

# St Gabriel's

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND NewWine

## St Gabriel's Church, Cricklewood



## Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council April 2021 to April 2022



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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 2022

## VICAR'S REPORT

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

As I write this my thoughts are still swimming with joy and pride at the way St Gabriel's has shown in no uncertain terms that we are back in business. Following two weeks of fervent activity from the celebration of Baptisms at a full house Easter Day service to the marking of Earth Day with an admirable effort from all to embrace the theme with incredible food offerings that pushed many of us a little outside our comfort zone in a good way.

There is much to be thankful for, not least the continued resilience and faithfulness of the staff team and serving volunteers that have continued to navigate the obstacles of covid that still cloud our rear-view mirror and indeed the way ahead. As Paul writes in Thessalonians, we are to rejoice always but also to pray continually and that has never been more important. We are still living in uncertain times,

and I believe the spirit is cautioning us not to become complacent. There is a weariness that falls from living through a pandemic that means when there is a moment of reprieve, we need to take advantage of it. Therefore, in this next season we will be launching a new mission action plan that embodies our vision and values and why over the next few years we want to go deeper into what those values mean to us through some more in-depth preaching series about each one.

## St Gabriel's

Meeting God, sharing the love

### Vision

At St Gabriel's we want everyone to encounter the love of Jesus, whoever they are and wherever they find themselves on a journey of faith. We believe this is possible by seeking after God, encountering his presence and sharing the love that we receive with the community around us. We want to do this in Word, Spirit and Action, teaching and experiencing God's love as well as showing it in practical ways.

### Values

Living out these values help to shape who we are as a church and the kind of culture we want to inhabit in everything we do whilst acknowledging our own brokenness and receiving God's grace.

## Meeting God

### Spirit Powered

We long to be filled with God's spirit and want to do everything in his strength and not our own. We believe the Holy Spirit is at work today and his gifts are for the whole church and for the benefit of the whole world. *1 Corinthians 12:7 "...the Spirit is given for the common good"*

### Worship Fuelled

We love to worship in song and with our whole lives, through which we can come close to God and encounter his love.

*1 Chronicles 16:23 "Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day."*

### Bible Driven

We are inspired by the life of Jesus revealed in the gospels and look to him as a lens through which the whole of scripture is viewed. Our behaviour and values are accountable to the truths this reveals in the Bible. *Psalms 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*

### Prayer Soaked

Prayer backs everything we do because it ensures we are listening and sharing everything with Almighty God. By covering all we do in prayer, we expect his answer and by faith, see him work powerfully in different situations for his glory.

*Philippians 4:6 "...by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*

## Sharing the Love

### Abundantly Generous

Nothing we have is our own, it is given to us by God and we delight in giving back to him. We want to continually be giving our best away to his purposes, even if it does not benefit us directly because we know it will enlarge his Kingdom.

*Mark 12:44 "They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything..."*

### Delighting in Difference

Our diversity of cultures and persons of different backgrounds and experiences lights up our community and is part of what makes it special. We seek ways to be an eclectic family and care for one another as we journey together into God's truth. *Revelation 7:9 "...from every nation, tribe, people and language..."*

### Enduring in Faith

We have a rich heritage of faith and deep-rooted spirituality. We seek to cultivate resilience in our community so that our faith may endure and thrive even in difficult times and that we might be ready for anything! *Hebrews 11:1 "...Faith is confidence in what we hope for..."*

### Outward Reaching

We desire to share the love of Jesus with as many people as we can! This includes those both near and far, from all walks of life, that do not yet know the good news of Jesus. We do this as an overflow of the love he has shown us. *Matthew 28:19 "...make disciples of all nations..."*

We are encouraged by the full return this year, not only of in-person worship services but of Boogie Angels, in-person English Classes and new initiatives such as Hope Café. All of which are starting to bear new fruit in wonderful ways. We were privileged to host some incredible West End performers at 'Faith at the Musicals' and celebrated together the 10th Anniversary of our Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre which continues to grow from strength to strength, and our ministry amongst young people continues to grow in numbers with both a Friday Night cohort and Sunday Morning members. We have also been able to open our building and grounds to families for trails and celebrations that have led to the deepening of faith and connections with us as a Church and Community.

Our newly appointed PCC champions were activated in the areas of Mission, Ecology and Racial Justice. Our Safeguarding procedures and training have been updated and we also generously took part in the national church initiative 'Living in Love and Faith' which called us to examine our approach to inclusion given varying different theological views. I am very grateful to all who took part in these conversations, particularly to those that found them costly. I am confident that in the end this will lead to us being much better prepared and informed for any such national conversations. The PCC continue to work hard on refining an equality statement that will seek to hold our desire to be delighting in difference with the various theological convictions that stretch the breadth of our church.

In all areas I am continually thankful to those in the church that continue to serve the mission of God in this place and who embody our desire to be 'Meeting God, Sharing the Love' by serving, giving and fully participating in the life of the church. I am excited for all that the next year holds as we look towards all 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:

Our Church Council year started with the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) in April followed by an initial meeting in May on Zoom but then thankfully we were able to switch to meeting again in person.

**Champions** At our first meeting we agreed our key roles but also introduced and appointed people to new 'Champion' roles:

Racial Justice Champion: Sophia Ajani

Eco Champion: Tuong Vi Magowan

Mission Partner Champion: Marcus Liberman

Council members are excited for these roles and the teams working with them to see development and growth in these important areas. We have reviewed progress of all the teams through the year.

**Branding** At a number of meetings in the year we have looked at our branding, reviewing the work and proposals of an external consultant, Hannah Knight. This work built off our new vision and values - as well as a desire to reach new people in the area. Later in the year we agreed her proposals to implement the newly agreed branding in key areas including the website. Funding, Covid and other priorities of time have slowed this work down but we will see the fruits of her labour and our investment in the upcoming year.

**Away Day** In September the Church Council members and Staff Team were able to go away for a day to the Niland Centre in Bushey (where many previous away days have been held too). The objective was really to have time to get to know one another better and to look ahead to what we might want to include in a mission action plan for St Gabriel's. The day was as ever really helpful and encouraging, and we will see more fruit from this in the year ahead.

**Staff Appraisal** We also reviewed and approved a new staff appraisal process that James has developed. This is now being implemented. We hope this will enable a more effective conversation between staff team members and their managers to ensure every team member has the opportunity to give and receive actionable feedback and develop in their role.

**Living in Love and Faith** At the end of 2021 we also reviewed the 'Living in Love and Faith' series of talks and midweek meetings, and gathered feedback on members' experience of the meetings. This has fed into developing a statement on equality that will be published on our website - covering race, gender, sexual orientation and ability. Discussions have been open and honest. We agreed that this is not an easy journey to be on together, but a really important one.

**Children and Youth** At the last meeting of the year we were also joined by Mariam Kizza to hear about her work with our children and young people. With pandemic restrictions it has often been difficult but she sees many encouragements too - with increasing numbers particularly in our in-person youth gatherings. And being able to support and minister to parents of our children has been another highlight this past year.

**Safeguarding, Finance, Covid** As well as significant one-off topics covered above, the Church Council always prioritises time to review our safeguarding arrangements, our financial arrangements, and this year our evolving arrangements for Covid restrictions. Shelley Murray (our Safeguarding Officer) and David Vivian (our Treasurer) and Sarah Broadbent (our Church Manager) do a huge amount of work on these important topics and ensure the Church Council are equipped with the necessary information to oversee and update policy, and to make financial decisions throughout the year - particularly in setting the budget for the church.

#### **Membership of the Church Council during 2021-22 was as follows -**

Vicar: Revd James Yeates

Churchwardens: Marcus Liberman, Shelley Murray

Treasurer: David Vivian

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Colleen Francis, Winsome Spence

Elected Members: Sophia Ajani, Patience Asare-Tweneboah, Anita Bowen, Alison Ingram, Isaac Kizza, Tuong Vi Le Magowan, Faith Mba, Rose Streatfeild, John Wolffe

Sarah Broadbent (who is not a member of the Council) attended meetings as Secretary

#### **Marcus Liberman, Churchwarden**

### **WORSHIP**

“Come let us worship our King  
Come let us bow at His feet  
He has done great things”



These lyrics from one of the new songs we have introduced this year capture the heart of the worship team. Our response to who God is and what He has done is our motivation.



One of the biggest challenges and answers to prayer has been the gradual lifting of restrictions due to the pandemic, meaning that we have been able to get back to worship together in the building and during the course of the year to all being able to sing together out loud - rather than just the worship team at the front. In particular this included being able to have an all-comers Christmas choir at our Carol services after an enforced break - always a highlight in the church year!

The biggest development within the team this year has been the sessions we have had with vocal coach Rob Cates. Over a period of months the singers have gathered for six evenings with Rob. Whilst some of that has been about technique and skills, it has also been about encouraging us to step out and try things - overcoming any fear we might have of 'giving it a go'. So we hope as a team to put this into practice more and more, and that everyone will see the development of our sung worship leading as a result!

We are still very conscious that singers aside, we have very few instrumentalists in the team at the moment. This is something we would love to see change in the year ahead. We are praying for that. We also have some ideas to encourage budding instrumentalists to come and learn a bit more about what's involved and develop to the point of being able to join in the band on Sundays. As ever, with a small team we've not been able to put all our ideas into practice just yet.

We are constantly encouraged by the heart for worship that members of St Gabriel's demonstrate so readily and enthusiastically when we are together. May God grow and guide us as we praise Him - acknowledging all the great things he has done for us.

*Marcus Liberman*

## SAFEGUARDING REPORT

We subscribe to and have adopted the Church of England policy on Promoting a Safer Church, and have endeavoured over this year to put in place the recommendations and procedures advised by the policy. In May 2021, the PCC approved our Safeguarding policy for the year. In September, Judy Harrison stood down as our Safeguarding Officer, this was after having been in the role for a number of years and we would like to thank her for all she has done to keep St Gabriel's a safe place. Shelley Murray was elected by the PCC to be the current Safeguarding Officer for the church.



As recommended by the Church of England we have ensured that DBS checks are carried out on everyone who works or volunteers with children and vulnerable adults. We have also been ensuring that everyone who needs it has Safeguarding training to an appropriate level for the position they hold in church. In addition to this all the leaders of the church are trained to at least leadership level. In February we ran some in person training in the church, this took the form of two sessions on Saturday mornings. We started with breakfast and the sessions enabled people to look at issues and scenarios around safeguarding concerns and how to respond.

The record keeping is now all stored electronically, which makes it much safer and complies with GDPR expectations. This has enabled us to see who needs their DBS check renewed or if there is a

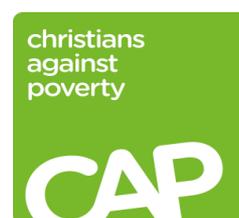
training need. Part of our electronic system has enabled us to have a reporting system in place, and this means that anyone can report a concern through our website and the Safeguarding team are alerted instantly. They can then decide the next steps, if any, and ensure that any issues that arise are responded to quickly and appropriately.

Over the next year we aim to build on what we already have in place, including working with the PCC to improve volunteer and staff role descriptions, to better comply with the diocesan commitment to safe recruiting, and to take on any further recommendations by the Church of England, to ensure that St Gabriel's is a safe place for all who worship here. Any issues that may arise will continue to be responded to quickly and dealt with appropriately and effectively.

**Shelley Murray, Safeguarding Officer**

### CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP)

St Gabriel's Church has partnered with **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)** for over 10 years offering a free face to face debt counselling service for those who are struggling with debt in our local community. In that time, we have seen over 45 clients become debt free and we thank God for every client who has witnessed the weight of debt being lifted off their shoulders. Many more clients have been assisted and experienced the care and generosity of both **CAP** and St Gabriel's, which we believe will have its own impact even if we did not see some of those clients complete the journey to debt freedom with us.



We marked our 10 year anniversary with many different events. This started with summer interviews with each of the past **CAP** Debt Managers, which were shown in the Sunday services in the weeks leading up to the anniversary. On the anniversary weekend at

the beginning of October we had a fundraising dinner which was very successful and well attended, guests included new and existing clients, plus funders and church members. The Sunday services were focused on **CAP** and thanking God for inspiring and providing for the ministry.



We continued to look for funding opportunities to sustain our costs year-on-year and successfully received funding from Brent Advice Fund (BAF) in November 2021. This supported the ongoing work of the Debt Centre but also enabled the start of a drop-in clinic known as Hope Café and exploring adaptations to the **CAP Money course** to serve young adults.

We continue to run **CAP Money courses**, a budgeting course which allows delegates to control their money better by understanding how to save, spend and budget well. In the past year these courses have been a combination of in-person and online. We wish to target young adults in 2022, building on the BAF-funded trial.

St Gabriel's was also featured in a 6-part series on the work of CAP nationally on TBN. The series looked in detail at unity and how the relationship works practically between CAP nationally and the partnership with the local church.

The Debt Centre Manager, Debt Coach and 8 volunteers (known as Befrienders), continue to provide ongoing emotional and practical support to 26 clients. Now that we are out of the pandemic restrictions, we are back to visiting clients in their homes or in the church building. The journey to becoming debt free is isolating and lonely, our role (along with our Befrienders) is to reassure clients so that they know they are not alone. We build trusting relationships with each client and also offer practical support through client blessings or Food Bank vouchers. We also pray with clients and share the good news of Jesus and encourage clients to attend church services and events. It is such a joy this year to see two of our clients attending church regularly and becoming part of the St Gabriel's Family.



In 2021-22, we continued to bless clients with Easter Eggs and at Christmas we arranged a Winter Afternoon Tea which was well attended and everyone had a lot of fun. Additionally, we had a generous donation from someone who offered to cook and bring a hot meal so that everyone who attended the Afternoon Tea could leave with some hot food as well as extra cakes.



Throughout the year, we root all our events in prayer and we continue to pray for the CAP Centre by arranging CAP prayer sessions once a quarter.

2021 was the first full year of 2 Debt Coaches. This expansion has been very fruitful and the key highlights are below:

- **6 Debt Free Clients in 2021** - We have never had that many clients go debt free in a year! This means the chains of debt have been broken and those clients now have hope for a better future. Our last client who became debt free in 2021 said 'We serve a Mighty God; I was crying tears of joy as I never knew God would favour me in this way and I will forever praise him.'
- Two of our clients are regularly coming to church and participating in our events - praise God
- The **CAP Money Course** - we ran 4 courses throughout the year - over 20 people attended
- 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraising dinner - over £4k raised for the **CAP Centre** in 2022
- Over 30 Christmas presents were donated to clients and their families
- We were also able to give out 15 'Christmas Lunch on Jesus' (CLOJ) Hampers
- Client blessings included a new heater, toiletries and client shopping
- Whilst we maintain 14 **CAP Angels** supporting the funding and sustainability of the Centre, our hearts desire is to increase to 20 **CAP Angels** as our annual costs have increased (due to our expansion ie 2 Debt Coaches)

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

## DEANERY SYNOD

The last two years have been very challenging. The church had to be very adaptive to changes to government legislation in response to various strains of COVID-19.

In June 2021 Brent Deanery Synod had the first post lockdown evening meeting at St Mary's Church, Harlesden. The topic of discussion was Education, faith-based schools. Guest speakers in attendance were Simon Judge, from the London Diocesan Board for Schools, and Catherine Allard, Head Teacher of John Keeble School in the London Borough of Brent. London Borough of Brent is one of the most ethnic

diverse boroughs in London. Presently there is no Church of England secondary school in Brent. The London 2030 vision involves incorporating new forms of church in schools and parishes.



**In September 2021** there was a Thanksgiving Service for Bishop Pete at St Marys, Neasden. It was an opportunity for members of Brent Deanery Synod to show their appreciation to Pete for his dedicated commitment over years for social justice and equality within the community.

**In December 2021** we had an evening about Dementia Care and Chaplaincy within local communities. Revd Gerrie Sturgeon spoke at the meeting at St Gabriel's Church, Cricklewood. The meeting was also available on zoom. It was a reflective evening, opening up the dialogue of pastoral care within the community.

*Colleen Francis and Winsome Spence, Deanery Synod Representatives*

## FABRIC REPORT 2020-21

Over the year there are many things that happen regarding the fabric of the church, much of it behind the scenes, in order to make sure our buildings and grounds are kept in good repair. Ensuring the upkeep of these is vital in making sure we have a warm and safe environment to use for our many and varied activities during the week, including Worship on Sundays, Boogie Angels for toddlers and parents/carers on Wednesdays and our new Hope Café on Mondays.

There are some works that are carried out regularly every year; these include servicing the boilers, cleaning gutters, cleaning the carpets, fire safety checks and checking the alarms.

Over the year a number of other maintenance tasks and repairs have been carried out and these include:

### Church:

- After quite major storms this year the church roof suffered some damage in the form of loss of tiles and some large holes in the higher part of the roof. Steeplejacks were commissioned to undertake the repairs, which have now been completed, the cost has been covered by our insurance.
- We had a slight fall in the boiler temperature and after investigations one boiler was reset and the sump pump drainage pipe was found to be blocked, this has now been rectified.
- The lightning conductor on the church roof has been tested.
- The hot water boiler stopped working and an engineer was called out. However, it was not deemed cost effective to repair and the decision was made to replace it.
- The telecoms installation in the Tower has been upgraded. A new lock has also been put on the outside Tower door, this is to give the engineers access to the tower without having to go through the church.



- The photocopier randomly started making two sided copies and an engineer came to reset the copying defaults.

**Hall:**

- The indoor ladder at the Hall became unsafe and has been replaced with a slightly higher one.
- We used some of the funding which we were granted from Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy to buy some new chairs. We also replaced two green windows, which means all the windows are now double-glazed.



**Flat:**

- The letter box was replaced, this included better draught exclusion.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sarah Broadbent for all she has done in ensuring that repairs and other jobs are carried out quickly and efficiently, which makes sure our buildings are kept in good condition.

**Grounds:**

- A large branch fell off a tree that was overhanging the church drive. Thankfully no-one was hurt. The tree surgeons who came to remove it discovered that the trunk was rotten, and the tree was removed except for a stump about 1m high.
- The Churchwardens were inspired by London Diocese eco initiative and have secured funding from the Diocese and Veolia, who support eco-projects in the community, to start



our own eco-project. They also applied to The Woodland Trust and received over a hundred saplings to make a hedge. To date there have been two working party dates, where the saplings were planted, and some raised beds were built. The beds will form the basis for an allotment style garden, people will be able to come and plant



vegetables, care for, and then harvest them. We have also purchased a beehive and hope to install some bees later in the year, these will be looked after by Sadaf who is a community beekeeper. We have also made a bug hotel from pallets and want to encourage the children in particular to get involved to make it a habitat where minibeasts can live and thrive. We have also installed four bird boxes and look forward to seeing if they are used as the year progresses.

- During the next year we hope to plant a wildflower meadow and our aim is to bless the community around the church with a quiet space to enjoy and reflect in, as well as it being eco-friendly.

We thank God for the provision of the buildings and grounds that belong to St Gabriel's and pray that we will continue to be good stewards of these spaces. We would also like to thank all those who help maintain and look after them.

*Shelley Murray, Churchwarden*

## 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 meant that we were not able to run Alpha in church as we normally would, but it prompted us to try running Alpha online via Zoom. This had a number of advantages, not only allowing us to run the course even when we were in lockdown, but also enabling a different group of people to participate. We had attendees living at some distance from St Gabriel's who would not have been able to come to the church building to join a group. We also had guests with caring responsibilities who wouldn't have been in a position to leave their home every week. Running the course online meant that these people could participate in Alpha. We ran two courses on Zoom in the last year, one in spring 2021 and one in autumn 2021. These were followed by a third course in-person in winter 2022 - the first in-person course at St Gabriel's for two years. It was an encouragement to be able to run a course in-person again after such a long break. However, Covid continued to have an impact, with the omicron variant meaning people needing to self-isolate and therefore were not able to attend each week.



We thank God that, here in the UK, we have the freedom to run the Alpha course and to tell our community about Jesus. We give thanks for everyone who has been part of the Alpha team this year, who has given their time and energy to making the course happen. We praise God for every guest who has been part of the course and pray that they all carry on seeking to learn more of who he is.

We continue to seek God's way forward for Alpha activities at St Gabriel's, enabling us to reach the people he is calling to participate. Having both online and in-person courses as possibilities means that we have flexibility and opportunity as we look to see what God will do through Alpha in 2022/23.

*Alison Ingram*

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

It has been a delight to have the increase of in-person, children and youth activities as Covid restrictions have steadily reduced over the last year. In spite of pandemic disruptions, we have had the blessing of new families and young people added to the church community. We have also been glad to witness the children and youth grow in relationships with each other and inspire one other in their Christian faith as they interact through in-person activities.

Particular highlights over the last year have been:

- youth serving at the Christians Against Poverty fundraiser
- increased numbers attending Friday Night Youth group (often 12- 15+ youth)
- 2 online whole-school assemblies with Mora Primary
- children's events such as the Family Easter Trail where over 80 children from the wider community participated.

Many team members and participants have been encouraged by this notable growth however it can be difficult to reflect this to the wider congregation in a visual way due to photography restrictions.

One of the main challenges since our return to in-person activity has been recovering the number of children participating in Sunday groups. On average, attendance is now less than half of what it was prior to the initial Covid lockdown. On a positive note, children and youth team members have served faithfully throughout our online and in-person activities during the pandemic. Their consistent contribution has been crucial for sustaining the life of the ministry. Having members added to the team would help us reach more children and youth in future and would also give the current team members more opportunities to remain in service and be ministered to.

We look forward to the year ahead with prayer and great expectancy for how the Lord will breathe a fresh wind into the ministry particularly as a new children and youth ministry strategy is being developed. Key areas of focus moving forward include:

- building and strengthening existing friendships amongst the children and youth
- watering seeds of personal faith in God
- empowering youth through serving and worship
- inspiring parents through more spaces for corporate prayer and worship

***Mariam Kizza, Children and Youth Minister***

## **FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY**

It's been a busy and exciting year in Community and Families ministry. Since last April we have been able to reopen weekly Boogie Angels sessions for families with under fives in our community. At first these were socially distanced sessions with a playtime outside but now we are back to full numbers inside and meeting with faces old and new. We have had opportunities to welcome some of these families to baptism which has been joyful.



*Boogie Angels Bear with Susie*

We also launched a new event called February Family Fun. Instead of closing Boogie Angels during February half term we decided to have a family fun morning. We welcomed Boogie Angels families, their older siblings and those who have left us as they are too old to attend. It was so lovely to welcome them into a warm building during what can be a cold wet half term.



It's also been lovely to see some of these families at some of our community events such as Light Party Cafe and Easter Trail. These events have been a great opportunity to share some of the stories of Jesus' love with our community families.

From April of last year Wednesday Fellowship has been able to meet every week. After Covid keeping us from being able to meet, or meeting on WhatsApps calls, it's made us treasure the company of our friends even more. Worshipping, praying and doing Bible study together is wonderful and if we're lucky a tasty meal to have too.



This year we have also been able to launch a new ministry Hope Café on Monday afternoons. We open for a free café, advice on money matters, and prayer, as well as other things. Initially this was for a six

week trial but was a resounding success and we are now opening weekly during term time. We had a real sense that God was planting seeds and we just needed to water what he was already doing and it's a joy to see what's blooming. We cannot wait so see what God is going to grow in this area and how it can serve the community.

As always these ministries would not be possible without our amazing teams who have gone with all the changes that global pandemic brings and continued to serve members of our community.

***Susie Yeates, Families and Community Minister (a photo of Susie's Commissioning by Bishop Pete is on the cover)***

## ENGLISH CLASSES



We have been meeting in-person at the Church for most of the time since we last made a report a year ago. The class numbers hover around 12. The lockdown had quite a big impact on the way we deliver our classes. Using Zoom we got used to preparing quite comprehensive PowerPoint slides. Now that we are back meeting in person, the use of PowerPoint for the intermediate students has continued to

good effect we think. Since the church was able to acquire some really good audio visual equipment during lockdown, we have found that it has been really useful.

We now have a beginners' class, which focuses on reading, writing, and basic conversation. The class size is quite small, almost one-on-one, and we have hopes that we will see good progress for those who have newly arrived in the UK. We had a successful beginners' class before the lockdown, so we are hoping this will be an opportunity for growth.

We have the ability to continue to deliver English classes via Zoom, now that we know how to do it. There are some students who actually liked Zoom, and the demand is still there. However, due to a shortage of time, is not easy to do both in-person and online classes.

I think that, in addition to teaching English, we can offer our students a bit more. As with Hope Cafe, we can help them with administrative matters. Several of our students, for example, have applied for British citizenship with our help, although we have to strictly observe government guidelines with things like this. Then the classes can also be a venue for fellowship, especially when people are from a similar culture, although there is also good interaction between students of different cultural backgrounds.

The students, as always, are great. We have students from Iran, Brazil, Ukraine and a few other countries. And we find that we learn as much from them as we give. Three of our Iranian students were baptised recently, though we cannot claim to have been instrumental in their choice to follow Christ. Except, that is, to the extent that we did not 'put them off' faith in our Lord. While preaching the gospel is not part of what we do during the English classes, we do try to emulate Christ and demonstrate his character, in the hope that all will want to follow him. Our principal motivation is to learn by making learning a pleasurable experience. If we and the students enjoy our Monday evenings, it will help them learn, relax, gain confidence in speaking and come back the following week.



***Richard Berry with Caty Delmont, Rachel and Cecilia***

## ST GABRIEL'S MEMBERSHIP 2022

Our membership for April 2022 is 153. We have taken 22 people off the Electoral Roll - for a variety of reasons: 2 were ordained and serve in other local churches, 7 have moved away, 1 died, 3 now attend other churches, 8 are people we have lost contact with since before covid-19, and 1 has chosen to join 'Friends of St Gabriel's'.\* 3 people have joined the Electoral Roll. More than that have begun coming to St Gabriel's, and we hope they will stay and join the Electoral Roll when they're ready.

\* 'Friends of St Gabriel's' is a group of people who no longer attend St Gabriel's but would like to stay in contact, wherever they are. We are hoping to send news 3 times a year.

Rachel Ward, Electoral Roll Officer

## A NOTE FROM THE FINANCE TEAM TO INTRODUCE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2021



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 the cost of living is increasing, and giving has reduced for a variety of 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 during 2021-22 was *Debbie Thomas, Colleen Francis, Sarah Broadbent, James Yeates and David Vivian*

## FINANCE REPORT AND SUMMARY ACCOUNTS FOR 2021

### 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. In 2021 we were able to use the remainder of the NCIL (National Community Infrastructure Levy) funding provided by Brent Council in 2020 to replace some windows and chairs in the church hall. We were also able to use money from the legacy (previously given by Jim Allen) to help with the funding of the Families and Community ministry. We also received some 'Eco' funding which we will be investing in ecologically friendly projects during 2022.

### So how did our money work out in 2021?

Other than the NCIL funding we had previously received in 2020 (which was given to cover the cost of specific items of expenditure), and the Eco funding, 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 activities.

**Income:** Covid-19 continued to have an impact on our income in the first half of the year, but in the second half of the year we were able to start letting the hall, and restart some of our daytime and other activities. Income from regular giving saw a small increase when compared with 2020. We received several generous one-off gifts throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who gave to St Gabriel's during the year.

**Spending:** Spending in 2021 was largely in line with expectations. We saw an increase in some of the church hall costs (due to increased lettings in the second half of the year), as well as an unexpected expense in replacing our hot water boiler. There was also a shortfall in the NCIL funding that we met from the legacy. The PCC also agreed to start a multi-year project to look at updating our website and branding with the 2021 expenses being met from the legacy.

**Overall:** In addition, in our regular spending we used £16,580 from the legacy to help cover the gap between income and outgoings in 2021. We thank God for his continued provision in these challenging times.

### What does this mean for 2022?

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 2022 we expect to continue to run a deficit, both because of the reduction in regular giving, and the big increase in the cost of living (particularly heating and lighting). 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.

Our current expectation is that we will exhaust the legacy by the end of 2022. This means if we wish to continue doing everything we are currently doing at St Gabriel's beyond the end of the year, giving will need to increase to close the gap between income and outgoings.

**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 that there is no need for further Covid restrictions so we can keep our daytime activities open. 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

	2021	2020
Standing Orders	£ 82,040	£ 79,380
Offering basket and other Sunday giving	£ 13,120	£ 12,830
One-off gifts	£ 15,140	£ 15,440
For our Christians Against Poverty Centre	£ 32,475	£ 24,220
Tax reclaimed	£ 25,295	£ 24,285
Café (less specific expenses)	£ 0	£ 2,405
Event income	£ 2,510	£ 175
Flat rent (including water rates)	£ 15,915	£ 15,590
Hall lettings	£ 7,280	£ 2,850
Service fees (for weddings and funerals)	£ 1,865	£ 935
Insurance claims	£ 0	£ 1,625
VAT reclaimed	£ 260	£ 160
Interest	£ 35	£ 215
Tower Telecoms	£ 14,300	£ 14,800
St Michael's Hall - Ground rent	£ 250	£ 250
Eco Funding	£ 250	£ 0
Other (Worship workshop contributions, St Vincent's Appeal, Special Mission Giving)	£ 4,880	£ 575
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 215,615</b>	<b>£ 195,735</b>

### Spending - Ministries:

	2021	2020
Branding	£ 4,175	£ 0
Clergy and Area & Diocesan support ( <i>called Common Fund</i> )	£ 85,200	£ 85,200
Clergy expenses ( <i>includes house and office costs, training and conferences, travel and hospitality</i> )	£ 2,405	£ 2,455
Sequestration ( <i>Vicarage costs during the vacancy</i> )	£ 0	£ (185)
Worship resources	£ 1,945	£ 935
Children and Youth Minister and expenses	£ 24,940	£ 25,610
Children and Youth resources	£ 625	£ 960
Community Minister ( <i>half pay in 2021 - superseded by Families and Community Minister</i> )	£ 0	£ 4,725
Community give-away resources ( <i>2022 - superseded by family and community ministry</i> )	£ 0	£ 550
Families and Community Minister And Expenses	£ 12,350	£ 0
Families and Community Ministry	£ 920	£ 0
Events ( <i>previously Community events and activities</i> )	£ 1,500	£ 420
Hospitality	£ 420	£ 405
Alpha ( <i>net cost</i> ), Coffee Angels, Welcome	£ 10	£ 160
Equipment	£ 665	£ 155
Training, consultancy and conferences	£ 2,330	£ 0
Leaving and other Gifts ( <i>mostly given</i> )	£ 165	£ 805
Staff Team - Entertaining and Gifts	£ 215	£ 0
Advertising Events	£ 785	£ 365
Courses and Small Groups	£ 0	£ 25
<b>Total Ministries Costs</b>	<b>£ 138,650</b>	<b>£122,585</b>

### Mission Giving:

Each year we give away at least 10% of the previous year's giving income

	2021	2020
International Mission		
Stone family	£ 2,640	£ 2,640
Schools Project, Uganda	£ 0	£ 1,500
Open Doors	£ 540	£ 540
Tearfund ( <i>includes £784 from closure of Fairtrade stall</i> )	£ 960	
Tumaini Health Centre, Kenya	£ 1,000	
Other ( <i>St Vincent's appeal</i> )	£ 3,470	
National Mission		
Church Pastoral Aid Society	£ 900	£ 900
New Wine	£ 430	£ 220
Evangelical Alliance	£ 150	£ 150
Other	£ 40	£ 1,115
London and Willesden Area Mission		
Other Area Churches ( <i>through extra Common Fund</i> )	£ 5,110	£ 4,685
Church Schools	£ 905	£ 900
Other	£ 760	
Local Mission		
Christians Against Poverty Centre*	£ 27,800	£ 19,290
Community Minister ( <i>half pay</i> ) ( <i>2021 - superseded by Families and Community Minister, not now funded by mission giving</i> )	£ 0	£ 4,725
Other Mission Giving		
Bishop's and Vicar's Discretionary Funds	£ 100	£ 415
<b>Total Mission Giving</b>	<b>£ 44,805</b>	<b>£ 37,080</b>
* includes given for CAP centre 2021: £27,300; 2020: £18,790)		

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

	2021	2020
Church Manager and expenses	£ 17,715	£ 17,360
Light and Heat and water rates	£ 8,920	£ 10,105
Insurance	£ 8,260	£ 8,240
Equipment	£ 120	£ 800
Accounting costs	£ 675	£ 750
Housekeeping (cleaning and materials)	£ 2,010	£ 2,955
Printing, postage, stationery	£ 1,330	£ 1,685
Telephone and broadband	£ 605	£ 605
Licenses, Website and ChurchSuite (previously internet, website and licenses)	£ 2,545	£ 2,565
Service Fees Payable to the Diocese/Others	£ 900	£ 730
Insurance claim repairs and items (2021: shed replacement)	£ 660	£ 565
<b>Maintenance and Works:</b>		
Electrical works (2021 kitchen strip light replacement; 2020: including emergency lighting, additional sensors for external lighting)	£ 140	£ 745
Heating	£ 1,320	£ 150
Tree felling/maintenance (2020: including tarmac repair)	£ 1,200	£ 305
Gutter cleaning	£ 0	£ 240
Side gate repair	£ 0	£ 100
Fence maintenance and repair	£ 50	£ 0
Fire safety, alarm	£ 565	£ 0
Clock (Annual service)	£ 315	£ 0
Roof repair	£ 0	£ 115
Lightning conductor check	£ 70	£ 0
Drinks machine (engineer callout)	£ 130	£ 0
AV cabling, cameras (not NCIL funded)	£ 0	£ 17,295
Office area screens	£ 1,150	£ 0
Other maintenance and works	£ 105	£ 35
<b>(Total Maintenance and Works)</b>	<b>(£ 5,045)</b>	<b>(£ 18,985)</b>
<b>Total Church and Grounds Costs</b>	<b>£ 48,785</b>	<b>£ 65,345</b>

### Spending - Church Hall (excluding NCIL funded works):

	2021	2020
Light and Heat and water rates	£ 270	£ 1,415
Insurance	£ 1,365	£ 1,170
Cleaning, including carpets	£ 570	£ 865
Equipment and Wi-Fi	£ 630	£ 370
Flat costs	£ 330	£ 610
Opening and closing for hires	£ 265	£ 525
<b>Maintenance and Works:</b>		
Heating, plumbing and electrical repairs	£ 575	£ 495
Fire safety, alarm	£ 290	£ 310
Redecoration	£ 0	£ 3,240
Other maintenance and repairs (including overspend on NCIL funded works *)	£ 380	£ 160
<b>(Total Maintenance and Works)</b>	<b>(£ 1,245)</b>	<b>(£ 4,205)</b>
<b>Total Church Hall Costs</b>	<b>£ 4,675</b>	<b>£ 9,160</b>

\* NCIL Funding and Expenditure: 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 £40,950 on a variety of projects. This left us with £4551 for 2021 which we used for replacement windows and chairs in the church hall.

	2021	2020
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£ 212,932</b>	<b>£ 195,490</b>
<b>Total spent</b>	<b>£ 233,489</b>	<b>£ 228,415</b>



The shortfall for 2021 was again met from the legacy. We had anticipated some of our day-to-day spending would need to be funded in this way. However, because of income from the hall and other activities in the second half of the year, and several generous one-off gifts, the deficit was less than anticipated. Overall we spent £16,580 from the legacy to cover the shortfall (we originally had expected to need approximately £35,000 from the legacy).

For 2022 we anticipate having to spend approximately £29,000 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 2023 onwards we will need find additional funds to meet the shortfall or look to start making cuts to our expenditure. This in turn this will mean we need to review the activities and areas of ministry we are able to support.

We have run a pledge Sunday asking people to review their giving, and we have received a number of responses. Our hope is that the increase in giving that follows will lead to a much smaller deficit than is currently predicted.

### What money have we got for 2022?

At the end of 2021 our General Fund had . . . . . £ 9,410 \*

Our other Funds are:

Restricted funds:



Christians Against Poverty Centre Fund . . . . . £ 14,810  
Eco Funding . . . . . £ 250

Designated funds:

Legacy . . . . . £ 30,440  
Family and Community Ministry Transition . . . . . £ 12,200  
Reserve Fund (for emergencies and temporary funding) . . . . . £ 10,000



\* The PCC agreed to transfer £10,000 from the Reserve Fund to ensure that the General Fund was maintained with a positive balance throughout the year, and to generally aid cash flow

**David Vivian, Treasurer**

**Thank you for reading our  
Annual Report - we hope  
you have found it  
interesting and informative,  
and that you will give God  
thanks for all his goodness.**