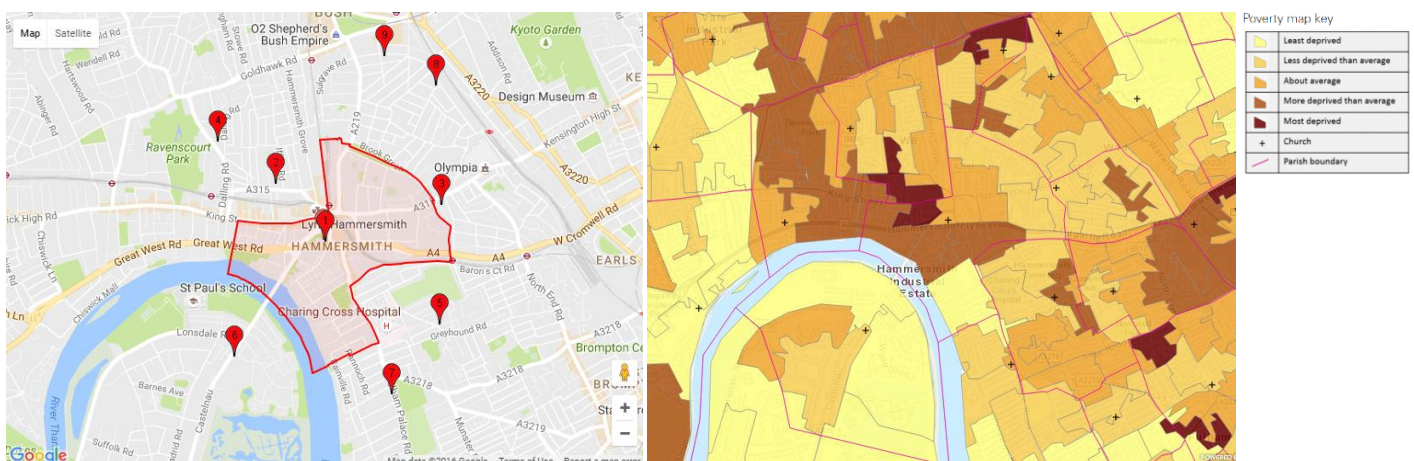


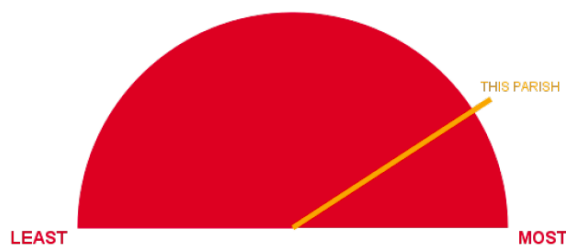
## Lay Chair Summary

*The purpose of the Lay Chair Summary is to communicate what is being discussed at PCC meetings to the St Paul's staff and congregation. There are of course minutes taken at these meetings, which are available to all, but these only really capture actions and votes so that we have an official record of our administration of church business. They can be a little dry... Hopefully this summary will therefore bring a little more life to the work that the PCC is doing with our Vicar, Simon.*

The PCC meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September was the first of our Autumn Term. Francis Woods (yours truly) was elected as the new Lay Chair – the actual Chair is always the Vicar. I took the opportunity to remind the PCC of the Parochial Church Council legislation in 1956, which defines the principle purpose of the PCC as “Cooperating with the Minister to promote in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical” – this drives the importance of the PCC continually coming back to our mission in the parish, our Jerusalem, as part of our broader Cityshaper vision. As I mentioned at the Reset weekend on 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> October, there are 7,743 people living in our parish, and it is in the top 20% of deprived parishes in the country. It is our patch, our responsibility, and while we are called to promote our mission wherever we are in London and beyond, we have a specific duty to those who live on our church doorstep – sometimes literally.



### OVERALL DEPRIVATION



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 Urban Fund  
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We also discussed what to do with the church café. Since the St Paul's Centre was completed we have been working to ensure that the café serves the mission of the church in our community, while also maximising our resources. We initially ran the café ourselves, and then partnered with Resco to house Kettle and Crust. Resco are now withdrawing, and so we put out a tender to see what the alternative options are. We are now pursuing a partnership with 'Café 4 a Crowd', who have worked with us on a number of occasions already.

The HR Working Group – led by Sue Hussey – reported back on their work since the last PCC meeting. A benchmarking exercise has been conducted to ensure SPH salaries are in line with other

# Parochial Church Council Meeting

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 7.30pm



churches, and this proposal was endorsed unanimously by the PCC. We also discussed the work that the HR Working Group has been doing with Simon and Deborah Morel, an Organisational Development expert in our congregation, to review the staff structure. Recruitment for the Associate Pastor and Head of HR & Resourcing positions is ongoing (advertised on the church website here: [http://sph.org/Groups/177246/St\\_Pauls\\_Hammersmith/About\\_Us/Join\\_Our\\_Team/Join\\_Our\\_Team.aspx](http://sph.org/Groups/177246/St_Pauls_Hammersmith/About_Us/Join_Our_Team/Join_Our_Team.aspx)).

We then heard from the Finance Working Group – led by David Bell – and were delighted to note that one of the significant loans for the building of the St Paul's Centre has now been paid off, and that in a few months the diocesan loan will also be paid off. This is excellent news, and has a positive impact on our cash flow moving forward.

Given the significant stretch for the SPH team in 2016, and with a view to being cautious on the workload for 2017, it was agreed by the PCC that a church weekend away would not be feasible next year. We discussed alternatives, Focus in particular, with a view to promoting a preferred option as a church so that we might enjoy a time of spiritual nourishment together. The pros and cons of these options will be discussed further at the next PCC on 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Yours,  
Francis

*\* Following this meeting we were devastated as a PCC by the sudden loss of our dear Church Warden, Michael Stocking. He died on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October, a little over a week after his last PCC on 29<sup>th</sup> September – where he made his usual intelligent, witty, passionate contribution. He was in many ways our main-mast, our tallest spar, billowing sails filled with the Holy Spirit and propelling us forward. We grieve for his loss, and for Lisa, Sid, Elsa and Hannah. We convened an emergency PCC meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October to pray for the family, for Simon, for the church and our community.*

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## Present:

**Rev. Simon Downham (Chair)**  
**Francis Woods (Lay Chair)**  
**Rosie Brown (Church Warden)**  
**Michael Stocking (Church Warden)**  
**David Bell**  
**Alyson Evans**  
**Max Harris**  
**Sue Hussey**  
**Helen Parry**  
**Oliver Wright**

## In Attendance:

**Cindy Heughan**  
**Anne-Marie Lewis**  
**Sarah Rogers**

## Apologies:

**Rachel Campbell-Colquhoun**  
**Bob Read**  
**Rosalind Kainyah**  
**Cat Whittaker**

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