

APCM REPORTS 2020



**‘Faith, Hope and Love in the heart of
Streatham’**

RECTORS REPORT

I did not imagine that I would be writing this report in the context of a global pandemic and in the middle of a national lockdown, but we are where we are and by God's grace we remain in good heart. I would like to thank everyone who has been working hard to ensure that the good ship 'St Leonard's Streatham' keeps sailing on, despite the current necessary limitations. Our online Sunday services have been very well received, often attracting viewers from across the globe and drawing in a wider audience than we could have imagined a few months ago. Our Easter Sunday worship has been viewed around 800 times as I write! Particular tribute must be paid to Nick Turner, our media editor in chief, and our musicians who have kept us singing and enjoying the music we so love at St Leonard's.

That said, I do miss you all enormously and am longing for the day we are permitted to worship together again 'in the flesh'.

2019 has been a good year at St Leonard's and I continue to feel honoured to serve as your Rector. Following this report is a copy of our Mission Action Plan (MAP) as it stands today (Appendix 1). I hope you feel as encouraged as I do when I see the progress we have made since our Parish vision day at St Leonard's School last July. I will not attempt to repeat the contents here but would like to mention some significant highlights.

In July 2019 Hayley Argles – Grant was allocated to St Leonard's as part time curate and it has been a joy to welcome Hayley among us and to support her in her training pathway. Hayley has taken to St Leonard's like a duck to water and both her gifts and cheerful presence have enriched our common life enormously.

The Mimi Heinrich legacy of 20K gave the PCC the confidence to deepen our commitment to Church music by the creating a second appointment to the music department. In September 2019 we welcomed Calum Fraser as our new Director of Music and Travis Baker as our new Organist. The combination of their talent, commitment and energy has transformed our music at St Leonard's. The adult choir has found fresh focus and their repertoire has become more varied and ambitious. Our weekly choral evensong is a particular jewel in the crown. Another highlight of this new development is the establishment of our children's choir which has delighted us all on the first Sunday of each month and is rich with promise for the days to come.

When I arrived at St Leonard's in September 2017 the youth group was in abeyance and so I am delighted that this year this has been resolved with the formation of 'Pulse', which meets every Friday evening in the church under the leadership of Nick and Rachel Turner and a groups of brilliant volunteers. I will let the report speak for itself.

The return of Ali Angus to the fold of St Leonard's in July coincided perfectly with the securing of a generous grant to establish an Eco Congregation. Ali has stepped seamlessly into the role of Eco Church leader and is bringing to birth a new and creative gathering once a month which

is both critical to this time of climate crisis and innovative in the way it is reaching a new audience at St Leonard's.

The needs of our ancient building are never far from our minds and this year we addressed a serious crack in the North Porch. The bonus of this repair was the gift of a small creche and meeting room in what was the old porch stairwell. Both rooms provide us with valuable space for our mission and ministry and we are most grateful to our primary funders Viridor Environmental Credits for their financial support.

In the year to come we hope to turn our attention to a renewed lighting scheme, the repair of the east end roof and the replacement of perspex covers to the windows with grilles, in line with the rest of the nave. This will allow light to flood the chancel through our magnificent stained glass, which will be wonderful! Of course, this is all dependent on the raising of funds, the securing of grants and the all-important permissions from heritage bodies.

Much of the PCC's attention this year has been on our stewardship of the Church Hall. A building report in 2018 indicated that it was in dire need of repair. The Spires Charity has been our long-term tenant of 20 years but sadly has not maintained the building during this time. Unless we take the hall back into our primary control, we are risk of losing a valuable asset and we would be in neglect of our duty as trustees of our own Charity. However, we value the historic relationship with The Spires and so have spent many months negotiating what a new arrangement might look like with them under new lease terms. As I write, we are preparing a short-term lease with the Spires (3 years) at the end of which Spires will be vacating the upper floors of the hall to new premises. However, they will continue as hirers delivering their outreach service three days a week from the main hall on the ground floor. This will mean we can raise funds to restore the hall to its former glory, use the upper rooms to generate income for the ongoing maintenance of the hall and The Spires continue to have a base from which to do their important outreach work. It has been a complex and at times difficult period of negotiation but worth it.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my colleagues The Clergy Team who enrich our worship and strengthen our teaching at St Leonard's; our Parish Secretary Eileen McLoughlin, without whose skill, devotion and unquenchable kindness I would not cope administratively; Calum Fraser and Travis Baker, our musicians, who are a joy to work with and bring so much to our worship; and last, but by no means least, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to our Churchwardens and Treasurer. Moyra, Ann and Sien Yin serve us with such devotion and skill; I could not ask for a better team.

It continues to be the greatest honour and joy to serve you as Rector. As someone once said – we do not know what the future holds but we do know who holds the future – to God be the glory now and always.

With my love and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna', written in a cursive style.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Remembering 2019 is quite a challenge as memories have been obscured by the impact and implications of Covid-19. However, it is important to trawl our memories because 2019 was a splendid year at St Leonard's with progress made on many fronts, most of which will be acknowledged in other parts of this annual report.

As churchwardens our primary responsibility is for the building and churchyard. As in 2018, during 2019 there were many undoubted improvements both in relation to the building and the churchyard:

The very serious structural problem on the north side of the building was resolved. The culprits proved to be subsidence – perhaps due to a 1940s bomb - and the nearby massive Turkey Oak tree (which continued its insults by providing a home for five nests of Oak Processionary Moth¹), all combined with poor drainage. The crack that resulted was so serious that it resulted in the church building being placed on the 'Heritage at risk register' by Historic England. Fundraising by our redevelopment team combined with astute financial management by our Treasurer enabled us to achieve the money needed to repair the crack *and* provide a small creche room on the ground floor and a small meeting room in the upper space. Mick Lock and his building team were a delight to have on board and our thanks are also due to the funding we received from Viridor Credits. Viridor operates the energy-from-waste facility at Beddington and we are eligible for support because of our proximity to this site.

Security matters were addressed. New locks were fitted throughout the church which also enabled closer control of keys. A faculty was obtained to enable us to install CCTV cover for the building as well as fit cameras and alarms on the roof.

A faculty was submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee to improve and renew the church lighting system. This work will be undertaken in 2020.

An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to provide a lift and improve access in the gallery proved unsuccessful. In God's mysterious way the availability of the gallery for storage has been essential to the progress on our Mission Action Plan. If you raise your eyes to the gallery you will note:

- Racks for thirty cassocks for the junior choir
- Table football plus other essential items for the Pulse, our new youth group
- Fifteen holdalls for bedding for homeless men to whom we offer hospitality and overnight shelter on Saturdays as part of Streatham and Mitcham Churches Winter Nightshelter
- A lovely new nave roof – part of the 2018 work programme

¹ Oak Processionary Moth has caterpillars that are covered in irritant hairs that can pose a health risk to humans and animals. The moth is not native to Britain but has become established in London and some surrounding areas since it was first found in south west London in 2005.

Nevertheless, this knockback led to a change in priorities, with work to replace the complicated roofs over the chancel moving up the list and is now top priority. We are now positioning ourselves to undertake this task during 2020 and no doubt into 2021.

The dishevelled state of our Church Hall was a matter of concern in 2019. A building survey was commissioned to identify the work that is needed on the hall which, if not undertaken, places the building at risk. The cost of this level of work is beyond our means under the present arrangement we have with Spires. The PCC, as charity trustees, are responsible for managing our assets responsibly, and the church hall is a major asset. For a number of years we have been in conversation with Spires who have held a long-term lease on the hall. During 2019 there have been thorough negotiations with the trustees of Spires to ensure the viability of the building as a resource for the community and ensure a sustainable way forward for Spires and its work with homeless people. We look forward to a good outcome with new agreements signed in 2020.

One of the bright spots of 2019 was the partnership with Lambeth Landscapes (London Borough of Lambeth) in relation to our Churchyard. Your churchwardens could fill many an hour telling of the statutes that apply to churchyards... here are just a few noteworthy facts:

- St Leonard's Churchyard was closed (by an Order in Council) to further burials in 1857 (see London Gazette Nov 6 1857)
- As it is legally recognised as closed, in 2019 the PCC transferred liability for the church yard on the basis of s.215 of the Local Government Act 1972 to the London Borough of Lambeth for its maintenance and repair. This transfer has no effect on the ownership of the land and the interment of ashes can continue.
- The specific duties transferred to Lambeth in 2019... repair of boundary walls ... paths to be maintained in a sympathetic manner... tombstones, monuments and memorials maintained and repaired in a manner consistent with their historic and archaeological value... tree maintenance and preservation ... and herbage: to keep the church yard in decent order, to include dealing with saplings, bushes, brambles, weeds and grass and liability for public safety. Oh... and responsible for sorting out the Oak Processionary Moths!

We can't tell you what a boon this has been, for sure it has saved us money but it has also saved us from a lot of worry. And there has been another gain: Ruth Davies is Lambeth Landscapes Parks Development Officer and the person with whom we link – very efficiently and promptly. Through Ruth we have received plants and bulbs for Eco-Church to plant out and news of the Council's intention to seek funding so they can repair the three graves in our churchyard on Historic England's 'Heritage at risk register'. So in 2019, as well as thanking John Brown and his team, and to Phil Heeley for continuing to keep our remarkable churchyard tidy, we also thank the team from Lambeth Landscapes for maintaining our verdant oasis as a public open space.

We also had a Birthday and a Murder Mystery Thank you Party in 2019. Tim Davies completed his term of office as churchwarden coinciding with his 70th birthday. We were very

pleased to make the occasion the opportunity to give very deep thanks to Tim for his major contribution to the life of St Leonard's. Not only did Tim steer us single-handedly through the interregnum, he also provided a secure platform from which to build good practice in relation to the non-negotiable health and safety practices that are the daily diet for Churchwardens. Thank you, Tim!

In 2019 we were pleased to have Sue and Phil Heeley come onboard as assistant churchwardens. Sue and Phil oversee the tasks which have to be done associated with health and safety in relation to the building as well as arranging for the many visits required by the engineers to tweak the telephone mast in the spire! Warm thanks are due to them both.

We should also like to thank those who put together the many rotas that are vital to the life of a church as well as thank those who are happy to be part of these numerous rotas. The list of people who contribute to the happy ship of St Leonard's are far too many to name – but we are grateful for the part you play. We are also deeply grateful to our Rector, the Rev'd Canon Anna Norman-Walker, for her inspired leadership, unfailing good humour and energy, and her authenticity and skill in making known the good news that comes to us through Jesus.

*Moyra Heggie and Ann Morisy
Churchwardens*

FINANCE REPORT

I am pleased to report that the calendar year 2019 ended on a high resulting in an increase in funds carried forward as at 31st December 2019 of £128,596 compared to £106,504 in 2018. I am particularly pleased that although we did not secure enough funding from third parties to repair the crack in the North Porch, we were able to use our existing funds to finance and complete the project.

Income from donors, i.e. parishioners and church attendees amounted to £109,439 representing an increase of £4,132 year on year. We also received a legacy of £20,000 which is being used to ensure that we can continue to have a vibrant choir and great music at St Leonard's Church.

*Sien Yin Cheng
Treasurer*

End of year accounts can be downloaded from the website as an appendix to this report.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The work of St Leonard's safeguarding officers, Sue Heeley and Ken Gordon quietly continues through the year of the Parish. Appointed by the PCC and working closely with the Rector we try to ensure the safety of all, whatever their age or vulnerability, who access our church and participate in the many activities throughout the year.

All will be too aware of the never-ending stream nationally of the many serious allegations of abuse to persons of all ages and vulnerability in all its forms. As a result, various independent inquiries are on-going; the main one led by Professor Alexis Jay into Child Sexual Abuse and in common with many other national organisations, the Church of England has appeared before this inquiry. Perhaps as a result of this, each Diocese of the C of E has now been independently audited in respect of safeguarding and indeed, at parish levels we have been required to conduct our own self-audits and anticipate this to continue. There are also various committees constantly updating safeguarding policies and guidelines which will continue long into the future so it is a constantly changing picture.

The Diocesan Policies are to be found in the various Church of England documents and in particular '**A Safe Church**' which encompasses same and has been adopted by the PCC. This sets out in detail the policies to ensure the safety of all and during the past couple of years has and continues to be updated. To assist Bishop Christopher, the Diocese has a small but very effective Safeguarding Advisory Team led for the last six years by Kate Singleton. Sadly Kate will be leaving at the end of April to take up a National Post, but she has ensured a highly competent team remains in place which continues to give assistance and advice. We wish Kate well in her new post and express a thank you for all the assistance given to St. Leonard's and the Diocese over the past years.

During the past year our growing group of young people have been actively involved in the life of our church through toddler church, crèche, children's church, youth group, junior choir, as servers, Taize Service and much more. Their safety is of the highest priority and all adults responsible for leading/ supervising are recruited following our safeguarding policy and procedures.

Having covered young people, many others are involved in the life of our church some vulnerable through age or other reasons. It is important we are aware of these adults and afford to them, the same protection we give to our younger members. Those visiting the housebound or involved in the leadership of groups and events for older people are subject to safeguarding procedures and guidelines as contained in the Diocesan policies.

We feel sure St. Leonard's is a safe church and that it will continue to remain so but, that can only be achieved with the assistance of **all members of the church family** being actively aware of safeguarding and if concerns arise, speaking with Anna, Sue or Ken.

Lastly, we would like to remind everyone that all safeguarding policies can be easily accessed through the church web-site together with contact details for Ken, Sue and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers. We end by expressing grateful thanks for the help given by many to each of us throughout the past year.

Ken Gordon/Sue Heeley

CHILDREN'S CHURCH REPORT

Children's Church has continued strongly over the past year. The headcount of regular attendees has remained at around 40-50 children, with 20+ attending most weeks.

All children depart for Children's Church during the Gloria and return during the Peace, allowing around 30 minutes for the session. Having mentioned in last year's report that we had divided the group into two, we have now created a third group for our very oldest children (those of at least secondary school age who would prefer a more adult discussion) who meet in the newly created small meeting room. The under 9s continue to meet in the Chapel of Unity and the group for those aged 9 and over is now located in the Clergy Vestry.

With three groups of 5 to 15 children each week, the spaces that we use are just about big enough for our needs, although there are some challenges for the leaders of the middle group as the Clergy Vestry is particularly tight on space during busy weeks. This is something that we will keep under review in the hope that a more suitable space will be available in the future.

For the younger group, the first part of each session involves an activity focused on the theme of the service and a simplified version of the Gospel Reading (which reflect those in the adult service), usually taken from the Roots learning and worship resources. Time permitting, the children do some creative activities towards the end of the session.

The middle group covers a wider range of activities, but always based around the same central theme as both the younger group and the adult congregation.

The oldest group discusses the theme of the service and liturgy.

We would like to thank our growing team of regular helpers including Eileen, Clare, Frances, Temi, Justine, Sue, Miranda, Beauty, Nick, Hayley and Ali, as well as our young volunteer, Bethia, who has helped out frequently over the past few months as part of her DofE award.

We look forward to continuing our work with the children of St Leonard's during the coming year!

Julia, Rachel and Alison

PULSE (YOUTH CLUB) REPORT

The past year has seen the launch of Pulse – St Leonards Youth group for young people in school year 6 and above. After a couple of taster sessions in the summer, we started regular meetings in September and now meet every Friday during term time in the church. We regularly get between 15 and 20 young people attending. A usual Pulse session consists of games, crafts and free time to hang out and play board games, pool, table tennis etc. We also share a meal together before spending some time learning about God and reflecting on how our faith is relevant and has an impact on our lives. In addition to our regular Pulse meeting, we have shared other social events. These have included a torch-lit treasure hunt in the church grounds and a fab Christmas party. We have also provided opportunities for the young people to engage and support others. We held a baking evening to make cakes to sell to support the church Christmas appeal to support local families and also spent an evening preparing food which was then served to the homeless guests at the Saturday night shelter. Last summer, we took a group of young people to a Christian camp in Ripon, Yorkshire. We had an even bigger group signed up this year, but as the camp has had to be cancelled, we are thinking of other ways we might be able to take a group away for a few nights of fun. We are currently holding weekly Zoom Pulse sessions during the Covid-19 lockdown, and have lots of fun playing games such as charades and quizzes. This also gives us the opportunity to check in and encourage the young people through this challenging time. We have a great, committed core team of leaders from the wider church community who volunteer their time and skills to help run the club, cook lovely food, and spend time building relationships with the young people.

Nick & Rachel Turner

ECO CHURCH REPORT

Background

At the Parish Visioning Day 2019, an exercise was carried out to map St Leonard's missional activity in the community against the Five Marks of Mission which are:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

This was done to see not only how well we were doing, but also to identify where the possibilities were for new mission projects, as Archbishop Rowan Williams says 'seeing what God is doing and joining in'. A gap was identified around the 5th Mark of Mission, and many people felt that they wanted to do something as a Church that would bring together their concern for the environment and faith. Canon Anna and the PCC explored the possibilities and decided to set up a 'Fresh Expression' of Church, a new congregation who would meet around their concern about climate change and seek to devise new ways of living more sustainable and greener lives. Funding was secured from Southwark Diocese for three years, and I was appointed in December 2019 as Eco Missioner to help fulfil this vision.

Structure

We are just at the beginning of this venture and it is exciting to explore how we can grow as an Eco Congregation and what we can do together to make an impact on the dignity and quality of all life - not just in our community here in Streatham but throughout the whole planet. We are learning, campaigning and growing together as part of our discipleship journey. Eco Church meets on the fourth Saturday of the month from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. The structure has three main elements: welcome, activities and worship. Our first gathering explored the theme of 'plastic-free' with a speaker from Plastic Free Streatham. At our second gathering we welcomed a speaker from A Rocha UK who talked about their award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the Gospel is good news for God's earth. The worship has a simple format of prayers and scripture and we have been delighted to learn new songs which we sing acapella, led by Zoie Kennedy of Singing Mamas. We have had 30+ people of all ages at the two gatherings in January and February, which has been a promising start. We have established a small working group: Margaret Kesterton, Tim Davies, Tom Stanbury, Toby Dare and new member Hannah Koffshun. This group meets monthly to plan the gathering; they also volunteer at Eco Church, facilitating activities and enabling the gathering to run smoothly. I would like to take the opportunity here to say a huge thank you to them and to all those of you who have volunteered at Eco Church so far. It's been fun!

The Future

We have been forward planning with speakers invited through to September of this year; Covid-19 and the resulting lockdown has meant that we have had to cancel our gatherings in line with all Church closures. We are looking at ways to meet together virtually until we can be together in Church. We have plans for an art project, community gardening, and to explore the links between faith and ecology, God and creation. We have also been allocated a raised bed plot at Streatham Community Gardens and we will be growing and nurturing plants to grow there when the gardens reopen. You can email me on: ecochurchsw16@stleonard-streatham.org.uk

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

During 2019 the 27 members of you who have Children's Society boxes provided me with many hours of occupation sorting and counting coins, happily many more of the silver variety but they still weigh just as much on our trips to the bank. The total sum raised from the boxes and the Christmas greetings was £656.45 (£150 more than 2018). Thank you to all who contribute to the important work of the Society especially to Kate for her patient coin sorting skills and to Phil for lugging the bags down to the bank.

Sue Heeley

CHRISTIAN AID REPORT

We are delighted to welcome Liz Stevenson as our new Christian Aid rep. Liz has taken the reigns from David How who served in this role faithfully for many years. Liz has attended a community briefing hosted by Christian Aid and plans were in place for a special parish focus during Christian Aid week (10th – 16th May). Covid – 19 has made this difficult and so we hope to translate our 'Christian Aid Sunday' to Harvest Festival on October 3rd and welcome a speaker to our worship from Christian Aid and to include some fundraising activities around it. We shall ensure that Christian Aid resources are available to you for Christian Aid week and we shall include the work of Christian Aid in special prayers on May 10th.

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH ARCHIVIST REPORT

I continue to receive numerous enquiries concerning the history of St. Leonard's church and the parish of Streatham and during the past year information and assistance has been provided to:

Ken Strange of California concerning his great great grandfather, Charles Barter Strange, who attended the Royal Society of St. Ann's Asylum at Streatham Hill in the 1860s.

Ms Terry Carnes concerning her great, great grandfather, James Chapman, who was baptised in St. Leonard's Church in 1815 and emigrated to the United States in 1855.

Mrs Valerie Conboy from Melbourne, Australia, who, together with her husband, is researching the life of Edmund Tylney, Master of the Revels to Queen Elizabeth I and King James I who lived in Streatham and was buried in St. Leonard's church in 1610. His magnificent monument is in the Chapel of Unity.

Mr Bob Moore of Adelaide concerning members of the Lamb family who lived in Streatham in the first half of the 19th century; the head of the family, Philip Lamb, being buried in our churchyard in 1851.

Ms Laurie Ross concerning the marriage of Joseph Price and Sarah Dunning at St. Leonard's Church in 1866.

Mr Paul Toomey concerning a marriage attended by his great, great grandfather, Samuel Jeffrey Town at St. Leonard's Church in 1847.

Ms Debbie Hodgett Sumner of Oklahoma, USA, concerning the Howland family of Streatham in the 16th and 17th centuries, members of which were Lords of the Manor of Streatham and Tooting Bec to whom she believed her family were related.

Mr Stephen R Hearnden BSc CEng FIET FITP of Bromley concerning his researches into the Borradaile family who had extensive land holdings in Balham and played a prominent part in the life of Streatham in the first half of the 19th century; members of which were buried in St. Leonard's churchyard and interred in the crypt of the church.

Lynne Rhodes of Yorkshire concerning the family of John Rhodes who lived in Streatham between 1782 and the mid 1800s. He is buried in our graveyard and was one of the villagers who apprehended three men from Southwark who were attempting to steal a body from the graveyard in 1814.

Karen and Rosie Ottley of Australia concerning ten members of the Collinson family who were buried in our churchyard in the late 18th and early 19th century.

Catherine Birch of New Zealand concerning a marriage between John Booth and Mary Milliken/Milligan which, although claimed to have taken place at St. Leonard's church in 1878/9, does not appear in our parish registers.

Mike Innes concerning the stained glass designed by John Hayward in St. Leonard's church.

I assisted the Rector conduct six tours of the crypt and belfry for members of Sunnyhill School who visited the church in May 2019.

Once again I extend our thanks and appreciation to Fay Whiting who, every Monday, undertakes gardening work in the churchyard. Through her continuing labours the churchyard is home to a variety of wild flowers and a haven for wildlife. I also thank Keith Holdaway who now, in his late 80s and suffering ill health, "retired" earlier this year from his weekly litter pick in our graveyard which he has undertaken for many years as a faithful member of our Monday Church Watch team. Thanks also to Ray Meerabeau of the friends of the Monday Church Watch for his very generous contributions of tea, coffee and chocolate to St. Leonard's larder throughout the year. I am also grateful to the many others who have toiled in the churchyard keeping it clean and free from litter and have helped make graveyard such a pleasant place to visit.

*John W Brown
Church Archivist*

CHURCH WATCH REPORT

Until the recent lockdown our dedicated team of church watchers have been keeping the church open on weekdays from Monday to Thursday between 11.00am and 2.00pm. Those of us who serve in this way have provided opportunities for reflection and prayer for all who enter, and have welcomed visitors many of whom might not otherwise come into St Leonard's.

Church watchers carry out many important tasks including clearing and gardening in the churchyard, changing the light bulbs and cleaning, as well as guiding visitors around the church.

I look forward to Church Watch resuming when St Leonard's Church opens again.

*Tim Davies
Church Watch Coordinator*

COFFEE TEAM

Many thanks to everyone on the regular rota who have served tea and coffee so efficiently throughout the year. I know the congregation really appreciate your friendly service every Sunday.

If there is anyone who would like to join the reserve list of people who are willing to fill in when necessary please let me know. We are always pleased to have extras.

Susan Gibson.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Meetings: 13 June 2019, 3 October 2019, 27 February 2020

13 June 2019 – Vision and Strategy

This was illustrated by Anna talking about **Mission and Ministry at St Leonard's**

Anna spoke about our Mission Action Plan focus on **Worship, Vulnerable People, and Future Generations**

- **Worship** has been much about the building and also the development of Taize
- **Vulnerable groups** has featured the work with older adults including Holiday at Home and work with Streatham Senior Connections, Love Streatham, the food bank and the Christmas fare by the Freedom Club.
- **Future Generations** was about the start of the Youth Group to focus on teenagers—and the need for 3 age groups for Sunday school

Anna invited all to join the Extinction Rebellion talk at St Leonard's on 21 June

3rd October 2019 – work for the vulnerable in society

Patrick Regan of **Kintsugi Hope** gave a presentation on the work of the charity to address mental health and to work with churches on all aspects of brokenness, anxiety and depression.

Patrick's reflections on the Church's potential to help people have more honest conversation about mental health is expressed in his book '**Honesty Over Silence**' which captures the experience of individuals carrying their faith through difficult life situations.

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of mending broken pottery with gold over the fractures, to make something broken into a thing of beauty – mirroring the Bible's promise of hope from ashes.

27th February 2020 – Social Action in the Diocese

Jon Mann of the **Children's Society** spoke of their work to address exploitation of young people – often by someone they look up to. This feeds the gang culture and children being exploited to carry drugs and weapons and threatened if they then refuse. Work includes linking with courts in Croydon to provide advocacy and alternatives for young people. Also, lobbying for changes in law and policy which criminalise young people early on

Elizabeth Maytom spoke of the **Norwood and Brixton Food Bank** which provides 10,000 packages of food a year, one third of those for children. Also school uniforms and advice. Debt services (Christians Against Poverty – CAP) are so overwhelmed that have to routinely close their lists. This work is now also offered by volunteers at the food bank, and people with such skills – as well as others – are needed and welcome. They had recently set up a warehouse in St Margaret's the Queen with a £100k grant from City Bridges allowing them to handle over 70,000 tons of food. Donations of funds are useful, as well as food.

Caroline Leveaux

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

There are currently 204 names on the Electoral Roll, a nett increase of 13 since last year (2019 was one of the years when a complete revision is required).

Tony Nunn

ESCORTING RESIDENTS FROM AMBLESIDE CARE HOME

Throughout 2019 a very small number of volunteers continued to bring three residents from the care home, two of whom use wheelchairs, to our main service twice a month. We are always accompanied by a staff member. Sometimes it is not possible to bring the residents if the home is short staffed. If you are interested in helping so we can offer a weekly service do contact me.

My thanks to those of you who provide this service.

Liz Urban

THE FLOWER ARRANGING REPORT

Flowers enhance the beauty of our Church. They contribute to the wellbeing of the congregation and improve the atmosphere within the Church.

However, none of this would be possible without the dedicated team who give their time so tirelessly. Our newest member Bethia is from the youth group and we are delighted to welcome her and any other young people who wish to join us. If there are other young members interested in joining my team, I am more than happy to teach them some basic flower arranging skills.

I would like to thank people in the congregation who so generously donate money for flowers for special occasions i.e birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and funerals as well as Easter and Christmas not forgetting the people who provide us with foliage through the year.

Flowers remind us of nature and it is always a great pleasure to make the arrangements.

Mary Treacy

FREEDOM CLUB REPORT

This group seems to go from strength to strength and links with Streatham Senior Connections do sometimes blur the edges in the nicest possible way with Oona's Mindful Movement, Julie's 60 Minute Sing, Senior Seniors, tea parties, PRS lunches and quizzes as well as the scheduled Freedom Club meetings. We also watched the latest series of The Crown and eagerly await the next instalments.

The committee sadly said goodbye to Helen Blakeney who has moved to West Norwood, but happily greeted Hazel Barlow. We still meet at the café in the local supermarket so can do our shopping afterwards! Thanks to Vin Turkson and Nicky Pepper for spearheading the distribution of our newsletter and Donna Thompson for keeping the mailing list up to date.

We had talks from Major Norman-Walker and Rev'd Eileen Turner as well as trips to Hassocks for the South Downs Heritage Museum and Garden Centre with its great restaurant, we also went to Greenwich for a wander around, especially the Maritime Museum.

A major highlight was the Christmas lunch with around 60 attending, thanks to everyone who helped in this mammoth task, everyone had a gift from Santa herself and the Chamber Choir from Streatham and Clapham High School requested a return visit to practice their pieces for the Nine Lessons and Carols at Southwark Cathedral the following week and then provided a Christmassy singalong with the lunch guests.

DAY RETREAT REPORT

Day retreats provide an opportunity for people to take time out from busy schedules for spiritual refreshment by being with God.

In 2019, we held a retreat in St Leonard's just before Advent. The theme of the day was *Solitude or Loneliness*. This was led by Rev. Eileen Turner who provided us with a wealth of resources and suggestions for us to use in worship and reflection throughout the day as well as a handout of poems and prayers to take away with us.

If people would like a Day Retreat in 2020 do let me know and if you want to help with planning then do contact me.

Liz Urben

GUIDES REPORT

Our numbers have remained strong; we have stayed at over 20 girls throughout the whole year whilst the Leadership team (comprising Kaye, Becky, Millie, Hattie & Jim) has been unchanged.

Main highlights of the 2019 Programme: -

January - Mary Poppins February - Murder Mystery W/E & Thinking Day April - Fork Supper, Thorpe Park & Night Hike May - District Monopoly Challenge June - BP Adventures July - Parents & Siblings Canoeing & Gilwell 24 October - Unit Camp November - Jack Petchey Presentations & Astro Night December - Frozen 2 & Christmas Party.

Mary Poppins Cinema

Girls from our Unit joint thousands of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers from across the country in going to see a dedicated viewing of the new Mary Poppins films at Odeon Cinemas nationwide.

Murder Mystery W/E

One of the Guides favourite events; 2 nights in a warm and comfortable building at Cudham. Over 20 of us, each playing a character from the Wild West, all trying to find the murderer and solve dozens of other challenges. Heavy snow coupled with a hike to see the animals at Christmas Tree Farm, many snowball fights, and some awesome snowmen/snow-women made the weekend even more memorable. Rhiana, Amelie, Izzy L and Clemmie all made their Guide Promise wearing giant inflatable Sumo Suits.

Thinking Day - Crystal Palace Park

A trip to Crystal Palace Park to see see the City Farm, Dinosaurs and the Maze which commemorates Crystal Palace as the place that Girl Guiding started. Phoebe & Mina made their Guide Promises during the day.

Fork Supper

A giant Disney castle, Dumbo, Mary Poppins and host of other Disney Characters, coupled with good food and a dozen acts by the girls entertained nearly 80 guests as a fund raising activity for the Bishop's Lent Appeal. During the evening the County Commissioner awarded Leader Becky with her 5 year Service Award and the District Commissioner presented Maisy with her Jack Petchey Award from the previous year, which she used to help fund a trip to Thorpe Park a few days later.

County Night Hike

We had three teams in the County Night Hike Challenge with the older Team "stepping up" and entering the Ranger competition. The Teams all acquitted themselves well, coming 4th, 5th & 7th out of 19 Teams.

District Monopoly Challenge

The whole of Streatham District played a Giant Game of Monopoly across London. After starting on the London Eye, the Unit had two teams of girls rushing around answering questions about the real locations on the monopoly board. A fun but exhausting day.

Parents & Siblings Canoeing

A great regular, where the Guide's can bring their parent's and siblings for a great family event. It was particularly nice given the hot weather that we were having at the time.

Gilwell 24 & BP Adventures

4 years ago we had a great bunch of girls up from Brownies, they have stayed with us ever since; growing in number as they brought in their mates from school. This was their final summer in Guides; with 5 attaining their BP Challenge (the highest Award for Guides); Esme,

Olivia, Manon, Maisy & Lara; and five of them went on the Gilwell 24 Weekend with the Rangers. At their final Guides Meeting in September, before going up to Rangers, Olivia gave a presentation of her Region Trip to Argentina and the County Commissioner present the BP Challenge Awards.

Unit Camp

In October we had plain ordinary camp at Downe Scout Camp Site; ordinary included wide games, orienteering, zip wire, pedal go-carts, ghost stories around the camp fire and achieving various proficiency badges.

Jack Petchey Presentations and Astro Night

November was good month for Lara; she was presented with her Jack Petchey Award by the Mayor of Lambeth at a multi-borough event in Hounslow, where she played on a grand-piano on stage as part of the entertainment. Just over a week later she used her Award to help fund 16 of our guides to go on Astro Night (a sleepover at the Science Museum).

Christmas

December got very busy with Girlguiding doing another nationwide cinema event; this time Frozen 2, which proved to be a great success, but pushed our Ice Skating & Trail around the Lights, the Christmas Villages and of course Hamleys, into January.

One final important point, which is that December 2020 mark's the 100th Anniversary of the formation of our Guide Unit and we will announcing our plan's to celebrate this in the coming months.

*Kaye Farmer
Unit Leader*

BROWNIES REPORT

6th Streatham Brownies have continued to meet on Monday evenings. We have around 24 brownies aged 7 to 10 yrs. The girl guiding programme has been updated and we are now pretty much following the new programme. The girls still earn badges and the structure and content of the meetings is still interesting. The leaders have been unable to arrange many trips this year but the girls did enjoy their annual 'end of year' family picnic at the lido back in July 2019 and took part in the district World Thinking Day event at Dunraven school in February 2020. During this current pandemic we are having virtual meetings, which are challenging but it does enable many of the girls to see each other and add to the structure of their week. We have attended three services at St Leonards and the girls enjoy being involved in the service along with the guides. As well as Brownies we have 4 teenagers that help us and will hopefully be undertaking their Young leader qualification. Kate Heeley comes along to help, we have a YL almost qualified, who is taking a gap year from her education so will hopefully continue with us a little longer and three adult leaders.

Angie Leach (Brown Owl)

MUSIC REPORT

I am only able to report on activities for the music department from 1st September, as this is when I was appointed.

We currently have 13 regular members of the church choir, with a few others that join us on an occasional basis. Whilst this is a slight increase on last year, it is a long way short of where we need to be and, in an ideal world, I would like to have around 20 singers on our books, operating in a 'squad' system, as nobody is able to be at every single service.

We hope to add to the quantity and quality of the tenor and bass sections by advertising for two choral scholars (tenor and bass) to join the choir from September. This scholarship would involve a small amount of money, to help students with travel etc. plus the offer of complimentary accommodation. I will keep the PCC posted of our progress in this regard.

A few changes were made at the beginning of September: all evensongs are now full choral evensongs, allowing the choir to learn a set of responses and canticles every week; choir rehearsals have moved to Thursday evenings, which means they are one day closer to the services on Sunday; in January, rehearsals moved forward to 7.30pm so the new choristers can eventually overlap with the adults.

Following an October workshop and performances at the Advent and Christmas carol services, our choristers started weekly rehearsals in January. They rehearse from 6pm to 7.15pm every Thursday and we currently have 28 children in the choir. During these rehearsals, we are balancing the need to learn an anthem for the first Sunday of every month with the need to educate the children in music through liturgy, which we are doing through The Royal School of Church Music's 'Voice for Life' programme. This approach appears to be succeeding thus far, but we will only really be able to tell once we have worked with the choristers for a full year.

There is no mistaking the fact that the adult choir needed help to rediscover its direction in September and there was a need to stretch the choir both in terms of repertoire and quality. As such, I am trying to work in a lot more detail during rehearsals. There is a huge amount of natural talent in the choir, and a great deal of commitment from the most regular 10 or 11 singers. I think the future is incredibly bright for the choir, but I am conscious not to stop the recruitment process.

Finally, I have done a lot of work sorting out the choir vestry over the last few months. There was much photocopied music, which I am trying to replace slowly with the annual music budget, alongside purchasing new repertoire that will challenge the choir.

I am very fortunate to have been appointed at the same time as our organist, Travis Baker. Not only do we have an absolutely first-rate organist, but also someone who cares deeply about the music making at the church. Huge thanks must go to Travis for his continued professionalism and support. I am also enormously grateful to Mary Walker for her assistance with our choristers and to Imogen Hanvey for her time as our Choral Scholar this year, both with the adult choir and lending assistance with the choristers.

I am hugely enjoying my time in the role and greatly look forward to much more music making in the church.

*Calum Fraser
Director of Music*

NEW TESTAMENT GREEK (AND COFFEE)

We managed six meetings before a rather long summer break, caused partly by a long visit from my family from Australia, partly by my having two spells of a few days each in hospital, and partly by my having a month of daily trips to the Royal Marsden for radiotherapy. The first two sessions were made more difficult by my being in my 'deaf period', which ended with the insertion of a pair of excellent grommets.

Our last meeting at my home, and therefore the last at which coffee and biscuits were enjoyed, was on 11 March. But we have taken to Zoom, with Nicky Pepper convening the meetings, and it has gone well and made an important contribution to the process of enlivening isolation, which in my case is to last for at least twelve weeks.

In our continued study of Acts we have read of the conversion of Paul, the leadership of Peter, and the start of Paul's travelling ministry with his colleague Barnabas. Recently we read in Chapter 13 of the risk of a preacher accepting an invitation to return next week. After a successful address at Antioch in Pisidia Paul was invited back, but on the next Sabbath the opposition were lying in wait. Paul and Barnabas were stoned and driven out of town. Not a risk run by Dave Tomlinson as a result of his moving online Holy Week and Easter addresses!

As always, I am grateful to Steff Bradley and Nicky for maintaining such devotion to our efforts, and for their friendship and support.

Charles Gibson

OPEN THE BOOK REPORT

This year we seem to have moved rather more slowly than before and we are still in the Old Testament. Our next story will be Jonah The Groaner! No doubt Covid 19 will slow us down even more but we will be ready to go whenever the time is right.

The members of our little team expands and contracts gently and with increasing help from a confident and enthusiastic Year 2, we have managed to cast all the stories without difficulty. However, we are always looking for anyone inclined to try us out. You would be surprised at the fun we get in our rehearsals and on stage too. We often have to work hard to suppress laughter when something completely unexpected happens which only the adults in the room have picked up!

So, looking ahead to the time when we can resume our visits to the school and indeed when we can all meet together again in comparative safety, I hope to report progress.

Pat Aggarwal

RINGERS' REPORT

Sunday morning ringing has improved slightly insofar as we have been able to ring all eight bells, not every week but certainly more often than has been the case in recent years.

The Tower Open Day in October (publicised as part of the Streatham Festival) was a great success with over 50 visitors during the afternoon. There was a video link between the bell chamber and the narthex so that people could watch the bells from downstairs; unfortunately a hardware fault (later traced to a faulty power unit) made it a bit temperamental.

We gained one recruit from that event, David Kirkup. His situation is a little unusual in that he spends half his time in Streatham and half looking after his mother in Whitley Bay, but a quick email to my opposite number at St Paul's, Whitley Bay meant that he was able to continue learning in both locations.

Sadly, at the time of writing all bell ringing is suspended indefinitely in accordance with guidance from the government and CofE, but as soon as restrictions are lifted we will be back in the tower and I hope that some of you may be inspired to join us. After weeks of lock-down you may be in need of some physical exercise and mental stimulation!

*Tony Nunn
Tower Captain*

THE SPACE TO BE: A REPORT SO FAR

Space to be was launched on November 13th 2019. At its simplest, Space to Be(StB) is an hours silence each week from 7.30 to 8.30. We meet during term times, usually sitting in the Chancel area. (I'm grateful to Canon Anna for so often getting the lighting just right for us!) Entry is through the side door which is kept locked so that only participants are admitted. This is important for our safety and peace of mind.

So far we have had fourteen sessions, the remaining few cancelled in March because of the Covid-19 restrictions. Numbers have varied from as few as six and as many as fifteen, with an average of around nine. There are regular attendees but new faces appear on a regular basis as

word of StB gets around. Some of the people who join us are not necessarily worshipers at St Leonards. I wouldn't like to speculate on the age range of the group!

As one participant said ,StB is a precious hour in the midst of a busy week. The hour starts with introductions and then we go into silence. People are invited to start with a period of meditation ,and then a contemplative practice is offered. But everyone is free to do their own thing in the silence!

Managing the mind during silence is the biggest challenge. A brief introduction is usually given to ways to quieten the mind, drawing on the traditions of Christian meditation mainly. The contemplative activity might be slowly digesting a poem or passage of scripture, letting an image speak to the heart, a labyrinth style walk, or an Examen. I hope more experiential activities can be developed, particularly to support eco -church. All this is just offered and not compulsory.

The plan is to build up a team of people to host the hour. I am grateful to Oona Emerson and Rev Eileen Turner for hosting sessions .

There is both an email group and a Whats App group to help keep participants in touch.

Peter Johnson
April 2020

THE SERVERS REPORT

My thanks again to all of the team for their commitment throughout the year. I think a special message of appreciation is due to the younger members of the team, who bring their particular brand of youthful vibrance to the proceedings.

I must also thank those who work so assiduously behind the scenes in keeping St Leonard's chancel looking so great: those tireless people who launder the Altar linen, polish the brass and maintain the Altar frontals. All these tasks require a lot of dedicated work, and they are such an important feature in keeping St Leonard's looking impressive and welcoming.

Of course, this has been a strange situation we've had to live with over the past few weeks. It seems very strange indeed to not be attending St Leonard's over the Holy Week / Easter period. I do, though, very much look forward to meeting all my team again before too much longer, and to getting all the activities in motion again.

Gill Tomlinson

ST LEONARD'S SCHOOL HEADTEACHER REPORT

What is embedded?

Church representation is at the heart of the school's Local Governing Board (LGB) and therefore the strategic leadership of the school. A focus this year in particular has been the development of the pupil, parent and community (PPC) committee, where we have been looking at how the governors can have an impact and monitoring role of the school's Parent Association, ensuring that all sections of our community are catered for and represented. Canon Anna visits at least once a fortnight where she leads whole school worship. Her visits also include safeguarding checks and pastoral care enquiries. Class visits to the church are made in line with each year group's RE curriculum. The Open the Book team regularly present their dramatisation of the bible to our infant children as part of their worship programme. Other key times are the end of term Eucharists which take place in church as well as our Harvest Festival, Act of Remembrance and school carol service. Anna leads confirmation preparation classes for our pupils aged seven and over. The parish has held its annual Mission Day within the school for the past two years and is welcome to use the school's facilities whenever they are available.

What is new?

Both the curate (at harvest time) and the eco church leader have also led an act of worship in school. The parish choir master visited the school to see our choir rehearse and subsequently the school's choir members had the opportunity to join the children's choir at the church. This is working very well as they receive the required training to progress through the Voice for Life programme and our children have already had the opportunity to sing in church. In school on a Monday we pray for those named on the parish service sheet as asking for our prayers.

What is to come?

As a school, we wish to stay true to our foundation. As such, we are looking at ways in which we can make meaningful links to serve those who have been in prison as well as those involved in childbirth and maternity care. As the eco church leader, Ali is looking to create a team of church volunteers willing to come and tend the school's vegetable garden with some of our more vulnerable pupils, with a view to donating some produce to the Nehemiah Project. Anna is seeking to introduce the school with some of the project's personnel at an appropriate point in the coming school year.

We are also going to be raising money for these two causes. <https://www.first-touch.org.uk/> which supports sick and premature babies at St. George's Hospital and this, which supports maternity services at St. Georges: [Carmen Suite](#)

Simon Jackson

ST. LEONARD'S SCHOOL GOVERNORS

First I would like to send an introduction as becoming chair of the governing body in September. I would like to thank Sue Heeley for all her work as chair over the past 8 years and she re-joins the body as a governor.

Continuing their service as representatives nominated by the PCC to sit on the governing body are Julia Dare, Eileen McLoughlin, Denise Hamilton and Anna Jones. They are joined by Rachel Turner, who has moved from a parent governor to being nominated by the PCC. I would like to thank Jean Henry for her service over the past 3 years.

In December, we celebrated the retirement of Anthony Pizzoferro the deputy head. On behalf of the governing body, we thank Tony for his massive contribution at the school over the years and wish him the best in his retirement. Laura Akhtar joins the school as the new deputy head and we all wish her success in the role.

Since joining the Southwark Diocesan Multi Academy Trust, there has been continued growth and development of this partnership. Synergies are being leveraged to ensure the delivery of excellence and the school has been reciprocal in sharing examples of excellence to further the quality of the schools in the cluster.

As we are facing an unprecedented situation with COVID-19, the school has shown remarkable resilience in supporting the children of key workers and those considered vulnerable. Additionally, working with the MAT, the school will be looking to leverage digital solutions to enhance learning during the summer term.

On behalf of the governing body I would like to send thanks and appreciation to Simon Jackson and all of the staff at the school for their hard work and resilience.

Jason Aspell (Chair of Governors)

STREATHAM SENIOR CONNECTIONS

Streatham Senior Connections is a group of volunteers drawn from St Leonard's and other local churches. We organise activities to support older people in Streatham and help older people contribute to the wellbeing of others in our community.

During the last year our activities included:

- **60 minute sing** – new intergenerational music and movement sessions led by Julie McCann
- **Two tea parties** - one to celebrate the memories of the Windrush generation, with over 50 guests, and another hosted by St Peters, with musical entertainment from St Leonard's choir

- **Holiday at Home** – our popular four-day programme of activities attended by over 50 people, including a trip to Denbies Vineyard
- **Conversations for ‘Senior Seniors’** – facilitated by Revd Eileen Turner, a space to talk about life and faith
- **Seniors Celebrate Families at Christmas** - a Christmas fair hosted at St Leonard’s and supporting local families from the refugee drop-in and other local groups by providing gifts for all ages, decorations, and festive food and family activities
- **Lunches and quizzes** hosted by PRS in their staff restaurant in Streatham.
- **Mindful Movement** – our popular exercise and relaxation sessions at St Leonard’s led by Oona Emerson.

Frances Newell

TAIZE REPORT

The once a month Taizé service continues and is a well-established part of the liturgical life of St Leonard's. People of all ages continue to come to the service and there is a regular congregation of about 46 people, many of whom only come to St Leonard's for this evening or worship elsewhere in the morning. The service attracts some newcomers each month, some of whom have seen the service advertised through Facebook, or have been invited by friends or family members, or are visiting Streatham for a short while. The service is advertised through the Taizé in London Facebook page and this is updated by Nicky Pepper each month. Children help to set out the candles and prepare the prayer space on Sunday mornings. A number of young people from neighbouring parishes have recently started to play for the services. With thanks to Ann and Ellen, we have continued the hospitality and fellowship through the half-hour 'coffee and cake' before the service. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the services will go online and take place via Zoom.

Julie McCann and the Taizé Team

TODDLER CHURCH REPORT

With 50 families on the books, and an average of 20 children attending Toddler Church each week during term-time, this is all going extremely well. Some of the children are babies; some will be off to school in September; lots are toddling about. About 18 adults come every week, including the main team of 3 (2 clergy and one rank amateur – me) and of course, Dr Pat, who plays the piano for us and can make herself heard above the cacophony of infant drum-banging and tambourine rattling.

The sessions do have a pattern to them; the Wiggle song starts us off and once heard can never truly be forgotten (on the command “Freeze!” several of the older ones have taken to emitting an ear-piercing scream, which takes the unwary by surprise). Then after lighting a candle with the older children holding the stick of the lighter, which is now down to a fine art

so relieving the more nervous onlookers, we have a quieter welcome song and then a story. The story is delivered by one person and illustrated with puppets, and increasingly eccentric live action, to the bemusement of the children and the amusement of the adults. The prayers are a delight with the subjects being suggested by the children— every week we thank God for mummies, daddies, Weetabix (other cereals are available), spiders, bats, dinosaurs and unicorns. After that we sing two songs while the children bash the living daylight out of various very noisy instruments. The instruments are put away, a moment to be treasured, another song, Happy Birthdays, The Grace and finally peace descends as the children hare off down the church for juice and biscuits and the adults have a restorative cup of coffee before playtime.

It's fun and exhausting and not the place to be if you have a headache, and it is very popular. So much so that there is a call for it to take place online as we all must stay inside. And there was me enjoying a peaceful Monday.

Elizabeth Ridout.

REDEVELOPMENT REPORT

During 2019 a nasty crack in the North Porch was repaired and two small rooms installed in the old stair well. We were disappointed that a funding application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in August 2019 for the redevelopment of the gallery and the crypt did not receive support. We then turned our attention to the lighting in the Nave, which requires updating not only to meet current standards but also to reduce our carbon footprint significantly. The Diocesan advisory committee have approved our faculty application and we hope that the Chancellors permission will soon follow. A portion of the Ruth Bradbury legacy has been allocated by the PCC to fund the lighting refurbishment which we hope will be completed by the end of this year. The east end roof needs repair and the windows in the Chancel all require replacement grilles. This work will be the main focus of our redevelopment as we go forward; permissions are being sort after and then the process of funding applications and fundraising must begin again. We are always glad to hear from people who have a gift for filling in the applications and building relationships with funders!

Mission Action Plan St Leonard's Church Streatham



'Faith, Hope and Love in the heart of Streatham'



At our annual 'Parish Vision' day in July 2019 we revisited our existing MAP (2018), celebrated and reviewed all that had been achieved over the past year and refreshed our priorities for the year ahead.

Our four priorities are:

I. Our Worship.

We want to express our gratitude to God by offering the best of who we are and the gifts we have in our worship'

We want our worship to be accessible, welcoming and inclusive of all.

We want to hear what God is saying to us and be open and responsive.

The following were raised as development opportunities at our Parish Vision day (achievements to date are in **bold bullet points**):

Stillness and silence, meditation –

- ❖ **'Space to be' started January 2020. Wednesday evenings 7.30pm with 8 – 14 people attending. Led by Pete Johnson.**

Retreat for all.

- ❖ **Quiet Day held November led by Rev Eileen Turner**

Involvement of children and young people in services.

- ❖ **X2 new child servers recruited. Children's choir singing 1st Sunday Month 26 members.**

Ecumenism and interfaith

- ❖ **Sharing Streatham Seniors with St Peters / Methodists/ Baptist churches locally. Christmas outreach / Holiday at home / craft event all ecumenical**
- ❖ **Night Shelter response is ecumenical**
- ❖ **Interfaith respond to High Road attack deepened relationships.**
- ❖ **Member of Faiths Together in Lambeth.**
- ❖ **Hosting Streatham Faith Trails for schools.**
- ❖ **Hosted a venue for the Streatham interfaith walk on Sept 14th.**

Serving those new to the church

- ❖ **26 infant Baptisms**
- ❖ **2 adult Baptisms**
- ❖ **2 Adult Confirmations**

Prayer review

- ❖ **Prayer lists reviewed and improved communication and follow up in place – action Oona Emmerson**

Healing ministry

- ❖ **Fifth Sunday healing services embedded.**

Training for readers and intercessors.

- ❖ **Objective for 2020**

The building and gallery – improving and enlarging our capacity, inclusivity and flexibility.

- ❖ **Lighting application for faculty is in. Funding is in place.**

2. Those who are especially vulnerable.

We want the vulnerable in our community to experience God's love through us.

We want to ensure that those who are vulnerable among us, both close at hand and in the wider world, are noticed and supported.

We want to ensure that local children and young people receive from us the nurture and care they need to grow in faith, hope and love.

The following were raised as development opportunities at our Parish Vision day (achievements to date are in **bold bullet points**):

Dementia & memory loss

- ❖ **Oona Emerson identified this area as a specific to her role as a SPA, has attended dementia friendly church training and is exploring implementation at St Leonard's.**

Supporting carers.

- ❖ **Objective for 2020**

Links with other organisations

- ❖ **Christian Aid coordinator found - Liz Stevenson. Meeting attended and resources for 2020 identified.**
- ❖ **Lucy NW is running the Marathon for The Children's Society and is visiting St Leonard's in October in advance of the delayed event.**

Community outreach.

- ❖ **Night Shelter on Saturday evenings in The Church Hall Jan- March as part of the The Streatham and Mitcham Churches Winter Night Shelter project.**
- ❖ **New connection with Deepdene home in Parish – monthly HC. Rev Hayley & Dr Marion Gray.**

3. Future generations.

We want to share the story of God's love with the children in our community and beyond.

We want to strengthen our relationship with our church school and other schools in our neighbourhood

The following were raised as development opportunities at our Parish Vision day (achievements to date are in **bold bullet points**):

Nurturing intergenerational connections – deepening Christian learning.

- ❖ **Open the Book continues at St. Leonard's School.**
- ❖ **Four candidates received First Holy Communion.**
- ❖ **11 children / Young people attended Ripon Camp in August and x2 groups planning to attend this Summer (2020) in both age groups.**
- ❖ **Youth Group – 'Pulse' firmly established Fridays in church. AWA 18 Young people.**
- ❖ **X4 Groups for children now on Sundays!**

Active inclusion in worship and other activities

- ❖ **Children's Choir has 28 signed up and attending and a waiting list. Applications for grants have been made.**

Encouraging leadership in Children and young people

- ❖ **Young people attended a Streatham Peace event at the Streatham Youth and Community Trust. Great links made.**

Inspiring environmental activism

- ❖ **See no.4 below**

Deepening connections with schools.

- ❖ **Graveny School visiting St Leonard's in Summer as part of their GCSE Ethics module.**
- ❖ **Woodmersterne School visits now place year 2.**
- ❖ **Christ church and Sunny hill schools now visiting.**

4. Care of Creation

We want to be active in responding to the causes effects of Climate change.

We want to become better stewards of God's creation.

The following were raised as development opportunities at our Parish Vision day (achievements to date are in **bold bullet points under Eco Church**):

Exploring environmental issues through an Eco Church / Congregation.

Intergenerational climate conversation / learning

Campaigning.

Bringing people from the community together around a shared concern for the planet.

Eco Church at St Leonard's has launched!

It achieves the above by modeling:

- ❖ **Intergenerational learning.**
- ❖ **Climate activism**
- ❖ **Community outreach / links**
- ❖ **Prayer**

There have been two gatherings so far with Ali Angus leading.

During Lent the focus was on Environmental care / concern.

Ali was a speaker at Lambeth Palace Launch.

Date for 2020 Parish Vision Day:

Saturday 18th July St Leonards Hall

10.30 – 15.00