

**The Benefice of St Mary with St Peter and St Jude
West Brompton**

Diocese of London

Deanery of Chelsea

**The Parish Church of
St. Mary The Boltons**

Annual Report

2009

(1 January - 31 December)



Prepared for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on Thursday 25 April 2010
at 12 noon in the Church

Parish Information & Statistics

Address

The Parish Office,
St. Mary's Church House,
The Boltons,
London SW10 9TB
020 7835 1440 Fax 020 7370 6562
www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Priest in Charge

Rev Ginny Thomas, 24 Fawcett Street, London SW10 9EZ

Associate Vicar

Rev Ruth Lampard

Parish Officers and Elected Representatives

Churchwardens

Mr Mark Nichols, 2 Earls Court Gardens, London SW5 0TD
Mr Leo Fraser-MacKenzie, 28 Greswell Street, London SW6 6PP

Members of the Parochial Church Council

Rev Ginny Thomas (Chair), Mrs Jane Bonser, Mrs Tara Bromley,
Mr Antony Bryceson, Mr Jack Dunn, Mr Christopher Fowkes, Mr Leo
Fraser-Mackenzie, Mrs Shelia Gibbs, Miss Margarete Geier (Deanery Synod
Representative), Miss Joanna Hackett (PCC Secretary), Mr Brian Hallock, Mr
Mark Nichols, Mrs Fiona Parsons, Mrs Pauline Stephens, Miss Carolyn
Stubbs (PCC Treasurer, & Assistant Treasurer to the Redcliffe Gardens
Trust), Mr Arthur Tait (Deanery Synod Representative), Lady Helen
Trafford (Deanery Synod Representative)

PCC Treasurer & Assistant Treasurer to the Redcliffe Gardens Trust

Miss Carolyn Stubbs, 25K Nevern Square London SW5 9PD

Secretary to the Parochial Church Council

Miss Joanna Hackett, Flat2, 300 Fulham Road, London SW10 9EP

Stewardship Recorder

Mr John Barker, 59 Osterley Views, West Park Road, Southall, UB2 4AF

Children's Advocate

Ms Verena Tschudin, 26 Cathcart Road, London SW10 9NN

Professional Support

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc, Kensington & Chelsea Group,
PO Box 469, London SW7 4SU

Independent Financial Examiner

& Reporting Accountant to the Redcliffe Gardens Trust

Mrs Vicky Grazebrook,
Farm Cottage, Colinswood Road, Farnham Common, Slough SL2 3LJ

Inspecting Architect

Mr Michael Staff, Nye Saunders John Deal Practice,
3 Church Street, Godalming, Surrey GU17 1EQ

Insurers

Ecclesiastical Insurance Group,
Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester GL1 1JZ

Legal Advisers

Mr Lee Bolton Monier-Williams, 1 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JT

Payroll Facilities

Vantis, The White Cottage, 19 West Street, Epsom, Surrey KT18 7BS

Property Management

Stanley Hicks Chartered Surveyors, 52 Bow Lane, London EC4M 9ET

Number on the Electoral Roll 202

Statistics

Communions 2009 (2008,2007,2006, 2005)

Easter 160 (143, 152,134,109)
Christmas Midnight 116 (102 98, 94, 95, 80)
Christmas Morning 91 (108, 125 ,113,162)

Sunday Average 98 (88, 90, 83, 84)

Average Sunday Morning Attendance Including Children
2009 131 (2008 130, 2007 128 , 2006 116, 2005 116)

Occasional Offices 2009 (2008,2007, 2006, 2005)

Baptisms 38 (49, 34, 41, 46)
Confirmations 7 (2 ,3, 7, 3)
Weddings 11(6, 11, 15, 12, 6)
Blessing of Marriage after a Civil Ceremony 0 (0, 4, 2, 1, 1)
Funerals in Church 8 (7, 8, 8, 4,)
Memorial Services 0 (1, 4, 0, 0)

Report by the Priest-in-Charge on the Progress of the Parish and the Work of the Parochial Church Council and its Committees

Each year the annual meeting and report give us an opportunity to reflect on the past year, take stock of where we are and look ahead to the coming year. From the other reports it is clear that 2009 has been another full year with many activities continuing and some new ones commencing, all of which contribute to making St. Mary's a lively church community.

Worship will always remain at the centre of who we are and what we do, and it has been good to see our weekly attendance increasing. Worship is something that we, clergy and congregation, do together and our worship is the richer for it. I am particularly grateful to those who take particular roles in the service: readers, intercessors, chalice bearers and those who bring the offertory to the altar. The sidespeople also have an important role in greeting people as they come into the church and making them feel welcome.

No service can take place without the 'behind the scenes' work of a small dedicated team who take care of the altar linen, church silver and brass and prepare the altar for each service. Many thanks to them and to the servers who help the clergy at the services. As you will see from a report by Ruth Lampard, the number of servers has increased this year and I am delighted that there are now eleven young people who fulfil this role, in addition to two adults.

Our Sunday parish Eucharist service would be much the poorer without our Director of Music, Graham Caldbeck, and the choir. Graham's commitment to providing a high standard of music at our services, his sensitivity to the liturgy and the musical tradition of the Church are much appreciated.

This year we have had four guest preachers: David Shreve, the Church of England national environmental adviser; Rev David Walsh, Associate Vicar of one of our neighbouring parishes, St. Philip's, Earl's Court Rd; Rev Robert Thompson, lead chaplain at the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust, Sydney Street, SW3; and Canon Joanna Udal, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Secretary for Anglican Communion Affairs.

Ruth is now in her second year as Associate Vicar and has taken a number of initiatives this year that have led to increased activity at St. Mary's. I am very grateful in particular for her work with Café Church and the Young Adults Bible Study Group, for masterminding the Community Audit, for setting up the Green Group and organising 'The Big Lunch' and for her work in making connections with organisations in the parish, including the Earl's Court Festival; this year St. Mary's hosted a concert by Pete Downes and Martyn Barker during the festival. Further details of all these activities and events are given in Ruth's report.

As many of you already know, we are responsible for paying Ruth's stipend each year (in the region of £25,000 but set to increase in 2010) and I am extremely grateful to the donors who have made this possible by their generosity.

In late spring, St. Mary's held its Stewardship Campaign, an event that takes place every three years. I am very grateful to Kristin Ann Rutter, Tara Bromley, Adam Coulter and John McVeigh, the parish administrator, for all their hard work and enthusiasm in organising the campaign. In addition to letters being sent out requesting parishioners to support St. Mary's financially, three special events were held: a sponsored walk round the parish, a fun

afternoon for children and an evening with Evan Davis of the BBC. Sadly the sponsored walk, which took place on a beautiful afternoon, was poorly supported. However there was much better attendance for the children's fun afternoon and excellent support for the evening with Evan Davis. The combined events raised £3,305 for parish funds. There was no overall increase in the amount pledged on an annual basis.

In the current economic climate, it was perhaps not surprising that this latter amount did not increase. Unfortunately, as shown in the accounts, it has been an expensive year for the maintenance of the church and hall buildings, with the boilers and church lighting needing to be partially or completely replaced. There are two areas of our life at St. Mary's that I consider to be of utmost importance: our reaching out to those in need around us – both locally and further afield – and our continuing spiritual formation.

Reaching out takes two forms: financial (and I am grateful to the Charities Committee for their work in allocating funds) and 'in kind'. I am delighted that parishioners continue to support St. Matthias & St. Cuthbert Church of England Primary School in Earl's Court with helping the children with their reading, and that once again members of St. Mary's cooked a meal for those celebrating Christmas at the Earl's Court Community Project and in January, for the West London Churches Homeless Concern.

Another form of outreach is provided by the choir who sing at the mental health unit at the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital during the Christmas period. Following on from its success in 2009 the choir hopes to sing there again in early summer 2010.

It is not just adults who reach out; the Sunday School children continue to support Alex, a child in Uganda, through the organisation 'Compassion'. Their support is given both financially through a monthly donation and through the exchange of letters and photographs.

The charitable financial donations we make come from a variety of sources; special collections, money received from the Redcliffe Gardens Trust and from the Summer Fair. Many thanks to Fiona Brown and Joanna Hackett who organised the Fair this year, which took place on a day that threatened rain, but which did nothing to dampen the enjoyment and success of the day.

Our continuing spiritual formation takes place through sermons and more especially through our Bible Study groups, our Advent and Lent groups, and through confirmation classes. It was a pleasure to prepare three adults – Ann Mulcare, David Parsons and Gary Hickinbottom – and four young people – Imogen Dodd, Iona Blaleny, Alex Huyberechts and Tristan Kelly – for confirmation, which took place at St. Paul’s Cathedral on 7 November; the Bishop of Willesden officiated. The theme of the Lent course was ‘The Virtues’ and in Advent we looked at the theme of ‘Waiting’ through the New Testament stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, Simeon and Anna.

With Ruth in place as our Associate Vicar it was easier for me to take time for my own theological education and I was able to attend a day course at Sarum College on the environment, a week’s study at St. Deniols’ Library on the Old Testament, and a conference at Westcott House, Cambridge entitled ‘A Particular Place’, which focused on the importance of parish ministry. I both enjoyed and benefited from these events.

It has been a good number of years since St. Mary’s has had an ordinand – a member of the congregation training for ordination – so it was exciting news to hear that Jack Dunn had been accepted in the summer to train for the priesthood. Jack started his two year training in the autumn at Cuddesdon Theological College, which combines residential and non residential study.

Social events are always enjoyed at St. Mary’s and are well supported, and this is particularly true of the Sunday and Thursday lunches. This year we also had an outing to Winchester Cathedral and Mottisfont Abbey. After a guided tour of the Cathedral, we celebrated the Eucharist in the Lady Chapel, and after lunch were driven to the Abbey where we were able to enjoy the gardens on a lovely warm and sunny June day.

A number of concerts have been held in the church this year, including some informal recitals in the north transept following the Sunday service. These have been well support and much enjoyed.

Looking back, 2009 was an active year for the congregation and I am very grateful to everyone who contributed to all that we did. Particular thanks are due to the members of the PCC for their engagement at the meetings, including the ‘Away Day’, and their leadership, to the Wardens for their unfailing support and guidance, and to John McVeigh and David Ireton for all

their hard work and good humour in keeping the church not just a functioning place but a welcoming one too, always being prepared to go the extra mile when necessary.

Looking to the year ahead, I hope we will continue to strengthen and broaden our engagement with the people and needs of those around us, so that St. Mary's may increasingly become a place where God's love for the world is made visible and tangible through our worship and our lives.

Ginny Thomas

Worship and Occasional Offices

The Sunday service and Wednesday Eucharist pattern remained unchanged throughout the year.

Many people make the worship special and Ginny and Ruth would like to thank the following in particular:

The Servers Sylvia Gregory, Ula Al-Mochtar, Masara Al-Mochtar, Salam Al-Mochtar, Tristan Kelly, Olivia Loprimo, Miranda Loprimo, Celine Mitchell, Christian Mitchell, Isabella Reed, David Parsons, Camila Ruz

Chalice Assistants Phillip Bedford-Smith, Venice Cedras, Jack Dunn, Margarete Geier, Sheila Gibbs, Sylvia Gregory, Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Arthur Tait, Verena Tschudin, Anthony Williams

Readers and Sidespersons Robin Arbuthnot, John Barker, Hugh Beach, Philip Bedford-Smith, Elizabeth Davson, Michael Farr, Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Bill Gallagher, Anne Garten, Sheila Gibbs, Brian Hallock, Michele Iamoni, Elizabeth Lake, Joshua Lee, Elizabeth Lowry-Corry, Ann Mulcare, Mark and Susan Nichols, Emma Nichols, David and Fiona Parsons, Dorothy Patrick, Sheila Peers, Boo Simpson, Samantha Smith, Anne Swift, Ann and Arthur Tait, Patrick Thomas, Verena Tschudin, Anthony Williams

Intercessors Christopher Fowkes, Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Anne Garten, Joanna Hackett, Anthea Smith, Ann Tait, Iona Thomas, Verena Tschudin, Anthony Williams

Rotas Mary Meeson and Joanna Hackett.

Sunday Service Sheet Fabric group.

The Parochial Church Council

2009 proved an interesting and successful year for St Mary's PCC. The council met for its formal meetings five times during the course of the year and also many members got together for the annual Away Day, the Kensington Area Conference, and for our Supper Party.

Thanks to Ginny's excellent preparation and ability to banish trivia (a skill adopted from last year's Area Conference recommendations) the PCC meetings are always very worthwhile and achieve the majority of its aims. A wide variety of important issues were discussed during the course of the year, with special focus being on the 2009 Stewardship Campaign, our Community Audit, our Contribution to the Earl's Court Festival, and the continued success of our appointment of Ruth Lampard.

The PCC accounts continue to be in a healthy state under the guidance of Carolyn Stubbs and the 2008 accounts were successfully signed off by the PCC in March 2009.

The early autumn was a particularly busy time for the St Mary's PCC. Leo Fraser-Mackenzie and Helen Trafford thought the Area Conference on the subject of communication was excellent and well worth attending and have directed members to the accompanying website, www.getyourchurchnoticed.com. The Away Day resulted in the PCC's decision to focus on three particular areas during the coming year, namely to hold events at St Marys, to make more effort with our welcoming, and to encourage people to commit to groups.

In the spring, Margarete Geier kindly hosted a supper party for all PCC members to welcome new ones and thank retiring ones, and last but not least, the PCC was delighted to convey to Fiona Brown, a dedicated member of the Council, very best wishes for her wedding in October.

St Mary's PCC goes from strength to strength and continues to have the growth and fellowship of St Mary the Boltons at its centre. We are always pleased to hear from any church members, so if you have any comments, questions or suggestions for the PCC, please do get in contact.

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Children's Advocate

The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every year in September and revised when necessary and is displayed in several places around the Church and Hall and all groups using the premises are asked to comply with it. Changes were made 2009 in accordance with the diocesan guidelines.

This year, the changes in legislation concerning the Criminal Records Bureau changed, which meant that our records of who had what check done needed to be sorted out and updated. Ruth Lampard is 'in charge' of the Sunday School and the legislation concerning it for St Mary's. All regular Sunday School teachers have had CRB clearance now and the new system is in place. I went on a London Diocesan training session on the role of Children's Advocates and CRB. The Diocese had rather neglected this part of its responsibility for some time but now has new dedicated personnel for its work with children, and such training is more frequent and more interesting.

An important part of the responsibility of the parish is to ensure that all children on our premises are not only protected in law, but are not harmed in any way. Close liaison between Ruth and myself as a PCC appointee is essential in this matter.

Verena Tschudin

Meetings of the Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod held two meetings during 2009. The first was at Holy Trinity Sloane Square, on 5 February. The main item was a presentation by the Archdeacon of Middlesex, Ven Stephan Welch, about interregnums. The Synod was concerned about the length of interregnums and the harm that could arise in a parish pending a lengthy wait for the arrival of a new incumbent. The average length of interregnums in the Diocese was reported to be about nine months. The discussion at this meeting left many feeling concerned about the need for more active steps to be taken to avoid lengthy interregnums in the future.

Other items discussed and reported included the imminent arrival of the new Area Bishop of Kensington, Rev Canon Paul Williams, and a Report on the Common Fund.

The second meeting was held at St Mary the Boltons on 9 July, when the main item was a presentation by Andy Yarrow, the Principal of the Chelsea Academy. This was an enthusiastic account of his plans for this new school, the

first Church of England secondary school in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. A summary of the presentation was given subsequently in the Clarion.

The second main item was a follow up to the previous meeting's discussion about interregnums. The Deanery Synod supported a proposal that a motion should be put forward to the Diocesan Synod urging the senior Diocesan staff to find a more streamlined process for the selection and appointment of incumbents to eliminate or reduce the length of interregnums.

Both meetings covered the usual range of Reports from the General and Diocesan Synods, the London Diocesan Board for Schools, the Area Council, School Governorships, and other relevant appointments and elections.

Arthur Tait.

Reports

Associate Vicar

2009 was my first full year as Associate Vicar, and I would like to thank you for your warm welcome to the parish, and to the new role of Associate Vicar. This year has been foremost a matter of settling in and getting to know people, and getting to be known by people, and I have found it to be an enjoyable and interesting process (as ever, with much still to learn). During the course of the year I have been delighted with the way in which conversations have led to developments in the three areas of responsibility entrusted to me: Sunday School and Young People; the Environment and outreach to the community, and am very grateful to those who have responded with their contributions of energy, expertise and time to see projects such as Café Church, The Big Lunch and the Community Audit grow.

When I came to see Ginny and the Churchwardens about this post, I mentioned that I am prone to getting colds and flus, and when I do, I get them badly. This year has been a particularly bad year in this respect, and I am grateful for their understanding. The post is part-time (five days a week rather than six) and I was happy to share the load of my sick leave with the parish by not taking two weeks of accrued extra-time, and also by not taking my retreat this year. Needless to say, I am taking all the care I can to stay fit and well!

Ruth Lampard

Sunday School

Sunday School is for school children aged four to 11, some of whom are regular and others irregular attenders. Some 9-20 children attend each week during term time, but we never know who we will see. Visitors are more than welcome, though every child's parent has to complete a registration form before they can be left in our care.

The spring term was devoted to hearing a selection of the parables and considering their meanings. The summer term was based on prayer, illustrated by relevant bible stories with the children writing their own prayers at the end of term. The autumn term saw us using our new resource materials, which are aimed at children from 5-12, both churching and unchurching. They have proved very popular.

We start after checking the register, then pray the Lords Prayer, and have one or two physical games that link with what is to follow. Then there is a Bible quote, that is then retold in story form with further explanation. This is then followed by three or four verbal illustrations with physical props or role playing to re-enforce the message from different perspectives. We then finish with a story that ties the whole meaning or message together.

Although very few parents feel able to commit formally to helping in Sunday school, I would like to thank especially the following: Claire for trying to organise a rota each term; Samantha Smith who has regularly come in to take singing sessions; Katie Fowkes took a very successful session as a leader and has also been a leader support; Susie Stamford also came back and took a few sessions; Deborah Challinor helped with the nativity-rehearsal tea; Jane Bonsor has been a stalwart leader support and is a great help. Thank you to all the parents who have helped; parental support makes a huge difference, especially as we are parent volunteers ourselves. Both Ginny and Ruth have taken sessions this year.

The children continue to sponsor Alex, a boy in Uganda, who is now 11 years old. They love receiving his letters and drawings and we have printed some of these in 'The Clarionette'. The sponsorship gave the children a real goal for the Summer Fair where we set ourselves the aim of raising a whole year's sponsorship money. A huge amount of effort was undertaken by children and mothers alike to prepare and run the stall. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Christmas time always sees a steady attendance. This year we were very lucky that Samantha Smith agreed to direct the Nativity play. A big thank you to Edwin Thomas for writing a clever script and to all the parents who helped, especially Brian and Hebba Reid for the help with the costumes and props.

We are very lucky with our Sunday school; they are great friends with each other and it is a pleasure to teach them.

Jane Dass

Servers

The servers play a quiet, but important part in our Sunday morning worship, and their practical support to the clergy makes a real difference to the dignity and smooth running of our worship. This year the team has been joined by a number of youngsters and adults, swelling the number of servers to 11, which permits us to have three teams, who (broadly) take it in turns to serve. The new servers have settled in very well, and their punctuality and commitment is much appreciated. Many thanks to all of them, especially to Sylvia Gregory. The recruitment of new servers led to the need for new robes, and we are very grateful to Jane Dass who helped to plan a series of robes to cater for our youngsters as they grow, and to Boo Simpson and the Flower Guild whose kind donation purchased these robes.

Ruth Lampard

Music

Music has continued to play a significant role in worship at St Mary's during 2009. The regular contribution from the Parish Choir has been sustained; the choir singing on twenty occasions in all. We have welcomed a number of new singers into the choir.

The schedule of rehearsals and services for the whole year was published well in advance. A reasonably wide variety of music has been performed; the new set of anthem books purchased last year providing some interesting items for services. This year, at the suggestion of several members of the choir, we followed a different pattern of rehearsing, discontinuing the once a-month Friday evening choir practice and, instead, rehearsing twice a month from 09.30am on a Sunday. This seems generally to be working well. Choir members have continued to work hard and some very pleasing performances have been given. The feedback from the congregation is generally positive, and the choir *esprit de corps* is strong. Ginny & Patrick again generously hosted a most enjoyable choir party at the Vicarage, this year in July.

As always, I am grateful to a number of individuals for their assistance: to Ginny and Ruth for the care and interest they show in the use of music within the liturgy; to the Cantors in the psalms; to John McVeigh for all his help in a wide range of matters, including arranging organ and piano tuning, producing service sheets and liaison over special services; to Dave Ireton for his support and assistance, particularly with welcoming visiting musicians and help over duplicating music; to the Sunday School for their contribution to All-Age Worship, and to the members of the Parish Choir, not only for their performances but also for their encouragement and interest in music generally at the church.

This year has seen some significant changes in the cantoring team. Samantha Smith, Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Pauline Stephens and Patrick Thomas have continued to sing the psalms week by week very successfully, and we now have two excellent new cantors, Micki Rogers and Keshara Hallock.

A number of less familiar hymns have been introduced during the year and the repertoire of hymns remains wide, with the choir helping to support the learning of less familiar hymns by the congregation. A number of the congregation have expressed their appreciation of both aspects.

The Sunday School has several times included music in its presentations, which is encouraging, and we look forward to the children's continuing contribution to our worship in the future.

The church has continued to invite professional singers and instrumentalists to perform for major Festivals, Holy Week, special services, as well as for weddings, funerals and memorial services. This is an important side of the musical activity of the church, although perhaps one that is less well known to many members of the congregation. Such services bring many people into the church, some of whom subsequently retain an association here. During 2009 professional musicians from outside the church have contributed to eight services, beyond those professional choirs arranged to perform at weddings, funerals and memorial services. An eclectic range of music has been performed by a number of highly gifted performers and it is perhaps of interest to provide some detail.

Music again featured strongly during Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, Ann De Renais (soprano) sang *Ich will dir mein Herze schenken* from Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* and *Zerfließe, mein Herze* from the *St. John Passion*. On Maundy

Thursday, Richard Fallas (bass) sang Bach's *Gladly would I take upon me* from *St. Matthew Passion* and Vaughan Williams' setting of George Herbert's poem, *Love bade me welcome* from his *Five Mystical Songs*. On Good Friday, a complete performance of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* was given by Ann de Renais (soprano) and Andrew Radley (countertenor); the movements strikingly threaded in between prayers and readings. On Easter Saturday the demanding *Exultet* was sung by Ruth – a real achievement!

In our Easter Day celebrations, Helen Semple (soprano) sang Mozart's *Exsultate, jubilate* K165 and *I know that my redeemer liveth* from Handel's *Messiah*. Helen held a Choral Award at Cambridge University before going on to postgraduate performance studies at Trinity College of Music. She is increasingly in demand for concerts and operatic productions throughout the UK and recently was the soloist with the Cheltenham Bach Choir in their performance of *'Til Earthly Passions Turn* by Carl Rütli. She performs regularly with the BBC Singers.

On Remembrance Sunday, the highly gifted RCM-trained guitarist, Amanda Cook, performed *The Curlew* by William Lovelady for the meditation; *Torija* and *Alba de Tormes* by Torroba during Communion, and *Arriba los Panuelos*, a lively Peruvian traditional piece, at the end of the service. Amanda is one of the leading guitarists of her generation and has appeared in the USA, South America and throughout Europe. In the UK she has performed at the South Bank, Wigmore Hall, The Sage Gateshead and King's Place. She has broadcast on radio, having performed live, and has been interviewed on BBC R3 and *Woman's Hour*. Her contribution continued the interesting series of solo instrumentalists featured in recent years within this special service – violin (2004), cello (2005), oboe (2006), flute (2007) and violin (2008).

At the Carol Service on 13 December, as well as many popular 'congregational carols, the wide choice of music embraced two Advent works looking towards Christmas: Palestrina's *Matin Responsory* and Richard Rodney Bennett's *Out of your sleep*, a 15th-century Spanish carol, *Verbum caro factum est: Y la Virgen le dezia*, original carols by Ord, Poston, Britten, John Joubert, Carl Rütli and Bob Chilcott, and carol arrangements by Simon Preston, Philip Ledger and John Rutter. We were very fortunate indeed to have Richard Pearce playing for the service again. Richard began his musical training as a chorister at Westminster Abbey, and during his student time at Cambridge, was Organ Scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge. He appears regularly with the Royal Choral Society and the BBC Singers, is conductor of the Waverley Singers in Farnham, and is a professor at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. Before the service,

Richard developed a French theme with Messiaen's *Desseins Éternels* and *Les Bergers* and some Baroque Noël settings by Balbastre. Richard's outstanding performance of *Fête by Langlais* brought the service to a resounding conclusion.

On Christmas Eve, the professional choir presented an exuberant arrangement of *Ding! Dong! Merrily on high* by the American contemporary composer of Christmas music, Mack Wilberg, Darke's *In the bleak midwinter* and Stainer's arrangement of *In dulci jubilo*. On Christmas Day, Ann De Renais sang several movements from Alessandro Scarlatti's delightful Christmas cantata, *Cantata pastorale per la nascita di Nostro Signore*, which was greatly enjoyed by all present.

Members of the congregation take a keen interest in and are very supportive of the music at St Mary's. I am very grateful to the three talented organists who have deputised for me when I have been away at various times during the year: David Patrick and Richard Shepperson, and my predecessor as Director of music, Simon Gibson.

During the year, members of the congregation came to hear Nonsuch Singers, the London chamber choir that I conduct, in concerts at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, St. Giles Cripplegate and St. James's, Piccadilly. I am grateful to Ginny for allowing me to hold auditions in church from time to time, as well the occasional rehearsal. A number of singers and instrumentalists who work with me in outside concerts have also now performed in the church and this interconnection is a useful one. For example, Jacques Imbrailo, this year's *Billy Budd* in Britten's opera at Glyndebourne, sang at St Mary's in 2004 and Sophie Bevan, who sang here in 2005, was the soprano soloist in the recent ENO production of Handel's *Messiah*.

2009 was another busy year for music at the church, and an encouraging continuation of the church's excellent musical tradition.

Graham Caldbeck

The Flower Guild

In 2009 we had eleven weddings, nearly double that of last year. Also members of the flower guild have quite a lot of work with the funerals and Sunday arrangements. We are lucky that people appreciate the flowers so much.

I would first of all like to thank Anita Dowbiggin, who does all the telephoning to organise people for the big occasions and who also does a lot of the flower

arranging herself and gives assistance to those who are not so experienced. My thanks go also to Mandy Dearan, Doreen Santana and Venice Cedras, Josephine Crickmay and Pauline Stephens whose help is invaluable. David Ireton is also of great assistance in putting out all the buckets for the flowers when I bring them in from the market. He is also extremely good at clearing up.

Boo Simpson

Café Church

Café Church met for the first time on 1 March 2009: a group of 10 youngsters (aged 14+) and two adults left Church for Carluccio's for a conversation about what we might do. Out of that conversation Café Church grew into being. We agreed to meet twice a term on a Sunday morning, and to have an evolving programme that would be time to get to know one another and time to explore faith together. As an example, we had great fun digging around into images and metaphors used to talk of God in the bible and in hymns and talked about whether we found them helpful or unhelpful. In November we explored issues around Remembrance, leading to a Question and Answer sermon slot with Ginny.

We have had members of our group move away during the course of the year, but also new people join; in total there are about 12 youngsters who regularly come, and we are always delighted to welcome people who come to join us. The life of the group has been made possible by the support of Jack Dunn, Camila Ruz and Joshua Lee – to whom many thanks.

Ruth Lampard

The Prayer Network

The Prayer Network is an important part of our corporate life. Twenty-two present and former parishioners constitute the Network. About 70 people are prayed for by the Prayer Network people, in Church at Morning and Evening Prayers, and at the Sunday 10.30 Eucharist.

The distribution of updates, new requests and deletions is done by e-mail to those with that facility, and by letter, usually handed out on Sundays, to all the others. A monthly Bulletin, with all the updates incorporated, is distributed to everyone.

Most requests and updates come from the people of the Network itself, but by no means exclusively. Anyone with a concern can let Ginny, John McVeigh, or me know and requests are dealt with as quickly as possible, usually within

hours. 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 suits them, not according to any particular instruction or pattern.

Verena Tschudin

Groups

Mother and Toddlers Group on Monday Mornings in Term Time

The Mother and Toddlers Group, which has been taking place at St Mary's for nearly a decade, has gone from strength to strength every year. The number of mums seeking a friendly and safe local environment for their toddlers to play in has increased sharply in the last two years. The group hosts on average 25 mums and 30 children every Monday morning from 09.30am to 11.00. Peggy Newton, who originally co-ordinated the group, left in 2009, and the group now has several co-leaders.

Monday Bible Study Group

The Bible Study Group has been meeting fortnightly throughout the year during term time and we have a regular number of eight, and maximum of ten people. We studied St. Mark's Gospel and the Book of Jonah.

Pat Schleger

Wednesday Bible Study Group

During the year we have meet to discuss St. Mark's Gospel and the Book of Jonah. Our meetings were led by Sheila Peers, Ginny and Ruth; the attendance varied between eight and twelve. The group joined the Lent and Advent groups for those periods of study.

Margarete Geier

Young Adults Bible Study

Roughly once a month young adults (in their 20s and 30s) meet to explore the Bible. We used to meet on a weekday evening at Jack Dunn's home, but now that Jack is in training for ministry, have found that meeting after Church on a Sunday works well. So far, most of the sessions have been on the Old Testament: the books of Jonah, Ruth and Job have come in for scrutiny, as has the story of Noah. I think it's fair to say that childhood stories, and assumptions about those books were well and truly challenged!

The group is a source of support as well as study, and made a big contribution to the Church at Christmas (alongside others) by putting nearly 1,500 cards with details of our Christmas services into local letterboxes. Many thanks to Jack for the initiative in setting up the group, and for all the ways in which members of the group contribute to our common life.

Ruth Lampard

Monthly Thursday Lunches

The popularity of these lunches was well maintained during the year, with attendance usually in excess of 30. Participants find that they provide pleasant spiritual, social and informative occasions, and their enjoyment is enhanced by the contributions of the interesting speakers who kindly come to 'sing for their supper'.

The menu typically comprises soup, bread, cheese and pâté, fruit, and coffee. People with a wide range of ages and interests attend, some of whom have difficulty in attending church on Sundays. For them in particular, the decision by Ginny and Ruth to provide a Eucharist service at 11.45 before the 12.30 lunch, is an added benefit.

Those who wish to do so contribute to the cost of the lunches, typically £3.50. This income broadly covers the cost of the food, and sometimes provides a small surplus, thus providing an extra source of funds for the church.

We are very grateful indeed to the speakers for their 20-30 minute talks, with their splendid topics and entertaining presentations. Many thanks, too, to all those who help with the preparations and clearing up for the lunches, including the irrepressible David Ireton, who still possesses a unique understanding of the all-powerful dish washing machine!

June Brudenell, Ann and Arthur Tait.

Charities Committee

The Charities Committee continued to work on the framework for charitable giving established in 2008, soliciting nominations for donations from members of the parish and from these and other appeals received in the parish office, making recommendations to the PCC for giving away the ground rent received for 11 Redcliffe Gardens. The 2009 donations recommended were £1,000 each

to World's End Under Fives, and Chelsea Estates Youth, and £500 for the Earl's Court Community Trust and £500 towards the costs of arranging a parish event, which will be part of the Earl's Court Community Festival in 2010. £2000 was given by the Trust to the PCC in support of the expense of maintaining the church and hall. This allowed the PCC to give from its general funds £1,000 each to the Human Rights Award of the International Centre for Nursing Ethics at University of Surrey, and the Gogos Support Group, a group of UK grandmothers working to support grandmothers (Gogos) in South Africa to deal with the difficult social and financial issues of bringing up children (some HIV positive) whose parents have died from illnesses associated with HIV/AIDS.

In 2009, reports were received from the charities supported from the previous year's donations, reports were written in The Clarion, and visits to St Mary's from representatives of the charities were made. The challenge for the Committee in 2010 will be to encourage more of this and especially to continue to make personal visits to the local charities supported.

There are several sources of money that make up the funds available for charitable giving at St Mary's and efforts continue to ensure that they are not treated separately but are pooled and given away at appropriate intervals to the beneficiaries during the year in the agreed proportions. To help embed this approach, all the charities that will benefit from this pool of funds in 2010, were approved by the PCC in January.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Reading at St Cuthbert's and St Matthias School

We have a group of 11 volunteers who help with reading at St Cuthbert's and St Matthias School, Earl's Court. It is a Church of England primary school and the children we help are aged five to 11.

We hope our visits to the school will not only help the children with their vocabulary and comprehension but also give them a life-long love of reading.

A new headteacher, Mr. Stephen Boatright, was appointed just over a year ago and we appreciate his support and encouragement. The school governors are also very supportive.

Volunteers go in once or twice a week at a time convenient for them and also for the school. We spend a short time listening to the children reading on an

individual basis. We then discuss the book with the child and try to explain any words they may not have understood. Many of the children come from homes where English is not the home language.

We find our time at the school rewarding and enjoyable.

Sheila Gibbs

Green Group

This was set up following the January PCC meeting and the aim of this group is to measure and shrink our carbon footprint and to help us to engage with environmental matters on a spiritual as well as a practical level.

We welcomed David Shreeve, the Archbishops' Advisor on Environmental Issues, to preach on 1 February and as a result of that, Hugh Beach and Robin Arbuthnot, joined by Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, took up the challenge of hosting *The Boltons Big Lunch* on 19 July. We grew about a third of the salad for the meal and hosted lunch for 110 people in Church. Many thanks to all who worked so hard and contributed to the success of *The Boltons Big Lunch*. The planning group also participated in the national launch of the event and their photograph appears in the Church of England's Seven Year Plan on Climate and the Environment.

The Church gas and electricity meters are now read on a monthly basis and Kevin Loprimo helped us to work out our energy consumption for 2008. As a result of work on our bills and meters we were able to determine that a pending gas bill for £10,000 and £3,500 already paid on that account were in fact double charges for the same meter. The Church was therefore able to challenge the pending litigation and obtain a refund. The energy use of Church buildings is complex, and there are still some issues to be resolved, but the Green Group has made and will continue to make a difference. The challenge to care for the environment by cutting our energy consumption remains, and the Diocese of London is giving a lead in this area, and we look to their advice for the best way forward.

Ruth Lampard

Traidcraft

We continue to support Traidcraft and our church is now serving only fairly-traded tea and coffee.

Communications

The Clarion, our web site and the Sunday service sheet continue to provide information. Many thanks to the fabric group who turn up faithfully each week to fold and stuff!

The Clarion

The Clarion is available in Church usually on the last Sunday before the next month; we have a double issue for July/August and for 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. It also contains all the official details from the parish register, readings at services, notices of planned events, the names of people whose Year's Mind occurs during the month, and the Parish Directory.

John McVeigh, the Parish Administrator, coordinates the collection of material for the monthly issue, and sees to the pagination, depending on how much material is available. A hard copy is sent to some 20 people in the UK and abroad, and emails are sent to about 600 addresses with web links to the Clarion once a new issue is available. One such reader commented recently 'the parish mag arrives regularly. It's an excellent read and is on the sharp edge of theology'. It is encouraging to get such feedback; it is imperative to keep such a reputation alive.

The Clarion is the parish 'voice' *par excellence*, and to make as many people's voices heard as possible, everyone is encouraged to send in material, of whatever kind, but ideally by e-mail, either to the Parish Office, or to my e-mail address.

Verena Tschudin

Social Events

Parish Lunch

During the year we have had eight Parish Lunches with a regular attendance of between twenty and twenty eight people. At the Big Lunch we catered for over a hundred.

Many thanks go to all who stalwartly helped to prepare and assist in the preparation for all our meals.

Margarete Geier

Community

The parish of St Mary with St Peter and St Jude stretches from the Fulham Road in the South to the Cromwell Road in the North, from Earl's Court Road in the West to Ashburn Place and Onslow Gardens in the East. Service to the local community is an intrinsic part of Church life and the PCC is keen to learn more about the parish – our residents, communities and needs (especially the former St Jude's part of the parish) – in order to discern what part we might play in the wider parish community.

A Community Audit is now underway; the first part of the audit took place in Church on Sunday 14 June with a conversation in the sermon slot that led to the completion of a questionnaire at the end of the service. The results were then analysed by a small group and fed into the PCC Away Day. The next stage is a questionnaire in the Community, followed by longer conversations with local voluntary and other agencies, which will take place in 2010.

This year we took the step of participating in the Earl's Court Festival as a Church for the first time: the Summer Fair was included in the publicity material as a pre-festival event; and The Boltons Big Lunch and a concert by Pete Downes and Martyn Barker were part of the event proper. We were delighted to have Malcolm Connell from the Festival to speak at our September Thursday lunch.

Many thanks to all who took part in the Audit and supported the Festival Events.

Ruth Lampard

Summer Fair

The 2009 Summer Fair raised money for the Al Ahli Anglican Hospital, Gaza and The Earl's Court Community Project (ECCP), two of the charities St Mary's pledged to support during the year.

The fair was once again well supported by both visitors and those volunteering their time and energies. The book stall seemed even bigger than usual and the bric-à-brac, plants and cake stalls were very well stocked, as was the raffle. This year the Silent Auction included lots as diverse as a day's sailing on the Solent, and a course of maths tutorials, and a car wash by Ruth Lampard! All lots were bought, raising over £1000 on this stall alone.

We were once again joined by the Fire Brigade, a huge hit as usual, and this

year also by two Community Support Officers who, located opposite the cake stall(!), received lots of visitors wanting to learn about crime prevention and even volunteering to have their finger prints taken!

Visitors were well fed with the BBQ doing brisk business, along with the Pimms tent and tea stall. Trent, the church cleaner, brought along his bicycle and became an ice cream vendor for the day.

As in previous years, the Sunday School had a stall raising money for their adopted child, Alex, in Uganda.

Despite the financial crisis in 2009, the fair still managed to raise the fantastic sum of £5000. Very many thanks to everyone who helped and supported the 2009 fair.

Fiona Parsons

Church Garden

A small but committed group of parishioners gather most Saturday mornings between 09.30 and 12.30 to carry out regular maintenance of the church gardens, such as weeding, mowing, pruning throughout the spring and summer, as well as the mammoth task of leaf sweeping through the autumn and into winter.

Thanks go to the small group of people who turned out to assist the regulars on the big leaf clear. The gardens are well used by the local community and receive many favourable comments from visitors from further afield. Thanks to the Flower Guild fund, annual bedding plants are put in twice a year, and we now have a new Acer and several Hebe in the memorial garden.

The Garden Group

Verger's Report

If asked how to describe the last year quickly, the phrase 'busy but enjoyable' would be the one I would choose. It continues to be a pleasure to be part of the team at St Mary The Boltons. We have welcomed an amazingly diverse range of people through our doors over the last year, from the local community and beyond. Some have come to sit and pray during the week, finding a quiet space in a very busy part of London. Others come as members of St Mary's congregation and the wider community to visit services and events. During the last year we have hosted among other things, a concert for Swiss hang drum and acoustic guitar (as part of the Earl's Court festival) as well taking

part in The Big Lunch, all of which make my job varied and never boring. We continue to hire out the hall complex during weekdays to a Montessorri creative class (Paintpots) as well as providing a venue for local community groups, while at weekends the hall is often hired out for children's birthday parties.

On a more practical note, breakdowns have necessitated the replacement of both hall radiators and the hall kitchen boiler.

Dave Ireton

The Sacristy

Elizabeth Graham looked after other sacristan duties, such as the preparations for setting up the altar for services, as well as looking after the clergy vestments and supplies for communion. In addition, Sylvia Gregory helped with sacristy duties on Sundays. Margarete washed church linens and Anne Garten ironed them. A very big thank you to all.

Dave Ireton

Trusts

'Look not mournfully into the past' wrote the American poet Henry Longfellow, 'it will not come again'. Yet in 2010, the year which marks the centenary of the *Redcliffe Gardens Trust*, it is appropriate to recall its origins and to celebrate the great benefit it has brought to the Parish over the last 100 years. Some people think that the property was left to the Parish as a legacy, but examination of the archives has revealed that 11 Redcliffe Gardens was purchased for the sum of two thousand pounds during the tenure of Rev Dr William Rosedale, who was responsible for a revival in St Mary's fortunes at this time. Two hundred pounds more were spent on alterations and fees, so this was a substantial undertaking. Just taking into account general inflation over the past 100 years £2000 would today be about £1.8 million, but the value of such an empty freehold property on Redcliffe Gardens today would probably be considerably more. The achievement of Rev Rosedale and his new church council is thus greatly to be admired. £950 of the purchase price came from a loan and balance was raised through the generosity of some 40 individuals. The list of supporters is set out in the records and serves to demonstrate that all big projects need many small donations just as much as a few very generous ones. £800 came from just two donations, one of £500 and one of £300, but the records also show that 'two pounds fifteen shillings and nine pence came from the Lent Savings of Mrs Bolton' and nearly two hundred pounds from sales of work and church collections.

For nearly 50 years 11 Redcliffe Gardens served the parish well: housing curates and vergers and providing space for many social activities, as well as providing an income from space let out to other organisations, such as The London Diocese Church Lads Brigade. A Church House Committee was in existence for the first ten years and then management was taken over by the St Mary the Bolton's Women's League. The current church hall attached to the church was built in the mid 1960s, and from living memories we know that in the 1950s and 1960s refreshments after the Sunday morning service at church were served in Redcliffe Gardens. The whole congregation would migrate after the service! For the last 50 years, since the mid 1960s, No 11 has been completely let out, initially to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (including a residential let on the top floor) and then the Chemical Dependency Centre, thereby providing an income to support the church, and most significantly in 1999, the sale of a long lease funded a major restoration of the church, hence it is in the condition we enjoy today.

Since a scheme amending the original trust was authorised by the Charity Commission in 1930, the freehold of the property has been held for legal purposes by the London Diocesan Fund as custodian trustee, and the Parochial Church Council is the managing trustee both for the property and the financial assets in the trust. An amount equivalent to the ground rent (£5,000) is given away each year as part of the PCC's programme for charitable giving. The ground rent for 2009, though invoiced, has not yet been paid. Following a decision to switch some funds out of cash in 2009, a portion of the Trust's assets is now invested in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund managed by CCLA. The market value of these investments at the end of 2009 was £49,556 (cost £44,000). This fund has a forecast dividend yield for 2010 of 4.5%. The remaining funds, some £167,000 are invested in Central Board of Finance of the Church of England Deposit Fund, also managed by CCLA. The total value of the assets in the fund, including the recently re-valued interest in the long lease, was just over £335,000.

St Peter's Trust Fund is not quite as old. It was created in 1926 so this year marks its 84th anniversary. It was set up as a growth fund initially, with income to be reinvested to increase the permanent endowment for 10 years. Thereafter the income from the endowment was to be available for paying the clergy, or maintaining the building, ornaments or paying for the choir. This it has continued to do, and following a switch of investments in 2009 from being largely invested in bank deposits, the endowment capital is now two thirds invested in the CBF Investment Fund and one third in cash, also in the CBF

Deposit Fund. At the end of December 2009, the combined market value of these investments was some £23,000.

Louisa Wilson Bequest. This trust is the legacy of Miss Wilson who died in 1949. The purpose of the trust is restricted to either purchasing a house that is suitable for use as a vicarage, or the funds are to remain invested and the income applied as an augmentation to income of the living at the church of St Mary the Boltons. For some years the income has been paid directly by the custodian to Diocesan Stipends Fund as 'reimbursement for part of the stipend of the clergy in the parish'. Looking at the past of this trust provides a salutary reminder of the importance of regular and attentive stewardship. The house was sold in 1947 and the £2,406 proceeds invested in War Loan stock. By the time the performance was reviewed in 1958 the stock was worth only £1,655. The funds are currently invested in shares of the CBF Investment Fund and the market value at the end of 2009 of the 3302 shares held in the trust was £33,758 (2008, £30,645). The income paid to the stipends fund in 2009 was just over £1500.

'Wisely improve the present, it is thine own' is how Longfellow continued, and if the purpose of this report is to enable readers to judge if the current trustees of these assets are being wise in their stewardship of them, the switch of the financial assets from cash into an investment fund should not be judged on the modest increase in the valuation of the CBF Investment Fund in 2009 alone (and the substantially better dividend yield of 4.5%), as the switch was made with a view to preserving the endowment against inflation and achieving a better balance of capital growth and income over the long term. The first valuation for 10 years of the 11 Redcliffe Gardens lease shows a worthwhile improvement in value, but the situation of the underleases is of concern, as re-development of the middle two floors of the property into residential units appears to have been undertaken without permission, possibly causing them to be subject to leasehold enfranchisement. Professional advice is being sought.

'Go forth to meet the shadowy future without fear and with a manly heart' is the end to this quotation. Perhaps it should cause us to ask what next with these trusts. Do we just wait and see or can we be as visionary as Rev William Rosedale and his new church council was 100 years ago? Is it hopeless to ask if there really is a need for three separate trusts with broadly overlapping purposes, in view of the report in 2008 by the London Diocesan Fund that it was reviewing all its custodian trust holdings and phasing out smaller trusts? Might we legitimately ask how the income of the Louisa Wilson Bequest is

being applied while the living is served by a non stipendiary priest? If the income must always go to the stipends fund, why is the PCC responsible for the management of the investments? What of the powers of accumulation in the trusts? The £200 permitted in the 1910 Redcliffe Gardens Deed would be the equivalent of £18,000 today. £200 goes nowhere in the twenty first century, yet an amended Deed with a clear power to accumulate its inflated equivalent could be a powerful instrument to encourage saving towards the capital costs of maintaining St Mary's church and giving the church its next major overhaul, in say 50 years, ready for its two hundredth anniversary?

Report on the Fabric of the Building and Ornaments

In the tenth year since the major refurbishment was completed, it is not surprising to have to report on two issues that arose in 2009. These did not affect the structure of the building, but affected the internal plant and fittings. In October the lights went out and the entire control system had to be replaced. Re-lamping was undertaken at the same time and the total cost was about £10,000. The work was done by Major Electrical Ltd from Morden, who originally installed the system. The sound system continues to fail from time to time and two quotations have been obtained for replacement, one from the firm who originally installed it and one from another firm. The expected cost for a full replacement could be as much as £17,000, so a further review is being undertaken to see if it might be possible simply to replace parts of the system. It is recognised though that there are then issues of the compatibility of the different parts and it may yet be a better use of funds to replace the entire system.

The Church Hall is let out to a variety of users, principally Paint Pots Nursery School during the day and AA/NA in the evenings, but one-off lets for other events further boosts the income received from the hall. It is essential therefore that it is maintained in good order. During 2009 when there was a serious problem with the radiators, they were replaced at a cost of just under £3,000.

The ornaments and church plate remain in good condition. The plate and some other items of historical interest that are not in regular use continue to be on display in the Treasury. This plate is maintained twice a year by the Verger and the Thursday 'Fabric group'. While there are lists and photographs of the church plate and other ornaments, these still very much reflect what belonged to St Mary's and what was brought over from St Jude's, and even St Peter's as

much of the latter was kept in the bank until the Treasury was created. In the coming year my aim is to rationalise and consolidate these into a single inventory and at the same time to ensure that all the most recent St Jude's registers and records are located and archived as required at the London Metropolitan Archives.

A 'quinquennial' – the 5-yearly survey of the church by suitably qualified architect or surveyor as required under the *Inspection of Churches Measure 1955*, is scheduled for 2010. The inspection will be carried out by our Inspecting Architect, Michael Staff of Nye Saunders John Deal Practice, Godalming. The inspection is scheduled to start in March.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

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