

St. Laurence Catford. Annual Report 2017-18



Vicar's Report, 2017/18

Nationally, it has been rather a depressing year; a divided nation has been stumbling towards leaving the EU without much perceptible enthusiasm from either side. A government weakened by the ill-advised decision to call a premature election is fearful of treading on anybody's toes. In America, a new style of President seems more concerned with his media-star ratings than with national policy. And Russia is threatening to spark a new Cold War in a bid for attention at any cost. Even in London, there is a sense of anxiety as to what the future holds, which is depressing house prices (in itself, not unwelcome) and beginning to close down some big stores.

Here at St Laurence's, however, the mood continues upbeat as we seek to offer, on behalf of this place that God loves, namely Catford, the praise that it has largely forgotten to express. Every Sunday and most weekdays, we offer praise and thanksgiving, the highest destiny to which human flesh is called. Through Christ, we offer up to God our wounded world, asking him to receive this very imperfect and yet still wonderful sacrifice.

Liturgy – the offering of praise and worship – is at the heart of everything we do, and we have had our usual feast of rich liturgies through the year. Beginning in the cold light of a dawn mass on Easter Day, followed by a very welcome full English breakfast (with Shakespeare, perhaps one of England's significant contributions to world culture), we went on to celebrate the joy of the resurrection with an all-age Easter liturgy where our young people were the stars of the show, presenting an Easter drama they had created after the Gospel.

Other notable liturgies through the year included Ascension Day, followed by a garden party in the vicarage, several other family masses, where our children played an important role, from reading lessons to full-scale dramas, including a much-appreciated Harvest Festival, and our usual Advent and Christmas Carol services, and New Year's Eve watchnight service. For the Feast of Corpus Christi, we once more hosted an ecumenical service with friends from Holy Cross; we gave the congregation benediction in the Lady Chapel using a Roman Catholic host displayed in a beautiful monstrance borrowed from St Andrew's that Fr Lindsay had bought in Assisi – so many layers of meaning in one liturgical action!

As well as these more memorable services, let

us not forget the daily round of morning prayer, said in the Lady Chapel most days by the clergy, and Sunday evening prayer led by a team of Readers and clergy, and the daily mass – more or less well attended – that form the very foundation of what we do here. It is this unspectacular daily prayer that is at the heart of our practice as Christians, and gives us the resources to live Christian lives despite all the pressures that life may throw at us. All members of the congregation are very welcome to any of these services, and those who do attend unfailingly find them helpful to growing in faith and love.

On Mothering Sunday this year, the Mayor of Lewisham, Sir Steve Bullock, was present, to mark the beginning of our celebrations of our church's fiftieth birthday. Sir Steve also dedicated a beautiful new sculpture by Victoria Rance, created to draw attention to our World War I memorial window. What had been rather a dingy space at the end of the corridor leading to the Lady Chapel has been transformed by Victoria's elegant and plain memorial sculpture based on a wreath into a prayerful space. (We have yet to get it properly lit, but that is under way). We now have a place for a memorial book, where former parishioners can be remembered on their anniversaries, and we hope the space will be well used. The sculpture was paid for by the Borough of Lewisham, out of funds they received for a World War I commemoration event that had taken place here a previous year, with a drum-head service conducted by Fr Iain and the recreation of a recruiting march round the borough.

A welcome innovation this year is the occasional piano mass – as our director of music is also a concert pianist, it is good that we have been able to make use of her considerable talent in accompanying services. As often with innovations, it began in necessity, as this has been the year of the three organists. We began the year with James Gough, who resigned at the beginning of the year; he was briefly succeeded by Ed Dean; and we have now been delighted to be able to appoint Nicholas Mannoukas, a former organ scholar, to the post.

One major highlight of the year was our Nigeria Sunday celebration on October 1st, which also marked the first visit of Bishop Karo-wei, the new (Nigerian) bishop of Woolwich, to the parish. Bishop Karo-wei celebrated a great mass in the morning, followed by a riotous parish lunch, with plenty to eat and drink. The Bishop was (unsurprisingly) very impressed,

and claims we are now one of his favourite parishes. (We suspect there are many!) We are most grateful to the Nigerian community here at St Laurence's for putting on such a good spread and catering so capably for a capacity crowd.

Two other instances of our remarkable capacity for hospitality stand out; we entertained all the clergy of the Woolwich episcopal area to lunch in the course of their annual study day; and we also hosted the walkers on the annual interfaith pilgrimage round local faith centres – some 250 of them, who were fed in 30 minutes. It was a real *tour de force*, involving a very large number of volunteers, who coped marvellously with such a big crowd who had to be fed and watered in so short a time. In addition, we entertained a large group of Anglo-Catholic clergy from across the Diocese, members of the Society of Catholic Priests, the members of Deanery Synod (though they only had tea and biscuits) and a large Diocesan meeting. People do seem to like coming here!

As well as the Nigeria Day parish lunch, we had a bring and share lunch on the Sunday of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, fund-raising lunches for our summer and autumn fairs, and a fund-raising breakfast for Christian Aid. For the first time for many years, thanks to the enthusiasm and organising ability of Robert Green, we had both a mid-summer fair and an Advent fair. (The previous year, Barbados Day had taken the place of the Advent fair). Good sums of money were raised at both. And our parish barbecue and dances were amongst the most successful for many years: the barbecue raised over £800, and the dance a terrific £1675 – it was a great evening, and much enjoyed by the many people who turned up for good food and great music. In fact, the turn-out was so good we had to send out for fresh supplies! As well as social events, sporting events are also of increasing importance. This year there were two: Ray Williams and Fr Andrew represented the parish in the Diocesan Golf Championship, and both got prizes (though apparently not for winning); and in the annual interfaith cricket match, in a most exciting finale, a team largely from St Laurence's defeated the team largely from the Islamic Centre with three balls to spare – all without any ball tampering (as far as we know). It was a great occasion. We also met in the Synagogue in July for a discussion on Religious Symbols in Faith; and we were all invited to the Islamic Centre one evening during Ramadan for their traditional open iftar, that

we might break the fast with them.

As always, we gave away much of the money we raised. This year, we had a collection for the Manna Society (a homeless charity on the South Bank); our midnight mass collection, which, by tradition, we give to a homeless charity every year, went to the Robes Project run by Southwark Cathedral; we installed a 'Remembrance Tree' in the narthex in the run-up to Christmas, donations from which went to St Christopher's Hospice, £228 raised from donations to our Christmas Card booklet went to World Vision. We gave £500 each to Children's Air Ambulance, Ageing Well in Lewisham, Embrace the Middle East, the African Child Trust and £800 to HumbleBe CIC, and smaller sums to the Children's Society, Christian Aid and the Connections Trust. Jeanne Mynett sold hand-made cards brought back from Sri Lanka for the benefit of people from Candy who receive help from the Godwin memorial fund, while John Strange sang carols outside Oxford Circus tube station to raise funds for the homeless. Our Christian Aid street collection this year raised rather a meagre sum, and so we will probably deem the era of door to door collections in Catford be over, at least for now. Megan Barford, after a visit to the migrants at Calais, began a fund-raising and clothes gathering project for people who have nothing but their dreams of a life away from war or violence.

In terms of fund-raising for the church, we can now take on-line donations, which, while not greatly used, is appreciated by those who do. And the fund-raising team created some very successful St Laurence's calendars for sale to the congregation. Those who donate the tea and coffee after the Sunday in celebration of their birthdays or other event also make a useful contribution to the refreshment budget, and we always much enjoy singing them Happy Birthday more or less raucously, depending upon how many opera singers we have in the hall at the time.

As well as almsgiving, Christians have a duty to deepen their faith. There was plenty of opportunity for this through the year. Our Bible Study group, which had been meeting for many years under the able leadership of Fr Iain and Peter & Sue Charles, found a new lease of life by showing Biblical or religious films (in one sense or another). These sessions have been very well attended, and have provoked good discussion. We have had one or two Bible studies attended by members of our Nigerian community in each

other's homes. We had our annual parish quiet day at St Andrew's Convent on Belmont Hill, and quiet mornings for Advent and Holy Week. We also hosted a quiet morning for the Deanery Mothers Union, which was well attended. Visiting preachers over the year included Pastor Steve Evans from Crossroads Church in South Wales, the well-known Roman Catholic theologian Tina Beattie, Mtr Christine Latham of Bromley College, and during Lent Fr Ross Gunderson, curate of St Barnabas Dulwich; Fr Fabrizio Pesce (St Peter's, Acton Green); Sebastian Harries, curate of Lingfield and Dormansland, on the southern tip of the diocese, and Fr Steffan Mathias, Curate of our next-door parish, St Mary's, Lewisham.

Our Church Choir continues to flourish, and is probably the largest it has been for a long time, under the direction of Jocelyn Freeman, our director of music, now in her second year. The young people are given training in singing and in the rudiments of music – and pizza in ample supply is always a great incentive to stay for a rehearsal and to learn to sing. We are most grateful to Jocelyn for recruiting and retaining so many young people. In Easter week, they will set off for a residency in her native St David's. (During the year, other parish pilgrimages included a week in the Convento of Sant'Agostino in San Gimignano, and a visit to Ghana – both very appreciated). Also during the year, we founded a musical scholarship in the name of Joyce Jefferys, our oldest parishioner, who had died the previous January, with money given in her memory. We shall see the fruits of that shortly with the appointment of a talented young musician to assist Jocelyn and Nicholas.

Jocelyn has organised various concerts over the year, generally on a Sunday morning after mass, and a 'Come and Sing' Fauré *Requiem* in February. The choir also sang in two local nursing homes and round various Catford pubs in the week before Christmas, and raised £218 for musical charities and choir funds. And we were delighted to be able to host one of the major events of this year's Catford film festival in church, a showing of the film 'A United Kingdom'.

Continuing on the young people's theme, junior Church continues to flourish, and we are very grateful to all the Junior Church leaders who Sunday by Sunday teach the next generation of Christians all about the Christian faith, and how to sing God's praises. Another innovation this year has been the introduction of a

seven-month first communion course. Thanks to Antoinette Ojiako, who is leading the course, we now offer young people not just a course lasting a few weeks, but a whole academic year's worth of teaching, to enable them really to grow in faith. We have had two children pursuing the course this year (they will be admitted to communion on Pentecost Sunday), and hope for rather more next year. And we also teach young people how to serve at mass; it is most encouraging to watch our children progress from boat girl to thurifer over the years!

One of the key contributions we make to the community of Catford is to run a toddler group on Wednesday mornings in term time. Sunbeam Tots has been running almost continuously for 50 years (maybe the original users from 1968 are bringing along their grand-children). We had a change of leader at the beginning of the year, and under the new leadership, the group is going really well, with numbers increasing, although funding continues to be an issue. This is not an easy time to be funding-raising for core costs for an ongoing project.

Though history doesn't reveal whether he was ever taken to Sunbeam Tots, it is good to record that Marcus Wibberley, who grew up in the parish, later becoming a chorister and then Director of Music, has returned to south-east London as Director of Music at St George's Church, Beckenham, a very prestigious post. And a more recent former Director of Music, Huw Morgan, turned up at mass in March with his wife Emma and their new baby, who was appropriately mobbed.

The Centre has continued to flourish – as the accounts show, it has been another successful year for our community centre, which has generated a good surplus for St Laurence's while welcoming many thousand local people (we estimate our annual footfall of church and centre combined at around forty thousand!). For the first time, we have taken on a finance worker, Andy McGuire, to oversee our increasingly complicated accounts, who has already proved his worth.

After all the activity of the previous three years, not much work has been done on the fabric of the church or Centre this year, apart from some snagging of things that had gone wrong. We are awaiting an engineer's report on the condition of the main concrete arches that support the church, prior to reroofing them at the next level up – the box gutters behind the parapets, where leaves tend to build up and

clog up the gargoyles, leaving them ponding with water – a problem for next year, along with looking for some progress on the lighting scheme that will hopefully replace our ageing fluorescent tubes.

The focus of the year has been on our growth as a parish. Early in the year, Fr Andrew put forward a proposal based on a project he had successfully implemented in his previous parish, 'Operation Andrew', based on the apostle St Andrew who simply invited his brother Simon to come and hear Jesus. Simon Peter went on to become the leader of the disciples after Jesus. We explored the possibility of doing something similar here at St Laurence's at a PCC strategy day in the autumn, and decided to try. Consequently, we have been using this line of scripture, 'Come and See', as the basis of a number of sermons, and as an invitation to members of the congregation to invite non-churchgoers to St Laurence's to 'come and see' what is going on here. Prayer cards were given to members of the congregation, and we have all been praying for those who we would particularly like to invite. Our thanks go to Fr Andrew for putting forward and, along with Fr Hugo, overseeing this important task. Another important aspect of our parish mission is the production of a Christmas card that gets delivered to many of the homes in Catford. We are grateful to Melinda, the parish administrator, for her design skills in creating another attractive card this year. Over the year, we decided to give the parish magazine a break, as it seemed no longer to be serving so important a purpose as formerly, and concentrate instead on creating a more varied and informative pew sheet on Sundays. We are particularly grateful to Peter Charles, who edited and produced the magazine over so many years, twisting the arms of many parishioners into creating material they had no idea they were capable of, and giving us a tangible record of fast-flowing parish life.

Over the course of the year, we said good-bye to a number of former parishioners or family of current members. Mercy Nwajiobi tragically lost her daughter Chinwe, and Julia Jones her sister Sislyn. Charlie Long, a well-known former parishioner also died, and his ashes are buried in our memorial garden, as are those of Jean Renton, who died shortly afterwards at a ripe age. Sharon Williams lost her father Ernie, Linda O'Mallo her father Rudolph, and May Witter her son Colin. Vi Weston, well known for her skilful operation of her motorised wheelchair, was laid to rest; Dennis Stanley, a former churchwarden who moved out of the parish

many years ago, also died.

My own year was complicated by the grant of a precious six week spell away finally to write the book I've had at the back of my mind since my last sabbatical in 2012. It was rather a frenetic six weeks, but the first draft of the book is finished; several publishers are currently looking at it – who knows if it will ever see the light of day! Over the course of the year, I have also taught part of an MA course at Sarum College, in the heart of Salisbury, led a study day for the Diocese at Camberwell School of Art, and a post-production discussion on Lazarus for an experimental theatre group on the South Bank; and preached at the cathedral as part of the Diocese's Black History Month programme. I was very pleased to be asked by the Diocesan newspaper to create a Christmas centrespread for them, and had a talk I first gave at St John's, Catford, our neighbouring parish, published in the Church Times, as part of a Lenten devotional series.

This coming year, there will be some big changes. Melinda Gereb, our lovely parish administrator, is moving on at the beginning of April – as I write, we have just shortlisted for her replacement; her hospitable welcome in the parish office to all our helpers, volunteers and centre users will be much missed. And Fr Hugo, our extraordinarily talented and gifted curate, leaves us in May to take on his own parish in a particularly demanding part of London. We are most grateful to him for the hours of pastoral guidance he has given members of the parish, and for his leadership of important areas of parish life, from Junior Church to the Mothers Union.

I think most longer-standing members of the congregation will agree that this has been a particularly golden period in the history of St Laurence's with so strong and diverse a team of clergy to serve the parish: Fr Iain, whose loyalty, dedication and commitment to the good running of the parish and well-being of parishioners, is unparalleled; Fr Anthony and Fr Andrew who both bring to the parish in their different ways the experience of a life-time of ministry at home and abroad; Mtr Sue, who plays so valuable a role in the life of so many parishes locally and still has time to support the life of prayer and service here at St Laurence's while also holding down a full-time job in the country's most prominent cathedral; Fr Ian Thompson, who comes to us when not on duty at the prison where he is chaplain (this year, he celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of his diaconate); with

Fr Hugo's wonderfully warm and dedicated sense of priesthood which goes to the very core of his life, there can be very few parishes that have enjoyed the ministry of such a 'college' of prayerful and dedicated priests.

The ministry team also includes our two long-serving and hugely supportive readers, Peter and Grace – we should be particularly grateful as a parish to Peter not only for his teaching skills (which he puts at the service of both diocese and parish) but also his administrative competence in looking after areas of the parish as diverse as supervising Sunbeam Tots on behalf of the PCC and, most importantly, assisted by Ann Mill, the safeguarding of vulnerable people within the parish. Grace also spends much of her energy with a related project, Ageing Well in Lewisham, which is also largely run by clergy and laity from St Laurence's. Last, but certainly not least, Ijeoma, our Pastoral Auxiliary, gives huge pastoral support to members of the parish who are experiencing difficulties in their lives, and quietly listens, visits at home and encourages the sick and housebound. Add to this the work cheerfully carried out by the 50 or so volunteers who regularly or occasionally play their role in running the parish, whether the occasionally Sunday morning coffee duty or lesson reading to those such as Robert Green who put their professional skills at the service of the parish, and we have the core of a community of service who are happy to work together for the greater good of God's world.

Kofi Hagan as sacristan has spent a good deal of time at St Laurence's, organising rotas and training up our serving teams, especially the younger members. Kevin Counihan is rarely seen by the Sunday congregation, who are therefore probably unaware how many hours he puts in to the parish every week, assisting with important work in the sacristy and parish office. Joyce Turpin, PCC secretary, keeps us all organised. Eula Nicholas and Sybil Bair run the flower team on Friday mornings, and are taking responsibility for the big flower festival we have planned for June, which will be the centrepiece of our 1968 celebrations, and to which we much look forward. Mairead Thomas and Antoinette Ojiako (who also teaches the first communion class) run Junior Church with a dedicated team – never enough! – of helpers. Debbie Watson looks after the wedding and baptism registers, Joan Broomes the giving envelope scheme, Marva and Eleisea run the Welcome Table; Sue Dearie looks after the lesson reading rota (please do volunteer your services

for this – or indeed for any of these important tasks within the church).

The Mothers Union have continued to be the backbone of our ministry of hospitality, providing endless food for parish events and a cheerful team to cook and serve it. They are largely responsible for the dance and barbeque mentioned above, and for any number of other social events. We are grateful to Beverley Lashley, who now steps down as enrolling member after three years, and look forward to Margaret Greaves' leadership, as she takes over.

Above all, the Centre Management team, ably headed up by Kay Lanston, enables the whole mission of the church by providing the financial and material resources without which the parish simply could not flourish. Money is a crucial fertiliser that enables a community to grow – added to the natural warmth and Christian generosity of St Laurence's people, it enables us to begin to fulfil our potential and we are most grateful to Kay and her team for enabling this. With appointment of a new parish administrator, there will probably be some changes in this area, and we need to celebrate what has been achieved over many years on behalf both of the church and of the people of Catford.

Overall, this has been a year of quiet growth, and we trust that we are laying the foundations for further development in the years to come, especially this coming year when we celebrate 50 years of God's goodness to us in this wonderful building, the home he has given to us in which to give God the praise that so many people have forgotten how to express.

Fr Charles

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Coming to the end of my tenure as Churchwarden leaves me with a sense of relief and sadness. Relief, in that the position has always been challenging but in a positive way. Sad, because it is the end of an important part of my life.

Dele and I work well together as previously I did with Fiona. It's hard to say what aspects of the job would take greater priority than the others so I won't try to do that. I suppose the key fact is that working closely with Father Charles regarding everything would be the most important thing to me personally. The Churchwardens role could not be achieved without cooperation from Kay Lanston and the Centre Management Committee. Joyce and Robert making up the rest of the team. This is supplemented with Melinda our Parish Administrator and Nick our caretaker.

The new Churchwarden will be involved with a number of tasks and commitments. Being present at the back of church on a Sunday and taking part in the service is just the start. Once the service is finished it is a quick cup of coffee and chat, then off to count the collection and process all other income from hall hire, church fees, donations, and everything else.

Being a Churchwarden is making a commitment. It starts at Southwark Cathedral with the Visitation Service to swear in all Churchwardens. For the next three years there is very little that you are not involved in. We take part in arranging all routine maintenance. We oversee the management of the flats. We are involved with most if not all of the visiting contractors. We help arrange for builders, plasterers, decorators, gardeners, electricians, plumbers and a host of others to carry out work at St Laurence's.

There are a number of major projects at St Laurence's that are either current or recently completed. Work to the roof, the Dalle de Vere windows and the Access works being part of these. I have been fortunate to learn a great deal about Church Architecture with the help and encouragement of Father Charles. Currently, we have two lighting projects underway, plans regarding the front boundary wall, and work to the concrete supports in the main church.

I have attended a number of training courses including a couple recently on 'Ancient Building' maintenance and a very interesting visit to the headquarters of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

People issues play a major role in the life of a Churchwarden. Involvement with recruitment being one. Dealing with day to day problems or just having a friendly chat after Service can be very gratifying.

Finances are always a major concern, normally because of the lack of them. As the Centre is run so efficiently we always seem to manage. Father Charles and the PCC setting and agreeing the budget playing a big part.

Recently, we were visited by our Arch Deacon, Alastair Cutting. This was for our Annual Inspection. We get to see the Arch Deacon every three years as part of this. On the day he inspects all the Registers. These include, Marriages, Funerals,

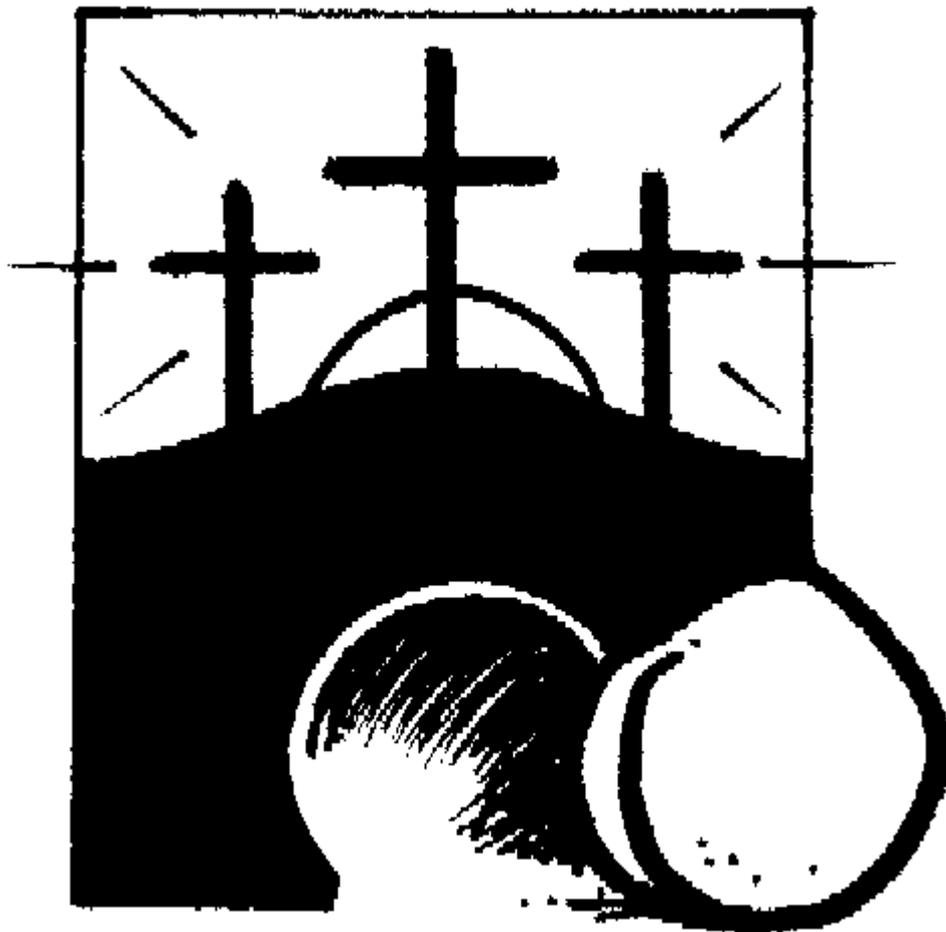
Baptisms, Confirmations, First Communion etc. We go through our Policies, Certificates, Manuals and lots more paperwork. Then discuss how St Laurence Church is doing in a Pastoral sense. I'm Happy to say that it all went well.

Dele and I enjoy what we do. But, this is because of the help and cooperation of many others. St Laurence Church is like a smoothly oiled machine with the numerous volunteers and Clergy being the moving parts.

I would like to thank some of those people and would take this opportunity to apologise to any that I may have missed. The Sidespersons and welcoming team on Sundays. Members of the PCC and the other Committees that I am on, the Director of Music and the choir for the wonderful music that they provide, the Congregation, Servers, Mothers Union and of course the Ministers of the Church. It's been a very good year and I hope that the next one is even better. God bless you all.

Raymond Williams and Dele Muji.

Churchwardens.



PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Parochial Church Council meets 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 Manager, the Treasurer and more recently Fund Raising Committee. 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.

Current members of the PCC are listed below:

Canon Charles Pickstone, Fr Iain Farguhar, Fr Hugo Adan, Jocelyn Freeman (Music Director since July), Kay Lanston (Centre Manager), Joyce Turpin (Secretary), Esme Alexander (Fund Raising Committee), Brenda Cox, Grace Blyth (Reader), Peter Charles (Reader), Robert Green (Deanery Synod Rep), Victor Obasogie, Antoinette Ojiako (Junior Church Rep), Ken Agumandu, Matthew Wright, Ray Williams (Churchwarden), Dele Muji (Churchwarden), Beverley Lashley (MU), and Jeni Griffiths., Megan Barford, Bridgit Sam-Bailey, Sybil Bair, Henry Otoo

Charities

The church is committed to donating a percentage of its income to charity. One of the important decisions the PCC has to make is which charities to support each year. Suggestions were received from members of the congregation, and various charities contacted the church requesting funding. This year five charities were chosen to receive £500 each.

Aging Well in Lewisham – Works to provide a better quality of life to older people living in the South of the borough, supporting people to remain in their own homes and helping people to live independently within their communities.

Humblebee – A charity, which rents the South Offices and was having grant difficulties.

Children's Air Ambulance – A small charity which provides a dedicated air ambulance to transfer sick children fighting for their lives between hospitals

EMBRACE – A charity, which helps people in war torn Middle East.

African Child Trust – A charity which helps fight against poverty in Africa, educating poor orphans and fatherless children. They help to support needy widows, empowering them to generate sustainable incomes.

Also a large amount of money has been raised for other charities this year including Christian Aid.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC'S REPORT

In the past year we have achieved quite a few of the goals proposed last year, including increasing the outreach of the choir; we have strengthened the links between Minichoir and choir; we have played a role in the church mission plan through concerts and musical events; we have recently appointed a new organist and a new music scholar; and have had ongoing success as we develop our specialist training for the Junior Choir.

The Choir

We have welcomed five new junior choir members this year, bringing the total number of children to fourteen. We have five singers in our alto section, two alternating tenors, and four basses. During the last year we have performed multiple concerts, recitals, carol singing and educational events, including a Come & Sing event welcoming people from both Lewisham Choral Society and as far afield as South West London. These have also been helpful in fundraising for our Minichoir, Choir Holiday and Choir Bursary Funds.

We managed to hold three *Pizza & Pitch* afternoons for the choir this year, offering specialist musicianship training to our choristers, whilst also enjoying games and a shared meal together.

The choir has now achieved a level of professionalism which is quite impressive for a voluntary institution. Many visitors comment on the beauty of the singing, including recent guest clergy and concert-goers. Some of the pieces the choir have learned and performed this year require a high level of concentration and professionalism, including works by Faure, Bainton, Byrd and Handel, and these have been completed with great commitment. As the Director of Music, I am very proud of their dedication and focus.

Appointments

Earlier this year we were lucky to appoint an outstanding new Organist & Assistant Director of Music, Nicholas Mannoukas, who was actually organ scholar here in 2012/13. He is about to graduate from the Royal College of Music and is a resident of Catford. Along with this appointment we were able to offer a music scholarship to organ and conducting student, William Campbell, who is currently in the lower sixth form at Wellington College. I am very happy that these two musicians are joining Mairéad and I in our vibrant music department here at St Laurence.

Projects

The choir recently went on tour St Davids, singing two evensongs in the Cathedral, and a lunchtime concert. We also had a chance to share meals together, strengthen the bonds of fellowship, and enjoy the local scenery and activities including sightseeing and a visit to the famous Bug Farm!

We are also glad to be participating in the celebratory Flower Festival in June, including a flower-themed concert on 16 June and an evensong on 17 June where we invite former members of the choir and musical team to rejoin us.

In line with the church mission, we look forward to increasing our outreach in the community and further afield through musical events such as further concerts, recitals, Come & Sing events, and strengthening links with local schools.

We also aim to deepen the links with Minichoir and Junior church, working collaboratively on a regular basis. We also hope to reach out to new members of the community, both young and adult members, and build the numbers of our choir as it continues to be a beacon of our church activity.

With love,

Jocelyn

SACRISTY REPORT

I am pleased to report that our Servers are doing well and working hard behind the scene.

Currently we have 18 Servers on our book and they are Kofi r Henry,

Ijeorna , Julia, Vitalis , Titi , Kenneth, Terni , Sandra .Eugenia, Sienna, Akira , Gill, Merlyn, Faith, Kevin, Detorian and Opeyimi

We thank all the Servers for their efforts especially Gill (coming from Tonbridge in Kent) and Akira and Sienna (coming from Croydon in Surrey).

Kenneth, Titi and Temi are being trained to do the Master of Ceremony (MC) duties.

Overall, I must say that the servers take their jobs very seriously and that is what it should be.

We thank Peter and Grace for their readiness to help us when we are short of servers and Kevin for all his work behind the scenes.

However, we do need more servers; it does not matter how young or old you are. Please come and join us and you will enjoy it.

THANK YOU AND MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS YOU ALL

KOFI
(Sacristan)

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Jesus talked of the kingdom of God belonging to children; he gave them status, time and respect. Jesus also showed himself to be compassionately on the side of those without power, reaching across social barriers with the inclusive love of God. A Christian approach to the safeguarding of children and adults who may be vulnerable asks both individuals and communities to create a safe environment for them, to act promptly on any complaints made and to minister appropriately to those who have abused.

This parish is therefore committed to establishing an environment where children and young people are nurtured and protected and all people, and especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. In order to do this we, as a parish are committed to working in accordance with the national legal and procedural framework for safeguarding children and adults who may be Vulnerable as laid down by Church of England policy and practice.

We have continued to arrange clearance checks for all those in positions of responsibility and those who work with our young people.

We have continued to carry out an on-going review of our safeguarding practice and procedures. Safeguarding training and accessibility remains a problem with increasing numbers being asked to undertake it without increased provision of courses. It was therefore excellent news to hear that the two lower levels of training are now to be made available on line and it is planned that some members of St Laurence will be trying this out over the coming months. We hope this will help to alleviate the problems accessing safeguarding training for those not requiring advanced level training.

The diocese is currently reviewing the document 'A safe Church' and proposed changes to procedures will need to be reviewed over the summer and implemented as soon as we can thereafter.



MOTHERS' UNION REPORT

St. Laurence Mothers' Union is part of an international Christian membership charity, that aims to demonstrate the Christian faith in action through the transformation of communities worldwide. We support families and communities both in the UK and around the world. Since 1876, when Mary Sumner first brought together parents in her own parish to build their confidence in bringing up their children in the Christian faith. The Mothers' Union has grown to over 4 million members worldwide. The Mothers' Union unites Christians of all ages across the world. Through praying, campaigning and volunteering, members strengthen marriage and family life and bring about positive changes in their communities.

We at St. Laurence continue to meet monthly for meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 8.15 pm after healing mass in the Jubilee Room; Meeting starts with the MU Prayers, we try to arrange speakers bi-monthly, this year we only manage to arrange one speaker in June, from the Ella Roberta Family Foundation, and she gave a very interesting talk on Asthma. The third Sunday in every month has been allocated for recognition of the MU, where members are encouraged to read lessons, lead the intercessions, and taking the MU Banner to the Alter. We also hold two quiet mornings a year in the Lady Chapel, led by one of our Priest or Mother Sue. Members from other MU Branches in the Deanery usually attends. We try to have them before Lent and the other beginning of Advent.

MU members pay an annual subscription each year, this year's subscription is £22.50 and for two members living at the same address its £36.00, our subscriptions are divided between Mary Sumner MU Central Funds at Mary Sumner House, and Southwark Diocesan MU.

At the Summer feyer in June the MU raised £380.00, which was sent to Southwark Diocesan for the Summer of Hope program. The annual fund-raising Parish BBQ is organized by the Social team every year in August, this function is usually well attended, with excellent food and back ground music which everyone enjoys. We also hold an autumn parish dance every year in October, that too is usually well attended. MU members are constantly involved and very active around the church.

A group of seven people went on a Pilgrimage to Ghana in February, arranged by Fr. Andrew and accompanied by Fr. Anthony. We visited Cape Coast Castle, the Anglican Cathedral, the fishing port of Elmina, went on to Kumasi the following day we travel for an hour to get to Nkawie for mass, both Fr. Andrew and Fr. Anthony took part in mass on that day, very interesting to hear Fr. Andrew address the congregation in their native tongue. Then on to Mampong Ashanti to visit the Mampong babies home, and the Bishop of Mampong. Fr. Anthony celebrated his Birthday while we were on that trip and pictures will follow on St. Laurence web site soon. The trip was a real experience, and I know the others will join me in thanking Fr. Andrew for leading us on such pilgrimage.

BIBLE STUDY / FILM NIGHT REPORT

Film Night is held in the Jubilee room from 7.30pm to 9pm on the first and third Wednesdays of most months and every week during Advent and Lent to watch films about the Bible and other Christian issues.

We have watched films about the lives of Jacob, King David, St Peter and St Paul along with films such as Jesus Christ Superstar, Godspell and the Shack. During Lent this year we watched the 4-part epic 'Jesus of Nazareth' still regarded by many as the best cinematic presentation of the life of Christ.

The leaders of the group are myself and Mother Sue. We are a very friendly bunch and it would be good if new people would like to join us, you do not need to know a lot about the Bible or religion. We learn from each other and from the films we see. If you would like more information, please contact one of the leaders for a chat.

Peter Charles

EAST LEWISHAM DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

In June last year the Deanery met at the Good Shepherd in Lee. The discussion looked at the areas of ministry that benefit from the coming together of Church representatives in Deanery Synod meetings to share ideas and information.

In October St. Marks hosted the Deanery Synod meeting and the focus was on Asylum seekers and refugees. This was the meeting that the Deanery had also consider the adoption of the new rules re appointing New Officers and Additional members. Following this Fr. Stuart from St. Barnabas spoke on his visit to Berlin and the strategies employed there for responding to the needs of the many thousands of refugees in Germany. Faith groups respond supported by German Govt and order came out of chaos as Vols wired in People had to learn German and were encouraged to learn and work. The message he brought back was 'Lose the fear and get on and help'.

Jo from St. Margaret's Outreach Projects Manager working at the Good Shepherd with Action for Refugees in Lewisham Spoke about the 'Drop in' and Esol classes(Self referred) using the Crypt at St. Mary's, funded by CUF and Crowdfunding, donations. Her advice to others 'You need to be focussed and know what you want to achieve.'

Rachel from Lewcas (St. Mary's) Spoke of her personally galvanization when the Brexit Vote happened . Lewcas had been set up to meet the needs of Asylum seekers, particularly for food. Contributions from Harvest Festivals was their mainstay but she noted that come April the cupboard is usually more of less bare. As a representative from St. Laurence, I suggested we organize a Spring Harvest specifically to address this shortfall.

In February this Year St. Laurence's hosted the Deanery meeting. Bill Bishop explained that the choice of St. Laurence as the venue at this particular time of year was because we are a warm church. Fr. Hugo welcomed members to the meeting and gave a brief background to the church and that St. Laurence was to be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in the modern building this year.

The Theme for the evening was support for children and young people.

The 1st Presentation was given by School Pastors, Greta Townsend and Sandra Wallace-

www.schoolpastors.org.uk – who spoke about the School Pastor scheme, providing a presence in a school, non judgemental, listening and working towards peaceful outcomes. They are often members of various churches and have a common outlook.

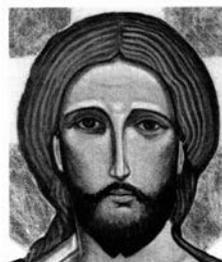
The 2nd Presentation was from Hugh Ridsdell-Smith, Leader of Children & Young People Diocesan Mission - www.southwark.anglican.org/cypmm/- The Diocese has 365 separate entities interacting with this Mission and comprises a huge number of groups. Hugh explained that it was important to focus on children in church and their baptism. They should be welcomed into the body of the church for their encounter with Jesus. It is vital for children to feel included.

The 3rd Presentation given by Ed Wyeth XLP (Excel Project) - www.xlp.org.uk - is a Project started by someone named Patrick Regan who witnessed a stabbing in a school, and aims to provide a presence in and around the many groups of children who gather in precincts and street corners after school, with apparently nowhere to go.

The workers are young Youth Workers who with volunteers, man the XLP adapted buses where these groups can talk, sit, relax, eat, cook and feel welcome. The buses are often parked behind Laurence House in Catford.

Following the presentations, members split into groups to discuss.

Members were reminded that Bishop Karowei is making an official visit to the Deanery between Tuesday 17th – Friday 20th April.



CENTRE MANAGEMENT

It has been a hive of activity again this year at the St Laurence Centre. We have had the pleasure of welcoming newcomers as well as our regular customers. The office by the Jubilee Room is now let to the House of Sozo who tell me they are very happy here and a good atmosphere prevails throughout the week.

As always, there is a lot to be done and the committee endeavour to prioritise the various jobs that need attention but, like the painting of the Forth Bridge, there is always more once some have been completed.

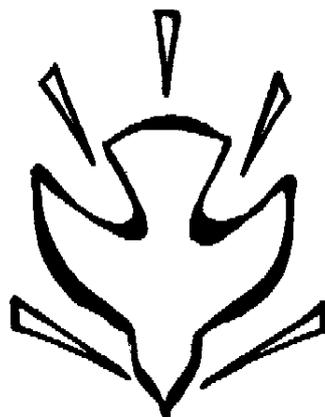
Unfortunately, our Parish Administrator, Melinda Gereb, will be leaving us in April and we will need a replacement to cover the office work. Melinda has helped a lot with invoicing and dealing with the fabric of the building and will be missed by us all but we wish her well and thank her for all her help. My thanks also go to the Committee of Fr Charles, Ray Williams, Robert Greene and Joyce Turpin who continue to support me and help a great deal. Their help has been invaluable.

I continue to be grateful to our caretaker, Nick Chapman, and our deputies, Chris Thorpe, Jimmy Hinds and Francine Thompson, all who play their part in helping to keep the place clean, clear up after parties and lay rooms out ready for hirers.

We are grateful also to Richard Spencer, our gardener, who comes and cuts the grass and tidies the flower beds.

The community centre is a very important part of our church and a wonderful way to help charitable organisations and to reach out to other people in the borough and beyond.

Kay Lanston
Centre Manager



**ST LAURENCE CHURCH CATFORD
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING – SUNDAY 30 APRIL 2018
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 2016 – The minutes were read as published in the attachment.

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT – It was reported that there was 204 members on the official electoral roll.

ELECTIONS:

Church Wardens – Ray Williams and Dele Muji
PCC honorary secretary – Joyce Turpin
Centre Manager – Kay Lanston
Honorary Treasurer – Dele Muji
Auditor – Gavin Ellis FCCA
Deanery Synod Reps – Jeni Griffith, Robert Green, Ken Agumadu
Members of the PCC – Brenda Cox, Matthew Wright,
Esme Alexander, Sybil Bair, Bridgit Sam-Bailey, Victor Obasogie,
Henry Otoo, Antoinette Ojiako (Junior Church Rep) and Megan Barford
Beverley Lashley (Mothers Union Rep)

VICAR'S REPORT – Read as published in attachment.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Read and fully explained as published in the attachment. The accounts were accepted.

PCC SECRETARY'S 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.

MOTHERS UNION REPORT – Read as published in the attachment.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP REPORT – Read as published in the attachment.

CENTRE MANAGEMENT REPORT – Read as published in the attachment.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Sue Deane thanked all the readers and intercessors for their work and made a request for more volunteers. Father Charles thanked the retiring treasurer Julie Dyg for all her hard work that he has done for St Laurence's over the past year and informed the meeting that Dele Muji would be acting Treasurer with the main work being done by a paid book-keeper.

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

2017 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Laurence Church, Catford

Aim and purposes

St Laurence's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon Charles Pickstone, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Laurence Centre.

Objectives and activities

The mission of the parish, as expressed in the parish mission statement, is 'to offer, on behalf of a place that God loves, namely Catford, the praise that it has largely forgotten to express'. The PCC is committed to inviting as many people as possible to worship God, and if they feel so called to become part of the parish community at St Laurence's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. Concomitantly, we invite local people to express their worship of God in altruistic service to their local community.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus especially as expressed through the sacraments
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, we regard the maintenance of the fabric of the church of St Laurence and St Laurence Centre as of great importance.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. The congregation is remarkable for its diversity, and the liturgy seeks to reflect this diversity while also maintaining its integrity.

This year we have experimented with a variety of family and experimental masses, in which young people were encouraged to play an important role, as well as masses accompanied by the piano, taking advantage of the fact that our Director of Music is an internationally known concert pianist; these will be reviewed by the PCC in due course. Otherwise our customary very wide range of liturgical expression continued in all its richness.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 201 parishioners on the church electoral roll (up from 138 in 2016), and there are some 250 names of adults and children on the parish prayer list. The average weekly attendance, counted during November, was 160 adults, 25 children.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life; in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing; through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world, and commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated 8 baptisms and 3 weddings and conducted 32 funerals (16 in this church) this year. (Last year: 25 total, of which 10 in church). This continues to be an important area of growth for the parish.

Deanery Synod

Four members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church.

The Church and Centre

We have the church open to our community for private prayer during daylight hours, Monday to Friday, and it is well used, a valuable resource for local people of all denominations and none, where they can find a quiet space for their thoughts or prayers. An A-board outside the church advertises when it is open and invites members of the public to use the space for prayer or contemplation. The Church is also used for some secular purposes, notably as a rehearsal venue for the largest choral society in south-east London.

The Community Centre, St Laurence Centre, is open to the public 8am–11pm Monday–Saturday, and is available for private hire on Sundays. It is a much-used resource for local people and hosts a very wide range of activities for young and old, from a toddlers' group to Pensioners' clubs, to martial arts classes and the local Townswomen's Guild. It is used for community meetings (the Catford South local assembly regularly meet in the Centre), residents' association functions, annual general meetings, funeral and wedding receptions, concerts, and religious services for all faiths.

Fundraising

It will be noted that the parish engaged in its own fundraising activities – notably a barbecue, a quiz night and a parish dance (our most successful for many years) – as well as receiving a number of individual donations from parishioners, to whom we are particularly grateful.

Pastoral care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The parish's ministry team (comprising the two licensed clergy, three retired clergy, two licensed readers and one licensed Pastoral Auxiliary) regularly visit all church members who ask for a visit, offering holy communion when requested. Absent members are also posted a copy of the Sunday pewsheets.

Mission and evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The PCC and parish organised fund-raising activities and made a number of generous grants in favour of a number of other charities at home and abroad. The weekly pewsheets is an important source of information about activities and events in the church, in the local neighbourhood, and locally and nationally.

Celebrating diversity

The PCC is particularly concerned to celebrate the diversity of those who live and worship in Catford. This happens in a number of ways; the principal event was a parish lunch cooked by Nigerian members of community to welcome our new Nigerian Bishop of Woolwich. The event was marked by an extraordinary degree of co-operation between the different groups within the church. And in the spirit of international co-operation, the church choir had a successful singing tour of Madrid.

Ecumenical and interfaith relationships

The church holds regular joint services with its Roman Catholic neighbours and joint events with Catford & Bromley Synagogue and Lewisham Islamic Centre, which are at the two ends of the parish. Clergy from the parish attended LIC's 'Eid in the Park', and were formally welcomed by the Imam, Shakeel Begg, to this assembly of some four thousand Muslim worshippers. The three faith groups regularly hold joint events in areas of interest to their congregations.

Financial review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £210,891, of which £29,335 was unrestricted planned voluntary donations, and a further £9,348 was from Gift Aid. Restricted grants and donations of £27,218 were also received, largely for the major structural renewal project, and details are shown in the financial statements. The two flats at 33 and 35a Bromley Road continue to be let, which provided a gross income of £26,400 (£14,746 net), while the church hall provided a gross income of £115,018 (£67,014 net).

The planned giving through envelopes and banker's orders decreased by 4% but loose collections increased by 92%. Total income, excluding legacies and exceptional income for the major structural renewal project remained more or less static compared with last year.

£167,996 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St Laurence Church, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share that largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy. The sum that the diocese have to find is shared between its churches, and for the second year was based on what parishes are able to afford. St Laurence's finances were helped by its offering a reduced sum compared with previous year because of the scheme of major structural repairs that was completed over the year.

Net movement in funds on our restricted investment funds was an increase of £12,382. Our total funds increased by £22,216; the increase in capital funds is being held for further structural repairs over the coming quinquennial cycle.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least six months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £115,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow, to meet emergencies and to protect members of staff in the case of failure. The balance of our reserves at the year end was £127,423 which is marginally above this target.

The balance of £17,344 in the fabric fund is retained towards meeting the upkeep of the Church Hall, while the £19,742 restricted fund is money that has been given specifically to renew the church lighting.

It is our policy to invest the short term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and the remainder in the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community that it is. In particular, we want to mention our churchwardens Mr Williams and Mr Muji, who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf. We have an estimated 50 volunteers who contribute time and energy to the running of the Church and Community Centre, and the entire community of congregation and Centre users are extremely grateful to them.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity, no 1131092.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Laurence's, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar) and other licensed clergy, churchwardens, Centre Manager, Director of Music, the enrolling member of the Mothers' Union, the readers and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 70%. Given its responsibility for managing St Laurence Centre, the PCC has a Centre Management committee dealing with the running of the Centre. This committee is responsible to the PCC and reports back to it regularly, minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative information

St. Laurence Church is situated at 37, Bromley Road, Catford. It is part of the Diocese of Southwark within the Church of England. The correspondence address is the Parish Office, 37, Bromley Road, London, SE6 2TS. Registered charity number 1131092.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2017 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex officio members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Charles Pickstone (chairman)

Clergy & readers: The Rev'd Iain Farquhar, Mr Peter Charles, Mrs Grace Blyth

Wardens: Mrs Fiona Tyrell-Jackson (churchwarden until April 2016; elected member from April 2016)
Mr Dele Muji (from April 2016)

Mr Raymond Williams

Deanery Synod representatives:

Mr Kenneth Agumadu, Ms Jeni Griffith (from April 2017), Mr Robert Green, Ms Michelle Miller-Cox (to April 2017); Mrs Joyce Turpin (to April 2017).

Elected members: Kenneth Agumadu (to April 2017); Mrs Esme Alexander; Ms Sybil Bair (from April 2017); Ms Megan Barford (from April 2017); Mrs Brenda Cox; Mrs Thelma Corbin (to April 2017); Ms Jeni Griffith (to April 2017); Mr Victor Obasogie (from April 2017); Ms Antoinette Ojiako; Mr Henry Otoo (from April 2017); Ms Bridgit Sam-Bailey (from April 2017); Mr Matthew Wright.

Centre Manager: Mrs Kay Lanston

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs Julie Dyg (to April 2017)

Director of Music: Ms Jocelyn Freeman

MU Enrolling member: Ms Beverley Lashley

Approved by the PCC on 8th April 2018 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Canon Charles Pickstone (PCC Chairman)



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Laurence Catford Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2017 which are set out on the subsequent pages.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145 (3) of the Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of that section of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Gavin Ellis FCCA
Fellow of the Association of Chartered Accountants
26, Bargery Road, London
SE6 2LN

April 11th, 2018

Parochial Church Council of St Laurence, Catford

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Restricted funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income	2(a)	57,603	34,276	91,880	297,160
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	30,752	0	30,752	31,388
Income from investments	2(c)	3,872	0	3,872	3,484
Church activities	2(d)	118,663	0	118,663	109,989
TOTAL INCOME		210,891	34,276	245,167	442,021
Expenditure					
Church activities	3(a)	167,996	63,124	231,120	475,794
Raising funds	3(b)	634	0	634	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		168,630	63,124	231,754	475,794
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		42,261	(28,848)	13,413	(33,773)
NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS	6	8,804	0	8,804	9,855
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		51,065	(28,848)	22,217	(23,918)
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	5	(28,848)	28,848	-	
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		22,217	0	22,217	(23,918)
Total funds brought forward		105,205	19,742	124,947	148,866
Total funds carried forward	12	127,422	19,742	147,164	124,948

Parochial Church Council of St Laurence, Catford
Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2017

	Notes	2017 £	2016 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	6	112,244	99,862
		<u>112,244</u>	<u>99,862</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	7a	13,235	6,954
Short-term deposits	7b	3,698	754
Cash at bank and in hand		37,753	48,152
		<u>54,686</u>	<u>55,860</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors – due within 1 year	8	19,765	30,774
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		34,921	25,086
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>147,165</u>	<u>124,948</u>
PARISH FUNDS			
Unrestricted	10	127,423	105,206
Restricted	9	19,742	19,742
		<u>147,165</u>	<u>124,948</u>

The notes on the succeeding pages form part of these accounts

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' 'true and fair view' provisions; it is also the first year that they have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

ASSETS

Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings

There are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. In this case the item is not capitalised, but all items are included in the Church's inventory in any case.

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or else, for gifts-in-kind, at a reasonable estimate of their open market value on receipt.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the capitalised cost of fixed assets less their currently anticipated residual fair value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Land: nil

Fixtures and fittings: 20 year

Computers: 3 year

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets currently exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

An impairment review is carried out at each year-end and any resultant loss identified included in expenditure for the year.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange or whose value derives from them are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at PCC's best estimate of market value.

Short term deposits

These are the cash held on deposit either with the CCLA or at the bank.

FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report. The Church Council consider it appropriate to keep approximately six months of expenditure as unrestricted reserves.

Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spend on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

2. INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL 2017	TOTAL 2016
	£	£	£	£
2(a) Voluntary income				
Planned giving: Gift Aid donations	21,076		21,076	26,346
Tax recoverable	9,348		9,348	7,522
Other planned giving	5,073		5,073	4,218
Collections (open plate)	18,921		18,921	14,466
Gift days			0	
Grants	0	27,218	27,218	244,608
Donations, appeals, etc	3,186	7,058	10,244	
Legacies			0	
	<u>57,603</u>	<u>34,276</u>	<u>91,880</u>	<u>297,160</u>
2(b) Activities for generating funds				
Summer & Advent Fairs, events	4,352		4,352	5,512
Fundraising			0	276
Rent-temporary let on clergy flats	26,400		26,400	25,600
	<u>30,752</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>30,752</u>	<u>31,388</u>
2(c) Income from investments				
Dividends on CCLA Investment Fund	3,872		3,872	3,476
Bank & CCLA Deposit Fund Interest			0	8
	<u>3,872</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,872</u>	<u>3,484</u>
2(d) Income from church activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	3,646		3,646	3,752
Church Centre lettings-local community use	115,018		115,018	106,237
	<u>118,663</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>118,663</u>	<u>109,989</u>
Total income	<u>210,891</u>	<u>34,276</u>	<u>245,167</u>	<u>442,021</u>

3. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL 2017	TOTAL 2016
	£	£	£	£
3(a) Church Activities				
Missionary & charitable giving (note 12)	3,557	1,336	4,893	2,830
Ministry: diocesan parish quota	48,579		48,579	63,155
Other ministry cost	6,804		6,804	6,321
Church running & maintenance	60,913	30,812	91,725	46,658
Major repairs: roof		30,226	30,226	286,544
Staff & volunteer training	250	750	1,000	
Church Hall running costs			0	28,028
Flats running costs			0	5,535
Printing & stationery	1,726		1,726	1,455
Bank charges	1,657		1,657	
Youth work	4,413		4,413	3,811
Director of music, organist, tuning	15,823		15,823	13,748
Caretaking	24,274		24,274	17,709
	<u>167,996</u>	<u>63,124</u>	<u>231,120</u>	<u>475,794</u>
3(b) Raising funds				
Costs of refreshments	634		634	0
	<u>634</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>634</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>168,630</u>	<u>63,124</u>	<u>231,754</u>	<u>475,794</u>

4. STAFF COSTS

	2017	2016
Wages & salaries	£ 39,000	38,300
No. of permanent employees	2	2

There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in the previous or current years.

During the year, the PCC employed a parish administrator, a full-time resident caretaker, and a number of relief caretakers.

5. ANALYSIS OF TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Major structural renewal	-28,847	28,847	-

The major structural renewal appeal was started in January 2016 and completed in March 2017.

The deficit of £28,847 was funded from general income, with the approval of the PCC

6. FIXED ASSETS

Investments

	2017	2016
	£	£
Amounts invested with CCLA		
Amounts held in trust by CCLA through The South London Church Fund and the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance in respect of monies in connection with:		
Sale of 34 Canadian Avenue (1987)	54,942	54,942
Miss Hilda May Augusta Marsh & Miss Pansie Beatrice Edney bequests (1989)	10,034	10,034
	<u>64,976</u>	<u>64,976</u>

These funds are principally invested in units of the CBF Church of England Investment Fund

Market value of 6641.10 units at 01 January 2017 (6393.32 units 2016)	99,862	86,531
Cost of 222.40 additional units purchased during 2017 (247.78 units 2016)	3,578	3,476
Increase in Market Value during the year	8,804	9,855
Market value of 6,863.50 units at 31 December 2017 (6641.10 units 2016)	<u>112,244</u>	<u>99,862</u>

		Units	Value (£)
Cost of additional units	34 Canadian Avenue	162.18	2,609
	Marsh & Edney	60.22	969
		<u>222.40</u>	<u>3,578</u>
Units at December 31st, 2017	34 Canadian Avenue	5,005.04	81,851
	Marsh & Edney	1,858.46	30,393
		<u>6,863.50</u>	<u>112,244</u>

7. CURRENT ASSETS

7(a) Debtors and prepayments

	2017	2016
	£	£
Debtors (Unrestricted funds)		
Prepayments	4,745	2,627
Debtors	8,490	4,327
	<u>13,235</u>	<u>6,954</u>

7(b) Short term deposits

Deposits with CCLA	1,048	754
Deposit protection scheme	2,650	2,650
	<u>3,698</u>	<u>3,404</u>

8. LIABILITIES

	2017	2016
	£	£
Amounts held on behalf of others		
Vicar's Discretionary fund	2,850	3,000
Women's fellowship	2,249	2,249
Choir holiday fund	1,360	928
Choir Bursary fund	890	
Minichoir fund	330	951
Benevolent fund	200	1,000
Sunbeam Tots	828	1,201
50th anniv fund	2,020	
Other	996	906
	<u>11,723</u>	<u>10,235</u>
Flat deposits held	2,650	2,650
other creditors	5,392	17,889
	<u>19,765</u>	<u>30,774</u>

9. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The restricted funds comprise money donated for the church lighting project.
There has been no movement on this fund over the year.

2017	2016
£19,742	19,742

10. SUMMARY OF UNRESTRICTED FUND MOVEMENTS

	2017	2016		
	£	£		
Designated unrestricted funds				
Church maintenance fund				
Balance 1 January	0	12,391		
Transfers during the year	12,000	(12,391)		
Balance 31 December	<u>12,000</u>	<u>0</u>		
Centre maintenance fund				
Balance 1 January	5,344	5,867		
Transfers during the year	0	(523)		
Balance 31 December	<u>5,344</u>	<u>5,344</u>		
Accessibility fund				
Balance 1 January	0	28,678		
Transfers during the year	0	(28,678)		
Balance 31 December	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		
Total designated funds	<u>17,344</u>	<u>5,344</u>		
Unrestricted and undesignated funds				
Balance 1 January	99,862	82,188		
Transfers during the year	10,216	17,674		
Balance 31 December	<u>110,078</u>	<u>99,862</u>		
Totals	Restricted £ 19,742	Designated £ 17,344	Unrestricted & undesignated £ 110,078	Total £ 147,164

11. SUMMARY OF ASSETS BY FUND

	unrestricted funds £	restricted funds £	total 2017 £
Investments	112,244		112,244
Debtors & prepayments	13,235		13,235
Short term deposits	3,698		3,698
Cash at bank and in hand	18,011	19,742	37,753
less creditors due within one year	(19,765)		(19,765)
	<u>127,423</u>	<u>19,742</u>	<u>147,165</u>

12. Charitable donations

	£ 2017	£ 2016
Children's Ambulance	500	
Embrace the Middle East	500	
African Child Trust	500	
Lewisham Carers	500	
HumbleBe CIC	800	
Children's Society	188	
Christian Aid	851	
Connections Trust	400	
World Vision	228	
Manna Society	175	
other	251	330
Alzheimer's Society		500
RNLI		500
St Christopher's hospice		500
AWIL		500
Mary's meals		500
	<u>4,893</u>	<u>2,830</u>