

St Gabriel's

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND NewWine

St Gabriel's Church, Cricklewood



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council April 2020 to April 2021



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Annual Report.

You are invited to read more about the life of the wonderful and diverse community that is St Gabriel's.

This report outlines just a selection of some of the events and circumstances from the last year. We hope that as you read, you will want to join us in giving thanks to God for his grace and life in our church family.

April 2021

VICAR'S REPORT

This year's report could have looked very different! When a new Vicar joins a parish there is often a season of uncertainty as both Vicar and congregation get to know one another. It might take a while for trust to form, and change is handled with care because big changes can have a significant impact. But we, dear friends, did not have the luxury of such things! Our getting to know each other stage might feel as if it has been shortened, but due to the level of change that we have all had to react to and navigate together, I feel as though I have a deeper and more established sense of the heart of this community than I ever would have done otherwise.

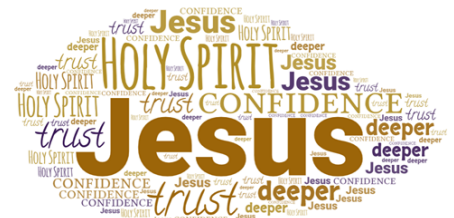


- Together we have navigated the closing of services, the suspension of regular events and activities, the pain of racial injustice, financial loss, loneliness, unemployment, sickness and bereavement. Against such things we have seen many of the worldly structures around us crumble and fall but not this church. This church dived headfirst into live online services and backed bold action to install equipment in the church building to enable their continuation.
- This church banded together to help those in need with prayers, phone calls, offers of help to deliver food or even giving each other spare laptops to help with home learning and working.
- This church boldly shared its experience of racism and formed structures to keep us to account.
- We've grown new digital skills from zoom prayer meetings to Wednesday Fellowship WhatsApp calls and online English lessons.
- We've found fellowship with Quiz teams and online home groups.
- We've seen tremendous creativity in using our outside space and reinventing how we celebrate festivals from light trails to carols in the rain!
- We have demonstrated incredible resilience in our commitment to worship and overcome barriers with remote rehearsals and multitrack recording.
- Evangelism has continued with Alpha online, leading to the creation of two new home groups and, in faith, we doubled the capacity of our CAP Debt Centre.
- And this is before thinking about children's and youth zoom meetings and resources that have been freshly delivered week-in, week-out by a dedicated team of staff and volunteers.



In every step you have afforded me the support and confidence to keep making the decisions I have felt were right before God and I have welcomed the honesty and generosity of the Staff Team, Church Council and Churchwardens in their guidance and service. My only regret is that I feel like I've missed out on a whole lot of food and partying, but I'm sure there will be plenty of time for that!

The contents of this report are a testament to this church's ability to press-in, go deeper with Jesus and allow the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to guide our actions and purpose according to God's will. Together with the trust and confidence that you have afforded me, I am truly excited about the next year ahead as your Vicar and am truly grateful for the warm welcome that Susie, I and the kids have received here.



I am therefore excited to reveal our new vision and values statement, a piece of work that has been curated from stories that you shared and language which you have given us, which I hope will help us to chart the course out of a world restricted by a global pandemic and into one that brings even greater freedom in Christ.

Our new strapline is **"Meeting God, sharing the love"**. We want everything we do to come out of our relationship with Jesus - which is characterised by being **Spirit powered, Worship fuelled, Bible driven** and utterly **Prayer soaked**. The natural response to this is a life turned outwards to others, sharing God's love by being **abundantly generous, delighting in difference, enduring in faith** and ever **outward reaching**.

These are the things that I believe God is calling us to demonstrate to the world in the way we build our community together and indeed, on our best days, we already do.

I look forward to getting to know you all even better in the year to come and can't wait for all that God has in store for us.

James Yeates, Vicar of St Gabriel's

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE ST GABRIEL'S PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a group of people drawn from the membership of St Gabriel's, who hold legal responsibility as Trustees of the Church. The PCC meet regularly to make decisions about how the church runs. The report below outlines the main areas of focus over the last year:

Covid - the pandemic has impacted every area of church life and swift decision-making has been required from the PCC and the staff team to ensure that we were able to respond to the constantly changing environment around us. Being unable to run in-person activities for a large portion of the year has been challenging but we have been grateful for the ability to gather online. This has included meetings of the PCC, which have remained online throughout the year. At each change in government restrictions, and the related guidance from the Church of England, the PCC took decisions allowing St Gabriel's to be open for in-person worship, or to close as required. Insight and input from across the PCC helped to guide the implementation of Covid safety measures and the running of events in this environment. The effect of the pandemic is not explicit in every area listed below but without doubt it has shaped the landscape in which our decisions were made. God has guided our steps through this extraordinary time and we are thankful for His protection.

Review of Community Ministry - in September we said goodbye to Dudley Hanciles, our Community Minister, as he began his training for ordination. This change, coupled with the impact of the pandemic, prompted the PCC to consider a review of St. Gabriel's Community Ministry. Susie Yeates was appointed, on a consultancy basis, to complete a report for the PCC focused on the opportunities in relation to Community Ministry and what this might look like in future. The PCC agreed the recommendations of this report, based on feedback from relevant stakeholders and a broad base of research and evidence. One recommendation was the appointment of a part-time person to lead the ministry in future and an open recruitment process was completed in November. The panel, which included representation from the Diocese, appointed Susie Yeates to this role and the PCC have been pleased to welcome her to the staff team.

Christians Against Poverty staffing - Brent Advice Fund provided us with funding for additional resourcing for our Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre. The PCC agreed that the recruitment of a new, part-time Debt Coach would allow the Centre to grow and respond to the increased need for debt support at this time. The PCC is delighted that Emma Liberman has been recruited to this post, working alongside Debbie Thomas in this vital ministry.

Shared Spaces for All - this development project, funded via NCIL (Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy) has continued through this year, despite the additional challenges Covid has presented. Progress has been made on updating the refreshment facilities in both the church and the hall and new equipment has been installed to enable the streaming of events and activities from the church. The ability to share services online has been invaluable and we will continue to make use of this equipment in the longer term. The PCC has received updates on progress on this work. An application for further funding to expand the project was made to Brent Council in September. This application was not successful due to the specific focus of funding for Covid responses.



Race and Equality - the murder of George Floyd in May 2020 prompted an outpouring of grief and anger around the world. At St Gabriel's we held a number of online events to provide space to pray and share thoughts and feelings about the impact of racism and inequality more broadly. Alongside these events a small working group, led by members of the PCC, produced a report on Race and Equality. This report outlined a number of steps St Gabriel's should take on this issue. The PCC agreed the recommendations of this report and these are now being implemented. When discussing these issues the PCC recognised that one-off actions are not adequate to enable us to make progress towards equality and this will be an ongoing process impacting on all areas of ministry.

Vision and Values - work has been continuing throughout the year to review and refresh St Gabriel's vision and values. A working group of PCC members has been taking this activity forward. The new values were shared in the final PCC meeting of this year and they will be presented to the wider church community in the spring of 2021. The values will form the foundation of a new vision for St Gabriel's and will enable us to move forward with new branding and an updated website later in 2021.

Safeguarding - Ensuring the safety of everyone in St Gabriel's, especially children and people who are more vulnerable, is a key responsibility of the Council. In accordance with Diocesan requirements, the Safeguarding Policy was reviewed and agreed by the Council in June, and a Safeguarding Audit carried out. The Council talked through the Diocese of London's safeguarding processes. Safeguarding issues are reported to the Council as appropriate throughout the year. The Council expressed their gratitude to Judy Harrison, as Church Safeguarding Officer, for her work in this important area. (For Judy's Report, see p6.)

Finance and Development - PCC receives financial reports from the Treasurer and the Finance team throughout the year to help the Council make informed decisions about using our finances. This year we:

- Agreed our Budget for 2021, including spending to come from the legacy money we still have. The PCC agreed for the legacy to be used for an 'Investing in Our Future' fund that would be used for one-off/strategic funding.
- Agreed our Mission Giving for 2021, continuing to support a wide range of organisations and projects.
- Kept our income under close review as the pandemic impacted on giving. We encouraged people to consider giving by standing order, online or by text, rather than in cash. We were grateful to receive a number of one-off gifts from people wishing to support the church through this difficult year.

We are so grateful to God for His provision in every way. One year ago we could not have predicted all that would happen in these last twelve months but God has been alongside us, leading and encouraging us as we serve Him together.

Membership of the Church Council during 2020-21 was as follows -

Incumbent: Revd James Yeates

Churchwardens: Alison Ingram, Marcus Liberman

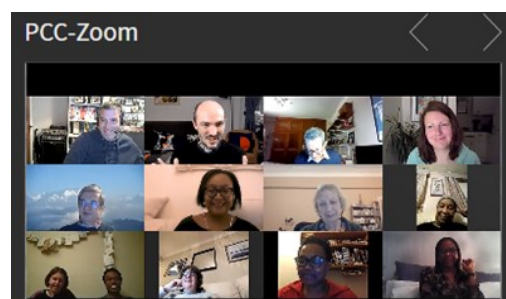
Secretary, then Treasurer (from October): David Vivian

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Colleen Francis, Judy Harrison, Winsome Spence

Elected Members: Sophia Ajani, Patience Asare-Tweneboah,

Emma Francois, Kwesi Francois, Faith Mba, Shelley Murray, Heaven Sinke, John Wolffe

Sarah Broadbent (who is not a member of the Council) attended meetings as Treasurer, then as Secretary (from October)



Alison Ingram

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

As I write this report, I am reflecting on a very difficult and different year for most people, a year the like we have never known, also for the Church. We have not been able to meet for most of the last year. Despite this, safeguarding is still a vital and ongoing part of our ministry.

Safeguarding is necessary in order to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm, ensuring they grow up with the provision of safe and effective care. It also includes protecting the health and well-being of adults at risk enabling them to live safely. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and reduce experiencing abuse and neglect. It is everyone's responsibility.



We began 2020 on a very positive note. We had James join us in January, and I am pleased to say I was able to meet with him to discuss our Safeguarding Policy. In late February we had a very successful morning of Safeguarding training, it was well attended and very well received. I was grateful for Shelley's support with facilitating this session. Just a few weeks later the world changed, we were facing lockdown. Despite the Church being closed and services now online, safeguarding continued.

Over the year we have welcomed 2 members of the staff team. Both of these needed DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks, normally carried out face to face but completed successfully online.

As we begin to emerge from lockdown and we begin to welcome everyone back into Church, with our Children's groups beginning to be in-person and our weekday groups beginning again, we all need to be aware of the safety of our children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is not limited to a few named people, it is everyone's responsibility to ensure everyone is safe. Any concerns need to be discussed with members of the team.

There are copies of our Policy at the back of church and on the St Gabriel's website and it is updated and reviewed by the PCC on an annual basis.

Safeguarding is I feel the silent ministry - it is active, but is not evident, it is confidential and only on a need to know basis. No one should be afraid of reporting concerns.

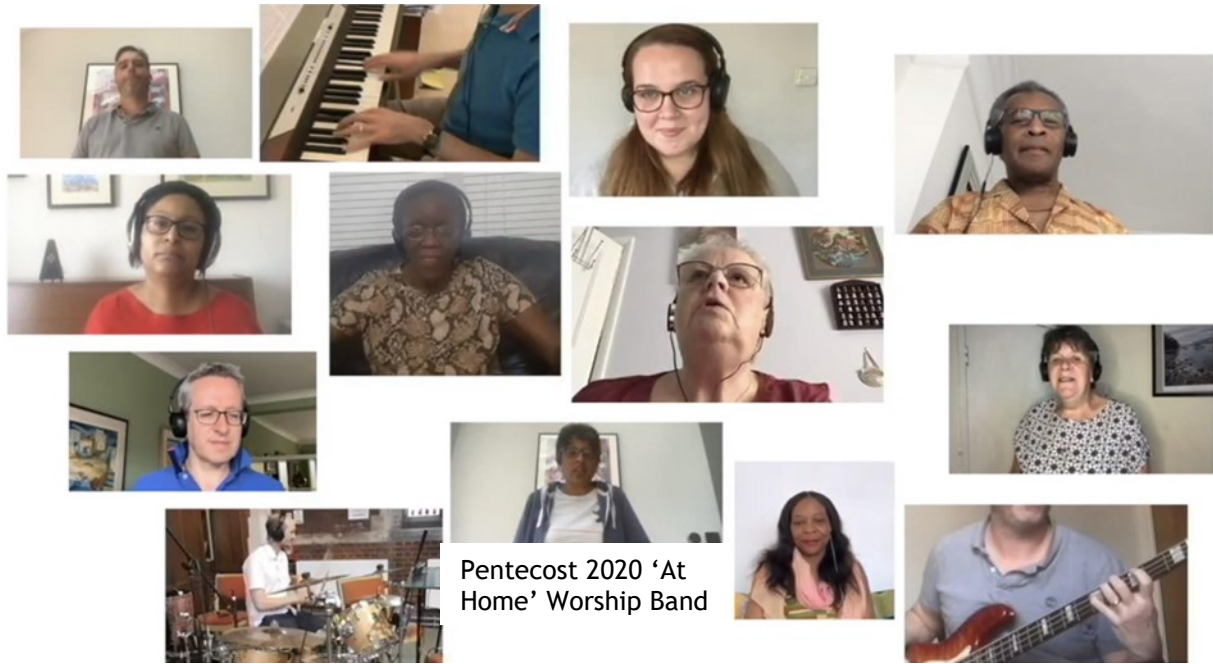
I look forward to a new season within the church and where God is leading us in the days ahead.

Judy Harrison is our Safeguarding Officer

WORSHIP

This last year has been one of great innovation and determination in the Worship Team. Like everyone, we faced some challenges in ensuring that we could continue to worship through the various lockdowns. And I am particularly grateful to those that made their living rooms or bedrooms into recording spaces so that we could still create tracks for worship every week through the first lockdown until we could be back in the building. People learned new skills including sound and video editing as well as just recording themselves. I hope it really enabled everyone joining in with our services to keep on worshipping God in song despite not being able to meet.

In particular Abbie Murray, David Vivian and James Yeates did an amazing job through the early weeks of lockdown as we worked out what might work, and turned individual contributions into full worship songs!



As is always the way in St Gabriels, there have been changes as people have moved on from St Gabriels. In particular this last year we were sorry to say goodbye to two of our band leaders - Dudley and Christina. So again, a huge thank you in particular to Abbie who along with me and James has done a huge amount of putting together sets, rehearsing and leading the band so often, so faithfully, and in a way that has blessed us all so much.

Through lockdown we were very limited as to who was able to record from home and who was able to be part of the team in church. That has been hard all round. Some members of the team have not been able to contribute as they would have wished, and others have been part of more services than they might have wanted. We also have not been able to meet as a team in over a year, and are feeling the impact of that. We are so glad that in recent weeks we have had more people join in the band on a Sunday. And we are very much looking forward to a time when we can all meet together again to reconnect, develop our skills and listen to God for this key ministry - outside of Sundays.

Having said all that, we do praise God that the heart for sung worship at St Gabriels remains strong and part of our very being. We even managed an 'Encounter Night' of extended praise and prayer via Zoom during the lockdown period. Once we can all sing together again in the building I am sure we will truly erupt in praise to our great God!

Marcus Liberman

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP)

St Gabriel's Church partners with **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)** to offer a free, face-to-face debt counselling service for those who are struggling with debt in our local community. Due to the Coronavirus in 2020 and associated government restrictions, the service had to move to a remote, online service seeing customers through video and phone calls. But we were still able to offer the service.



Through successful funding applications we were able to expand the service by taking on a new Debt Coach, Emma Liberman, to increase the number of clients we can help. Extra capacity also enables our **CAP Money budgeting course** to run more frequently. This has been a tremendous success through the last year, particularly during the pandemic where income and job security was at risk for many and the need for budgeting was paramount.

CAP also responded to the pandemic by launching **Kickstart**, a series of bitesize videos to help churches deal with the local needs that emerged during the National Lockdown. At St Gabriel's we ran two very successful events, Handling Loss (Nov 2020) and more recently Anxiety and Worry (March 2021). Both events were well subscribed (with over 15 people attending each event). The majority of delegates were non church members. Feedback has been very positive.

The Debt Centre Manager, Debt Coach and 8 volunteers (known as befrienders), continue to provide on-going emotional and practical support to 24 clients. The journey to becoming debt free is isolating so we reassure clients regularly to combat any loneliness or discouragement. Practical support is provided to bless clients, including Food Bank vouchers. We also pray for clients, sharing the good



news of Jesus and encourage clients to attend church services and events. This Christmas we arranged a Fish and Chip lunch for 8 of our clients, to fit within Covid restrictions at the time. One client who attended the Christmas lunch event wrote "thank you so much for this afternoon, it was great to see everyone. I think today proved to me that there is always kindness in our world. Today made me feel that there has been something missing from my life and I felt very much at home." How encouraging, thank you God.

The Centre has been very busy in 2020 and here are the key highlights:

- 4 Debt Free Clients in 2020 - the chains of debt have been broken and clients now have hope for a better future
- The CAP Money Course was converted online and 65 people have attended the CAP Money Budget course and we ran 5 courses throughout the year
- Delivered 2 Kickstart Sessions as a result of the pandemic
- 30 Christmas presents were donated to clients and their families
- We were also able to give out 12 'Christmas Lunch on Jesus' Hampers
- Clients' blessings included a new fridge freezer, a mobile phone and a pair of trainers



We have 14 CAP Angels supporting the funding and sustainability of the Centre allowing us to confidently see clients in the local area.

Debbie Thomas (St Gabriel's CAP Debt Centre Manager) and Emma Liberman (Debt Coach)

DEANERY SYNOD

In this strange pandemic year, we have not had any involvement in Deanery Synod.

FABRIC REPORT 2020-21

Regular works

As ever there are a number of regular annual works that ensure we are all safe, warm and our buildings are appropriately cared for. These include: Church and Hall boilers, gas safety checks, alarms, gutters, carpet cleaning and the church clock.

Smaller works

As with all buildings, we are always mending and replacing things! This year included a new radiator in the church corridor, mending the side gate, a new kitchen strip light, replacing some roof tiles, a part for the kitchen water heater, and replacing faulty emergency lights in the toilets and corridor.

Also, small maintenance jobs were carried out in the Hall Flat, including improving draught-excluding for the windows, and a new light over the front door.

The front room of the vicarage (hub/studio of online services all through lockdown in March-July 2020!) has been redecorated.

Larger works inside

We took advantage during lockdown, when the church was not able to be used for anything, to put in extra cabling, including ethernet, under the floor, connecting the sound desk, office, stage area and Raphael room, and with electric sockets at the base of the pillars. This enables us to connect equipment, including monitors, without trailing wires, and has enabled us to do live streaming of our services.

The NCIL (Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy) is funding allocated by Brent for projects that benefit the community in some way, with the criteria for grants changed each time. We were given money to help with replacing and updating our visual equipment (funding over half what we spent). This included a new projector mounted on a pillar, a new wide screen (which retracts out of view when not in use), discreetly mounted streaming cameras operated from the AV desk, together with a video mixer at the AV desk integrated to our sound system.



We now have a team trained in the use of our new facilities. We're looking for more to join the team!

We also took the opportunity to upgrade our internet connection to enable the streaming capability, and as a side benefit have much improved WiFi throughout the building now.

Our serving facilities at both Church and Hall have been refurbished with the NCIL grant - all completed during the Covid pandemic lockdown and looking good. It's only a shame we can't yet use them yet to serve anyone with refreshments!

The NCIL grant also paid for redecorating the small room at the front of the Hall.

Most recently the staff team have reorganised the space outside the original church office to create a working space big enough for the whole team within the warmth of the main building. What was the office is now primarily for storage, printing and creating posters and materials to go up in and around the church.



In the grounds

Our grounds, including the Prayer Garden, have been extensively used by many local people this year, especially in lockdown times.

Upkeep of the grounds has been pared back over previous years,

but a faithful team of members have been coming on occasional Saturdays to keep everything tidy and in check. A new electric mower and strimmer have been a blessing in this work. Recently they have demolished the shed that had been broken into. We hope to have a replacement installed in the coming weeks.



In the Prayer Garden, loose posts have been recemented in the ground and new prayers added from time to time. So many people have commented on what a blessing this space has been through the lockdown - for members and the wider community of neighbours and residents.

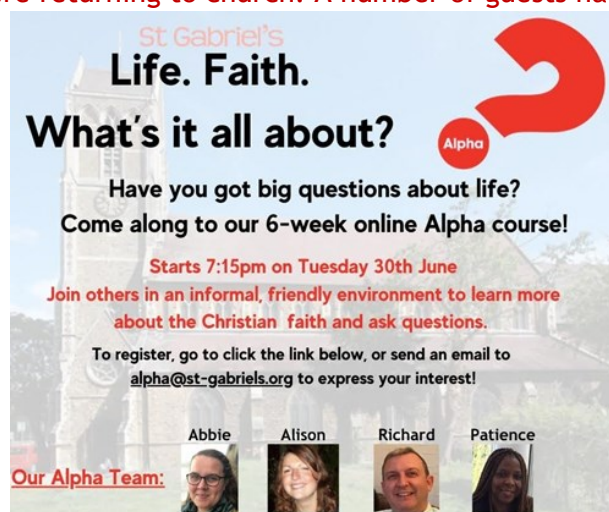
Marcus Liberman

ST GABRIEL'S ALPHA COURSE 2020 - 21



At St Gabriel's we want to offer the opportunity for people to explore Christianity and find out more about who Jesus is. For many years we have run the Alpha course and a significant proportion of the St Gabriel's community has come to faith through the course. The pandemic has meant that we have not been able to run Alpha in church as we normally would, but Covid has prompted many people to ask "big questions" about life. We wanted to respond to this situation and trialled running an online

Alpha course in June 2020. This course went well, with good take up from a wide range of guests. Some people were exploring faith for the first time, others had been coming to St Gabriel's from time to time, and others had had a faith in the past and were returning to church. A number of guests had seen our online activities being shared via Facebook and YouTube. We had a few technical challenges in the first couple of sessions but managed to overcome these and, using the online Alpha films, were able to run the course successfully. The Alpha group went on to form a home group, which continues to meet. Following this first trial of online Alpha, we ran two further courses, one in November 2020 and another in January 2021. Despite not being able to meet face to face the guests have been able to make connections with one another and with the team. The online course has enabled people from a far wider geography to be part of the course. This has meant that, while some of the guests have gone on to become more involved in St Gabriel's activities, others have made links with different churches closer to where they live.





Had it not been for the pandemic we may never have attempted to run Alpha online, and continued to deliver the in-person course in church, in the way we have done in the past. We thank God for the opportunity to do this and for His goodness in providing what we needed to achieve this. In particular, we give thanks for all who have been part of the Alpha team this year, stepping into a new situation and sharing the good news of Jesus with people hungry to hear it. At the time of writing, we are continuing to run the course online, but will look to offer more in-person opportunities as and when restrictions allow. Having experience of both online and in-person courses enables

us to make decisions about how we can use all the tools and channels at our disposal to run Alpha in future.

Alison Ingram

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

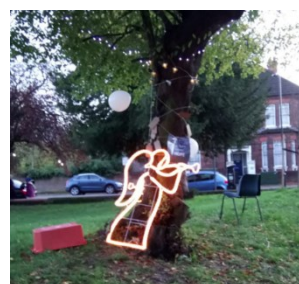
Over the last 12 months, much of our Children and Youth group activities that would usually take place within the church building have been held online via the Zoom platform due to the national lockdowns and government social distancing measures. For the same reasons, we have also held a number of activities outdoors including key annual events and have also engaged children, youth and parents via YouTube, WhatsApp, our church website and even by post for a more personal touch.

Participation has fluctuated during the course of the year. Attendance records suggest that the use of online platforms has encouraged some members to engage with activities more consistently and has given children who had previously not been engaging with church the opportunity to do so. The same records also indicate that for some members, in-person meetings are much more preferred.

Outdoor trails have been a fun and safe way to engage children at St Gabriel's and other children in the community.

Altogether, we saw approximately 90 families / groups, most of whom are not members, sign-up to take part in our Adventure Light

Trail (31st October), Christmas Trail and Family Easter Trail (2021).



With the Youth, in-person meetings have been key wherever possible as they are much less inclined to participate online and highly value and need in-person interaction. On occasion, we have been able to hold a movie night, play games out in the church garden and meet for our typical Friday night youth group.

Overall, we have been pleased to see the continued participation and moments for meaningful connection within the Children and Youth Ministry even with the current pandemic.

Mariam Kizza is our Children and Families Minister

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY

This year has brought many challenges as we continue to reach out to our community during the coronavirus pandemic. Just over a year ago we had to close our building to many of our community activities and we have had to find new ways of reaching those in our community.

For our families with under fives we have been releasing a new Youtube video for Boogie Angels toddlers with music, movement and a story. Alongside this we've made a play trail in the garden at St Gabriels. The play trail gets refreshed with the weekly theme of the video and it's been lovely seeing some of our daytimes families wandering around and taking part.



We have also done some socially distanced outdoor sticker trails and more recently singing times. This has also been a great time to try out some new formats of running our music and movement sessions. We have just relaunched Boogie Angels in-person on Wednesday mornings and, as lockdown eases, hope to extend and grow the sessions. It has been great to work together with the Children and Youth Minister on some seasonal trails as well seeing crossover between church and community families.



With our more senior members we have used many ways of keeping in contact from written letters, phone calls and more recently whatsapp video calls. Praying

and doing the Lent course together, either on the phone or on a video call, has been a delight. Now lockdown is easing and having trialled some in-person gatherings, we are again meeting weekly together in-person. Everyone is getting used to new restrictions but very happy to be meeting together again.

Susie Yeates is our Families and Community Minister

ENGLISH CLASSES

English classes have continued to be run during the more recent lockdown, and after a slow start, have picked up. We have had to do things very differently. For a start, preparation has to be much more intensive. We have to prepare engaging and explanatory Powerpoint slides for presentation during the class. This is very hard work, but, on the other hand, it provides a good resource for anyone else who wants to run online English classes. In the past, with in-person lessons, we were able to use printed materials and physical props to explain things. We can't use those with online lessons. Secondly, it seems to be much more necessary to have two, or even three, teachers in the class. Since we do not have eye contact, it is far harder for one person alone to ensure that all students are engaged. And thirdly, we have the feeling that online class sizes cannot be too large. We probably can't go much larger than the eight students we often get without some students feeling left out. If class sizes did start to increase, we could make use of Zoom break-out rooms, but we might need to recruit more teachers or assistants.



The positive thing is that many of the students actually like doing classes online from the comfort of their living rooms, and actually might not want to revert to in-person lessons, once we are able to run them. The teachers also like the fact that we can do classes from home. We have also been helped by the fact that the majority (but not all) of our students come from one nationality, and are able to help each other. They enjoy the community aspect of the lessons. They also seem to appreciate the effort we put into preparing the lesson material, which they can also take away in pdf format for homework. The main thing really is that the classes are fun and there is a lot of laughing and chatter, which is good.

We will have to decide what to do in future once we are able to go back to the Church building for lessons. I doubt it would be possible to have a single session where some join physically and some join online. It would have to be either/or. We could have two sessions, one online, one in person. We could make something of the fact that a single national group could be made into a class, but many students enjoy the cultural interchange with other students. Or classes could be offered on a more one-to-one basis. This has happened even now, where we find that some individual students appreciate shorter one-on-one online tuition. So there could be many strategies for the future.

Our motivation for running English classes is pleasure. It is true that we are offering a service to the community. We have very often received thanks for what we do as a Church. Some students have even said that the quality of our teaching is better than they get at college. Some students come because they are lonely and are looking for community. And it is also true that, while we do not preach the Christian faith, we aim to demonstrate the character of Christ by the way that we speak and act and interact. We are amply repaid by the joy we get from meeting interesting students. I think that people know when we are enjoying ourselves and that encourages them to learn, relax, laugh, speak up and come back.



Richard Berry and Caty Delmont

ST GABRIEL'S MEMBERSHIP 2019-20

Our membership for 2021 is 172. This time last year our membership was 179. During this pandemic year numbers have unusually not included much fluctuation. 3 people have moved away from the area, including one to be ordained, and 3 St Gabriel's members died in the last year. New people have joined us, either online or in-person when possible, but have not yet joined the Electoral Roll.

Rachel Ward is St Gabriel's Electoral Roll Officer



A NOTE FROM THE FINANCE TEAM TO INTRODUCE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS



Financial gifts from the congregation enable St Gabriel's to continue in worship, to offer weekly activities to the local

community, put on special events, support other churches in London, and support mission partners in this country and internationally. In these uncertain times when giving has reduced for various reasons and it's not clear whether all these activities can continue, God finds a way to keep things going through unexpected gifts, legacies and the generosity of the congregation.

The Finance Team was Caroline Maleedy (until Jan 2020), Christian Maleedy (until Jan 2020), Debbie Thomas, Colleen Francis, Sarah Broadbent, James Yeates and David Vivian (from Oct 2020).

FINANCE REPORT AND SUMMARY ACCOUNTS FOR 2020

How we work out our money in St Gabriel's

In St Gabriel's we look to cover our regular expenses with our regular income. Regular expenses are the running costs for our ministries and activities, on Sundays and during the week, engaging with our local community and showing faith in action, contributing to clergy and wider church costs, paying our other staff, heating and looking after our buildings and grounds, and giving for God's mission locally, in London, nationally and internationally. We set our sights high, and obviously need our income and outgoings to balance, which is a challenge to us.

In addition, we look to cover one-off projects from one-off gifts and grants. Because of circumstances in 2020, we invested in audio visual equipment to allow church services to continue on-line - this included new cameras and related equipment, and cabling in the church. This was funded partly from money from the legacy (previously given by Jim Allen), and in part from NCIL (National Community Infrastructure Levy) funding provided by Brent Council.

NCIL funding also enabled us to complete several other projects in the church and church hall - upgrading of the serving area in the church, upgrading of the serving area in the hall, and hall refurbishment.

So how did our money work out in 2020?

Other than the NCIL funding we received in 2020 (which was given to cover the cost of specific items of expenditure), we didn't receive any outside funds, so all other funds were given by members and friends, together with hiring our Hall, rent from the Hall Flat, rent from the telecoms in the tower, and from our Café and activities.

Income: Because of Covid-19, from March onwards we were unable to let the hall, run our daytime activities, or open the café. This meant that we had no income from these sources for most of the year. Income from regular giving was down on 2019. This was in part expected as St Gabriel's has a mobile population and some regular giving stopped due to people moving away. We also saw a drop in regular giving due to services being moved on-line. We received several generous one-off gifts that helped to offset the reduction in regular giving. Thank you to everyone who gave to St Gabriel's during the year.

Spending: We had some unexpected expenditure in 2020 to equip ourselves to stream services from the church building. We were blessed to receive NCIL funding to meet some of the costs, but we had to fund some of this work from existing funds. We also undertook some strategic initiatives - upgrading our contact management system and expanding the Community Ministry role to encompass a new Families and Community Ministry role. The costs of these, and other unexpected costs were met from the legacy money.

Overall: In addition, in our regular spending we ran a deficit of £13,145 for 2020 which was met from the legacy money. We thank God for his continued provision in these challenging times.

What does this mean for 2021?

So we can continue all we do in at St Gabriel's - worshipping God, serving our community and bringing others to know Jesus - we need to go on building up our regular income, so we can cover our regular costs, and meet new challenges as they arise.

In 2021, we expect to continue to run a deficit, both because of the ongoing impact on Covid-19 on our activities, and because of the reduction in regular giving. We will continue to use the legacy money to meet this shortfall, and to keep our buildings and facilities in good order for people to come into and to enjoy.

Prayer: We can dare to pray that new giving will outstrip giving that stops, and that we cover all our costs. We can pray also to an end for the need for Covid-19 restrictions so we can open up our daytime activities. We can trust God to provide what we need.

Please pray, asking and trusting God to meet our needs. We want St Gabriel's to be all that God wants us to be, for his church and his name to be known in this area, so that more people will come to know him.

Income (excluding NCIL funding):

	2020	2019
Standing Orders	£ 79,380	£ 75,530
Offering baskets and Just Giving	£ 12,830	£ 21,910
One-off gifts	£ 15,440	£ 9,990
For our Christians Against Poverty Centre	£ 24,220	£ 15,315
Tax reclaimed	£ 24,285	£ 24,115
Café (<i>less specific expenses</i>)	£ 2,405	£ 8,260
Event income	£ 175	£ 825
Flat rent	£ 15,590	£ 15,590
Hall lettings	£ 2,850	£ 13,510
Service fees (<i>for weddings, funerals in church</i>)	£ 935	£ 410
Insurance claims	£ 1,625	£ 400
VAT reclaimed	£ 160	£ 480
Interest	£ 215	£ 290
Tower Telecoms	£ 14,800	£ 14,300
St Michael's Hall - Ground rent	£ 250	
Other (<i>2019: for Tower Telecoms Electricity</i>)	£ 575	£ 3,265
Total Income	£ 195,735	£204,190

Spending - Ministries:

	2020	2019
Clergy and Area & Diocesan support (<i>called the Common Fund</i>)	£ 85,200	£ 82,800
Clergy expenses (<i>includes house and office costs, training and conferences, travel and hospitality</i>)	£ 2,455	£ 950
Sequestration (<i>Vicarage costs during the vacancy</i>)	£ (185)	£ 185
Worship resources	£ 935	£ 2,670
Children and Youth Coordinator and expenses	£ 25,610	£ 22,485
Youth and Children's resources	£ 960	£ 1,235
Community Minister (<i>half pay</i>)	£ 4,725	£ 3,690
Community events and activities	£ 420	£ 1,290
Community give-away resources	£ 550	£ 310
Hospitality	£ 405	£ 1,500
Alpha (<i>net cost</i>), Coffee Angels, Welcome	£ 160	£ 260
Equipment	£ 155	£ 225
Training, consultancy and conferences		£ 105
Leaving and other Gifts (<i>mostly given</i>)	£ 805	£ 2,080
New Vicar ads and expenses		£ 4,865
Advertising Events	£ 365	
Courses and Small Groups	£ 25	
Total Ministries Costs	£122,585	£124,650

Spending - Church and Grounds (excluding NCIL funded works):

	2020	2019
Church Manager and expenses	£ 17,360	£ 16,730
Light and Heat and water rates	£ 10,105	£ 11,350
Insurance	£ 8,240	£ 8,275
Equipment	£ 800	£ 1,015
Accounting costs	£ 750	£ 1,055
Housekeeping (<i>cleaning and materials</i>)	£ 2,955	£ 3,425
Printing, postage, stationery	£ 1,685	£ 3,045
Telephone	£ 605	£ 410
Internet, website and licences	£ 2,565	£ 1,530
(<i>continued on next page . . .</i>)		

Maintenance and Works:		
Electrical works (2020: including emergency lighting, sensors)	£ 745	£ 640
Fence and side gate repairs	£ 100	£ 1,855
Fire safety, alarm	£ 150	£ 495
Heating		£ 1,030
Clock (2019: including clock room ladder and gear cleaning)	£ 305	£ 1,750
Tree felling (including tarmac repair)		£ 4,155
Tree planting		£ 880
Drive entrance wall (demolished and rebuilt)		£ 4,555
Prayer garden		£ 440
Gutter cleaning	£ 240	£ 240
Seraph Project (detailed plans and costings)		£ 15,670
Roof repair	£ 115	
AV cabling, cameras (not NCIL funded)	£ 17,295	
Other maintenance and works	£ 35	£ 510
(Total Maintenance and Works)	(£18,985)	(£32,220)
Total Church and Grounds Costs	£ 64,050	£79,055

Spending - Church Hall (excluding NCIL funded works):

	2020	2019
Light and Heat and water rates	£ 1,000	£ 1,415
Insurance	£ 1,350	£ 1,170
Cleaning, including carpets	£ 150	£ 865
Equipment and WiFi	£ 670	£ 370
Flat costs	£ 370	£ 610
Opening and closing for hires	£ 160	£ 525
Maintenance and Works:		
Heating, plumbing and electrical repairs		£ 495
Fire safety, alarm	£ 210	£ 310
Redecoration		£ 3,240
Other maintenance and repairs	£ 85	£ 160
(Total Maintenance and Works)	(£295)	(£ 4,205)
Total Church Hall Costs	£ 3,995	£ 9,165

Mission Giving:

Each year we give away at least 12% of the previous year's giving income

	2020	2019
International Mission		
Stone family	£ 2,640	£ 2,400
Schools Project, Uganda	£ 1,500	£ 2,000
Open Doors	£ 540	£ 600
Tearfund		£ 825
National Mission		
Church Pastoral Aid Society	£ 900	£ 1,440
New Wine	£ 220	£ 330
Evangelical Alliance	£ 150	£ 150
Other	£ 1,115	
London and Willesden Area Mission		
Other Area Churches (through extra Common Fund)	£ 4,685	£ 5,380
Church Schools	£ 900	£ 885
Other		£ 180
Local Mission		
Christians Against Poverty Centre*	£ 19,290	£ 17,150
Community Minister (half pay)	£ 4,725	£ 3,690
Other Mission Giving		
Bishop's and Vicar's Discretionary Funds	£ 415	
Total Mission Giving (includes given for CAP Centre 2020: £18,790 : 2019: 16,780)	£ 37,080	£ 35,030

	2020	2019
Total income	£ 195,490	£ 204,190
Total spent	£ 228,415	£ 247,900

The shortfall for 2020 was met from the legacy. Although we anticipated some of our day-to-day spending would need to be funded in this way, we found that because of the extraordinary circumstances in 2020 we ran a much bigger deficit than we had budgeted for at the beginning of the year. As a result, we spent £13,145 from the legacy to allow us to balance income and expenditure.

For 2021 we anticipate having to spend approximately £35,000 from the legacy to allow us to meet our regular expenditure and church maintenance costs. We expect to have exhausted the legacy by the end of the year, so for 2022 onwards we will need find additional funds to meet the shortfall or look to start making cuts to our expenditure, and in turn this will mean we need to review the activities and areas of ministry we are able to support.

Although we hope to see income increase again when hall lettings return, we cannot guarantee that this will happen at the same rate as before and would rather base the sufficiency of our churches income on the generosity of its congregation.



NCIL Funding and Expenditure

(separate from the other figures in these accounts):

In 2020 we received £45,500 in NCIL funding from Brent Council. This funding was given for specific projects that would enhance use of the church and hall for use by the wider community. In 2020 we spent the NCIL funding on the following projects -

AV installation	£ 20,630
Church serving area	£ 11,000
Hall kitchen serving area	£ 8,665
Hall refurbishment	£ 655
Total NCIL Spending	£ 40,950

Stalls - Fairtrade and Books (The bookstall was closed at the end of 2020)

(separate from the other figures in these accounts):

Fairtrade	2020	2019
Sold (in bank + cash tin)	£ 130	£ 1,050
Spent on stock	£ 280	£ 1,169
Bookstall		
Sold	£ 215	£ 730
Spent on stock	£ 265	£ 711
Spent on resources to give away, including Alpha	£ 0	£ 11

What money have we got for 2021?

At the end of 2020 our General Fund had £ 2,750

Our other Funds are:

Restricted funds:

Christians Against Poverty Centre Fund £ 9,640

NCIL Funding £ 4,550

Designated funds:

Legacy £ 47,020

Family and Community Ministry Transition ^[*] £ 18,300

Reserve Fund (for emergencies and temporary funding) £ 20,000

[] PCC agreed to ring-fence £18,300 from the legacy to help meet the cost of the new Family and Community Ministry for the next 5 years*

David Vivian is our Treasurer