

ST PAUL'S CHURCH



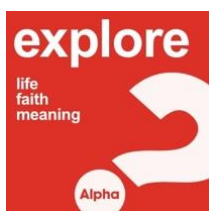
REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2019

THE VICAR'S REPORT – APRIL 2019-20

Dear friends,

2019 was a productive and positive year, and I am thankful to you and to God for all that we achieved throughout the past year.

Obviously, in one sense, the various services and events of the Church life just roll along and that was the case in 2019. But there were some really positive developments as well.



Early in the year we ran the first of two Alpha courses, as we continue to help people to come into faith and to grow in faith. This is a really important new initiative as we try to fulfil our mission statement together. May God continue to help us to reach out with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We celebrated our Patronal festival at the end of January, and in early March had an excellent Quiz night organised by Ian and Mary Reid.

In March we were delighted to appoint Emily Evans as the new Head-Teacher at our Church school and then, in April, to appoint Sharon Griffin as the new Deputy. These have been two excellent appointments and I am grateful to them both for the exceptional leadership they are giving to the school.

But then in May we had a real highlight as Margaret Thompson was appointed as the new Mayor of Kingston. It was such a well-deserved appointment and it's no surprise that she continues to be an excellent Mayor, serving the people of the Borough with love, humility and grace.



In September we began and completed a really important new phase in our Church life as we commissioned the complete re-wiring of the Church building, and the installation of a new lighting system. This has already significantly enhanced our worship.

So, much was achieved and celebrated throughout 2019.

But of course, there were also some real sadness's. Some dear friends went home to be with the Lord, among them, Margaret Robini, Shirley Edwards, Val Edwards and Joan Carter. We thank God for the assurance we have that they, and others, are now 'at home' with Christ in glory.

Others moved on to new areas of life and ministry. Our wonderful Sacristan Graham Robini had the joy of marrying Mary in October, and Sue Liptrot, who has given so much to the Church family, has moved on to a new home and Church family. We send them on with our love and thanks.

And so, we come to 2020 and, from 23rd March the strange experience of lockdown as we seek to plot a route through this Corona-virus pandemic.

And this leads me to wonder, what has God got to say to us as we look ahead?



Looking ahead:



We find ourselves in the midst of difficult and unusual times. We cannot gather for worship in our building and, as a result, much of what we normally think of as 'Church' can no longer be done. Hymns remain unsung, liturgy unsaid, songs and corporate prayers remain unuttered, and our great festivals scarcely celebrated.

Well, as we all know, the Church is not the building; but neither is it, as some have said in the past, the gathered community of God's people. No. The Church is, in fact, God's people, whether gathered or scattered. So, we are still the Church. That has not changed.

And this got me to thinking about our mission. I'm sure you all know our mission statement, which is:

- To worship God;
- To grow as disciples;
- To love and care for all;
- And to reach out with the good news of Jesus Christ.

And it struck me that we can still do all of these things in lockdown.



We can still worship God.

Whether you join the daily services posted on Facebook and our website, or find other services online, you can still worship. Or perhaps you listen to hymns or worship songs at home? Or via the internet?

Alternatively, you can read the psalms, they are full of worship; or sing alone to God; or declare your worship of God in your spoken words. We can all still worship.



Secondly, we are called to **grow as disciples**. And we all know that the food of discipleship is regular worship, Bible-reading, prayer and the ongoing striving for holiness. These are like water for a house-plant, and the house-plant of our inner spiritual life will thrive and grow the more that we water it. And, of course, we can still do so in lockdown. Let us be sure to do so.

Our third mission task is, of course, to **love and care for all**. And again, we can still do this during lockdown. A kind word; a smile; being gracious with the staff at the supermarket; thanking people; phoning those that we know who are elderly or isolated. And being forgiving if those that we love and live with are short with us. This lockdown is as hard for them as it is for us. Let us be gracious and understanding of that. And, of course, we can also still give to charitable causes and help those in need.

Finally, as God's Church here in Hook we are called to **reach out to others** with the Good News of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. This is the aspect of our mission that most Christians find hardest to fulfil, whether in lockdown or out of it. But it remains a central part of God's call on our lives. Let us be sure that we don't 'hide our light under a bowl' (Matt 5:15-16) as so many Christians do. Let us proudly but sensitively declare our faith and point people to Jesus Christ the Light of the World.

So, thank you for being Church throughout 2019 and into 2020 and this lockdown. Our Mission Statement remains as relevant as it ever was. May God help us as we seek to live it out.

With love in Christ. Luke





FROM THE TEAM RECTOR:

THiS Team Matters

*Trusting in the Father, Honouring the Son,
Serving in the Spirit*

Every Team Ministry is shaped differently – just like everyone who makes up that Team – and I mean ALL of us – not just clergy! Our Team is now 4½ years old. In human terms we would be getting ready to spread our wings, head off to school and start exploring the world more widely. All the nurturing of the early years would hopefully be bearing fruit and there would be proud but apprehensive parents looking on! I wonder if that is how we feel about our Team. I certainly feel that it has had a great start and is now beginning to explore how it can be more the Team which God created it to be.

During 2019 this manifested itself in some new exciting collaborations and some already much loved traditions. Yet again we enjoyed our Annual Team service, returning in its rolling programme to St Matthew's. I can't tell you how wonderful it is to look out from the front and see so many people worshipping God together – old friends and strangers – linked by a common love of God and the common bond of being part of THiS Team.

Along with other festival services across the year, a Praise service and a pulpit swap, other popular regular features of THiS Team have been the Team walks and involvement in Thy Kingdom Come (led by St George's). But there have been lots of innovations too.



We had our first ever Clergy Away Day in June. The four of us meet regularly to support one another and discuss Team issue. But the gift of a day together, away from our regular places of work, a day spent in prayer and worship and in exercises which required

us to reflect on our leadership separately and together was a great joy for us all.

The benefits of size have made other projects viable. Children's leaders from across the Team valued training given by the Diocese in October. Susan Kang a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary from St Matthew's offered a successful course called 'The Bereavement Journey' to members of all three churches. A significant part of Susan's ministry is in coming alongside the bereaved and the course helped those who had lost loved ones some time ago or more recently to share experiences and work through issues by listening and talking and supporting each other.

Towards the end of the year the three PCCs met together to hear from the Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin. She was explaining the funding of the Diocese and it was great that she could address three churches and a larger audience at that meeting. We also heard from a representative of BOOM Credit Union who encouraged us as PCCs and as individuals to invest in BOOM. A Credit Union loans money to those who cannot borrow from usual institutions such as Banks so instead have to take out loans at outrageous interest rates from elsewhere. The borrowers can take advantage of lower rate loans and a whole package of finance information and savings incentives by borrowing through a Credit Union. So far two of our PCCs have invested and it is hoped the other will join them. Why not think about investing in BOOM yourself if you are able?

But the THiS Team highlight for 2019 is our new youth meeting 'Fuel' bringing together young people in years 6-9 (so aged 10 – 14) from across the Team. Fuel has been a great way of our young people getting to know each other better and having the opportunity to discuss faith and life issues. The group is led by two members of St Matthew's, Jen Houghton and Simon Rowe, and meets once a month on a Sunday evening (5-6.15pm) at St Matthew's Church.



All three Churches in the Team are well represented in terms of attendees and food is prepared and served by a member of the clergy each time. Each month has a different theme with activities and a discussion (including some Bible verses) around that theme. Leaders consistently try to make the Christian faith interesting and relevant, and give lots of opportunity for challenge and discussion. We are so grateful to everyone who supports this initiative, for your continued prayers for our young people and to God for guiding us in this very important youth work.

So that's a round up for THiS Team in 2019. It's exciting to see the new areas into which we have moved over the year and to think what 2020 will bring. If you have any comments or questions please do feel free to contact me by phone or email on 020 8390 3829 or teamrector@stmatthewskt6.org

That just leaves me to thank all those in the Team who support us in so many ways. I am particularly grateful to Carolyn, David and Luke but also to Joanne, Julie and Phil for working together in providing admin support for the Team and to Graham, Ken, Mike, Pauline and Rachel our churchwardens and to all of you

'Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.' Col 3.17 The Message

Rev Helen Hancock

BAPTISMS 2019



Our baptism numbers were slightly down last year. All baptisms were carried out on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 12 noon. They come to be introduced to the congregation the Sunday before, usually at the 10.30am service, and the Sunday after the baptism they come to be welcomed into the family of the church and are presented with 'My First Bible' and certificates for their baptism and for each of their

Godparents. During 2019 we welcomed the following children to baptism: Ethan, Jacob, Willow, Isaac, Zac, Annabelle, Ethan, Mia and Tobias.

We also enjoyed a special Church-family Baptism celebration. Kirsty Watson was confirmed, and then later in the year Oscar, Bertie, Imogen and Andrew were all baptised at the Church on 16th February 2020. It was a wonderful day of celebration for the Watson family and for the Church family.



CATERING TEAM

The Patronal Festival lunch this year was a 'bring and share' in the Mary Wise Room. Our Harvest Festival lunch was 'wine & nibbles' and was in church. As usual, we had light refreshments after the Memorial Service in November and mince pies after the Carol Service.

I would like to thank the committee who help organise these events – Carole, Prue, Alison, Mary and Gill. Sadly, Val passed away during the year and she is greatly missed by us all.

Refreshments are served after the 10am Thursday communion service and during the year we raised £458 from our raffles. Thank you to everyone on the rota and those who donate raffle prizes.

Diane Tink, Verger

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The
Children's
Society

No child
should feel
alone

The main event to support 'The Children's Society' charity is held annually; this year's Box Opening Day was held on Saturday 12th October 2019 at St Paul's Centre. The large amount of small change from the boxes was counted and totalled £1,578.15, £207.53 up on last year's total! The Children's Society Christmas cards were on sale and there was also a raffle, lunch and refreshments to enjoy. A further £196.25 was sent to The Children's Society from this and profit from the cards will add to that total.

We have unfortunately lost quite a few box holders again this year, so if anyone else would like to help us raise funds for The Children's Society, please speak to Graham and Jill Cocks and they will let you have a box to start collecting in.

Our support will help change the lives of extremely vulnerable children across the country and shows our love and care for all.

Sarah (Earl), Vanessa (Kearns) & Nigel Ling

CHURCHWARDENS

2019 finally saw the church rewired and new lighting installed in time for Advent. The work also included the illumination of the War Memorial and new outside lighting. The new lighting has made a huge difference to the church and seems to have met with universal approval. We now need to do minor re-plastering and painting in the church and vestry where old wires have been removed. We have already redecorated the kitchen and toilet in the St. Paul's Centre and intend to redecorate the lobby, Mary Wise Room and office this year.

Our next major project is to replace our audio and visual system. We are already in the planning stage. We have just under £3,000 set aside towards this, the surplus from the Electrics Fund, but further fund raising will be needed.

Renovations planned for this year include replacing the rubber feet on the pews and polishing the wooden floor in the church, the repair of the brick pillar by the lynch gate, and preserving and varnishing the lynch gates and entrance to the churchyard in advance of the 100th anniversary of the death of Harry Hawker in July 2021. It would be a blessing if we had limitless funds to employ people to carry out all this work, but we don't. Therefore, whether much of it gets done or not will depend on volunteers. It is our church and we have a responsibility to maintain it for future generations.

Finally, my thanks to all who have helped me over the past year since I became the sole Churchwarden. I would particularly mention Diane, Sue Russell, Sue Craig and David Freeman, not to mention my wife for her patience and support. Thanks also to others who have helped maintain the church and churchyard. Hopefully this year will also see someone willing to stand as my fellow Churchwarden.

Graham Cocks, Church Warden

CHURCHYARD & GARDENS



It is nice to see people sitting in the churchyard enjoying the surroundings. Once again, many thanks to those people who have donated plants and bulbs. A new almost weekly task is clearing up the contents of a food caddy which has been bought in by a fox.

As part of the work on the lighting and rewiring of the church, new lights were fitted to the outside of the church. This included a light shining on the cleaned war memorial and sets it off beautifully.

David Freeman

ST PAUL'S CRÈCHE

Our ministry is St Pauls Church Crèche. We meet during worship to God on Sundays between 10.30 and 11.30am.

The Crèche is led by myself and a team of five volunteers. We are all CRB disclosure vetted. Our role is to enable more people with pre-school children at attend family worship on Sundays during 10.30am family worship.

To get involved, please contact myself on 07920 092 452.

Natalie Loible, Crèche Leader

DEANERY SYNOD

The local Deanery Synod has met three times during the past year. The main area of thought and work has been around the issue of developing the Deanery Mission Action Plan. After all the Deanery has to know why it exists.

It meets in those churches which are prepared to host the meeting and it is made up of lay representatives from each of the parishes in the Deanery and also the parish priests/clergy. It is ably led by the area Dean – the Rev'd Robert Stanier of Saint Mark's Surbiton.

Ian Reid, Deanery Synod member

ELECTORAL ROLL

"The Church Electoral Roll is the official membership list of the Church of England."

Due to the coronavirus the 2020 Electoral Roll will be carried out later in the year.

Marlene Whitlock, Church Electoral Roll Officer

HOOK & SOUTHBOROUGH PARISH HALL



The Parish Hall is located 300 metres up the road from St Paul's Church. It is a large hall that is widely used during the week by many different groups within our community – Hook Pre-School, Pilates, Rainbows, Guides, Kumon, Line Dancing, Women's Institute, Tai Chi, Games Club and St Paul's

Players. At the weekends it is used mainly by families for children's parties and also for fundraising events by both St Paul's Church and other charities. We allow these charities to use the hall for free in our attempt to 'give something back' to the community.

With regards to the upkeep of the hall, we re-invest the funds from the hire of the hall back into maintaining and improving the facilities. Kitchen works are still ongoing with the intention to install a larger cooker and a dishwasher to allow more varied functions to be held in the hall. Works have generally been quiet this year as we consolidate the accounts following some high expenditure in 2018. You may have noticed some upgrades recently (new sign board) but more about that next year.....

We have a programme of improvements lined up for future years which include:

- new front doors
- outside signage display (this has just been completed)
- replacing windows not already replaced
- Toilet remodels
- new flooring (long term goal)

the list goes on..... If you have any ideas you would like us to consider, please let the Parish Hall Committee know.

The committee gives its time for free and we still urgently require help to spread the workload, so if you would like to come and join the Parish Hall Committee please contact: Ian Reid, Izzy Burton, Sue Russell, Julia Bradley or Steve Griffiths. We could also do with the help of a handy man / afternoon cleaner to assist with the small jobs that we would pay for. As we are hiring out to external users, we have to keep the hall in good working order – can you help here or recommend anyone?

We plan to have a workday this year – date to be confirmed. We have not done this for the last couple of years and it has been missed!! Please attend if you are able - for the day or just an hour or two. It all helps no matter how small – it is a good day

If you would like to book the hall, please contact the Parish Office on 020 8391 2362 or email: premises@stpaulschurchhook.org.uk
Steve Griffiths, Parish Hall Committee

HOME COMMUNION

As an integral part of the Church's mission, Holy Communion (by extension) is taken by a member of the Eucharistic Ministry Team to those of our congregation who are not able to attend church for one reason or another. It is an essential part of the church's ministry.

Ian Reid, Team Leader

2ND HOOK (ST PAUL'S) SCOUT GROUP



2nd Hook (St Paul's) Scout Group meet on a Tuesday and Wednesday evening during school term time, our headquarters is located behind the Parish Hall. Numerous volunteers assist with the running of the group, who's charitable efforts were recognised recently by the Mayor of Kingston.



We help around 70 children from the local community build friendships and self-belief, gain skills for life and provide excitement and adventure. Our Beaver section is for 6-8 year olds, Cubs for 8-10½ year olds and Scouts from 10½ -14 years of age.

beavers@2ndhook.org.uk cubs@2ndhook.org.uk scouts@2ndhook.org.uk

Ian Horstead

2nd Hook (St Paul's) Scout Group Chairman, Email: chairman@2ndhook.org.uk

LINK PARISH – ST MARY'S CHIDDINGFOLD



St. Mary's Church
Chiddingfold

St Mary's Chiddingfold and St Paul's have shared a link of friendship for a number of years, and we are grateful to God for bringing us together.

This is a Key year for St Mary's as Sarah Brough has now moved on and their new Rector, Rev Rachel Greene, settles in. Our love, support and prayers will be especially needed during this time of change.

As ever a number from St Paul's went to the Advent Carol service, which was a wonderful and uplifting occasion; and members of St Mary's joined us for our Patronal Festival and meal. It was so lovely to have them with us.

I do feel that we at St Paul's should be thinking about how we can maintain and strengthen the relationship from our end, and I hope we can think about events and occasions to which we can invite our dear friends from Chiddingfold. The link that we have is precious and very beneficial to both parishes. We send our love.

Luke Wickings

MEN'S MINISTRY

Over the year, we have had a men's breakfast, with Dave Disspain as our speaker, a mid-Summer's walk together with men from St George's and St Matthew's and, most recently, an enjoyable curry night at The Red Rose.

I have now stepped down from organising the 'Men's Breakfast' events, but if anybody would like to continue this work, feel free to speak to me for more details. My thanks to the team who have made these breakfasts happen: Graham Robini, Gary Simmons and Brian Dale.

Neil Meehan

ST PAUL'S HOOK, MOTHERS' UNION



at the Church with coffee served from 10am: Our meetings open and close with prayers.

St Paul's Hook Mothers' Union meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 10.30am to 12 noon in the Mary Wise Room

In 2019 we had some very interesting speakers on a variety of subjects including The Lily Trust, an organisation that help people who are illegally trafficked into this country to work. Trading Standards on the different scams that are going around. Kingston Carers Network on the work they do within the borough.

Our garden tea in August was held at the church and was very enjoyable with a successful 'bring and buy' sale and a raffle, which raised money for various Mothers' Union projects.

We also had a ladies breakfast and two evening meetings.

The knit and natter group meet on a Monday afternoon from 2pm-4pm making items for Kingston hospital's 'Born too Soon' unit and an orphanage in Malawi.

Mothers' Union is open to anyone who is a baptised member of the church. It has a worldwide membership of four million working to strengthen family life.



All are welcome to our meetings.

For further information, please contact Branch Leader Carole Noakes.
Carole Noakes (Tel No: 020 8397 1558)

PARISH OFFICE

The St Paul's Parish Office is open Monday through to Thursday from 9am to 12.30pm, term time only. Joanne Griffiths is the Parish Administrator.

The office deals with all enquiries, weddings, baptisms, funerals; etc., keeps the congregation informed via the notices and email of what is happening within the Church and provides the necessary service sheets for all the different types of services we have within church.

The Administrator is sometimes the first point of contact for anyone coming to or making enquiries about the church. The office also deals with and looks after all the Parish Hall and Mary Wise Room lettings.

Joanne Griffiths

PASTORAL TEAM

This group meet roughly every six weeks. At this meeting we are able to see if there are any parishioners who need our help or even a listening ear. Matters discussed here are confidential.

We have a significant number of people in our congregation who are elderly and in significant need of support. We also have a growing number who live with Alzheimer's, either in their own lives or in those of their partners.

Luke Wickings

PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is compiled through emailing Mary Reid and she passes the messages around to members of the prayer team. I try to give updates on situations when I can. I have been told by others that the power of prayer has worked and it is a comfort to have others praying for them.

Luke Wickings

SAFEGUARDING

The Parochial Church Council of St Paul's along with the Vicar carries a duty of care for the safety of those who attend or use our church premises. There is a statutory legal duty to pay "due regard to the guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults."

At the beginning of 2020 a revised version of A Safe Church was issued on the Southwark Diocesan website:

<https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-and-procedures>

A link to this guidance can be found via the Parish website.

Any queries or concerns you may have should be addressed in confidence to Luke Wickings, Vicar or Sue Russell, Parish Safeguarding Officer. Email and telephone numbers can be found on the Safeguarding posters around church, which also carry details of key helplines.

Sue Russell, Safeguarding Officer

SERVERS / SACRISTAN

The small Team of servers at St Paul's for the most part, meet and carry out 'serving' duties in the chancel area of the church. This includes actively taking part in most of the services, serving the priest & congregation but also each other. This can involve either carrying the cross as Crucifer at the head of a procession (when we have one!), or perhaps being in the sanctuary assisting in the communion service(s). Whatever the role we have as servers, can and does, involve our own individual part of worshipping through the various tasks we perform as parts of the service structure.

During the year the team of servers has consisted of Claire Jones, Bill Dixon, Jane Greenfield, Susan Hodgson and Graham Robini. However, in early November 2019 Susan Hardman joined the team and has fitted in very well to the team and all of the various duties. I am extremely grateful to all of the servers for all that they have done during the year, and indeed continue to do.

I have had the privilege to 'lead' the serving team for a number of years now, however, this last year I've been in a very different situation than before. As I've not been able to be in church and serve for a number of reasons, I've now handed over the 'reins' to 'the team' with Susan Hodgson as 'lead server'. My last 'regular' serving duty was on the 24th of November 2019, and since then I've only made it to the Patronal festival in January to serve. I am currently 'On Sabbatical' for 6 months.

Sacristan Sacristan activities have continued throughout the year. Most of these happen over the weekend, with minor tasks such as re-filling Oil candles prior to Sunday. Sundays are of course the busiest times with getting everything ready prior to services, but also clearing things away afterwards. I'm most grateful for all of the help and assistance in changing altar frontals and other liturgical fabrics to the appropriate liturgical seasonal colour, but also at other times such as for Weddings and Funerals.

Graham Robini-Sacristan & Server

ST PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



St Paul's School continues to offer the children of Hook excellent education and care. It certainly is a good school and great credit goes to Emily Evans, the Head, to all of the staff, and of course to the pupils.

2020 has, of course been a challenging time for the school, with most pupils absent due to the lockdown, and so receiving tuition at home using resources provided by the school staff.

Meanwhile the School has continued to provide education for a number of key-workers' children, remaining open throughout term-time and the school holidays.

The leadership and staff at the school have been magnificent throughout this time and I send them my sincerest thanks.

Luke Wickings, Chair of Governors

ST PAUL'S SOCIAL GROUPS & FUNDRAISING

Fish & Chips

The 'fish & chips' continues to be an enjoyable evening. We meet once a month, and as well as fish and chips we always have a pudding, a glass of wine or soft drinks. We all enjoy the get together and chat.

With the help of Mary & Ian we had an outing at Christmas to the Rose Theatre to see the Christmas Show.

We have been meeting for many years and hopefully will continue to do so.

Pam Ingram & Ian Reid

Winter Fair

This year winter fair was opened by our friend Margaret Thompson, The Worshipful, The Mayor of Kingston. Margaret then spent some time walking around and talking to the stall holders.

Lots of people from the community came through our doors and helped us raise £1,675 for our church funds.

My grateful thanks go to all those who helped before and on the day. From the first planning meeting to the de-brief dinner. See you all again next year.

Sue Craig

SATURDAY STALL

This has been successfully led by Sue Liptrot for several years, but since her relocation to Horsham I have taken over organising the rota.

I would like to thank all those who give up a Saturday morning to sell our homemade produce and engage with the local community: Claire, Carole, Valerie, Jill, Lesley, Susan H and new recruits Sue C and Paula. Thanks to Prue, Pam and Diane who also make sales when we are unable to cover the rota.

Also, a large thank you to Joyce who has taken over the bulk of the marmalade production since Sue L moved away.

If you would like to make marmalade, jams, chutneys for the stall it would be most welcome. I am also happy to receive 'spare produce' as the summer and autumn crops arrive.

We are always looking for new Saturday volunteers – free tea/coffee and biscuits provided.

Sue Russell

STUDY GROUPS

Reading the Bible Together: Monday mornings 10.30am to 12 noon

These sessions are usually at Ann and Christopher's, 36a Hunter's Road, Hook (020 8397 5954) though on occasions Prue has hosted the group at her house.

Coffee and chat commence from 10.30am, then we start with prayer at 11am remembering the needs of people we know and asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We finish promptly at noon saying the Grace together.

During 2019 about ten of us have continued to meet regularly each week to read the Bible. We spent the first half of the year reading St Matthew's Gospel. We found plenty of topics to discuss and try to understand what God is saying to us today. We then studied St Mark's Gospel and towards the end of the year followed some of the themes from "The Uniqueness of our Faith".

The group decide what they would like to do next. No preparation or previous knowledge required. Everyone is welcome. Come and see if this is for you.

Contact: Ann Fernihough on 020 8397 5954 or by e-mail on

fernihough443@btinternet.com

Ann Fernihough

Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in the Mary Wise Room

A number of us meet in the Mary Wise Room on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm during term time. We start with a cuppa and chat and then we start our studies for about an hour or so.

This year in the main we have been learning more about our Patron Saint – Saint Paul. We have read through his experiences as they are narrated in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles and then we have read what he has had to say in some of his letters to the churches.

You are always welcome to come and join us and to learn more about what the Bible had to say about our world and ourselves. That way we grow spiritually.

Ian Reid, Leader

Thursday evenings Bible Study at 8.00pm in the Vicarage

Psalms 119 v105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path." I am therefore totally committed to reading the Bible regularly, both individually and in a small group.

One such small group meets every Thursday at 8pm at the Vicarage. I (Luke) lead it and we study the Bible together, learn from each other, and pray for each other.

It is a real blessing to each of us, and I would encourage all Church members to join such a group if at all possible.

If you would like to join the Thursday evening group at the vicarage please just speak to me. We will be delighted to have you join us.

Luke Wickings

SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENTS

Our team has now been in existence for twelve years – and we can honestly say that we have lost count of the number of cafetieres that we have filled, the number of cakes we have baked or bought, the number of cups we have washed up and the number of hours we have spent in the kitchen!

We (Maggie, Pam, Ian and Jane) aim to provide delicious cakes and 'proper' coffee between the services on Sunday morning. Fortunately, we are ably assisted by a loyal team of helpers who cheerfully join in with the above-mentioned tasks and others who smilingly 'man' (or 'woman') the table ensuring a welcome for all ages.

We seek not only to give sustenance but to give space where friends and visitors alike may feel able to meet and chat. It is a way of demonstrating love and care and where people feel at ease. We hope it is a time where those attending the two different services have the opportunity to speak with each other and where newcomers are touched by the hospitality shown. We are continually gratified by the positive comments that we receive.

As ever, we are more than happy to invite more members to our team. There are months where it can be a struggle to cover all the tasks needing to be met. If you would like to join us in any way ... you can find us in the kitchen!

Ian and Jane Jarman, Pam Ingram and Maggie Dowd

TECHNOLOGY

My hope is that our use of technology enhances our worship. We are grateful to our organists and musicians. However, the reality is that they can't be with us every Sunday. Therefore, we play in music tracks over the church PA system for the 9am and 10.30am services when needed. The PA system itself still works but it's inflexible and not really suitable for music. Some of it now relies on batteries and bodge boxes.

We use PowerPoint on the screens for the more informal 10.30am service. One of the screens in the church no longer works and the large 60" screen is still "temporarily" mounted on the pulpit.

We are in the process of obtaining quotes to renew much of the PA system and to properly install the screens in optimum positions.

If you feel that you'd like to get involved in this side of our worship at either the 9am or 10.30am service, Luke, Julia or I would love to hear from you. If you're used to computers or playing music on a phone, it's really not so complicated.

The 9am service involves playing in music for the hymns when we haven't got an organist. At the 10.30am service, as well as playing in music tracks if necessary, it involves preparing the PowerPoint file during the week and operating the laptop on the Sunday morning. We'll promise not drop you in it! I think it's really healthy if we can share this knowledge and work around.

Brian Dale

TREASURER'S REPORT 2019

We are so grateful for all your generous donations and pledges in the last few years which have enabled us to pay in full for our new lighting and electrics installation. Our next project is for a new audio and visual system and we are aiming to raise enough money for that. Hopefully we will then get our pulpit back, although I don't think Luke, or anyone preaching, has missed it at all!

The collection box will remain at the back of the church for any contributions you can spare for our audio-visual fund and it all adds up; no donation is too small.

This year we have to finance some essential work in our churchyard. We also need to continue with our support for St Paul's School and 2nd Hook Scouts and to maintain our charitable giving for Umoja Boys and for the homeless locally.

For all of this we need a stable income and in particular for the upkeep of our church. If you do not already give regularly please consider doing so this year. If you pay Income Tax and are able to sign a Gift Aid Form, available at the back of the church, this will increase your contribution by 25% at no extra cost to you.

Thank you for your generosity and loyalty to St. Paul's.
Jane Greenfield, PCC Treasurer

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA



Once again, our website and social media presence provide valuable channels of communication with our church family and the Hook community.

Do have a look at the website at www.stpaulschurchhook.org.uk.

As well as the information about church life, there are pages for church members where you can find the latest notices and service rotas. We can always add new pages for any church organisation.

St Paul's presence on social media at www.facebook.com/stpaulschurchhook remains constant. We currently have 322 followers. The page is another platform for us to share our events and services, in addition to being a source of contact from the wider community.

Mary Reid (mary@maryreid.org.uk) – website
Kirsty Watson (kryan85@sky.com) – Facebook

Mary Reid

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on the second Monday of each month, except August, at 8pm in the Mary Wise Room. We have speakers most months who give interesting and informative talks on a variety of subjects. We also enjoy social evenings which include an American-style supper in January and July.

We aim to reach out to people in the community in fellowship and we support various charities.

If you should wish to join us contact either Diane Tink, our Chairman or Suzanne Puckle, our Secretary.

Suzanne Puckle

WORSHIP BAND

Meets every two weeks on Wednesday evening in church at around 8pm and lead by Carol Disspain.

We aim to provide live music whenever possible for our 10.30 am service. We hope to bring a rousing and thoughtful means of worshipping God through songs and music that everyone can join in with.

We really do need more musicians and singers, especially as at the moment we can only bring live music every two weeks to church due to the working restraints of our band members. This is something which unfortunately has not changed since last year. Guitarists, Pianists and Singers would be especially welcome so please do contact Carol if you can help out. We also have a church choir that meets over the Christmas period to sing at our Carol Service - this is fun and informal and everyone seems to enjoy themselves so please do consider coming along this Christmas to join in too.

Carol Disspain

WORSHIP AT ST PAULS

Worship is central to all that we do as Christians. We are created By God, loved by God, saved by God, taught by God and nurtured by God. Indeed, as the Apostle Paul put it, "In Him we live, and move and have our being" (Acts 17 v28).

So, it is only fit and right that we adore him, praise him, thank him and acknowledge him. All of these things are what we do in our worship. Indeed, I think it's fair to say that the worship of God is our highest calling.

We endeavour to do this in our regular worship services; in our service of God, and in our lives.

9am Sunday Holy Communion.

Our 9am weekly Eucharist continues to offer us a fairly traditional format service in which to offer praise to God. For some, this is clearly their preferred 'style' of worship, and that is fine, as long as we remember that, in the end, it is worshipping God that is important, not how we do so.



My special thanks must go to Ian Reid, who so regularly leads and preaches at these services, and to everyone in our team of service leaders, Bible readers, intercessors and welcomers.

And, of course, where would we be without our wonderful verger, Diane Tink. I am so grateful to her for her kind and faithful service. I am also immensely grateful to our organist, John Deacon, to Graham Robini (our Sacristan) and our team of servers, and to everyone else who contributes to these services.

May God be honoured in these services, and may His people be blessed and strengthened in their faith.

10.30am Family Worship on Sundays.



Our second service on Sundays is geared towards families, and offers a less traditional service, with more modern worship songs and a less formal style. Many find this service style is more to their liking.

But once again, we must remind ourselves that, in the end, what matters is that God is worshipped; we may 'like' different styles of worship, but what matters is that God must be glorified.

My special thanks go to Dave and Carol Disspain, and to Gary for leading our worship; and to Brian, Julia and everyone else who runs the laptop; to Sue Russell and the Sunday School team, and to those who run the creche; and to anyone who welcomes people or contributes in any way to our worship.

And, of course, I am also very grateful to Pam, Maggie, Jane and Ian, and to everyone involved in the wonderful refreshments served between our two services.

Thursday 10am Holy Communion.

Every Thursday we have a liturgical Eucharist, where fifteen to twenty people gather round to share Communion, and to worship God. It is a much-loved service by those who attend.

Again, my thanks go to Diane Tink, Joy Whitehead and to everyone else who contributes to this service. It is a blessed time.

The Worship of our lives

But of course, we all know that none of these services are worship per-se; rather they are expressions of our worship. True worship is the worship of our hearts and lives offered to God as a living sacrifice. May the worship of our lips truly reflect the worship of our lives.

*From your fellow-worshipper,
Luke*

