

PCC Annual Report for the year 2018

2018 has been a busy but positive year at Jesus Church. Our Vicar, Ian Crofts, has worked tirelessly to ensure that Jesus Church is a welcoming, inclusive and spiritually rich place of worship and community. In this he has been wonderfully assisted by Rev Linda Liversidge, PTO, and Ailsa Bulger as Lay Minister, who also minister amongst us and lead acts of worship and smaller groups

Archdeacon's Visitation

The year started with an Archdeacon's Visitation on 22nd February. This happens approximately every five years and involves a total review of how each church is performing with regards to its organisational, financial and fabric responsibilities. A visitation is also an opportunity to look at how Jesus Church is working as a place of Christian worship and outreach within its local community. It involves a substantial amount of work for the church wardens and treasurer as there are many papers to be submitted prior to the visitation. Sue Spinks, one of our wardens, and Richard Thacker our treasurer did a tremendous job drawing together all the necessary information. On the day there was an opportunity for the Archdeacon to meet individually with various people in leadership, prior to sharing a meeting with the full PCC in the vicar's absence. This all serves as a check and balance to all that we do as well as allowing for a sharing of thoughts and ideas. He was positive in his feedback saying Jesus Church was clearly a well run, welcoming, prayerfully led and inclusive community. He also thanked it for giving a generous percentage of its income to help support the work of the whole diocese.

Services

We have continued our pattern of three services on a Sunday and a mid week service of Holy Communion. During the course of the year there were a variety of interesting sermon series ranging from The "I Am" sayings of Jesus and during lent in the mornings, Mark's gospel and in the evening John's account of the preparation for the Cross. There were also series on both Paul's letter to the Colossians and Grace. However the most significant change has been the number of whole school services taking place in church, with Forty Hill School in particular coming to celebrate more of the significant days in the church calendar. Ian has also built good links with other local non-church primary schools which have come to Jesus Church so that the children can experience the inside of a church and learn about the Christian faith or take part in a nativity/carol service.

The regular life of Jesus Church 2018

The rich weekly life of Jesus Church continued with Tea Toys and Toast, Mother's Union, Housegroups, HUB, Readers Appreciation Group, weekly prayer meetings and special separate evenings for ladies and for men. The usual Easter and Christmas Craft days continued to attract people across a wide range of ages and connectivity to Jesus Church. Our Sunday morning children's work continued to evolve. There was some re-organisation early in the year which improved accessibility to the activities across the age groups but space can be challenging to organise with fluctuating numbers across the groups week by week. However the dedicated leaders and helpers do a fantastic job in creatively sharing the message of the day whatever the number! So much goes on behind the scenes to keep Jesus Church functioning both practically and spiritually. We are very blessed and thankful that so many of our number are involved in welcoming people, serving refreshments, keeping the grounds and the fabric of the church in good order, preparing prayers,

reading lessons, playing musical instruments, singing, leading housegroups and ensuring the church and Charis are always clean and tidy.

Events of 2018

Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday Linda Liversidge organised and led a “first” for Jesus Church. A good number gathered around the table in the Charis to share an Agape meal which many early Christian groups also used to share. It is a way of reminding us that Jesus shared a Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. Following supper people moved silently into the cold dark church and the Holy Table was stripped in preparation for the pain and darkness of Good Friday; a very moving and special way to prepare for what was to be our focus the following day.

Harvest Thanksgiving Bring and Share Lunch The Charis was full with young and old alike, the food shared food was delicious and the weather could not have been better! Barbara Crofts had the brilliant and brave idea to provide pre-lunch craft activities for all ages. These were a huge success and left us with a wonderful piece of artwork that now adorns the Charis entrance. Alongside this Ailsa and David came up trumps with a fascinating selection of games that tempted all ages to “have a go”.

Celebration of Ailsa’s 25 years of Licensed Lay Ministry. Every five years there is a huge relicensing service for all Licensed Lay Ministers at St Paul’s Cathedral. It is an important service and recognises the huge contribution made by this group around all the parishes of the London Diocese. It just so happened, that for Ailsa this year marked her 25th anniversary of being called to lay ministry at Jesus Church following a lengthy time of study. We could not let such an amazing piece of Christian service go uncelebrated. Following a 10.30 Sunday service coffee and a beautiful cake, with 25 candles and a picture of Jesus Church “engraved” on the top, were served. Ailsa was also presented with a book containing messages from many of the congregation.

New Website Development and GDPR

Website A new fresher looking Jesus Church Website, which is also much more phone friendly to use, was finally launched in early Autumn 2018.. It had been decided to build it using Wordpress thereby making it easier to update and change its format as and when required. Initially it was designed by David Crofts following discussions by PCC. We know from the number of “hits” received on the site that it is a valuable resource for people seeking information so a huge thank you to all those involved. Recently we have added sermons that may be listened to online. It is kept updated by Sue Spinks and Ian.

New GDPR Legislation Everyone will have been bombarded with information from many directions regarding the use and protection of our personal data. As a church and a charity we too were required to work through and produce a policy appropriate to our organisation. This can be found on our new website.