

St Pancras Church



Annual Report for 2017

*Presented at the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
29th April 2018*

St Pancras Church Trustees

Parochial Church Council 2017

Vicar	Revd Anne Stevens		Chair
UCL Chaplain	Revd Charlotte Bradley		
Readers	Michael Ogden Olyve Johnson		
Churchwardens	Dorothea Hackman Duncan Lamont		(also Hon Treasurer)
Elected	Miriam Campbell	(2019)	Deputy Churchwarden
	Pat Comissiong	(2019)	
	Rita Costa Alves	(2019)	
	Allan Fuller	(2020)	<i>resigned Jan 2018</i>
	Jonathan Lewin	(2018)	
	Anne Rouse	(2018)	
	Tony Rouse	(2020)	Deputy Churchwarden
	John Thomlinson	(2019)	PCC Secretary

The years in brackets are when the trustee's term expires at the APCM in April.

Deanery Synod Reps 2017-2020

Dorothea Hackman
One vacancy

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Vicar's Report

Welcome to this year's Annual Report from the team at St Pancras Church. My section of this report offers an overview of the church's life over the last twelve months, and sets out some of the developments that are beginning to take shape in response to our latest Mission Action Plan and Quinquennial Report.

In terms of numbers 2017 proved to be rather a mixed year. Our average regular Sunday attendance went down from 92 to 85 (a decline of 7.5%). However, going in the other direction, our electoral roll grew 4% to 111; and our average midweek attendance went up from 25 to 30 (a 20% increase), due partly to several special services that we planned and hosted in partnership with various civic and community groups (see p.13 for details).

The church continues to attract hundreds of visitors every week, and this figure is beginning to grow significantly. Two major developments are helping with this – firstly the installation of a first class Wifi system which is now freely available to all our visitors; and secondly a new series of acoustic rock concerts which we are hosting in association with Cross Keys and the Churches Conservation Trust.



The first three Cross Keys concerts have been very successful, and we are hoping that this will grow into a long-term partnership that will bring a new generation of people into the church, and generate vital income for our mission and ministry, and for the upkeep of the building. This adds a new wing to our commitment to the arts which is also reflected in the continuing success of the Crypt Gallery and the London Festival of Contemporary Church Music.

Our first Cross Keys concert

Although Sunday attendance remains a concern, our Mission Action Plan 2017-2020 reflected our desire to offer more during the rest of the week, and these new developments (along with the newly restored external lighting shown on the front cover) are beginning to fulfil our hope that we would become more of a 'beacon' city centre church:

'You are the light of the world,' Jesus taught his followers. (Matthew 5.14) Because of our location, we have an opportunity – and a responsibility – to help people see the light of God in the midst of their daily lives. We believe that we are called to be a 'beacon' city centre church, reflecting this light to the best of our ability. We trust that the light will draw people into the sacred space that the church offers for prayer, worship and conversation, where the ancient truths of the gospel can be articulated in creative and relevant ways. And we also trust that the light will shine out into the community and the wider world as we build relationships, share common causes, and speak prophetically about the issues of our day.'



I hadn't anticipated being chained to a tree as part of our prophetic stance! In the event the gesture was well received in the community and attracted a lot of media coverage for our concerns over the devastating effect that HS2 is having on the trees, green spaces and air quality in the Euston area.

Our spiritual life this year has been deepened by our Lent course 'Conversations about Prayer' and by our autumn study of the booklet 'Right Where You Are' as part of the diocesan Ambassadors programme. The Tuesday lunchtime Bible Study continues to attract a few local workers as well as regular congregation members, and a small group of students come along to the 'Thinking about Faith' sessions on Thursday evenings. To encourage more participation by congregation members we ran a workshop in September on reading and leading the intercessions in church.

The Churchwardens' report below details the work on the fabric of the building this year. The quality of the work on the Portico Project was recognized in our winning the prestigious John Betjeman Award from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and by the fact that Historic England have just begun a research project on terracotta repair using the decorative work on the church tower. We were also short-listed by the National Churches Trust for the wonderfully named King of Prussia's Gold Medal. Alas we didn't win, but our architect Marcus Chantrey was involved with three of the five short-listed projects and received a special commendation for his work. Marcus completed the Quinquennial Report on the church building in 2017 and kindly came along to the PCC's Vision Day in January to help us plan the next stages of work on the building. We have just submitted an application to the National Churches Trust for a Project Development Grant to help fund the more detailed investigative work recommended in the Quinquennial Report. When these surveys are completed we will have a better idea of the conservation work that is needed and of the ways in which the building might be developed to provide much needed facilities such as extra toilets, office space and meeting rooms.

We are also in discussions with Camden and HS2 about a possible re-development of the north garden. At a time when we are losing so much green space in the area it would be wonderful to open up the garden so that it can be enjoyed by the local community.

With all this under way, the PCC are actively reviewing our staffing levels. As and when we generate more income we will also be looking to extend our opening hours to 7 days a week instead of the present 5. I am enormously grateful to the staff team for all their hard work. Deseline has settled in well as our new Finance Officer; Jane continues to provide much needed admin support in the office; Anne manages the Crypt Gallery excellently; Alain, Bryan & Rosa keep the church and hall in good working order, and Audrey continues to tend the gardens with great care.

I would also like to thank my colleagues Charlotte, Michael & Olyve for all they have done this year to sustain our worship and ministry. We have missed Charlotte in recent months but it has been a great joy to welcome Zachary and watch him grow. Thanks also go to the PCC for their hard work, particularly to our Churchwardens Dorothea and Duncan, and John our secretary. Thanks too to Chris and the choir, to Eddie, Michael, Anne and Tony for all they do to prepare the church for our worship; and to everyone who helps on the Welcome Team at our services.



To end on a celebratory note, we are looking forward to Bishop Sarah's installation next month with great joy. Do pray for her and for the diocese as she takes up her new role as Bishop of London. May she be a great blessing for this great city we serve.

Anne Stevens

Churchwardens' Report

Sincerest thanks to all volunteers, especially our deputy wardens, ex-wardens, PCC members and sidespeople as well as to the Vicar and all St Pancras staff, for their work over the last twelve months. Thanks to our safeguarding officer Andrew Billington for undertaking the Diocesan training, and the vicar for meeting our insurers requirements over health and safety certification. It is very exciting that the 133rd Bishop of London the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally will be installed on 12 May 2018, Duncan Lamont will represent St Pancras Laity. Churchwardens will be sworn in on 21st May at St John's Hampstead and 13th June at Holy Trinity in Tottenham.

Events: On Mayday and national parks day we held public picnics in the parks we were to lose to High Speed 2 and tied scarves around the trees that were to be felled. A ground-breaking service created by the vicar for the 63,00 people buried in St James Gardens who will be exhumed was held on 23 August 2017. We also remembered the living and mourned the fifty mature trees which were destroyed along with the park by High Speed 2 Ltd. There is grave concern at the destruction of green spaces and trees in an area of high pollution like Euston. We acquired and lit a clean burning propane beacon as part of the chain for Beacon Day on 21st October, and brought it into use again for the Easter vigil. Symbolic of our helplessness in the face of government policy, we chained the vicar and a parishioner to a tree on the west side of Euston Square Gardens on 12th January. This actually saved that tree and fifteen others for the time being at least. Our Crypt Gallery hosted the first showing of Duncan Pickstock's film 'Whose line is it anyway?' and of Dan Llywelyn Hall's art exhibition "Last Stand of Euston Trees".



St James' Gardens – before and after the tree felling

Charities: St Pancras Lands Trust continues to distribute dividends from investments to the 15 Anglican churches whose parish boundaries are completely within the ancient parish, and lodge accounts with the Charity Commissioners, as is the case with our other charities. St Pancras Charities looks after a range of ancient and historic St Pancras Church legacies and investments. From the interest, as well as benefitting the PCC income, grants have been made to a range of ventures in the parish. The Thanet Street Trust, a charity with which the Church has significant involvement, has continued to support the Kings Cross & Brunswick Neighbourhood Association, the Cold Weather Shelter, the London Festival of Contemporary Church Music, PSALM, and Euston Foodbank.

Euston Foodbank at Lancing St in the church hall building has opened and is set up as a separate entity with trustees from six local churches, including St Pancras. Operating under the auspices of the Trussell Trust it continues to grow to meet the increasing food poverty in our community in these times of austerity. Over 4,600 individuals were supported with food parcels over the last year, with 50-70 households supported each week. The main reason people need help is low income (27%) with benefit delays a close second at 25%. Over 40 volunteers help regularly and six trustees additional to the six founding trustees have been elected from amongst the volunteers.

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments: Church maintenance was carried out as usual on electrical items, the clock, microphones, computers, photocopier, lights, plumbing, fire extinguishers, the garden mower, the boiler, roof vegetation, gutters, the crypt, organ humidifier, two organs and three pianos. The church hall had needed upgrading after electrical inspection, as has the church heating. A planned cycle of church maintenance continues: we renovated the south vestibule as part of the World War 1 centenary with Allenby's entry into Jerusalem commemorated on 9th December with a memorial service. We have acquired guardianship of various regimental items. From Mary Thomas money we have implemented a Wifi project to bring state of the art internet to the church and crypt.

Dorothea Hackman & Duncan Lamont

PCC Secretary's Report

Rev Anne Stevens has continued as ex-officio chair of the PCC, supported by the members, listed at the beginning of this report, who represent a wide range of ages and professions, and bring with them valuable personal skills, knowledge, time and energy to the PCC. All are to be thanked for their contributions over the year.

The PCC has met bi-monthly, thus meeting 6 times over the year, with the Standing Committee meeting in the other 6 months. This arrangement means that the core members meet monthly, enabling important business to be discussed and acted upon swiftly. In between these meetings occasional urgent business needing PCC authorisation has been dealt with by the Vicar and Standing Committee via email.

PCC meeting business has covered a range of issues, in particular:

- Finance: Day-to-day income and expenditure have been closely monitored.
- Fabric: Regular maintenance work continues on both the Church and Hall, and longer-term projects have been discussed in the light of the 2017 Quinquennial Report.
- Health & Safety: Bringing our policy and practices up to date

Other issues discussed that relate to the wider world have been:

- HS2: we have continued to be actively involved in the petitions and local campaigns to highlight the impact of this on the parish.
- Music Festival.
- Continued support for our link parishes in Cuamba, Mozambique, and New York.

We held a Vision Day in January at which Marcus Chantrey, our architect, led a session reviewing the condition of the building and suggested future workstreams and timescales. This included a very informative tour of both the interior and exterior.

John Thomlinson

Electoral Roll Report

There are 111 people on the current electoral roll, an increase from last year's total of 107. Of those on the roll 31 are resident in the parish. The electoral roll is completely renewed every 6 years. Whilst some people on the list have moved away, the list is used in Morning Prayer on weekdays and friends who have moved away are regularly remembered. Some members live and work abroad but remain part of the St Pancras community.

Miriam Campbell

Treasurer's Report

The annual accounts for 2017 have been prepared and will be considered for recommendation by the PCC before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 29 April 2018. Thanks to our retired Finance Officer Roy Sully and our new Finance Officer Deseline Djiayep for their sterling work, to our External Examiner Edward Oliver, from the Churchwardens.

During 2017 the income and expenditure of the church was less distorted by the Heritage Lottery funded Portico Project. Income was £358,434 and expenditure £342,732, so expenditure did not exceed income this year, and the music festival was less overspent. We have yet to reclaim our VAT from HMRC, and income from hall flats was down while renovations were completed. Diocesan Common Fund: £84K was paid for 2017, though the final payment had not fully cleared at the year end.

Dorothea Hackman

Our Giving

Every year the PCC gives to various local, national and international charities. In 2017 we made donations to UK charities the Simon Community, C4WS (the Camden Churches Cold Weather Shelter), PSALM, the Camden Foodbank and the Helen Bamber Foundation for Victims of Torture. Internationally, we supported the work of Christian Aid, our link church St Mark's Cuamba in Mozambique, and the Allantown municipal school in Freetown, Sierra Leone. During the year we also held special collections for the Rohingya refugees and those affected by the famine in East Africa, the flash floods in Sierra Leone, and the hurricane in Anguilla.

Revd Anne Stevens

Music at St Pancras

The choir sings on 42 Sundays per year (10.00 Sung Eucharist and 18.00 Choral Evensong) as well as on a number of feast days.

Music sung at services is chosen to complement the liturgical seasons as well as to give a rich and varied experience of some 500 years of music written for Anglican worship. Our repertoire goes somewhat beyond this and encompasses many works from other traditions and from around the world. Over the last 17 years there has been a significant emphasis on contemporary music.

Regardless of our quite modest resources (mostly 4 singers and the Director of Music), a challenging and invigorating repertoire is performed at what is widely seen as a very high standard. We are fortunate to be able to recruit excellent young singers,

many of whom move on to full time professional careers, some on the international stage. Music continues to be a very important part of the liturgy and the tradition of St. Pancras.

We were sorry to say farewell to Sam Pantchef, Emma Gullifer and Eleanor Ross, but also pleased to welcome Helen Daniels, Emily Wenman and Alex Jones

The London Festival of Contemporary Church Music was established by the Director of Music in 2002. The LFCCM is unique and includes valuable partnerships with London's world class choral institutions as well as many churches, schools and HE institutions. The 2017 Festival included 50 events amongst which the highlights included two evening concerts, a major concert in the National Gallery and a live broadcast of Choral Evensong on BBC Radio 3. Members of St. Pancras gave very generously to support our commissions The event included numerous World, UK and London premieres sent in to the Call for Scores from around the World, confirming the international standing of the LFCCM.

The condition and reliability of the Gray & Davison organ are now major concerns, and for several weeks the instrument was unusable. The potential restoration of the organ continues to feature in the Parish Mission Action Plan, and we hope that it will not be too long before significant work can be undertaken to save this historic organ from becoming silent.

Christopher Batchelor

Crypt Gallery

2017 saw another busy year in the gallery with a wide range of exhibitions and residencies, more performance style events, our brand new Wifi facility and also the installation of 'Alien' and 'Brothers', our brilliant new sculptures on the front church lawn.



More about our new sculptures:

The sculptures, which have become quite a landmark feature of the front of the church are by artist David Breuer-Weil and were conceived in bronze and cast in resin. They are very simple and have various meanings, but at the core of each sculpture are themes of alienation, identity, coming together, resolution and peace – all of which are poignant and appropriate in our church setting.

We hosted over 30 exhibitions in the Crypt including:

Radical Love: Female Lust

Inspired by ‘Arabic Poetry of Love & Lust’ this was a radical show bringing together 46 female artists from the Middle East and elsewhere attempting to re-write female identity in Islam. All profits from the show went to the Global Fund for Women Refugees in Lebanon.

Enlightened Design II – part of the London Design Festival

The exhibition and associated events showcased a selection of Dutch designers who travelled to London to mount the show.

Sketch for Survival

Mounted by the Real Africa Trust, the show featured an unprecedented collection of wildlife art, part of the campaign to raise awareness about the threats facing many iconic species including elephant, rhino and lion. Many of the exhibits were auctioned in aid of conservation charities.

The Bloomsbury Festival

The Crypt also hosted events for the Bloomsbury Festival – an exhibition and also evening concerts, talks and recitals. This is a partnership which will continue into 2018

Crypt Artist Residency:

We continued and developed our artist’s residency programme with 4 artist residency periods which hosted 5 artists in total. The Crypt Artist Residency has now become an established way of keeping the gallery open and in use during less busy times of the year. The residencies are arranged as very last-minute bookings and remain flexible and temporary in case of any impromptu filming or paid bookings in the space and this has worked very well. The kind of artists this arrangement appeals to are suited to creating work in the space and using the space to develop new ideas and research in order to create new work or create material for a whole project which continues long after the residency. As well as keeping the gallery open and attracting new audiences the residencies continue to create opportunities for artists who perhaps are at the start of their career or perhaps could not afford to pay for the space and have resulted in some really interesting work and generation of ideas.

Our most notable residency of 2017:

Negotiation between Madness and Sanity, by Zeynep Dagli which featured scores of people screaming as part of a video installation and also invited members of the public to take part. What resulted was a very powerful short film, the Crypt was the perfect space for this as entering the space had a very strong effect on participants and the sound created was really intense.

Performance:

Performance has also played a role in the gallery schedule again this year with what has become a regular annual booking with the UCL Performance and Drama Society. Their 2017 production of the Tempest was an immersive promenade performance re-imagining this classic play as a nautical tale.

Theatre companies 27 degrees and Atlas Descending took over the Crypt for a three-day festival offering a contemporary take on classic myths. The festival included immersive theatre performances, dance, circus, puppetry and interactive audience experiences.

Events:

I also managed to use the gallery on days when the space was not book for Creative Drawing and Performance workshops. In 2017 we ran drawing events based on Goya paintings- which worked perfectly in the Crypt, and also a fantastic Michelangelo event in the main church! Again adding to the creative use of the space which will continue into 2018.

Relationships with local organisations:

Our relationship with local organisations has continued with a performance in the grounds of the church by students at The Place, and also events for the Bloomsbury Festival in October, both of which are continuing into 2018. The gallery still hosts a range of graduate student shows. I have fostered relationships with local colleges the Slade and Central St Martins plus the Royal College of Art has the gallery on their books as a good student space to hire.

The future:

2018 is already looking very busy with lots of shows, events and residencies so I hope the success of 2017 will continue!

Anne Noble-Partridge

Local Ecumenical Activities

Churches Together in Kings Cross



Ministers from all the local churches and chaplaincies meet occasionally to share news and support one another. Our congregations also joined together on Good Friday, when we carried a cross around the streets of Euston and Kings Cross, stopping to pray at each church. This year we have welcomed Barbara Killat as the Assistant Pastor at St Mary's German Lutheran Church, Sarah Farrow as Chaplain of the Lutheran Centre in Thanet Street, and Andy Marshall as Chaplain of the Royal Veterinary College.

Anne Stevens

South Camden Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod met twice in 2017:

On 31 July at St Albans for a Deanery Mapping exercise. As the meeting was inquorate, officers could not be elected.

On 11 October at St Johns Hampstead to elect officers, and then jointly with North Camden Deanery.

The Deanery will meet next on 15 May at St Alban's in Holborn, and people are warmly encouraged to stand as St Pancras representatives.

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS: The annual Common Fund meeting for North and South Camden was held on 23 May at All Hallows in Gospel Oak. The Archdeacon of Hampstead, the Venerable John Hawkins, and the Area Finance Adviser, Theresa Moses, gave details about the Common Fund contributions needed for the 2018 Diocesan budget. The Edmonton Area Meeting was held on 22 November.

Dorothea Hackman, Deanery Synod Representative

St Mary & St Pancras School

We were pleased to welcome Head Teacher Jules Belton to St Pancras on Easter Sunday this year. The school's Christian ethos forms a major part of their mission statement: 'Every aspect of our work is underpinned by our distinct Christian values; friendship, forgiveness, endurance, respect and thankfulness.'

I continue to take assemblies every fortnight during term time, and have attended various other services, events and training sessions during the year.



The Christingle Service

Greg Powell has taken over from Mark Paul-Clark as the St Pancras PCC Foundation Governor. He and I represent the church on the governing body, which meets every month in term time. This year I have also taken on the role of Safeguarding Governor.

Anne Stevens

Working with the local community

As a church we continue to be closely involved with the local community, working in close partnership with people of all faiths and none on a range of issues and activities.



Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, at the service commemorating the Kings Cross Fire

These partnerships were reflected in the various special services we hosted this year:

- A Service of Thanksgiving for St James' Gardens prior to their destruction (planned with local HS2 campaigners)
- A Service marking the 30th Anniversary of the Kings Cross Fire (planned with TfL, the London Fire Brigade and others)
- A Service marking the Centenary of the Entry into Jerusalem in WW1 (planned with the St Pancras Regiment Old Comrades Association)
- The Mayor of Camden's Civic Service for Remembrance Day (Guest Preacher: Rabbi Altshuler)
- The Edmonton Area Ordination Service

Our work with the Euston Foodbank and with local groups campaigning against HS2 is described in detail in the Churchwardens' report. In addition to this many of the congregation are governors at local schools, including St Mary & St Pancras, Netley and Christ Church Schools. Sally Ede and I are on the Board of the Kings Cross & Brunswick Neighbourhood Association which runs most of the area's youth work, together with specialist activities for migrant communities and older people. Dorothea Hackman is chair of the Camden Civic Society and the Euston Foodbank. Tony Rouse continues to serve on the Board of the Camden Churches Cold Weather Shelter. I am also a Trustee of the Tavistock Square Memorial Trust.

Anne Stevens

PSALM – Project for Seniors and Lifelong Ministry

Early in 2017, Gaynor Dunmall and her family moved out of London and PSALM acknowledged her significant contribution to the organisation with gratitude. The need for additional administrative support prompted the Executive Committee to undertake a wider consideration of the future shape and immediate priorities, as well as outlining a medium term plan for PSALM which included strengthening and adding to the core team. We were delighted to welcome Helen Skinner and Libby Lazenby, who will share administrative tasks between them.

PSALM has continued to meet its objective of encouraging a wider understanding of the benefits of taking ageing and faith seriously by:

- Running workshops on relevant themes. Two workshops were held at St Pancras Church Hall on ‘Generosity’ in May, and ‘Memory and Memories’ in November: these were both warmly received and provided opportunities for reflection, discussion and laughter. Workshops were also held at St Mary Abbots in association with the Kensington and Chelsea Older People’s Forum.
- Training for volunteers linked to Streatham Senior Connections who are working with older people. Ann Wright and Joanna Cox led two sessions on ‘Listening and communicating well’ and ‘Boundaries, expectations and safeguarding’ for pastoral visitors and befrienders.
- Consultancy was offered to church groups wanting to expand their ministry with older people. An interesting example was a group of pastors from the Netherlands who were visiting the UK on a study tour, had heard of PSALM and met Ann Morisy to find out more about our approach and work.
- Networking with other groups with a similar interest in faith and ageing has continued. Ann Morisy led a workshop for SAGE (Southwark Diocesan Working Group on ageing) in May, and also gave presentations to Christ Church Southgate and Churches Together in Orpington.

At the beginning of 2018, PSALM is in good shape and with plans to move from maintenance into growth. This would not be possible without the commitment of St Pancras, and the core team and Executive Committee are grateful for the support of Rev Anne Stevens and the PCC.

Ann Wright