

# **St Paul's, Cambridge**

## **Annual Report 2019-20**



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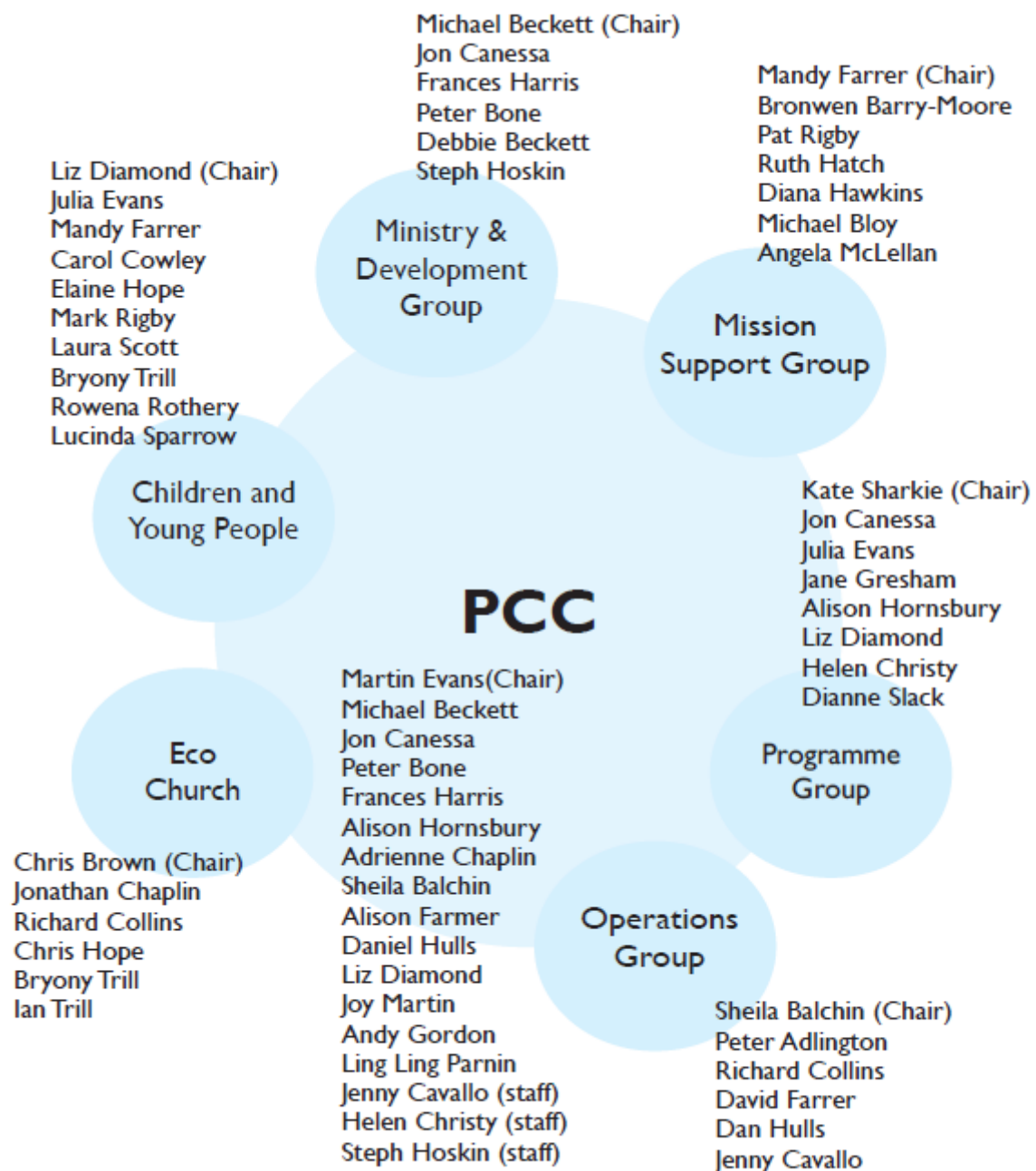
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## Structure of St Paul's



## About Us

St Paul's is an Anglican (Church of England) church in the heart of Cambridge serving local people, and is within the Diocese of Ely. We are an inclusive and informal community who are committed to creating a more just, peaceful and compassionate world. Through our services, our community involvement and our pastoral care, we seek to make connections within ourselves, with other people and with God. Our aim is to support one another to live authentically as we seek to respond to the love of God, who has already reached out to us in Christ. Our services and activities are open to everyone.

Our vicar, Michael Beckett, has been here for over 25 years and was joined in 2013 by Jon Canessa who is the Associate Priest.

We hold a worship service nearly every day of the week (except Thursday & Saturday) in the Chapel and in the Main Hall on Sundays. There is something for everyone and all are welcome, whether of longstanding faith or none.



## From the Vicar



This has been a somewhat strange, and I might say sad year, in the life of our little church. As the year drew to its close one of our oldest members died. Peter Park had been bed bound for some time and so it was a blessing for him but still sad that someone so instrumental in the redevelopment of the building in the 90's is no longer with us; we remember him with thanksgiving.

At the end of the Summer we said goodbye to Hannah. Tears were shed and rightly so. Hannah had shone so brightly in our midst that I am sure that, should she proceed to ordination her experience of being part of a family here will have been decisive and extremely significant. In September we welcomed Marieke who brought considerable passion and insight, but within two months, homesickness meant that she too departed.

We also bade farewell to both Steph and Laura and thanked them for their faithful service. Thankfully they both remain as part of our church family. Rob and Eva Jon departed to Ely but we remain hopeful they may one day return to Cambridge. In the summer we also said goodbye to Lizzi, Charlotte and Steve, who are now ordained, as well as Rosie and Simon, who are completing their training on placement elsewhere.

Of course, the saddest event this calendar year was the termination by the Bishop of Sophie's curacy with us. This resulted from my complete misreading of Sophie and the way in which I was relating to her in the time before her arrival. I have subsequently met with her, mediated by Richard Higginson, who had known her well when they were both at Ridley. I hope that we have reached a mutual understanding of what took place. It remains however a very painful wound. I can only say again how sorry I am that my failure and behaviour led to

Sophie's removal, and how grateful I am for your love and support throughout and, nonetheless, thank you.

And Sophie's arrival and removal coincided with the Bishop's visit to us on our church weekend away. His input was personal, inspiring and, in the light of the particular circumstances surrounding the weekend, only served to deepen our sense of being the broken body of Christ gathered around the Lord's table. The Bishop confirmed and affirmed his commitment to us as a church despite the wound and also expressed his own personal sense of having been blessed over the weekend, particularly as he was in the throes of a personal bereavement.

But all was not lost, for in the midst of the ongoing-ness of all that is St Paul's, Monday toddlers, Foodbank, simple supper and compline service, Tuesday fellowship, IONA healing service, Wednesday morning prayer, Thursday lectio service, Thursday and Friday lunch clubs, not to mention the laundry room singers every week and their performances in the Sunday morning services, we also continued inexorably on our journey to becoming a silver award Eco congregation.

We welcomed Bishop Dagmar to St Paul's at the beginning of her walk through the diocese. We joined with her family to celebrate Christina becoming an LLM alongside Julia and Rodney. We celebrated with Rodney and Diana their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, with Anthony and Bernard on the occasion of their 70<sup>th</sup>, and Lucy her 60<sup>th</sup>, and gave thanks with Steph for the birth and participation in our family of Ana. We welcomed Poppy as our new church warden, confirmed our support for Jon and all he does with a massive response to the gift day appeal and saw the fruit of all that Bev and others have been doing in support of our school and the new head as the school continues to emerge from some difficult times.

In response to last year's Church weekend away, we saw the beginnings of an Enneagram group on a Sunday evening twice a term. We continued to support a variety of mission agencies, both local at home, as well as further afield, including the much-loved Christian Aid parish visitation that continues despite our reservations to bring in considerable funds for much needed relief work around the world. We welcomed Nick, Nathaniel, Alastair and Matthew as ordinands on placement with us as well as Kristian, already known to us and now rather wonderfully engaged to the much-loved Laura.

And we witnessed something, not I suspect witnessed anywhere else, in the form of Liz and Tim's dog Tally, starring in the Palm Sunday procession, as the donkey!

There has been a variety of Arts festival events, perhaps most notably Justin Butcher's performance of the Just Walk, in which he and many of our number had participated the previous year, walking from London to Jerusalem in 2018, the anniversary year of particularly dark days in the history of Palestine and the land of the Holy one. We watched David Attenborough's film on climate change which felt especially 'Apocalyptic'. And several of us engaged in a dramatic day with a visiting speaker on the theme of God as 'Mother Father Lover and Beloved'.

But I think the best way to sum up the year is by talking about the carol service. The community choir were stunning.

Jon told a story of a guest who, after a four journey with the CCHP project this year, acted as a volunteer. Chris spoke eloquently about how, at the AMOS Trust climate justice summit hosted by St Paul's, a woman from Nicaragua was asked who were her heroes and she replied that, as women they do not tend to work that way but, rather, collectively. Having hosted the SCCWC here in Cambridge and St Paul's, climaxing as it had at Lord's cricket ground, the painting of team India dancing in cultural dress on the stage is now immortalised in a painting that hangs in the foyer.

This is a gathering of people of all ages and stages, backgrounds, abilities, interests and passions and yet, rather wonderfully, if a tad messily, it bears eloquent testimony to the glorious mix that is St Paul's and that I believe is the Gospel. Our Bishop told me that many churches aspire to be as open and welcoming as St Paul's. There is no place for complacency but at the end of the carol service I felt proud, I hope you did too, because it is only together that whatever this is, is made possible. THANK YOU.

## **Michael Beckett**





## From the Associate Priest



I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at St Paul's for the support, encouragement and enjoyment that I am blessed by from week to week; it is a tremendous privilege to be part of this community. At the end of 2019 I reduced my hours from 3 days to 2 days a week giving me more time to work with people who are homeless. It is important that I continue this work whilst being rooted in a church community that is itself rooted within its own community.

The Cambridge Churches Homeless Project (CCHP) is now in its seventh year – with St Paul's being a hosting church for the past six of these. The assiduous nature of charity legislation requires CCHP to be fleet of foot concerning GDPR, Food Hygiene, First Aid, risk assessing etc whilst ensuring the project remains a safe place of hospitality for our 17 rough sleeping guests. Many from St Paul's contribute to make this happen and I am especially grateful to Jane Gresham and her team of cooks who provide volunteers and guests with delicious food every Sunday throughout the winter.

In 2018 many from St Paul's helped to host the amazing *It Takes A City* conference on homelessness. The conference was the start of a conversation to see the wider city responding to the complex issue of homelessness in Cambridge. Several action groups formed as a result and work is ongoing. I would like to record my thanks to Martin Evans who chaired the steering group beyond the summit and without whose support we could not have managed. I am also grateful to Peter Parsons and Eleanor Puttock who continue to support *It Takes A City*.

A recent undercover forensic analysis of the city's public toilets discovered evidence of drug taking in every public city church toilet. Occasionally we do find evidence of drug injecting in our church toilets. This is unacceptable. So too

however is the alternative which typically involves individuals injecting in a grubby alleyway alongside dog mess and over-spilling bins. Our current drug legislation is wanting. Overwhelming evidence points to decriminalisation and drug regulation with provision for community-based medical injecting rooms. This enables significant money to be redirected into drug prevention and rehab programmes, safer (cleaner) communities and drug users who are more likely to engage in recovery programmes.

In October I organised a public debate on 'Rethinking Drug Addiction' as part of the Cambridge Festival of Ideas to debate the research. Dr Rowan Williams chaired a panel consisting of Fiona Godley (Editor of the British Medical Journal); Johannes Leonard (Research Fellow at King's College) who has worked in 3 cities where 'injecting rooms' are used successfully; Vicki Markiewicz (Area Director of Change Grow Live the UK's largest provider of support for drug and alcohol addiction) and John (voice of lived experience: a heroine user for 25 years and clean since 2017). I invite you to listen to the debate here: <https://www.festivalofideas.cam.ac.uk/event-recordings>

Simple Supper on Monday evenings sees a wonderful assortment of people from the local community, the street & homeless community and the congregation gather to eat together. For unknown reasons numbers were pushing 50 during September and October although typically we see 25-35. However, it is the way people from such diverse backgrounds and cultures share their stories together over a meal which gives us reason to celebrate Monday evenings. Evenings feel safe, even if they are unpredictable, idiosyncratic and funny in equal measure. Such a diverse mix of people is not as common as you might hope in the Church (with a capital 'C'). The diversity means we occasionally have someone who is rubbed up the wrong way. Or someone might arrive anxious or upset and someone else – it's rarely me – finds the right words or way of responding to the distress. Simple Supper can be tiring at the end of a long day, but it is a joy to be part of. I am incredibly grateful to Wayne Stubbins, our cook who does a great job of conjuring up tasty meals each week with minimal assistance.

Many stay for the brief candle lighting service afterwards which continues to surprise and bless us. Our previous intern Hannah particularly loved this service writing poems and music especially for it. Thank you to all especially Dianne Slack, Felicity Higginson, Jo and John Wroe, Debbie Beckett, Jane and Kip Gresham, Andrew Ranson, Anthony Bullock, Julia and Martin Evans, Alan Hayes, Alasdair Cant, Pete and Caroline Bone, Ruth Hatch, Eleanor Puttock, Judy and Adrian Reith and to all who attend when they can.

**Jon Canessa**

## From the PCC



### Membership and meetings

The PCC membership for 2019 was:

Francis Harris and Poppy Crooks (wardens), Andy Gordon, Ali Farmer, Alison Hornsbury, Bryony Trill, Kip Gresham, Sheila Small, Dan Hulls (Treasurer), Ling Ling Parkin, Liz Diamond, Kate Sharkey, Eleanor Puttock, Lucinda Sparrow (Secretary) and Martin Evans (Chair).

The PCC met on six occasions throughout the year on a bi monthly basis. All meetings were from 7.30pm to 9pm and each meeting began and ended with prayer.

Leaving this year are Liz Diamond, Kip Gresham, Ling Ling Parkin and Dan Hulls is stepping down as Treasurer but staying as a member of the PCC. A big thanks to all who are stepping down and a special thanks to Dan, who, with our accountant Jonathan Salter, has delivered on a monthly basis the best accounts St Paul's has ever had. Peter Miller will be our new Treasurer.

New members are Peter Miller, Anthony Bullock, Helen Dalglish, Rob McCorquodale and Ronald Pile.

### Decisions and actions

We have been granted a faculty by the Diocese of Ely for the secondary glazing of all the windows in the Main Hall. We will be seeking funding from environmental charities for this work. As well as saving energy and insulating the building better for noise disturbance, we will also save a few thousand pounds

each year. Huge thanks to Chris Brown for detailed research and report writing and getting the faculty through. Also, thanks to Geoffrey Hunter at the diocese for his invaluable advice.

We will be spending a great deal of money this coming year on the roof and the brickwork following our recent quinquennial report. Peter Adlington has been in contact with architects, surveyors and building contractors throughout the year in preparing a detailed plan for the building work. Again, huge thanks to Peter for his attention to detail and for his tenacity.

It is somewhat galling to have to spend so much money on work that cannot be seen, but we will be providing a legacy for the next fifty years.

Steph Hoskin has stepped down as Church Administrator, to spend more time with Ana, after doing a splendid and extremely thorough job for a number of years. Great thanks to Steph, it is a joy to have her and Ana as members of our congregation. Laura Scott has also moved on from her role as Young People Co-ordinator - many thanks Laura. Helen Christie will be retiring in the next month, so there will be many new faces at St Paul's in the coming months.

Helen has done pioneering work as our Community Development Worker over recent years. With her unique skills, she has worked with various groups of people at the edge of our community, empowering them in their decision making and relationship building. She has been a huge presence in the parish and local community and will be greatly missed. Many thanks Helen and enjoy your retirement.

We are at present in the process of engaging someone to replace Helen. Their focus will be primarily on children, young people and family person, both in the community and in the church. They will continue to develop some of Helen's work and links that Helen has established in her time here at St Paul's. At the same time, we are looking to replace Laura with a youth worker.

Diane Hicks is our new Safeguarding Officer and we are reviewing our policies to ensure that we are up to date on all safeguarding issues. Also, we had a spot visit from the City Council's Environmental Health department on a Thursday morning recently, to check our cleanliness, our food preparation procedures, our storage of food etc. We scored 5 stars which is the most you can get and the officer praised us for implementing all measures he had suggested on a



previous visit. Well done to Jane Gresham and her team, especially Gary.

Ali Farmer has been preparing the way for Friends of St Paul's programme. This has been approved by the PCC and will be launched this Spring. 'Friends' will be a vehicle for the wider parish and community to find out what is happening at St Paul's and how that might be more involved through fund raising and volunteering.

Michael Beckett sometimes refers to us as 'the little church on the corner' and we are. Also, we have also hosted two international summits this year, mentioned elsewhere. The PCC also took a decision at its most recent meeting to actively campaign for the rights of gay people to be married in an Anglican Church. On behalf of the PCC, Andy Gordon is leading this work and we will be in contact with the diocese and the General Synod.

Also, St Paul's Eco-group is leading the church into attaining the Rocha Eco Church standards. Bronze was attained last year and we are on the cusp of achieving the Silver Standard, more details elsewhere. With the new windows and other environmental efforts, we are hoping to achieve the Gold standard by next year. There are only ten churches so far in the UK who have attained the Gold standard.

This little church will continue to build community, work and campaign at local, national and global levels.

Finally, a little story. I was asked recently to speak with a group who will be managing a new community centre in Cambridge. I was asked to speak with them in my role as Chair of the Signal Box community centre. Toward the end of the meeting, I was asked about the relationship between the Signal Box and St Paul's. They did not know that I had any involvement with St Paul's. I mumbled a few words about sharing bookings and then the person asking suddenly said 'I don't know what it is about St Paul's, it is such a wonderful place, it has a kind of magic.'

My heart swelled.

**Martin Evans, on behalf of St Paul's PCC**

## From the Centre Manager



Well by golly, that year has certainly flown by! Most days have brought new challenges (and delights), but as ever we remain open, with all being welcome and there's always a cup of tea ready to hand. It's been a busy and productive year and quite frankly there's never been a dull moment!

### **Building & Grounds Improvements**

Through-out the year we've continued with building and ground improvements, giving the whole building a much fresher and more welcoming feel. The Upper Floor has been re-painted, meaning over the past 2 years, in stages, the whole building has been given a face-lift!

With the excellent guidance of the Eco Group, the gardens have been given a really good spruce and have become much more ECO friendly. We have planted a number of 'Bee Bombs' which have 28 varieties of bee and butterfly friendly wild flowers - hopefully we'll be able to see new growth late Spring / early Summer! Ann and Rodney have worked on a 'to scale' plan of the gardens, showing future plans and mapping out what is planted where.

We also have some new lovely additions to the gardens including a memorial bench for the Ogden Sisters, an apple tree donated by Cambridge City Council for Ana, Steph Hoskin's daughter, an additional picnic bench for local businesses and the community to enjoy their lunches on or have a moment of quiet, and finally a bug hotel! Every garden needs a bug hotel!

## **Building Usage, Wedding & Events**

We continue to have a great relationship with Bodywork Company, who utilise the Upper Hall, Monday to Saturday throughout the academic year and the Main Hall for their large performances and showcases.

We also continue to have our contracted regular users, with Salsa & Belly Dancing on a Monday, Tango on a Tuesday, Yoga, Kids After School Crafting Club and Cambridge Swing Dance on a Wednesday and Cambridge University Kickboxing and Cambridge University Symphony Chorus on a Thursday.

We have many other private hire bookings, for example: lots of kids and milestone birthday parties; vintage clothing sales, U3A (University of the Third Age) workshops, local language school activities, political party conferences and many more!

Wedding bookings are certainly on the up, with a record of 7 wedding breakfasts and receptions booked in for 2020! I hope to carry on growing the Wedding business at St. Paul's.

Our weekly community events still remain at the Centre with Sparklers children and parents drop in on a Monday morning at 10:00 and Foodbank on Mondays at 16:00 and Fridays at 14:00.

We've been lucky to be able to accommodate a couple of fantastic Charity Summits that are connected to members of our congregation; with the Street Child Cricket World Cup hosted by John Wroe in May and the Amos Climate Change Summit hosted by Chris Rose in September.

## **Weekly Well-being at St. Paul's**

This now takes place 3 times a week at the Church, hosted by us for local businesses and the community. The idea is to make the classes accessible, at a cost of £5 per session. We have Early Bird Rise and Shine Yoga on Mondays at 07:45, Meditation on Monday lunch at 13:05 and Lunchtime Yoga on Wednesday at 13:05. The classes are becoming more and more popular and we now have a creche facility on Monday mornings, enabling parents of the local schools to join in if they wish!

## Competition

We entered the Ecclesiastical Parish Pixels competition some months ago, where churches across the country were asked to submit 1 picture of their church with a supporting sentence, to reflect their church in some way. Over 600 churches entered, with 9 regional winners – St. Paul's being one!

Here's the image and our supporting sentence:



**‘We are open everyday of the week, welcoming all, offering space, time and hospitality to our local community and beyond.’**

We won £1500 prize money with an additional £500 to put towards a celebration. We have decided to spend the prize money on a defibrillator for Church users and the general public to utilise if ever needed. We will be spending the celebration money on throwing a farewell tea party for our much-loved Community Worker, Helen Christy.

There will be a finalist announced in October at a celebration lunch at Churches House in Westminster, attended by some of the St. Paul's Team, with the winning Church receiving an additional £5k!! Fingers and toes crossed everyone!



## Thank you's

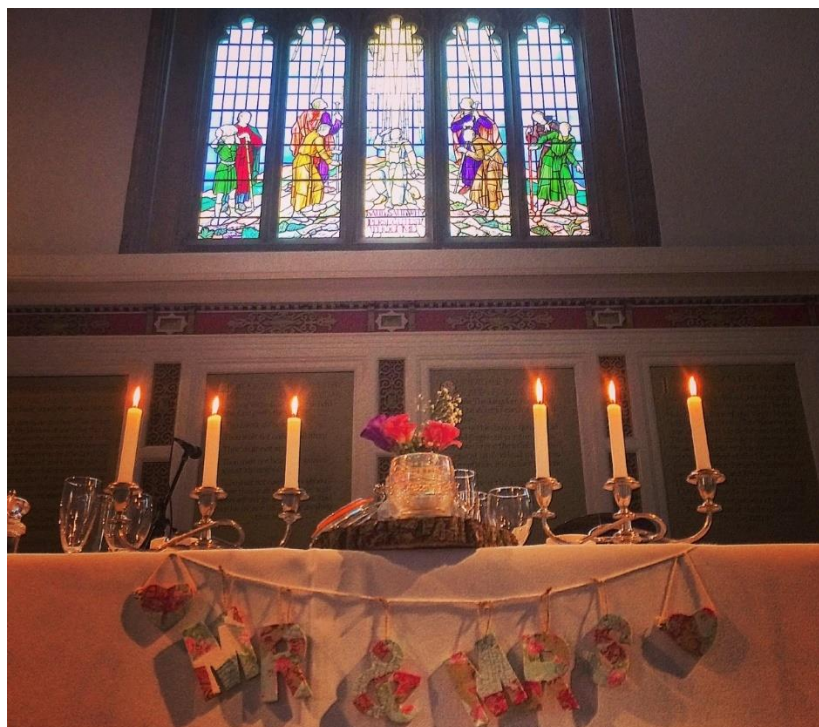
I'd like to once again thank the usual suspects for all they do at St. Paul's; to Jane (what would we do without you!), The Evans', The Reiths, Nino, Karina, Ellen, Wayne, Michael Bloy and not to forget Gary (Gary you are BRILLIANT) for all they do for Hospitality meals. I'd like to thank all the other volunteers who do smaller, but just as important jobs to keep the cog wheel turning.

Special thanks-you to the volunteers I have worked closely with - Diane Hicks for your Safeguarding support and Dan Hulls as Treasure.

And finally I'd like to thank the team – Jon, Helen (it's been huge pleasure to work with you and I'm sad to see you go), Jonathan, Michael and our newly appointed Congregation chief in command, Sarah – welcome to the team, it's really great to have you on board.

Last but not least I'd like to give a huge thanks to Dianne Slack – you're a fire cracker to work with and I could not do it without you!

## Jenny Cavallo



## **From the Ministry and Development Group**

The Ministry Development Group includes Frances, Julia, Christina, Poppy, Jon, Julia, Debbie and Michael. From September – December we were joined by our intern, Mareike. We have been meeting fortnightly on Monday evenings and our conversations involve review of previous services, future planning and discussion of pastoral and practical concerns. The giving and receiving of feedback from one another and from others who are part of St Paul's is an essential part of our reflective process as we meet. We also regularly think about the people that are part of St Paul's; newcomers, people we may not have seen for a while, as well as those who are 'regulars'.

In addition to talking through and reflecting on the regular worshipping life of St Paul's, we have focused on some strategic areas. In particular, our staffing, which has included our intern and Curate, and the advertising, and recruitment going forward of a Secretary, Youth Worker and Family Worker.

A regular item on our agenda has been that of safeguarding (of members of staff, centre users and our young people) and Frances and Julia have worked hard on our behalf to see that we are following diocesan guidelines and that our safeguarding reps have completed the necessary training. When concerns have been raised, we have thought about how they need to be addressed and what action is to be taken.

We owe Diane Hicks an enormous debt of gratitude for all her support on safeguarding issues and throughout the process of appointing our new church secretary.

Our meetings include discussion of diocesan initiatives, which Michael and Julia bring us, as well as concerns which are raised by individuals in the congregation. We have recently been discussing how we might be more inclusive of members of the LBGTQ++ community.

We regularly speak about the challenges of seeking to ensure that we are as welcoming as possible to all, whilst acknowledging that this can be very difficult at times.

**Debbie Beckett**

## Community Development



This will be my final report as the Community Development Officer at St Paul's.

This last year it has been exciting to watch and be alongside people as they grow in confidence to make changes to both their lives, their relationships, their environment and their spirituality.

Lynne Canessa has been instrumental in running five really valuable assertiveness courses which gives people lifelong tools to cope with the strains and challenges which life brings. Kate Sharkie, Hannah, Emma Bourne and Clare have provided a creche to allow parents with children to benefit.

Through Lynn I have been able to refer parents to a New Horizon project where they have been able to receive valuable advice about finances and potential work opportunities.

Laura, Hannah, Mareike and Kristian have worked with me to develop an after-school club for children from 5 – 12. We meet at the Signal Box during the winter and on Accordia green in the warmer months. This has provided an important time in the week for both parents and children to be heard, take part in new activities and share concerns.

The afterschool group meeting on Accordia Green led to families applying for a grant from Cambridge City Council for a music event. The event was attended by an extraordinary range of over 150 people who live in Accordia. Young people from the after-school group felt confident to play the drums and guitar in front of everybody. We also had a musical instrument treasure hunt, Laura involved lots of children in a huge chalking picture on the paving stones round the green and an impromptu football match took place in another corner of the green. The families have applied for a grant for a similar event this summer.

Huxley House, a block of social housing flats near the station have formed their own Residents Association and opened a bank account to receive grants for the various craft activities, trips, Halloween party and Christmas party. This block of flats has changed from one with a reputation for anti-social behaviour to one where residents work together to create a real sense of camaraderie and ownership.

Thanks to Joy Martin, other families from Russell Street and Harvey Road enjoyed the challenge of camping and canoeing near Littleport last summer. Yet again the families benefited from sharing experiences of nature, being on the river, in a tent, extraordinary conversations around the campfire, bonding in transforming ways with their children and other families.

Families from both Huxley House, Harvey Road, Russell Street, Kaleidescope and Accordia attend activities at St Paul's including Sparklers, Messy Church, the holiday lunches and the assertiveness course. Two families have had their children christened at St Paul's. One of the first ladies I met insisted that I would never get her in a canoe. She has since come on many of the camping and canoeing trips and is now planning to get married at St Paul's and has asked that Jon Canessa takes the service.

A walking group has developed from conversations at the weekly drop in at Hanover and Princess court. There was a desire to do more exercise and to explore parts of Cambridgeshire and local museums with other people. So far, we have been to Wandlebury, Newnham, Fowlmere Bird Reserve, Cherry Hinton Park and the Zoology and Scott Polar Museum. Some of this group now come to Thursday lunch at St Paul's.

Martin Evans chairs the Newtown Forum where Residents Associations from Newtown, local City and County councillors, head teachers, police and other professionals share concerns of anti - social behaviour, traffic and new developments. It is also an excellent opportunity to let each other know about events and activities in which we can all participate.

The Newtown News continues and is now fully funded by Cambridge Assessment with whom we are building a productive relationship. Cambridge Assessment are keen to use some of their resources to work in the community. In the last edition of the Newtown News residents contributed both their positive, humorous and not so positive thoughts of living on their own. This has resulted in people meeting to share their experiences and has resulted in wanting to start a 'chatty-cafe' at St Paul's on Wednesday mornings.



The 'chatty' tables in cafes is a national initiative where cafes have a table where people can feel free to join together with other people sitting on their own.

I hope this gives you some flavour of the work in which I have been involved in the wider community on behalf of St Paul's.

**Jon Canessa & Helen Christy**



## Assertiveness Training

Being assertive is about being most fully ourselves in a way that doesn't stop others being most fully themselves. As a word 'assertiveness' has had bad press and one of the first things I always teach is that if someone is being too assertive, they're probably not being assertive at all but have accidentally (or deliberately) stepped into aggressive behaviour. The focus on the impact of our behaviour on others is important too.

Assertiveness is about understanding ourselves but it's also about finding a way to live and interact with others that is true to who we are. I have seen this in action as I have run courses at St Paul's during the past two years. People who would not have otherwise known each other forming supportive bonds, cheering each other on and grappling with their often-complex lives. People who have said that they have learnt it's ok to be themselves. That's it's fine to not feel ok – indeed that we are all ok, all of us, even when we feel at our very worst and find it hard to see anything good. That being assertive is as much about being able to say “I don't know who I am right now” as it is to be able to ask someone to stop talking on their phone in the cinema.

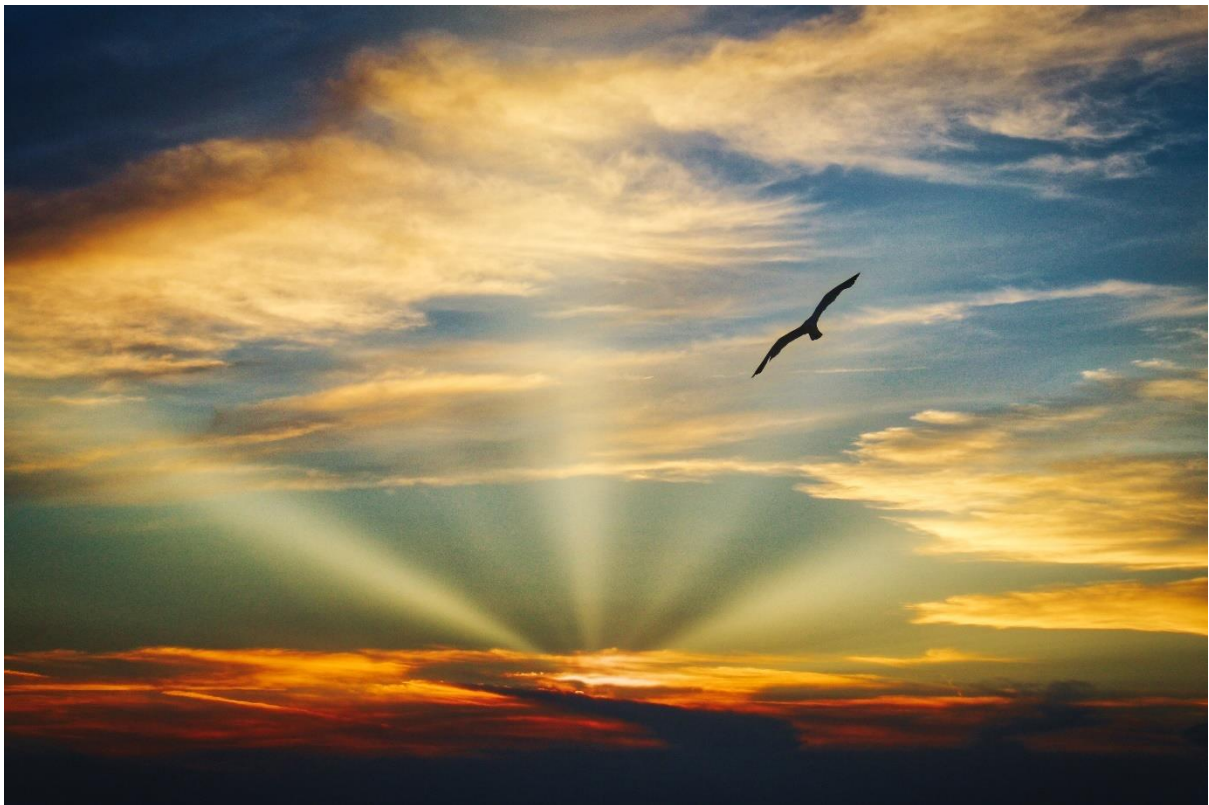
I have loved the chaos that comes from running sessions in the main hall on Fridays; the tourists wandering in and everyone waiting for me to do the assertive thing and ask them to leave. The session where Channel 4 came in to film one of the mums and we still managed to have our final session party around it and get some learning done too. I have also loved those moments of watching people step into themselves, finding the courage to walk across the large space to the curve in the church where we ran our sessions, initially huddled against the wall for safety and gradually moving out into the space as the course progressed.

Sometimes people will tell me stories about how they “thought of me” and then did the assertive thing. I do it too. I have those moments in a session it would be easier option, I think of the different groups in St Paul's, take a deep breath and make myself speak my truth, knowing it will be a very different truth to the person I am speaking to but no less real for that.

The current assertiveness course will be my last at St Paul's. I have loved working with Helen and will miss running sessions with her. Helen has stepped into many spontaneous role plays around making cups of tea and cleaning up and has carried them off with aplomb. She has also found the people to do the course and that is something that cannot be underestimated. It takes time to build trust and encourage people through a new set of doors. Helen is such a safe and reassuring presence that without her I doubt many of the people, if any, would

have come to the sessions at all. Helen says that she sees conversations started in the course that she wouldn't have been able to start one to one, but once started she can build on them. Helen has also been able to remind people to share their successes in the course when they wouldn't have been brave enough to without her. The combination of one to one relationship and group work is truly transformative.

**Lynne Canessa**





## From the Programme Group

The Programme Group has reconvened this year with members, Elaine Hope, Jane Gresham, Anthony Bullock, Victoria Royce, Alison Hornsbury, Dianne Slack, Julia Evans (with some input from Helen Christy).

The main purpose of the group is to co-ordinate all the different events that take place in the church, though not necessarily organise them.

The hospitality meals on Monday, Thursday and Friday continue to flourish supported by a faithful group of volunteers who cook, shop, serve, wash up, arrange trips, organise events and engage and support those attending. Volunteers come from the church and some from the community but a special thank you to Nino, Wayne, Gary, Anthony, Judy, Adrian, Annabel, Martin, Julia and Ellen who cook the meals under the continued guidance of Jane Gresham. Thank you, Jane. Also, thanks to Pam and Simon who host the Thursday meal and Victoria and Alison who provide cake and celebration for the Thursday birthdays. Some activities are connected to the groups, organised by Helen Christy, Dianne Slack and Alison Hornsbury. These include regular visits to the Botanic Gardens, a Community Choir run by Victoria Royce, day trips around and out of Cambridge. At each of the meals there is the opportunity for anyone to take part in a short service of worship. The Monday meal is followed by a short evening worships and lighting of candles. On Thursday there is a short service and lighting of candles before the meal and on Fridays there is a communion service in the chapel before the meal.

For a few months in the Summer and Autumn we were treated to a monthly Sunday Roast Lunch for community and church, organised and cooked by Julian. These were very successful but unfortunately have stopped for the time being because Julian has been ill and living away from Cambridge. He worked incredibly hard to provide these lunches with amazing enthusiasm so a big thank you to him and a hope for his return.

Thanks to William, a regular at the lunches at St. Paul's, there is now a very lively Scrabble Club that meet on Monday before the supper.

The Arts Festival Group under the leadership of Jane Gresham and Martin Evans have organised a number of events this year; an arts and craft day; Walking to Jerusalem, a one person play by Justin Butcher; a jazz evening with Polly Gibbons



and Tim Boniface; an evening of contemporary dance and musical theatre with Bodyworks and Rosie Reith. To look forward to over the Easter Period is a one man play written by Murry Watts and performed by Andrew Harrison, 'Yours Truly', on Good Friday Evening and a Scratch Messiah, brought together by Mark Tinkler and Helen Robins on Easter Saturday.

Victoria Royce has organised two classical concerts with friends which have been an absolute delight. Victoria has also given the money raised, over £1,000 to St. Paul's.

We held a pre-Christmas event for families making Advent Wreaths and Advent Calendars beginning with lunch, which was a lovely relaxed way to start the hectic Christmas season.

We were again able to provide a lunch on Christmas day at which about 40 people attended. This was cooked and hosted by Janet Walker and family, Felicity and Richard Higginson and Anthony Bullock. We are in the process of planning a small celebration on VE day remembrance on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and an Autumn Fair with a musical event from the Mawson Road Orchestra and Choir. Helen Christy is also in the process of setting up a 'Chatty Café' morning for people who are on their own and feel isolated and lonely. We toyed with the idea, under the initiative of Jenny, Centre Manager, with a pop-up café but there was not enough time to do this properly but we might consider it again for this coming summer.

Once again we are very grateful for the generosity of all the volunteers who have run dinners, lunches, art groups, singing sessions, played the piano and organ, set up rooms for functions, cleared away after functions, swept floors, cut flowers and filled vases, collected donated food, prepared birthday cake celebrations, baked cakes and made time to sit and chat with anyone in need of company. We are also grateful to the members of staff who have kindly worked alongside these dedicated volunteers with enthusiasm and energy.

If you are interested in organising events for the church and community, we would be very happy to have more people on the committee or to hear your ideas.

**Julia Evans**

## Children and Young People at St Paul's



The number of children at St. Paul's seems to be increasing, especially the pre-school age group but on any Sunday, we can get between 2 and 18 children in church. Family life is very busy and so it is understandable that parents don't always make Sunday morning. Sometimes parents apologise to me and the reason they give for not coming to church is exhaustion, juggling too many balls, needing to have some time together as a family. So, when they can make it, we see the priority as enabling them to feel welcomed, loved, acknowledged - part of a caring community and of course to have fun. It is lovely to see members of the congregation in general interacting with the children. This is as, if not more important, than what they experience and learn in their groups. So, on behalf of families, thank you and please keep it up.

A big thank you to all the people who have helped with children and young people's events and groups this year. Some are mentioned specifically below but there are many more who help on an ad hoc basis. Working with children requires lots of support from adults, especially as groups, for child protection reasons, always need to have two people helping. It seems that there are never quite enough people to help so please look out over the coming year for appeals for help on a one-off basis and if you are able, do volunteer.

*What is there for children at St. Paul's?*



- Area for babies, toddlers and parents in church on Sunday morning
- Three Sunday morning groups:
  - Sparklers** 2 – 4 years (pre-school)
  - Bouncers** 5 – 7 years
  - Confused** 8 – 16 years
- The Signal Box After-school Club
- Pre-school Playgroup
- Messy Church
- Family and Celebration Services
- Holiday Family Lunches (working with the City Council)

## **Julia Evans**

### **Sparklers**

Sparklers is led by plenty of enthusiastic Sunday school teachers. We plan together, focusing on ideas and simple themes from the Scripture Union resource Bubbles, and present them in song, craft and play. This year we are happy to be sharing this resource with our neighbouring group, Bouncers, and occasionally arrange joint sessions with them, which enable the children to enjoy the company of their siblings.

Our aim is always that the children have fun and feel safe, that they start to develop friendships and feel a sense of belonging. The Lower Hall is set up before the service with a few play things, in case parents need somewhere to go in the first half of the service with their child. Parents are welcome to stay and enjoy

being part of the group with the opportunity to have coffee and talk to other parents. The children can also enjoy a drink and snack with us.

Our year ends with a Nativity performance with the Bouncers, which is always greatly appreciated by the whole congregation and the anticipation of a lively Christmas party.

**Elaine Hope, Rowena Rothery, Bryony Trill, Lucy Sparrow, Julia Evans**

### Bouncers

In Bouncers this year we have largely based our sessions on characters and stories from the Old Testament, particularly David, Jacob and Joshua, and also activities relating to the seasons, e.g. harvest, Advent, making Christingles and Christmas. There are craft related activities, prayers and songs, and we also share what we have been doing over the last week or celebrate birthdays during circle time.

We have recently held more joint sessions with Sparklers group as the number of children in both groups has varied each week. These joint sessions have been fun for the children (and the leaders!) and we are looking to continue with these whilst we have low numbers of children in this age range.

Mandy and I would like to thank our helpers and the Sparklers leaders for their support over the last year.

**Mandy Farrer & Carol Cowley**

### Confused

Laura, our Youth Worker has given up this role because of greater work commitments. She has still continued to help Helen Christy with the After-School Club held at Signal Box but the rest of the Youth Work has been given to a group of people. Laura, since September has put together a rota of helpers and provided material for the group. The helpers consist of the ordinands, Kristian Hewett, Nathaniel Gilmour, Daniel Callaghan, Matthew Creber and Nicholas along with Frances Harris, Julia Evans, Jon Canessa, Mark Rigby and Laura Scott. Though this situation is not ideal, it is temporary, and we are looking forward to the start of a new Youth Worker in the Spring. The group consists regularly of about 4 to 5 who continue to be a lively and engaging group

of young people. We are grateful to Laura for continuing to provide for this group and all the leaders who have stepped up to help.

## **Julia Evans**

### **Pre-School Playgroup**

This continues to meet on Monday mornings attended by a lovely group of supportive mums, dads, grandparents and carers who come along. We always acknowledge that the group is as much for the adults as for the children and if you come along on any Monday morning you see children playing very happily and adults enjoying each other's company with a cup of tea and cake. The last few months we have had the addition of a mum who plays the piano and this has been really good for our coming together time at the end of the session.

Helen has continued to encourage young, first time mums to come along and she tries to pop into the group whenever she can. Alex Beckett who sometimes visits homes in the parish with Helen Christy has started coming to the group and is happy, with some support to help run the group occasionally. It has also been lovely to have Anna Beckett, making herself available just to chat to mums who might feel a little nervous at attending the group. Sadly, Elaine Hope has had to stop working with the group because of other commitments and a big thank you to her for her cheerful, organised, enthusiastic presence.

Rowena, who now has a job, can only help until 11.00am but we are so grateful for the time she can give, not least for her caring manner towards struggling parents and her creative flare in all things. Emma faithfully comes each week and is very much appreciated not only for her help in practical matters but the way she engages with the children and the friendship she has developed with some of the young mums. This all leaves us a little short on the ground with helpers so if anyone reading this feels they have some time to spare on a Monday morning between 9.00am and 12.00pm that would be amazing.

## **Julia Evans, Rowena Rothery, Emma Hearn**

### **Messy Church**

We have only managed to run a couple of Messy Church events this year but both have been well attended especially the one taking place in school holiday time with 50 children plus parents.



The event is quite labour intensive and requires a lot of volunteers and we had to cancel the last one as there were not enough helpers on this occasion as a number of key people were away. Once the Children and Family Person is in place we hope to get back on track with this event.

**Julia Evans**

### St. Paul's School

After a difficult few years, with a swift changeover of headteachers and staff, St. Paul's School is now happily settling down under the headship of Helen Darrell. Many of you will have been introduced to her at the New Beginnings Service last October, when the new reception class is welcomed into the community of St. Paul's.

Michael continues to be invited into the school every week to take an assembly there, one of the most enjoyable parts of his job. Frequently I or he meet past students who remember these special assemblies. The school come to the church for a special assembly to which parents are invited four times a year, Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Summer and it is a privilege to welcome large numbers of parents to these events.

The school is very open in asking for help with planning and introducing the church assemblies and in helping with Religious Education lessons and it is a pleasure to be able to do this.

**Julia Evans**

### Holiday Lunch Club

In partnership with the council, St. Paul's Church have been participating in the holiday lunch scheme every holiday over the past year. Families are invited from the locality to enjoy prepared activities and play followed by sharing a lunch together. This is free for attendees and is intended to help combat holiday hunger and social isolation as families struggle either without free school meals or high child care costs.

We have had some excellent meals cooked by the council's chef Luftha, capably assisted by Wayne and we have had support from Chyyps, the Museum of Cambridge and the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

The attendance has grown and we are now feeding around 60 people a time. Thank you to all involved in supporting the project and nurturing the families.

**Rowena Rothery**

### Celebration Services

These continue in place of what might normally be known as Family or All Age Services and are always linked to some celebration of the church year. Their aim, is to provide something children, young people and adults. There are always activities that particularly appeal to children, though not exclusively and also activities that allow time for reflection.

**Julia Evans**



## Music at St Paul's

Music on a Sunday morning and evening is geared to help us worship God with our heads and our hearts and to enhance the readings and the liturgy. We continue to draw on a wide range of musical styles, traditions and cultures, directed largely by the church calendar.

Singing together is a vital part of our congregational life and is often commented upon by visitors. The informal group of around 15-20 singers (choir) contributes regularly to services to support the singing and to offer other music during communion or prayers, for example. Thanks to them all for their regular and faithful contributions to our services. All are welcome to join this group. No auditions or experience needed. We enjoyed singing two lovely new pieces composed by members of St Paul's – Yvette Gonley (Prayer of St Francis with Hannah on the cello) at the Weekend Away and Janet Walker (You came with your light).

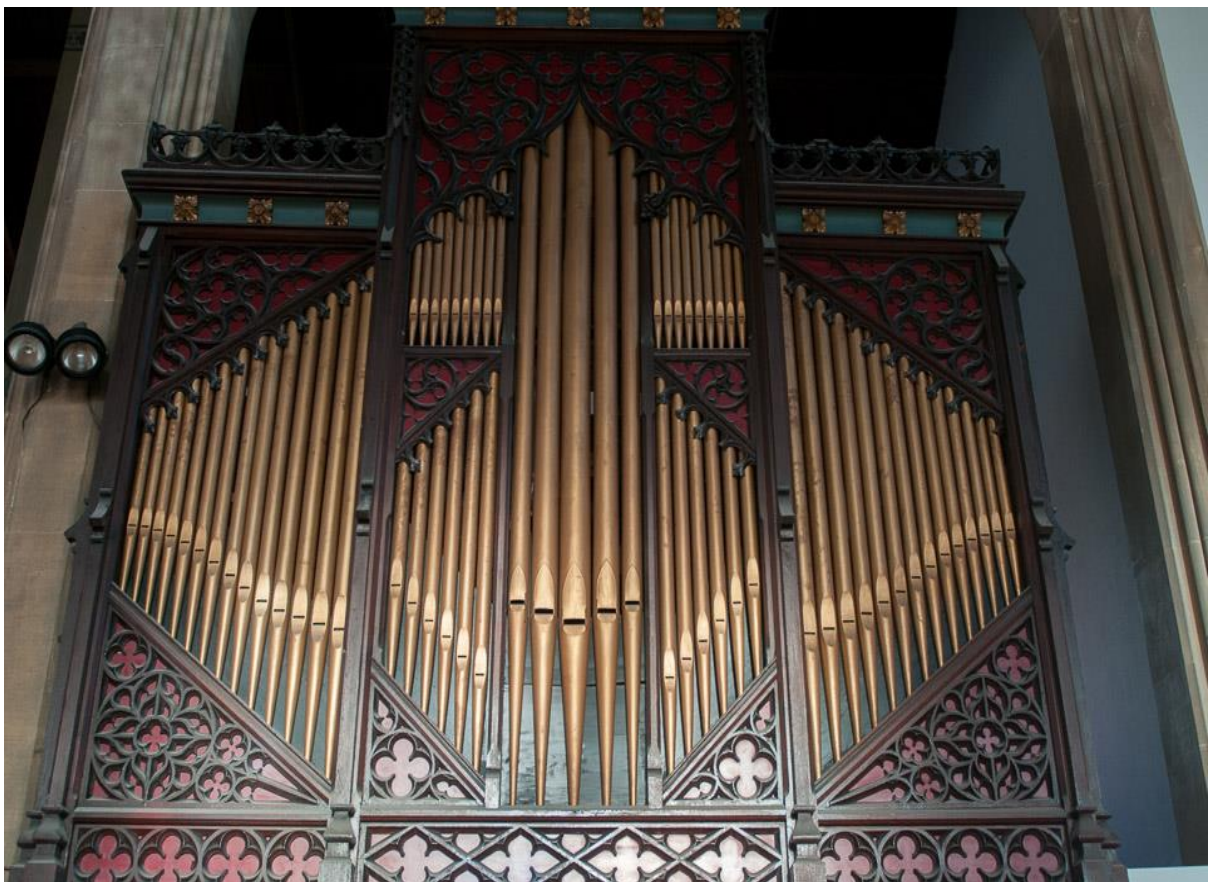
The annual candlelit carol service choir is always a highlight with more than 55 people singing this year from the congregation and local community. Hard work, good fun and a chance to get to know others are hallmarks of the five-week rehearsal period. In 2019, we sang *Lully Lulla*, *O holy night* and *No room, no room*. Richard Hinitt was the organist and Millie Cant sang the solo. Ian Trill recorded the service and it was broadcast on Christmas Day morning on Forest Gold Radio – a first for St Paul's!

Thanks to those who play the piano week by week for morning and evening services – Nigel Bloomer, Richard Cragg, Diane Hicks, Richard Hinitt, Simon Humphreys, Helen Robbins, Victoria Royce, Rod Shaw, Janet Walker, and also to Rachel Rigby who plays her violin so beautifully in some of our services.

And this year, a huge bonus on so many levels was the creative, skilled and gracious contribution of our dear intern, Hannah Lichtinger. She sang and played her cello and piano so generously (sometimes with members of her family from Germany) and made a huge contribution to our worshipping life. In addition, she completed what no-one has ever dared to tackle – collating, editing and

publishing the *St Paul's Book of Short Chants* which will be an invaluable resource for years to come. We miss her greatly.

**Helen Robbins**



## From the Eco Church Group

Committee membership: Jonathan Chaplin (Chair), Chris Brown, Richard Collins, Chris Hope, Alison Hornsbury, Tony Pearson and Bryony Trill.

The year was another full one and we have again been inspired by the enthusiastic support from congregation, PCC and staff. This is a report on the activities of the Eco Church Group but there's a lot more being done by the congregation, here and abroad, that fulfils our vision of being better 'creation carers'. A recent survey confirmed how many in the congregation are busy individually with all sorts of activities toward that goal. As of March 2020, we are **on the cusp of securing the Silver Award!** The award is run by Arocha, a Christian environmental group, and involves us meeting key targets in Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global Engagement, and Lifestyle. Some highlights of the year:

- three eco-themed services: 26 May (ordinand Charlotte Jackson on 'food and faithfulness'); 17 November (Jonathan Chaplin and Chris Hope on 'climate change'); 23 February (Margaret Barker on the 'covenant of peace').
- supporting the Amos Trust's Climate Justice Summit held at St Paul's in September, a wonderful two days of celebration, encouragement and networking.
- hosting 'Thoughtful Eating: Food, Relationships and the Environment' in June, organised by Jubilee Centre and attended by 50.
- taking forward our project to install secondary glazing in the Main Hall to reduce significant heat loss, save energy, increase comfort (and win points towards Gold). In January we held a congregational consultation and in February we secured a 'faculty' (permission) from the Diocese and are now seeking grants and liaising with contractors on final plans. Massive thanks to Chris Brown who has determinedly led the project for the last two years and got us to this point, with solid PCC backing throughout.
- supporting Ann and Rodney who continue to do an amazing job making our garden as eco-friendly as possible, also earning us maximum available points for Silver.



- working with centre manager Jenny Cavallo who is eager to make the buildings more eco-friendly through food, recycling, cleaning products, etc.
- holding two showings of David Attenborough's acclaimed film 'Climate Change: The Facts' and hosting a discussion at one led by Chris Hope.
- communicating with the congregation through regular eco-slots in services and themed Factsheets and through our own website launched last summer.
- sharing our Eco Church story at Ely Cathedral last April and with Little St Mary's, as they started out on their own Eco Church journeys.
- thanks to Ian Trill who stood down from the committee, having done the thermal imaging of the Main Hall towards the secondary glazing project.

Our goal is to secure Silver in 2020. Our key challenge is to increase our collective church campaigning on climate change, as the UK prepares to host the next UN climate summit (COP26) in November in Glasgow.

## Jonathan Chaplin



## Eating together at St Paul's

### Monday Supper

As with all the community meals the numbers fluctuate – sometimes as many as 50 can turn up on a Monday evening which can be a real challenge for the cooks.

We have been blessed with Nino who cooks, along with Wayne (our constant sous chef) most Mondays. Anthony has also had a number of turns in the kitchen and it has been great to see.

### Thursday and Friday Lunches

The numbers have been pretty steady around 30/35 with a number of new faces on both days.

We are very short of cooks and, at present, Julia or Martin or I cook every week. It would be really good to add another couple of cooks to the rota.

### Sunday Lunches

For around 6 months we were joined by Julian who helped with the cooking on Thursdays and Fridays – a great addition to the small number of us who cook.

He also cooked a number of monthly Sunday lunches which were very well attended and appreciated by both church and the community. We miss his generous spirit and enthusiasm.

### CCHP Sunday dinners

There are now 4 cooks plus 4 assistant cooks, some of whom who have been cooking since we started 6 winters ago. It means we all do one Sunday a month.

Along with a small number of regular washing up volunteers, it feels like we have a great reliable team. We enjoy giving them a Sunday roast which they seem to love.

### Volunteers

We are hugely thankful to our volunteers.

We said goodbye to Chris who had assisted the cooks on Thursdays and Fridays plus all the washing up for over 10 years. He left for a fulltime job as a driver.

Gary has stepped into his shoes and does a wonderful job.

Thanks to Diana and Ruth who, for many years have helped with the serving, clearing away and washing up. We now serve them.

Every year we appeal for people who might like to be involved in helping in some way on the Thursdays and Fridays. We have lost quite a number of volunteers during this year and would love to hear from you if you are in any way interested - [janegresham@hotmail.com](mailto:janegresham@hotmail.com)



### Ladies Drinks

It's been great to continue with our slightly irregular "Friday nights in" this last year. There's always a selection of soft and harder drinks (not just gin, honest!) along with nibbles to ease us into the weekend after a long week. It's been a fun way to meet new people at St Paul's and catch up with old friends. We ask for a small donation towards the cost and every now and again we run it as a fundraiser. This year generous donations have enabled us to support the breast cancer screening programme at Al Ahli hospital in Gaza and projects working with young women living on the streets. Do look out for our next date in Family News.

**Sarah Rose and Caroline Bone**

## Men's Breakfasts

We have continued to meet every third Saturday, seeking to support each other, looking at serious subjects with a light touch.

We have discussed a wide range of topics, including:

1. Worship (i.e. 'worthship' - what we value) in relation to Jesus's temptations & the fundamental meditation experience: I am not (just) my thoughts, emotions & bodily sensations;
2. the relationship between morality & our need to belong to a group; and
3. the symbolism of the Christmas Tree (the start of a series).

All (men!) are welcome to join us at the Earl of Derby in Hills Road (at 8.30am or a little later!) whenever they feel like giving it a try.

## Michael Bloy & Mark Rigby

## St Paul's Curry Night

St Paul's occasionally holds a Curry Night at the Rajbelash. While primarily a congenial social gathering, we enjoy a simple scripture reading and discussion between the poppados and mains. We are celebrating women of the New Testament, with verses concerning **Anna the Prophetess** at the Candlemas Curry, **Mary Magdalene** at the Easter Curry, **Phoebe** at the Feast of Saint Phoebe Curry, and **Mary the Mother of God** at the Advent Curry. Our numbers have grown over the course of the year. All are welcome. If you have not yet come, do join us for the next one!

## Andy Gordon

## Mission Support Group

*Our involvement with mission at St Paul's is both encouraging and inspiring as we partner with organisations at local, national and international levels. The bench dedicated to the Ogden sisters and installed in the church garden earlier this year reminds us of the role played not only by those who go to serve but also those who support them. These partnerships are highlighted in some of the uplifting reports and letters we have recently received from the organisations we support –*



### Romsey Mill

“We have put your donation towards our Christmas Appeal, which means that the money will be used directly to help some of the most vulnerable and at-risk young people and families with whom we work. Your donation will help to make a huge difference in their lives.

Matthew is a young man who has been part of our music programme, and was being targeted by County Lines gangs. Our youth workers have built a relationship with him and enabled him to build hope for his future.” (You can read more about this story on the Romsey Mill website). Richard Beckett is the Youth Development worker there.



### Cambridge Money Advice

“One thing will always remain and that is our desire to see lives transformed by releasing people from the agonising hold of debt. It may surprise you to know



that our ‘average’ client has over £10,000 of debt; many have council tax and rent arrears which they are unable to meet payments on. What we do is not always easy, and can be emotionally draining, but we all believe that it is worth it to see someone who arrived in fear and seeing this as a last resort leaving months later knowing that things are now under control.”



### **Cogwheel**

“It is a privilege to be able to walk with people on their journeys of self-discovery and as they learn new ways to manage difficult and complex situations.”



### **Divine Hope – message from Fred Bbosa**

“Dear St. Paul’s, I thank God every day for giving me the opportunity to serve him through Divine Hope with the support from you the church members of St Paul’s. We have reached more than 12,000 people through our mobile health clinics in different communities of Kiboga district, Uganda and we have provided 30 needy children with secondary education. Tumusiime Godfrey is currently in the fifth year of his secondary education, and said this to me recently: *I thank God for Divine Hope. Before they came into my life, I was hopeless with no sign of a bright future because I was dropping out of school, now they pay for my school fees and all other scholastic needs and am looking forward to becoming a medical doctor. I am now doing Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Maths after which I will join the medical school in 2022, God willing.*”

## **Chem U – message from Dorothy Agessa**



“Dear sponsors at St Paul’s, our Gracious Lord Jesus Christ has been so faithful working through you to support our work over the years. We now provide education for 55 children and young people. All this would not be possible without the support from you. We greatly value your financial support, prayers and commitment which you have invested in the work of CHEM-Uganda. One of the children is Steven, who we started supporting with his brother Elias after their late father abandoned them and chased them out of their home. Steven was then in Primary School; last year he was able to sit O-Level exams and this year has enrolled into a vocational institute studying for a diploma in Mechanical Engineering. Steven’s life has been changed by his education, and he hopes to be able to support his mother in the future.”



### **Release International**

"We really appreciate your prayers and faithful support for those persecuted for their faith in Jesus. Your support makes a difference in many countries around the world including Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan and Central Asia by providing food, clothing and medicines to prisoners of faith and their families."



## **Episcopal University of South Sudan – Eeva John writes**

“As the Chair of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan University Partnership (ECSSSUP) I want to thank you for your contribution to this challenging and vital project. [Money was given towards the provision of solar panels for the University]. This is hugely appreciated and without your involvement there would not have been the progress that has been made! Naturally the university has a long way to go and has many needs to meet - see the website, [www.ecsssup.org](http://www.ecsssup.org). However, the staff of the participating colleges continue to persevere in making their vision a reality: a high-quality university open to all that serves the nation. Thank you for partnering in this work!”

**And finally, ...**

I am so grateful to the faithful members of the group - Ruth Hatch, Diana Hawkins, Angela McLellan, Pat Rigby and Michael Bloy, and also to Frances Harris who provides an excellent link with the PCC. Thanks to St Paul's for its encouraging support of 'mission' - we would love to hear from you if you would like to get involved!

**Mandy Farrer**

## Tuesday Fellowship

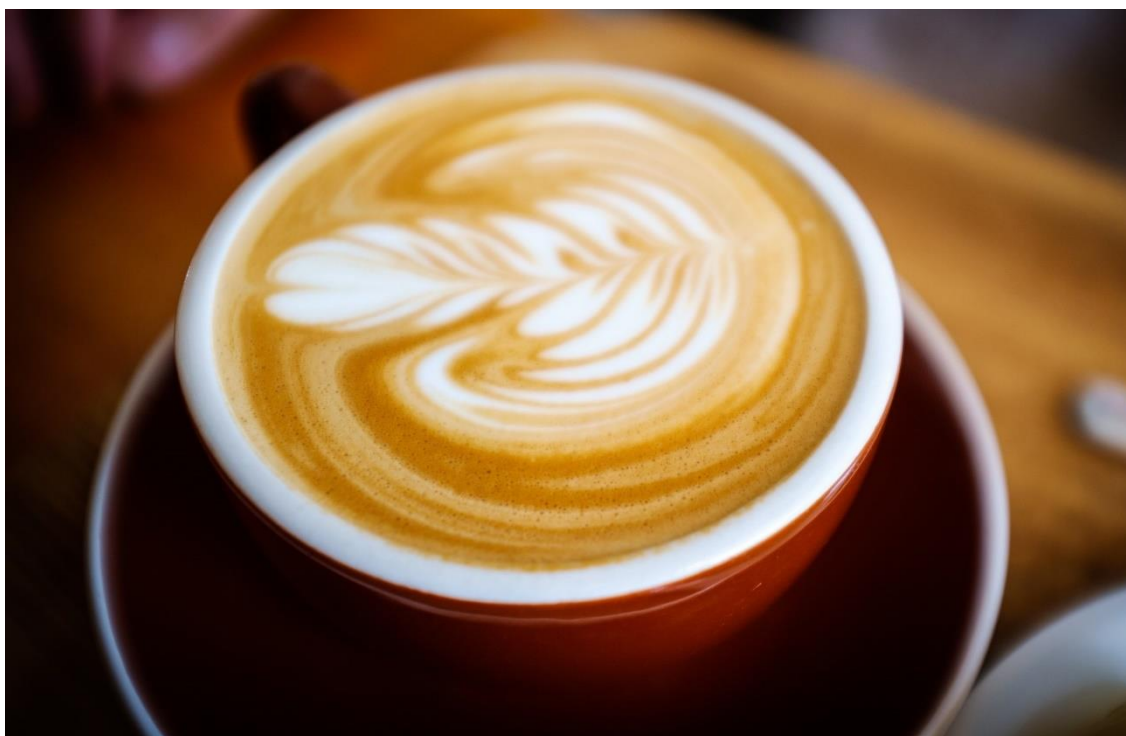
Tuesday Fellowship has enjoyed another successful year wonderfully supported by Michael Beckett, Jon Canessa and our other regular speakers Cecily Rose, Jane Shoesmith, Julia Evans, Richard Higginson, and Christina Barry. We have also enjoyed several new speakers introducing us to many different aspects of Christian Life.

Last Summer we hosted members from Ditchburn Place whilst their building was renovated and we enjoyed a thank you Tea Party with them at Ditchburn afterwards. We have had several social occasions, a Christmas Lunch and Summer Tea Party at the Vicarage and a Tea Party at Helen Robbins'.

Hannah (our intern) joined us whilst she was here and also Marieke and both were a great help. This year we have welcomed William Radice and Anthony Bullock when he can come. We miss our older members who can no longer come, Marion keeps in contact with Pat Judges who has settled well into her new home in Hauxton. Margaret Hunt kindly took over when I was away in Australia for which I was very grateful. Nigel Bloomer plays the organ and we use our CDs when he is absent.

We are a very small informal group and would welcome anybody who would like to join us, we meet at 2 30 pm on Tuesdays in the chapel during Term Time.

## Ruth Hatch



## St Paul's School Governors

St Paul's C of E VA Primary School <https://www.stpauls.cambs.sch.uk/>

This academic year the focus has been on the curriculum. Throughout the country Primary Schools are expected to review their curriculum and ensure that it is appropriate for the community that the school serves. Helen Darrell, Headteacher has gained praise from Governors, Local Authority and the Ofsted inspector who visited in July 2019, for the way she has approached a review and plans as well as implementation.

As a Governing Body we have been assured by the positive reaction from pupils, staff and families to the style of Helen's leadership. With no resignations in May the year started in September with a team of loyal and respected staff who have all responded positively to an enhanced focus on writing, reading and Maths. The reception class has many children who are the younger siblings of children further up the school and confirms the families consider the climate in the school is the one they would like their children to learn in.

The introduction in the last decade of 4 x independent providers of education for 4-year olds in the neighbouring streets, along with the opening of the University Primary School in the north of the city, has affected our ability to recruit new pupils. We need the congregation to review the new website and become familiar with the great provision that is on offer so that we can all communicate to families in the city that they can have confidence in the school. Via the website you can learn more about the work of the school.

In January the local authority informed the Governing Body that the school has addressed all the areas identified in the last Ofsted report as requiring improvement. New families touring the school compare it favourably to the state schools and independent schools that they have visited in the parish.

The children are a joy and the breadth of opportunities the staff and volunteers provide in Science, Technology, Arts, Sports and Culture is fantastic. If you are ever able to attend one of the assemblies held in the church, you will see the whole school in action. Michael Beckett delivers an assembly most weeks in school and Julia Evans hosted the Easter Assembly. Christina Barry continues to volunteer supporting music.

Funding is limited and the Parent Teacher & Friends Association <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsPTFACambridge/> along with the Church



Schools of Cambridge <http://csoc.org.uk/> enable the Leadership to sustain a rich and appropriate offer through generous financial support.

Alistair Mack has become an Associate Trustee of Church Schools of Cambridge and has taken a special interest in inclusion. Pupils who have no prior experience of English or those in need of Social and Emotional Support are all part of the community we serve. Alistair has visited to see the work in action.

In September I went from being Vice-Chair to Chair of Governors. It is a great privilege to serve the community as a Governor. We have vacancies for any members of the congregation who would like to volunteer in this way. If you are interested, please contact me: [chair@stpauls.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:chair@stpauls.cambs.sch.uk)

**Bev Jones**



**St Pauls C of E (VA)**  
**Primary School**

## Official Reports

### Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The fabric and ornaments of the Church remain in good order. The memorials and other monuments are all in good condition.

The scheme to add secondary glazing to the windows (being the outcome of the tireless work of the eco –group) is planned for completion during 2020. The condition of the stained-glass windows and lead work will be checked thoroughly before the secondary glazing panels are installed.

I would like to express my admiration and thanks to those involved in the glazing application to date, especially Chris Brown and Jonathan Chaplin, who give their time and care. Also, to the Operations group who use their knowledge and skills to assist the Centre Manager Jenny Cavallo with the smooth maintenance of the building. (Where would we be without Peter Adlington's careful eye and skilled hand?) Jenny has continued to extend the range of activities offered during the week, and increased the booking occupancy of the building. This has a direct effect to boost income and to extend the capacity of St Paul's to reach into the community. Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to these people and many, many others who keep the Church and Centre running.

This year, as ever, the wardens have sought to attend not only to the fabric but also to enable the many people who contribute to the life of the Church. Through the personnel changes of 2019 the wardens have been in the background supporting the ministry team, the PCC, and the Sunday helpers. Our special thanks to Anthony Bullock for ensuring that the Sunday morning rota has continued to function so well.

**Poppy Crook & Frances Harris**

## Deanery Synod

The Synod met three times in 2019, at Little St Mary's, St Philip's and, for what is now planned as an annual joint meeting with Cambridge North Deanery, St Andrew's Chesterton. The closest links we had during the year with other churches in the Deanery continued to be Jon Canessa's leadership of the Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project. He is also Bishop's Officer for Homelessness. The Deanery has been paying for a proportion of Jon's stipend. Synod voted at its March 2019 meeting to recommend that the Bishop's Officer side of the post be a permanent half-time diocesan-funded post. Other items of interest:

- Rev Sheila Anthony, Bishop's Adviser for Evangelism, is available to visit Deanery churches and can offer a 2 ½ hour 'pop-up workshop' on the theme.
- The diocese has agreed that current numbers of stipendiary posts in the diocese should remain at 104, meaning there's no pressure to reduce clergy posts.
- The Deanery Plan 2019 was presented. Each parish writes a paragraph on how it is seeking to meet the five Deanery principles. These are: 1. Alignment with the priorities of Ely 2025 (the diocesan plan); 2. Growth (both in numbers and in holiness and discipleship); 3. Flexibility (Cambridge being a fast-moving city); 4. Partnership (collaboration across boundaries); 5. Resourcing (sharing God's blessings with diocese and beyond). Copy held by Deanery Synod rep.
- A presentation by Geoffrey Hunter, DAC Secretary, on the project REACH Ely: 'Reimagining Churches as Community Assets for the Common Good'. The project helps communities make fuller use of their historic churches. Resources are being prepared that will help churches think how their buildings can better serve their communities. See [www.reachely.org](http://www.reachely.org). Although St Paul's is already well advanced in this area, it's worth keeping an eye on.
- A presentation on the Church of England's Ministry Experience Scheme, in which people 18-30 exploring church ministry take up placements in local churches. Cambridge North has launched the first such scheme in the diocese, based at St Andrew's Chesterton, also worth keeping an eye on.
- Elections for Deanery Synod and General Synod take place in Spring 2020. St Paul's is probably entitled to two Synod reps.

## Jonathan Chaplin

## **Treasurers Report**

TO FOLLOW

## Chapel Services

Monday, Compline, 7pm

Tuesday, Iona Healing Service, 7pm

Wednesday, Morning Prayer, 7.30am

Thursday, Lectio Divina, 7.30am;

Thursday, Candle lighting, 12.15pm before lunch

Friday, Holy Communion (BCP), 12 noon

## Contact Us

St Paul's

Hills Road

Cambridge

CB2 1JP

[www.stpaulscambridge.org.uk](http://www.stpaulscambridge.org.uk)

Vicar: Rev Michael Beckett

[vicar@stpaulscambridge.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stpaulscambridge.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Rev Jon Canessa

[jon@stpaulscambridge.org.uk](mailto:jon@stpaulscambridge.org.uk)

Centre Manager: Jenny Cavallo

[office@stpaulscambridge.org.uk](mailto:office@stpaulscambridge.org.uk)

Bookings Admin: Dianne Slack

[bookings@stpaulscambridge.org.uk](mailto:bookings@stpaulscambridge.org.uk)

Telephone Enquiries: 01223 576899

To join the mailing list: [congregation@stpaulscambridge.org.uk](mailto:congregation@stpaulscambridge.org.uk)





INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019  
TO THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTIC CHURCH OF ST PAUL, CAMBRIDGE

This report on the account of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2019, which are set out on pages 2 to 17, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2016 (the Regulations) and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC AND THE EXAMINER

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts; you consider that the Audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144 (2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2016 edition. The examination includes a review of the financial 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 accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members of the PCC 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 in these accounts.

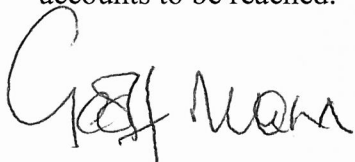
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respects the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act: and
  - to prepare accounts which compare with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act
- have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Geoff Mann FCIE  
Geoff Mann Limited  
Dee House  
Highworth Avenue  
Cambridge CB4 2BQ