



Annual Report 2019



 **St Peter's Battersea**
Loving God | Being family | Bringing hope

www.spb.church



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Vicar's Introduction

What a momentous year it has been in the life of St Peter's Battersea. The seemingly never ending building project finally ended. Practical completion of the new church was reached in October 2018 and we held our first Sunday service at the beginning of November, with many old friends and former members coming to join the celebrations. Perhaps because I had led this enterprise for over twelve years, many asked me how I felt about the delivery of the new St Peter's. 'Relief!' has been my invariable reply. Yet joy and gratitude soon followed, as the reality of God's Grace began to unfurl in our enjoyment of this bespoke home, like a new suit for all, a beautiful centre for worship and mission.

In St Peter's Centre we previously worshipped in a kind of bunker, underground and relatively hidden. If people wanted to find St Peter's they usually needed an inclination towards detective work and no little perseverance. Our regained prominence on Plough Road has already led to plenty of visitors and new regular attenders on Sunday. St Peter's membership is growing again. There is a new confidence that comes from being able to provide hospitality and a safe, spacious place for others to explore the good news of Jesus. We opened the doors of the new building to twenty-five Alpha guests, before we were even officially open. This might be an auspicious sign, a reminder that the church exists primarily for the benefit of its non-members as William Temple wrote. Certainly it has been refreshing seeing: visitors pour into some of our events and courses; others wandering in to see what this is all about; some coming back to church after a prolonged absence.

There has been considerable opposition along the road to reestablishing St Peter's. It seemed at many times that this project could not happen or would not complete. Yet we have learned to persevere and listen more intently to the encouragers than the critics, whilst humouring the latter.

I am grateful to encouragement from many sources. A few months ago I interviewed a group of older mothers that included: Hilda Madge Chambers, Marjorie Carvalho, Violet Simpson, Daphne Curate and Verah Gondwe as we reopened the church. Their encouragement to me personally and faithfulness over the years has been instrumental in giving me strength and keeping the church going in our darkest moments. In his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul encourages the believers to suit up "*so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything to stand.*" It is not lost on me that these women took a stand at a critical moment and have been vital in keeping the church alive until reinforcements came. We thank God for them.

Of course I am grateful to God for everyone who has served in our various ministries over the past year. If you have served, I thank God for you. St Peter's is a highly participative church. When you read this report and see the video of the year, you may like me be amazed, by the depth and breadth of Kingdom activity amongst our church family. St Peter's continues to grow too in diversity, another key value in God's Kingdom. The Spirit often reminds me of the prophetic vision that Jesus gives to the apostle John in the book of Revelation: "*After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before*

the Lamb.” Revelation 7:9. I have always understood this to be both a picture of heaven and of the restored church on earth: “...your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.” It is one of the reasons that I feel passionately that we stay committed to growing a diverse and inclusive church family. By doing so we are releasing a prophetic voice into our community that declares God’s desire for a vibrant and diverse church to match the great cloud of witnesses in heaven.

I am grateful to our wonderful staff team who work hard to serve and lead in both visible and hidden ways. Page 23 highlights the season’s transfers of this remarkable group. Our church wardens Didi Wilson and Clare Lyons have been my constant encouragers and support throughout the year. Their kindness and thoughtfulness is humbling and knows no bounds. The Exec and PCC have worked well and faithfully together in a season of great transition and upheaval. I never cease to be amazed by the quality of the leaders that the Lord raises up to serve at St Peter’s, to steward and manage his ministry.

It really does feel like not just a new season at St Peter’s but a new era. We said goodbye to our dear sister Joyce St Clair as she went to be with Jesus. Last year we waved off two of my greatest encouragers, David and Jules Atkinson, to Ridley Hall and training for the ordained ministry. This year David’s brilliant replacement Sarah Lewney, who in many ways runs the church, is moving onto an opportunity in Kew Gardens. We will miss her dearly and yet are excited about her next steps. It is the Lord who directs our paths. As we seek him together in prayer and commit our ways to him, he will illuminate the way ahead. As the Welsh slate declares in the entrance to the church, “....So that in all things God may be glorified.” I believe that the Lord wants to take us deeper as a church into prayer in the year ahead. It is easy to be distracted from our first love and then our first love is usurped by another (Revelation 2:4). I pray that in the year ahead the Lord would in his grace revive such a fire of prayer in Battersea, that we might witness his flames of revival in our community, both amongst the St Peter’s family and beyond. Our vision remains *Loving God, Being Family, Bringing Hope.*

Sola Deo Gloria

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Malone', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Malone
Vicar

Our Vision

Loving God | Being family | Bringing hope

in Battersea & beyond



Vision clouds

Loving God

Being family

Bringing hope

Encountering God through **passionate worship**, **prophetic & healing prayer** & revelation from the **Bible**

Becoming more like Jesus in all areas of our lives through **joy-filled* gatherings**, **small groups**, & **mentoring**

Being a blessing to people from all walks of life* through **community events**, **personal connections** & **risky prayer**

*Joy is expected, but no guarantees

*in particular those who are often overlooked

Ministry areas

Children & families

What an amazing year it has been for the children and families ministries since last April. From a new Children's Pastor to a brand new church building with lots more space and resources to have fun and learn about Jesus together – the team are excited about what God is doing at our church.

Pebbles

With an average weekly attendance of 10 children in 2018, Pebbles has proved to be a fun filled environment for the little ones and their parents/carers. We've had an increase in our visitors, and parents have enjoyed being able to participate in the service through the new TV in the meeting room. Every week we enjoy worship, games, snacks, Bible stories and sticky crafts together.



We have seen the toddlers grow not only in height, but also in their confidence to be part of a friendly group, their Biblical knowledge and learning how to worship and pray. Five children moved up to Rock Solid in early 2019 and they love it already.

Rock Solid

Separated into two age groups (3-5s and 6-9s), we have seen a significant growth in Rock Solid in the past year from average weekly attendance of 10 (2017-2018) to 15 children, and on several occasions 20+ kids. Approximately 45 children have attended at least once in the last two terms. We have also had 40+ visitors in the past 12 months.



Over the past year we have explored the I AM sayings, miracles, festive stories and the Old Testament heroes through worship, responsive crafts, prayer, interactive media and everyone's fantastic acting skills.

Children have often shared their spiritual journeys with each other through testimonies and prayer time. They have also grown in building positive

friendships and modelled true discipleship by looking after each other, as well as the younger ones. We have also been thoroughly supported by the Rock Solid and Pebbles team, which consists of 20 members serving at least once each term.

All Age Celebrations

All age celebrations continue to be a showstopper at St Peter's with 10 services over the past year, including two café style celebrations. These were filled with upbeat songs, games, response crafts and science experiments which were fun to watch and participate in. But most importantly, we explored God's word in a creative way for all ages to understand. We have also seen some new families attending all age celebrations, and then starting to engage further with St Peter's following this.



Make Lunch



This year we formed a partnership with St Mark's and the charity TLG to launch a pilot holiday lunch club for children on free school provision meals during term breaks. Having 20+ children in total during the last 3 terms, we aimed to bring families in the local community together by providing a platform for interactive crafts, games, a delicious 2-course healthy meal and sharing the good news of Jesus.

School Outreach

St Peter's passionately believes in reaching out to our local community and sharing the gospel, and one powerful method has been outreach to local schools. We have continued to strengthen our relations and network with local schools in the community through positive communication, invitation to church and community events, as well as offering church visits and school assemblies around Christian festivals.



Little Chefs

Since moving into the new building, Little Chefs has grown in number as word spreads of this unique group which offers parents and carers the chance to cook a healthy lunch, play and eat together. Each session includes a bible story and craft to help remember it (and we include a handout for people to take home with them). Over the course of a year, we have welcomed 48 families to the Thursday lunchtime group, of which just 10 are church family. Since January 2019 we have had an average of 17 children cooking each week. Of those who aren't church family, 10 Little Chefs families have come to Big Chefs, 8 came to the Christmas Fun Day, 11 came to the Easter Egg Hunt and 1 came to the Passover Experience. Little Chefs caters for children who don't normally come to church, teaching the bible

through songs, stories and play. The new building has brought in more families and is apparently a great place for parents to let their kids run around when it is raining outside!



This has also presented the challenge of gathering their attention for the story and Charlie continues to explore new ways of doing this, from short films to interactive plays. At the end of the spring term we had a scientist visit who taught the children about DNA and Psalm 139. Little Chefs is a fun group where children hear the word of God but we are also building relationships with parents, some of whom speak little English and some of other faiths. One Muslim lady said that before Little Chefs, “I used to be too frightened to come into a

church”, but is now a regular and even helped out at the Easter Egg Hunt, along with 3 other Little Chefs parents.

KidsMatter

“Families are hurting in our country. For many reasons including broken relationships, poverty, addiction, mental health and, a more visceral perpetrator of hurt - knife crime...KidsMatter is a programme that engages with families and young children before crisis point – it strengthens families by giving mums and dads the tools to be competent, confident parents or caregivers” (from kidsmatter.org.uk). Evidence based and devised by Christians (but without any obvious faith content), KidsMatter is a 6 week program for small groups of parents of children aged 0-10, hosted over breakfast by a trained facilitator.

In the autumn, Charlie underwent the facilitator training, hosted a KidsMatter program for 6 mums (including 3 from the Ahmadiyya community) and is about to start a second program. The sessions encourage mutual support and sharing from our own experiences as we go through the course material. It is a wonderful tool for St Peter’s as it provides a way for connecting in a meaningful way to those living on the margins, bringing hope and sharing the love of Jesus in a practical way. One guest said, “The KidsMatter programme proved very useful to me. I feel more in control as a parent and I also have the peace of mind that I’m not alone in the struggle”.



Youth

Youth Friday Club

Youth Friday Club meets every Friday during term time at a slightly changed time of 7-9.30pm. Typically we have discussion from 7-7.30pm, although we have trialled changing up the discussion time last term - having some great separate boys and girls discussions talking about the challenges youth face today. We then have two hours of free time with a variety of activities such as table tennis, table football, PS4, games, arts and crafts, spray painting and chilling and chatting in the library. Moving into the new space



has been an adjustment for the youth club but having the library as an additional space for the young people to sit and relax has been a huge bonus. In the autumn term we had an average of 12 youth coming on a Friday and spring term we had an average of 14, with a spike in numbers in the second half. So far the increase in numbers has been youth inviting friends along and youth from other ministries joining. The majority are from the local area, with half of youth attending being involved in other church ministries and/or parents as church family. We have a trip at the end of each term which over the past year has included a summer trip to Flip Out, a winter River Walk + Park in the Dark and a Spring show of beatboxing at Battersea Arts Centre. The team has really stepped up this year, and a huge thanks to them for their time and support.

Youth Sundays



discussion time is a great time to dig into some of the bible and for the youth to reflect and relate to issues in their life and how faith can help and looking at how the Bible can be a tool.

Youth Sundays has been going very well in our lovely library space. It has been growing and we have welcomed many new and some old faces back to our Sunday group, with 15 regulars and an average of 8 youth attending. The morning is fun and interactive with a mix of games, creative Bible study and response time. The snacks and games are always a big hit breaking the ice, often with a healthy competitive spirit! The

Youth Climbing

Youth Climbing runs on a Monday at 5-6.15pm at The Climbing Hangar. We have been having a fantastic time getting to know some new instructors and with lower numbers in the autumn term of 5 regular youth climbers, it meant we were able to really focus on technique, and the youth improved in ability and confidence week on week. This spring term we have seen numbers climb back up to 10 regulars with 4 new climbers getting to grips with the wall! It is often a very dynamic and exciting session with some epic warm up games and a



lot of laughter and bonding between the youth, helping each other with routes. Much of youth climbing this year has been made possible by the Climbing Hangar, in their enthusiasm and support in the running of the sessions with their instructors and at a very reasonable cost. This has clearly been able to continue due to the strong relationship that we have had in the past.

Women

'A lifeline' is the word often used to describe LIFE on Tuesday mornings by women and mums of little ones in the church. Our new meeting place in the library is more comfortable and it's easier to hear one another over the noise of the crèche (in the Community Hall) than it was at the Centre, and we now expect around 10 women every week.

Over the last year we've done a series on the women who met Jesus, and two video series from RightNowMedia - 'Free of Me' and 'Love Like That'. We're now looking at identity, making use of the teaching in Adrianna Walker's book 'Mirror Image'. LIFE provides a safe, inspiring space for women of all stages of faith to share and encourage one another in their journey with God. Of Tuesday mornings one regular says, "As a mum especially your week is so busy, exhausting and full on with kids so there's very little time to read the Bible



and have time with God – even on Sunday you're often up in Pebbles or doing Rock Solid so it's that time when I can just have fellowship, really hear from God spiritually. It's an amazing thing, it has been really valuable to me - actually it's the highlight of my week." We are very grateful to Daphne and Patricia who regularly look after the children in the crèche to give Mums a break.



The LIFE Book Club is still going with 2-5 women reading a book together and meeting to discuss it once a term. We're reading more Christian books now (as opposed to fiction) and had a film night to watch the Jackie Pullinger documentary after reading 'Chasing the Dragon'. We recently diverged from Christian books to read 'The God Delusion' by Richard Dawkins alongside 'The Dawkins Delusion' by Alistair McGrath. We finished with a Skype session with a Scientist from the Faraday Institute for Science & Religion to discuss science and faith questions. Exploring the atheist

view was intended to help us 'be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have' (1 Peter 3:15) and proved worthwhile – as one book club reader said, "I was fearful of reading the 'God Delusion' but now I feel more confident of the reasons I do believe in God"

Other than regular Tuesday mornings, we've packed hampers at Christmas, had a craft morning and attended the women's 'Breathe' conference at HTB together.

Men

The men at St Peter's continue to make a significant contribution to the life of the church, across its ministry areas. We are grateful to God for what he has been doing in the lives of each and every man in the church and celebrate what they bring to the life of the St Peter's family. We continue to gather roughly each term for a curry evening – an ideal chance to meet, catch up as a group and pray together. Although we are overdue one of these, the next one is being planned as this goes to press.



As mentioned last time, we opted not to run a fixed “men’s ministry”. This decision was taken in recognition of the time pressures of family and work commitments. Instead, we decided to facilitate a few informal events, hosted by those most interested, and men continue to meet socially.

We continue to pray for the men of St Peter's but also for those connected to St Peter's historically or through partners or children. In the wider community we are seeking God's direction on how best to reach out to men, especially the disaffected and the marginalised.

Older people

Living Life, our Tuesday lunchtime group for ages 60+, has continued to meet over the past year. With Ali, who took a lead on the group, moving on there were discussions about what shape the group would now have, and it took a break over the summer. Once we were settled into the new building it began to meet on a monthly basis, however the group is so keen to meet that this will increase to fortnightly after Easter.



Each session involves sharing a simple lunch, enjoying each other's company, and reflecting on a Bible passage together. We have games, with dominoes being a firm favourite, and are hoping to bring in more opportunities to create artwork together and keep fit with chair exercises.

We have a small core group, but are already seeing gradual growth since the move into the new building. Living Life remains a valuable space to invite older people who we meet in our community to, and is an important provision

of friendship and fun for those who may be at risk of isolation and loneliness. If you know any older people who live locally then do invite them to this gentle and friendly time together.

Loving God

Worship

It is hopefully obvious that the vision for worship at St Peter's is to encounter God, and this year has been an exciting year of establishing how we do that in a time of transition and change. We have a particular heart for inclusiveness, both within the worship team and in the way we lead sung worship; encouraging everyone present to engage with God. We believe many have something to bring to this ministry whether musically, in leadership, production, prayer or creativity. During the building move we have had the opportunity to make use of the new technological resources we are blessed with; learning how to make them as accessible as possible, simply to aid others to be drawn into worship.



We have a committed team of 13 musicians, worship leaders and production team, with 4-5 more currently stepping up to learn the ropes. The team meet together once a term to pray and ask the Holy Spirit for inspiration for where we can grow. As well as Sunday mornings, we continue to meet for Waiting Room sessions 6 evenings a term to spend time in worship, declaration and reflection. It's been refreshing to meet in a new space. We've been stretching ourselves in our practice of hearing God's voice and sharing prophetic words with each other.

Prayer

When we pray, God answers. When 2 or more gather, God is present. Mid-2018 St Peter's joined again with millions of Christians around the world for Thy Kingdom Come, opening the Centre for 24 hours and inviting people to sign up for a 1 hour slot of prayer. We hosted the FireStarters conference, run by LSSM in June of which 15 of our church family joined for two days of teaching about revival culture, making room to listen to God, speak His truth over each other and practice our call to heal the sick. It was so encouraging to hear testimonies following the course from people putting this into practice in their everyday lives, including in supermarkets and clothes shops!



Our new prayer room is equipped with creative resources and is open to church family to use during staff office hours. InnerSeed, our weekly prayer meeting meets here every Thursday during term time to pray for our church, country and world. Numbers for InnerSeed have varied this season, sometimes just 1 or 2 meeting, sometimes more, but the intercessory flame continues to burn and we pray that the Holy Spirit will draw others in. Throughout the year we've gathered as a church family for evening prayer meetings, most recently lifting our government up to God, and using prayer stations to intercede for the life of St Peter's.

Bible

The revelation of God's word through the Bible, is at the heart of all we say and do at St Peter's. Jesus, warning his disciples that turbulent times will come upon the earth, comforts them with these words: *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my word will not pass away."* Matthew 24:35

Opening the Bible together and wrestling with God's Word remains at the heart of our Christian discipleship. In the past twelve months we have joined in with the principal lectionary readings which lead us on a three year cycle through the whole of scripture. We have also had a teaching series on learning to hear God's voice more clearly and to develop our prophetic gifts. Our community groups used our media resources to explore the book of Ruth together in the autumn. Our new believers group, which we refer to as Alpha 2, worked through the first chapters of Mark's gospel in the early part of this year.

St Peter's continues to be a training church for those in ordained ministry, so we have had a variety and depth in our speakers. Ali Mulroy was ordained deacon last summer and Kaf Smith moved on to her first associate vicar role in November. Both brought insight and key female perspectives to their teaching of scripture. Over the whole year we have had about a dozen different speakers in our teaching ministry. Our hope is that every church member would grow in confidence in handling the word of God, and be able to lead a Bible study. The resources to help develop this are available on the church website.



Being Family

Community Groups

Community Groups (CGs) are small groups which meet on either Tuesday or Wednesday evenings in people's homes to eat together, study the Bible, share what's going on in our lives, and pray together. They are a key place in the life of St Peter's where discipleship happens and friendships are formed.

They are also a vital way that serving happens at St Peter's, and we would like to thank CG members for the committed ways they have served over the past year - from ensuring services on Sundays run smoothly, to serving our guests at night shelter, to helping at big community events throughout the year.

Throughout most of the year CGs decide for themselves what they would like to study, but in the Autumn term CGs were encouraged to look at the book of Ruth together, which was a challenging but encouraging study. CGs also met all together for prayer evenings throughout the year, often ahead of key times in the church calendar. These were Spirit-filled times, and were a really important part of equipping the church for the events or challenges that lay ahead.

There are currently four CGs meeting on a regular basis, with 48 people linked to one of these groups. We hope over the coming year to raise up more CG leaders so that these groups can multiply and grow. Our desire is for as many members as possible of the St Peter's family to be part of a CG.



Mentoring

Since the launch of the Mentoring Pilot Scheme at St Peter's last year, we are pleased that mentoring partners are continuing to meet.

Out of the original pairings, just 4 of the same pairs continue to meet, while 2 mentees are now hoping to mentor and we have 6 new mentor partnerships. We are now in the position of having more mentors than mentees – we have 4 that are praying for the right mentee. It takes hunger, humility and commitment to be a mentee, and for a mentor the desire to help others and to learn as well.

We've hosted two mentors support dinners in the last year to share our experiences as mentors, to learn from and encourage one another with the support of Patrick, Didi and Charlie. Both evenings were helpful, with practical tips and ideas on mentoring and a useful resource courtesy of CPAS on the differences between helping roles (eg what is mentoring and what is counselling). Perhaps most important was the reminder that mentoring is a privilege that will enable the body of Christ to grow - an investment in a legacy.



Bringing Hope

Community Events

Community events have always played an important part in the life of St Peter's and this past year has been no different. We are excited by the opportunities provided by the increased space and visibility of the new building.

Summer

In June we returned to the Falcon Road Festival, which is a great celebration of our local community. We once again had a prime position in the park for our area, which included crafts, cooking, a chill out tent, live music, free ice cream and more. Our deck chairs also proved a blessing to many people - in fact it was hard to get them back at the end!



We moved our God Loves Battersea event to the beginning of the school summer holidays this year, which worked well. This was a fantastic afternoon, not only for the activities, games and BBQ, but also for the opportunities to chat with and pray for people who came along.

Pushing the definition of summer to its limits, we hosted a community BBQ at the end of September in our new building to celebrate its completion. The Ozimzim band provided a real atmosphere of celebration, we enjoyed some fantastic spicy chicken and people were excited to finally see inside the new building.

Christmas



Our big community event at Christmas was our family fun day - Follow the Star. Those who braved the very cold weather got to meet some local donkeys (and their friends), get involved with crafts and baking, enjoy refreshments and games, and hear about the Christmas story in our live drama.

We also returned to Clapham Junction station to spread some Christmas cheer with our carolling, and let people know about our other Christmas events - our creative and joyful carol service, the fun-for-all-ages Christingle

service, our peaceful and reflective Christmas Eve Midnight Mass and a celebratory Christmas Day service.

Easter

Our Easter Egg Hunt event was our biggest yet, with around 300 people attending, including 22 new families. The races were a big hit, as were the particularly challenging egg hunt clues. We had our very own Easter panto(!?), with lots of audience participation, and the whole morning ended with some very enthusiastic singing and dancing. It was great to see some families from this come to church over the next couple of Sundays.

The Maundy Thursday Passover Experience was another great event to invite friends to, with lots of creative & reflective ways of engaging with the stories of Passover and the Last Supper, and a delicious lamb curry. We saw lots of community engagement with the questions posed by the Good Friday stations that were around the estate, including one passerby moved to tears by the station on forgiveness. And the Easter celebrations were rounded off on Easter Sunday with a wonderful celebratory baptism service.



Big Chefs

We've hosted three Big Chefs evenings over the last year – one a term. In the new building we have been able to host more guests than before. Our last event - a Chocolate Making Workshop was attended by 28 guests, of which 8 were church family and most of the rest new to St Peter's. Big Chefs was born out of Little Chefs and has developed into a social



evening of cooking with a short testimony time – an event with a 'slightly salted' flavour that is perfect for inviting unchurched friends to. As well as an opportunity to deepen relationships with Little Chefs families, it's a relaxed way to reach out to those who wouldn't normally come to church. One guest said "I thought church would be really boring but actually it's great". Our hope is to attract more men to the evenings which so far have been attended mostly by women.

Big Local SW11 Alliance

At the end of 2017 we joined with 4 other local community organisations (Providence House, KLS, Carneys Community, Caius House) with the help of Big Local SW11 to form the Big Local SW11 Alliance. The aim of the group is to work together better to bring in more funding and support for the local community. In March we hosted a large event where over 70 people from local organisations came together to network and problem solve. Exciting plans for the coming year include joint summer trips for young people, the Falcon Road Festival and the development of a young people's forum to increase their voice and influence locally.



Night Shelter

For a third year now we have partnered with Glass Door and 6 other churches within the Wandsworth area to provide a night shelter for people in need of housing. The shelter ran from November to April and we were able to provide a three course meal and place to stay for around 35 guests each Tuesday night. Our CGs have made up the bulk of the volunteers each Tuesday evening, however members of a church that uses the Centre joined us on a few occasions and volunteer numbers were also boosted by friends of CG members coming along to help. It is a great way to bring people into what we are doing at St Peter's.



It has been a privilege to be able to welcome guests into a warm space, serve them a wonderful meal (of which Caroline's tray bakes became a firm favourite on the menu) and provide a safe space for them to spend the night.

Across the shelters this season over 104 guests have been housed, 33 guests have found work and a total of 59 guests have been supported to receive benefits. A big thanks to Janine and Dawn for taking on the role of volunteer coordinators with such enthusiasm.

Battersea Welcomes Refugees

We are involved in a really vibrant Deanery group looking to increase the support for Syrian refugees in Battersea. This started with trying to find landlords who would be happy to rent their properties to Syrian refugees through the UN resettlement programme. We now have a lovely Syrian family living in one of the church flats and another in a flat linked to a church member. A big thanks to all the members of St Peter's who donated all the kitchen items, pieces of furniture and bedding etc - it was wonderful to see the church support the family in this way. Thanks also to Neela-Jane for coordinating this and helping to make the family feel welcome.

Alongside this the group of 6-7 churches have worked together to help support the families as they arrive and settle. We've thrown welcome parties, supported the families to go on trips during school holidays, enhanced language learning and organized social events to encourage integration. A great example of how the churches have used their different strengths can be seen in one example - a volunteer from St Luke's delivers fruit & veg boxes weekly, arranged through the charity of a St Mary's member, they are delivered to a St Peter's flat and a member of St Michael's who speaks Arabic helps with any translation needed. It's a great example of what can happen when churches unite around an area we are all passionate about.



StreetSeed

We have continued to meet every Wednesday morning at 9.30am to go out into our local area to meet people, talk with them and offer to pray for them or anything in their life. Each week, we have an average of three pairs heading out, speaking and praying for 3-6 people each. That amounts to roughly 650 people this year! This is an incredible time to reach out and offer such a small but significant gift to others. We are regularly encouraged by the people we meet who offer kind words of thanks and blessings back. Often we will meet the same people, forming a relationship over time and had one young woman reach out over email after praying for her. We boldly step out each week putting fears and social norms aside to offer hope and truth to people in the community, praying for someone who needs it.



Alpha

The Alpha course was the first ministry to run in the new building from October 2018. We had a fantastic turn out for the feast and launch night of alpha with around 60 attending including the team. We had 32 sign up for the course initially with 20 being the final number that committed. We ran the film series which is very well done and had three groups of



varying ages and faith backgrounds bringing their thoughts and questions openly to the discussion time. We had a new caterer, Herman, producing delicious food every week and there was an air of excitement during each gathering. The team, made up of Wednesday CG and other church family members were fantastic throughout the course, patient with the challenges in the new kitchen and enabling the running of the course, facilitating a warm and safe space for our guests. We had an Alpha day

for the Holy Spirit talks which we had 6 guests attend. We were able to pray for all the guests and almost all had a significant encounter with the Holy Spirit. After the course had finished we had an Alpha2 group meeting for three months on a Wednesday to look deeper in the gospel message and had 7 people attending.

In summer 2018 we ran an Alpha course for a women's group for 4 ladies before Little Chefs. With the small group it meant it was a precious time together being able to have deep conversations about faith and Jesus.

Safeguarding

St Peter's has continued to hold effective and loving safeguarding as a priority throughout this year. Safeguarding is all about how we show God's love and care to those around us, particularly children and vulnerable adults. Since any of us can be vulnerable at different times in our life, it's a responsibility we all share. In March we had a safeguarding training evening attended by a large number of our church family, representing ministries across the life of St Peter's.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) Ken Checinski, Verah Gondwe and Peter Wolstenholme remain as your primary contacts for any concerns about the safety or welfare of anyone at St Peter's, and sit on the Safeguarding Sub of the PCC alongside the clergy.



Mission Partners

Over the years God has blessed and provided financially for St Peter's. We believe that everything we have comes from God, and we want to honour that by being generous with what he has provided to us. We give away 10% of the income we receive from giving and rent to mission partners and as one-off gifts suggested by the church family. In 2018 we gave away £20,650 to the following people or organisations:

Mission partners:

- **Mark, Jess & River Simpson** are missionaries working with the local church in Brazil
- **International Justice Mission** fight for justice for victims of abuse and freedom for those trapped in slavery
- **Open Doors** support persecuted Christians around the world
- **Regenerate** work with young people in Roehampton and Ashburton
- **Battersea Welcomes Refugees** works to provide accommodation and support for refugees in Battersea



One off gifts:

- **Pastors Rogers & Lapson** working with communities in Malawi (friends of the Bruces)
- **Becky and Donald** working in one of the least reached areas of Mexico (friends of Clare)
- **Tearfund's** toilet twinning scheme
- **ACET**, working to provide relationships & sex education and HIV prevention
- **Restored Relationships**, working to end violence against women
- **MercyUK**, working with women with addictions
- **Univida**, working with children in Brazilian favelas
- **Suzy and Chris**, working at a theological college in Ethiopia
- **The Children's Society**, working to support vulnerable children in the U.K.
- **The Gospel for Muslims**, helping Muslims in India come to faith in Jesus
- **Modern Slavery**, working with women trapped in prostitution in Germany
- **Malagasy Protestant Church**, a church plant in France
- **Pastor Joseph** working with communities in Uganda (friend of the Bruces)
- The **film school in South Africa**, working with disadvantaged young people, that Freddie Reed is working with
- **You Can Free Us**, working with women trapped in prostitution in India
- **Christian Aid's** Lent appeal, working with climate change projects
- **TLG**, the charity that we work with to run Make Lunch
- The **Bishop of Southwark's Lent call**, towards work in Zimbabwe

Staff team



Patrick Malone
Vicar



Sarah Lewney
Operations Manager



Charlie Davies
Families' Pastor



Helen Taylor
Community Pastor



Jo Hossain
Worship Pastor



Caroline Obonyo
Administrator



Raheel Eric
Children's Pastor



Izzy Archer
Youth & Outreach

2018 was another big year of change for the St Peter's staff team, with Ali, David, Kaf and Charlotte all moving on to new adventures. Whilst we miss their presence on the team we know they are all being a huge blessing in the various roles they have moved on to.

And we have been blessed with several new members of our team. Firstly, in May we welcomed Izzy as our new Youth and Outreach Pastor. In a very busy and varied role Izzy has been incredible at getting vast amounts of work done whilst maintaining a readiness to laugh at almost anything. She has also formed great relationships with her team and the young people.

In August Raheel joined the team as Children's Pastor, and has brought a real childlikeness and soft heart to the role. As well as his work on Sundays he has also started to develop relationships with local schools, which we hope will bear lasting fruit. Raheel has also taken on the role of Facilities Coordinator and has been a remarkably quick learner and an invaluable help with the new building.

The newest member of the team is Caroline, who joined as Administrator in September. Caroline is a real joybringer on the team, and her previous church work has proved super useful when setting up the new building. She is very servant hearted and is always looking to help out other members of the team.

Jo has now been our Worship Pastor for just over a year, and it has been exciting to see her settle in so quickly. She brings a gentle confidence to her leadership, and her creativity was

particularly on show at our carol service. She has also done a fantastic job at getting to grips with all the new technology, and is really growing in her prophetic gifts.

Helen has been on maternity leave for the past year, and we are very pleased to have her back on the team. We have missed her planning abilities and her passion for reaching out to our local community. We are excited to see what fresh energy and ideas she brings back with her.

Charlie was officially appointed as Families' Pastor in September, having been covering the Children's Pastor and Women's Pastor roles. As always she brings loads of creative ideas to the role, as well as vast amounts of energy and passion to see them through.



Sarah has been a stable presence on the team throughout this year of change, and has brought some much needed order to the potential chaos. She was instrumental in getting us settled in the new church building, and helping us plan strategically. We will miss her when she moves on at the end of May, but are excited by the possibilities of what someone new will bring to the role, as well as what the future holds for her.

Buildings

We are finally in the new building! The road to get here has been long, but it is an incredible blessing to have such an amazing space to meet in. We have already begun to see more visitors each week, with our increased visibility, and it has expanded what we are able to offer at the ministries and events that we run.



There are still some snags to work out, but these are now all relatively minor.

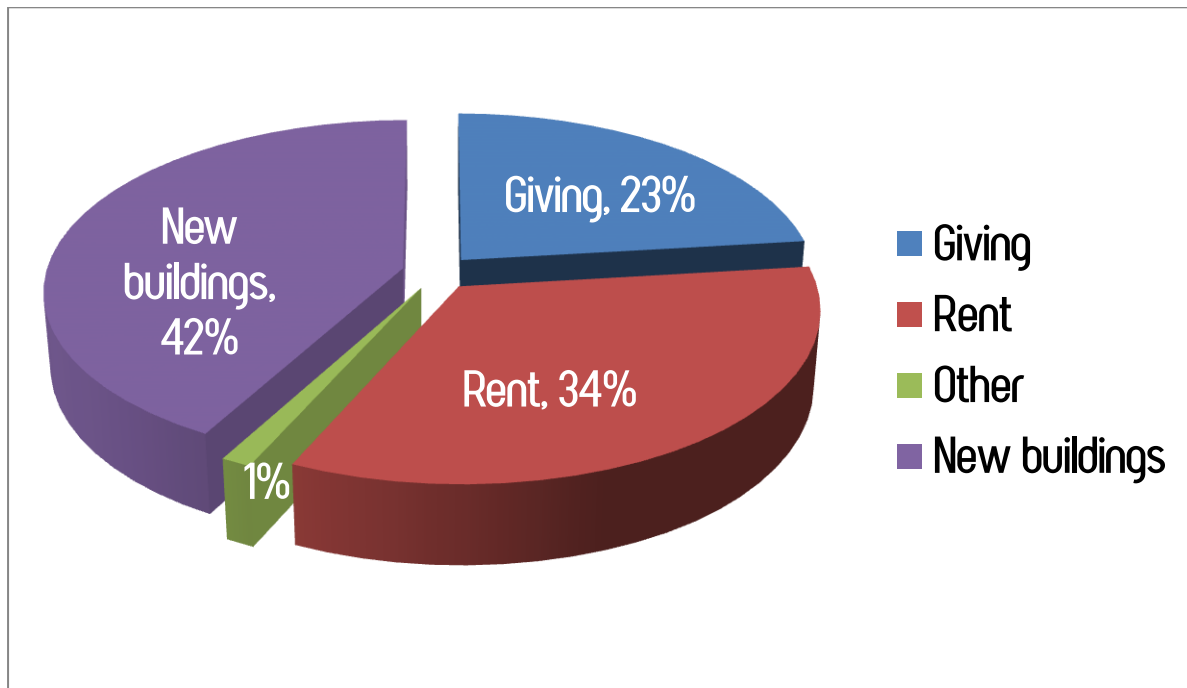
We continue to be blessed with the income we receive from the flats and the Centre. We have begun to hire out the Centre to some groups on a regular weekly basis, and hope to expand this over the coming year. We are also excited that one of the church flats is now being rented to a refugee family from Syria.

Finance

Here is a high level summary of the 2018 church finances. If you would like to see a copy of the full annual accounts there is one available on the church noticeboard, or you can ask the church office for a copy.

Income

Total income = £381,396 (£393,531 budgeted)



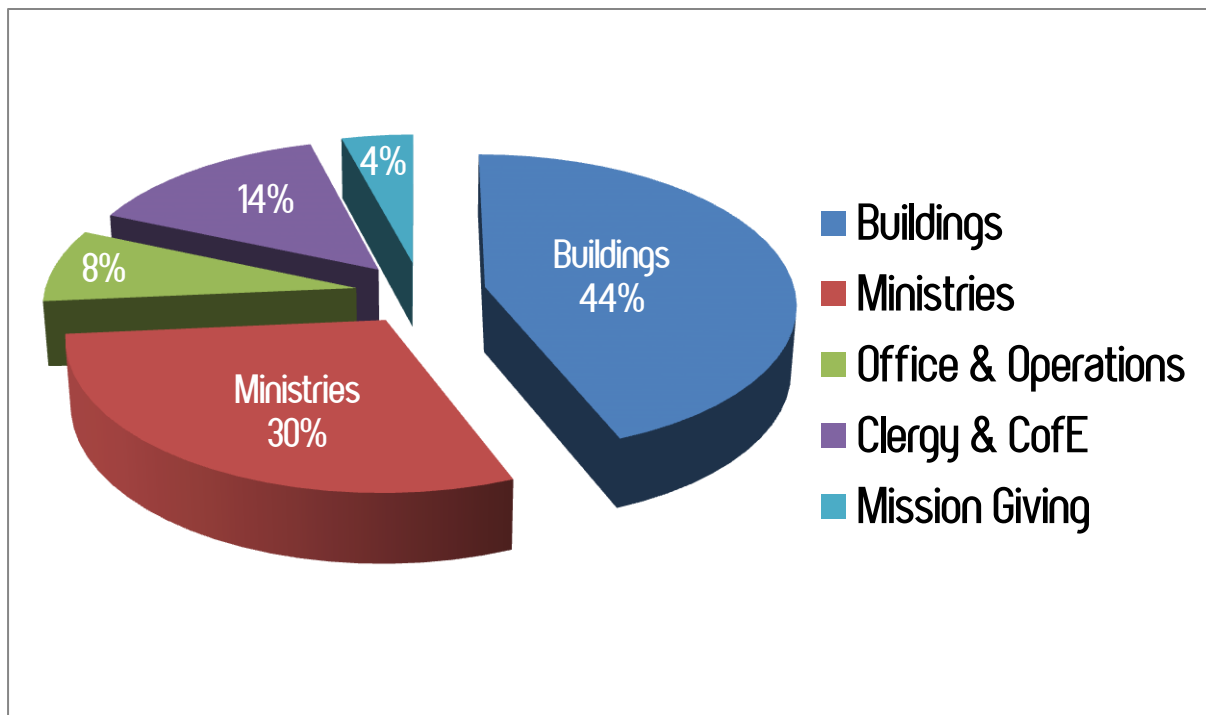
Thank you to all of you who have been giving so faithfully to the church in this last year. As you will see, a large proportion of our income comes from the church family, so a massive thank you to everyone who gives to the church.

Rental mostly came from three flats in the new development and from Banana Moon who use the Centre for the nursery.

The new buildings income is money we have received from the developer as compensation due to the delays with the building. We will continue to see some income from this in 2019, but these payments will be stopping in the summer. As we look to the future we hope to see increases in rent (from renting out the Centre more, now that we are no longer meeting there, and rental income from the new building) and giving (as the church family grows).

Expenditure

Total expenditure = £409,147 (£421,992 budgeted)



We give away 10% of our giving & rental income to mission partners. We don't tithe on the money we get from other sources (eg reading banns, insurance claims or funds from the developer) and our income and expenditure are not currently equal. These two factors mean that mission giving does not make up 10% of expenditure. However, further to this, some 2018 mission giving payments were made in 2019 (due to late decisions regarding giving), so are not covered by these accounts, but we can confirm the full 10% will be paid.

Buildings expenses covers expenditure on the new building, as well as upkeep and maintenance of the Centre.

Ministries expenditure is the cost of running all our regular activities, the cost of the outreach events that we run etc.

Office & operations expenditure is IT and office costs.

Clergy and CofE expenditure covers provision for all clergy and ordinands.

Staff salaries are divided across the buildings, ministries and office & operations categories, depending on what areas staff time is spent on.

Closing the gap

The PCC's vision has been to build capacity for St Peter's being a bigger church family. This means budgeted expenditure currently outstrips budgeted income. We expect that the gap between income and expenditure will be closed through a variety of means, so that by the end of 2020 the church is no longer running at a deficit. These include:

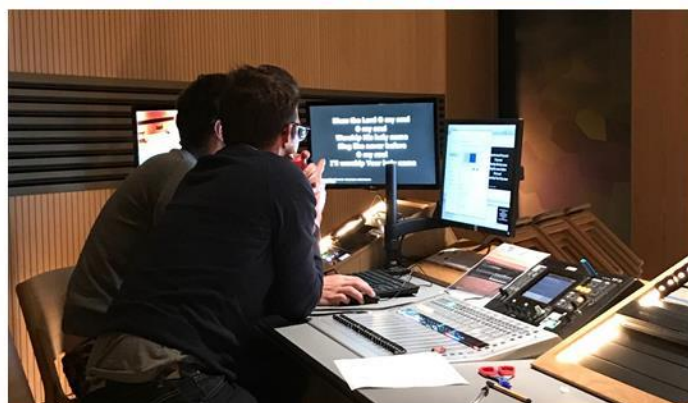
- Rental income from new building and Centre
- New people joining and giving
- Existing church family reviewing giving
- Continuing to look for expenditure efficiencies
- Investment income
- Grant opportunities

Delays in the completion of the new church building mean that some of these expected ways of closing the gap have been delayed, in particular rental income and giving from new people joining. For the next two years the gap will be covered by an expected one off payment from the developers, which we are due to receive in the autumn.

However, we have felt called in faith to set an ambitious budget for 2019, which does rely in seeing a large increase in voluntary giving. In our Finance Sunday presentations at the beginning of the year we asked church family to prayerfully consider if they were able to increase their giving to the church – thank you to all who took the time to do this. If you weren't able to do this at that time, but feel you could now increase your giving then do speak to a member of the Finance Sub or staff team.

Financial picture in a nutshell?

- God has blessed us financially to do what we believe He's called us to do
- Delays with the new church building mean we are in a very similar financial position to last year
- We expect to run at a shortfall for the next two years, but to have a balanced budget by the end of 2020
- The expected income increase is due to come from rental, giving changes, investment income, grants etc
- We are asking the church family to prayerfully consider their giving to the church, and whether they are able to increase their current giving



 **St Peter's Battersea**
Loving God | Being family | Bringing hope

www.spb.church