



RECTOR'S REPORT

This APCM report represents the work done during 2023.

What an amazing year 2023 was, both in discipleship and mission. There have been some challenges and hurdles along the way, but there is much to be grateful for. Our newest addition to the team (kind of) is Nicky Wong as our new curate and Aimee as our new Centre Manager at Fern Street. We are excited to see what they bring to the mission in Bow.

Making Jesus known.

We've had a blast with the events we've done with the community: the summer party with waterslides, crafts and even a hanging-on-the-bar challenge; the pumpkin party; light parades and all our Christmas events. A big thank you to all who helped and special thanks to Jamie and Jen for their assistance with the fantastic Santa Grotto.

Ahaba stories are coming in with amazing accounts of answered prayers, healing, encounters and interactions. The vestry has also served as a bridge point for people from the cafe and on the fringes to come closer through the groups Haley and Lou have been running.

Our Father's House will celebrate more baptisms again in the new year. Praise the Lord! There has been an increase not only in numbers but also in depth; new people are coming, there are further discipleship groups and more people are getting involved in serving.

With a new manager but the same mission, we welcome Aimee to the Fern Street team and a new ESOL tutor for maternity cover. A total of 472 family members (217 children and 255 parents) were directly involved in our activities, with many more benefiting indirectly. God is calling us to be His hands and feet and Fern Street is right there.



Discipleship

We have done a couple of different series for our Sunday topics. We explored 'sticky theology' and broke down how to make terms in the Bible more memorable. Additionally, we delved into a longer series on the book of Ephesians, which continued into 2024. We also introduced a Fancy Dress Sunday Service for the morning, as well as a new Youth gathering for the morning and a Deeper Dive Sunday Service for the evening.

Our small groups have expanded both in number and variety, with more small group launches (do join if you aren't in one already). Groups gather on Wednesday for moms and hold quarterly men's and women's gatherings. In addition, we also ran toolkits to help us share and grow with the tools of the kingdom.

Worship and diversity

We strive for our church worship to genuinely be the body of Christ. Our aim is to cultivate leadership development among people of all ages, races and gender. We're mindful and we want to continue being mindful of the diversity within our community and the representation in our church, reflecting the all-encompassing nature of God who calls us all to carry out His work.

Staff care

Caring for our staff is a priority, which includes providing time off, retreat days and guidance on mentors. We aim to uphold our staff's physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Beki and I want to express our gratitude for the dedication of our staff over the past year. We love and appreciate all of you.

All Hallows Bow moving forwards.

All Hallows Bow will be 150 years old in 2024. With this in mind, we are going to be using the year to celebrate the work of dedicated Christians in Bow as well as use it to reach our neighbourhood. Our partnership with Fern Street is also 10 years old in 2024. This means as we look forward, it's going to be a year of remembering what God has done in the neighbourhood.

Having built up our children's work and started to develop the church youth work, we want to move our focus to working in the neighbourhood with teenagers. In 2024, we will be taking time to see what might be possible to start up new work to engage young people of the Lincoln Est.

Rev Cris Rogers
Rector

WARDENS REPORT

For many in our communities, the church has been a comforting support during tough times, especially with the rising living costs making ends meet a challenge. It's been amazing to see the church stepping up to help out when needed.

New beginnings.

We are grateful for the way God is continually in the business of renewal and creation. This year has been marked by some new seasons in several areas of the church. We welcomed Amiee Muir in January as our new Centre Manager at Fern Street and we have been blown away by the way she has taken on the role and made it her own. In the summer we saw Nicky Wong finish his training and become ordained, remaining with us as a curate. We are so blessed by his ministry throughout church life.

New chapters for Men's' and Women's' ministries have seen people come together in fellowship, prayer, and discipleship in fresh ways in 2023. And new initiatives such as our community outreach project - led by Hayley - have been an exciting area of growth and outreach. God is always on the move, and this year has been a year of new beginnings, and renewed growth!

Thanksgiving

We have much to thank God for in 2023. We're grateful for His continued work in the diverse ministries of the church, from Fern Street's, AHABA's, Our Father House, Small groups and Men's/ Women's ministries. Youth and Children's ministries have flourished throughout the year despite the challenges of the pandemic and we plan to prioritise them even more in 2024. There is also a growth in our attendance in the evening service which God has blessed us with.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributes to All Hallows, whether through staff roles, volunteering or attending services. Your efforts, whether preparing food bundles, organising events and serving in various capacities, are deeply appreciated. Looking ahead to an exciting 2024, we're reminded of God's eternal love and enduring excitement for the future

Charlie Thompson
Church Warden



'Some of the best coffee I've had, and a very friendly, welcoming place. A top spot for takeaway or staying in.'

'When you find a magical place that sells great coffee, you can't help yourself. You have to keep going back. Friendly staff.'

'Love this place! Great coffee and prices and lovely friendly staff and atmosphere. Support local and go to this cute cafe 10/10'

Thanksgiving

This year marked a period of consolidation for the café. With the steadfast leadership of the café manager David, Nayem and the invaluable support of volunteers Jake and Isaac, the Ahaba counter throughout the year warmly greeted and served an incredible 8836 customers, offering over 15,000 servings of coffee, meals, and delectable baked treats.

As we reflect on these achievements, we eagerly anticipate another year of nurturing connections between our church and community. More people are coming into the cafe to just grab a coffee and go, to sit and work or to find community.

Future Mission

Our mission remains: to showcase God's goodness in Bow and provide individuals with opportunities to encounter Him in meaningful ways. We're committed to continuing our vital role as a bridge between our church and the broader community, enriching lives and spreading the love of God.

Ahaba is looking forward to another year of making connections within our community, displaying the goodness of God in Bow and providing people with the opportunity to connect with Him.

David Glover
Ahaba Café Manager



OUR FATHERS HOUSE



Similar to last year, Our Father's House held 3 support devices for individuals navigating recovery and grappling with addiction. Through three initiatives, are sought to extend a helping hand and offer transformative resources to those in need.

Food Bank

Throughout the year, our food bank served gave resource and hope to 23 individuals in recovery. Among them was a resilient refugee family.

Transport Support

Recognising the importance of accessibility, we facilitated transportation assistance for 5 individuals, ensuring they could readily attend vital recovery meetings. We want to remove as many barriers as we can so people can get right in their journey towards healing and renewal.

Discipleship and Teaching

In our exploration of the book of Jonah, we didn't just dissect scripture, we wanted to create an environment where people could connect deeply with the text, finding relevance in their own spiritual journey. We also started the 12 steps through the bible which goes through recovery roots through scripture and therefore a pathway to recovery.

Plans for the future:

Our vision has always been clear: to support addicts on their journey to recovery and faith every step of the way. We're committed to growing our leadership, team, and community involvement. And to that note, we're thrilled to share that 4 more people at Our Father's House have decided to follow Jesus and will be baptised in 2024. Praise the Lord!

Rev Raff Chaves
Curate



Programs and impact

In 2023, significant additions and developments took place at Fern Street. Welcoming a new Centre Manager and a temporary ESOL tutor brought fresh energy and difference to our team, while behind the scenes, two new members joined our steering group, helping with a period of adjustment and coordination. Despite these transitions, our dedicated team rose to the challenge, achieving remarkable outcomes for families and children in our community. At least 472 family members, including 217 children and 255 parents were directly involved in the activities, with many more benefiting indirectly from our services.



Early childhood development initiatives such as our baby massage courses, attended by 30 parents and babies and our early years program, including the successful pilot of Little Explorers.

Our food pantry supported 28 families with 60 children, providing access to essential nutrition and household items.

107 babies benefited from our early learning activities, laying crucial foundations. 100% of surveyed families reported improved parent-child relationships and better support for their child development.





Before going on maternity leave, our ESOL and Wellbeing Lead facilitated empowering programs helping migrant women in our community. Our ESOL program served 88 migrant women, delivering tailored classes and significantly improving language skills and social integration. Our commitment to supporting vulnerable families extended to our Children and Families Outreach Lead, who provided 119 hours of one-on-one support and advice to 19 families, positively impacting 32 children and fostering stronger family dynamics.

Thanksgiving

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our community partners and volunteers. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets, Queen Mary University, Neighbourly and the members of All Hallows Bow for their invaluable contributions, which enable us to create safe and enriching environments for local families to thrive

Aimee Muir
Fern Street Manager



"This group has given me confidence in my post partum body and helped me to enjoy exercise again."

I just wanted to say thank you, without volunteering here I wouldn't have got the job...volunteering has led to something better"

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's ministry remains vital at All Hallows, with regular Children's Church sessions held every Sunday with the final Sunday of the month, features children's animation and fancy dress, which has seen growth in families with children attending.

Sunday Activities

While our sessions typically focus on crafts, we do incorporate drama or games to engage the children and stimulate their creativity. Recent focus on the importance of community outreach, with recent sessions dedicated to preparing care packages for the homeless and planting symbols of kindness in our neighbourhood. Our dedicated team of volunteers, led by Amanda and Katrin, ensure these sessions run smoothly.

Our focus on older children aged 11-14 has also intensified, with regular sessions organised since December by Lou Chaves. Scripture Union resources have been acquired to enrich their learning experiences, and we're grateful for Lou's leadership in this area upon her return from maternity leave.

Helpers

We're thrilled to see new helpers join the team, bringing fresh enthusiasm and energy to our ministry efforts, similarly when the older youth also go as helpers too. It's heartening to see young volunteers like Carissa contributing to our ministry as part of their Duke of Edinburgh activities, nurturing the participation of our youngest members and fostering a sense of ownership.

To share the fruits of our ministry with the wider church, we highlight our activities on social media, ensuring the safety and privacy of the children involved. As we continue to receive prayers and support from our church family, we are reminded of the importance of our mission and the invaluable role children play in our church community.

Amanda Clegg
Children's Worker





We've had a great time studying the book of Exodus and learning more about the story of Moses. The young people are growing in understanding not only about the stories but how it was relevant to us today through the fulfilment of Jesus. We also did a series over summer looking at how we can 'do the things of faith' as we explored Richard Fosters spiritual disciplines in creative ways.



There has been tremendous growth in the community of Evolve, beyond being part of a youth group they are a family of people doing sharing stories of life together. We've celebrated people with Krispy Kreme's, hung out at movie nights and other games and socials were had throughout. Evolve also got stuck in with more practical elements such as helping to pack some gifts for disadvantaged families with fern St. They also helped decorate church and cafe for Christmas too.



We have been super blessed to have the team grow with the addition of Aimee and Joanna serving weekly and even taking the lead sometimes.

Louise Chaves
Youth Worker

Minecraft Bible Project

Announcing the Minecraft Bible Project, an initiative funded by the London Diocese Spark Fund and brought to life by our talented young people.

Through creative Minecraft animated videos, they've retold classic Bible stories, aiming to make them accessible to fellow gamers and share the message of Jesus in an innovative, engaging way. It's a testament to the creative and missional spirit of our young people. Do scan the QR to talk a watch and listen!



HOMELESS OUTREACH

The AHB Homeless Outreach continues to provide vital assistance to those experiencing homelessness, both on the streets and in hostels. Our outreach efforts now occur during the 2nd or 3rd week of each month and has trialed a few day time outings, a slight shift from previous years.

Thanksgiving

Our dedicated core team comprises 4-6 volunteers, supplemented by an additional 3-4 volunteers when available. We remain committed to serving the Mile End to Brick Lane route, where our presence is greatly anticipated and appreciated by many in the community.

Thanks to recent financial contributions, we've been able to purchase essential supplies such as bottled water, pot noodles, snacks and the hot drinks we provide monthly. Additionally, we're grateful for sponsorship from the Co-Operative, which has provided much-needed support. If you have clothing to give both men and women, this would be greatly appreciated as demand is always high but supply is not.

Our Christmas outreach was a resounding success once again this year. We were thrilled to distribute our Christmas care packages, bringing a bit of holiday cheer to those in need. The recipients expressed deep gratitude for the items, noting that they brought a touch of Christmas spirit into their lives—an affirmation that warmed our hearts

Melissa Fenech
PCC Member



Our activities in 2023 were guided by the five-point action plan agreed since 2021.

Education, Vision and Theology: We supported our church to reflect racial justice in the teachings. We explored ways to educate our community in a way they will understand and receive the message of racial justice and equality.

Structures and Governance: Ensured we had appropriate church policies that reflect racial equality (e.g., equal opportunities, grievances).

Participation: Encouraged and engaged the equal participation of people with disabilities, adults and young people of colour so as to ensure those who participate in church reflect our diverse community and we are fully inclusive.

Language & terminology: We considered ways to express ourselves as a church in a way that is respectful, inclusive, and sensitive to all.

Visibility: We championed racial justice publicly via several outreach events among others. Pupils, teachers and head of one of the local schools (Clara Grant School) enjoyed the Christmas Assembly and our use of a non-white baby Jesus.

Unconscious Bias Training and other Trainings: Our Clergy stayed up to date on their training on unconscious bias, equipping themselves to do God's work and serve the community without bias knowingly or unknowingly.

Dedicated Prayer Sessions for Racial Justice and Equality: The Diocese of London Racial Justice Prayer Network set aside the 22nd of every month as a day in the Diocese for prayer for racial justice and we managed to lead prayer in church to do so when possible. We joined other churches in October at St Michael and All Angels Stoke Newington to pray for churches as part of activities to mark Black History Month.

Some of our weekly prayer meetings to specifically pray for racial justice and equality. We also from time to time recommended to one another books or other useful resources we discover which help us promote racial justice and equality. For example, a book by Shabna Begum, 'From Sylhet to Spitalfields: Bengali Squatters in 1970 East London'.

RJEG Membership: We agreed to welcome new members to the group whenever we find people who would be interested in joining us and interested in promoting racial justice and equality.

Soby Nonju
Church Warden

