

St Mary The Boltons

rooted in faith open in thought reaching out in service



Annual Parish Review 2022

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Vicar's Introduction

2022 was a year of contrasts for the whole country, as well as for our church.

We were glad to be able to spend 2022 largely recovering from the effects of the Pandemic, but like everyone we were faced with the crises arising from the war in Ukraine, from the instability of the economy and our government. Our community at St Mary's suffered some losses, but we also grew in number and, we trust, in faith and hope. I hope, as you read this review, you will give thanks with us for our life and work together and pray for our ongoing ministry to our parish.

Jenny Welsh

Vicar



I. **Statutory Reports for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Numbers on the Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll presented at the 2022 APCM stands at 131 (66R, 65NR).

Applications to join the roll can be made throughout the year. To be eligible a person must be over 16 years of age and baptised. They should also either live in the parish or have worshipped at the church regularly for at least six months and should be a member of the Church of England or a church in communion with it, or a member of good standing of a Church not in communion with the Church of England which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity where those members are also prepared to declare themselves to be members of the Church of England. (Blue) Application forms are available at the back of the church. Only people currently on the roll are eligible to vote at the APCM.

Fiona Parsons

Electoral Roll Officer

Annual Report of the Working of the PCC

The PCC of St Marys consists of 12 elected members of the congregation, many of whom also have other roles in the life of the church, including as Wardens, Deanery Synod reps and sub-committee members.

During the course of 2022 the PCC met six times and it was good to be back meeting in person in the church hall after a couple of years of online meetings.

Much of the work of the PCC concerns the day to day running of St Marys and we are responsible for ensuring best practice in the areas of Safeguarding, Health & Safety and Finance, as well as achieving our Net Zero Carbon goals. However, there is also much interesting discussion around new initiatives and special events, and in 2022 these included:

- The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, preached at our first service of the new year
- A bring & share lunch was organised to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II
- An Energy Audit of our building was commissioned
- The church boilers were replaced
- Terms were renegotiated with our hall tenant, Paint Pots Montessori Nursery Schools
- Holy Communion was administered in the form of intinction
- We welcomed a St Mellitus College placement student
- The hugely successful Late Autumn Fair was brought to fruition

- We agreed a statement in support of the Bishop of Oxford's proposal to the House of Bishops that the '*Church of England celebrate and honour same sex couples*'

A PCC Away Day took place in February 2022 to look in further depth at the Diocese' 2030 Capital Vision and how its three ambitions of Confident Disciples, Compassionate Communities and Creative Growth can be implemented across all areas of our life at St Marys.

Thanks must be passed on to Revd Jenny for always leading PCC meetings succinctly and efficiently, and to Jane Ellard who provides a lot of the paperwork in advance of meetings. We are grateful to all who sit on the PCC for their valuable contributions and we are always keen to hear from members of the congregation with comments or questions concerning the running of St Marys.

Joanna Hackett
PCC Secretary

Annual Report on Fabric

This report on Fabric is in two parts. The first lists those items where significant work was done to maintain the fabric of the church and church hall in 2022. The second part reports on our Pathway to Net Zero Carbon. This year a separate report has been prepared covering the goods and ornaments.



Parts for new boilers 1

Part I - Works completed in 2022 include

- Installation of new central heating gas boilers for the church and renewal of radiator valves in church with individual thermostatic controls. The heating system controls were also replaced.
- In the Church Hall the main hall and entrance hall were re-decorated in the summer and the hall floor refurbished
- High level stonework repairs to the spire were completed. These were found to be necessary following a report needed for the 2021 Quinquennial Inspection. In addition to work on the spire to establish a better weather surface, a cornerstone at the west end of church was replaced where there had previously been a temporary repair.
- The Lightning conductor was repaired by refixing the metal tapes which had become loose in many places.
- Following on from the spire repairs a survey of the spire for embedded ironwork was undertaken in November in order to establish if there was structural ironwork embedded in the stonework. Only three of the spire faces was surveyed using ground penetrating radar lowered by an operative and only limited examples of ironwork were revealed leading to the conclusion that the spire is not supported by a structure of embedded ironwork but that there may be isolated



Work on Spire: photo by Braileys Ltd 1

examples of individual blocks being strengthened or repair with iron rods.

- There was a gas leak at the east end of church hall where the pipe had become corroded partly from drips from above and partly because the drains nearby had become choked by tree roots blocked. A temporary repair was undertaken and it is hoped that the final repair will be done soon so that the excavations can be refilled and access to the garden from the east end restored.
- The gutters were cleared and in the garden some of the benches repainted
- The Hall loft was cleared at the end of the year in readiness for insulating the roof (See below). A substantial amount of



Weathered stone: photo by Braileys 1

“stuff” accumulated over many years was disposed of, after consultation with the Archdeacon. Some paper items were retained and will be sent to the Diocesan archive centre in due course, other items have now been disposed of.

Two items of significance were on going at the year end

- The Craigie Aitchison Memorial Window developed a crack at the top. At the request of the Diocesan Advisory

Committee a second opinion was commissioned concerning the cause and type of repair needed. The inspection for the second opinion was still awaited at the year end.

- The cause of continuing damp in the gallery stairwell had not been established by the end of the year and further investigations by a specialist stonework contractor were put in hand.

This report would not be complete without acknowledging the role played by our Quinquennial Architect Mr Russell Hanslip in helping to look after the fabric of the church, especially with the specialist work on the spire and stonework, the lighting conductor and the memorial window.

Pathway to Net Zero Carbon

An energy survey was commissioned in the spring. One of its recommendations was for better hall loft insulation. At the end of December the loft above the hall was insulated at roof level so that there is now a warm loft (rather than insulation being laid at ceiling level which would have meant a cold loft, which anyway was not possible given the structure of the building and the use of the loft for storage).

Other recommendations, including better insulation at the west end of church are now being worked up in consultation with the church architect.

Minor but visible work completed in 2022 was the installation of draft proofing strips at the west



end doors and round external door in the parish office.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Goods and Ornaments

The goods and ornaments of the church remain in good condition. All the items listed in the photographic Inventory of Church Plate were found to be present when checked in March 2023 either in the displays cabinets or kept elsewhere for ease of access for regular use in church.

The opportunity was taken during the check of adding to the written description of a few items. We are grateful to the small band of volunteers who care for it, keeping it in pristine condition, cleaned, polished and dusted, throughout the year. This collection of church plate and some other objects items reflects the generosity of many individuals in the three parishes which comprise the present-day parish of St Mary with St Peter and St Jude.

Candice Lee & Edward Quinton
Churchwardens



II. Annual Parish Review Reports

The Vicar's Annual Report

I begin with thanks - for our Church and our life together, and for our community of people giving time, energy, resources and above all faithful prayer and service in our shared work and ministry.

Worship

The big news in 2022 was the return to 'Communion in both kinds' at our Eucharists. After much deliberation by the PCC, the practice of 'simultaneous administration' or intinction by the priest was introduced in June. We quickly became used to this new practice, and enjoyed the added bonus of bringing our lay assistants back into service in the sanctuary once again. We continue to be blessed with beautiful music provided by our choir, singing scholars and Director of Music.

Daily Prayers continued to be said, morning and evening on weekdays. Worship is not just a Sunday duty but a daily discipline for us and a joy to share in company. We are always glad when members of the congregation join us.

During Lent and Advent, extra opportunities for corporate worship were offered: Weekly Compline, via a Zoom link in Lent with Meditations during Holy Week; and an Advent service, called 'Be Quiet', an hour of silent prayer by candlelight each week, at the end of the day.

Holy Week and Easter attendance was nearly up to pre-Covid levels, with large numbers of our regular congregation away, and replaced by a good number of visitors to the area.

We were pleased to restore the Nativity Play during the 10.30 Eucharist, performed by the newly revamped Little Lambs group, once again including a real live baby in the manger. Many thanks go to the Sunday School leaders and parents for their work to prepare the children. The traditional Nine Lessons and Carols also returned with an octet of professional singers, familiar carols and readings followed by mulled wine in church.



Christmas services were well attended, in similar numbers to those pre-2020. Again many of our congregation members were away but other regular visitors and tourists came along.

Occasional Offices

Eighteen baptisms took place, including one adult. Several of the children baptised continue to be brought along to church and to Sunday School.

Thirteen funerals took place, including two for regular members of our congregation, Michael Singer and Diana Thornhill, and for Ken Howard, a good friend, neighbour and benefactor of St Mary's over the years.



!Bastian baptism courtesy of Rosie Meckiff-Mengel

We performed two burials of ashes including those of Oriel Robinson in the church's memorial garden. Two memorial services

were held, including that of Arthur Tait, whose funeral took place in 2021.

Arising out of these important services, baptism families were invited back to celebrate the Baptism of Christ and to renew baptism promises with the whole congregation; and families of those who had died in the past year were invited to join our Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, at Choral Evensong for All Souls.

We had a record eighteen weddings in 2022, with many couples finally being able to marry after postponing their ceremony during the pandemic. It was particularly lovely to have two couples from our own congregation married here.

The Church of England's recent debates about same sex marriage and blessings in church prompted the PCC to vote in favour of supporting proposals for prayers of blessing for LGBT+ couples who are civilly married or in civil partnerships. We look forward to making such blessings available when it becomes possible to do so.

Christian Nurture

The real growth in the congregation has been among our young families and specially those whose babies were born during the Pandemic, many of whom were baptised in 2022. Our Sunday School provision had faltered before 2020, but is now being renewed with a monthly Little Lambs group, which began in the autumn. Rosie Meckiff-Mengel has written about this elsewhere in this review. The plan now is to grow the leadership so that sessions can be run twice monthly. The group comprises not just preschool children and their parents, but younger primary aged children and a few older children who help.

A midweek 'Sunday School' for older primary aged children was introduced on Wednesday afternoons after school in church and led by the Vicar. Up to 6 children are involved, and a parent was usually present for support and safeguarding this year, but there is a need for them to be trained and DBS'd for full safeguarding compliance.

Three boys, Rafferty Coulter, Nox Walvoord and Oliver Fowkes were prepared for confirmation and presented to the Bishop of Kensington at St Mary Abbots in early June.

Lent and Advent discussion groups ran as usual. In Lent we met on Sundays after the main service to discuss Isabelle Hamley's book *Embracing Justice*. For Advent, we read Nicholas Holtam's book *Sleepers Wake – getting serious about climate change*, meeting via Zoom.

Special Events

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated with a Family Eucharist, followed by a Jubilee Parish Picnic in the church garden, our first gathering to share food as a community since 2020. Both service and picnic were well attended in spite of competition from local street parties and other events.



Sadly that happy event was followed in September by the period of national mourning after the Queen's death. On the eve of the Queen's Funeral, a special solemn service of Evening Prayer was held in church, providing an opportunity for members of the local community to offer prayers together.

Stewardship

A Stewardship Campaign ran in the autumn, covering the three aspects of Christian giving: time, talents and treasure. This was to encourage and challenge the congregation and wider church community to greater engagement with our life and worship, as well as increasing their regular financial support of the church, and to support three major projects to refurbish our organ, to upgrade the hall kitchen, and to improve the space at the west end of the church. We had an ambitious aim to add £15,000 to our stewardship income in 2023 but this will be unlikely, given the economic crisis which has affected so many people's financial situation. We were however immensely blessed by several generous one off donations.

We also need to recognise the perennial issue of how to engage our congregation's time and talents, to engender greater participation in the worship and ministry of our church and deeper commitment to the life of faith.

The Campaign drew to a close with our Dedication Festival, which took place on the 172nd anniversary of the consecration of the church, when we gave thanks for our forebears, and celebrated the fact that our church has never remained static, always adapting for the needs of each new generation, and husbanding our resources for the future of our parish.

Outreach

We were pleased to welcome local schools throughout the year for assemblies and RE lessons about the church. We also held Coffee mornings for parents in the first week of the school year, in the garden.

Monthly visits to St Teresa's Nursing Home resumed, for prayers, singing and sharing of communion. The community there offer hospitality when we visit, giving us time to spend with residents. We were asked to support the residents at Ellesmere House in Nightingale Place in a similar way. This work is shared with the clergy team at St Cuthbert's, Philbeach Gardens.

We continue to host the Second Half Club, under Fiona Parsons' leadership. The Club welcomes up to 40 older people on Friday mornings for coffee and conversation, Pilates and Chair Yoga sessions led by trainers from Open Age, followed by a light lunch of hot soup and bread during the winter months. The attendees are very much part of St Mary's wider community, with many coming along to services and other events during the church year.

We were pleased to host four Carol Services for charity: Susan Metcalfe once again sponsored a service this time for Parkinsons UK; Friends of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, and for the first time, Glass Door and Cruse Bereavement Charity. We also joined forces once again with St Luke's (HTB) Earls Court for an outdoor Christmas Carol Sing in Redcliffe Gardens. This was a hugely successful outreach event for the local community, bringing in about 250 people most of whom are not part of either church, but were invited along for the Christmas celebrations.



The Wider Church

I continue as Area Dean for Chelsea Deanery, chairing both the Clergy Chapter and Deanery Synod, as well conducting parish Triennial Visitations on behalf of the Archdeacon. As Area Dean I also sit on two working committees, the Kensington Area Leadership Team and the Kensington Area Council.

I serve on the Chaplaincy team for St Mellitus College, which involves being available to students on Mondays and attending some of the college's residential programmes. This is a useful way to maintain the relationship between St Mary's and the college which inhabits St Jude's in Courtfield Gardens, which also provides a venue for one of the HTB congregations.

We have provided a placement opportunity since September for a theological student and ordinand from St Mellitus, Dr Grace Bally-Balogun. This placement offers her the opportunity to experience more of the breadth of the Church of England's tradition.

I end with thanks, as I began: for the great gift which is St Mary's and for the opportunities we all have for mission, ministry, and worship here.

The Reverend Jenny Welsh,
Vicar

From the registers: the year in numbers

	Notes	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Communions							
Easter		104	106	0	119	94	94
Christmas Midnight		90	50	50	70	81	60
Christmas morning		92	96	60	78	44	75
Attendance							
Easter		185	145	0	178	178	161
Christmas		436	250	170	433	427	408
Sunday Average Attendance (over 16 years)		82	74	60	80	81	71
Average Sunday Attendance (all ages)		94	83	67	87	93	82
Occasional offices							
Baptisms		18	13	10	10	21	12
Confirmations		3	2	0	1	10	0
Weddings		18	6	3	5	5	2
Blessing of Marriage after a Civil Ceremony		0	0	0	1	0	0
Funerals		13	15	12	15	11	6
Memorial Services		2	1	0	2	4	6
Burial of Ashes		2	1	1	7		

Deanery Synod Report

In the organisational structure of the Church of England, a Deanery is a small geographical grouping of parishes; Deanery Synods sit above individual church Parochial Church Councils, and below Diocesan Synods and the General Synod.

In the Chelsea Deanery, the Area Dean is currently our Vicar, Revd Jenny Welsh and the Synod Secretary is our PCC Secretary, Joanna Hackett. Chelsea Deanery is a lively deanery made up of nine parishes from a broad worshipping background, as well as several hospital and school chaplaincies. Area Deans have responsibility for 'the care of vacant parishes, convening the deanery chapter and caring for the clergy of the deanery' and behind that brief job description lies quite a lot of work, for our Area Dean and her Parish Manager.

During the course of 2022 Chelsea Deanery Synod met four times:

- January – hosted by St Lukes Redcliffe Gardens

Martin Goodwin, Head of Safeguarding for the Diocese of London, gave an excellent talk on Safeguarding and its important place in each and every church setting

- May – hosted by Holy Trinity Sloane Street

Revd Will Van Der Hart of the Mind & Soul Foundation spoke on the importance of promoting good mental health across churches

- July – hosted by Holy Trinity Brompton

A purely social evening of food and fellowship

- November – hosted by St Mellitus College

Revd Russell Winfield gave an inspiring talk on the subject of Vocation to tie in with the Diocese' Vision 2030 theme of Confident Discipleship

A significant part of Deanery Synod meetings is hearing from parish representatives about what is currently taking place across our deanery churches. This can involve reports on successful initiatives, plans for the forthcoming year or highlighting any current struggles. Praying for sister deanery churches is an important part of our parish prayer ministry and this is greatly assisted when there are honest, open and regular updates from all parts of the Deanery.

If you would like any further information on the workings of Chelsea Deanery Synod, please speak to either of our current representatives; Margarete Geier and myself.

Joanna Hackett

Deanery Synod Secretary

Safeguarding

The Church Safeguarding Officer (CSO) is a PCC appointment required of all parishes in England and Wales and is charged with working to ensure and promote the wellbeing of both young people and vulnerable adults. A hard copy of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook is available via the Parish Office or you can visit www.safeguarding.london.anglican.org if you are interested in finding out more information from the Diocese.

Clair Gordon is in her sixth year as appointed CSO. Clair works alongside Joanna Hackett who is the Parish Evidence Checker who in this role carries out the DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) checks on all persons in a role that brings them into contact with anyone who could be at risk. This now includes members of the PCC. Rosie Meckiff is a member of the PCC who can also be contacted with any Safeguarding queries and Jane Ellard, who runs the Parish Office, is back-up for DBS checking.

Happily, we have started to resume group activities including Sunday School once a month, a mid-week school, confirmation classes and Half Time Club. All group leaders have an up-to-date DBS and both leaders and helpers will be asked to sign up to the Diocesan Code of Conduct on safeguarding good practice via the Volunteer Agreement Form.

St Mary's is now all signed up and a part of the new Diocese Safeguarding Hub and we continue to populate this platform with PCC approval. The PCC have reviewed the PCC Safeguarding Policy Statement and The Parish Safeguarding Info Poster were updated and placed up in the entrance to Church. There have been no safeguarding concerns in the last 12 months. The next PCC Safeguarding review will be in September 2023.

Fiona Parsons still holds the role of Champion for Vulnerable Adults with Chris & Katie Fowkes who continue as Children's Champions for St Mary's. Many thanks to the three of them for their continued work in these important roles within our Community.

The vulnerable adults policy from the Diocese is also available and provides helpful guidance for members of St Mary's who are in contact with vulnerable adults in an informal manner.

It is considered best practice for all members of the PCC to have a DBS check every three years (as opposed to five previously) and this process is ongoing to ensure everyone is up to date.

Online training for all those involved with children, young people and vulnerable adults is recommended by the Diocese including; Church Safeguarding Officers, PCC members, licensed lay ministers, children's champions and those working with any vulnerable group

(children, young people or vulnerable adults). This is ongoing to ensure everyone is up to date.

The PCC have complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding.

Please contact the Safeguarding Officer if you require further information.

Clair Gordon

Church Safeguarding Officer

Sunday School

After being on hold due to the Covid pandemic, we were delighted to resume St Mary's 'Little Lambs' in October. Led by new Sunday School leaders Rosie Meckiff and Candice Lee, 7 children attended the first session.

'Little Lambs' continued on the first Sunday of the month in the church hall during the 10:30am service and sessions were open to children aged 0 - 8 years old, with pre-school children being accompanied by an adult. Children were then invited to return for communion and a blessing with their families.

Each session included an opening prayer, song, bible story and related arts and craft.

In addition to the monthly 'Little Lambs' - and after a drive to reconnect with St Mary's families via email and telephone - we saw an incredible 26 children take part in the all age Christmas nativity. We are grateful to all who took part and helped on the day and are always keen to hear from those who would like to volunteer (full training provided).

A huge thank you goes to Chris and Katie Fowkes, Clair Gordon and Alex Bell for their dedicated years running Sunday School up until the pandemic, and for their help resuming Sunday School and the nativity. Additional gratitude goes to Clair, Joanna Hackett and Jane Ellard for ensuring all the correct Diocese paperwork, safeguarding and DBS checks were in place.

Moving into the year ahead we plan to recruit more volunteers to allow us to increase capacity and frequency - with our goal to run all age Sunday School weekly during term time by the end of 2023.

For more information on St Mary's Sunday School, or if you would like to volunteer, please email sundayschool@stmarytheboltons.org.uk.
Rosie Meckiff-Mengel

Verger's Report

2022 has, by and large, been a good year. As we emerged blinking into the light of the new normal (post-Covid), groups have returned to use the hall once more, along with Paint Pots nursery during the week, and children's birthday parties at weekends.



Several projects have taken place this year including the replacement of the church boilers, and insulation of the hall loft (this gave us an opportunity to have a good clear out and sort of what was up there).

Once again, thank you to all who volunteer here. It remains my joy to be the Verger/ caretaker of St Mary The Boltons.

Dave Ireton

Verger and Caretaker

The Prayer Network

The Prayer Network is an important part of our corporate life. All requests for prayer are sent as quickly as possible to the Prayer Network people by email. A monthly Bulletin, with all the updates incorporated, is distributed to everyone also by email. Fourteen present and former parishioners constitute the Network. About 40 people are prayed for by the Prayer Network people and this number has slowly declined, for reasons that are not clear.

Most requests and updates come from the people of the Network itself or the Parish Office. It is important that changes or progress are also noted and passed on, as this keeps the prayers and intercessions relevant, and the intercessors interested. The intercessors use the list entirely as it suits them, not according to any particular instruction or pattern.

Verena Tschudin

The Clarion

The Clarion is available in Church usually on the last Sunday before the next month; we have double issues for July/August and December/January.

The purpose of *The Clarion* is to inform, educate, stimulate, and occasionally amuse readers and a good mix of all these is the aim. Reports of events and items of interest relating to the parish, often also items from the Diocesan Newsletter and adverts for events, are

the aim. Apart from four issues of only 8 pages, all other issues in 2022 were 12 pages in length.

The Clarion is the parish 'voice' and to make as many people's voices as possible heard, everyone is encouraged to send material, of whatever kind, ideally by email, either to the Parish Office, or to my email address, no longer than 500 words and possibly with some illustration. Items regarding the Readings at services, notices of planned events when available, the names of people whose Year's Mind occurs during the month, and the Parish Directory, are the main reasons for having a parish magazine.

Hard copies are available in church throughout the relevant month, and emails of the magazine's PDF are sent to everyone on the parish database.

Verena Tschudin
Clarion Editor

Flowers

Again we had a very good year after Covid for requests for flowers; for weddings, funerals, memorial services, and special occasions for families to remember their loved ones.

Our church is always surrounded with flowers and beauty all year round, but we always need the support from the congregations and people helping.
Margarete Geier



Hospitality and Social Life

Our first event was the Patronal Festival, which we were able to celebrate with our first 'bring and share' lunch. Since then, we have had four other lunches, all bring and share, including New Year's party, as well as refreshments for other events. We continued sharing coffee after the service on Sunday each week, and we always appreciate people's help for serving coffee after church.

Margarete Geier

Social Secretary

Sacristy

The sacristy work is mostly looking after the church linen, priests' robes, and communion preparation for all our Eucharists and Sunday services.



The white linen is still in good condition, but old. After 20 years of wear and tear the chasubles are looking aged.

Margarete Geier

Sacristan

Reading Volunteers at St Cuthbert with St Matthias School

This year it is a more encouraging report after two or three difficult years with volunteering at the school. During Covid we were not able to go into school at all but we are now back to normal, although of course Covid has not disappeared!

Some volunteers had to drop out over the last couple of years but we now have three new which is good news. As I said in last year's

report the children missed so much during Covid any extra help we can give is even more appreciated by the school.

It is rewarding to see the children grow in ability and confidence in reading. If anyone in the congregation is interested in volunteering at the school do have a word with me after a Sunday morning service, No teaching background is needed – most of the volunteers don't have one.

Sheila Gibbs

Charity Committee's Report

The committee members during the year were Alex Burtt, Caroline Jackson, Katrina Quinton, and Anthony Williams (Chairman). Philip Welsh retired from the committee after the last APCM, whereupon Philip Bedford-Smith joined the committee. The committee met three times during the year, as well as keeping in touch by email. Members also helped with the running of the Autumn Fair. Each year the Charity Committee is responsible for gathering information about charities for which St Mary's might raise money in the following year. We work in accordance with Terms of Reference approved by the PCC. The committee carefully and comprehensively undertakes an assessment of each potential charity and makes recommendations to the PCC. The principal charities approved for 2022 were the overseas charity, **USPG's Partner in Mission** programme; and the local charity, **Learn to Love to Read**. The smaller overseas charity was **Lyra in Africa** and locally our smaller charities were **Paul's Cancer Support Centre** and **Beacon House**. Our giving is funded from the Charitable Pot which contains all the money raised during the year. In addition the Pot funds the Bishop's annual Lent Appeal. The two principal charities then each

receive one-third of the remaining money with the last third being shared by the three smaller charities.

USPG and **Learn to Love to Read** each received £4,227.17 with the three smaller charities each receiving £1409.06. In addition £200 went to the Diocese of London's Lent Appeal.

Our local principal charity is **Learn to Love to Read**, which works with Wandsworth schools, teachers and the families they serve combating a lack of reading skills which is a serious handicap to a child's development and can lead to social disadvantage in later life. Our principal overseas charity continues to be **USPG's Partner in Mission** which links us with the Anglican Council in Malawi. The two smaller local charities are **Beacon House** and **Paul's Cancer Support**. The former is both in our parish and 'on our doorstep'. The house consists of 16 self-contained flats plus a communal area, garden, and a skills room and helps 16 single homeless young people from 16 years of age who have medium to high support needs and require access to staff 24 hours a day. The Support Staff work with every resident to help them develop life and independent living skills. **Paul's** is based in and provides help from its premises in Battersea, providing holistic, individual and compassionate cancer support to anyone in its local area who needs it. Our smaller overseas charity is **Lyra in Africa**. Its mission is to give rural girls in Tanzania the opportunity to complete their secondary studies and increase their access to high-quality secondary education and equal economic opportunities. Secondary schools can serve villages up to 30 km apart so Lyra fulfils its mission mainly by building hostels so that girls from a wide rural catchment area can attend schools safely and complete their education.

During the year, we were fortunate enough to have speakers from our charities at our 10.30am services on Sunday morning: John Nelson from **USPG** in January; Naomi Langan from **Beacon House** in May; Theresa Harris from **Learn to Love to Read** in November; **Paul's Cancer Support** in December.

In addition, Alex Akampurira was supported through **Compassion UK**, on behalf of the Sunday School. As the Parish's support came to an end in 2022, we were able to send a donation as a graduation gift of £1,041 to enable him to fulfil his goal of building his family a home in Uganda.

The Charity Committee carries an over-riding brief to ensure the annual Fair is a success as it is, by far, the major contributor to the Charitable Pot. Originally we had planned to hold an Autumn Fair on 17 September, however,

this was postponed to 19 November because of the mourning period for the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Our Autumn Fair took place in the church and church hall, and was highly successful, raising £10,159. We are



2 Late Autumn Fair, Photo Revd J. Welsh

extremely grateful to Clair Gordon for project managing the Autumn Fair so successfully. We are also very pleased that Clair has agreed to project manage the 2023 Fair, which will take place on 23 September 2023.

The Charity Committee's main brief is to source, select and recommend the charities that St Mary's will support each year, by raising funds during the year. All the money raised goes into the Charitable Pot for subsequent distribution, which includes activities such as the cake sale on 3 July. St Mary's also provides Support In Kind, which is a means of complementing our main cash donations and not be in conflict with our main charitable giving programme. This support is mainly given by making the church available, this year for a MacMillan coffee morning on 5 October, organised by Fiona Parsons. We also collect clothing for the Glass Door winter shelters and food and other essentials on an ongoing basis for Glass Door, St Cuthbert's Centre and the food bank run by Dad's House. We collect used postage stamps for the Leprosy Mission. Raymond Kyle raffled a very rich fruitcake for Glass Door, and the Glass Door Sleep Out was joined by several of our children, supported by Clair Gordon and her local parish church, St Matthew's Wandsworth Bridge Road.

The PCC accepted our recommendation to roll over the existing charities and continue to support them in 2023. These are **USPG's Partner in Mission, Learn to Love to Read, Lyra in Africa, Paul's Cancer Support Centre and Beacon House**. The charity committee would like to thank all those who gave so generously to the Charitable Pot, including the Bishop's Lenten Appeal.

Caroline Jackson, on behalf of the Charity Committee

Gift Aid

In the tax year ending 5 April 2022 we received £19,608 from HMRC for Gift Aid. Our total in the previous year was an exceptional £26,030, but this year's total is in line with the average for prior years.

The amount claimed under the Small Donations Scheme for loose collections was once again up to the maximum of £8,000. This is because we can additionally claim for amounts given electronically via the tap-to-give Goodbox units at the back of church, such gifts not being restricted to the times of church services.

The Stewardship Campaign held last October did not result in a great increase in regular giving, which I think reflected the uncertain economic times, but we did receive a number of one-off donations, for which we are grateful.

Gift Aid makes a valuable contribution to our total income, at no cost to ourselves, and I would urge anyone who gives regularly to St Mary's to complete a Gift Aid Declaration if you have not already done so. This will enable us to collect an extra 25% on top of all donations that we can recognise as yours, without any cost to you. Forms are available from me or from the Church Office, and may be completed either manually or electronically.

Philip Bedford Smith

Gift Aid Secretary

Report on Trusts and Legacies

Focus on trusts

The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines focus as “the adjustment of the eye or an eyeglass necessary to produce clear image.” Just as we all need to start using spectacles or eyeglasses at some point in our lives in order to be able to see clearly, so too from time to time

Trustees should re-assess their view of any trust for which they are responsible. This is especially true for charity trustees: Do trustees



have a clear view of the purpose for which the trust was established, and are they applying the funds for which they are responsible towards that purpose? Where they are responsible for a permanent endowment is it properly invested so that value can be extracted from the trust fund both for immediate, current benefit whilst at the same time preserving value so there is something for future generations? This year the annual review of our trusts takes focus as its theme.



The deed for **Redcliffe**

Gardens Trust dates from

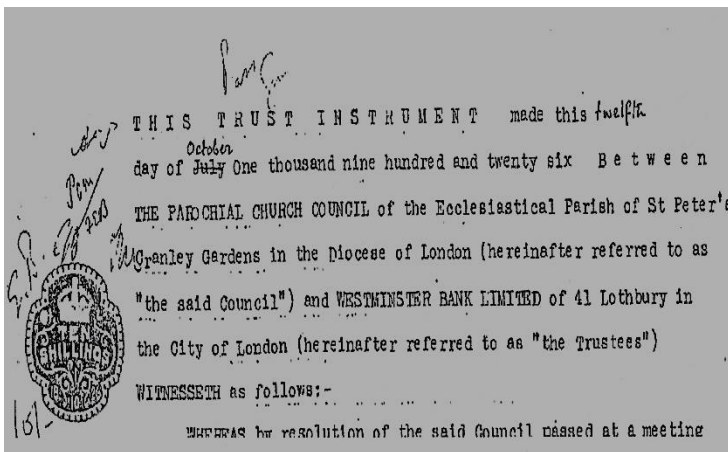
1910 and contains a variety of purposes mostly connected with its original purpose as a trust owning a property at No

11 Redcliffe Gardens for use as

a church house. Among other purposes was its use as a gymnasium or as a miniature rifle range, while its use as a national school was expressly prohibited. The building was let on a long lease which was subsequently enfranchised, so the trust no longer owns the building but the deed was sufficiently widely drawn so that the benefit of the funds it holds can continue to be applied for its other purposes.

These include the maintenance and upkeep of any premises used for any purpose for which Church House may be used. The first specified purpose of Church House was the “Celebration of Divine Service according to the rites of the Church of England” and the second was “the holding of a Sunday School” so in the past the trustees have applied sums towards the maintenance of St Mary’s church and the improvement of our current church hall. In the last few years income has been accumulated and not distributed – in other words no current benefits have been taken from the trust

funds, which remain invested in a mix of long term equity funds and cash deposits. However as we continue our journey towards becoming a net zero carbon church it is likely that the PCC will need to draw on the trust to make capital improvements particularly in church Hall.



St Peter' Trust dates from 1926. It provides for the income of the fund to be used for clergy stipends, including those paid via the diocese, the upkeep and maintenance of the church building as well as its furnishings and ornaments and the organ and choir. In recent years the PCC has allocated income for music and organ expenses. The fund is mainly invested in the CBF Church of England investment Fund for long term capital appreciation and income, but also has £5,281 cash held in the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

8. I BEQUEATH to the Parochial Church Council of Saint Mary the Boltons London S.W.10 my leasehold dwellinghouse at present known as 7 The Little Boltons free of duty Upon trust that they shall either permit the same to be used as a Vicarage in connection with the said Church or for any other suitable purpose in connection with the Church or if they shall at any time deem it desirable to sell the same then the proceeds of sale may be utilised either in or towards the purchase of another house suitable to be used as a Vicarage or may be invested and be held by the Parochial Church Council or any other suitable Ecclesiastical Authority and invested by them in trust securities and the income arising therefrom applied as an augmentation of the existing endowment of the Church of Saint Mary the Boltons AND I DECLARE that for the purpose of carrying out

The third fund is the **Louisa Wilson Legacy**. The funds held in this trust originate from sale of a leasehold house in the Little Boltons left to the church after she died in 1948. The principal intention of the legacy was for the House to be used as a Vicarage, but with an additional stipulation that funds realised from any sale of the house should be applied as an augmentation of the existing endowment of the Church of St Mary The Boltons. As custodian of the funds the London Diocesan Fund has paid the income directly to the Diocesan Stipends Fund. The fund is invested in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund, which aims to produce a balanced capital and income return, thus providing some income for use today whilst also preserving the capital value of the fund for the future. The income in 2022 was just over £2,000 and at the end of 2022 the value of the funds was £68,223.

Leave a Legacy

Leaving a legacy to the church can be a very valuable way of helping the church both in the short term and over the longer term. In 2022 we were very grateful for a legacy which has been earmarked to assist with repairs to the organ. If you are interested in helping St Mary's by leaving a legacy to the church please do not hesitate to contact the Vicar or Gift Aid officer. The PCC has a Legacy Policy which sets out the way in which we will use general legacies to make a difference to the life and mission of the church rather than to pay routine running costs but if you have a specific wish please do not hesitate to get in touch to discuss how you might wish your legacy to be used.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Hon Treasurer



Angel on the Church Spire, courtesy of Rodells

The PCC of St Mary with St Peter & St Jude, West Brompton,
is a Registered Charity, No 1133073

www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk

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