



St Laurence Catford Annual Report 2021-2022

Contents

From The Vicar
The Churchwarden's Report
The Parochial Church Council
Centre Management Report
The Director of Music
Sacristan's Report
Safeguarding Report
Digital Ministry Report
Deanery Synod Report

Appendix –
2021-2022 APM Agenda
2020-2021 APM Minutes

From The Vicar

Vicar's Report 2021/2022

It's been a long year! Last year, Covid was at least a novelty, and the beautiful Spring weather that year helped to make the pandemic, with all its attendant anxieties, somehow bearable. This year, by contrast, has seen the gradual restoration of ordinary life only with a number of fits and starts, and a terrible summer – and then the arrival of the Omicron variant last autumn was for many people the final straw. While 'normal' life is slowly resuming, the long-running pandemic and its accompanying uncertainty has left most people feeling exhausted.

Here at St Laurence's, it has been gratifying to see the congregation building up again even though, at time of writing, numbers are still well below where we were before the pandemic. We have also welcomed a good number of new members of the congregation which has been heartening, and although our Sunday eucharist is still very different in feel from how it was before the pandemic (notably the Peace, and the way we receive communion) and we have many fewer services during the week, we are starting to rebuild a sense of normality and confidence in our worship.

A year ago, we were running two big services every Sunday, with a 9.30 sung mass and an 11am family eucharist, as we still had a limit of 80 people per service. The 9.30am service was live-streamed, and developed very respectable viewing figures as many of our regular members who were shielding managed to wrestle with Facebook's eccentric ways of working – and latterly YouTube. The double service represented a huge amount of work from the sacristy team, musicians and clergy, with effectively different choirs at each (adult and junior) and the possibility of different styles of sermon for the two congregations. This pattern of worship, which had started in July 2020, at the end of the first lock-down, lasted until the end of July 2021 (with the exception of the Spring 2021 lockdown) when the larger numbers now permitted to gather safely finally enabled us to return to our traditional pattern of a quiet 8am mass (which has become our Covid-safe service, with mask-wearing and social distancing) and a sung 10am mass. The 10am slowly reverted to its usual feel over the year, with congregational singing reintroduced in September (albeit while still wearing masks); also in September, after a few false starts, refreshments after mass

made a welcome return, initially outside and then in the hall; and then finally in March, on the first Sunday in Lent, mask-wearing was made optional, social distancing was reduced to 1 metre, and the chalice restored. The reintroduction of singing without masks has made a great difference to the feel of our Sunday mornings, and enabled us to mark the season of Lent in our traditional way by giving up the organ, although this year we had the good fortune to be accompanied by Jocelyn on the piano as it was agreed that we were not quite ready yet for the unaccompanied singing we would have enjoyed in previous years.

In mid-June, we finally brought to a close the series of Thursday broadcast meditations that had become a staple feature of St Laurence's parish life over the previous year – this remarkable and varied series, by all seven members of the ministry team, reflected on the Bible passages of the day or on surviving the pandemic, and were often profound and touching. Instead, we restarted the Thursday morning mass, the one service for which we continue to use the Lady Chapel regularly. Otherwise, the space there is still felt to be too small to be entirely safe. The regular Wednesday morning eucharist, which continued through much of the

pandemic whether live or streamed, is still celebrated in the main church, which has given it a very different feel from before (something not altogether unwelcome) – and still no refreshments afterwards. Numbers for this mid-week service are encouraging, and it clearly serves a need. We hope to reintroduce some hymn singing over the summer. We now have exposition of the sacrament every Wednesday before mass, which also allows us to use the new candlesticks, commissioned to match our unique monstrance just before the pandemic, that had been waiting a long time to be brought out. We also tried a couple of healing masses in the Lady Chapel, but with small attendances, and it was largely felt that the time was not yet right for these. We hosted the local World Day of Prayer service here in March under the leadership of Grace Blyth.

Even despite the restrictions, we did achieve some memorable liturgies over the year. For Harvest Festival, we invited Jack DeFrost from Traceworks Dance to perform a dance about the seasons, which was quite beautiful, and spoke to us in a very different way from a conventional sermon. In July, our Dedication Festival, our first Sunday mass since the Pandemic to have both adult and

junior choirs singing together, was celebrated in style. Over the summer, when the choir was on holiday, and since singing by the congregation was not yet permitted, we invited a number of different professional singers (Francesca Chiejina, Aoife Miskelly, Simon Shibambu and Ron Samm) to sing the hymns on behalf of the congregation. Several of them were at the start of their professional careers, and no doubt will become well-known in the opera world in due course. Jocelyn, our director of music, also laid on a number of free concerts after mass over the year, also of rising vocal stars, accompanied by herself, including the legendary Mark Padmore, who professed himself very impressed by our church building. To be able to offer a recital by him for nothing was a very special contribution to the cultural life of Catford.

On September 19th, we marked Climate Change Sunday in parallel with COP26, the global summit on climate change taking place the following month in Glasgow. And then on October 9th, we had Safeguarding as the theme of a specially designed Sunday eucharist designed to make us more aware of the importance of this aspect of church life. In the light of the three volume IICSA report recently published, we recognise that clergy, staff and volunteers

in the Church of England (along with most other churches) have clearly been responsible for a great deal of abuse of vulnerable people over the years, and it is particularly important that when people come to church to worship or to learn, they should feel safe from harm. In order to give people the opportunity to find someone to talk to (not always easy on a Sunday morning), a member of the ministry team was in the Lady Chapel after each Sunday service over the autumn, to be available for confidential conversation or disclosure.

We also celebrated All Saints, Remembrance Sunday and the feast of Christ the King before moving onto Advent, with an excellent Advent carol service on Advent Sunday, attended also by friends from Holy Cross church. When it came to the Christmas Carol service, we had been given a grant by the Diocese, jointly with St Andrew's Church on Torridon Road, for a pre-Christmas publicity campaign; carefully designed Christmas cards were delivered to every address in Catford by a firm that employ joggers to distribute leaflets, 'Jogpost', to advertise our Christmas services. Unfortunately, the new Omicron variant of the pandemic struck just at this time, and so, despite our best efforts, very few new people attended the Christmas

services at either church. Neither were we able to serve the planned mulled wine at the carol service or after midnight mass, and the Churchwardens found themselves having to give the bottles away (in return for a donation).

Christmas can be a really difficult time for some, especially the newly bereaved, and I was pleased to be invited to preach at a special Christmas service at Holy Cross Church organised by Nick Wibberley, a local funeral director and former choirboy here, in mid-December, which was aimed precisely at people in this position.

This year Easter came very late, and so the period between Christmas and Lent seemed to go on for ever; however, Ash Wednesday was marked with masses in the morning and evening, both relatively well attended, and over Lent our Sunday services became more sombre without organ, except for Mothering Sunday, which featured both the organ and presents of daffodils. And Holy Week this year was full of music. On Palm Sunday, we were unable to share the blessing of the Palms with Holy Cross Church and St Andrew's as in previous years, as Holy Cross had changed their mass times, and so we reverted to a former pattern of beginning mass in our

own church hall, and processing around the outside of the church. It was a gloriously sunny day, and Passion according to Matthew was sung to Huw Morgan's setting written for St Laurence's when he was Director of Music here. On the Monday of Holy Week, Mairéad Sheerin's 'Cats' Chorus' sang a concert of appropriate music after mass; on the Tuesday, Lucy Morrell played us an organ recital; and on the Wednesday, two invited professional singers, Anna Marmion and Imogen Burgess, gave us Pergolesi's 'Stabat mater' – a beautiful and popular Passion-tide piece of music that was perfect for the occasion.

The Maundy Thursday mass of the Last Supper was followed by a brief watch before the altar of repose, which this year was not in the Lady Chapel, finishing at midnight. Good Friday followed a very different pattern from usual. We had an ecumenical procession of the cross round the streets of Catford, beginning at St Andrew's Church, Torridon Road, at 9am, and worked our way (mercifully downhill) to Holy Cross Church, carrying the large St Laurence wooden cross and stopping on the way for brief Bible readings and prayers; we joined in Terce (a mid-morning office) at Holy Cross, and then carried on to St Laurence's, arriving shortly before 11am. The procession took place in warm

sunshine and was attended by about 50 people from the three parishes, and was most successful.



Jesus receives the cross.

We shall certainly try it again next year. At 1pm, we had a Stations of the Cross, based on the very striking series of stations at St Laurence's, with organ interludes specially written for us by Huw Morgan, themselves also inspired by our stations. This moved into the 2pm liturgy of Good Friday, which was well attended, followed by very welcome tea and hot cross buns afterwards in the church hall. For Easter this year, we offered both a dawn mass followed by full English breakfast (cooked for us by Ijeoma Nwajiobi and her team), and a 10am parish mass, where the choir sang 'The Heavens are telling the Glory of God' from Haydn's 'The Creation' to great effect.

This year, the usually flourishing social life of the parish has really suffered from the fear of Covid. We had an Advent Fair on the second Sunday of Advent, selling hot dogs, and with a variety of stalls, and three gardening mornings, where members of the congregation were invited to spend a morning working on the grounds, and shared a mid-morning breakfast. We reinstated tea and coffee after mass in the autumn. We hosted a St George's Day lunch for Bring me Sunshine in April. And that has been about it. We hope for better things next year. We did have a successful parish pilgrimage to Venice in Low Week, something that had been postponed at six-monthly intervals for two years (preceded by an Italian style supper in November, to which we invited everyone who had ever been on pilgrimage with the parish), and was much enjoyed by those who took part. Similarly, fund-raising for other charities has been at a low ebb: we raised a small sum for the Bishop's Lent Call, and £300 for Christian Aid, thanks for Robert Green. Proceeds from our usual Christmas Card booklet went to the Christian Aid 'Mums' appeal'. But much less was raised for charity than usual.

We had a series of on-line Bible studies (thank you to Linda O'Mallo), which eventually had to be abandoned when the

technical issues became overwhelming. We hope to restart these in person in the late Spring or early autumn. And there was a one-off Bible study for the lawyers in the congregation, of whom we now remarkably have several. But much of the energy of the parish has been spent simply on keeping the church open and in pastoral work. One reason for this has been the huge number of funerals in church the clergy team have conducted; during 2021 we held 26 funerals in church (of a parish total of 39) – sadly, a record number. Each one of these requires hours if not days of planning. Even more sadly, many of these were for active or former parishioners. We lost Barrington Farquharson, John Strange, Yvonne Reid, Althea Weston, Noel Walrond, Elsa Walters, Lena Richardson, Nick Turpin, Bob Knight, David Blyth and, tragically, Tanya Greaves-Maduka, a young mother who had grown up in the parish.

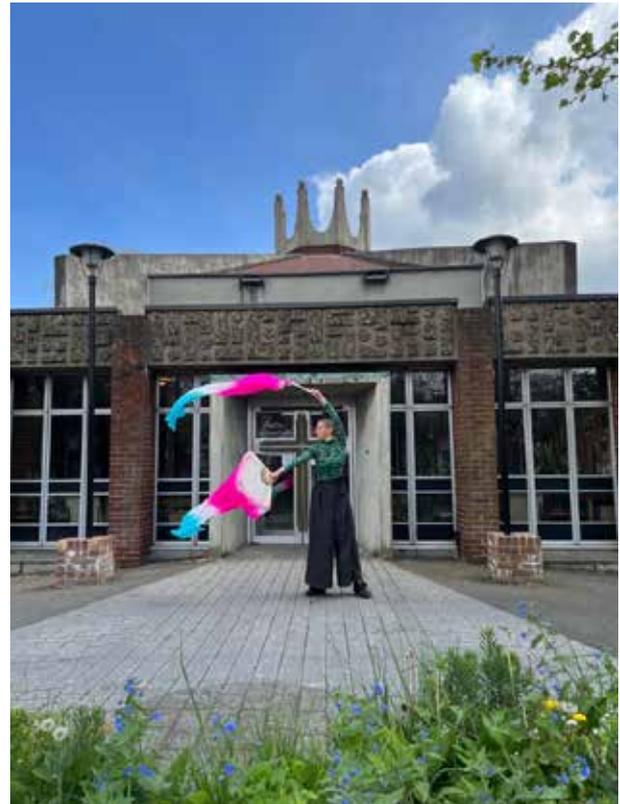
Each of these would merit a full paragraph of this annual report, were there enough space. Both the churchwardens who appointed me to the role of Vicar, Bob Knight and David Blyth, died within a few weeks of each other. Our sincerest condolences go to all the surviving relatives of those who died, many of whom attend St Laurence's every Sunday.

We did have one wedding to cheer ourselves up, and a number of baptisms, including that of Iker, the baby of Fr Hugo and Jocelyn, our former curate and current director of music. We have a new pattern for baptisms – to protect against the risk of the church being too full, the baby is presented to the congregation at the 10am mass, but the baptism itself takes place after mass at 12 noon. This is something that seems to work well, and we may continue even after the pandemic has receded.

Much of my own time and energy this year has been spent on raising money to replace our ageing gas boilers. Last year, the Church Council took the courageous decision not to go down the easy route of simply installing new gas boilers, but to try to raise money for air source heat pumps, some five times more expensive, in order to put us on the route to zero-carbon heating. It has been a struggle (few grant-making trusts or charities are currently making money available for this important work), and we were very close to giving up after Christmas, but we finally achieved the goal thanks to a last-minute £20,000 grant from the Mayor of Lewisham's clean air fund and £5,000 from the Kirby Laing Trust. The other donors are Viridor Credits (who distribute landfill tax), the London Community Energy Fund, the

Garfield Weston Trust, the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, our own reserves, and some extremely generous gifts from members of the congregation. Together this will cover the £200,000 likely cost. Preparatory work has already started, and the heat pumps are on order (there is a long lead-in time). Sadly, as the electricity required to run the pumps is so much more expensive than gas, we shall not be saving much money once they are installed, despite the fact that our gas bills have tripled since December, when our previous very advantageous contract expired.

We also had a grant from the City Bridge Trust for an eco-audit of the entire building, which we have yet to do much with; there are many areas where we need to rethink what we do, in order to improve our carbon footprint and our environmental impact. And we were lucky enough to receive funding from both the Lewisham Borough of Culture Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund to stage a community dance project that will take place later this year. This promises to be a most exciting community endeavour, led by Dagmara Bilon, a terrific local choreographer, and with music by Elliot Popeau-George, a young black composer from the East end of London.



*Dagmara Bilon, Choreographer –
The Gyratory Dance Festival*

Locally, I continue to be involved with both the synagogue and the local Islamic Centre; I was invited to say a few words at the Eid-in-the-Park event on May Day before an estimated four thousand worshippers, which was both inspiring and challenging. We have had quite a bit of filming taking place – there was rather a beautiful short film partly shot here over lockdown, looking at empty places of worship awaiting the return of their congregations. And we had adverts shot in church or church hall for an NHS Covid-vaccination advert, for Virus software, and for an on-line sports magazine called the ‘Correspondent’ – all of these brought in welcome funds for the

church, and helped us to survive a difficult period. We also had further generous local authority 'restart' grants to help us to reopen affordably after lockdown, to assist with the recovery of social life locally.

In terms of roles within the parish, we have seen some major changes. Peter and Sue Charles, who had been regular members of the congregation for many years, Peter as Reader (and much more) and Sue as Parish Manager, unexpectedly resigned from their roles in October. Sue was replaced temporarily by Elaine Cammock, and in January we appointed Richard Swann as her permanent successor, who has gone on to win the hearts of all the many users of the Centre. Sybil Bair came to the end of her term as churchwarden at the last APM, and was replaced by Joan Baker, who has taken to the role quickly and competently. Sue Dearie, after many years of cajoling members of the congregation into reading lessons, handed over to Corinne Browne-Marke. Trevor Smith took on the accountancy role previously occupied by Andy McGuire. And Lesley Ihekuna and Fiona Tyrell-Jackson have taken on Peter Charles' role as parish safeguarding officers. We have every cause to be most grateful to all those newly in post, and those who preceded them.

As always, there are a huge number of thank you's owed to very many people. It has been a really tough year, beginning with the end of a third lockdown, and then the return to the new normal by slow degrees, and it is not just in church that many people are really feeling tiredness and continuing anxiety. So a huge thank you to those who have simply kept things going, notably our wonderful and hard-working sacristan, Kofi Hagan, and his team of servers; to Kevin Counihan, who comes to help prepare the Sunday and weekday masses; and to Jocelyn Freeman, our director of music, who despite everything has encouraged the choir to grow, with both children and adults coming in increasing numbers; to Ian Shaw, who has played the organ for us most Sundays, and to Lucy Morrell and Marcus Wibberley; to Lesley Ihekuna and Paul Edwards, our video team, who have the responsibility of streaming our services to the faithful crowd of St Laurence's people who are unable to get to church (in one case because he lives in Australia); to Sybil Bair and her team of flower arrangers for their beautiful Sunday arrangements; to Helen, who has taken over the role of co-ordinating refreshments on Sunday mornings; to the members of the PCC Standing Committee, who at one stage

were meeting almost weekly to undertake risk assessments regarding the reopening of the church, and checking what could be done safely, especially Joyce Turpin (PCC secretary) and Victor Obasogie for his sound legal advice; to Ray Williams, chair of the Centre Management Committee, and his team, who have overseen the reopening of the Centre after lockdown and ensured that it becomes ever more thriving, and to Richard Swann, our new parish manager; to Margaret Greaves, enrolling member of our Mothers' Union; to Mark Gayfer, our honorary financial adviser, who keeps our accounts at least approximately on the strait and narrow pathway; but above all, we all owe a huge debt of thanks to my colleagues Fr Andrew, Fr Anthony, and Fr Iain (sadly incapacitated since Christmas – we continue to pray for his speedy recovery) and Grace Blyth, our Reader, and Ijeoma Nwajiobi, our Pastoral Auxiliary; and to our two churchwardens, Beverley Chin and Joan Baker, who have worked tirelessly by day and by night to keep the church open, the Centre running smoothly and the Vicar sane.

We are truly blessed to have two such dedicated people in the Churchwardens' seats, and owe them a very great deal of gratitude. We can only pray that the next year sees a full restoration of church and community life, and that the natural resilience of God's Christian people, by the power of the Spirit, once more restores to us all God's fulness of life.

Fr Charles

From The Churchwardens

The last two years due to the pandemic there have been changes to the way we worship at St Laurence. We cannot ignore how our lives have been affected by it. As a result of this the church wardens' role has brought new changes.

During the pandemic we had to find ways to monitor and keep the congregation safe by social distancing, how we seat members and how they moved around the church. With the help of a volunteering team, we were able to keep things clean, safe and reassured the congregation that their safety and wellbeing were very important to us. There was also the introduction of the track and trace system which allowed us to keep a record of both congregations and visitors who came to church but from our perspective it also allowed us to know who was attending so we could contact those who we were not seeing. Our services were also streamed via Facebook and our thanks to our digital team who have made it a success.

The Standing Committee and PCC meetings were facilitated by Zoom and some of the clergy have now become experts!

The Churchwardens' role is extremely busy, there so many things we need to cover and it does not only happen on

Sundays. It's been a very busy time with new challenges and rules to adhere to. It's been a trying and difficult time but with the lifting of restrictions it's great to see that buzz returning to St Laurence.

Sunday is the beginning of our week, the other days we can be found doing the banking from the Sunday collection and attending meetings that affects the role. We work closely with Richard Swann the Parish Manager and all the staff in the centre. Finances are very major in keeping the church afloat so it's very important that all money received is processed quickly. We process all revenue from the centre and other sources. With finance in mind a substantial amount has been spent on the four flats that are attached to the church and which the churchwardens totally manage.

Various project over the last 6 months:

Double glazed windows in flats 33 and 35 they were suffering from extreme condensation a new tenant moved into flat 35a and that was refurbished and sound proofed which has helped with the historical noise that was affecting the tenants in flat 33a new double-glazed front entrance door to the flats. Security lights to

the entrance, sides and back of the building.

All these projects were researched, arranged and project managed by us bringing the flats to a much better and safer standard.

On the 6th April we had the Annual Inspection which was done this year by Alastair Cutting the Archdeacon (he normally does this visit every 3 years.) Due to the pandemic a few years were missed.

He inspected all the silverware and the other valuable pieces which are held securely in safes. All the books for marriages, deaths, insurances (buildings and contents) gas and electricity certificates and all other paper work that relates to the church building and the centre were checked and are all logged and up to date. During this inspection (the first for us both) we learnt how great the responsibilities are of the churchwardens' role and the need to take care of all aspects of the building, contents and valuables (this is a very tall order).

Although we have been under restrictions for over 2yrs we were still able to have various complete services. The

churchwardens have covered over 30 funeral services 12 of which were members of our congregation and we hold them in our hearts and prayers.

The last year myself and Joan have covered this role. It's been a journey of learning, although sometimes stressful we have worked very well and have enjoyed our time together. Although challenging the churchwardens' role is very rewarding and satisfying. Our thanks to the congregation for their continuous support and encouragement, we even receive the odd sweet sometimes. We would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to Father Charles for his guidance and support.

We feel that St Laurence has a great congregation and ministry team. As part of this team, we have achieved so much in bringing normality back to the church at this difficult time. We come together to worship and praise the Lord whilst enjoying and respecting each other.

**Beverley Chin and Joan Baker
Churchwardens**

The Parochial Church Council

From the PCC Secretary:

The Parochial Church Council meets bi-monthly to discuss matters relating to the day- to- day running of the church receiving and discussing reports from various individuals, for example the Church Wardens reports, the Centre Chairman reports, and the financial reports. Issues arising from the church's role as a landlord and employer are also dealt with during the meetings. Resolutions voted on by the PCC included concessions on the community centre hire fees, access improvements and repairs to the church and agreeing new employment contracts for the centre employees. The Standing Committee is made up of Canon Charles Pickstone, Joyce Turpin, Beverley Chin, Joan Baker, Victor Obasogie and Ray Williams (Centre Chairman). We lost Peter Charles our safeguarding officer back in October and Lesley Ikehuna along with Fiona Tyrrell-Jackson have kindly agreed to take on this role.

Current members of the PCC are listed below:

Canon Charles Pickstone, Fr Iain Farguhar, Ray Williams (Centre Chairman), Joyce Turpin (Secretary), Grace Blyth (Reader), Victor Obasogie, Marva Mayne, Daniel Sackey, Lesley Ikehuna (Safeguarding Officer). Roy Brown, Sybil Bair, Beverley Chin (Church Warden), Joan Baker (Church Warden), Margaret Greaves (Mothers Union), Bridgit Sam-Bailey, Florence Brown-Marke and Paul Omondiale.

Joyce Turpin
PCC Secretary

Centre Management, Chairman's Report

Over the past twelve months we have seen a change in the day-to-day management of the centre, with the departure of Sue Charles in Autumn 2021, with the temporary appointment of Elaine Cammock Oct-Jan to the current post-holder, Richard Swann, from January 2022. Each bringing their own unique style and talents to the role. I thank both Sue and Elaine for their hard work and dedication to the life of the centre.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As the centre continued to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, more of our regular community groups were able to return to the centre to offer their work to the community. Since the new year we have seen a real increase in the use of the centre and are on course for a busy year. We have a number of religious groups that meet regularly alongside a whole host

of other groups, the St Laurence Badminton Club are still a weekly feature as well as the Hummingbird Lunch Club, South East London War Games and Sylvia's Team. The hall is generally booked each Saturday for large life events and we continue benefit from the regular weekly hirers and long-term office lets.

WORKS

Some of you may have noticed work to improve the centre is ongoing, most recently we were able to have the car park relined and the Jubilee Room has been redecorated.

THE FUTURE

Looking ahead the Centre Management Committee hope to continue to improve the facilities within the centre. Looking at ways we can continue to be more sustainable, charitable and commercial in our outlook.

My personal thanks are given to members of the Centre Management Committee who have given so much time and support to the running of the centre, of which I am grateful.

Ray Williams
Centre Management
Committee Chair

The Director of Music

Thank you for your ongoing support of the choir. The last year has seen some rewarding results for the St Laurence Music Department, and we have begun our recovery following the harshest years of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been wonderful to see the return of our brothers Jeremy and Paul, whose fine voices have been a stable in our choir for many years.

CHOIR

Our most recent recruitment drive was focussed on the adult choir, as for various reasons this had been dwindling in recent years. The number of regular adult choir members has increased nearly three-fold over the year, and we are also seeing a significant increase in the number of Catford Cathedra (semi-regular ad hoc singers) members joining us. This will be most noticeable in the deeper, richer sound coming from the choir stalls, and we are delighted to have recruited not one but two choral scholars: Lynda Nwabudike and Johannes Gerges who are both voice students at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. It is an honour to be able to nurture them on their musical journeys. We are delighted to be nurturing and empowering new

junior choir members again too, and restarting MiniChoir with the expert guidance of Mairéad and Lynda.



Recital Ready!

ORGANISTS

We gave up the organ for Lent, as per tradition here at St Laurence, but decided to keep a minimum accompaniment for our re-burgeoning singing... I must say that I have been really encouraged by the quality and confidence of our singing in recent weeks, especially after two years of singing mostly in the confines of our own homes! We continue to nurture strong relationships with Ian Shaw and Lucy Morrell, our Guest Organist, and look forward to welcoming them back with us after Easter.

TRIPS

We are tentatively looking to arrange a couple of choir trips over the coming year or two, now that the future is a little more certain. I hope many of you will be able to join us for what will promise to be a heart-warming occasion visiting All Saints Blackheath to sing evensong in the summer months. More details to follow soon.



All Saints' Blackheath

OTHER MUSIC ACTIVITIES

SongEasel, the initiative I set up to bring song to the area recently achieved charitable status and we can look forward to three concerts here in the summer, on May 1st, 15th and June 19th. Look out for posters with full details! There will also be song masterclasses on June 5th (12noon) which is a unique opportunity to learn more about the finer details of performing song, as both a singer and a pianist, so do tell your friends

and come along to learn more about this fascinating art form!

RESOURCES

We are pleased that the church budget is now clear enough to be able to grant us funds to develop the music here further, and look forward to using these important contributions to enhance the musical life at St Laurence, helping us to elevate our praises to God at special moments during the liturgical year.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and encouragement. It has made all the difference as pandemic restrictions lifted and we endeavoured to build our team of leaders both young and old. I can confidently say your support has meant that the music department is as stronger and committed as it has ever been, and the team we now have in place is outstanding: a credit to the church, and one that any parish church in the country would be proud to possess.

With love,

Jocelyn

Jocelyn Freeman
Director of Music

From the Sacristan:

Kofi Hagan writes:

I have not got much to report except to thank the following servers who have been doing their best to come and serve during this pandemic period.

With thanks to Ijeoma, Titi, Vitalis, Henry, Ra'elle and Sandra.

A very special thanks is given to Kathleen who has been doing a great job by ensuring all the linens are kept clean and ready for services. I personally thank her very much and very grateful for doing such a wonderful job for the Lord.

We are always pleased to hear from anyone who may wish to serve at Mass. Do speak to Father Charles or myself.

Kofi Hagan
Sacristan



Safeguarding

I recently joined Lesley to become joint Safeguarding Officers after the departure of Peter Charles. We hope to carry on his sterling work, continuing to promote the safety of everyone in our parish. We perform our functions with support and guidance from the Diocese.

As a Church, we welcome worshippers from the full spectrum of our community, each bringing their own special light and warmth to our beautiful building. We all bear responsibility for those who, due to age or other factors, are deemed to be vulnerable, and require specific actions, practices and procedures to be carried out to ensure they are able to partake in worship and church activities in safety. It is important that we create an environment where everyone can feel confident that any concerns they raise about safeguarding issues



will be taken seriously and dealt with appropriately.

Training provided by the Diocese and checks undertaken by the

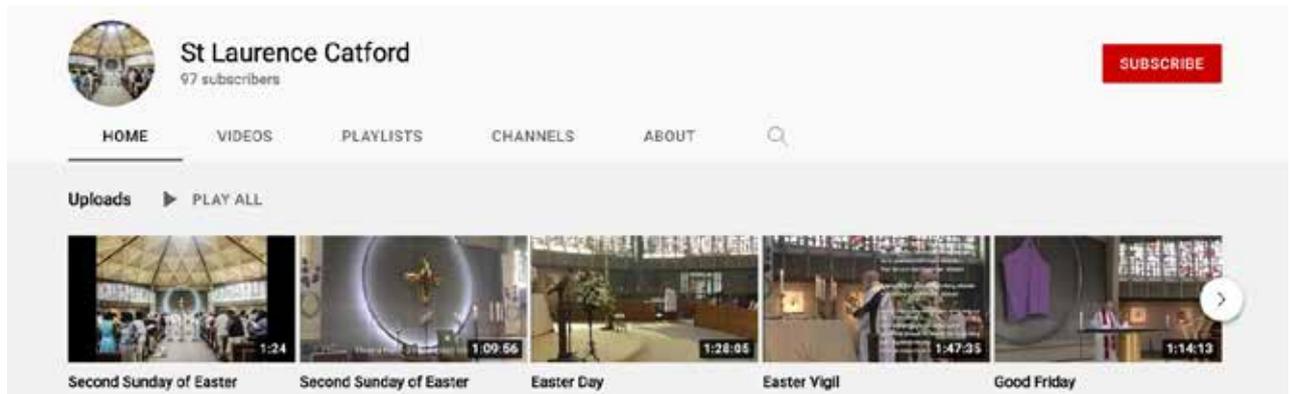


Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) on those within our church who are in positions of responsibility or who work with our young people are key elements of safeguarding. Online training enables more courses to be delivered but there are still some instances of delay. Records are kept to ensure that training and DBS checks are as current as possible, and the PCC is provided with regular updates. Ensuring a safe environment extends to the carrying out of risk assessments of activities taking place away from church premises.

We welcome any ideas or suggestions about further steps that could be taken to make improvements in this important area.

If you need further information, or wish to raise any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Fiona Tyrell-Jackson and
Lesley Ihekuna**



YouTube Homepage

Digital Ministry Report

This past 12 months, our online family continues to grow in accessing our live streamed services or watching the recordings that remain on our streaming platforms for 7 days, both in the UK and Abroad. Our online family see's the streaming as a vital lifeline, in that they can continue to be a part of the St Laurence family and worship with the congregation from their own homes.

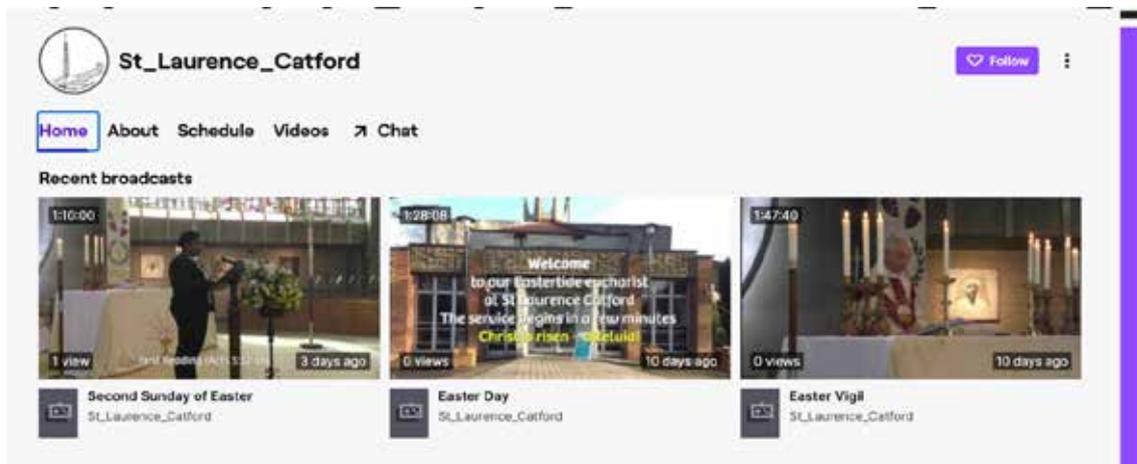
On average for the 10.00am online Sunday service, we get 7-10 parishioners watching through Facebook but have had on occasions up to 15, 2-3 parishioners through YouTube, and most recently, St Laurence has added a third streaming platform, Twitch which we are trying to promote.

During Advent, we streamed the Candlelit Christmas Carol Service as a trial to see if the Church would be too dark, and it was an enormous success, which then led to the streaming of Holy Week, Easter Vigil and Easter Day, even when technical difficulties caused issues with the quality of the broadcasts.

The current Digital Ministry team comprises of Lesley and Paul, and a recruitment drive for additional people to join showed promise, but unfortunately didn't deliver.

Twitch Homepage

https://www.twitch.tv/st_laurence_catford



East Lewisham Deanery Synod Report

Meetings of the East Lewisham Deanery Synod have continued to go ahead via Zoom.

Topics considered during the year included, 'Eco church in action' and 'Living in love and faith'

The issue of modern Slavery is on the agenda for their meeting in April this year, considered as part of the commitment to the Diocesan Anti-Racism Charter.

*"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer
longer
slave or free, there is no longer male and
female; for all
of you are one in Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3:28*

*"Being anti-racist is not the same as simply not
being racist.
It is not enough as a Diocese not to be racist;
instead we must actively counter, disrupt and
oppose
racial injustice."*

*Taken from The Diocese of Southwark's Anti-Racism
Charter 2021*

Agendas across the year covered 'Areas and opportunities for collaboration', Living in Love and Faith and Environmental Issues. There were discussions in 'breakout rooms' about what steps individual churches were considering to reduce their Carbon Footprints and how ideas might be shared with other churches.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On the 4th March this year, Catford Churches came together at St. Laurence and through Zoom for the Annual World Day of Prayer. Service booklets had been prepared the Women of England, Northern Ireland and Wales (listed alphabetically). The service was well attended. Our thanks to all the local denominations who participated.

Grace Blyth – Deanery Synod Rep.

Appendix

**ST LAURENCE CHURCH, CATFORD
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING – SUNDAY 8th MAY 2022
ST LAURENCE CHURCH HALL**

- 1. Prayers**
- 2. Minutes of 2020/2021 APM Meeting**
- 3. Electoral Roll Officer's Report**
- 4. Elections**
 - a. Churchwardens
 - b. PCC honorary secretary
 - c. Chair of Centre Management Committee
 - d. Honorary Treasurer
 - e. 9 Members of PCC
5. Vicar's Report
6. Church Wardens Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. PCC Secretary's Report
9. Centre Management Report
10. Director of Music Report
11. Sacristy Report
12. Safeguarding Report
13. Junior Church Report
14. Deanery Synod Report
15. Mothers Union Report
16. AOB
17. Close with Prayers

**ST LAURENCE CHURCH CATFORD
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING – SUNDAY 23 MAY 2021
ST LAURENCE CHURCH HALL**

PRAYERS – The meeting was opened with Father Charles welcoming those present and saying prayers.

APOLOGIES – No apologies

MINUTES OF THE APM 2020 – The minutes were read as published in the attachment.

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER’S REPORT – It was reported that there was 196 members on the official electoral roll.

ELECTIONS:

Church Wardens – Beverley Chin and Joan Baker

PCC honorary secretary – Joyce Turpin

Centre Manager – Ray Williams

Honorary Treasurer – None

Auditor – Gavin Ellis FCCA

Deanery Synod Reps – Grace Blyth, Florence Browne-Marke, Daniel Sackey

Members of the PCC – Bridgit Sam-Bailey, Victor Obasogie, Marva Mayne, Sybil Bair, Paul Omondiale, Ralston (Roy) Brown, Leslie Ihekuna

VICAR’S REPORT – Read as published in attachment.

CHURCH WARDENS REPORT – Read as published in attachment

TREASURER’S REPORT – Read and fully explained as published in the attachment. The accounts were accepted. Gavin Ellis FCCA was elected as auditor,

PCC SECRETARY’S REPORT – Read as published in the attachment.

CENTRE MANAGEMENT REPORT – Read as published in the attachment.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC REPORT – Read as published in the attachment.

SACRISTY REPORT – Read as published in the attachment.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT – Read as published in the attachment

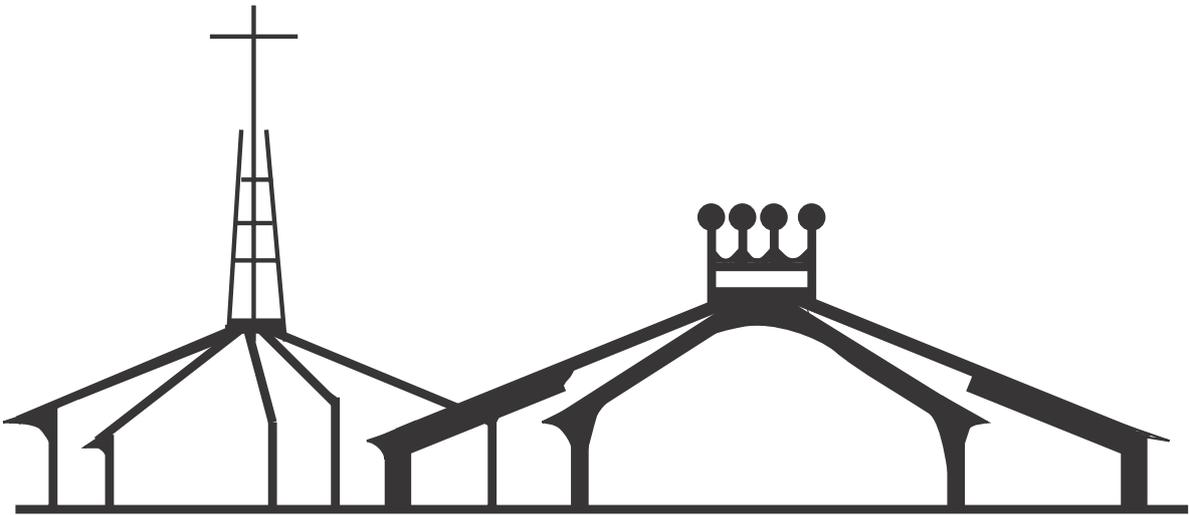
JUNIOR CHURCH REPORT – Read as published in the attachment.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT – Read as published in the attachment.

MOTHERS UNION REPORT – Read as published in the attachment.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Father Charles informed the meeting that we still did not have a treasurer and that the main work being done by Andy McGuire our paid book-keeper.

The meeting was closed with Fr. Charles saying a prayer.



St Laurence Church, Catford.
Annual Report 2021-2022
May 2022