

St Paul's Church
Grove Park, W4 3SB



Annual Report 2022

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for submission to the Charity Commission in 2023

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for presentation at the APCM 26 April 2023

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(These are presented in a separate document)

**The Parish Church of St Paul, Grove Park, Chiswick,
London W4 3SB**

Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2022

Charity Registration Number 1154 708

1 **Aims and Purposes**

The Parochial Church Council of St Paul's shares with the incumbent responsibility for promoting the mission of the church within the parish. It has responsibilities for the fabric and contents of the church building, parish finances and management of everything.

2 **Objectives and Activities**

The Church Council has been working to promote the mission of the parish with Sunday worship and activities, weekday services and the church through the year. It was open for prayer and quiet times for half the week from January to July, but after that closed except for specific activities when members of the congregation were present, largely Friday morning and Sundays. This has affected independent access to the quiet space of the church.

3 **Achievements and Performance**

There have been three weddings this year and four baptisms. Although the incumbent, Father Michael Riley, retired in July 2022 and has not yet been replaced, the PCC has managed to find suitable celebrants for the third wedding and for two baptisms in the autumn.

Our Hounslow Refugee Welcome group, run by a small group of parishioners, continued to operate, using donations from parishioners to make small payments to refugee women and children in a Refuge in Hounslow. £5 as cash is given to each adult woman in the refuge to help with food and expenses. The team has also paid for wi-fi for the hostel to enable the children there to join in with online learning and homework.

The PCC organised and ran a very successful 150 Festival to celebrate the 150 years since the church was consecrated. There were numerous concerts, both those run by members of the

congregation and those from local amateur orchestras and choirs, a history talk, a poetry evening run by the Church's Poetry Group, a Choral Evensong attended by the Bishop, and a Songs of Praise service with hymns chosen and introduced by members of the congregation. The festival culminated with a two-day Flower Festival that brought in many new visitors and was an overwhelming success.

Our online Poetry Group, begun during 2020, continued to run very successfully every Thursday and has brought interest and companionship to many of our parishioners. At Christmas the group ran a second Poetry Evening with musical interludes from our young organist, Thomas Torley. The programme had been carried forward from the Covid 2021, and was well attended with mulled wine and mince pies to mark the season.

Freed from Covid restrictions all our Christmas celebrations drew a wide audience. The first concert was given by Kew Sinfonia, a local amateur orchestra, with the funds raised going to a British charity supporting hospitals and care centres in the Middle East, *Embrace the Middle East*. Our second concert was the Poetry Evening mentioned above. Our own Christmas Celebration was organised by our organist, a tuba player, with a tuba quintet playing a wide variety of Christmas pieces. And finally, we held our traditional Carol Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve.

Attendance at all our Christmas services moved back towards pre-Covid levels. There were over 220 attendees at our Christmas Eve service and over 40 at Midnight Mass. It is wonderful to welcome back locals freed from the restrictions of the last few years.

Electoral Roll

Our Electoral Roll this year has decreased slightly, with 11 people taken off and 5 added, making a total of 177 individuals, representing 101 families. 104 people live within the parish (59%) and 73 live outside the parish (41%). The Electoral Roll was updated in April 2022.

Safeguarding

In the past year there was one incident which raised safeguarding concerns. This was when Cassandra Barker entered the Vicarage to prepare for the arrival of a locksmith the day after Fr Michael left in July. He had assured both Church Wardens that there was no one in the Vicarage. However, there was someone unknown to Cassandra in the Vicarage and he was aggressive and insulting towards her. She left immediately and the diocese was informed the same day. On 9 January 2023, 5 people were finally evicted from the Vicarage. Security surveillance is in place at the time of writing this report.

The Stay and Play group reopened in September and is run by Shelagh Allsop, who has current enhanced DBS clearance. There is a risk assessment in place for this group.

In October 2022 a Friday morning coffee club began, run by PCC members and on occasion other members of the congregation who mostly have current enhanced DBS clearance. It is followed by a Morning Prayer service at 12 for those who are interested. There is a risk assessment in place for this group as well.

We have been developing our relationship with Strand on the Green School and we welcomed the Reception children who visited before Christmas. The visit was managed by Cassandra Barker and Shelagh Allsop - both with current enhanced DBS clearance. There was a risk assessment in place for this visit.

Five out of the nine required enhanced DBS checks on PCC members are now complete.

Basic Safeguarding training has now been undertaken by all but one of the PCC; and additional courses have been completed by the Church Wardens and Safeguarding Officer, with more required.

The Church Buildings

Maintenance

The repair project detailed in the last Annual Report was completed during January and February 2022 and the Final Certificate was issued in October 2022. During the year a parishioner spotted slipped tiles on the west side of the Isis Rooms roof and the churchwarden noted that a roof window on the east side of this same roof was leaking. The architect has been asked to make an inspection but this will happen in 2023.

After the retirement of Father Michael Riley in July 2022 the Diocese took control and responsibility for the maintenance of the Vicarage. This meant that the parish could no longer use the large Vicarage garden for events and gatherings as it has done during Father Michael's incumbency. The PCC therefore turned its attention to improving the Church's own garden, which lies to the east of the church outside the Chancel. This garden, since the demise of the Playgroup several years ago, had become very overgrown, dark and damp.

The PCC authorised a very thorough cutback of the trees and undergrowth in November. This has resulted in a much better appreciation of the space available and much better growth of some of the plants there as they have more light. It has also made the church much more visible from the street and given it a better presence in the community. The next steps are to improve or replace the fencing which has been damaged by ivy, to plan for a more attractive entrance away from the bin yard and to improve the planting, while maintaining the various memorials placed in the garden.

The halogen bulbs in the church's high-level lighting still need to be replaced with a greener alternative, this should be completed early in 2023. The PCC has also decided to install a more up to date and easy to programme control panel for the church heating, again this will be completed in January 2023.

Inventory and Terrier

The Inventory is updated annually and stored in the church's Dropbox filing system. The Terrier is stored in the Vestry and in the Dropbox.

Change of Bank

This year the Church moved its current account to a new bank in order to update the services available to us, to access online banking and to be able to make and receive bank transfers. The application was made in April with the new bank account finally coming on line in October 2022. It has made the control of our finances much more efficient. There were for a short time two bank accounts running together but the old bank account was finally closed on 15 December 2022.

Income

Expenditure exceeded income by £49,957 (Income exceeded Expenditure in 2021 by £7,249) and year-end total net assets were £810,124 (£140,417 in 2021). This Balance Sheet figure is very different from last year as this year the accounts have included the current value of St Paul's Hall, Pymont Road as at December 31st 2022, along with the valuation for the previous year. This valuation has been re-instated into the accounts since it was last included about 15 years ago. The 2022 Income of £92,666 was higher than the £80,821 of 2021. From the start of the year to the end, activities in the Church increased as life returned to a more normal state after Covid. Plate Collections were up by around £1,200 in 2022 on the previous year but the Planned Giving was exactly the same, to the pound. As there was much more fund-raising activity in 2022, Income was increased from £550 in 2021 to £8,841 in 2022. £5,792 of this was generated by the Church's 150th Anniversary celebrations.

Expenditure

Expenditure in 2022 was almost double the previous year at £142,623 compared to £73,572 in 2021. There were some major reasons why the Expenditure was so much higher than last year, apart from general increase in Church activity. Firstly the total contributions to the Common Fund increased in 2022 to £66,000, as opposed to £40,010 in 2021. Secondly there were some major remedial building works in 2022 amounting to £24,078.90, including professional fees. Thirdly the heating and water charges in 2022 were increased to £9,449 as opposed to £6,379 in 2021. Apart from these major increases, general costs have increased across the board.

Stewardship

The total amount given as gift aided donations from individuals for the year 2022 was £27,710.12. This is a decrease on the donations from 2021 of £28,485.64.

This does not include donations via the internet for one off events

27 people gave donations by standing orders (£18,369.2 that is 66.3% of the total giving). The rest was by yellow envelopes.

In addition to personal gifts, we have claimed on anonymous gifts made in the church building. This is the GASDS scheme We claimed on £2083.59 from plate collections and donations in the church in 2022

Using online claiming Jackie Rayer, Stewardship Officer, has been able to make claims quarterly.

We received refunds of tax from HMRC during 2022

	Gift Aid	GASDS	
01.10.2021-31.12.2021	refund £1845.89	£166.78	
01.01.2022-05.04 2022	£1913.35	£100.78	
06.04.2022-30.06 2022	£1436.03	£113.81	
01.07.2022-30.09.2022	£1552.68	£119.98	
TOTAL	£6747.95	£ 501.35	+ £1.34interest

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a minimum balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least six months' running costs. This figure remained the level recommended in 2020 of £12,500. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow, and to meet emergencies. Our current unrestricted fund healthily exceeds this figure.

5 Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council of St Paul's Church, Grove Park, has been working to promote the mission of the church in our area. The year has seen a major change in the retirement of the long-term incumbent (31 years), Father Michael Riley. The PCC has taken on new responsibilities for not only the maintenance of the church, its fabric and fittings, but also the direct organisation of services and pastoral care in the parish. One of the churchwardens, Sara Hodson, has taken on the role of Chair of the PCC and has also been instrumental in organising a rota of visiting clergy to maintain services each Sunday. Our LLM, or lay reader, Simon Surtees, has taken services on the two occasions when no visiting clergy person could be found and has also taken on the maintenance of a Friday midday service. The Sacristan, Sheila White, has taken responsibility for the Monday evening Meditation Service which is now held at her house every week. Shelagh Allsop, our Safeguarding Officer, runs a Stay and Play session on Friday mornings for local toddlers and their parents, and the PCC runs a Coffee Club in the church at the same time with the two groups spending a few minutes together at the end of the sessions.

Administrative Information

St Paul's Church is part of the Diocese of London, within the Deanery of Hounslow. The current correspondence addresses are those of the churchwardens:

Cassandra Barker, 50 Hartington Road, Chiswick, London W4 3TX

Sara Hodson, 43 Wilmington Avenue, Chiswick, London W4 3HA

Charity Registration Number 1154708

Parochial Church Council members have been:

Incumbent The Rev Michael Riley (until 18 July 2022)

Churchwardens Cassandra Barker

Sara Hodson

Elected Representatives Shelagh Allsop

Carolyn Ashford-Russell

Claire Carter

Catherine Jessop

Timothy Makower (from April 2022)

Catherine Morgan (from April 2022)

Simon Surtees

Co-opted Secretary Cecilia Thwaites

Safeguarding Officer Shelagh Allsop

Stewardship Secretary Jackie Rayer (volunteer for position)

Electoral Roll Officer Liz Abbott (volunteer for position)

PCC members are invited to join or volunteer at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The PCC operates through the Standing Committee and several groups, and forms working groups to plan specific events.

The Standing Committee transacts the business of the church between Council meetings and oversees the finances and fabric. It includes the Vicar, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and Secretary.

The role of Treasurer of St Paul's is currently a paid position occupied by

Sally-Ann Feldman, Brian Feldman & Associates

18 Sycamore Lodge, 1 Gypsy Lane, London SW15 5RH

The Pastoral Group is led by Sue Hearn, a parishioner, and operates largely by Whatsapp as a group called *St Paul's Helpers*. The group works on supporting the isolated with friendship and supporting those in need with clothes and baby equipment. It offers considerable support to the Hounslow Refugee Welcome group, mentioned above.

The Communications Group is concerned with promoting the life of St Paul's through the website, a weekly email newsletter and poster information in the church. Cecilia Thwaites is responsible for the newsletter and Catherine Jessop for the website.

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT 2022

2022 saw the final completion of the North Aisle repair project, routine maintenance projects and the start of the project to renew the east garden of the church.

North Aisle Project

The work on this was completed in mid-January 2022. The architect, Margaret Davies of MRDA, completed her final inspection in late August and the PCC made a final payment on 25 October.

Unfortunately, after this completion a fall of plaster from the ceiling in the Organ Loft, under the same roof of the North Aisle, showed that there appeared to be a damp problem here. The Churchwardens have been in contact with Margaret Davies over this too, but no action has been taken yet.

Routine Maintenance

There have been routine repairs to the WCs over the summer and replaced light bulbs during the year. Externally, the gutters and gulleys were cleaned as they are annually. Fire equipment engineers have visited every six months and the boiler was serviced in November as usual.

The church has been regularly cleaned once a fortnight through the year and looks better for this attention. The church now has a Sacristan who has been responsible for improving the condition of the church linen, brass and candles.

Some of the contributions from the Sunday coffee table have been used to buy large trailing ivy plants for the church's high window sills, introducing a welcome touch of green to the interior.

Security

After a significant theft from the locked Organ Loft in February the churchwardens reviewed the security of the church. The locks on the Organ Loft door were changed, and a padlock fitted to the right-hand West Porch, now used to store the church's supply of folding tables and chairs. The keysafe in the Vestry was replaced with a stronger model and any access keys not held by the churchwardens, the Sacristan, the Organist and the Stewardship Officer are kept securely locked. The keyholders list on the Dropbox has been updated. YY Security of Hammersmith advised that although all the doors of the church itself have no locks, only bolts, this in fact makes them very secure as they can only be opened from inside. An insurance claim was made to cover the theft which was paid in full later in the year.

New Furniture

At a PCC meeting in the spring it was decided to buy more folding tables and more folding chairs on a trolley for transport. The tables have been marked underneath with “St Paul’s W4 3SB”. Together with the tables used by the tenant in the Upper Isis Room the church now has 10 folding tables and 50+ folding chairs.

Electrical Inspection

The Churchwardens commissioned an electrical inspection in late November and early December to check on safety and wiring age, to clarify the role and position of some of the electrical equipment in church and to discover whether the church’s electrical system meets the latest safety standards. The report also tackles the problem of the high-level lighting in the church: this is both difficult to access for maintenance and uses halogen bulbs now phased out in Europe for environmental reasons. The report is expected at the end of January 2023 and should assist in clarifying what is essential work and what would be ideal to enable long-term budgeting. (The electrician also took some immediate action during his inspection, wiring up the kitchen cooker properly. He discovered that it was not earthed and the connection itself was unsupported and hanging off the back of the cooker.)

The East Garden

After Father Michael’s departure at the end of July 2022 the Diocese took control of the Vicarage and its garden. This means that after thirty years the congregation no longer has access to a large green space it has used freely for many years. The PCC have initiated a renewal programme for the church’s own East Garden, behind the chancel of the church, little used since the closure of Grove Park Playgroup a few years ago. In November a tree surgeon worked over two days to clear back the vegetation, ivy, overgrown bushes and trees to expose the garden’s full size. This cost £3000. The removal of the ivy exposed the poor condition of the fencing. Replacing this and improving the gates will be the next step in reviving the garden. Planting and paths will follow on during 2023.

The Vestry

The churchwardens have undertaken a complete tidy-up and reorganisation of the Vestry after the departure of Father Michael. They have been able to find room for a desk and bought a printer as the church did not have one suitable for printing the weekly service sheet. Stock control of candles, wine and wafers is much easier. During 2023 this reorganisation will be extended to the Organ Loft.

Cassandra Barker, 27 January 2023

Area Deanery Report

Current Representatives: Simon Surtees, Carolyn Ashford Russell, 1 Vacancy

Area Dean: Martine Osborne Chair of Laity: Simon Surtees

The Area Deanery for 2022 has been the second year of its current Triennia. We met on three occasions during the year in question:

February: Living in Love and Faith. This was a meeting to hear an online presentation from two representatives from the General Synod's "Living in Love and Faith" project. This was an examination of the issues of inclusivity for all genders including all LGBTQ+ Christian. The report examined the challenges which Christians felt when dealing with these issues and with people who wish to worship but who feel challenged by some of the "traditional" objections from some church members. I think Hounslow had the honour of being the last Synod in the country to hear this presentation before the report was presented to General Synod and passed through by significant majority. It is not an issue on which this parish has been challenged since the mid-90's when those members of our congregation who stood firm decided to move to a parish where they felt more accepted.

June: Our topic for June was Diversity focussing on Gender and Race. We were all invited to consider whether our congregations reflected the diversity for our parishes and what we might do to encourage wider participation. Given our parish profile and the small percentages in comparison with the wider Borough, it was again difficult to engage with the encouragement for an increase in participation. But we could categorically that we would never be unwelcoming to any person or family who walked through our door.

November: This quarter our topic was Education. We had a presentation from the Bishop's representative on school activity and promotion of work with local Parishes. We also had a presentation from the Green Academy Trust and Penny North Director of the recently reorganised London Diocesan Board of Education. Given our current diary events, I think we can regard ourselves as positive promoters of welcoming local schools.

During the coming year we will be electing new Deanery Synod members. Under the new system, introduced at the Diocesan Synod in November we are entitled to 3 members. This is like to come up in the Spring.

Stay and Play

After closure during the pandemic the Stay and Play session began again during the Spring. Initially it ran on a Monday morning but from September it moved to Friday morning from 9.30 to 11.30am. All carers, parents, other family members and nannies, are welcome to join with children under school age. Adults make a contribution to cover costs and coffee and milk sign a register to sign on entry. Adults remain responsible for their children. The group runs during term time only as the space is not suitable for a mix of toddlers and older children.

The group offers socialising opportunities for the children and friendship opportunities for adults. There is coffee for the adults and water or their own drinks for the children. A wide range of toys and activities are offered for the age group, playdough, mark-making, puzzles, small world toys and some sit-and-ride toys.

During fine weather the children are welcome to explore the church garden and many of them choose to play outdoors. There are still some sit-and-ride toys left from playgroup which were checked for strength and safety during October, with some being discarded.

Although the group does not have a proselytizing function the main Christian stories of each season are covered in stories and books suitable for the age group, for example the children explored the nativity figures in the church during the final December session. Initially the session finished with a story from an adult and a tidying up session but since September the session has finished with a visit to the Coffee Club next door in the door for a singing session for all. Research from America has shown that it can be hugely beneficial for the very young and the more advanced in years to meet and socialise together and this was the impulse behind the change in the end of session routine.

The Stay and Play has been very successful over the year with numbers at about 10-12 every week and new members joining as they discover the group. The PCC is very grateful to Shelagh Allsop and her helper Mehdiya Allsop for the work they put in to make this event happen.

Coffee Club

The Coffee Club runs every Friday morning from 10.30 to 11.50/12.00 midday and has been going since September. It began in response to the end of the Friday midday service run by Michael Riley after his retirement in July, and is usually followed by a short prayer service open to all those who wish to attend, although there is no compulsion to attend the service after the coffee and cake; some people leave and some people arrive for the service. The session is open to all and is an opportunity to meet others for some coffee, cake and chat. It takes place in the church at the front of the nave, near to the entrance to the Isis Room where the Stay and Play session takes place.

It is run by volunteers from the PCC and volunteers from the congregation with a churchwarden, or sometimes both churchwardens, supporting. The PCC would like to thank all those volunteers who make the Coffee Club possible. Theoretically the volunteer on duty that day is responsible for making a cake but the majority of cakes are made by Anusha Rajiyah, and again the PCC is very grateful for this kind work. The session includes a visit from the Stay and Play children and adults for some communal singing of old toddler favourites, eg The Wheels on the Bus, and some newer songs.

Overall, the Club has been a success with some new visitors to the church and the group and a very friendly and inclusive atmosphere developing. Attendance has been variable, and is often driven by the weather, ie attendance falls on very wet or very cold days. On good days however numbers have risen to 12 or 14 and the club is set to continue at least until a new incumbent arrives.

COFFEE AFTER CHURCH

Coffee after church was reintroduced in March 2022 after an extended break for Covid. It has always been a very important part of the life of St Paul's. This was especially felt as the church was going to be going through a very significant change with the retirement of Father Michael and the interregnum. The PCC felt coffee time was and still is a vital time for parishioners to be able to express concerns or worries about the future to one another and especially the church wardens. The aim is to ensure there is still a strong community feel to St Paul's and welcoming all new comers. This has been proved by some new couples asking to be married or have baptisms in the church. It is also very useful to be able to speak to the visiting preacher of the day about any matters arising.

Coffee after church is very well supported and is thriving. There has been a drive to find new volunteers which has been very successful. Voluntary donations are encouraged which covers costs and has also financed some new equipment for the coffee and also is put towards buying flowers for the Sunday service.

The Fund has been running since April 2020 and supports a group of women living in a hostel in Hounslow while their claims for asylum are assessed. The hostel is home to around 13 women and their children, who range in age from babies to 16.

We have all read about the delays in processing the backlog of asylum applications. Our association with the hostel brings us face to face with the human consequences: although it is supposed to be a temporary situation, most of the women have been there for two years or more and some children born there have never known any other home. They live on very little money and with an ever-present uncertainty about their future. Life is stressful for them.

During 2022 we continued to raise money via monthly direct debit contributions from a group of sponsors in our congregation. We were also supported by two fundraising events organised by parishioners, a book swap and a carol singing evening.

Our fund provides a small amount of cash to each adult (£5 per week) and pays for a 4G broadband contract so that residents can access free Wifi. This is particularly important for the older children and teenagers who have homework to do. We also provided two reconditioned laptops during the year to these families. The fund covers travel costs for social events such as picnics and visits to Kew Gardens, and is available for one-off needs such as new school shoes or winter coats.

Alongside the material support we have continued to build friendships and connection with the women.

The links between their community and ours became stronger in 2022. Firstly, their unofficial 'house mother', Maimuna, started volunteering at St Mary's Convent, helping elderly residents. Secondly, the women contributed to our 150th celebrations by adding their own entry to the flower festival. Children and adults worked hard on their "garden of memories", drawing on poignant recollections of summer evenings in their home countries.

We were also able to integrate the families more successfully into the wider community of settled refugees, thanks to various initiatives from Refugees Welcome Hounslow and Brentford Football Club. Wider horizons are important for these youngsters, some of whom have spent up to eight years living in hostel accommodation.

The regular contributors to the fund recently met for a very enjoyable social evening, where we were delighted to hear from Maimuna about life in the house. Maimuna conveyed her thanks to the supporters and explained how much their moral support meant to the women.

We plan to continue to build links with the households in the hostel and would be grateful if more people would come forward to support this venture.

St Paul's Poetry Group 2022

The group met weekly, online, throughout the year. In any week there were usually 11-14 attendees from a core group of 16 (anyone is welcome, whether they wish to read a piece or just join for company and a chat!).

The week's theme was followed as 'religiously' as available poetry or personal preference determined. 'Poetry' is also defined very loosely, with content often including prose, song lyrics and video pieces. Some content is deeply thought provoking and moving, and some is light hearted - often extremely funny. This provides lots of variety and fun, and facilitates a good deal of anecdote sharing between the pieces. We set a time limit of 3-4 mins for each person's contribution, including introductions etc with the aim of keeping each session to an hour, though often we run over slightly.

We produce an anthology following each session containing all the pieces that were selected. This is circulated to all regular group members plus others who have requested inclusion -24 people in total. The publication usually generates further online banter and chat through the week.

The Poetry Group also held two evening events in Church during the year, the first as part of the 150 festival and the second, a Christmas event. We were very lucky to get and are grateful for fabulous support from Tom Torley at both events, with the latter event featuring a brilliant Tuba Quartet, consisting of Tom and his equally talented friends.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way.

Sue Hearn

ST PAUL'S CHURCH: MUSIC REPORT 2022

The musical side of church life has always been central to church worship and celebration and there has been a tremendous amount of great music making in church during 2022.

The centrepiece of our busy year was the 150th Anniversary of St. Paul's Church. The celebrations kicked off with "Hear the People Sing" organised by Mike Reed, John Theakston and Catherine Jessop. A choir of nearly 50 people included singers from the Unicorn School Choir and other friends of the Church. The programme was made up of songs and sketches celebrating 150 years of Chiswick life. It also included extracts from several performances from the recent past like Joseph, Godspell, and our tribute to World War 1 "I Knew a Simple Soldier Boy". It was also wonderful to welcome Mike Dixon back to the church to conduct a new arrangement of his "Gloria" written especially for St. Paul's. It was a tremendous success with two completely sold-out shows. As if that were not enough, Mike Reed brought together a great band of professional musicians to accompany us.

We welcomed Bishop Graham, the Bishop of Kensington, with a special Eucharist organised by Father Michael, with hymns chosen and introduced by members of our congregation accompanied by a Brass Quintet led by Tom Torley

At the heart of our celebrations was a Special Choral Evensong commemorating the exact date of the original dedication in May 1872. We welcomed the Archdeacon of London as our preacher and, supported by visiting singers and our friends from the choir of St. Michael's Elmwood Road, a choir of 25 sang the service. We sang Stanford's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in C and Bruckner's Locus Iste as our anthem.

The festival culminated with Father Michael's final Eucharist service before his retirement. He chose all the hymns which, thanks to Tom, were accompanied by a Brass Quintet and the choir sang John Rutter's Gaelic Blessing to bid him farewell at a very moving service.

In December, we could not let the first full Christmas since the end of the Covid restrictions go to waste. A Poetry Evening led by the Poetry Group gave a recital of some of their favourite Christmas poems enhanced by several musical interludes from Tom Torley's Tuba Quartet. We think this might have been a first in the Church's musical history! This was followed by a Carol Concert, organised by Tom Torley and Simon Surtees. The choir were supported again by our friends from St Michael's, Elmwood Road.

We have continued to welcome visiting orchestras to our church. As part of the 150th celebrations we welcomed the Hounslow Chamber Orchestra, the Kew Sinfonia and the Addison Singers. We also are pleased to have The West London Chorus who are using the church to rehearse during term times.

Thanks to everyone who has helped over this past year. Firstly, to the churchwardens who have been supportive in all areas of musical life at church. Secondly, to Simon Surtees, our lay reader, who has spent many hours organising not only the hymns for our Sunday services but also communicating with the choir and pulling in lots of extra helpers for musical events. To Catherine, whose work publicising and marketing our events has drawn in a fantastic audience for everything we have done. And finally, to everyone in the choir which has had a busy year but has nonetheless been totally involved with all the musical events at St Pauls.

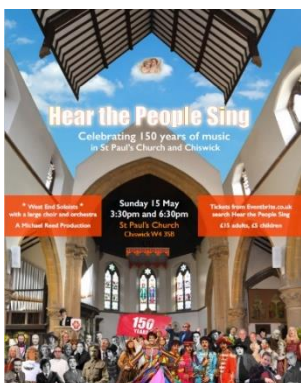
Tom Torley, Organist

ST PAUL'S CHURCH 150 YEAR ANNIVERSARY REPORT FOR AGM

Our 2022 Festival to celebrate 150 years of St Paul's Church was a fabulous six weeks of jubilation and joy, fellowship, faith and fun!



SUNDAY 15 MAY 3:30PM AND 6:30PM HEAR THE PEOPLE SING



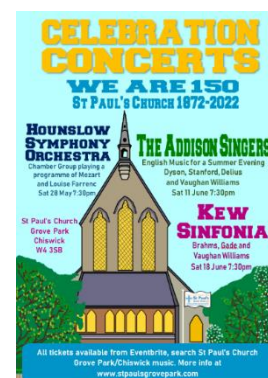
The 150 anniversary celebrations got off to a wonderful start, with two performances to a packed church of *Hear the People Sing*, a concert featuring music with a Chiswick connection. A choir of nearly 50 people including singers from the Unicorn School Choir were accompanied by a band of professional musicians and friends, assembled by our Musical Director, Mike Reed. The programme included extracts from several previous St Paul's concerts such as *Joseph, I Knew a Simple Soldier Boy* and *Rock in a Hard Place*. We were so pleased to have Mike Dixon back in the church to conduct a new arrangement of his *Gloria* which was written especially for St. Paul's.



SATURDAY 28 MAY 7:30PM HOUNSLOW SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: MOZART IN MAY

The second event in the 150 Festival was a lovely concert from this popular chamber group who gave us a programme of Mozart and Louise Farrenc.

We were very pleased indeed that our 150 Festival included lots of music from the many local groups who regularly rehearse and perform in our church.



**SUNDAY 29 MAY 10AM
SERVICE OF CELEBRATION**

Five members of the church: Katherine Makower (*Amazing Grace*), Peter Capell (*Thine be the Glory*), Audrey Jennings (*I Cannot Tell*), Cathy Morgan (*Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer*), and our organist Tom Torley (*Dear Lord and Father*), all chose their favourite hymns, which were sung by the congregation at this joyful service of worship and praise accompanied by Tom Torley and a Brass Quintet. The sermon was preached by the Bishop of Kensington, the Right Reverend Graham Tomlin and the service was followed by coffee in the vicarage garden.



**SUNDAY 29 MAY 7PM
POETRY FOR A SPRING EVENING**

The next event was an evening of joyful, uplifting and reflective poetry, chosen and read by the St Paul's Poetry Group who meet every Thursday over Zoom. This popular initiative (which is organised by Sue Hearn) began in lockdown, and has continued ever since.

The evening included many poetry group favourites such as Pam Ayres, John Betjeman, Gerald Manley Hopkins and George Herbert.

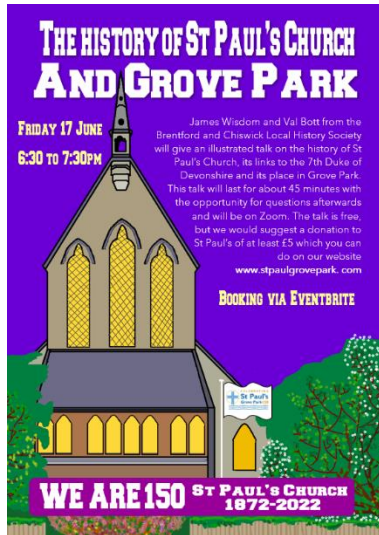
**WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE 6PM
FESTAL EVENSONG**

To mark the exact day of the 150th Anniversary of the Consecration of St Paul's on 1 June 1872, this choral evensong service included a sermon from the Archdeacon of London, the Ven Luke Miller together with celebratory choral music from our organist Tom Torley, St Paul's Choir and friends who sang Stanford's *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis in C* and Bruckner's *Locus Iste*. The service was followed by a very jolly drinks party at the back of the church.



SATURDAY 11 JUNE 7:30PM
THE ADDISON SINGERS

English Music for a Summer Evening. The programme by this very popular West London choir included Dyson, Stanford, Delius and Vaughan Williams.



FRIDAY 17 JUNE 6:30-7:30PM
THE HISTORY OF ST PAUL'S

This was an utterly fascinating talk on the history of St Paul's from James Wisdom and Val Bott from the Brentford and Chiswick Local History Society. Using old maps, James and Val showed us how the shape of the parish changed. We discovered how St Paul's grew from a temporary building for a new suburb to the substantial building that stands today and found out lots about how the social mix of the community around the church has grown over 150 years. To link with the talk and our anniversary, Catherine Jessop produced a new permanent exhibition about the last 150 years of St Paul's which is now mounted on a large notice board at the side of the church.

SATURDAY 18 JUNE 7:30PM
KEW SINFONIA

The programme for this lovely concert included Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*, Brahms *Piano Concerto no 1* and Gade *Symphony no 4*.

FRIDAY 24 JUNE TO SUNDAY 26 JUNE
FLOWER FESTIVAL

The church was filled with flower displays from local churches, schools and community groups for all to admire and refreshments were served throughout the weekend in the gardens. There was also a variety of musical performances including Tom Torley on organ, Catherine Jessop on piano and Sue Shorter on flute. We were absolutely delighted to have the Middlesex Yeomanry playing in the garden on Saturday afternoon, who gave us a rousing selection of favourites.



**SUNDAY 26 JUNE 6PM
EVENING PRAISE**

The Flower Festival closed with an evening service with readings, music, prayers and hymns.

**SUNDAY 3 JULY 7PM
COMEDY NIGHT**



The final event of the 150 Festival was an evening of hilarious entertainment from the brightest and best of London's young comedy circuit, performing in a marquee in the garden. 100 guests brought their own picnics and enjoyed both the entertainment and the bar! The perfect ending to our festivities!

