

St Pancras Church



Annual Report for 2020

*Presented at the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
23rd May 2021*

St Pancras Church Trustees

Parochial Church Council 2020

Vicar	Revd Anne Stevens	Chair	
UCL Chaplain	Revd Charlotte Bradley	<i>until 15/11/20</i>	
Readers	Michael Ogden Olyve Johnson		
Churchwardens	Dorothea Hackman Duncan Lamont	(also Hon Treasurer)	
Deanery Synod	Dorothea Hackman Patrick Brough	(2023) (2023)	
Elected	Patrick Brough John Thomlinson Jean Hill Jonathan Lewin Anne Rouse Tony Rouse	(2023) (2022) (2021) (2021) (2021) (2023)	Hon PCC Secretary Deputy Churchwarden
Ex Officio	Eve Poole	General Synod	

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

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Introduction



As I write this report, we are conducting a Community Audit to find out how our congregation and local community has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. When the results come in, the PCC will discuss the shape of our future ministry, and revise our Mission Action Plan in the light of the needs that are emerging. This is the central vision we will be basing our work around:

Central London is in a state of flux. For the last year the Covid-19 pandemic has filled our hospital wards and emptied our streets and workplaces. We do not know how long the pandemic will last, and we do not yet know how its long-term consequences will begin to reshape the pattern of life in our local community.

In the midst of this uncertainty, the central truths of the gospel do not change. 'Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever.' (Hebrews 13.8) St Pancras will continue to be a centre for Christian prayer and worship, and a place where faith can be sought and found. We will continue to pray for our community, and to do all we can to be a sign of God's love for all people. We will continue to work for the Kingdom that Christ proclaimed, with its emphasis on inclusion, freedom and justice.

The church, like every other organisation, will need to rethink how it works in a fast-changing world. But this is not a time to be inward looking, focusing only on our own survival. 'Seek the welfare of the city ... for in its welfare you will find your welfare.' (Jeremiah 29.7) The next few years will be a time of recovery and renewal for everyone. We want to 'think globally and act locally,' taking the opportunity to forge new partnerships in the community; to reflect with our friends and neighbours on the changing patterns of city centre life; and to work together in new ways that will improve the quality of life for people in this area and in the wider world.

The Audit was funded with a grant from the Heritage Culture Recovery Fund, one of a number of government grants we received in 2020 (see the Finance report below). These covered our running costs and enabled us to re-open from the beginning of July. We have remained open since then. Public worship has been suspended at various points, but the church has consistently welcomed over 150 visitors a week. Some come to pray. Some come for a Foodbank voucher. Some come for a brief moment of human contact. In recent weeks it has been a joy to resume our services once again and to welcome back the congregation and the choir. Despite our enforced distancing, it feels as though the congregation has grown closer over the last year; and I am particularly grateful for all the support and encouragement I have received. Thank you.

As ever, heartfelt thanks go to our Churchwardens Dorothea Hackman & Duncan Lamont, to the PCC, and to our staff especially Miriam Campbell our Parish Manager and our caretakers Alain, Colin and Ronnie who do so much to support the church's life. Thanks also go to all the members of the congregation who volunteer their help with our services and events.

Revd Anne Stevens, Vicar

Highlights of 2020

This summary reports on our major services and events in 2020 and on the activities and decisions of the PCC.

January – Feb

- PCC Vision Day
- Landscaping work in South Garden
- One of the hall heaters replaced

March – April

- Lent Course – Saying Yes to Life
- Public worship suspended and church building closed during pandemic lockdown
- Twice-weekly bulletin starts
- PCC - review of expenditure, investments and staffing

May – June

- The Bible Study group began meeting every week online
- Covid-19 Appeal opened
- PCC - ongoing review of finances and staffing
- PCC - revised our 2020 Common Fund contribution to Diocese - £42,600 (50%)
- Bryan Jury left the staff team

July – Aug

- The church re-opened for public worship and private prayer (5 days a week)
- Colin Peart joins the team of Caretakers
- PCC - authorised caryatid survey
- Repairs to tower netting and leadwork on apse roof

Sept – Oct

- Open House Weekend, with c.250 visitors
- Held APCM; received 2019 report and elected 2020/21 Churchwardens & PCC members
- Jane Bishop and Deseline Djiayep left the staff team
- PCC - Health & Safety report received; policy reviewed and approved.
- PCC - 2019 draft accounts approved
- PCC - agreed to extend electricity supply to South Garden
- Miriam Campbell started work as Parish Manager

Nov – Dec

- Civic Service for Remembrance Day in the South Garden
- Public worship suspended in November; restored in December
- Church remains open 5 days a week throughout
- Charlotte Bradley's term as UCL Chaplain ends
- PCC - Safeguarding Policy reviewed and approved. Our annual Safeguarding Audit reviewed our procedures. No incidents were reported this year.
- PCC - 2021 budget approved
- PCC - authorised new radiators for Parish Office
- PCC - authorised Faculty application for 'Flight' statue in North Garden
- Advent & Christmas Services

Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll of the church grew from 77 to 80, 18 of whom live in the parish.

PCC Finances 2020

The annual accounts for 2020 have been approved by the Independent Examiner. The PCC recommends that they are adopted by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Although our regular income was severely affected by the pandemic, this was offset by grants from the HMRC Covid Job Retention Scheme, the Heritage Emergency Fund and the Heritage Culture Recovery Fund. We also received a generous bequest from the estate of Jennifer Tanner, a former Churchwarden. These all form part of our 'restricted' funds, which are only available for specific activities.

In September 2020 we launched our Covid-19 Appeal Fund, aiming to raise £20,000. So far we have raised £4135 in one-off donations, and regular giving commitments that will total £3540 per annum. If we are to expand our range of services and activities again, our financial situation will need to improve. There are early signs that our bookings are picking up, but much will depend on how well the area as a whole comes back to life. The PCC will continue to monitor the situation closely and will provide regular updates for church members.

Deanery Synod 2020

In 2020 the Deanery of Camden was formed, merging the previous deaneries of North and South Camden. Owing to the pandemic, the Deanery Synod was unable to meet in 2020. An online meeting is planned for 25 May 2021.

