

ST PETER

DE BEAUVOIR TOWN



Year in Review
2022 - 2023

“These reports prepared ahead of our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 21st May 2023 give a flavour of the last year in the life of St Peter’s, and some of the opportunities and challenges in the year ahead.

They give a small flavour of the life of our wonderful church family and represent the fruits of the effort of all our volunteers and our wonderful staff members.

Thank you to everyone who has played there part and to everyone who’s discerning how God is calling them to get involved in the life of St Peter’s as together we continue to grow as a church family as we worship, nurture, and take action”

Fr Simon, Vicar



Children & Noisy Church Report

Another joyful year of Noisy Church, numbers fluctuate between 4 and 12 or so children weekly, lots of new families come and go. As ever we are working with a VERY small group of volunteers to run the sessions but we are delighted to have welcomed Mina to the team on a temporary basis, she is helping us each week to deliver noisy church to the kids and in return is able to fulfil part of her requirements for her Duke of Edinburgh award. Lorna, Simon P, Sophie and myself are in need of one or two more leaders as we also wave goodbye to Margaret who has contributed so much to this small part of worship at Saint Peters.

Rosie Wesemann, Noisy Church Team

A child's hand is pointing at a colorful paper craft on a table. The craft consists of a white sheet of paper with concentric circles drawn on it. The circles are filled with torn pieces of colored paper in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. The child is wearing a black t-shirt and is sitting at a wooden table. In the background, there is a bottle of orange glue and some other papers.

Safeguarding Report

We continue to make our church a safer place. We encourage members of our PCC to take some training in safeguarding. We have established an approach to safe guarding in our new activities eg warm Wednesday initiative.

We use the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard and currently we have achieved level 3.

Jay Wilkes, Safeguarding Officer

Worship Report

There have been so many highlights in our worship and ministry this year. Worship is at the heart of our life together as a church family, and sustains each week in all we do. From our simple Eucharist before a raucous lunch to celebrate Mary's Assumption, to the solemn Requiem and sherry reception to commemorate her late Majesty, we've seen a rich diet of liturgical celebrations and events.

The Bishop of Stepney confirmed or received 12 candidates at a joy-filled service of Confirmation on All Saints Day, many of the candidates spoke powerfully of the importance of St Peter's to them as a place of faith and encounter with God and Christ. Later in the year, she joined us to celebrate International Women's Day and spoke of the brave and faithful witness of women to Christ throughout Scripture and in our own day. This was followed by a lively cocktail party in the Vicarage as we celebrated the wonderful work of the De Beauvoir WI!

Our Wednesday traditional-language Eucharist has a small following and a number of people have spoken of the beauty of the language of the Book of Common Prayer as they've encountered it for the first time, or afresh after many years.

Christmas saw us open our doors to a number of visitors, both through activities in the Church at the end of November for the Christmas Fair. The screen provided a cosy atmosphere and children's activities were adopted enthusiastically! Ryan worked tirelessly with the choir to arrange two spectacular Christmas offerings and to enable us to go out into our community to sing carols at the Scolt Head. Likewise, our children's Christmas and Easter services saw a good number of children explore the faith through fun, craft, decorated gingerbread and chocolate egg!

Lent and Holy Week marked further highlights. We saw a good number participate both in our Lent devotions and in our reading group as we read the stunning beautiful 'This Here Flesh' by Cole Arthur Riley, reflecting on Black experience and liberation. These saw a number of new people share in the life of St Peter's. Holy Week itself was a moving celebration of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection as were joined throughout by Fr Nicolas Stebbing culminating in a joyous Easter Vigil as we celebrated the Resurrection of Christ and the triumph of light.

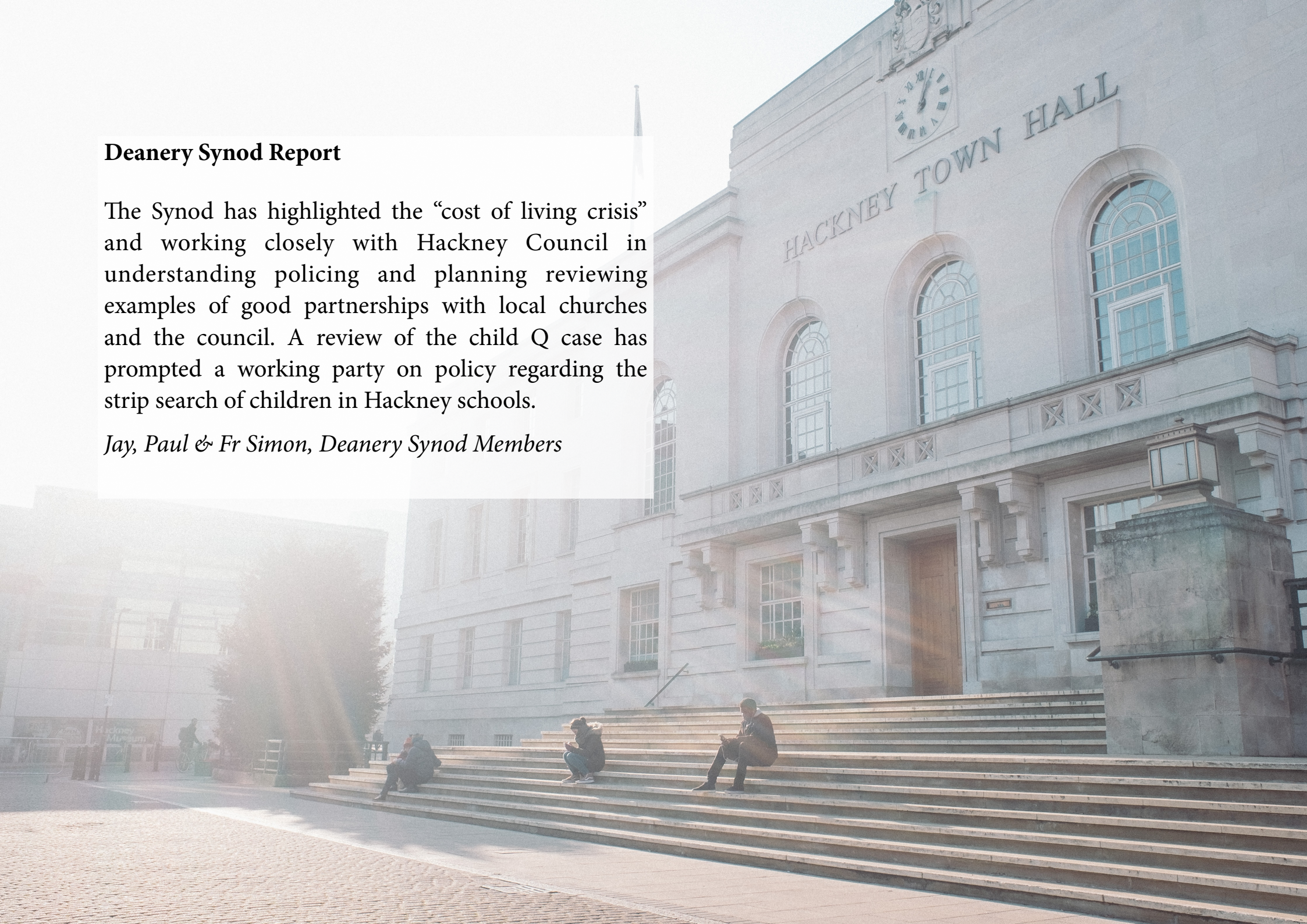
Whilst this year, we said goodbye to Fr Nathan, welcomed Simon Perfect as our ordinand, prepare to say good bye to Robin Griffiths who has been with us on Tuesdays and have been blessed to experience the ministry of a number of ordinands and those training for lay ministry including Evonne training at Mirfield and Anthony training at St Mellitus, we prepare to welcome Mthr Buki to our team who will join Sarah and myself in leading worship and continuing to find new opportunities to draw those around us into our church family and to experience the love of Christ we celebrate in each and every Eucharist!

Fr Simon, Vicar

Deanery Synod Report

The Synod has highlighted the “cost of living crisis” and working closely with Hackney Council in understanding policing and planning reviewing examples of good partnerships with local churches and the council. A review of the child Q case has prompted a working party on policy regarding the strip search of children in Hackney schools.

Jay, Paul & Fr Simon, Deanery Synod Members



Ministry Team Report

The Lord has continued to be faithful to us this past year.

Our ministry involved keeping regular contact with the housebound, hospital visits, home communion, sending well-wishing cards, praying for and praying with those in need during phone conversations or visits. Our church families are prayed for in times of bereavement and poor health.

We are grateful for how things have continued to develop across the life of the church and that those receiving pastoral care will acknowledge it and feel supported in their need.

The Pastoral Team meet about five times a year to review the work we have done and plan pastoral support.

We are excited to see what plans God has for us, our church, and how we can serve the congregation and community in the coming year.

We thank all of you for your continued love, support, and prayers.

Amanda, Boachie & Vivette, Pastoral Assistants



Social Justice & Cost of Living Response Report

A core part of the way of Christ is serving others with love. We are called to build communities where everyone is welcome and valued; to show hospitality and generosity to our neighbours; to tackle need and unjust structures where we see them; to declare, and show, that everyone is loved for who they are.

In the last year, we have continued to host and support a number of charities that do essential work with people who have faced various forms of hardship and exclusion. These include Happy Baby, Hackney Playbus, and Woven Gold, a choir of refugees and asylum seekers; and various addiction support groups.

In December 2022, the deepening crisis in the cost of living prompted us to establish Warm Wednesday (now called Warm Welcome) (12-5pm) People come and get warm, are fed with a free soup and bread lunch generously donated by Humdingers (a local caterer), save money on their heating and food bills, play games, watch films, and make friends. Each week we welcome around 15-20 guests, of all ages. We have a dedicated team of volunteers, including both attendees of our services and others from the local area. Our steward Debby Lawrence is invaluable as co-leader of this project. From our initial plan to run from December to February, we now plan to continue to run Warm Welcome over the coming months. One of our guests describes Warm Welcome thus:

“A blessing for sure. A warm, safe place where we laugh a lot. There’s a genuine interest in people’s lives. And plenty of cake! It has become part of my weekly routine and I look forward to coming. The volunteers are great. So many nice people in once place, is a gift at this time. It’s a lovely community of people, in the best venue. Thank you!”



Alongside this direct response to the cost of living crisis, St Peter's is playing a role in supporting and coordinating wider community responses. Since October 2022, we have organised and hosted monthly meetings of local organisations, charities and schools (chaired by our local councillor Joe Walker), to share information about local responses. This has helped us build closer connections with different groups in the area working to support vulnerable people.

Finally, St Peter's continues to provide an important space where the local community can gather in response to global crises. In March 2023, we hosted a concert with the DBA to raise money for victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. A range of excellent local artists performed. In these ways – as hosts, as community coordinators, and through direct action – St Peter's is inspired by, and makes known, the love of God for everyone.

Simon Perfect, Ordinand

Finance Report

The pandemic continued to have a major effect on our finances even at the beginning of 2022 but things are now looking more healthy. Total income in 2022 was £183,485 and total expenditure in 2022 was £198,940.

The figures above and below exclude the generous donations for the De Beauvoir Welcomes Refugee projects and related expenditure since this money is held in restricted funds separate from other church finances. In 2022 £17,116 was donated to support the DWR Syria project and, at the end of 2022, a total of £35,266 was in the DWR Syria and DWR Afghan funds.

Our expenditure included approx. £34,000 on building maintenance and the investment of £19,000 in the projector and screen that will help us to expand the use of the church for events and films. In 2022 we contributed only £25,000 to the common fund and this is planned to increase to a more reasonable level over the next five years. We have seen energy price increases like everyone else but new contracts have just been agreed so these unit costs are now fixed for the next three years.]The income was made up of voluntary donations including gifts towards the purchase of the new piano and the screen, and for WarmWeekdays plus gift aid (45%), hire of church and crypt (31%) and investment or other income such as 16 de Beauvoir Road rent, wedding and funeral fees (24%).

As for many charities, it is PCC policy that free reserves of six months' expenditure are prudent and, at the end of 2022, we held marginally more (approx. 7½ months rather than 6 months) reserves than is required by our current policy. This is a good position from which to look forward to 2023 and beyond although not grounds for complacency!

On a personal note, I would like to thank all those who support me in looking after our finances and to say how pleased I am that Jurgita Kucinskiene has joined us as part-time bookkeeper.

Paul Snow, Acting Treasurer



Social Life at St Peter's Report

St Peter's continues to be a place of social life, fun & community in De Beauvoir. We're hosting screenings of the King's Coronation and concert. We've continued to enjoy close relationships with local organisations, including the De Beauvoir Association, to create a range of events that unite people and support important causes.

One such event was a concert held to raise funds for the Turkey-Syria earthquake appeal. The event was highly successful, demonstrating the community's generosity and commitment to making a positive impact in the world.

In the year ahead, we're developing an events programme that includes a parent and baby film club, as well as a regular community film club. These events aim to provide entertainment and opportunities for parents and young children to socialise, while also fostering a sense of community.

We're also planning to hold a variety show in the autumn, which will showcase the talents of local performers and help to raise funds for our mission and ministry. This will be the start of a programme of events aimed at helping us increase revenue for St Peter's whilst fostering social connection, supporting important causes, championing local friends and talent, whilst creating a sense of community and fun for all!

Kathy Boyce, Parish Administrator



Building & Fabric

St Peters is 182 years old, and by and large looking good for its years. But 2022 saw some major update on what might be needed to maintain a beautiful, well preserved, functional and safe building for the next five to ten years.

Over the last two years we have been helped to assess necessary maintenance work by both the Diocesan Quinquennial Inspection (QI) and a Planned Preventive Maintenance schedule (PPM) generously provided by the Benyon Estate through the PCC Building Team.

Key issues from these two reports are listed below, and help us to agree our “To Do” list for 2023. Work to maintain a Roof which, although not about to fall in, requires attention to prevent further deterioration and some practical immediate repair. The Church Boundary walls, gates, pillars and railings all need repair / restoration, after little or no attention for many years. Recent reports re. our compliance with H&S regulations require a more detailed review around how we currently Access and Exit the building. Work to restore the West Front and the porch, where the stonework is damaged and damp has penetrated through old doors providing ineffective barrier to wind and rain.

This is external work only; to this we must add improvements to how we best use both Church and Crypt not only safely but to allow for new developments in the way the space is used. The Diocese are taking a real and practical interest in our plans; we are advised to roll as much as we can into a broader/bigger project for which funds can more easily be sought. With all this in mind, we are thinking to:

Bring forward by 3 years our next Q.I. to 2023, led by a new Architect able to cover both QI essentials and play a leading role in the major project we are beginning to put together. Review all ideas re. improving Access and Exit; e.g. Open up Church door north side to allow exit bridge across to pavement..? Build extension with lift to link Crypt East entrance with Church North door..? Put together a Project Plan by the end of 2023 Accept the Diocese's offer to provide a fund raiser to advise next steps. Consider appointing a Project Manager to steer any agreed Plan to completion. None of this work is yet fully costed as we await the appointment of an architect and fundraiser.

Gillian Borrie, Buildings Officer

Electoral Roll Report

Being on the church Electoral Roll is a way of demonstrating your willingness to help shape the future of the church not just locally but nationally and even internationally. It also enables you to participate and vote in the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) The Electoral Roll remains the same (around 195). People move away but we have new people moving into the parish.

There is a list at the back of church of members of the electoral roll. If you are not on the roll please collect a form from me!

Vivette Ferguson, Electoral Roll Officer

