



Parish Reports for the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

All Hallows by the Tower Church

Sunday 28 April 2024 at 12.15pm

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Preliminaries

The Parochial Church Council

The PCC is required, as stated in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, to co-operate with the Vicar in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, and is supported by a connected charity, the Friends of All Hallows. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC meets 4-6 times during the year to discuss reports and plan activities. There are two sub-committees of the PCC, members of which are elected by and from the full PCC. The Finance Sub-Committee normally meets 4 times each year. The committee's role includes preparing a draft financial budget for adoption by the PCC and monitoring and reviewing financial performance against the agreed budget. The committee also discusses matters of a general financial nature in advance of debate by the PCC. The Fabric Sub-Committee normally meets 3-4 times each year to monitor and manage the fabric and contents of All Hallows by the Tower church and the building of St Dunstan in the East. There is a Standing Committee formed of the Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC Hon Treasurer. The Standing Committee meets to discuss matters of the general parish administration. No binding decisions are made other than at the PCC.

In line with current legislation, the PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The House of Bishops has produced policy statements which can be found at this link: www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/policy-and-practice-guidance

Responsibilities of Members of the Parochial Church Council in relation to the Financial Statements

The Council Members are required under the Church Accounting Regulations to prepare Financial Statements which give a true and fair view of the Council's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at year end. In preparing Financial Statements giving a true and fair view, the Council Members should follow best practice and: select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that this applies.

The Council Members are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Council and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable law and regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Council and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Members of The Parochial Church Council

The Rev'd Katherine Hedderly	Vicar
The Rev'd Sophia Acland (<i>ex officio</i>)	Associate Vicar
The Rev'd Jennifer Midgley-Adam (<i>ex officio</i>)	Assistant Curate
Mr Kenneth Marshall	Churchwarden, Finance Committee, Fabric Committee
Miss Diana Robertshaw	Churchwarden, Children's Champion, Finance Committee, Fabric Committee, Deanery Synod Representative
Mr Robert Stichbury	Deputy Churchwarden (May 2023), Finance and Fabric Committees
Mr Charlie Watkins (<i>in attendance</i>)	PCC Secretary, Electoral Roll Officer
Hon. Treasurer (<i>position vacant</i>)	<i>Role undertaken by Churchwardens until a replacement is determined.</i>
Mr Martin Carr (<i>ex officio</i>)	Licensed Lay Minister (until 27 August 2023)
Mrs Anne Palmer	Safeguarding Officer (until 1 October 2023)
Dr Siobhán Martin	Safeguarding Officer (from 1 October 2023)
Mrs Catherine Price	
Ms Hasmeeta Mahandru	(Co-opted May 2023)
Mr Carl Lomas	(From April 2023)
Mrs Dorothy Risley	(From April 2023)

Details of Professional Advisors

Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 1-3 Bishopsgate London EC2N 3AQ Unity Trust Bank plc Four Brindley Pl Birmingham BI 2HB CCLA Investment Management Ltd Senator House 85 Queen Victoria St London EC4V 4ET	Legal Advisor	Mr John Woodhead SA Law LLP Gladstone Place 36-38 Upper Marlborough Rd St Albans Herts AL1 3UU
Custodian Trustee	London Diocesan Fund London Diocesan House 36 Causton St London SW1P 4AU	Independent Examiner	Mr Rassoul Jam SSA Accountants Ltd 44 Furzedown Rd Sutton SM2 5QF
		Quinquennial Inspector	Mr Bob Wilson Bob Wilson Consultancy Ltd 1 Renny Close Strathmore Ave Hitchin SG5 1ST

Annual Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held in the Church at 12.15pm on Sunday 28 April 2024 following the 11.00am Eucharist

Agenda – Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. To read the notice convening the meeting
2. To sign the Minutes of the meeting dated Sunday 30 April 2023
3. To elect Churchwardens for the ensuing year

Agenda – Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. To read the notice convening the meeting
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the APCM dated Sunday 30 April 2023
4. Matters arising
5. Electoral Roll Report
6. Reports:
 - a) Vicar; Weekday Ministry; Liturgical & Lay Ministries & Support for Charities; Education & History
 - b) Fabric; Eco-church
 - c) Finance: including Adoption of Accounts and Appointment of Independent Examiner
 - d) Safeguarding
 - e) Deanery Synod
 - f) Welcome and Hospitality
7. Elections
 - a) Parochial Church Council (4 vacancies)
 - b) Deanery Synod (no election this year)
8. Open discussion with opportunity of questions from the floor
9. Any Other Business
Please submit any other business to the churchwardens in advance of the meeting.
 - a) Going forward: the interregnum and vacancy process
10. Date of Next APCM: to be confirmed

We remember those church members who have died in 2023

The Grace

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners

held in the Church and via Zoom at 12.15pm on Sunday 30 April 2023

Chairperson: The Rev'd Katherine Hedderly, Vicar

Attendees: Revd Jen Midgley-Adam, Scott Allan Orr, Sean Boyle, Kathryn Brooks, Tim Brooks, David Cook, Eddie Hardiman, Dorothy Laurence, Carl Lomas, Virginia Main, June Marshall, Ken Marshall, Grainne Martin, Siobhan Martin, Geoffrey Ogunleye, Anne Palmer, David Risley, Di Robertshaw, Szabina Soptei, Robert Stichbury, Yasuko Stichbury, Ken Syme, Tracey Worth

1. To read the notice convening the meeting

The Vicar, Katherine Hedderly, welcomed everybody and read the notice to convene the meeting.

2. To sign the Minutes of the meeting dated Sunday 1 May 2022, as distributed

These formed part of the APCM Minutes and were agreed and signed as part of those.

3. To elect Churchwardens for the ensuing year

Katherine thanked Ken and Di for their support over the past year and for their willingness to continue in their roles. It was confirmed that the period of service 6-year rule had been revoked by the APCM in 2008 and still stands. Both churchwardens are standing for re-election and no other nominations have been received.

Kenneth Marshall	Proposed: Robert Stichbury	Seconded: David Risley	All in favour
Diana Robertshaw	Proposed: Carl Lomas	Seconded: Catherine Price	All in favour

Both were duly declared elected to serve for the coming year.

Katherine indicated that Robert Stichbury would be joining the Churchwarden Team as a Deputy Churchwarden to support Ken and Di and observe the role.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Date: _____

Chair of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2024

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

held in the Church and on Zoom at 12.15pm on Sunday 30 April 2023

Chairperson and Attendees as per the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

1. To read the notice convening the meeting

The APCM followed immediately after the Meeting of Parishioners. The Vicar, Katherine Hedderly read the notice to convene the meeting.

2. Apologies

None

3. Minutes of previous APCM on Sunday 1st May 2022

These were agreed to be a true and accurate record of proceedings and signed by Katherine Hedderly.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising which were not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

5. Electoral Roll Report

Di Robertshaw presented the Electoral Roll for 2023, a copy of which has been displayed in church before the APCM as required. Last year's Roll stood at 72 members, 11 people were added during the year and one name removed, which means the Electoral Roll for the year to 14 April 2023 stands at 82 members, all of whom are non-resident in the parish. This is the fourth revision of the current Electoral Roll and has been prepared in

accordance with the legal requirements. Thanks were expressed to Charlie Watkins for his work as Electoral Roll Officer this year.

6. Reports

A booklet of combined reports had been produced and made available in advance of the APCM which contains detailed information about the various areas of parish life. The reports were also summarised at the meeting.

- a) **Vicar; Weekday Ministry; Liturgical & Lay Ministries, Support for Charities; Education & History**
Following the surge of Covid early in 2022, from Easter onwards life picked up and the full pattern of worship and services, events and activities resumed. The **Square Mile Churches** initiative engaged people in the life of the City and visitor numbers slowly increased to pre-pandemic levels.

Mission and Outreach further developed 3 areas of the 2030 Vision for the Diocese following several focus groups seeking to be:

- A Compassionate Community
- Confident in our discipleship
- Growing in creative ways

As a **Compassionate Community** for our earth and resources we gained an Eco Church Silver award and had a successful Summer Festival – “Care for God’s Creation” coinciding with Her Majesty the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and HM Tower of London’s Superbloom Project.

Creative Growth saw our vision for future working within our 'cluster' (St Mary at Hill/ St Margaret Patten/AHBTT) come to fruition with a special service launch in November when Bishop David Urquhart became the new priest at St Mary-at-Hill as well as joining the Sunday Team at All Hallows.

Our City links flourished with our Vicar, also City Area Dean, becoming the Lord Mayor’s Chaplain to our local Ward of Tower Alderman, Nicholas Lyons, who became the 694th Lord Mayor in November 2022.

Our international connections continue with the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf returning for their annual meeting in August and our ongoing links with the Church of the Epiphany in New York.

Confident Discipleship grew through our faith education programme during the year with Lent and Advent Groups and refresher training for our Sunday ministries. Inclusive volunteer training for new guides and welcomers commenced in the autumn.

Our worship was enhanced by the Square Mile Choral Scholars directed by Andrew Earis from St Martin-in-the-Fields monthly as well as major festival services.

Our Patronal Festival saw the opening of the 7th Century Saxon arch gate for people to use as a way into the church - the gateway to Christianity in the City and a connection to the people who first prayed and worshipped at All Hallows.

The **Staff Team** as well as volunteers, City guides, welcomers and members of the congregation were thanked for their contribution to the life of All Hallows.

The Revd Sophia Acland continued to focus on the weekday ministry and with Martin Carr, our Licensed Lay Minister leads the Taize service and work as Area Leads for the Two Cities on Creation Care. Both Taize and Sunday Services are livestreamed with expert technical support from Sean Boyle for which gratitude was expressed.

We welcomed our full-time Curate Jen Midgley-Adam and family in July 2022 following her ordination as Deacon in St Paul’s Cathedral. Jen will be with us for 3 years and this year has focussed on developing an inclusive Children’s Ministry together with their parents in church participating in the service.

We said farewell to Angie Poppitt after 15 years of dedicated service, and welcomed Charlie Watkins as our new Parish Administrator, along with Kevin Ogilvie as part-time Finance Officer.

The Vicar thanked the Churchwardens and PCC for the work contributed over the year, as well as all who share in hospitality and welcoming, leading intercession, music, reading and serving together plus all who help support the life of the church, mission and ministry.

Charitable giving included support for Christian Aid, First Love Foundation, A Rocha UK/EcoChurch and Action Aid.

Education and History led by Adey Grummet supports the Guides and volunteers with training and podcasts and the number of tour bookings has increased steadily particularly with groups from the USA. Sales in the shop are promising assisted by the introduction of a dedicated credit card terminal.

The Crypt museum continues to be popular and the interest in the tour of Shackleton's Barrel continues. The Prayer Trail and Stations of the Cross are also very popular with 30-40 copies being used each week and the young people's church exploring trails equally popular.

b) **Fabric**

Ken Marshall reported that the year had returned to more normal functioning after Covid.

Our programme of regular maintenance continued. The improved safety arrangements and better access to the crypt has been much appreciated. The major focus has been developing the plan for the necessary roof work to resolve the leaks into the Lady Chapel, improve insulation and the greening project together with solar panel installation. This remains the priority item. Ken thanked the contractors, advisors and Fabric Committee for their continued support and expertise.

c) **Eco-Church**

Sophia Acland and Martin Carr continue as Co-Leads for Creation Care in the Two Cities area of the Diocese and have spoken at the City Deanery Synod Meeting about their work in protecting God's earth.

It was rewarding after much hard work for All Hallows to receive the Silver EcoChurch Award from A Rocha.

d) **Finance: including Adoption of Accounts and Appointment of Independent Examiner**

The accounts were prepared by Kevin Ogilvie, independently examined by Rassoul Jam of SSA Accountants and were displayed as legally required prior to the meeting. They show that we had ended the year in a good state and had paid our Common Fund share to the Diocese in full thanks to careful management and the generous support of our main grant making bodies, the Wakefield & Tetley Trust and the Northcott Foundation.

Thanks were expressed to Angie, Charlie and Kevin, the Finance Committee and Rassoul Jam for their work in managing the finances and preparing the figures.

The Accounts were approved by the Parochial Church Council at the meeting on 16 March 2023 and are presented to the APCM for adoption.

Proposed: Robert Stichbury **Seconded:** Di Robertshaw **All in favour**

The APCM were asked to consider the reappointment of the Independent Examiners, SSA Accountants, who have worked with us since 2007.

Proposed: Robert Stichbury **Seconded:** Anne Palmer **All in favour**

The accounts will now be signed and submitted to the Diocese and Charity Commission.

e) **Safeguarding**

Anne Palmer reported that the focus this year had been to ensure that all members of the PCC and Church/Officers had completed their mandatory safeguarding training.

The Church of England has introduced an online Safeguarding Parish Dashboard which aids recognition by the Church Safeguarding Officer of any lapses in mandatory training completion.

Anne has introduced a church safeguarding session as part of the Welcomers and Guides Inclusive training.

f) **Deanery Synod**

The January meeting welcomed the Lord Mayor Alderman Vincent Keaveny, Lady Mayoress and Sheriffs to St Botolph's Bishopsgate Church Hall.

The presentations coordinated by Revd Sophia Acland and LLM Martin Carr focussed on "Caring for God's Earth – responding to the City's Climate Action Strategy" and "What can City Churches do"? Speakers were from St James's Piccadilly, a GOLD ECO Award church, the Eco-Church A Rocha Charity and a Managing Director of Rothschild & Co on Green Finance.

A Service of Evensong and Garden Party was held at Temple Church in June, which included a brief meeting to confirm the one nominee as the City Deanery Governor for Aldgate School.

The October meeting focused on the theme “Ministering to the unseen City” with 3 presentations covering the Tamar Project for victims of sex trafficking, prostitution and modern slavery, ministry with hidden workers at St Katharine Cree supporting English language for mainly South American workers and Warm Banks in churches for those in energy poverty during the day.

g) **Welcome and Hospitality**

Hasmeeta Mahandru’s report thanked the welcomers for their adaptation to the gradual return of the pre-pandemic structure to the Sunday service and administration of communion.

Kate Price’s report expressed thanks to the members of the hospitality team for their important contribution to the life of the parish now more normal activities have returned. Kate Price encouraged other members of the community to come and join the team.

7. Elections

a) **Parochial Church Council**

Standing down this year are:

- Robin Moore
- Anne Palmer
- Howard Redgwell
- Szabina Soptei

who were thanked for their service over the past 3 years.

There were 6 vacancies and 4 nominations submitted:

1. Carl Lomas	Proposed: Robert Stichbury	Seconded: Tracey Worth
2. Siobhán Martin	Proposed: Martin Carr	Seconded: Robert Stichbury
3. Kate Price	Proposed: Howard Redgwell	Seconded: Diana Robertshaw
4. Dorothy Risle	Proposed: Jennifer Midgley-Adam	Seconded: Claire Midgley-Adam

Unanimously agreed and duly elected.

b) **Deanery Synod**

All Hallows by the Tower have one representative to elect for a 3 year term.

There was 1 nomination:

Diana Robertshaw **Proposed:** Tracey Worth **Seconded:** Howard Redgwell

Unanimously agreed and duly elected.

8. Open discussion with opportunity of questions from the floor

Nil

9. Any Other Business

Nil

Ken Marshall gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Churchwardens to Katherine and the staff team, the PCC and Committees, volunteers and the whole parish community for their support during the past year.

10. Date of Next APCM

The next APCM will be held on Sunday 28th April 2023 (TBC) at 12.30pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

_____ Date: _____
Chair of the APCM 2024

Electoral Roll Report

Charlie Watkins, Electoral Roll Officer

I present to you the Electoral Roll for the year 2024, a copy of which has been on display in the church before the APCM as required.

At last year's APCM the new Electoral Roll stood at 82 members. 19 names have been added during the current year, and one name was removed. This means that the Electoral Roll for the year to 11 April 2024 now stands at 100 members, all of whom are non-resident in the parish.

This is the fifth revision of the current Electoral Roll, and has been prepared in accordance with the legal requirements.



Vicar's Report

The Revd Katherine Hedderly, Vicar

It has been a fruitful year for All Hallows, as we have focused on deepening the life of faith of our community and offered the welcome, hospitality and transforming love of Jesus Christ in creative ways, inspired by the deep roots of Christian worship and presence here in this unique part of London. Since the 7th century, All Hallows has been a gateway to Christianity in the City and our vision today, as a church in the Diocese of London, is to be a Compassionate Community, Confident in our Faithful Discipleship, seeking to Grow Creatively in ways that engage with the City, people and communities around us.

Compassionate Community

Christ's compassionate care for all has been reflected in the life of our community in many ways. We continued our support locally of the City Hygiene Bank and the Bow Foodbank and our vicar was a trustee of the First Love Foundation, supporting its work with those facing poverty in Tower Hamlets. Our Porch Room is a local community resource and supported local groups through the year as an excellent venue for meetings and events.

For Christian Aid week this year, we welcomed Mohammed Eghtedarian as our preacher, and we were the base for Christian Aid for the London Marathon. In March we welcomed Little Amal to All Hallows, the 12-foot puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee child, who has become a global symbol of human rights, especially those of refugees. Through the Just Share coalition we have engaged with issues of global development and social justice, including sessions on the impact of the war in Ukraine and the world's poorest, tackling the cost-of-living crisis, and ethical recruitment in the NHS.

Care for the environment is at the heart of our care for all God's creation at All Hallows. We were successful in being awarded a Silver Eco-Church Award, and in raising a significant proportion of funds needed for our Roof Project, which will include solar panels and a green roof, and is anticipated to be completed in 2024.

The Vicarage continued to be a focus for hosting parish events and meetings and reflected the ongoing ministry of All Hallows to convene local charitable work. And as well as regular PCC and pastoral meetings, the Vicar in her role as Area Dean, convened the City Deanery Chapter and Synod Standing Committee, the Tower Hill Management Group, the First Love Foundation and Percy Trentham Charity. We hosted the Wakefield Trust, Northcott Foundation, and Toc H and All Hallows Trust.

Creative growth

Our local cluster of churches continued to take shape and develop. Our vicar became Priest-in-Charge of St Mary-at-Hill, and the parish was held in plurality with All Hallows and we are thankful for our friendship with St Margaret Pattens. We look forward to the cluster growing into the future, as we serve this eastern part of the Square Mile. We are delighted with the development of our children's work and in particular have been focusing on building up links with families in the local area.

All Hallows entered enthusiastically into the Wren 300 Project of the Square Mile Churches, as the City churches hosted an exciting education programme, focused on the crafts and heritage of our beautiful historic buildings, worked on our sustainability and deepened our learning, helping us to discover more about the history and social make up of our parishes, encouraging a greater and more diverse community of people to have a sense of belonging here. In particular we were one of the churches hosting the *Wrenathon* for London community choirs, as well as hosting workshops for Primary School Children. We look forward to taking part in the upcoming Square Mile Churches project for 2024 that is the legacy of Wren 300.

All Hallows cherishes its involvement in the civic life of the City, through its association with the local ward, the Livery Companies and the Corporation of London. This relationship was enhanced this year through our vicar being Lord Mayor's Chaplain and chairing the Tower Hill Management Group of key neighbourhood stakeholders.

As we look across the world, we are thankful for our international links with the diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf and our annual hosting of the Friends AGM and service. We said goodbye to Archbishop Michael as he retired after fifteen years of faithful service and are grateful for his friendship with All Hallows over the years. We look forward to the arrival of a new Bishop for the Diocese as Sean Semple takes up his post in 2024. We look forward to our links developing with the Church of the Epiphany, New York.

Confident Disciples

We have seen a growth and deepening in faith through our faith education programme, including a Lent course, using Stephen Cottrell's 'Godforsaken: The Cross-the greatest hope of all' and a hybrid Pilgrim Course on The Lord's Prayer in the autumn. In Advent we followed 'The Meaning is in the Waiting' by Paula Gooder, exploring the experience of waiting through the biblical characters associated with this season.

We encourage a journey 'from tourist to pilgrim' for the many visitors to the church through our *Encounter* prayer and faith resources and include prayers left on our prayer board day-by-day into our services of morning prayer and in our Sunday worship. The clergy are available to pray with those who visit and offer one-to-one conversations and pastoral care.

The regular cycle of inclusive worship for our weekly Parish Eucharist, festivals and special services was enhanced during the year by the Square Mile Choral Scholars and our in-house singers. Numbers at our Sunday services remained steady and our Taizé worship on Wednesday evenings continued to attract those looking for a midweek time of prayer, sacred music and reflection in many languages.

We held Thanksgiving and Installation services for the four Livery Companies associated with the church and the Beating of the Bounds and Choral Evensong on Ascension Day, and special events and services, including the London Marathon Thanksgiving Service, a special Coronation Parish Eucharist and lunch, meant a year full of beautiful worship for our wider community.

One of the highlights was the Shackleton event, involving all parts of the All Hallows community, with the South Georgia Heritage Trust, as we welcomed back the crow's nest of the *Quest* ship, Sir Ernest Shackleton's final voyage, one of the church's most enigmatic treasures. Resonating with All Hallows' commitment to the care of creation, in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal, we heard about the Trust's environmental work, linked in with the City of London's commitment in this area and celebrated All Hallows maritime and charitable connections.

Our Christmas Services of Lessons and Carols, Community Carols by Candlelight, Taizé at the Crib, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services, with the music of the Square Mile Choral Scholars, were very well attended, as were the carol services for the Worshipful Company of World Traders, Bakers, Watermen and Woolmen, Sailors Society, RPC, Marsh McClennan, Toc H, HMRC Carols, Mission to Seafarers and the Streetwise Opera Carol Concert, as we celebrated God with us in the wonder of the Christ Child.

Staff Team

Our dedicated ministry and staff team have ensured that the full and varied life of All Hallows has thrived this year.

Jen Midgley-Adam, our Curate was priested in June and her First Mass was held the following day, with many of the All Hallows community there to support her. Sophia Acland, our part-time Associate Vicar, has continued to offer valuable mid-week ministry and pastoral care through the year, and together with Martin Carr our Licenced Lay Minister, championed our environmental work, leading to All Hallows receiving a Silver Eco Church award. We were very sorry to say goodbye to Martin in September, after 10 years of faithful service, as he moved on to a new chapter of ministry in Marylebone. We are thankful to Bishop David Urquhart from our local cluster for his regular input into our Sunday worship.

The wonderful staff team of Charlie Watkins (Parish Administrator), Kevin Ogilvie (part-time Finance Officer), Adey Grummet (History & Education Officer), David Cook (Organist), Seán Boyle (Verger), John Simpkins (Caretaker) and Patricia de Moura Carara (Cleaner) are a great witness of welcome, efficiency and dedication to the life of the church. We are thankful for the many volunteers and City Guides who offer welcome day-by-day to our many visitors from all over the world. Together they are a vibrant community of support.

Our churchwardens Ken Marshall and Di Robertshaw were joined by Deputy Churchwarden Robert Stichbury, and we are very grateful for all the many ways in which they contribute to church life, worship and organisation. We are thankful to all who offer welcome and hospitality and take part in the worship and prayerful life of the church, through reading and leading intercessions, serving and music, as well as those who serve on our PCC and committees.

All Hallows is in very good heart, open to the future and confident in its call to 'love and serve the Lord'. At the end of 2023 I was appointed to a new role as Archdeacon of Charing Cross, which I take up after Easter. I leave with a great sense of gratitude for the life of God we have shared together over the last five years. May God continue to bless the life of the church, its witness and faithfulness to Christ in new ways.

Weekday Ministry Report

The Revd Sophia Acland, Associate Vicar



Regular Weekday Services

Morning Prayer was held in church from Monday to Wednesday and on Fridays. Our weekday Eucharist continued on Thursday mornings. These short, simple services are a peaceful and prayerful start to each day, holding all that we do before God, and are much valued by those who attend.

In addition, members of clergy took several Thursday lunchtime Eucharist services at St Margaret Pattens as part of our commitment to the local cluster.

Taizé

The weekly Wednesday evening Taizé service continued to be well supported this year, with a number of new members of the regular congregation as well as many visitors to London who seek out the service when they are here. We held special services during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, on Ash Wednesday, during Holy Week and at Christmas. On St Ethelburga's Day (11th October), we were happy to be joined for the service by members of the Company of Entrepreneurs as they remembered their patron saint, and our beautiful icon of Ethelburga took pride of place at the front of church.

The strong sense of community amongst those who come regularly was evident, and we continued to offer refreshments after the service once a month to give people a chance to chat. In the autumn, several members of the Taizé congregation joined our Pilgrim study course, held on Wednesdays after the service. Many thanks to our Curate Jen for her share in planning and leading the services, and to our volunteer musicians, especially Olaf and Emlyn, who attend so faithfully and produce a high standard of music. Our thanks, too, to Sean Boyle who runs our livestream and produces excellent recordings.

Special services

After last year, when the service had to be cancelled due to illness, it was very good to be able to welcome back the Maritime Foundation for their annual service in October. New names were added to the memorial book held in church and it was moving to talk to those who attended to remember family members or friends lost at sea. In February we held a memorial service for the former Secretary of the Foundation, Anthony Harvey, who sadly died in 2022. Anthony was a good friend to All Hallows and a charismatic organiser of Maritime Foundation events over many years.

We were also very glad to host, as usual, the Friends of our linked Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf for their annual Eucharist and meeting during the summer. Our thanks to Di Robertshaw and all who helped provide lunch and refreshments to welcome them and renew friendships.

Parish outing

In July, a parish outing was organized to Barking Abbey for members of the congregation, staff, guides and volunteers. This was a journey back to our roots: St Ethelburga, Barking's first abbess in the seventh century, went on to found All Hallows in c. AD 675, hence our official name of All Hallows Berkynchirche-by-the-Tower. Members of the Company of Entrepreneurs joined us for an evening tour of St Margaret's Church, the abbey ruins and Curfew Tower, and a delicious tea in the church café very kindly provided by the Vicar's Warden.

Community links

Involvement in the arts helped us to grow links with the local community and maintain existing All Hallows connections. In May, for instance, an art exhibition entitled 'Eastertide: Season of Hope' was organized by local artists from St Patrick's Studios, Wapping and shown in the south aisle. In September, members of the St Dunstan's Chapel Choir gave a concert in the church, and enjoyed the chance to perform in a public setting.

Invitations to clergy to services elsewhere also helped cement ties. In April, a member of the clergy was invited to preach on Founder's Day at Huggens College, a retirement community in Northfleet founded by John Huggens, a member of the All Hallows congregation in the nineteenth century; it is hoped that some of the residents will return the visit next year. In June, a member of clergy was asked to bless a new high-tech survey vessel being launched in the Thames by the Port of London Authority. Meanwhile, the long-established link between All Hallows and HMRC was

maintained with a Remembrance Service held in the Churchill Room at 100 Parliament Street; a carol service at All Hallows; and an online carol service shared with HMRC employees in the different offices around the country.

Donation boxes

After a break during the pandemic, it was decided to restart collections for a foodbank. We are now collecting for the Bow and Bethnal Green Foodbank and have been grateful for the generous donations left in the box in the south aisle. This year we also started collecting for the Hygiene Bank, which is run in the City by the Revd Nick Mottershead, and donations have come in well – many thanks to all who have contributed at a time when the steep rise in the cost of living has left many families struggling to buy the basics.



Children's Ministry Report The Revd Jen Midgley Adam, Curate

This year has been a year of small, but steady, children's attendance on Sunday mornings.

Over the Advent and Christmas season, the area has moved from the North into the South Aisle as the Christmas tree obscured the line of sight to the altar, and from feedback that it would be nice to be in a space where the children and their adult(s) can see the pulpit directly. This has also worked for easy access to the toilets during the service and also as a space for children to sit during coffee time and have been a real time of connection

between the different people and generations who come to and into our church on Sunday mornings

The activities have included worksheets, colouring, and activity sheets as well as opportunities to engage with the wider church community, including a kneeler to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.

One child has started to regularly read in the I am Eucharist Service and we are exploring other opportunities for involvement in the worshipping life of the community.

In 2024, we look to ways in which all members of our church community can engage with and be an active part of our worshipping community.

In 2023 one child was brought forward for baptism. There have been several enquiries about baptism that we are hopeful will take place in 2024.

Liturgical Ministries

The Revd Jen Midgley-Adam, Curate

Throughout the course of 2023, we've had several people joining our reading and intercessions rotas. Additionally, we have welcomed a new person to sing the Psalm, meaning we are able to continue our tradition of sung psalms during our worship.

Looking ahead to the New Year, we're eagerly anticipating expanding our new team of Lay Communion Assistants. This vital role plays a significant part in the communion service, fostering a deep sense of community and connection among the congregation.

Many thanks to everyone who generously shares their time, talents and dedication to All Hallows.

Education & History Report

Adey Grummet, Education & History Officer

Guides & Volunteers

It has been a wonderful year for our City Guides team, with new members coming along to step into the places of those moving on, keeping our membership plentiful. We have particularly benefitted from the September cohort of graduates from the regular CLGLA training course, as well as a couple of experienced Guides wishing to join in with our lively team here. Each brings an individual approach to opening up our long and multifaceted history to our visitors and also enjoys digging deeper into individual All Hallows' stories and events. We currently have 26 on the list.

Geoff is also back on the Guiding rota, his health having improved, but he also remains as our Welcomer on Monday afternoons. And Kathy continues to offer a characterful and generous presence on Fridays! It is so wonderful to have these regular and reliable helpers.

There has not been the chance for further training sessions this past year but I am careful to keep all Guides and Volunteers informed of any changes in policy and/or practice. In addition to this, a pleasing aspect of the incorporation



of new team members has grown out of a suggestion in 2022 – that a new Guide may, if wanted, spend a session or two shadowing an existing Guide before taking a place on the rota. This way, our good practice is passed on and any new team members feel more confident taking their first shift.

The podcast project has been very well supported by those so far involved and material for several episodes has been written and recorded. Jen has been supporting the project technically, learning as she goes, working on editing and platform aspects of the project. However, due to our very slow internet speed for most of the year, this work could only be carried out at times she was working from home, slowing any publication schedule down considerably. Now that the internet speed has been improved, we have set a regular schedule of publication in 2024. There is much interest in it all.

Private tours of the church continue to be popular, particularly with academic and U3A groups, and our Guides are most generous in supporting this stream of donations to our finances. The fee for a group tour remained at £5 per head in 2023.

I was delighted to be asked as a guest speaker to one of the monthly City Guides meetings, organised by the CLGLA, in December. Whilst many of them do know something of the church already, and it is usually included as a noted site in the training, it was good to be able to expand on some of our stories and treasures beyond the Roman pavement and Saxon arch. I was also asked to tell a couple of Christmas-linked stories so, in finishing, I talked of the Thomas Flowerday Clarke painting in the Crypt, painted live the morning after the WW2 bombing. And, lastly, I read Tubby's letter home to his family from the first Christmas in Talbot House in 1915, passed to me by Katherine only the week before. All of this was warmly received and there was interest from other Guides who may like to join our team here.

Shop

The shop continues to be a regular source of income for the church. The stock lines have remained consistent, with the focus on prayer aids of varying types informing stock choices. The only exception to this is the recent inclusion of carved wooden church mice – just too cute to refuse!

The range of books have become something to think about as, not only are they easily stolen (£30-worth on one occasion during a busy morning of preparation for a service and our CCTV does not cover the whole shop) but they are not always available to order. Pitkin has decided, since Covid times, to reprint several of its older titles only when there is enough interest from a number of regular clients. Our orders are too small to affect their decision.

The new portable card terminal for payments is working well and sales are now recorded with a simple tick-list each week.

Displays

The enormous excitement around the return of Shackleton's crows' nest dominated quite a deal of my/our thinking over the summer. Its safe arrival back from the loan to the South Georgia Museum on Grytviken was greeted with relief in July and it was brought back to AH from the shipping store in Cambridge on 18th August. The South Georgia Heritage Trust kindly supplied a pull-up banner with information for display and the crows' nest took up a new location in the south aisle of the church with all our other maritime connections. Interest from the public was high with many making a special visit to mark the centenary of the original expedition.

Planning began for an event to mark its return and this quickly grew from the idea of a few drinks and a couple of tweets to a full-scale, celebration service attended by Princess Anne with a fundraising dinner for the Trust in Trinity House. The whole evening on September 7th was an enormous success in all aspects. Our Guides who volunteered to look after our eminent guests were much admired and complimented and we are profoundly grateful to them for their generous efforts for this occasion.

Outreach

The series of prayer cards, Explore from CPO, has been a really good addition to our prayer resources on offer. Whilst these are not free, they are very popular indeed and I refill the stands each week and make repeat orders every couple of months. They seem to be a good halfway house between the information offered in the 'I Don't Know Much About Church' leaflet and the wider topics of the Gospel Imprint leaflets.

The Prayer Trail continues to be very popular and I still reprint around 30-40 a week. The *Stations of the Cross* prayer trail also proved popular once more during the season of Lent.

The group of Blue Badge Guides who run the Fire of London walks have been regular in their visits to the church. The popularity of their workshop is pretty consistent with primary schools and it is always lovely to have the church full of school children. These visits have increased since the lifting of Covid restrictions, as schools try to increase the occasions for site visits and trips.

Clio's Company continue their bi-annual residency with us, Saxons in the Spring and Romans in the Autumn. The scaled-down version of the plays, with one actor and one workshop leader (Jay and Lissa themselves) has been a partially effective way to keep the pot boiling, and our relationship with East End schools going, in the face of budget cuts, staffing cuts and travel difficulties. However, take up was very low in 2023 in both seasons. We are, though, grateful and relieved that they have upgraded their booking system to an online one, taking staff here at AH out of an increasingly complicated process. It is hoped that, as this new version of the plays consolidates, that schools visits may pick up once more.

Enquiries

I continue to attempt to answer all research enquiries that come to AH and always enjoy the 'rabbit-hole' that each one sends me down. This has not been quite as frequent as in years past but has included enquiries from ...

- family of Philip Blewett (an associate Vicar here in the 1960s) filling in previously unknown details of his life
- an academic specialist in Medieval Sanctuary Law asking if it had ever been invoked in AH (the only records are some occurrences in the 1320s)
- an enquiry about City waymarkers and Parish Boundary Markers

...and Steve Smith of the '100 years of Toc H' blog site has been wonderfully helpful once more with information for enquirers after Hugh Sawbridge, a pivotal early member of Toc H.

Looking Forward

Once more, I am most grateful to the good humour, flexibility and generosity of colleagues. Our outreach and welcome is changing with the needs and preferences of the times and I feel proud to be part of a team of problem solvers and creative thinkers.

Fabric Report

Ken Marshall & Di Robertshaw, Churchwardens

The year opened dramatically with a sighting of damage to the Weathervane at the top of the spire. We were introduced to Steeplejack from the midlands who made three visits during harsh weather conditions before completing repairs aloft which will be kept under close examination from ground level. Should the problem re-occur we can expect scaffolding costs of £20/25,000 in addition to Steeplejack's fees.

Bob Wilson, our Inspecting Surveyor, delivered his Quinquennial Report which covers all items of the Fabric but also extends to detailed coverage of our Church Roof repair and PVC Project on which we have been working for several years. This involves detection, insulation, recovering, greening, and associated stone and metal works.



Quinquennial report 2022/3

Mr Wilson drew our early attention to:

- Stonework on north and west sides, but particularly on the north side will have to be cleaned and attended as a larger project looking forward.
- North walls require some attention due to flaking etc. He also emphasised that keeping air draught to the walls for drying was important and that the Garden should ensure space was not compromised.
- Regarding the projected Roof works he advised when better access is available he would need to check the state of the copper which had been in place for some 60 years, since experience showed that cracking can occur.

The Report will be discussed in detail once the roof project is finalised.

Roof and PVC project is vital. The roof was installed in times of austerity after the ww2 and its refurbishment is well overdue The cost of the project is likely to be about £300,000 at the end of the year had yet to go to tender.

Careful consideration was given during several meetings to the quality and integrity of the materials, insulation, efficiencies of various switch boards and cabling and their runs back to the Main Electrical Switchboards, and minimising any disturbance of Marsh Terracing. Independent inspection by Engineers to provide weight loading adequacy was effected. The fixings and appearance of the changes were to the satisfaction of National England.

The Committees considered and decided its overall strategy for the church's mission and ministry (Mission Action Plan) which would inform the Statement of Needs of our current Mission Action Plan and the priority and the phased order in which they would be addressed:

1. Roof project,
2. Repairs for safe access to the building where the stonework had become worn and uneven
3. Other stonework, particularly the north and west facades
4. Ground floor corridor, offices and kitchen refurbishment,
5. Organ restoration project,
6. Weathervane stability etc. whilst
7. continuing our journey to Net Zero e.g. insulation of vestry, porch room and roof and tank spaces, restriction of Door draughts,

Other issues covered included the placement of the Ethelburga Icon, the City Corporation repair to stone planter and adjacent works, the replacement and some resiting of Fire Extinguishers, renewal of Smoke Alarm. Minor works were undertaken in our other properties, St Dunstan in the East, Church Flat, Queen Mother Centre and Vicarage. The Vicarage is in good condition where we are in discussions with the Trust to mutually developing a MOU to facilitate the Lease responsibilities in the most economic beneficial manner for both Parties.

We wish to acknowledge the interest and practical participation of the Fabric Committee Members.

In a year when much time was given over to design, specification and approvals of the various Church and Civic Authorities. We valued greatly the participation of the Vicar and the Associate Vicar who both made huge contributions to the various negotiations, Planning, environmental matters and Fund Raising.

We also record our further appreciation of the striking contribution of Robin Moore continuing the conversion of literally hundreds of drawings and plans from Imperial to Metric in digital format. This will be of huge benefit now and to All Hallows in the future.

Charitable Giving Report

The Revd Katherine Hedderly, Vicar

Our links with Christian Aid continue to be strong and we collected during Christian Aid week again this year. Our collections taken at our Christmas services went to support the Bow Foodbank, a local charity offering food and emergency items to those in crisis in Tower Hamlets, and the Amos Trust, supporting health services impacted by the conflict in Gaza and Israel. We continued to support Just Share in its work of highlighting issues of global development and social justice and many members of the congregation supported Martin Carr in the London Marathon running for Action Aid.

Environment/Eco Church Report

The Revd Sophia Acland, Associate Vicar

In February, All Hallows was delighted to receive an Eco Church Silver Award, showing our progress in meeting environmental targets in all areas of church life as we work towards the Diocese's target of net zero by 2030. Later in the year, fundraising began for the roof project, which includes plans for solar panels above the south aisle and a green roof above the north aisle. This will help cut carbon further, will combat pollution and promote biodiversity, and should also help us towards our goal of a Gold Award.

Martin Carr and Sophia Acland continued their work as joint Area Leads for the Two Cities on Creation Care. During 2023 they were again involved in a number of events both via Zoom and in person promoting Eco Church membership to neighbouring churches, including taking part in a Two Cities study day on the environment and running a study morning for church administrators.

Finance Report (year ended 31 December 2023)

Kenneth Marshall, Churchwarden

(To be read in conjunction with the Balance Sheet, Statement of Financial Activities and associated notes). This report together with that of the Vicar and the rest of this Booklet forms an important part of fulfilling the accounting requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations (CAR) 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

Summary

This report covers the year after escaping from Covid lockdown and recovering a considerable footfall as tourism gathered pace and closed nearer pre-pandemic levels. The Charity's financial situation has continued to be satisfactory

and has improved, but to a lesser degree. Overall the Statement of Financial Activities makes clear that the overall Income has increased by £36,596 and the Expenditure by £94,605 resulting in us ending the year with a surplus of £56,125 but lower when compared with £114,134 in the previous year.

Income

The main income results from traditional Grants and the continued use of our properties to produce a favourable cash flow, together with income from deposit interest and investments.

We record with most grateful thanks that in these difficult economic times the Wakefield and Tetley Trust and the Northcott Foundation have again been able to continue their historic support of All Hallows over such a long period of time to facilitate All Hallows Ministry and its outreach on Tower Hill. We would also acknowledge the Grants made so helpfully by others which together produced an inflow of £104,475 (£113,375).

Planned Giving, Collections, Donations and Gift Aid tax recovery reduced to £74,938 (£81,796). Rental Income was marginally up at £141,545 (£136,035). Bank Interest and Investment Income benefited from improving rates at £13,898 (£7,248). Receipts from Church Activities improved to £22,170 from £13,612 largely due to an increase in Bookshop sales of £5,287 and hire of Church spaces. Our Investments showed an increase in market value of £19,463 after off-setting the reduction in value experienced in the credit crisis.

Expenditure

We draw attention to two significant elements of expenditure in this from recent annual accounts. There was a need to re-stock and we faced a particularly significant rise in Utility expenditure. This Electricity rise occurred just as we came to the end of long-term far lower priced contracts. Since much of the consumption goes to the commercial off takers, the Café and the Mobile Transmitter the nett costs to the Church were less extreme. The overall increase amounted to £95,219 (£22,792) overall but these costs are largely borne by the commercial interest as shown at Note 6. After deducting these energy expenditures the costs of generating funds reduced to £30,394 (£39,359) which reflects the efforts to control daily running costs. Church repair and maintenance contracting was up £22,330 (£13,329). It should be noted that almost 50% of this increase was due to totally unexpected work on the weathervane which cost £4,440.

We paid the Diocesan Common Fund £75,500 (£73,000), while other Clergy and staffing costs rose to £150,175 (£145,236). We increased our Charitable Giving to £6,224 (£3,963)

Reserves Policy

The PCC has decided to continue its Policy to keep a reserve of six months of its normal running expenditure for operations, normal daily maintenance of the fabric of our Grade One Listed buildings. The major works to the Roof referred to in the Fabric section of this Report had been provided for within the reserves. Simultaneously we have been seeking to build reserves for the next Quinquennial Survey and works to the Organ, Ground floor accommodation and the North Store basement.

Acknowledgements/Appreciation

Members of the PCC, and its sub committees have met in Person and on Zoom frequently throughout the year and we have valued each person's contribution greatly.

Mr Rassoul Jam, who has been our External Examiner for some 17 years now, has confirmed the accounts are in good order and we acknowledge once more how much we appreciate the integrity and quality help he has given each year. We also acknowledge the controls and record keeping exercised by Mr Kevin Ogilvie of Charity Bookkeeping, our Finance Officer, and Charlie Watkins, our Parish Administrator.

These Accounts were approved by the Parochial Church Council at their meeting on 14th March 2024.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted & General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME					
2 Planned giving	19,259	-	-	19,259	20,243
3 Collections & other giving	7,708	-	-	7,708	11,830
4 Other voluntary receipts	148,135	-	578	148,713	199,255
5 Gift Aid recovered	8,885	-	-	8,885	12,123
6 Other receipts	127,051	-	5,566	132,617	58,949
7 Activities for generating funds	3,673	-	-	3,673	2,577
8 Investment income	125,189	30,254	-	155,443	143,283
9 Receipts from church activities	22,170	-	-	22,170	13,612
TOTAL INCOME	462,070	30,254	6,144	498,468	461,872
EXPENDITURE					
10 Cost of generating funds	125,563	-	50	125,613	62,151
11 Missionary & charitable giving	6,244	-	-	6,244	3,963
12 Parish Share/Common Fund	75,500	-	-	75,500	73,000
13 Clergy & staffing costs	120,274	-	29,901	150,175	145,236
14 Church running expenses	68,402	-	5,870	74,272	47,075
15 Church repairs & maintenance	2,011	-	720	2,731	8,217
16 Other property upkeep	2,288	-	-	2,288	2,976
17 Other support costs	5,520	-	-	5,520	5,120
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	405,802	0	36,541	442,343	347,738
NET INCOME/(DEFICIT)	56,268	30,254	-30,397	56,125	114,134
GAINS & LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS					
Realised	-	-	-	0	0
Unrealised	-	19,463	-	19,463	(25,916)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	56,268	49,717	-30,397	75,588	88,218
Balances brought forward at 1/1/2023	373,578	45,477	63,097	482,152	393,934
Transfers between funds	-	(20,000)	20,000	-	-
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31/12/2023	429,846	75,194	52,700	557,740	482,152



Safeguarding Report

Siobhán Martin, Safeguarding Officer

During the year our safeguarding Officer Mrs Anne Palmer stepped back from her duties for a period to focus on her family. Dr Siobhán Martin has taken on the role in the interim. Dr Martin reported that the focus this year has been to continue Mrs Palmer's excellent work in the continued embedding of safeguarding in all church activities, not as an add-on but as all round protection for all vulnerable persons as part of our community or whom have ad hoc contact with it.

The key actions included:

- 1) Training senior leadership including Churchwardens and Safeguarding Officer and other PCC members to the appropriate level through the Diocesan training program. Approximately 40 hours have been devoted to the endeavour in total by the team in the part year.
- 2) Creating and running a program for our welcomers and guides to increase their understanding of our church and activities including the importance and practical steps to take around safeguarding.
- 3) Working with the Diocesan Safeguarding team to proactively discuss and ensure appropriate handling of safeguarding matters as they may arise.

Siobhán expressed confidence in the safeguarding at All Hallows, particularly in the culture of our community ensuring that any concerns will be raised and addressed promptly and with appropriate care.

City Deanery Synod Report

Di Robertshaw, Deanery Synod Representative

Area Dean – The Revd Katherine Hedderly

Church Elected Representative – Di Robertshaw (also Deanery Synod Secretary)

The Deanery Synod usually meets 3 times a year.

The Deanery Synod Meeting 11th January 2023 welcomed the Lord Mayor Alderman Nicholas Lyons, the Lady Mayoress and Sheriffs to the church of St Botolph without Bishopsgate

Main topic: Wren 300 (Marking the tercentenary of Sir Christopher Wren – a multifaceted celebration Sir Christopher Wren's theology, architecture and sacred space in the City)

Neil MacGregor (Wren 300 patron, art historian and former director of the National Gallery and the British Museum) gave a most articulate and interesting presentation of Wren's role in rebuilding the City after the destruction of the Great Fire of London and in turn rebuilding the relationship between the citizens and God at a time of Civil War, during which thousands died in the period of the Commonwealth of Cromwell, no Bishop of London and many other societal events that made the global City of London.

Neil MacGregor reflected on the success and expertise not only of Wren's architectural magnitude but of his management of 50 different church projects, taking each church through a journey of identification as to what each church valued and constructing a language of devotion and religious practice fundamental to each specific church, each a special case, and creating a unique church for that sacred space.

Rory Anderson, Synod Lay Chair, presented the Lord Mayor with a C S Lewis annotated Bible. The Lord Mayor expressed his appreciation to Neil MacGregor for his excellent presentation and indicated the City is delighted to support the Wren 300 project and announced that the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs aim to visit each of the 21 City Wren Churches during the Mayoral year.

After the break, Helen Vigors, Wren 300 Heritage Project Manager and Kevin Rogers, Director of Parish Support, Diocese of London gave an overview of the many projects in progress for children through to adults together with the fundraising initiatives to maintain the sustainability of the churches. Further information from: www.wren300.org

The City Deanery Evensong and Triennial elections were held on Monday 10th July 2023 at St. Stephen Walbrook. The Lay Chairman, Rory Anderson was re-elected (uncontested) and five Lay Standing Committee Members elected as were five Clergy elected uncontested. The Secretary and Treasurer were confirmed as Di Robertshaw and Graham Mundy respectively.

The Deanery Synod meeting on 10th October 2023 was held in St Botolph Church Hall, Bishopsgate

Main topic: Living in Love and Faith (LLF)

The Venerable Luke Miller – Archdeacon of London and Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury gave an overview of the LLF process and explained the synodical processes. The previous report by the House of Bishops on human sexuality and further work culminating in the Living in Love and Faith documents and discussions, made it very clear that the Church is deeply and gravely divided over this issue. In July 2023 General Synod affirmed the motion by the House of Bishops, which offered an apology to LGBTQI+ people for the way they have been treated in the church, and while proposing no change to the doctrine of marriage, Synod agreed to ask the House of Bishops to work further on the prayers of Living in Love and Faith to be used with same sex couples in long-term stable relationships, and in the debate the Bishops promised for pastoral guidance for clergy and pastoral assurance that any changes would include a structure for clergy and laity of differing views to live out their Christian lives in the Church of England.

The current Pastoral Guidance is from the 1990s which is agreed requires replacement. Archdeacon Luke outlined the proposals and timescale involved to shape the future guidance and form the new prayers/services and develop the Pastoral Assurance to support clergy whose decision to use, or not use the new prayers may raise relationship controversies with both those in their communities and their senior clergy and Bishops.

The Bishop of London has made clear that she would strive, within the law, to offer as much support as she could. The plan for the General Synod in November 2023 was to focus on the prayers for use in existing services but not to authorise separate liturgies. There will then be a further process for the authorisation of the prayers and stand-alone liturgies using Canon B2. This will require formal consultation at Deanery and Diocesan synods, and then the General Synod must agree with 2/3 majorities in all three Houses (Bishops, Clergy and Laity) and hopefully complete this process before the next elections in 2025.

Synod members were invited to give short reflections, having given indication in advance that they wished to speak and it was stressed this was not a debate but an opportunity to listen to others' points of view with sensitivity and understanding given the controversial nature of the topic and the different individual opinions present in the Synod. There was also opportunity for all to write reflections on sticky notes and display for others to read during the break.

Welcomers Report

Hasmeeta Mahandru

Welcoming went from strength to strength in 2023 and we saw a good growth in the congregation as well as the tourist footfall – thus highlighting the importance of the need to provide a warm welcome.

Bishop David Urquhart complimented the team on our friendly welcome to all and agreed that the importance of welcoming should be firmly embedded into the fabric of the church. So, well done to the team for a thoroughly friendly welcome to all!

Sadly, we have had a few changes as people have left and moved to pastures new, but we hope to recruit new welcomers and hopefully see the team grow!



Hospitality Report

Kate Price

As I did last year, I would like to express my thanks to the heroes and heroines who have made the delivering of our hospitality programme possible. They are Norma, Szabina, Loren, Yasuko and Robert, Sarah and Robin; in addition, we are lucky enough to have gained Sarah – that's Sarah Alder – Rebecca and Jill and Lizzie and Chris. We are delighted to see Jenny and Ewell from the deep heart of Texas on the team in the summer and early autumn. We have, however, lost our wonderful American volunteers – Kathryn and Tim Brooks. They were brilliant in that they were happy to do anything that was needed and we miss them very much. We will also be losing Loren this year but he has been wonderful, both on the hospitality team and for his exceptional culinary skills. This is the stalwart team

that is on call all the time. And I thank them very much indeed.

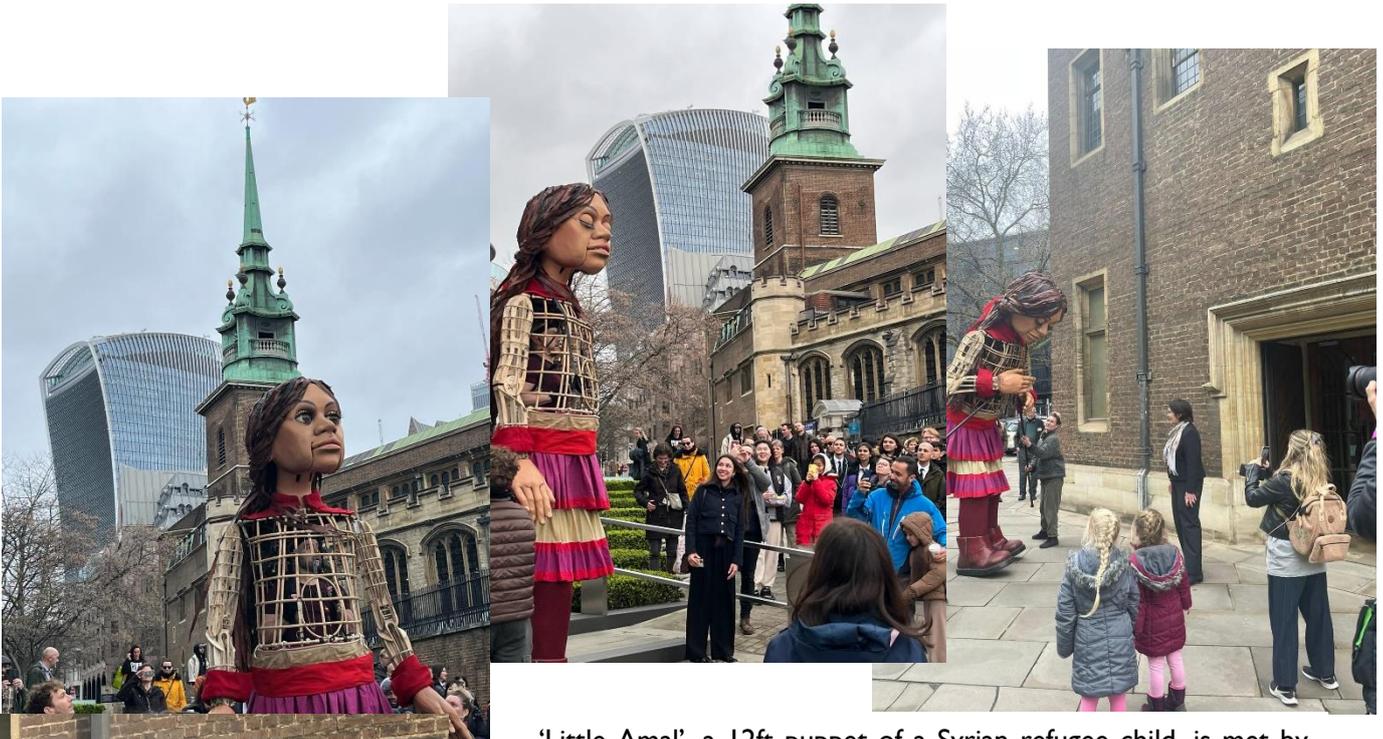
I would like to invite other people who are not on the rota to think about coming on board. It is really not difficult and it is basically about making tea and coffee, and putting out biscuits and chatting to people as you serve and then clearing away. Robert and I even updated the user guide this year, and though I say it myself, we made a good job of it! So, if you feel so inspired, just have a word with me or anyone else on the Team. And you won't be going in at the deep end as newcomers always do it with an experienced person the first time.

In addition, I would like to emphasize that doing teas and coffees in Church is great fun as you have a superb chance to chat to people – stalwart members of the congregation as well as newcomers and tourists. It is very interesting.

Finally, to give you a birds eye view across the year, I can say that we have managed refreshments every Sunday as well as the Christmas mulled wine and mince pies and stollen at Christmas time! We also had a special Coronation lunch. Kathryn Brooks and I made a huge amount of Coronation Chicken and loads of people, both within and outside our hospitality team brought vegetarian options, salads, cheeses and the most luscious looking desserts. We all had a wonderful time.

Many thanks again to everyone who has given so generously of their time in this crucial outreach of the Church .

A Year In The Life Of All Hallows



'Little Amal', a 12ft puppet of a Syrian refugee child, is met by Katherine on her way to the Tower of London.



The Blessing of the New Fire at Easter and the lighting of the Paschal Candle.



A parish lunch for the Coronation of King Charles III.



Katherine in her role as chaplain to the Lord Mayor of London.

The Mission to Seafarers carol service.



The 'Wrenathon' – a citywide choral event as part of the Wren 300 celebrations.



Priest, deacon and bishop!
(L-R: Katherine Hedderly, Jen Midgley-Adam and Bishop David Urquhart)



The George Cross Foundation Malta Memorial service in August.



The Revd Mohammed Eghtedarian presents the church with certificates during Christian Aid Week.



Steeplejacks climbing the spire to make repairs to the weathervane!



The Team at All Hallows

Vicar

The Rev'd Katherine Hedderly
(until 14/04/2024)

Associate Vicar

The Rev'd Sophia Acland
(until 31/01/2024)

Curate

The Rev'd Jennifer Midgley-Adam

Licensed Lay Minister

Martin Carr
(until 27/08/2023)

Parish Administrator

Charlie Watkins

Education & History Officer

Adey Grummet

Organist

David Cook

Churchwardens

Ken Marshall & Di Robertshaw

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