

ST PAUL'S CHURCH



REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2018

THE VICAR'S REPORT – APRIL 2019

It has been my privilege to serve you all as Vicar of St Paul's for the last three and a half years. I am truly thankful to God for bringing me here.

I am also thankful to everyone here who is working with me to help us, as a Church, in any way. So, to all of you who serve - thank you; to all of you who give financially - thank you; to all of you who enable this Church community to become more fully what God calls us to be - thank you. As Romans 12 teaches us, we are the Body of Christ and we all have a role to play here; and it is only as we each serve and give that Christ's body really functions as God intended. So, to all of you who fulfil your function as part of this body, thank you.

But of course, that is also a challenge to us. There are, roughly, 120 regular members of the Church here at St Paul's. However, as with most Churches, not all of us are giving or serving. So, could I ask you to prayerfully consider what you give to the Church financially, and how you serve the Church practically, and to ask God: "Should I be giving more?" and, "Should I be serving more?" we really do need new people to 'step up' and to give regularly to the Church, and to serve practically. Only then will we be able to fulfil God's calling here in Hook.

This is, perhaps, particularly important for us because we are, as you know, a relatively small Church. As such we really do need everyone to pull together and to play their part, both financially and in terms of offering themselves in service.

Thank you's

Of course, as with every Church, there comes a time when people either leave or step down from a significant role. So, I would like to take this opportunity to particularly thank two people.

Sue Russell has served as our Church Warden here for five years. She is incredibly reliable, organised, efficient and hard-working and has given so much to God and to this Church over that time. I am truly grateful to her. She steps down as warden at this APCM but, of course, will continue to serve God here but in a different role.

Sue Liptrot is another who does so much. She is a SPA (Pastoral Worker), heading up our pastoral team, visiting those in need, taking people

Communion at home, organising our prayer-ministry each Sunday, serving as a Street-Pastor, and co-ordinating our prayer-chain. She is, sadly, moving away from Hook and has given so much here. She will be greatly missed and I truly appreciate all she has given.

The Electrical Project

Of course, one of the key 'projects' of the past year has been our 'electrical-lighting-sound and AV' project. Graham Cocks our Church Warden is taking the lead on this, amongst everything else he does for God and his Church. Once



again, I am immensely grateful to him. The total cost of this project will be, I suspect about £70,000 (£64,000 for the electrical and lighting works, plus extra costs for the sound and PA). we have so far raised over £50,000 and I thank all of you who have given to the project so far. May I ask anyone who has not done so already to consider giving to this important project? There are giving packs at the back of the Church.

Looking ahead

And so, lastly, may I remind each and every one of us that our calling is to shine the light of Christ to Hook and beyond. As our mission statement reminds us, this means:

We are called to worship God; to grow as disciples; to love and care for all; and to reach out with the good news of Jesus Christ.

May God lead us forward as we seek to work together to fulfil this mission.

With love in Christ.

Luke

FROM THE TEAM RECTOR:



THiS Team Matters

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

Statistics, as we all know, can be misleading. If I told you that THiS Team had grown by 100% during 2018 you would, I am guessing, be rightly suspicious. But in one measure that is correct. For at the beginning of 2018 THiS Team had two ordained clergy and by half way through (and continuing) our forces had doubled! Unfortunately, I can't report the same level of growth in our congregations overall – now *that* would be news! But in each of our Annual Reports this year across THiS Team it is right that we welcome the new faces.

After nearly two years without a member of clergy, St George's were rightly excited to welcome Rev David Nyirongo along with his wife Safiya and children Kamran, Judah and Seraphine to St George's who were re-locating from Wales. The strength and commitment of the home team at St George's meant that they had been very active in worship and in their local area prior to David's arrival but his coming to join them has brought a new depth and focus to ministry. David is available to the parish for just 20 hours a week so he has to pack a lot into that time. His appointment is for a fixed period of three years and we pray that in that time St George's will flourish under his care and we can look forward to exciting times as Tolworth itself is set for wide-scale development and population increase.





The appointment of Rev Carolyn Lucas as 'Minister across the Team' has further strengthened our resources. Carolyn came from much closer by, New Malden, and was already known with the Team; she had been particularly valuable in supporting St George's in their vacancy. Her presence means that we can all breathe a bit of a sigh of relief as we have more resource to cover holidays and sickness but she

also brings many strengths in ministry from which the whole Team will benefit. Carolyn's four daughters are grown up but we are delighted to welcome her husband, Tim, to THIS Team too.

THIS Clergy Team meets once a month for prayer, support and to organise Team worship and to discuss all matters relevant to the Team. We are grateful to each other and to God for that support, knowing that it can be easy to become isolated in ministry and the existence of THIS Team relieves some of that burden.

As a Team, we took the opportunity across the year to worship and share in social times together. Our annual Team All-Age service was at St George's and was enriched by the presence of the Brownies. Our Pentecost Praise Service was hugely uplifting, with a full St Matthew's welcoming Carolyn into the Team and we have shared other services too. We have enjoyed a pulpit swap and in the coming years will aim to do this twice a year so that each church sees someone from the other two churches at least once a year.

THIS Team Parish walks continue to introduce members from across the Team to one another while enjoying the fresh air and some local history. Thanks to Dave and Jackie Farris for organising these. We were also indebted to Dave and Jackie for being quizmasters at our Team Quiz Night in November at St Paul's which raised over £220 for KCAH.

Can I finish by thanking all the clergy and the many, many members of our three congregations who work so hard for the Lord in their church. We couldn't do it without you

Rev Helen Hancock

BAPTISMS 2018

We had a full year of baptisms. All baptisms were carried out on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 12 noon. This seems very popular with the families involved. 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 2018 we welcomed the following children to baptism: Ella, Rosie, Dylan, Blake, Ella, Liam, Samuel, Lily, Oliver, Ruby-Rose, Pippa, Ellie and Oliver.

CATERING TEAM

Our Patronal Festival lunch was a sit-down meal in the Parish Hall and was well attended. On Good Friday, the Walk of Witness ended at St Paul's and everyone enjoyed the hot cross buns and drinks.

Our Harvest Festival lunch was enjoyed by 66 adults plus children. This is always a very special occasion, especially for those who are on their own. As usual we had 'light' refreshments after the Memorial Service in November and mince pies after the Community Carol Service in December.

I would like to thank the committee for their help in organising these events, Val, Carole, Prue, Alison, Mary and Gill.

Thursday 10am Communion Service: Refreshments are served after the service and we have a raffle. This year we raised £444.00. Thank you to everyone on the rota and those who donate raffle prizes.

Diane Tink

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



The main event to support 'The Children's Society' charity is held annually; this year's Box Opening Day was held on Saturday 13th October 2018 at St Paul's Centre. The large amount of small change from the boxes was counted and totalled £1,370.62. The Children's Society Christmas cards were on sale and there was also a raffle, lunch and refreshments to enjoy. A further £218.47 was sent to The Children's Society from this and profit from the cards will add to that total.

After a visit by a representative of The Children's Society to one of our services earlier this year, we gave out 16 new boxes to parishioners. 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

CHRISTIAN AID



This year's Christian Aid week collection was £1,025.63 including gift aid. This continued the trend of reducing collections due to many factors; "no cold calling" rules, fewer collectors and householders increasingly not wishing to give cash at the door. I really thank the St Paul's collectors. I had already stated that this would be my last year for organising Christian Aid and I notice that ALL of the current collectors were there on my first Christian Aid Week too. I'm sure they had even been doing it for eons before that 😊. There have been many more collectors over the years that did so until they physically could do so no more.

Derek Chambers, in particular, has carried on the magnificent efforts that he & Sue used to do together, in collecting from all the 600 plus houses around the King's Centre. To put this into context, waiting for one householder to answer the door can take ages let alone 600 plus. Derek does this every year and the Guides (with Madeline) have faithfully delivered lots of leaflets every year for him to do this.

Over the years since 2003, in the years I have been organising, we have raised over £35,000 together. If you ever gave anything, came to one of our fun counting-up evenings, delivered envelopes or faced the daunting task of knocking on the doors I am so grateful. Our church members always gave very generously. If anyone takes on the organising, (no-one has yet but 'could it be you?') they may well end up following other local churches with alternative fund-raising for Christian Aid Week. Even our Christian Aid Week collections are only a fraction of the money given to needy people or causes by the people of St Paul's, with KCAH, Umoja Trust, World Vision, Children's Society just a few of the diverse causes we root for. In the years that I have been banging the Christian Aid drum I would also like to apologise for any occasions when I became a bit task-orientated. I hope that you know how much I appreciated your help.

When Paul caught up with the Apostles, he wrote in Galatians 2:10 *"All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along."* May this be for us too.

Dave Disspain

CHURCHWARDENS

The only major work that was carried out in 2018 was the re-pointing of the south wall of the church during the summer. Our main focus through the year was the plans to replace the electrical wiring and lighting at St. Paul's. We concluded these plans with our designers, C.E.S. Ltd., in the autumn and had the Faculty (planning approval) granted by the Diocese at the end of the year. As you know, this coincided with a Gift Day on Advent Sunday, which together with previous fundraising efforts and an injection from our reserves, now means that most of the cost has been raised. Thanks to everyone for their generosity in making this a success.

We still have some more to money to raise, but the P.C.C. agreed in January that we should move ahead to complete the project, hopefully during the summer. Our plans to replace the audio and visual equipment will now form part of a separate Faculty application, once we have completed the current project and assessed our financial position.

Finally, our thanks to all who have helped with the maintenance and decoration of the church and the churchyard over the last year. It is wonderful that St. Paul's can rely on willing volunteers to keep our church and churchyard looking so beautiful, but more volunteers are always needed. This year we will probably need to do some redecorating after the rewiring is complete, whilst churchyard workdays are a certainty!

Graham Cocks and Sue Russell

CHURCHYARD & GARDENS

To celebrate the end of the First World War, I cleaned the war memorial – now a cleaner white.

With the help of our wardens, Sue & Graham, and our young volunteer Garath, we have managed to keep the churchyard and gardens looking good.

Many thanks to Brian Dale for the donation of plants.

David Freeman



ST PAUL'S CRÈCHE

Our ministry is St Paul's Church Crèche.

We meet during worship to God on Sundays between 10.30 and 11.30am. The Crèche is led by myself, Claire Booty and a team of volunteers.

Its roll is to enable more people with preschool children to attend family worship on Sundays during the 10.30am Family Worship Service.

To get involved please contact myself or Claire Booty. We are available most Sundays, alternatively contact a crèche volunteer for more details.

Natalie Loible

DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod meets three times a year at a different Church within the Deanery and is led by the Area Dean, Rev'd Robert Stainer.

What we have learned this year has helped us to understand the wider implications of our mission statement.

If you would like to become involved please speak to Ian Reid, Prue McPherson, Pam Ingram or myself.

Sue Fry

ELECTORAL ROLL

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

Anyone baptised and over the age of sixteen is entitled to be included if they live in the parish and/or attend the church regularly.

It gives the right to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where elections take place for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and for the parish's representatives on the Deanery Synod.

The roll is updated annually and each name represents a valued, special member of the Church family here at St Paul's, Hook.

This year, there are 13 additions and we are delighted to welcome:

Ms Candy Ashley	Mr Antony Baxter	Mrs Chloe Baxter
Mr Alan Biswell	Mr Samuel Devadasan	Ms Sarah Doyle
Mrs Christiana Elvy	Mr John Emanuel	Mrs Angela Foley
Mrs Elaine Lawson	Mrs Joanne Orbell	Miss Clare Paske
Mrs Beatrice (Betty) Palmer		

This year there are 46 deletions for various reasons – some people have lost touch and no longer attend St Paul's; some have moved away.

Simon & Nicola Whitlock and family have moved to Chichester and we wish them much happiness in their new home.

Sadly, Marion Bone, Shirley Edwards, Chris Kemp and Margaret Robini have passed away. They had been much loved members of our church family for many years and we are thankful for all they gave to enrich our lives at St Paul's.

We shall miss them all but always remember them with love.

Every 6 years there is a complete revision of the Roll and everyone is required to complete a new application form. This is the year when this had to be done.

You will notice that the number of deletions is higher than in previous years, but this new roll now reflects the true and active membership of St Paul's.

If anyone feels they should be included and has missed the deadline, names may be added at any time but will not be included for the purpose of this APCM.

The new roll contains 121 names and produced 13 additions and 46 deletions.

I wish to thank everyone for completing the forms and returning them so promptly.

My special thanks to Joanne Griffiths in the Parish Office for all her hard work in the preparation of this new roll.

I present the Church Electoral Roll of St Paul's at Hook with Southborough for 2019 to this meeting.

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 into maintaining and improving the facilities. In February we had to replace the heating system as it failed during the cold snow spell! The old boiler could not have failed at a worse time and we thank our users for their understanding during this period. We did purchase a number of electric radiators to assist in keeping the cold out. The cost for this was met by the savings in the hall accounts and should now secure this element for a number of years - in addition we have put in place an annual maintenance plan for the heating.

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.

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

- new front doors
- outside signage display
- replacing windows not already replaced
- 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 or Steve Griffiths. We could also do with the help of a handy man 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 did not do this last year and we missed it!! 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

HOME COMMUNION

As an integral part of our mission to worship God and to love and care for all, Home Communion is taken to all those who for one reason or another are unable to attend church, be it on a single occasion or for longer and to those who have requested it.

During the past year the team of Eucharistic Ministers has taken Home Communion out from Saint Paul's, usually on a Sunday. I am grateful to the team members for their commitment to this essential part of the Church's mission.

If there are those who would like to be added to the list of those who receive the church's Eucharistic Ministry at home would you please let the parish office know.

Ian Reid

2ND HOOK (ST PAUL'S) SCOUT GROUP



2nd Hook (St Paul's) Scout Group meet during school term time at our headquarters located behind the Parish Hall throughout the year on a Tuesday and Wednesday evening. Numerous volunteers assist with the running of the group inclusive of Leaders and various committee members. Our Group Scout Leader position is currently vacant.

We provide excitement and adventure for young people aged between 6 and 14 and have three sections, Beavers, Cubs and our newly formed Scout Troop.

For more information please contact gsl@2ndhook.org.uk



Our Beaver Colony

Over the last year Beaver Scouts have worked towards and achieved lots of badges including creative, safety, experiment and health and fitness. Also, many have earned their skills and team challenge badges. Throughout the year we try to incorporate special events into our programme and we have celebrated Chinese New Year, Easter and St. George's Day. These activities involve tasting different foods, making food such as chocolate nests and craft activities. We have also made use of the District activity base of Southwood, completing a scavenger hunt and exploring.

In the summer 10 Beaver Scouts took part in a sleepover at Southwood, some trying tents for the first time and in January, 3 of the oldest Beaver Scouts attended a two-night activity-packed sleepover at PGL Liddington. We have also awarded 9 Chief Scout Bronze Awards which is a fantastic achievement towards the end of being a Beaver Scout for 2 years

Cub Pack

Our cubs continue to thrive; we had an amazing summer with success at this year's District Sports Day and District 5-A-Side tournament, completed with a four-night summer camp at Walton Firs. We had an array of animals to meet and hold, including snakes and spiders. We represented the Troop at The Lord Mayor's show on a damp day in London.

Scout Troop

We are delighted to announce that the 2nd Hook Scout Group was able to re-open a scout section. David Scurr and Carli Primrose re-opened the Scout Troop in September 2018. Since then the troop has gone from strength to strength. In September, the scouts created a code of conduct, a wish list and discussed any specific activities or events they wished to do. David and Carli have endeavoured to include as many of these things as possible into the programme. As a result, we are proud to announce that we have been to the theatre, met Harry Hill, run an archery session, done indoor pioneering, map reading, attended a local community litter pick, and we have even attended our first Camp. This was the nationally acclaimed 'Winter Camp' where over four thousand scouts from across the country took part in various scouting related activities in sub-zero temperatures!

Fundraising

In addition to the scouting events, our leadership team, with the help of friends and family, have also organised and run a successful fund-raising evening. The team ran extremely successful quiz nights and a bingo evening where members of the community had the opportunity to interact.

Our summer fair will be held on King Edward's playing fields on the afternoon of Saturday 11th May - EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

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 goodly contingent 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

Ministry to men at St Paul's is growing, particularly now that events have been planned together with our friends at St Matthew's and St George's. As well as curry nights, breakfasts and walks, we have put on other events aimed at dads and their children, such as crazy golf and board games. We recently had a discussion night at the North Star to talk faith and plan for more of these in the future. Thanks to all who have supported or helped to organise these events.

Neil Meehan

ST PAUL'S HOOK, MOTHERS' UNION



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



In 2018 we had some very interesting speakers on a variety of subjects including the history of the Sopwith and Hawker aircraft that were built in Kingston. A Kingston Ranger on keeping Kingston clean and safe. A very amusing and helpful talk on de-cluttering and our Vicar on Advent and Christmas. In August we had a garden tea at the church and had a very profitable bring and buy sale and raffle, the money from which went to help fund various Mothers' Union projects. We had two successful ladies' breakfasts and an evening meeting with a speaker from the Evelina Children's hospital.

The monthly Mothers' Union prayers at Southwark Cathedral are also a good experience and an opportunity to reflect on our own faith.

The knit and natter group meet on a Monday afternoon and make blankets and matinee jackets for 'Born Too Soon' and other charities.

Mothers' Union is open to anyone who is a baptised member of the Church. It has a worldwide membership of 4 million working to strengthen family life.

All are welcome to our meetings.

For further information, please contact Branch Leader Carole Noakes.
Carol 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

A group of us meet 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. We either meet at the vicarage or at my house. Luke and I lead it between us.

It is confidential. If you wish to have a visit, please contact either Sue Liptrot or Luke.

Sue Liptrot

PRAYER MINISTRY / PRAYER CHAIN

Both of these are strictly confidential.

With the Prayer Ministry we pray at the back of church whilst parishioners are taking communion. It is an opportunity for people to come up for prayers - they might have a health issue that needs prayer or they might want to pray giving thanks. You can always leave a prayer message on the board at the back of Church. At the beginning of the year we introduced a screen which I feel is effective as it gives privacy.

The Prayer Chain is compiled through emailing me and I pass 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.

If you wish to have someone prayed for please contact Sue Liptrot on 020 8397 6971
Sue Liptrot

SAFEGUARDING

As I write this report Safeguarding has yet again hit the media headlines.

Southwark Diocese, in line with national guidance, has reviewed and updated 'A Safe Church' and this can be found at: <http://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/> and a new paper copy will be available later in the year. Meanwhile there is a white folder containing sections relevant to a Parish Church and lots of useful contact details in the bookcase at the back of the church.

The PCC and the Vicar carry a duty of care for the safety of those who attend or use the church. As a church family we aim to 'love and care for all'. Safeguarding training is undertaken at different levels relevant to a person's role within the church. All those working with children or vulnerable adults are DBS checked. We currently have one Safeguarding Officer; it would be preferable to have two. If anybody is interested in undertaking the training for this role please speak to Sue Russell.

If anybody has any concerns or queries please contact myself or Luke, details are displayed around the church and centre.

Sue Russell

SERVERS / SACRISTAN

Servers

Our small team of regular servers of just five have been kept busy with all of the various services that require serving support. Most of the time the majority of services have two servers on the rota to serve at Sunday Eucharist services, however the 10.30 all age communion services do currently only have one on the rota. These arrangements usually give sufficient serving opportunities to support not only clergy and congregation but also to serve each other. Each and every server on our team will of course first and foremost, serve Christ through our individual serving ministries, it matters not what our particular role is on the day, we're ALL equal.

Like most things in life, we are all constantly learning – even though this might just be one very small piece of information or learning, and yes this can and does come through serving when we encounter situations and experiences. A lot of the time these encounters and experiences take us completely by surprise, and a lot of the time we have to take a 'step back' in order to absorb what it is that's happening. Thereafter we need to respond in an appropriate way to support and care for each other in all of our actions.

It has been an interesting and varied year with different services to provide servers for, and I'm most grateful to all who have served this past year. This has not been just for the 'ordinary' services but also for those 'different' services when things have had to be 'worked out' beforehand in order for the service to run smoothly. Thank you all for your help and support, but also for your patience when things have been difficult.

I'm well aware that there have been many times during the year when I've been missing for one reason or another, and some of the services I've either had to pull out of at the last minute or even just failed to turn up. I'm grateful therefore to all of those who stepped in to help, sometimes at very short notice. I did really miss attending any of the Christmas services, but unfortunately personal commitments didn't allow for me to attend.

I'd like to thank my fellow servers, Claire, Bill, Susan and Jane for **all** of their hard work and support throughout the year.

I have always counted it a real privilege to serve at St Paul's whatever the role. I see it as not just serving the local church Family, or the local community but first and foremost The Church that Christ calls us to serve.

Sacristan

As in previous years, I can report that 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 not only 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. During 'Ordinary Time' (all the Sundays during the season of TRINITY) last summer, the Green Altar frontal was left off the altar in order to reveal the beautiful wood carving on the altar itself. Therefore, TRINITY last year was far from 'ordinary'.

Chalice Training

Most of those involved in administering the Chalice at Eucharistic services have attended training, not only to show how to administer the Chalice but also to try and understand some of the reasons why we do it the way we do. Administering the Chalice is very much another way of 'Serving' and for those involved is an opportunity to serve those around us. It is always a privilege to do so and therefore we all need to carry out our Chalice ministry with reverence and meaning. There will be further training sessions in the near future, mainly to cover situations that have evolved since we last held training, but also to come and put some practical work together. Please can I therefore ask all current Chalice Assistants to look out for when training sessions are to take place - Thank You

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 Kathryn Hemming, the Head, to all of the staff, and of course to the pupils.

However, this past year has been marked by significant staff turnover, all for good reasons. In particular, Kathryn Hemming, the Head Teacher has announced that she is moving on to lead an exciting new school in Singapore. This has meant, of course, advertising, shortlisting, and interviewing for a new Head Teacher and I am delighted to confirm that Emily Evans, the Deputy Head, was appointed as Kathryn's successor, and will take over as Head in September 2019.

This is all excellent news, but it means that, at the time of writing, I am now involved in advertising, shortlisting, and interviewing for a new Deputy Head Teacher. Please pray for us as we seek God's guidance in making the right appointment. In both instances I have been very aware of my responsibility to make the right decision, alongside other Governors, for the good of our local community.

2019-20 will also see the school undergoing its SIAMS inspection, focusing on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults. I am confident that the school will be assessed as outstanding in this regard, but it will be an important time in the life of the school.

One final thing to say, is that we are still in need of one Foundation Governor for the Governing Body. This is a fantastic way to serve the school and the local community and, if this is something that might be appropriate for you, please do come and speak to me.

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 now for many years and hopefully will continue to do so.

Pam Ingram & Ian Reid

Knit & Natter

We meet on Monday afternoons in the Mary Wise Room. We knit and crochet blankets and hats for the 'Born Too Soon' Unit at Kingston hospital.

We also knit jumpers for an orphanage in Malawi and make up baby boxes for a charity in Jersey.

We enjoy a natter whilst we work. Tea and cake are also enjoyed.

Pam Ingram

Winter Fair

The fair is our largest fundraiser of the year, but also a chance to raise our profile within the local community. To this end we targeted the area with 30 estate agent boards, purchased two larger signs that we had prominently displayed outside church and by the Parish hall, advertised in Chessington Chat and requested a mention on Radio Jackie.

The hard work of all the volunteers in the weeks leading up to the fair, the evening before, during the fair and clearing up at the end was greatly appreciated and showed great team spirit.

At the end of the day we had taken £1,808.67 and then received a further £300 from the advertising boards.

Some items left over from the fair have continued to be sold but the money raised from these sales has been put directly into the electrics fund.

With the planned lighting and power refurbishment, we need a successful 2019 Winter Fair.

However, we could do with some 'new' energy and enthusiasm – is there anybody who would like to lead on this? The date has yet to be finalised so please give it some thought.

Sue Russell

SATURDAY STALL

The Saturday stall is as popular as ever. We have regular customers. I feel this is an outreach to the community. Whilst the Saturday stall is set up outside in the good weather, people are aware that we are inside the centre on bad weather days. The church is open at the same time so that can encourage people. We sell a variety of marmalade, pickled onions and relishes.

Sue Liptrot

STREET PASTORS

We go out as a team of 4 into the streets of Kingston from 10pm – 4am on Friday and Saturday nights.



We initially meet at the United Reformed Church. Whilst the Street Pastors are on the street, 2 prayer pastors are in the Church. The Prayer Pastors will pray for situations on the street. A team leader leads the team. It fulfils our mission as we love and care for others. We have a lot of contact with the homeless.

Although we do not preach whilst we are on the streets, often we have conversations about people's Christian journey. They might ask us to pray, or even ask us to recommend a church to them. If you should wish to get involved with the Street Pastors please contact me.

Sue Liptrot

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)

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.

During 2018 about ten, (sometimes more!) of us have continued to meet regularly each week to read The Bible. During this past year we have studied the Acts of the Apostles, then continued reading the epistles of Peter, James and John. In the autumn we tackled the Book of Ezekiel which we found very challenging! Then we took "Baptism" as our topic and looked up all the biblical references. We discuss and try to understand what God is saying to us through the pages of Scripture as we grow in faith and discipleship, as part of our mission.

The group decide what they would like to do next. No preparation or previous knowledge is required. Everyone is welcome. Come and see if this is for you. Contact Ann Fernihough on 020 8397 5954 or by email:

fernihough443@btinternet.com)

Ann Fernihough

Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in the Mary Wise Room

As a part of our mission to grow as disciples with our learning and understanding of our Bible we meet in the Mary Wise Room on a Thursday evening (mainly during term time).

We start at 7.30pm with tea or coffee and a chat and then from 7.45pm until 9pm we look at the Bible passage we are studying.

During this past year we have continued in the main with our studies and we have also had our seasonal Lent and Advent Study Courses. You are more than welcome to come and join us. It is not as dull as it might seem and really quite enjoyable, with the occasional hearty laugh.

Ian Reid

Thursday evenings at 8.00pm in the Vicarage

Psalm 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

SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENTS



It's amazing to think that it was 10½ years ago Jane, Ian (very handy when you need a tall man!) and myself sat in the vicarage with our previous vicar, Chris, planning the setting up of the new Sunday morning refreshments to be offered between the two newly-styled morning services at 9am and 10.30am. Our main purpose to bring together in fellowship, friendship and support, those attending the traditional earlier service and those the later family worship service, and of course, to find a willing team of helpers. Pam later joined us and our lovely team members come regularly to help set up and run the kitchen.

Things haven't changed very much since September 2008, a few improvements here and there, a new blend or two of coffee tried, a few new home bakes introduced and herbal teas available now. One lady carer has asked for hot chocolate to be available so we will try and arrange to have that too. The children especially seem to enjoy the cakes and offerings on the table. How welcoming is the smell of warm coffee brewing in the kitchen, no more so than on that cold day a few weeks ago when the church heating broke down and our stoic parishioners turned out rather more cosily dressed than usual! Nobody was going to let a chilly church put them off coming, after all, wasn't that how things were in bygone years?

A huge thank you to everyone on the refreshments team for all you do, either in the kitchen or helping serve the cakes and cold drinks on the table, to Joanne, Julie and Paula who joined the team this year and to all those who spontaneously come to assist in the kitchen when that little bit of extra help is needed. We couldn't do it without you.

If anyone has any suggestions or would like to come aboard please contact Pam, Jane, Ian or myself (Maggie). The rota is very flexible and we'd love to have you join us.

Ian and Jane Jarman, Pam Ingram and Maggie Dowd

TECHNOLOGY

We are grateful for our organists and musicians. However, the reality is that they can't be with us every Sunday, so we play in music tracks over the church PA system for the 9am and 10.30am services when needed. The PA system still works but it's inflexible and outdated.

You'll have noticed during the year we acquired a large 60" screen. It's temporarily mounted on the pulpit until a more permanent position can be made available. We purchased a new laptop in order to run a more recent version of PowerPoint. Now we are able to reliably play videos from within PowerPoint. My hope is that this better supports the creativity of those who lead our worship and makes worship more accessible.

Would you like to be involved in this side of our worship at the 9am or 10.30am services? Here's a summary of what we do.

9am service

Mainly involves playing in music for the hymns etc. from a mobile phone when we have no organist.

10.30am service

As well as playing in music tracks if the band are having a break, it involves preparing the PowerPoint file during the week and operating the laptop on the Sunday morning.

As I've said before, I think it's really healthy if we can share the knowledge and work around. 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. We'll not drop you in it and if you try it and decide it's not for you that'll be OK!

Brian Dale

TREASURER'S REPORT 2018

You will see from the accounts that we had a satisfactory surplus for 2018, largely due to the amazing response to the lighting appeal in December. This boosted our fund for replacing the electrics and lighting and hopefully the work will be underway in 2019. We have invested the major part of the amount raised so far, on which we should earn a small amount of interest.

Repointing the church wall was a major expense during the year and coming up in 2019 there is important work to be done in our churchyard: We were recently charged a large amount for the repair of the heating system and we have also been asked to increase our Parish Pledge to the Diocese by 3%, bringing it up to £55,262.

The comfortable balances in our bank accounts are mostly designated for the lighting and rewiring, so for the upkeep of St Paul's we rely on the regular giving of church members and we need this to be a stable income. If you do not already give regularly, please consider doing so this year and if you pay Income Tax and are able to sign a Gift Aid Form, the church will gain an extra 25% at no extra cost to you.

The electrics and lighting fund box is in constant use and will remain at the back of the church for your donations. We are grateful to Marion Bone, for it was her idea to put it there.

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

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

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



The website at www.stpaulschurchhook.org.uk was completely rebuilt during 2018. Have a look if you haven't visited yet. We are always happy to include other facets of church life, so please send in contributions.

St Paul's presence on social media at www.facebook.com/stpaulschurchhook remains constant. It has a current outreach of 397 people with 196 engagements. 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.

Susanne Puckle

WORSHIP BAND

We meet generally fortnightly on Wednesday evenings at 8.15pm in church and are led by Carol Disspain.

We aim to lead the worship music at our 10.30am Sunday services in the hope of adding fellowship in worshipping together in a way that is inclusive to our church members and visitors and pleasing to God.

Please contact Carol if you are interested in joining the band. Singers, guitarists and keyboard players especially welcome.

email Carol at asardoniclisp@yahoo.co.uk

Carol Disspain

WORSHIP AT ST PAULS

I wonder how often we notice the words from Psalm 122 that welcome us into Church each Sunday?

'I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.'
(Psalm 122v1)



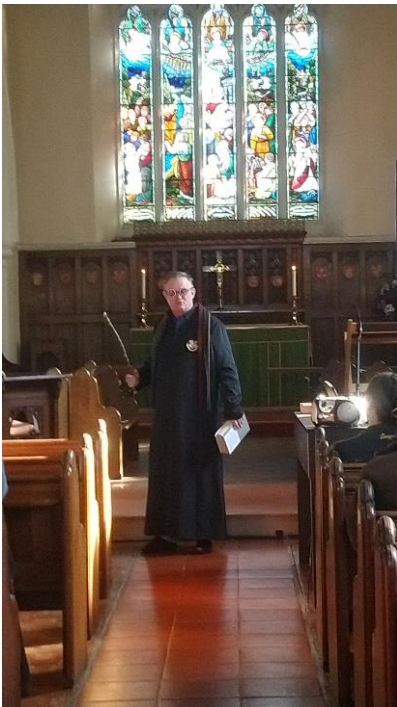
It is a joy to gather together and to worship God, to declare his 'worth' and to meet with Him and with each other. And there is nothing that we do that is more important.

It is worth remembering that Jesus summarised 'all the law and the prophets' into two 'great' commandments: *'To love the Lord Your God ...and to love your neighbour as yourself.'* (Matthew 22v37-40). The first of these (To love God) is fulfilled to a significant degree in our worship in Church each week.

Indeed, I remember some years ago, when I was a vicar in Milton Keynes, and the husband of a Church member said to me, "I leave going to Church to my wife." I responded by saying to him, "God deserves better than that." And he does. He is 'worth' more than that. Indeed, he is surely 'worth' at least one hour of our week. Isn't he? Let's be honest with ourselves, we find time every week for work, for TV, for leisure, for a social life; but all too often people fail to make time for God.

So, may I encourage you to make worship a higher priority in your life? May we come to Church more regularly, every Sunday if at all possible, and let's come with a hearts' desire to worship.

You know, I've had people say to me in previous churches, "But Luke ..I don't like these modern worship songs," or, "I don't like these old hymns," or, "I find the sermons too long." It's as if we sometimes forget why we are there. We don't come to be entertained, do we? And we don't come to sing our favourite songs. We come because God deserves it; He is worthy of our praise.



So, whether you come to the gam or the 10.30am on Sunday's, or to our weekly 10am Thursday Eucharist, let us make worship a priority in our lives.

In the Book of Revelation, it says this: **"You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honour and praise."** (Revelation 4v11). Indeed, God has given us so much, and so let us give back to him the 'glory honour and praise' that he so clearly deserves.

Finally, may I thank all of those who fulfil the various tasks that facilitate our worship; or organists, musicians, singers, and servers; our sides-people, our administrator, and all who lead, preach, read and pray. I am truly grateful to you for all that you do.

*From your fellow-worshipper,
Luke*