

Bank:

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Independent Examiner: Mr Michael Green 41 Buckwoods Road Braintree Essex CM7 1DY

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WOODFORD BRIDGE

Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2020

Sunday 11th October in Church after Parish Communion Service

AGENDA

1. Opening prayers

VESTRY MEETING

- 2. To elect two Churchwardens
- 3. Apologies for absence

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- 4. Draft Minutes of APCM held on 28 April 2019 (attached) To note
- 5 (a) Presentation of the Electoral Roll:

There are 73 people on the Electoral Roll. 31 are resident in the Parish and 42 are non-resident. (Sue Malam).

- (b) To appoint 3 PCC members for 3 years (until the APCM in 2023), resulting from:
 - the retirement after 3 years' service of Cliffe Adams, Sheena Adams and Pat Elgar
- (c) To appoint 3 PCC members for 2 years (until the APCM in 2022), resulting from:
 - unfilled vacancies at the 2019 APCM
- (d) To appoint 2 Deanery Synod representatives
- 6. Finance:
- (a) Treasurer's Report
- (b) To receive the audited Accounts
- (c) To agree that the PCC will decide who to appoint to audit the 2020 Accounts
- 7. To receive:
- (a) Churchwarden's Report (attached)
- (b) Deanery Synod Report (attached)
- 8. Any other business
- 9. Date of next APCM Sunday 28th April 2021 (provisional).
- 10. Closing prayers

St Paul's Church, Woodford Bridge Draft Minutes of APCM held on 28th April 2019

Present:

Rev A Bolding, P Bolding, L Stevens, M Leonard, J Leonard, R Monks, Rev I Monks, C Franklin, M Wooden, P Dent, E Perfect, P Hodges, V Hodges, V Hunt, P Malam, E Sarginson, P Varughese, G Varughese N Ayres, A Ayres, O Frankish, P McCafferty, E McCafferty, Y Cartwright, H Dawson, G Kosoko and A Taylor Apologies - C Tate and A Tate Chair – Rev O Franklin

Vestry Meeting

Minutes – J Wooden

Election of Two Churchwardens

The Chair thanked J Wooden who was stepping down as churchwarden and PCC Secretary. Two nomination papers had been received for churchwarden. One for P Malam (proposed by J Wooden and seconded by L Stevens) and one for L Stevens (proposed by P Malam and seconded by M Wooden). There being no other nominations, the Chair declared that the nominees were elected.

APCM

Draft Minutes of previous APCM held on 22 April 2018

The draft minutes of the previous APCM held on 22 April 2018 were duly noted.

3. (a) Electoral Roll

There are currently 69 people on the electoral roll. 27 are resident in the Parish and 42 are non-resident. The Chair thanked R Monks who was stepping down as Electoral Roll Officer and being succeeded by S Malam.

(b) **PCC - appointment of new members**

Three PCC members had come to the end of their three year terms, P Malam,

L Stevens and P Varughese. The Chair had not received any nominations to succeed them so these vacancies will remain open. The Chair thanked PCC members for their contribution to the life of St Paul's.

4. Finance

(a) Treasurer's Report

L Stevens presented the accounts for 2018. He highlighted his gratitude for the money received from the Village Rest, which had recently been sold, and the custodians are using the investments from this sale to give money to local groups. L Stevens was very encouraged with the response to the Toilet Fund appeal and thanked the congregation for their generosity.

(b) To receive the audited Accounts

The audited accounts were received.

(c) To agree that the PCC will decide who to appoint to audit the 2019 Accounts

It was agreed that the PCC would decide who to appoint to audit the accounts.

5. Other Reports - To receive

(a) Churchwarden's Reports

The reports of P Malam and J Wooden had been circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read.

(b) **Deanery Synod Report**

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was taken as read.

6. Any Other Business

In response to a question, the Chair said that it was planned that, as part of encouraging young people to take part in the services, they would be helping again with the administration of the chalice at future all-age services.

7. Date of next APCM

11.15am on 26 April 2020.

8. Closing Prayers

The meeting closed with prayers from Rev O Franklin.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PAUL'S, WOODFORD BRIDGE, IG8 8BT STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

| | | | | | TOTAL |
|--|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| | Notes | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Endowment Funds £ | FUNDS 2018 |
| Incoming resources | | | | | |
| Voluntary income | 2a | 75,208 | | | 58,958 |
| Activities for generating funds | 2b | 7,653 | | | 8,031 |
| Income from investments | 2c | 24 | | | 24 |
| Church activities | 2d | 37,152 | | | 32,253 |
| Other incoming resources | 2e | 14,550 | | | 16,560 |
| Playgroup | 10 | (108327) | | | 108,197 |
| | | <u>134,587</u> | | | 226,023 |
| Total incoming resources | | | | | |
| Resources expended | | | | | |
| Costs of generating voluntary income | 3a | 0 | | | |
| Fund-raising trading costs | 3b | 0 | | | 0 |
| Church activities | 3c | 14,544 | | | 16,483 |
| Ministry Costs | 3d | 96,261 | | | 104,861 |
| Playgroup | 10 | (112,010) | | | 115,782 |
| Total resources expended | | <u>110,805</u> | | | <u>237,126</u> |
| Net incoming/(outgoing) resources | | | | | |
| gains/losses, inc. Playgroup | | | | | |
| Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets | | | | | |
| Gains/(losses) on investment assets | 5 | | | | |
| Net movement in funds | 6 | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward at 1 | | 20.540 | | | 34,264 |
| January 2019 Total funds carried forward at 3 | 31 | 29,540 | | | |
| December 2019 | | 43,092 | | | <u>27,643</u> |
| PLAYGROUP - balance 31/12/19 | | (-3684) | | | 7,585 35,228 |

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PAUL'S, WOODFORD BRIDGE, IG8 8BT CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1128474 BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

| | Notes | 2019 | <u>2018</u> |
|---|---------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | 5 | 1,130,000 | 1,130,000 |
| Investments | 6 | | |
| Total fixed assets | | <u>1,130,000</u> | <u>1,130,000</u> |
| Current assets Stock | | | |
| Debtors Cash at bank and in hand | 8 | 355 | 2,671 |
| Covenant account - as above. | | 11,327 | 5,065 |
| | | | |
| Total assets less current liabilities | 0 | 1.061 | 600 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year Creditors: amounts falling due after one year | 9 9 | 1,261 | 600 100 |
| | | <u>1,261</u> | <u>700</u> |
| Net current fluid assets | | | |
| NET ASSETS | | | |
| Unrestricted Funds, including cash in safe | 7 | 31,765 | 13,899 |
| Endowment funds | 10 | 0 | |
| Restricted funds | 10 | 666 | 663 |
| Covenant account - as above. | | 11,327 | 20,453 |
| TOTAL HELD AT BANK: | | 43,092 | 35,015 |
| Playgroup balance carried forward 31/12/19 | | (-3684) | 5,475 |
| | | <u>43,092</u> | <u>29,540</u> |
| Approved by the Parochial Church Council on | and sig | ned on its behalf | |

| 2 | Incoming resources | 0040 | TOTAL | FUNDS | 2040 |
|----|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| | | 2019 Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | 2018 |
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| а | Voluntary income | | | | |
| | Planned giving | 28,415 | | | 30,350 |
| | Collections at all services | 8,945 | | | 3,796 |
| | | | | | |
| | Donations and appeals, incl. charities | 18,835 | | | 14,607 |
| | Income tax recoverable | 11,853 | | | 10,205 |
| | Grants | 8,160 nil | | | 0 |
| | Legacies | 75,208 | | | <u>58,958</u> |
| | | <u>,200</u> | | | <u> </u> |
| b | Activities for generating funds | | | | |
| | Fetes, bazaars and other fund-raising | | | | |
| | events | 7,653 | | | 7,720 |
| | Bookstall sales and magazine adverts | 0 7.653 | | | 311 |
| | | <u>7,653</u> | | | <u>8,031</u> |
| С | Investment income | | | | |
| | Dividends and interest | <u>24</u> | | | 24 |
| | | <u>24</u> 24 | | | <u>24</u> |
| _1 | In a constant of the constant | | | | |
| d | Income from Church Activities | 25876 | | | 0F F66 |
| | Church hall lettings etc Occasional Offices-weddings, funerals,etc | 11,256 | | | 25,566 8,661 |
| | Textile group / Seniors club | 20 | | | 26 |
| | Textile group / Gernors club | <u>37,152</u> | | | <u>34,253</u> |
| | | <u>0.,.02</u> | | | <u>- 1,200</u> |
| е | Other incoming resources | | | | |
| | Party deposits received | 150 | | | 2,160 |
| | Insurance claims | nil | | | 0 |
| | Rent - School House | 14400 | | | 14,400 |
| | | <u>14,550</u> | | | <u>16,560</u> |
| | Total incoming resources | 134,587 | | | <u>117,826</u> |
| | | | | | |
| | Other: Fees to Chelmsford Diocesan | | | | |
| | Board of Finance - wedding/funeral fees | 1,959 | | | |
| | | 1,000 | | | |

| 3 | Resources expended | | TOTAL | FUNDS | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| | | 2019 Unrestricted | Restricted | Endowment | 2018 |
| | | Funds £ | Funds £ | Funds £ | £ |
| а | Costs of generating voluntary income Stewardship costs Covenant account | | | | |
| b | Fund-raising trading costs Fete costs Bookstall | nil | | | <u>o</u> |
| С | Church Activities Missionary and charitable giving: Overseas: | | | | |
| | Kenyan Street Children, Utugi Centre | 8,000 | | | 8,000 |
| | Home: 13 PCC nominated charities x £450 | 5,850 | | | 5,850 |
| | Senior's Social Club | 32 | | | 466 |
| | Other: | 126 536 | | | 1742 425 |
| | Trussell Trust - Redbridge Food Bank | 536 | | | 425 |
| | | <u>14,544</u> | | | <u>16483</u> |
| | Ministry costs: | | | | |
| | Diocesan Parish Contribution | 52,150 | | | 49780 |
| | other clergy costs | 528 | | | 679 |
| | Church running expenses | 12,401 | | | 11249 |
| | Church maintenance | 9031 | | | 12899 |
| | Upkeep of services | 324 | | | 699 |
| | Upkeep of churchyard | 0 | | | 401 |
| | Parish magazine Sunday Club / youth work costs | 1,091 117 | | | 1100 29 |
| | Church hall running costs | 13649 | | | 27730 |
| | Bank charges / depreciation | 121 | | | 21100 |
| | Vicarage - utilities and decoration | nil | | | |
| | Playgroup | 4504 | | | |
| | Total resources expended | <u>110,805</u> | | | <u>121,344</u> |
| | Other- Fees to Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance - wedding/funeral fees | <u>1,959</u> | | | <u>2206</u> |

| 4 Staff costs | | 2018 | 2019 | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--|--|
| | | £ | £ | | |
| а | Wages and salaries | 5,018 | 5,018 | | |
| | playgroup contribution 2019 - | <u>1,479</u> | <u>1,479</u> | | |
| | | 6.497 | 6.497 | | |

During the year the PCC employed a hall cleaner, part time. The wages and social security costs related to the hall cleaner were met by her being included on the Playgroup payroll with the church funds reimbursing part costs to the playgroup account.

b Costs (£5018) to the playgroup account, and the Playgroup contributing the remaining £1479 in lieu of rent.

5 Tangible fixed assets

| rungisio nixou uoosio | Freehold land and buildings | Church equipment | TOTAL 2018 |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Cost or valuation At 1 January 2014 Additions Disposals Revaluation | £ 1,130,000 | £ | £ 1,130,000 |
| At 31 December 2019 | 1,130,000 | | 1,130,000 |
| Depreciation At 1 January 2014 Provided in the year Disposals At 31 December 2014 | | | |

Net book amounts

At 31 December 2019 <u>1,130,000</u> <u>1,130,000</u>

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Church Halls and the School House. For accounting purposes these were revalued in 2005.

6 Investments

£

Market value 31 December 2019

<u>nil</u>

7 Analysis of Net assets by fund

| | , | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Endowment Funds £ | Total Funds | Comparison 2018 |
|---|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | Church assets: insurance valuation hall- 910,000;house- 220,000 Investment fixed assets | | ~ | _ | 1,130,000 | 1,130,000 |
| | Current assets Current liabilities Long term liabilities | 43092 | 666 | | 43,092 | 33660 |
| | Long term nabilities | 1,172,426 | <u>666</u> | | <u>1,173,092</u> | <u>1,163660</u> |
| 8 | Debtors | | | | | |
| | Income tax recoverable (blue envelo | opes) | 3633 | | | 2082 |
| | Other debtors | (water rate) | 355 | | | 48 |
| | | | <u>3988</u> | | | <u>2,130</u> |
| 9 | Creditors: amounts falling due wi | thin one year | | | | |
| | Deferred income - 2020 wedding fee Accruals for utilities/ other costs - UN Other creditors | | gy used | | 0 1223 | 200 1061 |
| | | | | | <u>1,223</u> | <u>1261</u> |
| | Creditors: amounts falling due aft | ter more than | one year | | | |
| | Wedding deposits for 2020 | | nil | | | 100 |
| | | | | | | <u>100</u> |

10 Statement of funds

| | Bal b/fwd 1 Jan 2019 | Income | Expenditure | Transfers, other gains and losses | Bal c/fwd 31 Dec 2019 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---|--------------------------|
| Unrestricted | | | | | |
| Fund | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| Covenant account | 5065 | 16692 | 10430 | | 11327 |
| General accounts Desig funds- | 19800 | 110117 | 93375 | 10266 | 28008 |
| a+b+c. | <u>2114</u> | <u>8,928</u> | <u>8,000</u> | 0 | <u>3042</u> |
| | <u> 26979</u> | <u>135737</u> | <u>110805</u> | 0 | <u>42377</u> |
| | 330 | 31st Dec '18 | cash in safe: | 31st Dec '19 | 770 |
| Restricted Fund St Paul's | | | | | |
| playgroup | 11075 | 115,413 | 107,460 | 5,017 | (-3684) |
| Spire lighting fund | 0 | | | | 0 |
| Organ/piano | 666 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 666 |
| Balancing item: | 0 | | 0 | | 49 |
| Total funds | <u>45399</u> | | | | 43092 |

Fees to Diocesan Board Finance shown in accounts

The unrestricted fund includes a designated sum of £1459 which the PCC has set aside for the Kenyan Street Children project(a); £568 for the School House(b) and £705 for the halls(c).

The restricted funds comprise the organ / piano fund which is monies dedicated to the maintenance of these assets and other musical provision.

TREASURER'S APPENDIX PCC 2019 Income Profile

| 2019 - full y | <u>ear</u> | PCC's 2019 | <u>% 0F</u> |
|---------------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| INCOME CATEGORY | | projection | TOTAL |
| | ACTUAL | | |
| chur-Sunday cash | 3142.82 | 2700.00 | 116.40 |
| Lighthouse cash | 100.00 | 1000.00 | 10.00 |
| Wedding cash | 682.57 | 650.00 | 105.01 |
| Baptism cash | 715.27 | 450.00 | 158.95 |
| TOILET -cash | 2755.40 | 2000.00 | 137.77 |
| Church giving -TE | 11722.85 | 13000.00 | 90.18 |
| LighthouseTE | 2640.00 | 3500.00 | 75.43 |
| Wedding TE | 274.75 | 200.00 | 137.38 |
| Baptism TE | 295.75 | 350.00 | 84.50 |
| TOILET - TE | 8532.15 | 16000.00 | 53.33 |
| Donations - TE | 5200.90 | 1000.00 | 520.09 |
| IR Refund | 11853.00 | 9000.00 | 131.70 |
| Covenant account | 16692.20 | 10700.00 | 156.00 |
| Wedding fees | 7703.00 | 3000.00 | 256.77 |
| Burial of Ashes | 606.00 | 500.00 | 121.20 |
| Funeral Fees | 2947.00 | 2700.00 | 109.15 |
| Party deposit (£50) | 150.00 | 3000.00 | 5.00 |
| Rent Hall | 25876.00 | 27000.00 | 95.84 |
| Rent School House | 14400.00 | 14600.00 | 98.63 |
| Wallsafe/bookstall | 118.07 | 150.00 | 78.71 |
| Grant funding/VAT | 160.00 | 30000.00 | 0.53 |
| Int/divs/insurance | 71.70 | 10.00 | 717.00 |
| cash donations | 10348.20 | 500.00 | 2069.64 |
| Sundry income | 185.20 | 540.00 | 34.30 |
| ST PAUL'S INCOME: | 127172.83 | 142550.00 | 89.21 |

| Seniors club | | 20.40 | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|-------------|
| Textile Group | | 0.00 | <u>no</u> |
| Kenyan St Ch- | cash | 6205.79 | projections |
| Kenyan St (TE |) | 1447.33 | made |
| Foodbank-Vera | a-cash | 516.00 | <u>for</u> |
| Foodbank-Vera | a-TE | 20.00 | charities |
| Charity-other-c | ash | 324.31 | |
| Charity-other-T | E. | 30.00 | |
| Charit | able income: | 8543.43 | 9000.00 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| 2019 - full year | | EXPENDITURE CATEGOR | V | 2019 | % 0F | CHIIRCH | RUNNING EXPEN | SES |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|--------|--------------------------|----------------|------------|
| 2013 - Tun year | | EXI ENDITORE OATEOOR | _ | PROJECTION | | <u>onoron</u> | TONINIO EXI EN | <u>olo</u> |
| | | Charitable giving | 6480.00 | 6000.00 | | Altar Requisites | 324.47 | |
| Diocesan Quota | 52150.20 | Quota | 52150.20 | 53000.00 | | Organist Payment | 0.00 | |
| Christian giving | 6512.28 | Insurance-church | 2700.00 | 2300.00 | | Occasional offices Exp | 4247.00 | |
| Kenyan Street Children | 8000.00 | Insurance Hall | 734.17 | 1600.00 | | Fees to Chelmsford | 1959.00 | |
| Clergy expenses | 527.69 | Insurance School House | 574.80 | 600.00 | | Insurance Sch House | 574.80 | |
| Cost of Services | 561.69 | Utilities- church | 3528.84 | 3000.00 | | Maintenance Sch Hous | 60.00 | TOTAL: |
| Organist | 0.00 | Utilities- Hall | 6048.20 | 6000.00 | | Licences/charges | 1257.99 | 12401.03 |
| Wedding/Funeral Expen. | 6206.00 | Maintenance- church | 2722.81 | 2000.00 | | Cleaning Mats - Church | 0.00 | %age |
| Insurances and Utilities | 13586.01 | Maintenance Hall | 1464.53 | 2000.00 | | Flowers | 237.22 | 11.19 |
| Maintenance, inc vicarage | 4247.34 | Maintenance School House | 60.00 | 1000.00 | | Party refunds | 201.00 | |
| Cleaning/Booking refunds | 5218.80 | Vicarage Decs/utilities | 0.00 | 1000.00 | 0.00 | Organ & Piano | 360.58 | |
| Cleaning materials | 384.75 | Cleaner Payment | 5017.80 | 5000.00 | 100 36 | Office Expenses | 556.89 | |
| Churchyard | 0.00 | Cleaning Materials - Church | 0.00 | | | Sundries | 2622.08 | |
| Magazine printing/Books | 1091.18 | Cleaning Materials - Hall | 384.75 | 500.00 | 76.95 | | MAINTENANCE | |
| Office expenses | 556.89 | Occasional Offices Exp | 4247.00 | 1500.00 | | Maintenance- church | 2722.81 | TOTAL: |
| Interest & Charges | 121.16 | Fees to Chelmsford | 1959.00 | 1500.00 | 130.60 | Insurance-church | 2700.00 | 9031.45 |
| Licences/Subscriptions | 1136.83 | Vicars Expenses | 421.69 | 750.00 | 56.23 | Utilities- church | 3528.84 | %age |
| Youth Work | 117.06 | Curate Expenses | 106.00 | 212.00 | | Church Yard | 0.00 | 8.15 |
| Music Fund | 360.58 | Organist Payment | 0.00 | | | I.T./audio/microphones | 79.80 | |
| Spire lighting | 2820.35 | Organist IR | 0.00 | | | · | HALL COSTS | |
| I.T/audio | 79.80 | Altar Requisites | 324.47 | 500.00 | 64.89 | Insurance Hall | 734.17 | |
| Playgroup support | 4504.00 | Magazine | 1091.18 | 1000.00 | 109.12 | Utilities- Hall | 6048.20 | TOTAL: |
| Sundry items (specify) | 2622.08 | Bookstall | 0.00 | | | Cleaner Payment | 5017.80 | 13649.45 |
| | | Party refunds | 201.00 | 3000.00 | 6.70 | Cleaning Mats - Hall | 384.75 | %age |
| | | Office Expenses | 556.89 | 500.00 | 111.38 | Maintenance Hall | 1464.53 | 12.32 |
| | | Subscriptions | 0.00 | | | OTHER: | | |
| | | Youth work | 117.06 | 200.00 | 58.53 | Charitable giving | 6480.00 | |
| | | Licences | 1136.83 | 1250.00 | 90.95 | Quota | 52150.20 | |
| | | Music Fund | 0.00 | | | Vicarage Decs/utilities | 0.00 | |
| | | Organ & Piano | 360.58 | | | Vicars Expenses | 421.69 | TOTAL: |
| | | Church Yard | 0.00 | | | Curate Expenses | 106.00 | 75722.76 |
| | | Interest & Charges | 121.16 | | | Magazine | 1091.18 | %age |
| | | Flowers | 237.22 | 500.00 | 47.44 | Bookstall | 0.00 | 68.34 |
| | | Seniors/foodbank/retiring | 32.28 | 1000.00 | 3.23 | Youth work | 117.06 | |
| | | Kenyan St Children | 8000.00 | 8000.00 | 100.00 | Seniors/foodbank/retirir | 32.28 | |
| | | Toilet costs | 2820.35 | | | Kenyan St Children | 8000.00 | |
| | | I.T./audio/microphones | 79.80 | 500.00 | 15.96 | Playgroup | 4504.00 | |
| | | Playgroup | 4504.00 | | | Toilet costs | 2820.35 | |
| | | Sundries | 2622.08 | 588.00 | 445.93 | | | |
| _ | | | | | | | | |
| | 110804.69 | | 110804.69 | 104000.00 | 106.54 | | | 110804.69 |

ST. PAUL'S CHRISTIAN PLAYGROUP ACCOUNTS

| End of Term | | SPRING | , | SUMMER | | AUTUMN | | EOY |
|---|---|-----------|----|-----------|----|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| Fees Income | £ | 4,825.00 | £ | 4,977.00 | £ | 5,978.00 | £ | 15,780.00 |
| Lunchtime Club (Fee Paying) | £ | 1,420.00 | £ | 2,424.00 | £ | 1,298.00 | £ | 5,142.00 |
| Funding 3&4 yr olds | | 17,273.90 | £ | | £ | 11,558.32 | £ | 53,165.74 |
| Funding 2 yr olds | £ | 2,462.10 | £ | 2,801.70 | £ | 3,990.30 | £ | 9,254.10 |
| Direct SEN funding | £ | 3,960.00 | £ | 4,680.00 | £ | 2,100.00 | £ | 10,740.00 |
| Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) | £ | 174.90 | £ | 190.80 | £ | - | £ | 365.70 |
| Disability Living Allowance (DAF) | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - |
| Funding from Church (exceptional income) | £ | - | £ | - | £ | 4,000.00 | £ | 4,000.00 |
| Donation Tax Refund from Church | £ | - | £ | 504.00 | £ | - | £ | 504.00 |
| Church provided income as passthrough | £ | 1,254.45 | £ | 2,090.75 | £ | 1,672.60 | £ | 5,017.80 |
| Registration fees | £ | 120.00 | £ | 160.00 | £ | 320.00 | £ | 600.00 |
| Uniform - Income | £ | 116.00 | £ | 71.00 | £ | 302.00 | Œ. | 489.00 |
| Books - Income | £ | - | £ | - | £ | 20.00 | £ | 20.00 |
| Milk - Income | £ | 77.00 | £ | - | £ | 91.70 | £ | 168.70 |
| Other - Income | £ | - | £ | 104.00 | £ | - | £ | 104.00 |
| Fundraising Income | £ | 486.89 | £ | 1,193.40 | £ | 1,121.90 | £ | 2,802.19 |
| Photo Commission | £ | 22.44 | £ | 61.26 | £ | 89.62 | £ | 173.32 |
| Provision (Return from Balance Sheet) | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - |
| Reconciliation - Income | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - |
| TOTAL | | 32,192.68 | £ | 43,591.43 | | 32,542.44 | £ | 108,326.55 |
| Outgoings | | , | | • | | , | | , |
| Wages (Payroll) | £ | 18,914.34 | £ | 29,487.86 | £ | 22,404.32 | £ | 70,806.52 |
| Wages (Non-Payroll) | £ | 821.87 | £ | 3,074.53 | £ | 2,392.67 | £ | 6,289.07 |
| Wages (Lunchtime Club) | £ | 2,502.00 | £ | 2,755.00 | £ | 2,300.00 | £ | 7,557.00 |
| Pension Contribution | £ | 561.54 | £ | 1,540.06 | £ | 1,142.59 | £ | 3,244.19 |
| Tax & NI - Employer Liability | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - |
| Tax & NI - Employee Liability | £ | 1,254.68 | £ | 2,400.60 | £ | 1,225.43 | £ | 4,880.71 |
| Repayment to Church | £ | - | £ | | £ | - | £ | - |
| Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) fees | £ | _ | £ | | £ | | £ | - |
| Course Fees & Training | £ | 436.00 | £ | 20.00 | £ | 45.00 | £ | 501.00 |
| Fees Refund | £ | - | £ | 12.00 | £ | - | £ | 12.00 |
| Rent Contribution | £ | 369.84 | £ | 616.40 | £ | 493.12 | £ | 1,479.36 |
| Rent Contribution (Lunchtime Club) | £ | 660.00 | £ | 660.00 | £ | 800.00 | £ | 2,120.00 |
| Insurance | £ | 215.55 | £ | 220.00 | £ | 220.00 | £ | 655.55 |
| Uniform - Expenditure | £ | - | £ | - | £ | 615.80 | £ | 615.80 |
| Fundraising - Expenditure | £ | 77.68 | £ | 836.11 | £ | 872.38 | £ | 1,786.17 |
| Books | £ | - | £ | - | £ | 56.60 | £ | 56.60 |
| Farm Hire | £ | | £ | 500.00 | £ | 30.00 | £ | 500.00 |
| New & Replacement Equipment | £ | 766.79 | £ | 409.47 | £ | 1,368.30 | £ | 2,544.56 |
| IT Equipment | £ | 700.73 | £ | 409.47 | £ | 1,300.30 | £ | 2,344.50 |
| Incidental costs (under £50) & PayPal | £ | | £ | | £ | 24.94 | £ | 24.94 |
| Costs - Other (eg Music, Bouncy Castle etc) | £ | 159.00 | £ | 120.00 | £ | 150.00 | £ | 429.00 |
| Playgroup Website & Broadband | £ | 191.86 | £ | 344.61 | £ | 302.30 | £ | 838.77 |
| Sundries | £ | 820.50 | £ | 1,033.89 | £ | 631.80 | £ | 2,486.19 |
| Milk | £ | 63.00 | £ | 104.00 | £ | 58.00 | £ | 225.00 |
| | | | - | | _ | | _ | |
| Stationery | £ | 1,015.36 | £ | 1,279.96 | £ | 1,357.49 | £ | 3,652.81 |
| Lunchtime Club (specific expenses) | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - - |
| Ofsted Registration | £ | 50.00 | £ | - | £ | - E0E 00 | £ | 50.00 |
| Accountancy, book-keeping & other fees | £ | 200.00 | £ | 550.00 | £ | 505.00 | £ | 1,255.00 |
| Publications & Periodicals | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - |
| Pre-School Membership | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - |
| Provision (Send to Balance Sheet) | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - |
| Reconciliation - Outgoings | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - | £ | - 110.612.01 |
| TOTAL | £ | 29,080.01 | £ | 45,964.49 | £ | 36,965.74 | £ | 112,010.24 |
| DALANCE | | 0.440.07 | _ | 0.070.00 | | 4 400 00 | • | 0.000.00 |
| BALANCE | £ | 3,112.67 | -£ | 2,373.06 | -£ | 4,423.30 | -Z | 3,683.69 |

TREASURER'S REPORT

Independent examiners report to the PCC of St Paul's. Woodford Bridge.

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2011, which are set out on the following pages and is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 (lithe Act")

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulation and 5.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not-provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no matter came to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep the accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act;

And

- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met, or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

M. Green

41 Buckwoods Avenue, Braintree

3.3.2020

Vicar's Report: Church Life in 2019

St Paul's Woodford Bridge exists to worship God, lead people to Christ, build a loving Christian community, and serve a world in need.

As well as our regular Sunday services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of new life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services family and friends express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world, commending the person into God's keeping. Our parish registers show the number of these occasional offices during 2019: 12 baptisms, 7 marriages, and 7 church funeral services. These figures are similar to the previous year. Our Annual Memorial Service was held in October. We also hosted a Confirmation Service in October, when Bishop Peter Confirmed 6 members of St. Paul's along with members of St John's, Seven Kings.

Since the autumn of 2019 the church has been open for *Breathing Space* on the last Saturday morning of each month. This offers people the opportunity for quiet reflection and prayer. Our parish magazine, *Good News*, was produced every 3 months to keep our parishioners and local community informed of church life and events. It was distributed to many of the shops and other businesses in the local area. Posters and flyers for seasonal events and services such as Harvest and Christmas are also distributed locally.

Opportunities to get out and about during 2019 included carol singing at the Woodford Underground Station, The Hallmark Prince Regent Hotel, The Three Jolly Wheelers, and The Crown and Crooked Billet. This raised over £1,000 for St Francis Hospice.

Contact with our local schools has continued, with West Hatch and Roding Primary Schools holding carol services at St. Paul's, and visits to St Paul's from both schools. Roding Primary Year 5 classes also came to church for the Easter Labyrinth in March.

We joined the Woodford Fellowship of Christian Churches for a service marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January, held at St Barnabas, Woodford Green. Joint services for Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day were held with our Mission and Ministry Partnership Churches. The Lighthouse Church continues to be a blessing to us as they regularly use the Church building for their worship and prayer meetings.

Other highlights during the year include the Children's Holiday Clubs; a Lent course: *The Mystery of God*; Summer and Christmas Fairs; Shoe Box Service and the Nativity service. The Parochial Church Council met 6 times during the year. As well as routine business, the council discussed a Mission Action Plan, indicating ways we might work to grow and develop as a church.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the community it is. In particular we want to mention our Churchwardens, Mr Paul Malam and Mr Len Stevens (also our Treasurer) who have continued to work so hard and faithfully on our behalf.

The Revd Ola Franklin - Vicar

CHURCHWARDENS' FABRIC REPORT - 2019

The PCC has responsibility for three buildings within the curtilage of the church – Church, Church hall and School house.

In the church, the focus of our efforts in 2019 was on preparations to install a toilet in the church. Our thanks to the members of the toilet task group for their work in arranging the drawing up of plans and liaising with the Diocesan Advisory Committee to take this forward. As members of the congregation will be aware, a fundraising campaign is ongoing to find the money necessary to fund its construction, and thanks are due to all who have contributed towards the project. Of special note was Peter Hammond's sponsored walk from St Paul's to Chelmsford Cathedral, which raised over £1200. Thank you, Peter.

In the church halls, further work has been undertaken to refurbish and damp proof the graveyard kitchen and further painting has been undertaken in the main hall. A new central heating system,

including boiler, was installed during 2019, many thanks to Alan Bolding and all those who undertook this work, and continue to take on tasks to maintain the decorative standard in the halls. In the churchyard, Dennis Croke has done wonderful work, so it now looks the best it has for many years. Many thanks. A report was commissioned on the condition of the trees in the churchyard from Becker Tree Services. The trees were found to be in a good condition, but some maintenance work was suggested, and this was undertaken by Becker Tree Services. In respect of the School House, our thanks to Pauline Bolding, Alan Bolding, Len Stevens and Peter Hodges for their work in ensuring that any maintenance issues arising are sorted out. Paul and Len, your churchwardens, thank everyone for their support during the year in maintaining the fabric of the buildings.

Len Stevens and Paul Malam - Churchwardens

REDBRIDGE DEANERY SYNOD REPORT, 2019

The 'Deanery Year' began at the **February meeting** when the Reverend Martyn Hawkes was licensed as the Area Dean by Archdeacon Elwin Cockett. The Archdeacon gave an overview of how his workload had changed as a result of The 'Transforming Presence' programme. It was based on the four tenets of Transforming Presence, 'Inhabiting the world distinctively'; 'Evangelising Effectively'; Serving with Accountability'; 'Re-imaging Ministry'. He highlighted that Redbridge Deanery was ahead of the game with the establishment of MMU's/Partnership whilst other areas were having difficulties. Of the recent fifteen Deacons ordained at Chelmsford, ten were from the West Ham Archdeaconry. It was also pointed out that a new church in Barking Riverside was being support by All Saints Woodford Wells as an example of cross boundary support and ministry. There were no questions following the presentation.

Revd Martyn Hawkes informed the meeting that following his appointment as Area Dean, a new Youth Leader was needed, other than that there was little to report. It was pointed out the money for youth work from LOB was not being applied for, for youth work in parishes. There were no questions following the report.

The good news was that the Deanery has paid £1.1 million to the Diocese. However, the proportion of share paid to amount requested has fallen by 6% on the previous year from 91% to 85%. Many parishes are paying full quota, some cannot. The PCCs of those that have not made full quota payment were being asked to review their situations. There were no questions following the report.

There was a reminder of the Barking Area Vocations Day event at Loughton on Saturday 2nd March. There was also notification of Vocations Sunday on 12th May 2019.

There were updates from the various MMU/Ps, one of which highlighted that Barkingside Bridge was continuing to find ways of joint worship and working including formalisation to be presented to PCCs.

The **June meeting** took place at St. Paul's Woodford Bridge. The Rev, Hugh Dibbens, the Deanery Evangelism Officer spoke about "Connecting with young people". Hugh started by quoting the Archbishop of Canterbury, who said that the church had two main roles; to worship God and to evangelise. Everything else is decoration. He said that 73% of people who are dedicated churchgoers find God before they were 18 years old. He also said that the average age of the congregation in Chelmsford Diocese is 63 years old. He said that the Diocese had spent a lot of money on Youth work, but actually anyone over 55 with a grandparent image have the potential to be brilliant youth workers. The main focus of Hugh's talk was the foundation of FACT (Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust). It was an inspiring talk about the Lord's hand was seen in the development of the Centre and its work with young people. The idea had germinated in the 1950's, but started to take form when in 1967 the Trust bought a Thames Barge called "Memory" for the sum of £6,000 (all the money they had). Hugh joined the staff in 1980. About that time, 150 acres of marshland became available for sale. The local marina was interested and offered to pay far more than FACT had. However, once again the Lord intervened, and the marina bid was

rejected by local people, and FACT got the land. Likewise when a redundant Light Vessel became available He intervened again and the Ship is now at Anchor in the berth in the Blackwater River. It currently caters for around 2,000 young people a year, who live on board in the converted cabins and engine room. We then heard from two members of the staff team, who told us how life-affirming the experience can be in terms of talking to people about their faith, challenging insecurity by providing a loving environment where people supported in the belief that God loves them. It is an experience where amongst all the activities (such as sailing and Archery, a youth group in the local village (to name three) providing the the opportunity to mix with others and allow their faith to rub off on each other. Hugh called this enfolding evangelism. He spoke of the future that FACT is trying to realise. A project to convert accommodation to allow 3,000 young people to experience the work has a financial target of £1.6 million, of which £1 million has already been raised. Hugh told us that the people of Redbridge are eligible to use the facility.

Youth Champion: Andy Smith will be taking over from the Area Dean, and that there is money in the LOB fund for youth related work. One application has been received.

The Deanery Treasurer reported that the 2018 final figures showed a £1.15m shortfall on payment of Parish share, and that in 2018 92.6% of the total Parish share had been paid with 16/23 Redbridge Parishes paying in full.

At the **September meeting** the Deanery Youth Champion, Andy Smith, introduced himself, and asked Synod to provide answers to the questionnaires he provided. He asked Synod to break into small groups to consider what challenges does your church face with regard to youth work and what help would you like from Deanery. There was discussion followed by numerous comments. Andy introduced Emma Anderton, the Children and Families Missioner and Youth Advisor for the Barking Area. Emma spoke about meeting interested parties, and pointed to resources on the Diocesan website.

Fr John Brown said that 40% of the parishes in the Deanery have responded to the questionnaire concerning Climate Crisis and Deanery response which puts the Deanery in a good position on this. However, more is needed to provide a report.

Reference was made to our partners in Kenya, and the global impact on the ground where it has been quite severe. We were told to look at the issues either as individuals or as church community. The Area Dean had produced a motion, to be considered by Synod, which looks at the Eco Church scheme. The wording had been checked with Archdeacon Elizabeth (Chelmsford), who leads on this as chair of the Diocesan Environment Group and was *Redbridge Deanery Synod:*

- a. commends the September 2019 letter from Bishop Stephen encouraging parishes to respond to the Climate Emergency and therefore commits to provide information and opportunities for individuals and parishes to learn from and support each other to reduce their carbon footprint,
- b. requests Diocesan Synod
- 1. to encourage each Parochial Church Council in the Diocese of Chelmsford to engage with the A Rocha Eco Church scheme, aiming for at least a bronze award, and
- 2. to invite Bishop Stephen to register Chelmsford Diocese's intent to become an Eco Diocese
- 3. to commission the Diocesan Environmental Group to coordinate progress towards Eco Diocese status

Proposer: The Revd Martyn Hawkes Seconder: The Revd Canon Ian Tarrant The meeting voted to adopt the proposal nem con. Synod was told we need to start now, not wait until March 2020 when the motion will reach Diocesan Synod

The **December meeting** took the form of a 'Deanery Congress' rather than the usual format. Those invited to that Congress meeting included Churchwardens, Treasurers, LLMs and other significant church leaders in addition to Deanery Synod members. The meeting was facilitated by Archdeacon Elwyn, the Revd Canon Jeremy Fraser (Mission and Development Adviser) and Bishop Peter. The significant Gospel opportunities and resource challenges that face us in

ensuring missional growth in 2020 and beyond were shared. These challenges are more acute in the Barking Episcopal Area than in the rest of the diocese. This is due to the combined effect of rapid population growth, fewer available clergy and our generally variable record in parish share delivery. They also relate to our calling to plant new Christian communities, especially within a rapidly increasing demographic. The reality is that the cost of maintaining our current level of stipendiary ministry is increasingly exceeding our ability to pay for it. Our response to this situation must prioritise a new challenge to generous and sacrificial giving alongside a thorough review of how we resource our mission. We need to be constantly reimagining what ministry might look like in a fast-changing world with diverse networks and contexts. We need to begin to plan to do things differently as the Holy Spirit leads us, and that will involve some disturbance, as it always does.

Without both a rapid increase in available ministers and a generous increase in sacrificial giving we face an immediate future in which we need to further reduce our deployment of stipendiary ministry over time. The significant monies we have received in the past 3 years from the national church for planting new Christian Communities are ring fenced for that purpose and therefore do not ease that resource pressure if we are to maintain an active Christian presence in each of our parishes: and Bishop Peter was as passionate about enhancing inherited church ministry as he was about planting new worshipping communities. Any necessary reductions will need to be prayerfully and realistically discerned according to social context and where growth in numbers, discipleship and service to our communities are most achievable. This will mean some very tough stipendiary ministry deployment choices going forward, while continuing to recognise the increasing value and significance of all forms of self-supporting clergy and lay ministry.

Mac Leonard.

APPENDICES

Just for Girls (page 19)
Seniors' Coffee Club (page 19)
Mothers' Union (page 19)
Kenyan Street Children Appeal (page 19)
Sunday Church Club (pages 19-20)
Holiday Clubs (page 20)
Textile Group (page 20)
St Paul's Christian Playgroup (pages 20 and 21)

JUST FOR GIRLS

Just for Girls meet fortnightly on a Tuesday morning. We spend time worshipping God, meditating and praying.

We meet at 10am and enjoy a coffee and a chat, catching up on each other news. We spend two hours together, and support each other through joys and sorrows.

The group is open to any female member of St. Paul's church.

Pauline Bolding

SENIORS' COFFEE CLUB

The Club meets on the first Thursday of the month from 10-11.30am.

It is a relaxed morning, members enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits and time to chat to each other.

The group is made up of parishioners and church members, men and women.

We are very happy to welcome new members to the group.

Pauline Bolding

MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union continues to provide an opportunity for Christian fellowship and worship within the St Paul's community through coming together for our monthly meetings and working together on parish tasks and projects, especially raising funds for the Kenyan Street Children feeding programme.

We have 23 members and also two diocesan indoor members and the prospect of enrolling new members in the near future. Meetings are always open to guests to serve as an introduction to our activities, and always open with an act of worship.

During 2019 we have held three reflections to coincide with major festivals, had two "away-day" meetings at Ian and Rosemary's and Pilgrim Hall, enjoyed Yvonne's now famous Christmas Party and welcomed visiting speakers who told us of Christian mission work, the Bloodwise charity and of a visit to Kenya. We also heard from Esther and Peter, new members of our church, of their previous Christian work and witness.

Meetings are on the first Tuesday of every month except August – afternoon during wintertime and at 7:30pm otherwise. All are welcome to attend, including men – we have four male members, including myself, as leader.

Len Stevens, Branch Leader.

KENYAN STREET CHILDREN (ACK Utugi Children's Centre) KENYAN APPEAL

The Kenyan Street Children feeding appeal has now been running in our church for over twenty years and in that time we have sent £135,000 to Kirinyaga diocese and the Utugi childrens' home to feed street children at five feeding stations in the surrounding area. We are told that we are feeding 150 children each week and that we are the only church supplying these funds. The food is purchased and prepared by the local Kenyan Mothers' Union. Other churches are doing other things to support the home – the feeding project is our own special project. We sent £8,000 during 2019 by two separate cheques in August and December and all of the profits of our church fairs and fetes goes to this cause. We are grateful and appreciative of the tremendous efforts made by so many in St Paul's, and in Kenya, to support this project; it really is a team effort and ensures that these children are fed, and this in itself often leads them into the Utugi home and into contact with Christian care and compassion.

Len Stevens.

SUNDAY CHURCH CLUB

Our Sunday Club continues to thrive. We have twenty three children on our register and divide them into a younger and an older group for our activities, having begun our time each week with everyone together for welcome and prayer. The ages of the children range from three to fourteen years, the older ones now becoming especially helpful with the younger ones. Yvonne, working with the younger group, follows the lectionary topics each week in her teaching and it is wonderful to see the clever way that she has interpreted the gospel reading for very young children, and their

craft and art work, when they gather in church to proudly show Ola their work. Len has taken the older group on the missionary journeys of St Paul, planted bulbs for Mothering Sunday, and planned Easter and festival activities. We produced cakes and biscuits during Lent to sell in church after the service to support Christian Aid. Both Yvonne and Len are very grateful and appreciative of the help we have had during the year from the Sunday Club adult team. Without their solid support and willingness to help we could not achieve as much as we do. An enjoyable part of the Sunday Club experience is the "massed band" march around with musical instruments during the last hymn – so much so that we decided to buy lots more tambourines for the congregation to share, and enjoy the music with the children.

Len Stevens.

HOLIDAY CLUBS

We held holiday clubs for children of primary school age during 2019. These took place during the February and October half-terms along with 5 consecutive mornings at the start of the summer holidays. The theme for the summer week was 'Marvellous Meals'. Bible stories included 'The Passover', 'Desert Food' 'Feeding the 5,000' and 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?'. The children enjoyed team games based loosely on the theme of the day followed by craft activities, some of which are on display in church. On the Sunday following the summer club, there was a re-cap of the stories during the service in church, and the children showed some of their art and craft work. We are pleased that, along with children from St Paul's, the holiday clubs attract children who don't usually go to church.

The Holiday Club Team

TEXTILE GROUP

The Textile Group continued to meet fortnightly in 2019, enjoying the varied crafts we share, as well as the social side, which included a lovely Christmas meal together at the Two Brewers. The competent knitters of our group were very industrious making hats and scarves for the Christmas shoeboxes and also teddies, which are well received and loved by the children who are baptised in our church.

The Easter stall raised a good amount for the Toilet Fund and the stalls at the Summer and Christmas Fairs also did well, contributing to the funds raised for the Kenyan street children. Valerie managed to acquire a number of children's books of popular characters which she then knitted. Each book and toy were sold together and were very popular, as were the lovely patchwork quilts made by Eve, which were raffled to raise further funds.

Mary Wooden

PLAYGROUP REPORT

2019 was an enjoyable but financially challenging year for the Playgroup. Over the year we were delighted to welcome 20 new children and their families into the group. The Spring and summer term enjoyed a healthy 32 and 38 children on roll respectively, with that number reducing to 27 for the Autumn term.

The Playgroup team have continued to work tirelessly, conducting home visits for every child, as part of our settling in procedure, and planning a variety of exciting activities to support the children's development in all areas of their learning, to ensure their time at St Paul's Christian playgroup is both fun and educationally stimulating.

We have continued to support a number of children with special educational needs and disabilities. This part of our work is especially rewarding, as we work closely with other agencies to ensure that the children and their parents receive the appropriate professional support, resources and additional funding to ensure any challenges they may face can be overcome. We take great pleasure in watching all the children flourish in confidence, learn to negotiate and interact with their peers, develop their self help skills and independence and develop resilience and an enthusiasm to learn, which lay the foundations for their future development and success. During the summer

term, we continued to enjoy close relationships with local schools and took all those children moving to school nursery and reception classes in September, to visit their new teachers and to share their achievements and aspirations for the future.

Everyone was especially proud when the children were declared the winners of the 'Redbridge strictly come signing competition' in June 2019 for their wonderful version of the song 'Mr Noah, which they not only sang but also signed along to. The children were presented with a trophy and each were given a certificate from the judges and their talents were also recognised by the local press, who came along to take their photograph – what a wonderful achievement and a special 15 minutes of fame!

During 2019 the children enjoyed all that their local community has to offer; with a visit from Woodford Fire service, the dental nurse and Wellgate Community farm and nature walks around the green and feeding the ducks at the pond. A visit to the local shops to purchase snacks and to practise their road safety skills have also been a firm favourite. The weekly visit from Rev'd Ola has remained the highlight of the playgroup week; where the children have continued to be excited and attentive as Ola tells them a Bible story together with props and songs. We have continued to enjoy the company of Pauline on a Wednesday morning, who kindly helps with preparing snacks and washing up and the children enjoy leaning over the stable door to tell her their news whilst she is in the kitchen.

The children who learnt about the importance of helping others and along with parents and staff have once again shown their generosity in supporting several charities—such as Barnardo's, Children in Need, Redbridge Night Shelter, the shoe box appeal, Crackerjacks, Genes for Jeans and Comic Relief as well as our own church through the summer and Christmas fairs. As usual our end of term services have proved to be the highlight each term giving the children the chance to share their knowledge of Bible stories and songs with their family and friends. The end of 2019 brought more financial pressures for the Playgroup with a continued decline in new admissions together with an increase to costs due to a rise in the minimum wage and minimum pension contribution. The Playgroup management committee have met regularly to discuss the future sustainability of the group and together with the staffing team and parents have all worked tirelessly to support the Playgroup to remain sustainable through cost cutting initiatives and fundraising activities.

We are all very grateful for everyone's support and generosity and look forward to a more financially secure 2020.

Thank you all for your support

Delia Ware on behalf of St Paul's Christian Playgroup

