

Welcome to St Paul's West Hackney

We extend a welcome to St Paul's to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, gender fluid, filthy rich, comfortable or as poor as church mice.

We welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers. We welcome those who sing like Adele and those who just growl quietly to themselves. We welcome those who are just browsing, have just woken up or have just been released from prison.

We welcome those who attend church more than the Archbishop of Canterbury and those who have not darkened the doors of a church since they were on the way home from that Christmas party ten years ago.

We welcome those who are over 60 but haven't quite grown up and teenagers who seem to be growing up too fast. We welcome those who are in recovery or who are still addicted.

We welcome those who are having problems, down in the dumps, angry with God or who don't like 'organized religion'. We're not that struck on it either.

We welcome those who work too hard, those who don't work, can't work, can't spell, feel they aren't very good at stuff or are here because their mother is visiting for the weekend and it's more than their lives are worth not to go to church with her and look as though they're enjoying themselves.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, who have screwed up monumentally or who'd like to light a candle but don't quite know why.

We welcome those who find the whole idea of God a bit odd, who've been damaged by religion, who've had religion shoved down their throats as children and those who've wound up here by mistake.

We welcome pilgrims, tourists, migrants, asylum seekers, neighbours, explorers, doubters and those who prefer to travel rather than to arrive.

God - however you perceive him, her or it - welcomes you and we at St Paul's will try our level best to do the same.

Our vision and values

St Paul's, West Hackney is a Christian community with a vision for a church and parish where all may have enriching and sustainable life in abundance. We pursue this vision by seeking to know, love and serve God and neighbour with our whole being and by following our six core values.



St Paul's West Hackney

Who we are

St Paul's is the Parish Church of West Hackney, within the Stepney Area of the Church of England Diocese of London.

Our vision

- *St Paul's, West Hackney, is a Christian community with a vision for a church and parish where all may have enriching and sustainable life and have it in abundance.*
- *We pursue this vision by seeking to know, love and serve God and neighbour with our whole being and by following our six Core Values.*

Our values

In pursuit of this vision, we call ourselves and each other to be

- *Loving*
- *Inclusive*
- *Generous*
- *Creative*
- *Collaborative*
- *Courageous*

These six values offer us a glimpse of what we believe lies at the heart of God.

They offer us focus and a firm foothold as we pursue our vision.

They guide and inform our behavior and our decision-making as a church community and we seek to live by them with integrity and in a thoughtful and intentional way.

They offer us an idea of what we can expect from each other and we are prepared to call one another to account on them.

They offer our partners and all with whom we come into contact an idea of what they can expect from us.

Our values in practice

The following pen-pictures illustrate the values by which we seek to live and how they might be lived out in our everyday life and decision-making at St Paul's.

These illustrations should be considered neither exhaustive nor definitive.

LOVING	
<p>Behaviours which would reflect this value</p>	<p>We will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>kind and caring</i> • <i>compassionate to those in need</i> • <i>more attentive to those on the margins of our church and parish communities</i> • <i>empathic and responsive</i> • <i>non – judgmental</i> • <i>aware of God, ourselves and others</i> • <i>caring to others as we wish to be cared for ourselves</i> • <i>celebratory in the growth of others.</i>
<p>How this value could affect our decision making</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>be patient and kind</i> • <i>be prayerful and considered in our approach and in our thinking</i> • <i>avoid arrogance and rudeness when making our point</i> • <i>try not to insist on always getting our own way</i> • <i>guard against undue irritation and resentment with the decisions of others</i> • <i>aim to get the best for everyone out of any given situation</i> • <i>accept the will of the majority.</i>
<p>The impact that living by this value might have on us and on the life of our community.</p>	<p>We will see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>people glimpsing something of the love of God in their interaction with St Paul's</i> • <i>people knowing that they are important to others</i> • <i>people thriving</i> • <i>new relationships developing.</i> • <i>greater pleasure and enjoyment from those within and who interact with the St Paul's community.</i>

INCLUSIVE

Behaviours which would reflect this value

We will be:

- *intentional in working in partnership with our wider parish community as we pursue our vision*
- *valuing of people*
- *fair in our approach*
- *tolerant*
- *open and welcoming to new faces and organisations*
- *valuing of individuality*
- *accepting of diversity and the richness it brings.*

How this value could affect our decision making

We will:

- *be transparent in our approach, whilst respecting confidentiality*
- *listen out for and be encouraging of the quieter voices within our church and parish community which might otherwise go unheard*
- *listen to the voices of those in our wider parish community, especially those on its margins*
- *listen to the different stakeholders in our church community and the parish we serve*
- *attend to equality of opportunity*
- *prioritize opportunities that connect people to each other.*

The impact that living by this value might have on us and on the life of our community.

We will see:

- *a church where people will feel welcome*
- *an acknowledgement and celebration of diversity*
- *an embracing of and learning from diversity*
- *the acceptance of complexity*
- *a church that is intentional about serving our whole parish, especially those on its margins*
- *a transformation in ourselves, our church and our parish community*
- *a greater love on our part for our parish community*
- *a greater love of our parish community for us*
- *a richer, growing and more active parish community.*

GENEROUS

Behaviours which would reflect this value

We will be:

- *hospitable and welcoming*
- *helpful and seek to go the extra mile*
- *encouraging and empowering of others*
- *patient and understanding*
- *consistent in our response to others*
- *loyal to one another*
- *open, positive and willing in response to others*
- *forgiving and forbearing of ourselves and others*
- *pleased to share our riches and our successes with others*
- *charitable in our approach.*

How this value could affect our decision making

We will:

- *remember that the assets and wealth of our church are to be used for the benefit of our wider parish community and in support and pursuit of our stated vision.*
- *look for the good in any requests for help and advice*
- *be humble*
- *listen to others, and give others the opportunity to be heard.*
-

The impact that living by this value might have on us and on the life of our community.

We will see:

- *a more generous and magnanimous church and parish community.*

CREATIVE

<p>Behaviours which would reflect this value</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>be innovative and think out of the box</i>• <i>be open to new ways of doing things</i>• <i>explore good practice elsewhere with a view to adopting, adapting and improving it at St Paul's</i>• <i>be more curious.</i>
<p>How this value could affect our decision making</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>be open to doing things we haven't done before</i>• <i>we will find new solutions to old problems</i>• <i>we will be creative in the use of our resources.</i>
<p>The impact that living by this value might have on us and on the life of our community.</p>	<p>We will see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>a thriving church, in spite of the challenges it faces</i>• <i>a church that is positive about what it undertakes and the future it faces</i>• <i>new life and new beginnings</i>• <i>a church community that has fun.</i>

COLLABORATIVE

Behaviours which would reflect this value

We will:

- *be welcoming of new opportunities to work with others, both within and beyond our immediate community*
- *acknowledge other's gifts and expertise*
- *seek to learn from others*
- *be intentional about working in partnership with others.*

How this value could affect our decision making

We will:

- *understand more clearly what we bring to our parish and look out for gaps that would be best met by others*
- *seek out new partnerships*
- *listen to other people's opinions*
- *hear voices other than our own*
- *be more aware that we don't have all the answers*
- *realise that we will be more likely to succeed and make a difference if we work with others.*

The impact that living by this value might have on us and on the life of our community.

We will see

- *new and restored relationships*
- *increased cohesion*
- *an enriched community*
- *fewer barriers and suspicions.*

COURAGEOUS

<p>Behaviours which would reflect this value</p>	<p>We will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>questioning and challenging of behaviours and practices which we believe run contrary to our core values</i>• <i>persistent in the face of adversity</i>• <i>proactive and seizing of opportunities</i>• <i>fearless and assertive in our approach</i>• <i>positive about the future.</i>
<p>How this value could affect our decision making</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>support aspirational plans</i>• <i>be confident in taking risks</i>• <i>be willing to swim against the tide.</i>
<p>The impact that living by this value might have on us and on the life of our community.</p>	<p>We will see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>greater independence of thought</i>• <i>greater confidence</i>• <i>greater clarity in our vision</i>• <i>our efforts making a more positive difference and impact on our community and the lives of others.</i>