots of families descend on the Parish Church for a bumper and increasingly popular End of Term Service.

At Christmas several more schools come for their Carol services and the clergy also deliver talks and Collective Worship at Parkside, Normanhurst and Davenant Schools.

### CY and CY+ Clubs

In partnership with Red Balloon Foundation and the Forest Group of URC Churches we also deliver weekly clubs for primary and secondary aged children. Each week a whole host of fun Christian activity is offered to between fifteen and twenty children who attend. There is a walking bus from school and refreshments laid on for parents and family members who attend.

*Fr Andy*  
Rector

## 7. Report from Parish Small Groups

### Background:

In 2017 the PCC agreed that one of the goals of the year was to set up small groups to make space available for people to deepen their faith through fellowship, prayer and bible study. After running Alpha for the first time in the autumn of 2017 one of the resources attendees asked for was the provision of small groups.

In early 2018 those interested in hosting and/or leading a monthly small group were invited to meet to discuss what the groups might look like and how they could be structured. It was agreed that the structure should be fairly consistent and relatively planning-free for the leaders.

### What a small group might look like:

- The first half an hour so of a small group is social, refreshments are provided and people can get to know each other.
- Following this there is a very simple small group order which begins with a set preparation prayer to help create a different note.
- The gospel from the preceding Sunday is read and then open for questions and discussion.
- This is followed by a time of open prayer and the Lord's prayer.

Some of the groups that were already set up (such as Fr Rodney's and the hour of guided prayer) have different formats.

### What small groups are there in the parish?

Christine Rampton and Gill Hoxby run a group in the afternoon, mainly on a Thursday which has been getting a good regular attendance.

Joyce Hilton and Claire Codling have been running an evening group which has had less regular attendance as people's time commitments have changed.

Emma Trenier started a group mainly for parents with child care provided during the day, but this has changed to the evening again for time commitments.

Fr Rodney's group is well established and has had a regular number of attendees for a number of years.

The hour of guided prayer on a Saturday has also had some changes recently and we are currently thinking about whether the timing is right for that or could be changed.

Looking to the future, we are happy to set up a small group where people feel a need for one and are interested in leading and/or hosting such a group so let us know!

*Fr Lee*

Assistant Curate



## 8. Report from Parish Alpha Team

### Background:

In 2017 the PCC, and then DCC's, agreed that one of the goals of the year was to set up an evangelism course to help the parish reach out to the community. Over the summer of 2017 it was agreed and preparations were made to run Alpha for 8 weeks from the beginning of October.

In 2018 Alpha was again held, this time for 12 weeks from 11<sup>th</sup> September.

### How we ran Alpha:

In both 2017 and 2018 we were grateful to have a small team of helpers who assisted with:

- Advertising and registering
- Catering
- Facilitating discussion groups
- Physically setting up

Leaflets were purchased for people to take and give away and banners outside both churches as well as newspaper and website advertising were the main sources of publicity.

We now have experience of running a short and long course both with an away day on the Holy Spirit instead of a whole weekend.

In 2017 we invited everyone who attended to help evaluate and in 2018 we gave out questionnaires to everyone.

### How did it go and what have we learnt?

Over the two courses we had 47 attendees, of which 14 were helpers and 13 weren't already involved in the parish.

Both times we have run the course in the autumn, and in particular this year with the heating not working it wasn't the most comfortable of environments.

The 12 week course was probably too long both for people to commit to attend and for helpers and leaders.

There may be a call for a day time course with child care provided for parents who can't make an evening course.

Publicity is great but all the statistics show that it's the one to one invitations that really work well. Alpha is a useful evangelistic tool but it's up to us to make the most of it as we look to run another course this year.

*Fr Lee*

Assistant Curate

## 8. Report from Safeguarding and Risk Team

Safeguarding work within the Parish continues under three major categories:

- safeguarding children,
- safeguarding vulnerable adults and
- the safer recruitment processes (which includes carrying out DBS and declaration forms)

### A New Team

Recently the team have been looking at the number of roles under “Safeguarding”, how they fit and connect with each other along with the challenge of how we integrate this within our everyday working in our Parish.

Early in 2018, it was identified that certain elements of Risk Management such as Health and Safety, although not wholly sitting under the Safeguarding umbrella, at times worked alongside each other. As a result of this the Safeguarding team and Health and Safety team merged and were renamed “The Safeguarding and Risk Team” this year.

### Our Work This Year

As the Safeguarding and Risk Team, we have been involved in updating the Halls Letting policy and are currently reviewing our churches and halls risk assessments. Part of this process includes developing a new guidelines checklist folder for all hall users. As a team, we also continue to review all risk assessments and activity plans.

The impact from major changes in laws and guidelines in September 2016 has continued into the last year particularly around who is eligible for a DBS or a declaration or in some cases both certificates. It continues to depend on the role you are undertaking and there is no distinction between a paid or voluntary position, the process is the same.

The new laws have meant that each role within the Parish now requires a job description and specification, as from early 2018, all new volunteers in the Parish have undertaken a simple interview, with a team leader and a member of the Safeguarding and Risk team. By doing so, we are ensuring that we not only follow diocesan policy but we are in line with national guidelines and laws too.

In order to further support team leaders in this safer recruitment process, we have designed a simple checklist to make sure we maintain consistency and those aspects such as training and DBS checks are completed in the prescribed order and that ongoing support for volunteers can be offered along with records being maintained.

As a team we embrace new initiatives and welcome new volunteers to fulfil these roles but are mindful that this process must follow the safeguarding policies, national guidelines, and laws. We are working hard to plug gaps and wherever possible to make this a smoother process.



The team continues to request Activity plans and when required also risk assessments from each leader for every event and activity which the Parish undertakes or that takes place on church premises that involve children and or vulnerable adults. The responsibility remains with the leader to ensure that these are handed to the committee in good time for approval but as always we are on hand to support this process.

## Training



Last year, we began a Parish wide safeguarding training campaign, in doing this we are fulfilling our commitment to ensure that all who work with our children or vulnerable adults have an understanding and are updated with new safeguarding laws and policy relating specifically to the Church.

We have set up workshops to ensure that those who require support have their needs met in completing C1 online safeguarding training.

This is continuing within the Parish and we are also in the process of liaising with the Safeguarding team at Chelmsford to be able to shortly offer C2 safeguarding training to all those who are eligible for this. Alongside this, we will be moving onto phase two of the training process and will be asking all choir club supervisors and additional adult helpers to complete the online C1 training programme.

On behalf of the Parish, The Parish Safeguarding Officer continues to complete and renew DBS and declaration certificates as well as track and record their progress. As part of this procedure, it will be necessary this year to renew declarations of all those adults attending the upcoming choir week to Norwich, as they require updating every five years.

As a team, work continues in between meeting as a whole on a quarterly basis and individually in conjunction with the Rector as and when required.

We carry out home visits and meetings with individuals as is needed and continue to support individuals and groups by liaising with external agencies such as social services and the Police when required to do so.

We continue to update the PCC.

*Colette Samuel*

Parish Safeguarding Representative

## 11. Report from Fabric and Major Projects Teams

1. The major project this year has been the repair work to Ss Peter & Paul. At its meeting on 21 April 2018, the PCC agreed that '(a) roof repairs to include (i) reformation and relaying of the lead gutters, (ii) high levels of masonry repairs, and (iii) stripping of internal paintwork; (b) repairs to the masonry and glazing of the chancel windows: and (c) reinstatement of finials on the four presently capped pinnacles on the chancel roof' should all proceed. Following grant of the necessary Faculty at the end of May and competitive tendering in June, Stone Edge Conservation Ltd were appointed as contractors and commenced work on site on 16 July. Scaffolding inside and outside the chancel was erected soon afterwards
2. A prime objective in programming the work was to have the interior of the church free from scaffolding by Advent. The priority was therefore the repair of chancel clerestory windows. They were removed by Chapel Studio for refurbishment offsite: meanwhile masonry repairs were carried out by a highly skilled and dedicated stone mason. These also dealt with some defects in the masonry of the East window which were noticed from the scaffolding.
3. The windows were reinstated during October. The improvement was immediately apparent. Opening mechanisms have been installed on two windows each side. These require deft operation but will enable the chancel to be ventilated when necessary.
4. The internal scaffolding was removed at the end of October. The focus then moved to the roof repairs and the reinstatement of the finials (pinnacles). By the end of 2018, the new pinnacles had been carved off site and were ready for installation which took place in early January. A service of blessing was conducted atop the scaffolding on 16 January by the Rector, with the architect as thurifer and with a congregation of some 30 people assembled at ground level.
5. The roof repairs proceeded somewhat behind schedule, partly due to inclement weather, but by March 2019 were nearly complete. With scaffolding installed in the walkways on the north and south of the nave, the paint stripping work in the nave commenced in January 2019 and quickly revealed decorative friezes at





high levels on the north and south walls. This work is on schedule for completion by the end of March 2019. The removal of the paint will allow the brickwork to “breathe” in the way that the original and now-uncovered lime wash did.



6. Further consideration continues of how to fund and proceed with repair work to the nave roof and with redecoration of the church interior. In addition to the major grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund – made possible, let us remember – by purchase of lottery tickets - we have been very grateful for grants from the Garfield Weston Foundation and the Friends of Essex Churches Trust to assist with the work already carried out.
7. A report on the interior lighting at Ss Peter & Paul was prepared by a specialist consultant in mid-2018. With the aid of a grant from London over the Border, work to update and somewhat improve the system should take place in 2019.
8. The Hall on The Green project remains on hold. We have a costed design which, in round terms, needs £0.5 million to enhance facilities within the existing envelope of the buildings, or £1 million to expand the space in the long-envisaged manner.
9. The Fabric Team made further progress with remaining quinquennial inspection items. Terms of Reference were agreed and approved by the PCC, on the basis of which a system for obtaining and selecting quotations for packages of work has been developed. Sadly, the Fabric Team has also had to address the matter of improving security for the Old Church Hall following criminal activity November 2018.

*Richard Vincent*  
Churchwarden



## 12. 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*

### Twenty Years of Purple Praise

Purple Praise continues to thrive, brings pleasure to those who participate and the various clubs and residential homes we regularly visit to sing to people who can no longer get out nor come to Church.

This outreach is an important aspect of our ministry. I realised only a year or so ago that I had muddled our dates – and in fact, this is our twentieth year! We began from extremely humble beginnings, at Old Church House, after I had been inspired by a visit to the Old Church by another local choir.

At that time only three of us were inspired! We quickly outgrew Claire's (now Hilary's office) room at Old Church House and began rehearsing in the church. We have grown year on year and now number 60!



### Good for Body and Soul

Singing together has amazing benefits all round, and here are some recently researched: Singing boosts the immune system; is a workout – an excellent form of exercise because of the breathing exercises, stimulating the circulation; improves posture, especially singing standing up; helps with sleep – some studies even suggest that singing can help strengthen the throat and palate muscles, which helps reduce snoring and sleep apnoea!; a natural anti-depressant, it releases endorphins, the feel-good brain chemical; lowers stress levels – it releases stored muscle tension and decreases levels of the stress hormone cortisol in the blood stream; improves mental alertness; widens circles of friends; boosts confidence; broadens communication skills; just a few of the benefits of singing – not least, an antidote to loneliness (a theme the Parish is currently working on).

It keeps people healthy and vibrant – our oldest member is now 94!

### Open to all

We offer a welcome to all comers, whether they are part of one of the parish congregations, another churches or of no church – all are welcome. Purple Praise rehearse for two hours

fortnightly on Saturday mornings, and the altos and tenors have separate rehearsals as we are growing our harmonies! The spirit and fellowship among the choir is just beautiful. As you can imagine, we do not all pitch up to each concert in residential homes as we wouldn't fit in! But usually between 15-20 will show.

## **Concerts**

The two big concerts each year (followed by lunch donated and prepared by members of the choir) are always sell-outs, and a wonderful way to welcome our community into our beautiful church. Usually the monies raised go to the parish, but sometimes, we are raising funds for a charity; last year for the Jeel Al Amal Orphanage in Bethany – some members of Purple Praise came with me on a recent last pilgrimage, to deliver the money in person.

This June (15th) we are raising funds for Father Hall's (a previous Associate priest here) Parish now that he is off for another stint in Madagascar as Bishop – Hall and his wife Sarah are not sure they will even have any furniture and they are facing a Church in disarray – so this fundraiser will be an important boost.

Over Christmas we appeared in lots of places, and one retirement setting where we outnumbered our audience – for every audience member there was one and a half singers! Not many choirs can say that! We also sing in the Old Church services twice a month, so we're kept pretty busy and long may it continue.

*Jan Hawkins*

**Purple Praise Choir Leader**

## Forty Years as Director of Music

The highlight of the year for the Parish Church Music was probably the weekend celebrating Mike's 40th anniversary as Director of Music, with a Choral Evensong sung by the Chamber Choir on Saturday afternoon as well as a short concert by the Chingford Singers and men, then a parish party in the evening and special music at the Sunday services sung by the girls and men / boys and men respectively. It was good to have many previous Chingford Rectors and clergy in attendance!

## Another Good Year

All the choirs had another successful year and continued to enjoy the generosity and support of Chingford Parish Church and its people, as well as a lot of hard work fundraising by parents and choir members, which meant that the choir's finances again remained secure. A good number again passed the Bishops' and also the Deans' Chorister Award exams.



The Chingford Singers gave a full concert in the summer with the choir men as well as singing at various services, performed Duruflé'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 perform regularly at CPC. This also enabled the concerts to give more financial support to the parish generally. The senior boys and girls provided the Children's Chorus for a performance of Britten's 'War Requiem' at Walthamstow Assembly Hall, with the Forest Choir, SWEC and Forest Philharmonic. As well as all the services 'at home', the choirs sang in various combinations at St Alban's Cathedral (two separate occasions), Westminster Abbey (two days) and for a week at Gloucester Cathedral.

## Thanks

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 partners, 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' and Deans' Chorister exams.

*Mike Emerson* Director of Music