

St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate

Parish Profile

Needs - traditions – conditions



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St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate

Statement of needs

St Botolph's Bishopsgate is at the heart of a rapidly developing area of the City of London: the church is surrounded by new office space for the financial community; it sits next to Liverpool Street Station where a new transport hub will open in 2018; and there are new retail and leisure outlets for commuter, tourist and traveller. We need a full time priest who will seize the opportunities afforded by these changes to extend our mission to the business and civic communities in the parish. As the Sacrament is at the heart of our services, that person must be rooted in the Anglican Catholic tradition.

We are looking for an energetic individual who, with the support of the PCC and parishioners, will guide us through the next part of our journey as priest, pastor and teacher and who

- will provide inspirational leadership, encouragement and nurturing to all who are associated with St Botolph's, through prayerful celebration of the Sacraments, lively and stimulating preaching and teaching, and direction for the mission of our church
- will respect and support St Botolph's Catholic tradition and be willing to preserve and enhance traditional liturgy and also work collaboratively to develop worship
- who is knowledgeable and enthusiastic about liturgical music, this being central to our worship
- is a hospitable person who will enjoy engaging with the financial, business and commercial life in the parish
- possesses keen communication skills to maintain and develop contacts with the businesses, institutions, and educational bodies of the ward and the wider City of London
- has sound pastoral experience to be able to meet the spiritual needs of the many different kinds of parishioners
- has experience of innovative ways of developing church mission, whether within the City or further afield, and is able to look outwards from our parish boundaries to parts of London outside the City of London.

The successful candidate should be the best person for the job, the PCC having rescinded resolutions A and B, which until now had limited the choice to men. The successful candidate will take the congregation and parish forward through a programme of nurturing, ministry and partnership, and will continue to promote the church and its service to the community through pastoral care and social engagement.

The Churchwardens

January 2018

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St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate

Both a parish and a ward church, St Botolph can be defined by two organisational structures within the City of London: one ecclesiastical, the other civic. The church's service to its community, together with its roles and relationships with its many associated institutions and people, are illustrated in these principal divisions:

- Parish
- Ward
- Congregation
- Worship
- Music
- Church buildings
- Governance
- Staff
- Resources
- Cultural links
- Mission to date

The Parish of St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate

Our church is the established Church of England with a duty to serve all parishioners in whatever way it can. Set on the eastern edge of the City, the parish's principal parishioners are businesses large and small, professional services firms, retail outlets, and their staff and customers, most of whom will be commuters. There are a few residents, together with an ever-increasing number of tourists visiting the City. There are now good hotels in the vicinity for the many tourists and business visitors.

The parish is served by significant transport links carrying commuters and tourists into, across, and out of the city. The church is in close proximity to Liverpool Street Station with its commuting population from East Anglia. The CrossRail hub, a project estimated to bring another 1.5m people within 45 minutes of central London, linking London's key employment, leisure and business districts, will be completed in 2018. The nearest tube station, serving four Underground lines, is also at Liverpool Street. By road, Bishopsgate (the A10) bisects the parish, providing bus routes radiating out to the farthest edges of Greater London.

The parish is bordered by three London boroughs - Tower Hamlets, Hackney, and Islington.

There is a small amount of residential accommodation in nearby Wormwood Street and in that part of Spitalfields which lies within the parish. New luxury apartments are being constructed in and around Bishopsgate. The nearest social housing is in Tower Hamlets around Middlesex Street. The number of residents within the City of London itself was in

2011 7,400, with another 1,370 having a second home in the City. Some 220 people live in the Bishopsgate residential zone. *(Source: City of London Resident Population Census 2011)*

There have been two significant periods of re-development of the area in the recent past – the early 1980s saw the new Broadgate site (now undergoing refurbishment) and more recently from around 2010 the Heron Tower, and development of offices along Bishopsgate and in Spitalfields. The effect of this constantly-changing environment is reflected in the composition of the congregation when people move to new workplaces, or homes, or retire.

Bishopsgate Ward

The area of the Square Mile is divided into 25 Wards, each of which is represented by an Alderman and Common Councillors. The City comprises just over one square mile but within that area the City of London Corporation serves around 9,000 residents and 380,000 workers. *(Source: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk)*. The City is the one part of the country where the number of workers significantly outnumbers the residents. For this reason, in order to be representative of its population the City of London Corporation offers a vote to City organisations so they can have their say on the way the City is run.

St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate is the Ward Church for Bishopsgate Ward. Aldgate, Portsoken, Cornhill, Broad Street, and Coleman Street Wards are adjacent to Bishopsgate. Bishopsgate Ward Club, founded in 1790, was originally a forum for the merchants and traders of the Ward to express their views to the Alderman and Common Councilmen. In modern times the Ward Club has become a social organisation promoting community service, good fellowship and interest in the traditions and institutions of the City.

The church has several connections with livery companies within and outside the Ward – the Coopers, the Bowyers, the Leathersellers, and also the Fan Makers, and the Tallow Chandlers.

Livery companies have a proud history and tradition. They have survived and continue to foster their professions, crafts and trades, serve the community, support the City of London and promote modern skills and professional development. The election of the Sheriffs and certain other officers is the prerogative of Liverymen alone, and the election of the Lord Mayor of the City of London is a shared responsibility between Liverymen and the City Aldermen.

Livery companies are the source of, and take a prominent part in, many of the great ceremonial occasions and add a colour and richness to the City's heritage. As Ward Church, St Botolph's is naturally host to some of these associated ceremonies and services.

The Congregation

An Anglican church serves all in its parish, regardless of faith, and welcomes all to its services. Our congregation includes people from the many facets of London life - from local businesses both large and small, and their staff and customers; from City institutions such as the livery companies, to retired people, couples preparing for their weddings, parents wishing to have their children baptised, and many visitors and tourists. The congregation may attract people from other parishes for reason of convenience, liturgical preference, or custom. As commuters, many of the congregation are also active members of their home parishes, so St Botolph's offers an important mid-week opportunity of spiritual and pastoral support. Others enjoy St Botolph's as their sole place of formal worship. There is a core of regular worshippers and visitors, some of whom have attended services for over 30 years. Some make occasional pilgrimages to the church – for example, two visitors have for many years attended the Parish Carol Service as part of their annual visit to London from Australia. Wedding couples attend regularly and often continue to attend after the marriage or blessing.

Participation in services by lay members of the congregation is well-established and a rota co-ordinates tasks. There are five licensed chalice bearers, two who lead intercessions, and four who take the first reading. Exploratory links have been made with XLP, a charity working with youth in the inner City boroughs: it has its HQ in the parish and it welcomes support through prayer and possibly other ways.

There are two connections with the military: the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC), whose origins date back to a Tudor 'Artillery Garden' in Bishopsgate, and the London Rifle Brigade (now part of The Rifles). St Botolph's houses the regimental memorial chapel of the HAC Regiment in the Lady Chapel, and the Rifle Brigade has both a memorial and Book of Remembrance located in the nave, near the Bishopsgate entrance.

The Electoral Roll currently stands at 131.

Worship

Worship is Catholic, conducted along traditional High Anglican lines. Weekday services are normally Eucharistic, but there are occasions when a non-Eucharistic service is more appropriate, for example the Advent and Christmas carol services, and sometimes our patronal saint's day.

Services follow the pattern laid down in Common Worship Traditional Language. There are currently two services each week – Choral Eucharist on Wednesdays, said Holy Communion on Thursday, with the second Thursday in the month using the Book of Common Prayer. Weekday services attract a regular attendance of 25-35 and 4-6 on respective days. Feast days will usually attract a larger congregation of 50 and above, especially on St Botolph's

patronal festival which often features an invited preacher, or on St George's Day. Ash Wednesday and the Feast of the Epiphany are always well-attended.

City workers have little time at lunch and they like to know exactly what to expect – “a short but inspiring Mass with a set finishing time” observed one long-serving singer.

Special services are particularly important. In addition to the mid-week services, the church regularly supports the community by providing special services: for the Ward, for the livery companies who come for their ceremonial and election services, and for other associated bodies.

In addition to the Parish Carol Service, a large celebratory event supported by the choir and band of The Coopers' Company and Coborn School, some 15 Christmas carol services are held in the church each December. Some are for local businesses or professional firms, some for national charities, and others for City institutions such as the livery companies and the Ward Club. One national charity has commented that its carol service had created an “important and valuable relationship with St Botolph's over the years”.

Memorial services are arranged for the departed, not only for individuals but also for groups, such as that for the Haemophilia Society to remember those whose lives were cut short by infected blood products. The HAC holds its Remembrance Service each year at St Botolph. Funeral services are also conducted from the church.

The church has become increasingly popular for weddings: church staff are happy to assist with provision of associated services – music, catering, flowers and so on – often through local businesses. One couple recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a blessing incorporated into a Wednesday service.

The peace of the church offers passers-by and regular visitors a sanctuary, a place to worship in silence, talk with the priest, or simply to sit and absorb the atmosphere, apart from the outside world. From the time the church opens in the morning at 07:30 until 17:30 in the evening, visitors and pilgrims arrive, seeking the quiet and reflective ambience.

Church sharing

Like many other City churches St Botolph's itself does not currently hold an Anglican Sunday service. However, each Sunday the church houses the Antiochian Orthodox Church which worships here by Licence under Faculty, an arrangement which has been in place for 14 years. The Church Hall is used by a group of Ethiopian Lutherans on Sunday afternoons.

Music

Music has always played a central role in the liturgical life at St Botolph's and members of the congregation have come to expect a high standard of music within the liturgy. Under the leadership of the Organist and Director of Music, Iestyn Evans, who is contracted for

Wednesdays and certain special services, professional singers and instrumentalists can be heard at the church every Wednesday throughout the year. Usually there are two or four voices, occasionally six or eight for special services, and a cantor during the summer months. We perform an eclectic variety of music, though the emphasis is very much on the traditional, with hymns being chosen from the New English Hymnal and Common Praise. Mass settings and anthems can be heard by well-known composers from different eras and traditions such as Victoria, Mozart, Stanford and Howells, but works of less famous composers can also be heard – Lobo, Caldara, Durand, Lemmens and Nibelle have appeared on our music list.

Annual highlights include *A Passiontide Meditation with Music* on the Wednesday of Holy Week, a St George's Day celebration when it falls on a weekday, St Botolph's Day in June, and a Requiem during the first week of November, on or close to All Souls', at which the names of the departed are read and candles lit. In addition to our popular Parish Carol Service there are numerous carol services for offices and charities throughout December.

Church buildings

Church

The current church was rebuilt by James Gould and George Dance in 1729 to a neoclassical design, the fourth known structure on the site. Over the past 300 years there have been several restorations to the current building – in 1892-3, 1924-26, 1947-48, after the Bishopsgate bomb in 1993 (a restoration commemorated by a magnificent stained glass window endowed by the Worshipful Company of Bowyers in 1997), and, most recently, in 2015.

The earliest surviving written record indicates an active church on the site in 1212 when the church is cited *Sci Botulfi exa Bissopeg* in a deed of this date. (*Source: Anc. Deeds, A 1851, 1854. Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Deeds, National Archives*). There may have been an earlier church, as during the late C11th and early C12th a number of churches were built outside the walls of the City dedicated to saints whose cults were in the ascendant – among them St Botolph, who had churches dedicated to him at Aldersgate, Aldgate, Billingsgate, and Bishopsgate.

Today its history attracts many pilgrims, visitors, and tourists. They arrive as independent travellers or in guided groups to explore the church and its many associations with famous men and women, such as Edward Alleyn, Mary Wollstonecraft, John Keats, and William Rogers, the Victorian philanthropist and Rector of St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate.

Eight bells dating from 1782 hang in the tower. Services on Wednesday and special services are rung in by a loyal band of bellringers.

Churchyard

In 1413 there was an anchorite, possibly built into the City wall, and a preaching cross is indicated in a map of 1559, but neither of these remain in today's churchyard. It does contain the oldest memorial in London to WW1, erected in 1916, commemorating the Battle of Jutland. The church's historic link with City figures is demonstrated in the tomb of William Rawlins, founder of Eagle Star Insurance Co (now part of Zurich AG), who died in 1838. Now the churchyard is maintained as an asset for the whole community, offering a green space enjoyed by City workers, tourists and other visitors. A footpath cuts through the churchyard from Bishopsgate to Old Broad Street, providing a well-used short cut for pedestrians. A small consecrated area between the church and its Hall contains salvaged gravestones from the churchyard, and, more recently, the cremated remains of those wishing to be interred there.

Church Hall

The Church Hall, built in 1861, is itself a building of architectural interest, originally built as an infants school, used for a time by the Fan Makers' Company, then reverting to the Hall for the church. It is now used by the community for a wide variety of events and functions, including receptions, dinners, yoga classes, venue for Weightwatchers, for Ward Motes, for concerts, for lectures and meetings for organisations such as The City of London Historical Society and The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Renovated a few years ago, it provides an intimate, historical venue, unique among the glass towers now surrounding it.

The Hall is an important asset as it is regularly used by both commercial and charitable organisations, and is also hired for single events such as weddings and dinners, even occasional retail sales outlets.

Netball Court

The building of the netball court 100 years ago was the idea of The Revd Hudson Shaw who wanted to bring physical as well as spiritual health to his parishioners.

The maintenance of the Court had been the responsibility of the Corporation of the City of London, but cuts in government grants made this commitment difficult to keep. However, since it is one of only two outdoor courts in the City of London, the PCC in 2015 approved the renovation of the Court and assumed responsibility for its upkeep, so that the court continued to be available for hire. The court was resurfaced in December 2015, re-opened in January 2016 and is now in full use. An app can be used by the public to make tennis bookings online.

Our desire to retain the Court as a local amenity is another example of how St Botolph's Church strives to support the wellbeing of the people in and around the parish – not solely people's spiritual well-being, but also their physical and mental health.

Governance

St Paul's Cathedral is our mother church. The church's Patron is the Chapter of St Paul's.

During 2013-2014 the Diocese of London consulted its constituents to help formulate its priorities for the next five years. The result was Capital Vision 2020 which set out these aims: to build new worshipping communities; to double the number of young people in the local Christian community; and to engage more closely with sport and the creative arts. Ways in which St Botolph's seeks to reflect these aims is through its partnership with the new community at St Francis in the Engine Room in Tottenham Hale, and also by keeping its Hall and Netball Court available for hire.

St Botolph's itself is governed by the Parochial Church Council, which comprises 12 members, including the Rector, and two Churchwardens. It meets five times a year, with very occasional meetings conducted via email for urgent matters. There is a Finance Committee and a Standing Committee.

As for finance, the church is generally in a sound financial position with a small surplus income and capital. Income is generated through the letting of the Church Hall and the Court. In addition, the church has been well supported by local businesses through the Voluntary Church Rate. Recent restoration and redecoration works have been completed at some expense, although this was necessary after 15 years without any expenditure on major works.

Each year St Botolph's meets its Common Fund contribution (shared in part for the past 15 years with St Vedast Foster Lane). For several years it has been able to provide additional funds to support other less fortunate London parishes.

Staff

There is one full-time member of staff, the Verger/Hall and Court Manager, and two part-time, the Administrator (four days) and Caretaker (21 hours per week). There are also two occasional staff who provide caretaking cover when required. All staff work together actively marketing our services to the community to maintain and develop the income streams from the church, Hall and Court, so that St Botolph's has the funds to continue its work, keeping the church open every weekday as a place of peace, contemplation and prayer and quiet for busy City workers. Between them the regular staff are responsible for a wide variety of tasks and functions. These include administering church finances - banking, preparing annual accounts, preparing regular financial reports, and payroll - PCC papers, fabric reports, facilities management, managing Hall, Court and church bookings, compiling and submitting annual returns to regulatory bodies, updating and preparing the half-yearly voluntary church rate letters, organising the regular and many special services requested both by individuals and by representatives of corporate bodies, and maintaining the church's website.

Staff are involved with the welcome of visitors, answering telephone and email queries and all actively support the church's long-established 'open doors' policy, offering a friendly ear, tissues for tears, or just the space and peace for troubled souls. Every effort is made, where helpful, to refer those who seek help or sanctuary to the appropriate agency.

Resources

While our finances are relatively secure and we could be viewed as a wealthy church, we are not so rich in terms of people's time. PCC and congregation members do give generously of their expertise, but there is a limit to how much time people can give, as most commute, and most contribute to the life of their local churches. We are not a church with a residential population, and this might impose restrictions on what we can achieve. However, it is anticipated that a full-time priest working strategically in partnership with staff, volunteers and local organisations, will enable us to employ the resources we have to maintain and develop our ministry.

Cultural Links

Close to the church is the Bishopsgate Institute, an educational body founded by a previous Rector, William Rogers. The Rector of St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate is an *ex officio* Board member. The Rector is also an *ex officio* Board member of the Central Foundation Schools of London and the Samuel Butler Education Trust. Given the changing nature of these institutions over time, the new priest will want to consider how best to develop these historical links.

The Hall provides an intimate setting for song and is proving to be popular. It is also used for rehearsal by some local choirs. The church is becoming increasingly popular for concerts as its fine acoustic is acknowledged. A number of youth choirs also use the church for concerts.

For the past two or three years the churchyard has provided exhibition space for sculpture in the City of London's regular programme *Sculpture in the City*. Three years ago the piece was an open triptych, based on Jan van Eyck's Ghent altarpiece, and for the past two years, Gavin Turk's bronze door 'Ajar' has been on display. A new sculpture is expected to be in place in June 2018.

Mission to date

Our Mission Action Plan 2012 was due for review in 2015, but the revision has been on hold during the interregnum.

Until the banking crash in 2008, the PCC regularly donated sums of money to charities working in key areas, including homelessness, international outreach, and education. Regular giving from Advent and Lent collections continues as it has done for many years, with the PCC voting on suitable suggested causes.

Successive Rectors have enjoyed the benefit of support from our recently retired Honorary Assistant Priest, The Revd Dr John Turner, who assisted with regular services, designed and guided Advent and Lent courses, and supported the church through his wealth of experience and learning. In recent years, St Botolph's, along with a group of City churches under the *Bank Churches* umbrella have cooperated to prepare and offer opportunities for people from neighbouring parishes to meet and study during Lent. Some funds have also been channelled to CityEast, a group of churches to the east of Bishopsgate, to support imaginative collaborations. More recently there have been annual seminars in centres of pilgrimage or historical interest – Rome, Venice and Istanbul – taking pilgrims from both St Botolph's and St Vedast's and other guests to explore aspects of Christian teaching under the guidance of experienced leaders.

An exciting and ongoing development since 2013 has been the support St Botolph has given to the Priest Missioner at the new worshipping community of St Francis at the Engine Room at Tottenham Hale, a very diverse area in terms of race, faith, and economic means. Its new church, part of a community centre, was dedicated and opened on 8 October 2017.

Under the ALMA (Angola London Mozambique Association) programme, St Botolph's is linked, along with St Barnabas Greenwich Connecticut, with St Barnabas Songo in Angola. Working with our US counterpart, a primary school has been built, kitted out, opened and operational. All remaining funds were spent, after consultation on completing doors and windows. This relationship continues.

In January 2018 St Botolph's, through planning gain funds, granted XLP £75,000 to be allocated over three years to support its "Ready for Work" programme.

Future Development and Mission

We feel that now is the opportunity for St Botolph's to 'go it alone' with the possibility of a full-time priest offering exciting new mission activities. This move is not without some risks, so we would need to ensure we have adequate funds to support such a move in the long-term, and that our current congregation is encouraged to grow. A full-time priest should have the time to uphold our traditions, but also be free to develop in partnership with suitable new ministries.

As noted under the section *Resources* on p12, we are not rich in terms of people's time and consequently less able ourselves to focus on extending and developing our mission. We would naturally support a candidate who would be willing and has the time, not only to drive our core mission, but also bring his or her ideas, particular knowledge, skills, experience and energy to the role, and harness these to develop the mission of St Botolph's to a wider community.

We believe that there are opportunities to nurture further development and growth, particularly in developing a programme of Bible study and prayer groups, activities for which a shared priest seldom has time. Our church is situated on one of the busiest thoroughfares of the City and so St Botolph's 'open doors' policy should be retained in any development of the church's mission. There are opportunities to enhance social engagement through local events to attract regular worshippers and newcomers alike.

In terms of worship, we have a strong desire to continue with the core of what is currently offered and valued, these being the frequency and style of services and our tradition of musical excellence. We also wish to retain a programme of active engagement with the wider community, whether through special church services, support for the Ward and local communities of all kinds, maintenance of opportunities for exercise and rest, and a space for cultural and commercial activities.

St Botolph's offers opportunities for shared worship and for private prayer in the centre of a busy part of the City of London and we consider it vital that our 'open doors' policy continue. Our mission to date has been one of service and example, based on hospitality. We aim to serve the whole parish, and, with a greater priestly presence, reach out and support other communities.

"Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that holy things have taken"

New Incumbent

Following a period of consultation with a cross-section of people who make up the parish and deliberation by the PCC, St Botolph's committed itself to seek for a priest who would uphold its Anglican Catholic tradition. Our new priest, with help and support from the PCC, will build upon the achievements of the past Rectors in terms of intellectual and social engagement, of teaching and preaching, and of raising the profile of St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate in the City of London in order to develop its mission. To meet our requirement to appoint the best person for the job, Resolutions A and B were rescinded.

Qualities required:

- An energetic individual who will guide us through the next part of our journey as priest, pastor and teacher
- Inspirational leadership, encouragement and nurturing to all who are associated with St Botolph's, through prayerful celebration of the Sacraments, lively and stimulating preaching and teaching, and pastoral support and direction for the mission of our church
- Respect and support for St Botolph's Catholic tradition and willing to work collaboratively to develop worship
- Possess an empathetic approach to the City

- Understanding of the complementary nature of worship for those who attend mid-week, but who are active in their home parishes
- A hospitable person who will enjoy engaging with the financial, business and commercial life in the parish.

Knowledge and experience:

- Demonstrate keen communication skills which would enable him or her to maintain and develop contacts with businesses and institutions of the ward and the City of London
- Be experienced in the Catholic tradition and willing to preserve and enhance traditional liturgy
- As music is central to our worship, be knowledgeable and enthusiastic about liturgical music
- Have sound pastoral experience to be able to meet the spiritual needs of the many different kinds of parishioners
- Experience of an innovative approach to develop the mission of our church whether within the City or further afield, able to look outwards from the walls of the church to parts of London outside the City of London.

Supporting documents

Please refer to our website for the latest Annual Report and Annual Accounts:

www.botolph.org.uk

A map of the parish can be found on our page at *A Church Near You*:

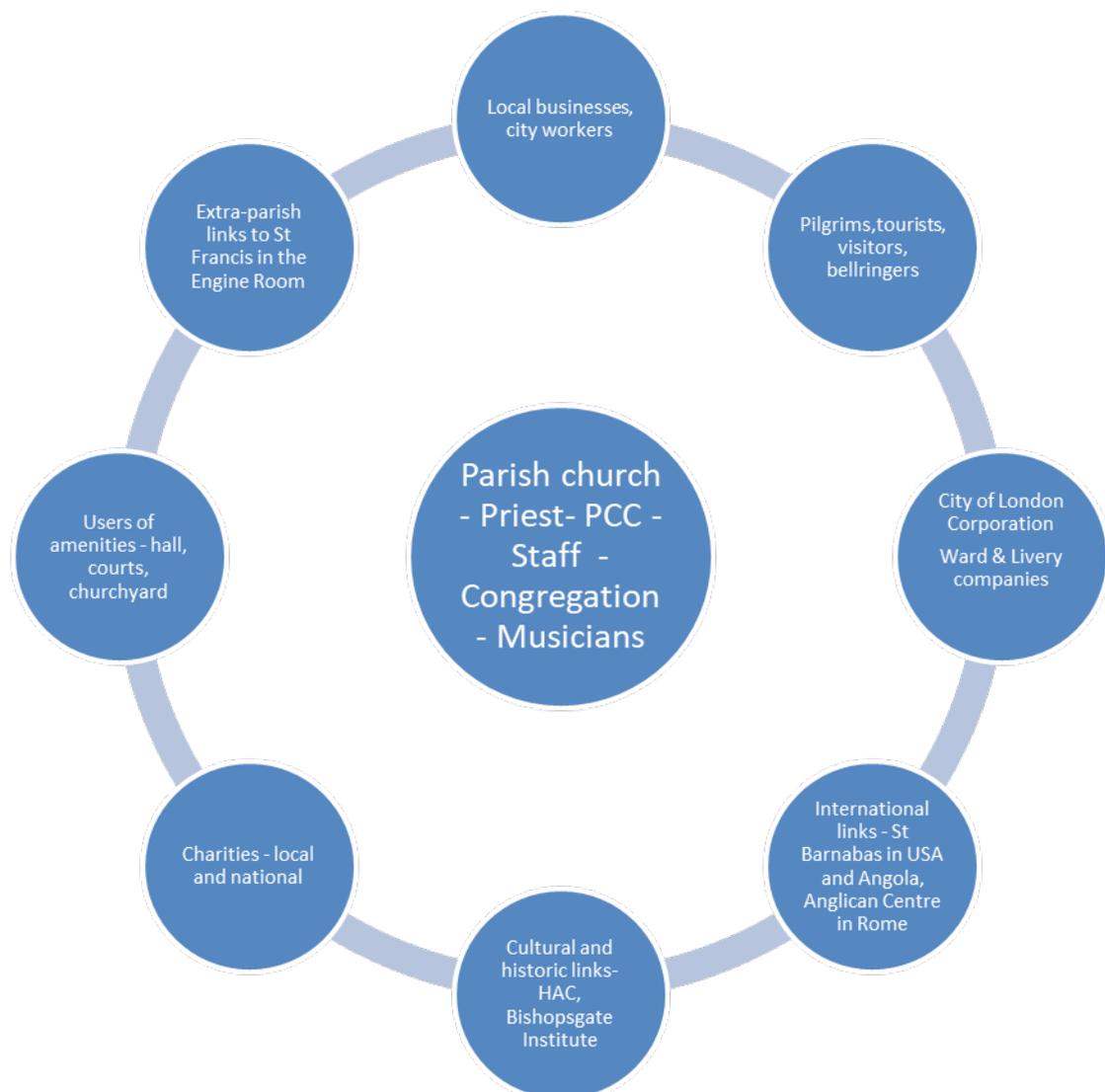
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15362/

April 2018

Appendix

Consultation

In September 2015 the Churchwardens, with the support of the PCC, began a consultation process to help to determine the future mission of St Botolph's. The process began by identifying the types of parishioner, both individual and corporate, the links with business and civic life in the parish, connections with charitable and cultural institutions, and with other churches and parishes with which St Botolph's had worked. The diagram below indicates the broad groups consulted.



The consensus view was that St Botolph's and its new priest should build on the work of their predecessors in actively and fully engaging with all the communities that make up the City of London. From the responses, it was clear that the combination of a spiritual and personal approach, plus an engaging, intellectual and thought-provoking ministry was much valued by all types of parishioners.