

**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

2010

(1 January - 31 December)



Prepared for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on Sunday 10 April 2011
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

Vicar

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, Mr Antony Bryceson, Mr Christopher Fowkes, Mr Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Miss Margarete Geier (Deanery Synod Representative), Miss Joanna Hackett (PCC Secretary), Mr Brian Hallock, Revd Ruth Lampard, Mrs Mary Lewis, Mr Kevin Loprimo; Mr Mark Nichols, Kristin-Anne Rutter, Miss Camila Ruz, Mrs Pauline Stephens, Arthur Tait (Deanery Synod Representative), Trust, 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, 212 Lambeth Road, London SE1 7JY

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

Mr John Graham,
Apis Consulting, 51 Sunningfields Road, Hendon, London, NW4 4RA

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 &
CMS Cameron McKenna LLP, Mitre House, 160 Aldersgate Street,
London, EC1A 4DD

Payroll Facilities

RST Tenon, 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					
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Communions					
Easter	116	160	143	152	134
Christmas Midnight	98	116	102	98	94
Christmas Morning	108	91	108	125	113
Sunday average	76	98	88	90	83
Average Sunday morning attendance, including children	100	131	130	128	116
Occasional Offices					
Baptisms	38	38	49	34	41
Confirmations	1	7	2	3	7
Weddings	8	11	6	11	15
Blessing of Marriage after a Civil Ceremony	2	0	4	2	1
Funerals in Church	7	8	7	8	8
Memorial Services	2	0	1	4	0

Report by the Vicar on the Progress of the Parish and the Work of the Parochial Church Council and its Committees

At an 'Away Day' in 2005 the then current members of the PCC singled out five values which were important in our daily life at St Mary's, underlying all that we do. Those values of 'welcoming', 'empowering',

‘respecting’, ‘reaching out’ and ‘exploring’ continue to underlie and motivate our common life as the past year (2010) has shown. These values help us to flourish as a worshipping community, to be open to change and growth, and to play our part in the wider community.

The year started on a sad note with the unexpected death of Elizabeth Graham. Elizabeth had joined St Mary’s after the merger with St Jude’s parish in 2005 and as someone described her, ‘she quietly got on with serving the parish in the background’, helping especially in the vestry preparing for the weekly services. We continue to miss her and I am grateful to those who took over her duties, especially Margarete Geier and our verger David Ireton.

Situated where we are near a number of hotels on the Cromwell Road area, we often have visitors worshipping with us on a Sunday morning. Many remark on the warm welcome they receive at St Mary’s and I am grateful to all who are responsible for this, especially the weekly sidespeople and those who welcome the visitors, and people new to St Mary’s, at coffee after the main Sunday service.

It is always a pleasure when members of the congregation come forward to suggest and then implement new activities or events. This past year Chris and Katie Fowkes volunteered to set up and run ‘Little Lambs’ a group which meets during the service on the second Sunday of the month for song, simple Bible stories, prayers and creative activities for those too young to attend Sunday school. This group has gone from strength to strength and it is hoped will take place twice a month in 2011. Another initiative was the Art Show which Lorraine Baxter and Ann Mulcare organised to coincide with the Summer Fair. Like the Fair, the show attracted members of the public who do not normally come to St Mary’s and also made the church itself, and not just the gardens, part of the Fair.

We also reached out to the community in other ways: The Great Garden Adventure which Ruth Lampard, our Associate Vicar organised with great success in Bramham Gardens; members of St Mary’s continued to help children with reading at St Cuthbert and St Matthias

School in Warwick Road; a small choir sang Christmas songs and carols at the mental health unit at the Chelsea & Westminster hospital, and a Boxing Day lunch was once more provided for the guests of the Earl's Court Community Project. Last but not least our church garden provides a quiet refuge for many in good weather and I'm grateful to those who have been responsible for looking after the garden this year.

The Community Audit, initiated by Ruth last year (2009) continued to gather momentum during the year and will feature in our planning and activities in 2011.

It was primarily the Lent and Advent courses which gave members of the congregation the opportunity to explore and deepen their faith. In Lent three groups met to discuss Paula Gooder's book 'A Way Through the Wilderness' and in Advent two groups met to discuss 'The Advent of Peace' by Mary Grey. Professor Grey also came to preach prior to the beginning of Advent. Other guest preachers during the year included the Revd Professor Ian James, the environmental adviser to the Diocese of Oxford; the Revd Maria Schleger; Katie Seal, a Christian Aid volunteer, the Revd Marsha Fowler, professor of ethics, spirituality and faith integration at Pacific University, Southern California; the Revd Ian Tattum, priest-in-charge at St Barnabas, Southfields; the Revd Joy Boyle, honorary curate at St Barnabas, Southfields, and Jack Dunn our ordinand at St Mary's. The Revd Dr John Hughes, chaplain of Jesus College, Cambridge led our Holy Week and Easter services preaching on 'The Heart of Christ: The Heart of our Faith'.

Worship will always remain at the heart of our common life and I would like to thank Graham Caldbeck, our Director of Music, for his support and continued work with the choir. During the past year there has been much memorable music which has greatly enhanced our worship. Many thanks too to all who contributed to our weekly worship. There is much more preparation for the services than seems apparent and without the readers, intercessors, chalice bearers, servers, sides people, those who arrange the flowers and those who serve coffee after the service and those who help in the vestry polishing and ironing and setting up, the services would not be able to take place as they do.

Two people who play an important role in the daily running of St Mary's are David Ireton, the Verger, and John McVeigh the Parish Administrator. Their loyalty and dedication to St Mary's is greatly appreciated and add considerably to the smooth daily running of the church.

I am very grateful to the Bishop of Kensington and the Wardens for granting me a sabbatical which I took in July, August and September. I spent five weeks at the Jesuit Centre, St Beuno's, in north Wales taking part in the Ignatian spiritual exercises and prior to that spent a short time in Bingen, Germany exploring the life and work of Hildegard of Bingen. There was also time for a holiday and the sabbatical ended with a pilgrimage walk of 220 kilometres to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, along the *camino* which Patrick and I did together. I am very grateful to Ruth for being in charge in my three month absence and for all the extra work that she did so well. Having Ruth as Associate Vicar has also enabled us to undertake more activities, as this annual report illustrates, and I am very grateful for the fresh ideas and enthusiasm she brings to our life at St Mary's.

The highlight of the year for me, and I hope St Mary's, was the service for my institution and induction as Vicar of St Mary's in October. It was a wonderful occasion and I'm delighted that St Mary's once more has a vicar, rather than a priest-in-charge.

There are a number of exciting initiatives to look forward to in 2011. We are hoping to have a memorial window to the late Craigie Aitchison installed in the nave; with the Community Audit completed we hope to have a programme of reaching to older and isolated members of the community, and one Thursday evening a month we are holding a contemplative service of prayer with music. I hope that other initiatives will arise during the year as we continue to discern God's call to ministry. One event which will need to take place in the autumn is a stewardship programme. As can be seen from the annual accounts we had a deficit last year and this will need to be addressed in order to put us on a more stable and secure financial footing. We are therefore

planning a Stewardship Programme in the autumn of 2011. In the current economic climate this will be a considerable challenge.

I would like to conclude by thanking everyone who has contributed to our parish life in so many different ways during the year; the Wardens for their hard work and support, the PCC for their leadership, Carolyn Stubbs the Treasurer and especially those who so generously sponsor Ruth Lampard's stipend as Associate Vicar.

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, David Parsons.

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 Iamori, Elizabeth Lake, Joshua Lee, Elizabeth Lowry-Corry, Ann Mulcare, Mark and Susan Nichols, Emma Nichols, David and Fiona Parsons, Dorothy Patrick, Sheila Peers, Joan Rawle, 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, Camila Ruz, Iona Thomas, Verena Tschudin, Anthony Williams

Rotas Mary Meeson and Joanna Hackett.

Sunday Service Sheet Fabric group.

The Parochial Church Council

The 2010/2011 year has, as always, passed quickly for the PCC of St Marys and during the year we have held our six worthwhile meetings, five usual meetings for discussing and actioning a wide variety of subjects concerning the life of the church, and an extra meeting for signing off the PCC accounts.

Ginny is highly experienced in keeping all PCC meetings relevant, up to the minute and very worthwhile and with the assistance of chocolate biscuits for sustenance we are usually able to complete all business within an hour and a half.

During the year the PCC has discussed and implemented many subjects, including the following list, which will be described in further detail in other areas of this report :-

- The installation of the Craigie Aitchison Window
- The appointment of the new Independent Examiner
- Achieving our Eco Congregation Award
- The Community Audit
- Implementing the next Stewardship Programme
- Ginny's Sabbatical

Because of Ginny's sabbatical, the PCC did not have an "Away Day" in 2010. The next Away Day is to be held in January 2011. 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.

Joanna Hackett

Children's Advocate

The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every year in September and this year was updated to carry revised wording of the Diocesan documents followed. The approved and signed copy is displayed in

several places around the Church and Hall and all groups using the premises are asked to comply with it.

This year, again, the changes in legislation concerning the Criminal Records Bureau checks meant that our records had to be overhauled and widened for the lesser of the checks needed for people with only occasional contact with children. Rev Ruth Lampard is 'in charge' of the Sunday School and the legislation concerning CRB for St Mary's and has done sterling work in getting this in order.

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

I have been to two meetings this year. The first on February 4, 2010 in the church of St Saviour Walton Place. It opened with prayers led the Area Dean The Revd Rob Gillion, followed by the lay chairmen James Normand welcoming new members to the synod.

A presentation was given by Professor John Wolffe entitled 'Building on History'. The aim of the project is to contribute to the self understanding of the church in London. It makes available the insights of historical research to churchgoers, clergy and others in order to inform decision making and to stimulate fresh historical enquiry.

It's hoped that 'Building on History' will provide long-term perspectives for mission and ministry in the 21st century.

The second meeting on July 8 2010 was held at St Luke's Church Sydney Street. We had a presentation titled 'Health Care Chaplaincy' which was very interesting account of the multi faith chaplaincy in our hospitals given by The Revd Dr Christina Beardsley, The Revd Robert Thompson and The Revd Alistair McCulloch. The second half of the meeting was taken up with the usual reports from the General and Diocesan Synods.

The London Diocesan Board of Schools, the Area Council School governorships and other relevant appointments and elections.

Margarete Geier

Reports

Associate Vicar

This is the end of my second year in post. My first year was very much about settling in and particularly getting to know Sunday School and our young people. The second year has continued this work and also involved a lot of "behind the scenes" work on two significant parts of my responsibility: care for the environment and our local community.

These have taken significant steps forward this year with the granting of our Eco-congregation Award and the publication of our Community Audit Report.

It has been great to work alongside Ginny, to provide cover for her sabbatical, and to have worked alongside the many people who contributed to all these activities. More details are in individual reports.

The Revd Ruth Lampard

Sunday School

It's been a lively year in Sunday School. The syllabus this year has been a mix of an ongoing programme and "one-off" sessions. One ongoing programme followed the life of Gladys Aylward, the Christian Missionary to China, (you may know her best from the Hollywood film *The Inn of the Sixth Happiness*). The children enjoyed learning about her life and following the story week by week as it unfolded.

Sunday school also had visits from a number of parishioners to share their insights and expertise: Dorothy Patrick and Hugh Beach came in with Ginny at Candlemas, and Marcus Smith led a poetry workshop, and the children read their poems on Mothering Sunday. Marcus also wrote this year's Nativity Play, which was directed by Deborah Challinor – the children learnt their parts and put themselves into their roles with great gusto. Philip Bedford Smith stepped in to play the piano and together

with Keshara Hallock helped the children to learn the song used throughout the play, the lively “The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy”. Camila Ruz and Keshara also helped the children as they learned their lines.

The nativity play takes a lot of time and commitment from children and their parents, and many thanks to all for patiently being there to practice and prepare for the play.

The children are continuing to support Alex in Uganda, they continue to exchange letters with him and worked hard at the summer fair to raise money to support him.

We were sad to say goodbye to Samantha Smith when she moved to the USA in the summer – she had led very popular singing sessions in Sunday school.

Jane Dass and Jane Bonser have led Sunday School most Sundays for over four years and this year they decided that they needed to step down from such a commitment. Ginny formally thanked them at the Nativity Play in December. We are delighted that they are both continuing to support Sunday School once a month and that Jennifer and Marcus Smith and other parents are now leading Sunday School once a month. As Jane said in her report last year, the Sunday school children are great and it is a pleasure to teach them.

Ruth Lampard

Little Lambs

Little Lambs met during the 10.30am service on the Second Sunday of every month throughout the year, and will continue to do so in 2011, but not in August.. The sessions are a lively mix of songs and music, simple Bible stories, junior prayers and some creative activities. All children are accompanied by an adult throughout. Usually about 10 children attend on any one Sunday and there are 25 families on our email circulation list. Ginny and Ruth regularly give leaflets to baptism families and it has been great to welcome some to Little Lambs.

Chris and Katie Fowkes

Servers

Our servers continue to quietly support our worship on Sunday mornings. We have said goodbye to some of our servers during the course of the year as their circumstances have changed: Celine and Christian Mitchell, Tristan Kelly and Isabella Reed. Many thanks to all our servers, and especially to Sylvia Gregory, who has taken over the role of co-ordinating the servers.

Ruth Lampard

Music

Music has continued to play a significant role in worship at St Mary's during 2010. The Parish Choir's regular contribution to Parish Eucharists has been sustained – the choir singing for twenty Sunday mornings in all, as in previous years. In addition, the choir sang at Ginny's installation as Vicar in October. We have welcomed a number of new singers into the choir, although we were also sad to lose the strong contribution of Samantha Smith who moved to the USA in the summer. A reasonably wide variety of music has been performed, although somewhat limited by the shortage of men generally and the absence of any tenors in particular. The new set of anthem books and RSCM resource pack purchased two years ago have continued to provide some useful material for services, in addition to other music from the choir library, including a simple Grace setting that I wrote for the choir's annual party. We have continued to follow the same rehearsal pattern as last year - twice a month from 9.30am on a Sunday. This continues to be a satisfactory (and sustainable) pattern, given the busyness and complicated interface of the holiday arrangements of what is a relatively small group of people. Choir members have continued to work hard and some very pleasing performances have been given. This year, the choir has twice enjoyed working with deputy organists – David Patrick in November and Christopher Moore in December. The feedback about the choir from the congregation is generally positive, and the choir's *esprit de corps* and sense of humour are strong. Ginny & Patrick again generously hosted a most enjoyable choir party at the Vicarage, this year in May.

As always, I am grateful to a number of individuals for their assistance: to Ginny and Ruth for their engagement in, and appreciation of, the contribution that music makes to our worship; to the Cantors for their psalm singing; 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 St. Mary's.

The cantoring team - Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Keshera Hallock, Micki Rogers, Samantha Smith, Pauline Stephens and Patrick Thomas - has continued to sing the psalms week by week very successfully. Samantha's move to the USA has left a significant gap, but we are delighted to welcome Oriel Robinson back to the team. 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. Samantha Smith and Philip Bedford Smith have generously provided help and encouragement to the children in learning new songs this year at various times.

A number of less familiar hymns (in terms of tunes and words – sometimes together, sometimes separately) have been introduced during the year and the church's repertoire of hymns remains wide. From time to time, the choir has supported the rest of the congregation in the learning of less familiar hymns. Members of the congregation have frequently expressed their appreciation of both aspects of our worship.

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 one that is perhaps less obvious to many members of the congregation. Such services bring many people into the church, some of whom subsequently retain an association here – not only the congregations, but also the

visiting musicians. During 2010 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 may be of interest to provide some detail.

Music again featured strongly during Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, Cheryl Enever (soprano) performed two arias from Bach's *St John Passion* - *Zerfließe, mein Herze* and *Ich folge dir gleichfalls mit freudigen Schritten*. Cheryl is an up-and-coming singer; she has sung with English Touring Opera, Classical Opera Company and the London Festival Orchestra, and worked with Sir Simon Rattle, Edward Gardner, Richard Hickox and Sir Roger Norrington. Her future plans include the title role in Puccini's *Tosca* for Opera a la Carte in a tour of the UK and Europe.

On Maundy Thursday, Richard Fallas (bass) performed *My Lord and Saviour*, also from *St John Passion* and Vaughan Williams' *Love bade me welcome* from *Five Mystical Songs*. On Easter Saturday Ruth again valiantly intoned the demanding *Exultet* - this piece is a real *tour-de-force*.

In our Easter Day celebrations, Mary Bevan (soprano) sang *Alleluia* from Mozart's *Exsultate, jubilate* K165 and Handel's *I know that my redeemer liveth* from *Messiah*. Sister of Sophie Bevan, who has also sung at St Mary's and who now is a regular ENO soloist, Mary recently sang the role of Barbarina at Garsington and *Messiah* with the ECO and Cadogan Hall under Raymond Leppard. Her future engagements include *Messiah* at the Royal Albert Hall and the role of Rebecca in the première of Nico Muhly's *Two Boys* for English National Opera later this year.

On Sunday 27 June (the Sunday before Ginny's 3-month sabbatical began), Ginny & Patrick generously paid for a professional octet in a special sung Eucharist, in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary. The music performed included *Hosanna to the Son of David* by Weelkes, *Gloria in excelsis Deo* from Vivaldi's *Gloria RV 589*, *O taste and see* by Vaughan Williams, *If ye love me* by Tallis and *Ave Maria* by Gabriel Jackson.

On Remembrance Sunday, the brilliant young harpist, Sally Pryce performed music by Bach arr. Grandjany, Glinka and John Parry. As a soloist, Sally regularly gives solo recitals at major venues and festivals throughout the UK.

She has played with many top orchestras including BBC Symphony, RPO, ROH, RLPO, Northern Sinfonia, the Bournemouth orchestras, the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields and Birmingham Royal Ballet. 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), violin (2008) and guitar (2009).

At the Carol Service on 12 December, as well as many popular congregational carols, the eclectic and much-enjoyed choice of music included plainchant, a medieval carol, original carols by Ravenscroft, Berlioz, Phillip Ledger, Warlock, Leighton and Mathias plus arrangements by Sir David Willcocks, Robin Wells & Mack Wilberg. We were very fortunate indeed to have Stephen Disley (Assistant Organist at Southwark Cathedral and regular recitalist at the Royal Albert Hall) playing for the service again. Before the service, he played music by Michael Praetorius, Bach and Warlock and, at the end, works by Susato and Edmundson provided an uplifting conclusion.

On Christmas Eve a professional quartet performed a carol by Walford Davies and arrangements by Rutter and Charles Wood, and the trumpeter Stephen Keogh performed several *Noëls* by Le Bégue and the last movement of Telemann's *Sonata in D Major*. On Christmas Day itself, Ana-Maria Rincon (*soprano*) sang *Christmas Lullaby* by John Rutter, the *Lute-Book Lullaby* by William Ballet and Michael Head's *The little road to Bethlehem* – all much appreciated by all those 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 four talented organists who have deputised for me when I have been away at various times during the year – David Patrick, Richard Shepperson, Christopher Moore, and Simon Gibson (my predecessor as Director of Music). During the year, members of the congregation came to hear The Nonsuch Singers, the London chamber choir that I conduct, in concerts

at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, St. James's, Piccadilly and Christ Church, Spitalfields. I am grateful to Ginny for allowing me to hold auditions in church for the choir, from time to time, as well as 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.

So, 2010 was another busy year for music at the church, and an encouraging continuation of the church's excellent musical tradition.

Graham Caldbeck

Director of Music

The Flower Guild

In 2010 we had six weddings and a wedding blessing. 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, Pauline Stephens and all of those 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 continued to meet occasionally during Sunday worship this year – we reviewed what we had done in 2010 – most people enjoyed digging around in the Bible to explore questions and themes. We explored the use of images in the Bible and in worship, and also volunteering to help others. We had a Café Church question and answer sermon slot in May with Ruth. Many Café youngsters (14 to 17) are in the middle of important school years, with ongoing coursework and preparation for examinations - Café Church is one way in which we support them, and will evolve as the youngsters' wishes and needs

evolve. Many thanks to Joshua Lee and Camila Ruz for their ongoing support for the group.

Ruth Lampard

The Prayer Network

The Prayer Network is an important part of our corporate life. Twenty-four 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, at the evening Eucharist on the first Wednesday of each month, 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, Ruth, 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.

In the spring of 2010 Ginny had arranged a meeting for the members of the Prayer Network when Rev. Dr. Christina Beardsley, head of multi faith chaplaincy at the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, talked about healing prayer. This was generally welcomed and proved a useful point of contact.

Verena Tschudin

Groups

Mother and Toddlers

The Mother and Toddlers Group, meets every Monday 9.30am to 11.00 within term time. Numbers dropped in mid 2010 but started to increase by the number of mums seeking a friendly and safe local environment for their toddlers to play. The group hosts on average 10 mums and carers and 15 children.

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 Luke's Gospel and the Book of Job.

Pat Schleger

Wednesday Bible Study Group

We met fortnightly during term time and have studied Luke's Gospel and some of the prophets. We have been led by the clergy and Sheila Peers

During Lent we discussed 'A way through the wilderness' by Paula Gooder and during Advent 'The Advent of Peace' by Mary Grey. The attendance was between eight and fourteen at each meeting.

Margarete Geier

Young Adults Bible Study

Roughly once a month, normally after Church on a Sunday morning, young adults (in their 20s and 30s) meet to explore the Bible and faith. This year books we have explored include: Job, the apocalyptic books of Daniel and Revelation, and were delighted to be visited by Hugh Beach who explored contemporary apocalyptic thought with us.

Ruth Lampard

Monthly Thursday Lunches

The popularity of these lunches was maintained well during the year. Attendance has settled at a good level, typically between 30 and 40, varying according to mobility, availability of transport, the appeal of the speaker's topic and the weather. It is often at or near the capacity of the

south transept where the lunches take place. A wide range of interests and ages are present, including sometimes a few from outside the congregation. Participants enjoy the spiritual, social and informative ambience. And there is also the opportunity to go to the 11.45 Eucharist ahead of the 12.30 lunch.

Donations of £3-50 or £ 4.00 by those willing to make them cover the costs of the food and coffee, and sometimes there is a small surplus to add to church funds.

We are very grateful indeed to the speakers who come to 'sing for their supper' with 20 – 30 minute talks. Topics range from reports from charities which St Mary's supports to wide-ranging issues such as the processes for returning people from prison to the world outside or the start up of a new Bank in the area. And as ever many thanks indeed to those who help set up and clear the lunches, including David, the master of the all-powerful dishwashing machine.

An account of each lunch is given in the Clarion to enable those who did not attend to keep in touch with this aspect of the life of St Mary's.
June Brudenell, Ann and Arthur Tait.

Tea with Fizz

We had one meeting for youngsters in the 10 to 13 age range – and are looking to meet again next year. The event was "Tea with Fizz" an afternoon which is hard to describe, but we pitted two teams – boys v girls – in a team cake and individual cup cake decorating challenge. Joanna Hackett provided the cake technology and posed the challenge to produce "The most magnificent cake in The Boltons". It was a hard competition to judge – on the basis of the concept as well as the execution of the design. It was football versus flowers, and Joanna had a hard time making the judgement call, but football prevailed ... All were winners as the cakes were consumed and pronounced delicious. Our aim is to meet occasionally for fun, friendship and a spot of faith from time to time.

Ruth Lampard

Charities Committee

Introducing lasting changes to the way things are done always takes time, and so it has proved with the Framework for Charitable Giving which was first introduced in 2008. However last year was the first year in which decisions about donations were taken at the beginning of the year. This meant that from the beginning of the year there was a clear list of charities which would benefit from fund raising during the year and the intention was that the total pool would be divided proportionately rather than piecemeal in smaller fixed amounts.

So the charities benefitting from donations last year were the same as in 2009. That is to say the two principal beneficiaries were the Earls Court Community Project and Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza and also on the list were Worlds End Under Fives, Chelsea Estates Youth, Earls Court Community Trust and the Great Garden Adventure which was part of the Earls Court Festival were both arranged and supported financially by St Mary's. In the overseas category were the Human Rights Award of the International Centre for Nursing Ethics at Surrey University 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 2010 the Committee continued to make efforts to ensure that that we follow the progress of the causes we support. This has been done through articles in *The Clarion*, 4 articles over the course of 2010 and it is very good that representatives from the charities have been invited to speak at the Thursday lunch from time to time.

The Committee which make recommendations to the PCC is currently comprises Vanessa Arkell, Katrin Turner, and Anthony Williams and John MacVeigh and my thanks are due to them for helping with due diligence around the proposals we make to the PCC and for keeping the nomination process on track.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Reading at St Cuthbert's and St Matthias School

We have a group of volunteers who help with reading at St Cuthbert's and St Matthias School, Earls Court. It is a Church of England primary school and the children we help are aged 5 to 11.

There are about 17 volunteers currently involved in the scheme. About half of these are members of St Mary's congregation. Others are either friends/contacts of the congregation or contacts of the school, e.g. two of the school governors.

We hope our visits to the school will not only help the children with their vocabulary and comprehension but encourage them to enjoy reading. Most of the children at the school have English as an additional language.

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.

Most of the volunteers remain with the same age group each year so, as usual, in the autumn term we met new children who have just moved up a year. The children read to us in the Children's Centre attached to the school but space is limited so there cannot be too many volunteers at any given time. We also need to fit in with the lessons, playtimes, lunch breaks etc.

All those involved undertake a CRB check before working with the children.

We find our time at the school rewarding and enjoyable.

Sheila Gibbs

Sustainability Group

This group changed its name to the Sustainability Group – because the focus and purpose of our activities is to take steps to make our Church life and buildings more sustainable. We have made progress with understanding our energy meters, and the PCC decided in the summer,

in conversation with Boltons Gardens Association, that the floodlighting of the Church should cease at 1am, rather than continuing until dawn. The Great Garden Adventure on Saturday 10th July was a community event for primary school age children with an environmental theme, led by St Mary's but held in Bramham Gardens as part of the Earl's Court Festival. It was much enjoyed by those who came, and it was much appreciated by the residents of Bramham Gardens. The work of the Church throughout 2009 and 2010 was recognised by independent assessors from Eco-congregation who visited us in September and decided to award us and Eco-congregation Award. The Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea will formally present us with the award on 23rd January 2011. The Award is valid for three years.

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 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. 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 a small number of people in the UK and abroad, and emails are sent to everyone on the

parish database, with web links to the Clarion once a new issue is available.

The Clarion is the parish 'voice' *par excellence* and, to make as many people's voices heard as possible, everyone is encouraged to send material, of whatever kind, ideally by e-mail, either to the Parish Office, or to my e-mail address. During 2010 an increasing variety of contributions has been available, with the December/January issue stretching to 12 pages.

Verena Tschudin

Social Events

Parish Lunch

We had nine Sunday Parish Lunches this year. The attendance was between twenty and thirty.

In addition we have had four other parish events, The Easter Vigil, Induction of Ginny as vicar of St Mary's, the Carol Service and the Boxing Day outreach for the homeless.

All these events could not take place without the contributions and willing help of the parishioners.

Margarete Geier

Community

Following last year's reflection on our Church life, 2010 saw the next stage of the Community Audit engage with our parish community. The parish covers a very diverse population, and we were greatly helped by volunteers from MetroBank who took questionnaires to the street to find out what people enjoyed about the local area, what changes they had seen and whose needs they thought were being ignored. We were delighted that two classes from Bousfield School completed these questionnaires. In addition in-depth conversations were had with people with particular insight into the local community, and publicly available statistics from the census and the Council were analysed by a small group of volunteers. All this information about the parish was

collected into the Community Audit Report, completed in September and placed before the PCC. The report highlighted nine areas of particular concern for our local community, appreciated the ways in which the Church is already offering support, and made some suggestions for new steps for the Church to consider taking forward. This will form the basis of the PCC awayday in January 2011. Many thanks to all who contributed to the Report. Copies will be available at the back of the church.

Ruth Lampard

Summer Fair

The 2010 St Marys Summer Fair was a huge success as always.

The day dawned dry, though not terribly warm, and by ten o'clock in the morning work was well underway in the north garden (by kind permission of the Boltons Gardens Association) in setting up stalls and taking deliveries of goods for sale. Volunteers turned out in good numbers to help with the pricing of goods, setting up stalls and organising raffle prizes etc.

As usual curious visitors started approaching from late morning onwards, but we just about managed to keep to our formal opening time of 2pm, announced by the ringing of the church bells and the cutting of a fabulous pink ribbon.

The fair provided plenty of entertainment for children, adults and the young at heart. Children's delights included the Sunday School stall, coconut shy, treasure island and face painting and these stalls were raising funds to send to Alex, the Sunday School's adopted child in Uganda – a very worthy cause indeed. For adults there was the book stall, plant stall, bric-a-brac and some excellent prizes in both the raffle and silent auction. The BBQ, Pimms tent and Krispy Kreme donuts kept hunger away on what was a very happy afternoon with a lively atmosphere aided by the ever popular visiting band.

Despite the uncertain economic climate the 2010 fair made over £3,500 profit which was a wonderful result and the money was hugely appreciated by the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza and the Earls Court Community Project. As ever, big thank yous go out to the organising committee, the stall holders, those who came early to set up or stayed late to take down and all our visitors who came along, brought friends and made donations.

Katrina Quinton & Joanna Hackett

Verger's Report

2010 was quite a year at St Marys keeping me busy with a huge variety of things going on, the highlight of the year for me being Ginny's institution as vicar by the Bishop of Kensington in November. It was a wonderful evening and an amazing privilege for me to robe up and verge for the service. Thank you Ginny. With events from school assemblies to piano recitals taking place things could never be described as boring. Little has changed in relation to the church hall, with Paintpots Montessori creative classes still hiring the hall on weekdays during term time. A success for the small but committed gardening group this year was being awarded third place in the brighter Kensington and Chelsea (church garden section) However at the time of writing we are very short of volunteers in the garden. 2010 ended on a maintenance low with the total failure of the church heating system. A temporary system was rigged up but with perhaps the coldest December for a number of years we struggled to keep the church warm. Thanks for everyone's patience over this time. We now have the heating back and running effectively. Finally it is my pleasure to say thank you to all those who contribute to the life of St Marys in what is now my fourth year here.

Dave Ireton

The Sacristy

Margarete Geier and Sylvia Gregory look 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. Margarete washes the church linens and Anne Garten ironed them. A very big thank you to all.

Dave Ireton

Trusts

“Arcane” A dictionary definition of this word if you can find it in a pocket version is mysterious, secret, hidden. It is the word most often applied to trusts, especially endowed charitable trusts. This section of the annual report is designed to ensure that the word does not apply to the trusts for which the PCC is the Managing Trustee. There are two such trusts which directly benefit St Mary’s. Firstly the trust known as Redcliffe Gardens Trust (“RGT”) whose principal asset is the freehold of 11 Redcliffe Gardens, but which also holds some cash and investments. The second is the St Peters Trust and the assets of this trust are all cash or investments. The ground rent from Redcliffe Gardens is currently £5,000 per annum and this sum is a significant part of the PCC’s charitable giving. Income from a third trust for which the PCC is managing trustee, the Louisa M Wilson Legacy, is paid directly to the London Diocesan stipend fund.

The 2009 ground rent for 11 Redcliffe Gardens was not received for many months and so in the early summer the PCC served a section 146 notice on the tenant and fairly quickly recovered the rent that was due the previous December. At the same time the tenant, Beaully Properties, was put on notice about the condition of the building and potential breaches of the lease conditions. In the early part of the year our property adviser reported market information to us that the property was to be sold by Beaully Properties. But ownership of Beaully Properties appears to have changed and in the summer during the process of recovering the unpaid rent, the leaseholder made enquiries about purchasing the freehold. This was an initial inquiry and no formal offer has been received. These matters are ongoing and the PCC is grateful to CMS Cameron McKenna LLP which has provided legal advice on a pro bono basis.

There was been no change in the investments during the year in either trust, so the cash remains invested with the Church of England Deposit Fund which is managed by CCLA Investment Managers Ltd and the investments are held in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund, also managed by CCLA. Interest earned from cash has continued to be poor in the current low interest environment, but rates in the Deposit

Fund crept up marginally towards the end of the year to 0.6%, while the income yield from the Investment Fund for 2010 was 4.3%.m at year end values. The performance of the Investment Fund during the year was showed an acceptable 7.1% increase. The market value of the investments in the two funds (excluding the value of the property at 11 Redcliffe Gardens) at the end of 2010 was :

	Deposit fund	Investment fund	Total
RGT Endowment	£ -	£ 22,332	£ 22,332
RGT Accumulated Income	£ 50,539	£ 30,788	£ 81,327
St Peters Endowment	£ 5,281	£ 17,556	£ 22,837
St Peter's Accumulated Income	£ 2,851	£ -	£ 2,851
Total	£ 58,671	£ 70,676	£ 129,347

All the funds in the Louisa M Wilson Legacy are invested in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund and the value of the funds at the end of the year was £36,187 and the income which was paid away to the Diocesan Stipend Fund amounted to £1,578.

CCLA support the Church of England Ethical Investment Advisory Group. The ethical investment policies recommended by the EIAG are the basis for a distinctly Christian approach to investment embracing negative screening, positive alignment with the Church's teaching and values, and active stewardship. In addition CCLA has adopted and published a very positive response to The UK Stewardship Code was introduced in 2010. The purpose of this code is to "enhance the quality of engagement between institutional investors and companies to help improve long-term returns to shareholders and the efficient exercise of governance responsibilities by setting out good practice on engagement

with investee companies to which the Financial Reporting Council believes institutional investors should aspire". It is encouraging to note also that the Financial Services Authority now also requires regulated managers to commit to the code or explain why they are not able to do so. These are important developments because they are real attempts to ensure a more open and more socially responsible approach to investment decisions. Finally it is good to note CCLA have a clear approach also to environment matters, actively engaging with companies if they have concerns about the company's management of environmental risks.

The London Diocesan Fund has been the custodian trustee for some 320 trusts in the Diocese like these St Mary's funds. This has clear implications for administrative costs at a time when the LDF is trying very hard to maintain a balanced budget and so during the year the LDF undertook a review of its role as custodian trustee and determined that where possible, responsibility for certain trusts should be passed back to parishes especially those where the capital is under £10,000 and the cost of maintaining the trust is disproportionate to the income received. Generally for such small trusts it is possible for the managing trustees to exercise the statutory powers contained in the Charities Acts of 1993 and 2006 to spend permanent endowment. In the course of their review work they uncovered a small fund in favour of St Jude's. The money was given in 1950 under the terms of Miss Hallidie's Will and was intended to provide money for the general running expenses of the church. Using the statutory powers mentioned above these funds (just £100.10) have now been passed to the PCC which decided to reserve them for the new memorial window, if that project obtains all the necessary approvals. Discussions continue with the London Diocesan Fund about the future of St Peter's Fund where the permanent endowment was worth just under £17,500 at the end of December 2010. None of the income accruing in either the Redcliffe Gardens Trust or the St Peter's Fund in 2010 was spent during the year, but such unspent income is carried forward and can be drawn in later years.

The position of the Louisa M Wilson Legacy remains somewhat anomalous as the PCC has managing trustee responsibility but no control over how the income is spent.

L T Fraser-Mackenzie

Report on the Fabric of the Building and Ornaments

The advice of William Morris to “stave off decay by daily care” is regularly passed on to all who have responsibility for historic buildings. At St Mary’s we attempt to do this at least by having the gutters regularly inspected and the heating serviced twice a year. There have been no major gutter problems during the year but in December, just before Christmas the gas fired central heating system for the church failed, despite a full service only weeks earlier. No portable gas heaters were available to hire as they had all been taken up by the demand for heaters at Heathrow during the closure of the airport because of the heavy snow, and so electric heaters were hired and strapped to the many of the radiators in church. Calculation of the power needed to run these extra heaters indicated that the electrical circuit in church could not carry enough power and so a temporary ring direct from the incoming mains under the organ loft steps was installed. This was removed early in the New Year when the boiler was repaired.

A quinquennial inspection was undertaken in March by Michael Staff of Nye Saunders John Deal Practice, our Inspecting Architect. This concluded that St Mary’s generally appears to be in good condition. Some minor repairs are recommended. Nothing requires immediate attention. Repairs recommended for completion in 2011 included getting steeplejack access to the tower and inspection of some areas of the roof which the architect had not been able to access. This is important as the architect was not able to get at these areas to conduct as full an inspection as would be desirable, particularly to test any movement in the tower. He also recommended improving the access so inspection can be made more easily in future. A lightning conductor test was recommended.

The architect also inspected the hall and flat . There are major items of work to be done there beyond regular maintenance but he again said consideration should be given to improving the fire escape in the flat. The hall is well used and we do therefore need to keep up with this maintenance programme in order to ensure the letting value is maximised.

Work that should be done over the next 5 years includes repairing the defective decorative metalwork bars on the tower windows and repairing the damage on these windows. Among items that are considered desirable in the next five years are: treating the timber work in the tower and better insulation in the floor void in the tower room as well as above the flat in church hall. While there is no immediately urgent work, decay will certainly set in if the recommended care is not delivered in a timely fashion.

Towards the end of the year the year the church notice boards at both east and west end were replaced and the information updated. This was one of the minor items recommended in the quinquennial report. There was an Archdeacon's Triennial Visitation in November. In addition to matters arising from the architectural quinquennial it was noted that the Church Property Register (Terrier and Inventory and building Log Book) needed to be brought up to date and it was agreed this would be done by the time of the annual parish meeting in 2011. It became clear in the meeting that making a paper report of a computer database of the underlying records and placing this in the register would be acceptable. There have been no changes to the church plate and other treasures during the year and the silver is well maintained by the Verger and the Thursday Fabric Group.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

The PCC of St. Mary with St Peter & St. Jude, West Brompton is a
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