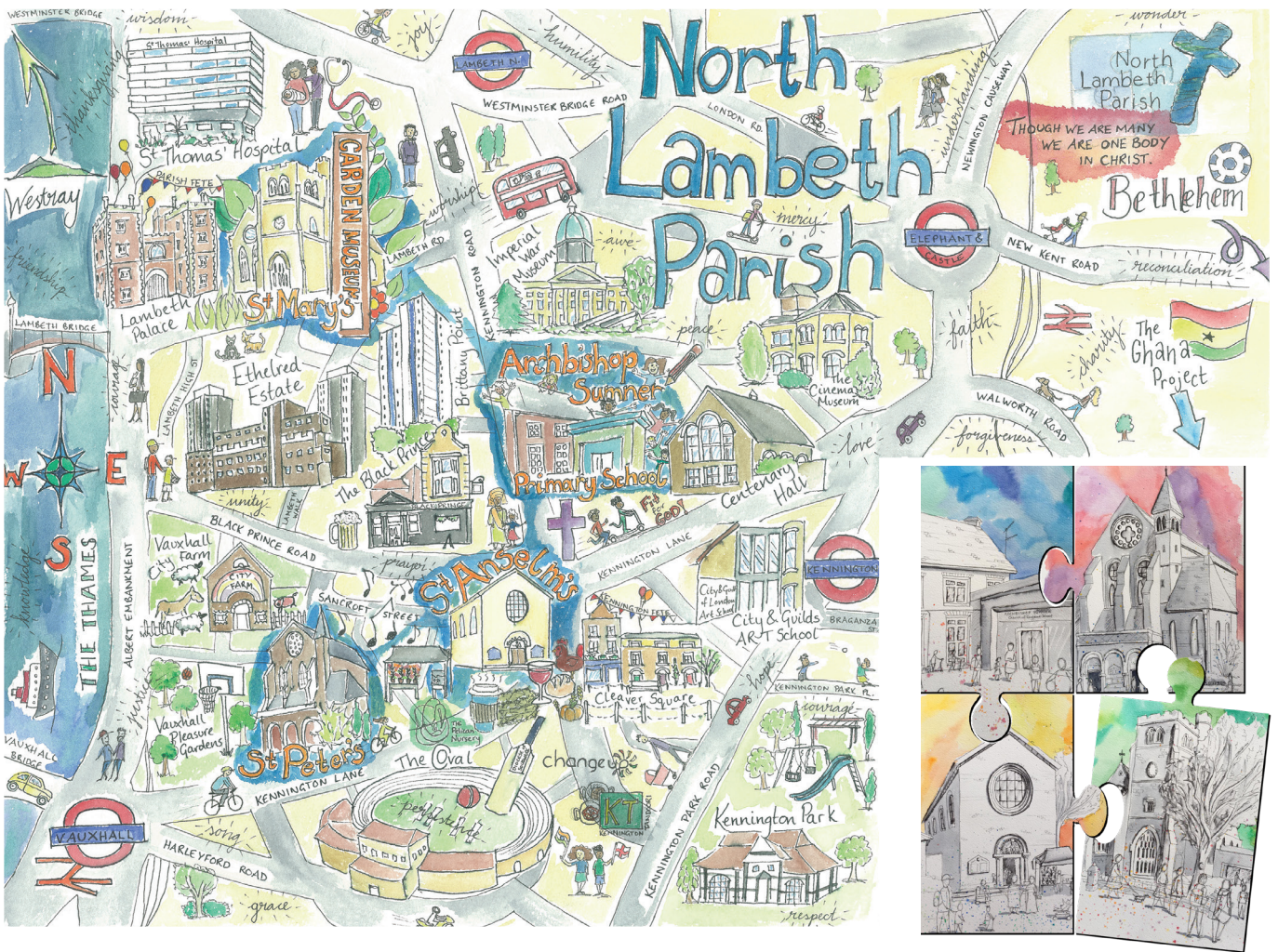




Annual Report

2024

For the Annual Parish Council Meeting 28th April



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Team Rector's report

We are in good heart; attendance is good, and we remain a congregation fully representative of those who live in this part of South London. Our long-held hopes of having a building that works well for us are about to be realised, with what will end up with a circa £6million development.

We will welcome new partners to rent space from in the new developed St Anselm's site, who will be chosen because they reflect our faith values of caring well for those who are marginalised and / or need support and attention. Our new kitchen and community spaces will enable us develop our ministry of hospitality. It will help us start a new chapter on our journey with God.



Children's Ministry

There are encouraging signs of a flourishing ministry here. Church Mice is very popular and is leading to people getting involved in the wider church life. Sunday school remains buoyant and our ABS ministry is much valued.

Music

There are more people singing in our choirs and playing in steel pans. Young Voices has 37 children practising each week. Our Christmas Carol service was a showcase for our full choir which was testament to how this ministry has grown.

Worship

Worship is engaging and relevant. Growth in attendance at Compline, a beautiful reflective service, acts as counterbalance to the busier Sunday 10am service.

Leadership

I will miss you but know that with Fr Steve leading for the next year you are in good hands. Let's pray for the Holy Spirit to encourage a new Rector and Children and Families Minister.

The commitment, generosity and diversity of our church community is special and God-given. Who we are as a congregation is seen so clearly by those who offer daily WhatsApp prayers of such depth and prayerfulness and by those who support our Parish Fete welcoming 1000's of locals.

So many of you who have stepped up in a variety of forms to serve and lead within the Parish it's various committees, groups and activities. Too many to single out any one person other than to say a heartfelt 'Thank you' to everyone involved.

Development

After 15 years of slog and battling, there are promising signs and it will happen, starting imminently led by Miles and Josephine with Susannah chairing our development board. It will help us all to begin a new chapter of ministry focused on Mission and ministry serving everyone in the congregation.

Community engagement

This is always good, but more could be done, and the development will bring opportunities for us to engage locally in new ways.

Governance

North Lambeth Parish - St Anselm's, St Mary's Eco Church and St Peters, Vauxhall are offering new and effective ministries that afford the Parish the opportunity to genuinely say we are home to a real cross-section of traditions within the Church of England from pioneering to traditional.

All this will need reviewing as the jigsaw picture emerges of what God might be saying to us as to quite how all the pieces fit together in the best way.

Finances

The future looks promising, but for the next year "prudence" will be the key watchword.

Our very capable finance committee will need all their skills to navigate the development project whilst maintaining our current level of ministry.

Over the years our income has significantly increased, allowing us to develop a team of paid staff. Thank you for your generosity in the way that you give to the church; I hope you can see it's worth it.

The future

After 23 years it feels the right time for someone else to come and help shape the ministry. Suzette, Clemmie, Rufus, and I have been blessed and privileged to share with you and you remain very much in our prayers.

I remain convinced there is nothing more engaging, purposeful, stimulating, real, peaceful and challenging than following Jesus Christ, trusting in the presence of the Holy Spirit, and being sustained by God, the father. There is no other way.

As I take my leave, as we take our leave, I'm grateful to God for the call to come here. It's been the privilege of my life to serve you. Thank you.

Fr Angus



Associate Rector's Report

It's been another full year – and a real privilege to serve.

I ended last year with a period of sabbatical, which I was grateful for. During this time, I visited a number of other Churches to observe different forms of worship. This was fascinating, but confirmed for me, that worship comes alive when it is made alongside people we know and love. We are blessed by our congregation – and I was pleased to be back again in your midst.

A few selected highlights from my ministry over the last year.

Discipleship

Baptisms: 13 people have been Baptised this year; including a mother and son and siblings.

Confirmation: 9 people were confirmed at Southwark Cathedral on 27th May – a very joyful occasion. Preparation was made over several weeks, including input from members of our congregation, who came to talk about their 'faith in action'.

Lent Course: A discussion and prayer group focusing on the weekly Church Bible readings, attracted a good diverse St Anselm's group as they prepared for Easter.

Worship

WhatsApp Congregation group: This group has gone from strength to strength and is now largely led by the congregation. It is a great way to encourage each other and to share our different perspectives on faith.

Compline: Our Sunday evening service of sung night prayer is now fully embedded as a weekly worship service. With wonderful live music; coordinated by Andrew, Assistant Director of Music, this service has a steady following and has the potential to grow in the future.

Pastoral care

I continue to support those members of our congregation who are struggling in any way. This includes visiting at home and in hospital. Peoples' need for pastoral support is not always obvious, so please come forward if you or others may need some help.

And now

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11).

APCMs usually focus on looking back over the achievements of the last year. This year of course is slightly different, in that as well as thanking God for our last year together, we are now looking forward to a new Chapter at St Anselm's.

Please pray for each other, the staff team, the Church Wardens and the PCC during this time of interregnum and pray that God would provide for us a new Rector who will lead us gracefully into a new future together.

Amen

Rev Dr Steve Davidson



Children and Families Minister's report

Writing this year's APCM report is something of a bittersweet exercise, knowing of course that it is my last. As I write I am preparing for fete meeting (and shortly to let loose with my power tools again as I attempt to construct a coconut shy as a 'new to the fete for 2024' feature.) In fact the nail gun and saw have already made an appearance in the new St Anselm's cross and base following the sad demise of the previous one. These were not aspects of the job I had expected.

Numbers of children in the church have remained strong and consistent and I have been very touched at how many adults have stepped in to help at Sunday School. I have also been blessed with particularly capable DofE volunteers, as well as a member of Boys' Brigade volunteering for his Queen's (King's?) Award. There were 97 children in church at Angus' leaving service: obviously that was unusually high but we are generally working with at least 25 and continue to be very grateful for the use of the Pelican Nursery. Church Mice is a real highlight in the termtime week and now has a considerable following. Dino the toy dinosaur, the group's mascot, has a weekly appearance on St Anselm's WhatsApp channels but Church Mice's promotion seems to be entirely word of mouth.

Over the next few weeks I hope to introduce branded reusable coffee cups; one less desirable result of the group's popularity is the amount of discarded coffee cups in church which makes me wince each week as I am tidying up. There is something quite magical about this group, I think, in that in St Anselm's we can hold together parents, grandparents, nannies and childminders; we have (several) Ukrainians, Germans, Romanians, Hungarians, Ghanaians, Moldovans, Czechs, Australians, Irish, Hong Kong Chinese, Italians, Americans regulars. In a divided and fractious world it is heartening to watch these tiny children playing together. It has also been a privilege helping with the really wonderful work of Boys' Brigade and watching their numbers grow; each Tuesday I stay with the Anchors, the youngest cohort and suspect I have as much fun as they do.

North Lambeth Parish has seen a period of interregnum in our church primary Archbishop Sumner's as well as at St Anselm's, following the departure of Mrs Stagg at Christmas. ABS was extremely lucky to welcome back Richard West, a former head, as Interim Head; the process was remarkably smooth and a new head has been appointed to begin in the Autumn term. I continue to work as Chaplain in the school, with two weekly assemblies and Parish Worship and a weekly newsletter column, as well as assisting Andrew with Young Voices choir rehearsals. We have had regular school workshops in church and the Lady Chapel has become a semi-permanent exhibition space for ABS: a great showcase for their exceptional artistic output. As the birthrate has dipped and schools will struggle to fill their places it is helpful to have such strong links between church and school. Next week I will help coordinate the ABS Easter Event and their Easter church service. I hope to introduce a couple of initiatives before I leave, including taking year 5 and/or year 6 ABS children to local nurseries to read to the children.

My role at the Evelina Children's Hospital continues; I was able to link up the hospital and school in December for a really lovely carol service. We took the children from Young Voices, as well as the Brass Band, into the hospital to perform for children in the hospital school, parents and those passing through. It really was very moving. Our toy drive also proved very successful once again. For the last 18 months I have been venturing into the Hospital School more, either offering sessions on the school site or taking faith-based activities onto the wards with the school staff.

As the church's representative on the Kennington Bethlehem Link committee, my thoughts have also been with children further afield and as a group we continue to work with our partners in Bethlehem to help children caught up in very difficult circumstances. We have held talks in church, bake sales and are planning a sponsored walk, all in aid of our friends in the Holy Land.

Suzette Aagaard



St Mary's Eco Church Report

St Mary's Eco Church is a church without a building and for some time now we've called ourselves St Mary's in the Wilderness. We've learned so much in the wilderness about being resourceful and adaptable, about the importance of strong relationships with other, about how to gently notice what's already happening in the places where we join in, treading carefully, leaving no waste, contributing more than we take.



All Hallows Churchyard

This year, however, has led us to a new place to be: All Hallows' Churchyard (SE1 0EP), which is itself a little wilderness - a bombed churchyard which bears the marks of human conflict and where other creatures have been left, mostly alone, to find a home in this still consecrated space. Since November, we've gathered there every Sunday for a simple outdoor Eucharist, listening out for the Glorias being sung around us by other creatures. With BOST we're also growing a gardening team with the hope of maintaining the wilderness character of this space which is so loved by the local community.



Sunday Eco Spotlight

Our pop-up Environment Education Centre in Archbishop's Park on Sundays from 2.30-4pm is continuing to put down roots and grow. Every week we gather to celebrate a different part of the park's diverse ecosystem. Most recently, we've celebrated the crocuses, frogspawn, lichen, nests, and wind in the park with eco art, treasure hunts and sensory activities. Come and see!

The Eco Chamber

The Eco Chamber has continued to blossom in both Lambeth Palace Library and our local pub the Duchy Arms (just down the road from St Anselm's). This year has welcomed inspirational speakers including Baroness Jenny Jones from the Green Party, Lord Rupert Redesdale, who took the Climate and Ecology Bill through the House of Lords, Client Earth, who have taken Shell to court, and - in April - international soil expert Professor David Manning. Join us if you can every third Tuesday 7-9pm.

Seedlings, Treehuggers and pop ups

Meanwhile, our small groups for Under 5s and teenagers have continued to meet in Archbishop's Park and we've taken part in pop ups in all sorts of places, including Southwark Cathedral's Museum of the Moon and the new In a Field by a Bridge festival at London Bridge. To find out more, take a look at our website (www.stmarysecochurch.org) or sign up to our newsletter (www.bit.ly/ecochurchform).



The Rev Dr Sharon Moughtin
Vicar of St Mary's Eco Church

PCC Secretary's report 2023/2024

There have been 4 PCC meetings in 2023/24. There is another one scheduled for 20th March and at least one additional meeting required to prepare for the appointment of a new Team Rector. The APCM is scheduled for Sunday 28th April.

PCC meeting dates were:

- 13th July 2023
- 28th September 2023
- 22nd November 2023
- 24th January 2024

The average attendance per meeting was 15. There have been 4 Standing Committee meetings with another one planned before the March PCC meeting.

There are 2 full and 2 assistant Churchwardens, with one having recently resigned due to relocation. Of the others, one is an elected PCC member and the other is a Deanery Synod member.

There are 8 elected PCC members, with 4 due for re-election this year. The number has fallen due to various resignations shortly after the 2023 APCM, hence there are some vacancies (potentially 4). The 3 Deanery Synod members were re-elected in 2023 for a further 3-year term. There are 3 co-opted PCC members (Treasurer, Secretary and CPY Minister). These, with the 4 members of the clergy, make a total of 21, but this may change with forthcoming developments.

Towards the end of this period, Fr. Angus left the Parish to take up his new position in Warwick. We are exceptionally thankful for his 23-year ministry, which has seen numerous changes and improvements, and we wish him well. We are also very grateful for the ministry of Suzette, who is due to leave in July.

This is a period of great change in the Parish but we look forward to a new period of challenge and fulfilment.

I would like to thank the general Parish community for their commitment and dedication.

James Collenette
PCC Secretary



Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of North Lambeth, held on Sunday 23rd April 2023

1. Opening prayers

These were led by the Rev. Angus Aagaard (AA), who chaired the meeting.

2. Apologies

These were received from The Rev. Steve Davidson; Rodney and Ursula Ovenden.

A total of 34 people signed the register as being present, compared with 57 last year and 41 in 2021.

3. Minutes of APCM 2022

These were adopted without amendments and signed.

4. Matters arising

None.

5. Vestry meeting for Churchwardens

Tom Shakespeare (TS) and Susannah Wiltshire (SW) had agreed to stand and were proposed, seconded and elected unanimously.

6. Assistant Churchwardens

Emma Addo-Nortey (EAN), David DCruz (DD) and Omowunmi Ladenika (OL) had all agreed to stand and were proposed, seconded and elected unanimously.

7. PCC membership

In accordance with the Electoral Roll number, there are 12 elected members, none of whom are due to be re-elected this year. There will be up to 3 resignations during the year, with nobody yet agreeing to replace them.

8. Deanery Synod elections

The three existing members, Tekha Kidane (TK), Omowunmi Ladenika (OL) and Rosie Walter (RW) agreed to stand for a further 3 years. Proposed, seconded and carried unanimously.

9. Electoral roll

Reported as 156 (Josephine Medvei) (JM).

10. Building development

Miles Freeman (MF) has described this in detail in the annual report, adding that the final agreement to the project is expected in the next few weeks. It may be necessary to vacate the church while these take place, but we will manage. The WPF and Happy Baby Community are expected to occupy the development at the rear. The main outstanding items are the murals. JM will work with him as Project Manager.

11. Financial report

a) Greg Brown (GB) reported that 2022 was the first proper year since Covid, with the full accounts in the annual report. He thanked Patricia Knight (PK) who started as Finance Manager 2 years ago; PK in turn thanked the congregation for their encouragement. The reserves had been allowed to run dry but have been rebuilt and now stand at £90k. The focus will be to maintain the reserves and manage the accounts on a daily basis. A new accountancy firm, Dominic Hill, has experience in working with churches and has replaced John Edginton.

b) In reply to a question about the new choir robes, Hannah Emmrich (HE) said that the existing number of 9 is not enough to include the younger members. The new robes are being sponsored by congregation members and the old ones will be disposed of properly and/or donated to other churches.

c) The day-to-day finance management, managed by the Finance Committee, is being run separately to the development project (Rosemary Love) (RL).

12. General updates

a) Music: the steel pans group is flourishing, with the church having bought its own set (HE). The Christmas carol service was a highlight, with 50 musicians. Young Voices are strong, and the Sunday evening compline features a visiting instrumentalist. Joyful Noise is a new group from Year 6 upwards, with about 6 regular singers and 4 scholars (Andrew Moore (AM)). They are working beyond this church and recently participated in a concert at Cadogan Hall. It gives the church a lift and it is fantastic to work with young people (AA, SW, Sarah Kennedy (SK)).

b) ABS and children: There are 400 children; there will be a smaller intake of 30 in the autumn but it is hoped to restore this to 60 if possible (Freya Thomas Monk (FTM)). The creche is lively but needs restructuring (Suzette Aagaard (SA)). Otherwise the situation is good, with her work at ABS and Evelina going well. There is a good turnout for Sunday School. The Thursday morning Church Mice session has recovered from Covid and has been lovely. The Tuesday evening Boys' and Girls' Brigade is also going well.

c) The Fete is scheduled for Saturday 24 th June (SK). All the usual events are planned, with volunteers needed.

d) Christian Aid: Much money has been raised but volunteers are needed for the event in Cleaver Square on 20 th May (Carol Woollard (CW)).

e) Eco Church: Highlights include the weekly Seedlings and Ecoality Groups, pop-up groups in ABP and elsewhere, and the monthly Eco Chamber in the Duchy Arms (Rev. Sharon Moughtin (SM)). This Easter Sunday saw the Dawn Rise on the river with a lighted candle. Rebecca Schuster (RS) confirmed that Seedlings promote a strong connection with nature, allowing children to take on board ideas on nature.

13. Open discussion

AA invited those present to discuss what has gone well and what could be done better. Main topics included:

- Belonging to a community
- Good activities with children but a recognition that a youth group would be beneficial.
- The Whatsapp prayers
- Seaside trips
- Diversity for young people and those from ethnic backgrounds but also the need for attention to older people
- Satisfaction at recovery both from Covid and the absences of AA and SD.
- More volunteers needed to help EAN and Patience with hospitality.
- To maintain church numbers and even increase them will require continuing hard work.

14. Closing prayers

These were said by AA.

Minuted by James Collenette

Treasurer's report

2023: Investment and Preparation for the development project

2023 saw the first year of increased investment in music, children's ministry and continued investment in the Eco Church. Given the significant investment in these areas we targeted a neutral budget in 2023.

We also saw the first year of our new accountants, Dominic Hill, who have replaced John Edgington. Changing accountants has allowed us to better use digital accounting software to manage our accounts. This will allow us to provide more regular and better quality management accounts over '23 and '24.

More detailed financial reports can be found in Annex A at the end of this document.



2024

In 2024 we will be focusing on managing the accounts, supporting the development project and working through some significant repair costs along-side the development project. We expect 2024, again, to run at a neutral budget (excluding significant repair costs). As we look to 2025 we will, again, look to increase our surplus to support future costs.

Greg Brown
Treasurer

Church Wardens' report

With the St Anselm's development on the horizon now, we look forward to an overhaul of the building... However, we have continued to carry out essential repairs that will keep the church and its buildings running. For example, this year we have:-

- Replaced the flat roof and a skylight on the church hall
- Renovated the toilets in the church hall
- Repaired St Peter's garden wall which was knocked down by a car.
- Fixed the radiator in Change Up
- Had drains cleared in the front garden of Pelican nursery
- Replaced internal light fittings in the Lady Chapel
- Replaced a broken plug socket
- Taken the electrical mechanism off the car park gate.
- Fixed the light in the toilet

We have also had both the piano and the organ tuned and taken delivery of a set of steel pans, which we continue to enjoy when they play in church.

Susannah Wiltshire
Church Warden



Safeguarding in North Lambeth Parish

The parish has continued to offer the range of services each week which were reported last year. The review and updating of risk assessments for each of these activities remains very important. It is very important that everyone with a leadership role in an activity is made aware of the latest risk assessment, and knows what actions to take if required.

Safeguarding training needs to be taken every 3 years to the level required.

Rev Angus Aagaard has now left the parish to take up his new incumbency in Warwick, and Suzette Aagaard will join him in July.

In addition, building work will shortly begin at the rear of St Anselm's, as the first phase of development works affecting the whole site for the next 3 or 4 years.

Those responsible for Safeguarding in the Parish have met to review this situation, and intend to meet again shortly to review what actions are needed to keep everyone safe during this period going forward, especially as a new incumbent may not be appointed for some months.

Last year, we undertook a fire drill during a service, and we will try to review safety procedures at each stage of planned building work, and may hold another fire drill

We will also try to protect access to the church as far as possible, taking account of the work we did last year to restrict access to protect people on site.

Please let me know if you have any queries, or speak to one of our other Parish Safeguarding Officers, who are Kerry Glencorse and Tekha Kidane at St Anselm's.

*This report covers St Anselm's and St Mary's Eco Church.
Please note that Safeguarding at St Peter's is dealt with separately by St Peter's.*

Rodney Ovenden Lead PSO, North Lambeth Parish



Music

Throughout the last year the music provision has continued to grow in St Anselm's consolidating a varied offering of traditional choral music through to contemporary worship.

Over the last two years St Anselm's has been developing a band of steel pan players. The group meets weekly for rehearsals alongside attending holiday clubs in Easter and the summer holidays. We have welcomed a new steel pan teacher who has helped the players to build on their existing knowledge whilst challenging the group with new theoretical knowledge and introducing practice strategies. In addition to steel pans, we have been joined by orchestral instruments played by adults and children in St Anselm's, allowing a further opportunities for St Anselm's musicians to contribute to our worship.



Our senior choir has seen growth following an advertising campaign on social media undertaken by our Acting Director of Music, Andrew Moore. We have seen the addition of seven new singers, joining the choir on a semi regular basis. The senior choir has sung regular anthems in our morning services and has participated in special services such as All Soul's and our Carol Service.

Last APCM we announced the creation of our teenage choir 'Joyful Noise'. The group has continued to meet and now has 12 members with the addition of four more scholars and two more members attending the choir. The group has tackled increasingly more challenging repertoire and is looking forward to future collaborations and trips in the summer months.

Our Young Voices choir has also seen considerable growth over the year with membership increasing to 37 singers. The group meets weekly in Archbishop Sumner Primary school continuing to reflect the important relationship between the church and school. The group attend St Anselm's once a month and have performed individual anthems whilst also supporting the senior choir and Joyful Noise.

We have continued our evening compline services with guest musicians from both inside and outside the church contributing to the musical offering in St Anselm's. The services have continued to attract a core group of worshippers and has helped forge links between St Anselm's and musicians from Guildhall, the Royal College of Music, Imperial College, Goldsmith's and Trinity Laban Conservatoire.

In the coming year we are looking forward to welcoming back our Director of Music, Hannah Emmrich; the creation of an evening choir for a monthly service and a collaboration with three choirs and an orchestra, set to take place in June. We are excited by the direction of music in St Anselm's whilst also ensuring the core purpose of supporting worship is maintained.

Andrew Moore **Acting Director of Music**



St Anselm's Development

The dual focus for this year has been on completing the approval processes for our plans and in the face of a difficult economic climate, creating a sustainable first phase for the interior project.

We obtained the grant of Faculty which allows us to fully implement our plans in September 2023, subject to a number of conditions. We intend to amend the plans slightly, as we discharge the conditions, in order to make the space more useful for worship and more economic to build. The current plans would see the building of a four-floor Tower behind the altar. The ground floor would house a large vestry/Parish room, storage, toilets and a kitchenette. The first floor and second floors will comprise office space, both for the Parish and to let to partner organisations. The top floor will comprise a large dramatic space open to the rafters with windows both looking back in to the main church space and out towards Sancroft St and the Mission Hall. This can be used by Sunday school and let for community uses during the week. The tower upper floors will be accessed via a feature staircase and lift.



The plans also propose a redesigned entrance aimed to be more accessible and welcoming whilst supporting both worship (with kitchenette and disabled access toilet) and creating a permanent kiosk for the Bouquets & Beans stall and improvements to every aspect of the church interior from roof lights to decoration to new electrics and a sustainable heating system. At this point we are determining what we are able to undertake as a first phase within the funds we have, whilst seeking additional funding. In order to access funds from the sale of Centenary Hall (June 2020) and maximise letting potential we need to prioritise the Tower development (and urgent repairs) with some elements having to wait for subsequent phases, as funds allow.

In January 2020, following a marketing exercise, we appointed Rocco Homes as our preferred development partner. They have gained planning consent for nine residential units to the rear of the church with the ground floor comprising 270 sqm of church hall and community use. The space will be offices, a large community hall with a professional kitchen that can be opened to overlook it, for functions. The space will also enable us to potentially offer services to the local community in conjunction with selected charity partners such as Foodcycle whose projects aim to alleviate food poverty, waste and loneliness through the provision of regular community meals and will also be available for the church to use for celebrations, classes and sharing meals. We are on the cusp of signing the final documents with Rocco which will mean that they can finally start on site in the Summer of 2024.

The Parish has developed a relationship with Happy Baby Community, who support women fleeing violence and trafficking and are pregnant or have very young children. They are moving in the Mission Hall shortly, prior to taking up office space in the rear development when complete.

Change Up

As signalled in last year's report, Change Up Trustees decided that the Parish was best placed to fulfil its Mission by using its current space and the space that will come on stream via the development to partner with existing charities to offer the services that will support the local community. The Trustees felt that this was a more sustainable option than incurring the cost and complexity of running a small charity. Change Up has continued to support the Business Associates that occupy its remaining units throughout the year, but has now transferred their agreements to the Parish and ceased trading from March 31st 2024. Trustees and Business Associates would like to thank all of the people who have supported Change Up and contributed to its success.

Miles Freeman

Boys' Brigade report

The 4th London Boys' Brigade and Girls Association has been continuing to meet in St Anselms' every Tuesday for the past year. We currently have 13 leaders, but four are unavailable on Tuesday nights; they only help with trips. Due to work commitments, we need more leaders to support our anchors.

We currently have 28 members, which is the same as last year. Our members belong to one of four groups based on their age:

- Anchors (ages 5-8) have nine members (10 last year);
- Juniors (ages 8-11) have thirteen members (12 last year);
- Company (ages 11-14) has three members (5 last year);
- Seniors (ages 14-18) have three members (1 last year).

Our leaders work hard to deliver an engaging program for all members. We appreciate Father Steve for taking on the role of Company Chaplain after Father Angus' departure. We have successfully organised a paintball trip and are planning a visit to Chessington World of Adventures, a whitewater rafting activity, and a residential weekend before the summer break. However, transport costs remain challenging.

Our financial situation has improved this year due to successful grant applications covering some of our activities. However, we now face the challenge of finding an additional £7,000-£8,000 for next year to cover storage and the cost of a temporary venue during St Anselm's redevelopment.

We are committed to building relationships with local schools and the community to enable children and young people to benefit from the opportunities the 4th London Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association offers. We have been working with a Development Worker from The Boys' Brigade head office to improve our visibility within the local community. We remain dedicated to providing our members with the best opportunities to live life to the full, explore their faith, and trust that God will continue to equip us to enable this to happen.



Stephen Taylor-Hunt Captain



Christian Aid report

Our North Lambeth Christian Aid Committee currently consists of Rodney Ovenden (treasurer); Ursula Ovenden (representing the Methodist churches in the area); Iris Monteverde ; Kate Portal (St Johns Waterloo, and St Andrews Short Street); Pat Ashworth (Streatham Methodists); Margaret Fletcher (St Michael's and All Angels); and Carol Woollard and June Tan (St Anselm's). Minutes also go to the Oasis Church, St Annes and All Saints; St Marks; and St Patrick's. We would welcome more members on the committee, from these or any other churches in the area.

Our aim is to raise money for international development and humanitarian relief in projects supported by Christian Aid throughout the world. The agency draws most of its money from churches, but supports people of all religions and none. Specifically it does not dictate to other countries, but works through partner organisations throughout the world. It listens, encourages and enhances by giving funding and suggestions. In addition, it lobbies at home, and in other countries, to deal with such issues as debt relief, loss and damage experienced by climate change, and gender equality.

In our report to APCM in 2023 we emphasised increasing struggles, especially in Africa, occasioned by the pandemic, climate change, and the war in Ukraine. Alas, problems have been exacerbated this year by a slow post pandemic recovery, extreme drought in the Horn of Africa, and internal conflicts as in Sudan, South Sudan, and jihadist attacks for example in Mali, Burkina Faso, Somalia and Northern Nigeria.

We try to spread out our fund-raising activities throughout the year, not only in Christian Aid Week in May. This year we held a further Fun Day in Cleaver Square in May (thanks to the support of over 20 volunteers and beautiful sunshine.) Also in Christian Aid Week we had prayers and sermons in all the churches. A few individuals and a dog joined in the Christian Aid 'Freedom Walk', visiting areas in London such as the monument in Millbank to celebrate freedom from slavery. In September was our usual Moveable Feast, thanks to enthusiastic participants and generous hosts; and in November our favourite auctioneer, Angus Aagaard, ensured generous bids in the online sale of treasured goods. Watch out, Father Angus, you might be requisitioned to repeat your act this November!

Throughout the financial year, we raised with the generous support of parishioners and members of the local community, a total of £11,764.23. This was up on the previous year, despite the cost of living constraints.

To conclude, we urge all parishioners to continue to take a global view of our Lord's commandment to love our neighbour, and to give what support they can to the work of the committee as need arises in all regions of the world.

Carol Woollard (on behalf of all the committee)



Archbishop Sumner Church of England Primary School

This has been a year of transition for Archbishop Sumner, just as it has for St Anselm's. It is a challenging time for primary schools across Lambeth as we seek to serve our pupils whilst facing tighter budgets and falling roll numbers. In addition, our headteacher, Taw Stag, left in December 2023 to move house and take up a job near her new home.



The ABS governors are therefore delighted to have appointed Kate Evans to be our Headteacher from September 2024. Kate comes to us from a C of E primary school in Battersea, in the Southwark Diocese, and she's excited to be joining our community.

She moved to South London three years ago with her family and goes to church locally. Governors were particularly impressed with how her Christian faith inspires her vision of what a primary school can and should be. We're looking forward to her building on the strong relationship between ABS and St Anselm's.

Before Kate starts in September, we've been very fortunate to have Richard West as our interim headteacher. He's a familiar name to some as he was headteacher at ABS two decades ago, before Ursula Ovenden. He's been able to bring some stability through the period of change and both children and staff have been benefitting from his experience and from his fantastic piano playing in Singing Assembly!

The school is enormously sad to say goodbye to Suzette and Angus Aagaard. We want to thank them for their wisdom, kindness, creativity and generosity to ABS over more than 20 years. Suzette's role as Chaplain at ABS has been pioneering and they will both be much missed.

However, we head into the summer term with a sense of optimism. Change, whilst difficult, can breathe new life and we are excited about what the future holds for the ABS community.

Freya Thomas Monk
Chair of Governors

