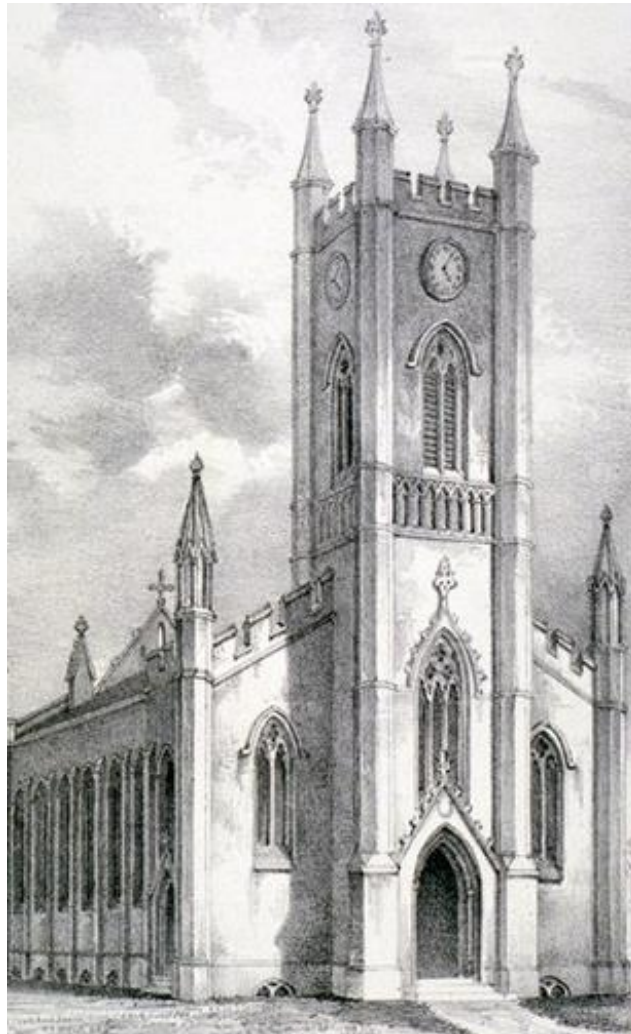


ST PETER
DE BEAUVOIR TOWN

Annual Report



2020

VICAR'S REPORT

It's hard to remember life before lockdown. It had been another busy year of regular celebrations and events, alongside some new initiatives. St Peter's was crawling with babies and daily visitors to Open Church were starting to outnumber the regular Sunday congregation - see *A Year in the Life of St Peter's*.

St Peter's has been blessed with a resourceful, generous and loving congregation for decades. The church is seen by many people locally as an expression of community spirit. During lockdown fresh leadership has been emerging. New pastoral networks and groups are being formed. Sunday worship stopped but Home Worship reached easily three times as many people. In all the turbulence and fragmentation, St Peter's has been quietly growing.

St Peter's offers the parish community a sense of continuity - marking the seasons, celebrating life ceremonies, a church clock that daily chimes the hours day and night. It is a place to seek companionship and solitude, a safe space to express strong feelings and encounter people we see as different. In this fractured world we need communities in communion with deeper meanings, ancient currents that nourish and empower spiritually.

As the church adapts to this rapidly changing environment new opportunities are emerging. Hosted space for well-being, creativity and community support is more vital than ever. Supporting local musicians and

music/arts education is one way to foster well-being and creativity in the neighbourhood community, as well as intergenerational/cross-cultural relations.

I am personally grateful for all the lovely messages of sadness and support I have received in this past month in response to the announcement of my retirement at the end of January.

Challenging times lie ahead for us all. As St Peter's navigates the coming year, let us hold on to the image of the apostle Peter, stepping out of his fishing boat to meet Jesus walking across the moonlit water - and let us not be afraid.

REPORTS ON CHURCH ACTIVITIES

YOUNG PEOPLE

A new Growing Young Leaders Programme was launched for young people in church (15-18) in collaboration with St Anne, Hoxton. They asked to be able to experience activities outside their comfort zone - including trips to the Shard and ice-skating at Lee Valley Ice Centre. 5 young people were invited to share their hopes and fears for the future in an Advent sermon series.

Noisy Church was attracting numerous new families with young children leading to a rethink of the format and content of the service - currently work in progress.

Children over 7 were offered preparation for First Communion at Pentecost. Older children were encouraged to take part in writing and leading intercessions in church.

WORSHIP

The Worship Team consists of members of the congregation, lay ministers and the vicar. It met regularly until lockdown reviewing and planning worship. During lockdown, the team discussed the provision of Home Worship and introduced recordings by members of the congregation in order to represent the diversity of voices typical for our congregation. Later on a main aim was to get live-worship re-started. It was decided to resume services in early August. The group agreed that rather than having a pared down service we wanted to celebrate one that worked in its own right. A particular issue was Communion which before lockdown had been the most awkward part of a socially distanced service. We therefore decided to change to a Service of the Word. There are now plans to have communion once a month. Brenda Herbert and Boachie Dankwah have left the team during this year. Their contributions have been invaluable.

ENVIRONMENT

The theme for the De Beauvoir Flower and Produce show this year was *Growing a Greener Planet* and focused on how we can minimise waste and aim to make it free of single-use plastic waste.

A free booklet # LiveLent:Care for God's Creation was distributed as part of The Church of England's Lent Campaign for 2020 with weekly themes and prayers shaped around the first chapter of the Book of Genesis, exploring the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance of creation.

St Peter's is looking for a volunteer Environmental Champion to lead on developing initiatives and campaigns.

COMMUNITY

During 2019 the crypt was occupied much of the time and was raising around £60,000 per year in rental income. This enabled us to give reduced rates to several key projects: Happy Babies, Hackney Playbus, Woven Gold Choir, the Friday cafe and the Night shelter in line with St Peter's social mission as well as providing 10% of the common fund contribution.

In March 2020 the crypt had to close due to Covid-19 but many regular groups found other ways of working, mainly fully or partially online. By July the De Beauvoir Clinic (Stepping Stones) began treating individual patients again and other crypt bookings were taken for September onwards. After reviewing the use and purpose of Open Crypt we have decided not to continue the sessions.

Sanitising procedures, risk assessments and guidelines were set up in preparation for reopening. A few regular users plan to restart in the autumn subject to

government guidelines but it is unclear how many of them will be able to return this year.

PASTORAL CARE

St Peter's has for more than a decade been blessed by the ministry of Pastoral Assistants who are commissioned by the Bishop, after a one year local training course, to assist the clergy in a wide range of pastoral, liturgical and administrative tasks. It is very good to see Boachie Dankwah and Margaret Glover begin training as new Pastoral Assistants for 2021. Last year 6 church members took part in a 6 week introductory course on pastoral care. This has enabled the rapid development of a new Pastoral Team and Neighbourhood Network during lockdown to keep St Peter's connected.

The closure of the church has impacted badly on Open Church visitors and Open Crypt users. It is hoped that the current restricted hours for Open Church can be extended with more volunteers to church watch. The Café in the Crypt will sadly remain closed for community hospitality for the time being.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship requires ongoing effort to involve more people in terms of their time and money. Regular giving of money is sadly declining. St Peter's Supported Charities continue to be offered space in the crypt at reduced rates although not all are currently able to meet.

A new finance team has been set up to provide support for the treasurer and to report to the PCC with facts and recommendations: for example on up to date figures in a helpful format, budgeting by our teams, Common Fund contributions and fundraising from the wider community in the parish.

The diocese's intern scheme no longer needs the parish house at 16 De Beauvoir Road and we are grateful that Edward Benyon kindly agreed to manage a minor refurbishment and also future lettings for us. The refurbishment by the Benyon Estate is going well and they will soon be able to look for tenants on our behalf.

Challenging times continue due to Covid-19 and the reduction in income from the rental of the crypt and 16 de Beauvoir Road are significant. Huge thanks are due to Julie Talbot, Operations Manager, Paul Snow, Operations Officer, Hope Fredericks, Treasurer and MARGARET GLOVER for all their efforts to put parish accounts in order this year.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Team worked with local designer, Avril Broadley, to produce a new house style and templates for printed flyers/posters, weekly news sheet and welcome brochure.

Church communications consultant, Giles Fouhy, was appointed to review the website and provide social media training.

It has been an unprecedented challenge to produce Home Worship during lockdown. Huge thanks to Sarah Dallas and Vivette Ferguson for all their efforts to keep us connected - online and by post.

BUILDING

This has been a busy year. Work began on matters identified under the first phase of the Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM) schedule prepared for St Peters by the Benyon Estate last year. The PCC agreed a budget figure of £15k each year to maintain the structure and appearance of both building and grounds.

Essential work to the roof, electrics and stairs to the Tower were completed. The storage space at the foot of the stairs has been reorganised. A Building Log - a record of all work done to the property - has been put together covering the past 3 Quinquennial Inspections (2004 - 2021), and efforts made to sort and safely store documents of interest from previous decades.

The Gallery has been cleared of much clutter, and many books. It and the rest of the Church has been deep cleaned.

A new Buildings Team has been formed, with a work programme agreed to cover the next few years.

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF ST PETER'S

APRIL

ST PETER'S LENT COURSE *Communion in Community* was concluded

PALO SANTO/HOLY STICKS a temporary installation by Lent artists in residence Sophie Alston & Ingrid Pumayalla was launched

7 people took part in the Parish Retreat to Pleshey in the Essex countryside

DEMDDY BASIMI, SHEENA BROWN, SEAN CARNEGIE, ANNA DALTON and ANGEL ROBAN- HECTOR were confirmed by Bishop Sarah at St Paul's Cathedral on Easter Eve

At the APCM the following were duly elected: ANNA DALTON and MAE FREDERICKS as Churchwardens and AMANDA BART-PLANGE, GILLIAN BORRIE, LYNN BROADHEAD, BOACHIE DANKWAH, AMANDA DAVIES, WASIU ELESHIN, HOPE FREDERICKS, JACQUELINE GRACE, KATE GREEN, JANE KING, ECKART MARCHAND, BEN ODDOYE, PAUL SNOW as PCC Members

MAY

The Art Imaginarium offered HALF TERM HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS for school children in art, circus and mindfulness to the local community in church

AGEING WITH ATTITUDE a free 6 week pilot project to explore ageing with life coach Georgia Thorp was offered free in Café in the Crypt

JUNE

ERIN WAUCHOB, SOPHIE HARVEY, SYBILLA HARVEY and MAX WESERMANN received their First Communion

SARAH DALLAS was licensed as a Lay Minister by Bishop Sarah at St John, Hoxton

ANNA DALTON and MAE FREDERICKS were admitted to the role of Churchwarden at St John of Jerusalem

ST PETER'S DAY was celebrated with a special Service of Thanksgiving and launch of a new *Mission Action Plan 2019-22*, Bring & Share Brunch and BBQ, Open Crypt with cream teas and a free concert in church

JULY

AMANDA BART-PLANGE and VIVETTE FERGUSON were re-commissioned as Pastoral Assistants and we thanked ROMEE DAY for 10 years service as a Pastoral Assistant

Open Crypt volunteers took part in UNIVERSAL CREDIT TRAINING at Our Lady and St Joseph's Catholic Church

A full coach load enjoyed a SEASIDE TRIP TO HASTINGS

12 people enjoyed a GLOBE THEATRE TRIP to see *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Jocelyn Esien

AUGUST

8 WEDDING COUPLES were invited to share photos of their wedding at St Peter's this year for a new website feature

SEPTEMBER

DE BEAUVOIR GARDENERS FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW attracted a bumper number of visitors

We said farewell to Lay Minister JENNY WALPOLE as she started ordination training in Cambridge after 3 years at St Peter's

A STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME was launched to support the work of the new *Mission Action Plan 2019-22*

Young people (15-18) met to talk about a new GROWING YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAMME

BISHOP JOANNE was welcomed to the Stepney Area at a special service at St Mary, Islington

OCTOBER

The traditional HARVEST SUPPER bring and share meal was mixed with art and circus skills activities for all ages

A collection of fresh produce was sold in aid of parish charities after the service at HARVEST FESTIVAL

We welcomed Ordinand MATTHEW BULL training for ordained ministry at Trinity College, Bristol and on placement at St Peter's on Sundays for 2 years

SHOLA ADENIYI, BOACHIE DANKWAH, MARGARET GLOVER, JACQUELINE GRACE, SYLVIA O'BRIEN and JEANETTE WILKES joined other local churches for a new six week training course *Who Cares? An Introduction to Pastoral Care*

A PCC OPEN MEETING to develop 8 Areas for Growth in the Mission Action Plan 2019-22 was attended by 17 people

NOVEMBER

A record number of names were read in the ceremony for the COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED at All Souls

A NON-SALE OF BOOKS AND PICTURES was organised to clear the community bookstore in the church gallery - donations were made in aid of St Peter's Supported Charities and The Frank Haines Memorial Trust

A GALLERY/TOWER WORKING PARTY was organised by the Building Team in preparation for a deep clean in time for Christmas

10 young people on the GROWING YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAMME enjoyed a free visit to The Shard

DECEMBER

BRUCE AND BENIECE ODDOYE, VANIA AND GISELLE DANKWAH and SEBASTIAN GRECH shared some of their hopes and fears for the future in an ADVENT SERMON SERIES

ADVENT WORDS & MUSIC offered reflections on the four weeks of Advent in 50 minutes of poetry and music curated by PETER DAY

The Palo Santo installation was dismantled and sold to raise funds for Christian Aid's EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR AMAZON FIRES

Printmaker, Hilary Daltry, kindly donated the image for ST PETER'S CHRISTMAS CARD

A CHRISTINGLE WORKSHOP was enjoyed by over 20 children and their families

A record-breaking over 300 people attended ST PETER'S CAROL SERVICE

NOISY NATIVITY was directed professionally this year by JOCELYN ESIEN with her sister DOROTHY

A NEWLY RESTORED CRIB unearthed from the Tower was unveiled for Christmas

Thanks were given to ALTAR SERVERS, CHURCH CLEANERS, CRIB MAKERS, DRIVERS, FLOWER ARRANGERS, FLYER DISTRIBUTORS, LINEN LAUNDERERS, MUSICIANS, NOISY NATIVITY PLAYERS, OPEN CHURCH HELPERS, READERS and INTERCESSORS, REFRESHMENTS SERVERS, SINGERS, SOCIAL MEDIA POSTERS, STEWARDS/WELCOME TEAMS and EVERYONE who helped make Christmas at St Peter's beautiful and holy for so many visitors

The VICAR noted that she had received more Christmas cards this year with pictures of penguins in bobble hats than pictures of baby Jesus and the holy family

JANUARY

ST PETER'S NIGHT SHELTER opened once again in the Crypt to provide beds, food and companionship for 15 homeless men and women for the winter months

The PCC enjoyed an Epiphany Party at local pizzeria *Sweet Thursday*

FEBRUARY

A MEN'S BREAKFAST was organised in the Café in the Crypt - the first gathering for men at St Peter's for 18 years

Six YOUNG PEOPLE from St Peter's joined five from St Anne's for an ice-skating trip

We welcomed 6 new people to the PASTORAL TEAM who had recently completed an introductory course on *Pastoral Care* at the Stepney Area Centre for Training: SHOLA ADENIYE, BOACHIE DANKWAH, MARGARET GLOVER, JACQUELINE GRACE, SYLVIA O'BRIEN, JEANETTE WILKES

A PANCAKE PARTY after church was enjoyed by all ages

MARCH

ASH WEDNESDAY ceremonies were shared with 40+ people at Anne, Hoxton for a special service curated by Fr Ben Bell

A 4 week LENT COURSE was offered on PATTERNS OF WORSHIP exploring 4 elements - Music, Words, Space, Presence

SHEENA BROWN, ALISON WRIGHT and SEAN CARNEGIE shared their experiences of worship in a LENT SERMON SERIES

LENT CAFÉ CONVERSATIONS was launched on Sundays at 5pm to explore different perspectives on ethical questions: migration and home, death and euthanasia, gender and fluidity.

The traditional set of STATIONS OF THE CROSS was installed in church for the first time in 10 years for Lenten devotions

MOTHERING SUNDAY was sadly celebrated by everyone at home as we entered national lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic

OTHER REPORTS

DEANERY SYNOD

Meetings were held in July and October 2019 and in June 2020 by Zoom. Topics for discussion covered fund-raising, Black Lives Matter, Citizens UK Fair Energy Campaign, church growth with Bishop Joanne and Andy Rider, Dean of Mission and the future format of deanery meetings. In July Rev'd Rosemia Brown handed over the role of Area Dean to Rev'd Andrew Wilson.

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT - the revised electoral roll stands at 163 including 15 new members. The last new role (made every 6 years) was 155 in 2019.

FROZEN GLORY

All through the first three months of lockdown, the Freedom Club was able to feast once a week on some tasty dishes, courtesy of the Scolt Head and its energetic efforts to keep the ball rolling during lockdown. Their new range was called Frozen Glory and Freedom Clubbers very much enjoyed their Friday afternoon deliveries of vegetable curry, macaroni cheese, mushroom pie or beef stew. All the food was prepared and donated by the Scolt Head and very much appreciated. A magnificent community effort by Rosie and her team.