

St Mary The Boltons



*rooted in faith
open in thought
reaching out in service*

Annual Parish Review 2016

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Introduction from the Churchwardens

There are some hymns which we recognise primarily through the tune rather than the words. But there are times when, stumbling for words to express our thoughts and feelings, deeply ingrained tunes bring words back to us.

From a church warden's perspective 2016 was a year of disruption, disturbance and, sadly, even dispute. This resulted in the sudden departure of our vicar half way through the year. But if, in the opening verse of a familiar hymn we ask for forgiveness for our foolish ways, the ending of the same hymn reminds us also that the still small voice of calm speaks through the earthquake, wind and fire.

That still small voice of calm after the storm enables within us a different perspective, a reminder perhaps that 'not for ever by still waters should we ask our way to be'. But more importantly it reminds us that, when as pilgrims, led by the fiery cloudy pillar, we seek guidance from the great redeemer, our anxious fears do subside and healing streams do flow from the crystal fountain and God continues to work his purpose out as year succeeds to year.

Through all the changing scenes of parish life in 2016, there has continued to be a steady faithful working out of that purpose. It is revealed in all the roles and activities described in this review. Read about them, mark them highly and give thanks for them all as, we do, and for those visiting clergy who have helped sustain our worship in recent months.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Ann Mulcare

STATUTORY REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Numbers on the Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll has been reviewed and now stands at 213 members (82 resident, 131 non resident) an overall increase of 4 since the APCM in 2016.

To join the Electoral Roll a person must be over 16 years of age, baptised and either live in the parish or have worshipped at this church for at least 6 months. They should also be a member of the Church of England or any church "in communion" with the Church of England (*"in communion" means either belonging to a church which is part of the Anglican Communion or any church which believes in the Holy Trinity.*)

(Purple) Application Forms to join the Electoral Roll are available from the back of church and completed forms should be returned to the Parish Office marked for the attention of the Electoral Roll Officer.

Only people already on the Electoral Roll can vote at the APCM.
Fiona Parsons Electoral Roll Officer

The Proceedings of the PCC

Annual Report of the Workings of the PCC during 2016

The PCC of St Marys consists of 14 elected members of the congregation, many of whom also have other roles in the life of the church, including as Wardens, Deanery Synod Reps and Parish Reps.

During the course of 2016 the PCC held its five regular meetings which are a legal requirement, but members were asked to attend several other meetings in addition, mainly concerning the departure of our former vicar and the recruitment of her replacement. Therefore it has been a busy year for the PCC and the commitment of its members is hugely appreciated.

With a vicar in place he or she chairs the PCC meetings, but during the interregnum our meetings were led by either Leo or Ann as Wardens and credit should also be given to Carolyn Stubbs and Sam in the office who have to collate a lot of the paperwork in advance and provide succinct documents for the PCC to consider.

At the start of 2016 the PCC held an 'Away Day' (taking a room at Dean's Yard Westminster) on the subject of Mission Action Planning. This project has since been put on hold but ideas from the 2016 Away Day will be carried forward to the 2017 Away Day.

To highlight just two of the projects the PCC have debated this year, we are very pleased to have finalised both the contract with NET for the letting of telecommunication space in the church tower, and the contract with Paint Pots which sees them remain as our main tenant in the hall for the next ten years. Both of these contracts involved a huge amount of work, mainly for the Wardens, and they show the real success story of the PCC when it comes to prioritising future income for St Marys.

The PCC is always very pleased to hear from members of the congregation with comments or questions concerning the running of St Marys. Please do not hesitate to get in contact, particularly if you would consider sitting on the PCC.

At its meeting in May 2016 the PCC received a report from its safeguarding officer and reviewed and endorsed Safeguarding Policy Statement in accordance with Diocesan guidelines, and considers that it is in compliance with the requirement to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Joanna Hackett, PCC Secretary

PCC Financial Accounts and Trustee Annual Report

The Financial Accounts of the PCC are published separately and are available through the Parish Office and online. The PCC is a registered charity and its formal Trustee Annual Report is enclosed

with the Annual Financial Accounts and in due course both will be filed with the Charity Commission.

Report on Fabric Goods and Ornaments from the churchwardens

Fabric

The church building required no major work during 2016, but routine maintenance was carried out to gutters and roof, the boilers were serviced and the lightning conductor tested.

A quinquennial inspection report was received in draft in the autumn. In addition to the known issue with water ingress on the east wall of the south transept the most significant new item reported on is the condition of the exterior stonework where light defrassing and some, repointing has been recommended for several areas, and the exterior walls and roof of the staircase to the gallery also need attention. A number of lamps have failed in recent weeks and while they could be simply replaced, a decision on doing this was postponed not on grounds of cost but in order to enable a comparison of the cost of a straight re-lamping with replacement with low energy LED lighting. This will need to be investigated as a priority if an LED system is to be installed before the autumn. Externally the floodlighting system was being upgraded to LED at the end of the year and we are very grateful to the Boltons Gardens Committee for financing this improvement.

The interior of the church is showing obvious signs of wear in many places and redecoration will be needed in the not too distant future. In the vestry the runners on one set of long drawers had to be repaired as they had worked loose, and the toilet was redecorated by volunteers during the year.



Net Coverage Solutions Ltd was granted a further licence for installation in the church tower of electronic telecommunications equipment for mobile phones for a different mobile phone operator so that all the space in the tower for this type of equipment has now been taken. Replacement of the tower windows and installation of the equipment took place in the autumn, but construction of the new access ladder had not been completed at the end of the year.

Goods and ornaments

All the items listed in the photographic Inventory of Church Plate and other furnishings were found to be present when checked at the end of December and in January 2017 and entries made in inventory to show that the check had been completed. We are grateful to the Sacristan for the hard work involved in cleaning and polishing the items held in the Treasury. The photograph on the next page shows the underside of a paten which bears a date mark for 1908 and a makers mark of ECW, which indicates it is probably the work of the silversmiths Ellen Caroline Woodward and Agnes Withers.

Elsewhere in this annual review the Sacristan has drawn attention to the need to replace certain vestments and altar frontals and while this is not urgent, a budget provision should be made to cover this

in 2018, if no other specific funding is forthcoming.

During the year the money box on the candle stand was vandalised and some money taken. It was however successfully repaired by a mobile welder during the summer and on another occasion an unsuccessful attempt was made to break into the donations box at the back of church. The minor damage to the wood was repaired and the internal security arrangements for the box withstood the attack so no money was lost on this occasion.



Telecommunication equipment does not fall readily into the Church of England concept of either Goods or Fabric, nevertheless it is an important item in any organisation. In recent years the telecom system had become increasingly unreliable and hard to repair when faults developed and on too many occasions internet access and emails failed. Funds for a replacement system were provided for in the 2016 budget and the new system, an Avaya IP Office system, was installed by BT in the autumn. After an initial complication which was quickly rectified the system has been working well. The most obvious difference for callers is that they can now select different out of office messages according to the type of information they require, while for office users there is a wealth of new features that we are still learning to use.

Church Hall

The church hall has continued to be well used throughout the year and requires regular maintenance and small repairs for which there is adequate budget provision annually. Different issues arise each year. For example in 2016 the oven was repaired in the summer

and it failed again in early 2017. Storage is an issue for most of the regular users of the hall and cupboards often need to be repaired, as happened in 2016. Of itself this is not an issue but there will come a time when it is no longer possible to make the repairs as the wood simply will not accept more screws or sanding. Likewise the floor may take a further re-sanding but thereafter an alternative covering may well be needed as the existing Granwood floor dates from when the hall was built in the mid-1960s and the kitchen surface and the outdated wooden shutter as well as the worn out oven will all need attention in the coming months.

An unbudgeted expense in the hall occurred towards the end of the year when the gas boiler failed and had to be entirely replaced. This was done in December just after the end of the Paint Pots school term.

In the weekdays through the year the Hall is used by Paint Pots, which is a state registered Montessori nursery school, rated as good according to the OFSTED report of June 2016. The lease for Paint Pots expired at the end of 2016 and a new ten year licence under Faculty was put in place during the autumn. On three evenings a week the hall is used by Alcoholics Anonymous and by Narcotics Anonymous, while the Upper Hall is used on one evening a week by Families Anonymous., which describes itself as “a world-wide fellowship of family members and friends affected by another’s abuse of mind-altering substances, or related behavioural problems”. The other evenings are available for church use or are taken by occasional users, mostly local community organisations requiring space for small events or meetings. At the weekends the hall is popular for children’s parties, and is available for hire on Saturday mornings and afternoons and as well as Sunday afternoons. These bookings are managed by the Parish Administrator and overseen by the Verger. The hall provides a significant income for the church and it is vital that we continue to invest in it.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Ann Mulcare

ANNUAL PARISH REVIEW REPORTS

From the registers - the year in numbers



	Notes	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Communions						
Easter	(i)	97	109	151	126	106
Christmas Midnight		84	96	41	97	76
Christmas morning		87	65	71	99	99
Attendance						
Easter	(ii)	159				
Christmas	(ii)	365				
Sunday Average Attendance (over 16years)		67	76	78	73	78
Average Sunday Attendance (all ages)		76	98	94	106	107
Occasional offices						
Baptisms	(iii)	4	19	24	37	27
Confirmations		0	2	0	1	6

	Notes	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Weddings		6	6	11	9	12
Blessing of Marriage after a Civil Ceremony		2	1	2	0	0
Funerals in church		4	8	3	3	3
Memorial Services		2	1	1	3	5

Notes From 2016 these statistics reflect the way in which national Mission Statistics are gathered by the Church of England, so communions and attendance at Christmas and Easter are shown separately, and

- (i) the Easter Communions include Easter Vigil on Easter Eve
- (ii) Easter and Christmas attendance figures include attendance at any service on the relevant day and the Eve
- (iii) Includes Thanksgiving Service for gift of a child

Worship and Occasional Offices

The pattern of Sunday services remains constant with a Said Eucharist at 8am using the Book of Common Prayer and a Sung Parish Eucharist at 10:30am. When there was an incumbent prayers were said daily in the morning and in the evening, and on Wednesdays there was a said Eucharist, with a focus on prayer for healing on the first Wednesday of the month. During the interregnum, the pattern of Sunday worship has been maintained, although the 8am Sunday morning Eucharist has been replaced by Morning Prayers on a few occasions. Morning Prayer has continued to be said Monday to Thursdays, led by the Sacristan, and the mid-week Eucharist has only been celebrated on the first Wednesday of each month. However a regular lay led meeting for Silent Prayer now occurs in church on the second Wednesday of each month and has attracted an encouraging number of people.

Sunday School

Sunday School has dwindled somewhat during the interregnum and so the team of five parent volunteer leaders; Chris and Katie Fowkes, Alex Bell, Clair Gordon and Judy Rydell, would like to extend their thanks to the PCC for choosing to focus on Sunday School at their Away Day in February this year. We know that the provision for children in the church has the potential to draw and keep families and is essential to the growth of the church. It is very much our hope that, with the guidance and experience of our new vicar, more baptisms and hopefully new links with schools/community groups, we can rejuvenate.



The Sunday school register is currently made up of 25 families; 51 children in total, of whom 6 -12 are regular or occasional attenders. 24 children have attended at least one session in the current school year. We have an email list and plan to reinstate a weekly email to ensure all parents are reminded and aware of church events and Sunday School activities. We have been trying to grow the team of parent volunteers and to this end we are delighted to report that Kelly Webb and Adam Coulter have recently completed their DBS checks, which are required in order to volunteer. We are also thankful for the regular assistance provided by Julie Crutchley, our Safeguarding Officer and Leila Miller.

Little Lambs and Sunday School were combined last year in response to falling numbers (due largely to the interregnum and some families moving away from the parish). Jessica Molloy's departure meant that there was a need to use the Little Lambs leaders for Sunday School. At present, we have a one-size-fits-all approach accommodating a group ranging in age from 2 to 12 years old. There is a need to better tailor the provision for little ones who can't yet read and older ones who are approaching confirmation age. We have discussed the possibility of a prepared curriculum instead of each leader coming up with a plan from scratch every week. Work has begun on this and we welcome any contributions from the wider congregation to support this work. The Reverend Jenny Welsh comes to us with tremendous experience in childrens ministry and her guidance will be vital.

We have four children approaching confirmation age and there is a feeling that we need to do more to promote their growth in church. If it is possible to make sessions more relevant to them and/or they have the opportunity to become more involved in church life they will be more present and active. There was a short period last year where the older children were acting as acolytes which had a positive impact on attendance.

The Sunday School are keen to spend more time in church, ideally with one all-age worship service a month. Almost all the children in Sunday School play an instrument and, working with our talented Director of Music John Ward, we hope to involve the children in the "Come and Sing" choir.

The children were asked to put together their wish list for Sunday School and their contribution was thoughtful and considered; more personal praying time, more music, more involvement in the charity work of the church, more games, more cooking, more chance for children to volunteer in litter picking and gardening, celebrations of birthdays and christenings, Sunday School trips, suggestions for fundraising included candlemaking, hosting a table at the summer

fete, bible study workbooks and confirmation classes. In essence, more of everything!

The PCC considered the suggestions put forward by the children and discussed in detail the practicalities and possibilities. There is so much that can be done and we feel excited by the opportunity ahead of us. We look forward to taking greater part in the life of our church. We undertake to communicate more of the childrens contributions through the Clarion and by becoming more visible in church. The PCC's help is really appreciated, and in fact crucial! As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

Judy Rydell for Sunday School

Music Report 2016



In 2016, as in previous years, music has played an important rôle at St Mary The Boltons.

Lent saw us ringing the changes with my new setting of the music for the Eucharist. I had hoped to provide something more reflective and perhaps sombre as befits the Lenten season than Thorne's more upbeat setting, which we use for most of the year. As with anything new which replaces something long familiar, there was some degree of discomfiture at first, but once we had grown accustomed to the setting, I was pleased with how well the congregation took to it, singing with the customary St Mary's gusto.

Having managed with smaller forces for the past couple of years, we were pleased that funds allowed us to revert to the octet formation for both Easter Sunday and the annual Christmas carol service. Easter Sunday saw the choir performing Mozart's *Spatzenmesse* or 'Sparrow' Mass (so-called because of the chirpy grace-notes in the Sanctus), with John Ireland's epic Easter anthem 'Greater love', and a hearty rendition of 'Hallelujah chorus' to close. Other highlights of Holy Week were Ana-Maria Rincon's performance of arias from the *Matthew Passion* at the Maundy Thursday service (albeit to a rather depleted congregation because of an ill-timed transport outage) and Danae Eleni and Sophie Yelland's performance of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* during the Three Hours' devotions on Good Friday.

We continued our tradition of inviting an instrumental soloist to join us for Remembrance Sunday Eucharist. This year, we were treated to some very fine playing indeed from violinist Edgar Bailey including a memorable performance of Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*. Also in November, we were pleased to welcome Imperial College Chamber Choir to perform at a Sunday Eucharist, including a rich and sonorous rendition of Wesley's *Blessed be the God and Father*. This is exactly the kind of local musical partnership we hope to build on in the future.

We had some 200 people across the threshold for the annual carol service, with the music again seeking the sweet spot between the familiar and the refreshing. We enjoyed as ever some hearty traditional congregational carols with soaring descants from the choir. Alongside some of the more traditional choral fayre, we took

full advantage of having eight voices in the gallery, performing the double choir version of 'In Dulci Jubilo' as well as the luscious incense-evoking harmonies of Pierre Villette's 'Hymne à la vierge', and a charming new carol by Hewitt Jones, 'What child is this?'

The 'come and sing' choir put in some memorable performances during the year. It is pleasing to see how an initiative born out of a healthy pragmatism has yielded some remarkably good results. It is a wonderful way for members of the congregation and more occasional visitors whose busy lives preclude a more frequent commitment to nonetheless make a meaningful musical contribution to our worship. We are grateful too to professional soloists whose contributions continued to enhance our worship at various times during the year, and for the anonymous donation which provided funding for this during 2016.

This 'mixed economy' where deep respect and appreciation for professional music co-exist happily with a strong impetus to nurture the congregation's own active participation, as well as to draw in visiting groups, is a much-valued aspect of the ministry of St Mary The Boltons. It is a balance enjoyed by relatively few central London parishes and one I am constantly aware of and grateful for here. Indeed, I have never felt more the music to be more appreciated by the congregation and PCC than over the course of 2016 and I want to thank the many people, too numerous to mention by name, who took time to share their often highly specific appreciation of what music in the course of our worship had meant to them. I am hugely grateful to you and look forward to working with our new vicar to maintain, cherish, and develop our musical traditions further in 2017.
John Ward, Director of Music

Sacristan Duties

These duties entail looking after the church linen and priest's robes, also the communion silver used on a weekly basis.

The white linen is in a fairly good condition but is old and will need replacing one day.

The priests' robes need cleaning; they are very worn and over twenty years old. I think two of them need to be replaced as they cannot be cleaned. The same goes for our altar frontals.

Margarete Geier

Meetings of the Chelsea Deanery Synod

We have met three times this year: at our own church, St Mary's, at Holy Trinity Sloane Street, and the third time at St Luke's Redcliffe Square. At these meetings each parish gave a report on the activities in these churches.

At the second meeting we had a report on the Glass Door homelessness charity (formerly West London Churches Homeless Concern). It is now London's largest provider of night shelters and also runs drop centres and provides an advisory service.

At the third meeting the Bishop of Kensington was interviewed by the Area Dean in a Q&A session. The Bishop gave an interesting talk on the Diocesan Capital Vision 2020 programme.

Margarete Geier

Safeguarding

The Church Safeguarding Officer (CSO) is a PCC appointment required of all parishes in England and Wales and is charged with working to ensure and promote the wellbeing of both young people and vulnerable adults. The Diocese of London Policy on Safeguarding (<http://www.london.anglican.org/support/safeguarding>) is a living document and is recommended reading for everyone with an interest in the subject.

Julie Crutchley is the safeguarding officer working alongside Joanna Hackett, the newly appointed evidence checker, carrying out the DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) checks on all persons in a role that brings them into contact with anyone who could be at risk. She also liaises with the PCC on safeguarding issues.

Primarily the focus is on activities around Sunday School and Little Lambs. The guiding principle is that there should always be a minimum of two adults in a room with the children, one of whom must be DBS-cleared. Both leaders and helpers sign up to the Diocesan Code of Conduct on safeguarding good practice.

The vulnerable adults policy from the Diocese is also available and provides helpful guidance for members of St Mary's who are in contact with vulnerable adults in an informal manner. Online training for everyone involved with children, young people and vulnerable adults is recommended by the Diocese including; church safeguarding officers, PCC members, licensed lay ministers, children's champions and those working with any vulnerable group (children, young people or vulnerable adults). This can be accessed via www.london.cofelearning.org, you will need your parish code in order to register for this and everyone should print out their certificate at the end of the course. Please contact the safeguarding officer if you require further information.

Julie Crutchley

Parish Administration

However many things there are in life which we take for granted, it is certainly the case that we notice them more when they are absent or fail. Thus in 2016 when John McVeigh resigned to take up the position of Parish Manager at St Luke's Chelsea, the church wardens' attention turned to parish administration.

During the ten years that John was in charge in the parish office at St Mary's, administration delivered was required of it and frequently more, though of course over such a long period there were inevitably a few bumps and some grinding of gears. In the last few weeks before John left I spent many hours debriefing him on the actual, practical details of how things were done. Eventually this was written up, so there is now a 34 page manual of Guidance and Procedures for parish administration at St Mary's, together with an up to date Parish Information booklet listing details of those who supply goods and services for the Parish, as well as contacts for the

regular users of the church hall. These documents were only in draft form for the temporary administrator, Marianne Wallis King, who was in post for 3 months after John left, and her comments helped to improve the final version.

But a job description and key operating procedures can at best only list tasks to be performed in a clinical and objective manner. Actual experience of working in the parish office day by day is very different. The next telephone call or email might bring a request for a birth, a wedding or funeral or memorial service, all significant life events for the caller who often may have only a tenuous understanding of how churches operate. Or the next call could be from an excited parent, or just a matter of fact personal assistant, looking to book the hall for a children's party, or a commercial sales worker selling a new and cheaper telephone service or a desperate charity administrator seeking rehearsal space for an orchestra the very next week.

At the same time as these enquiries and others from personal callers have to be fielded, there are other routine tasks to be completed: the weekly sheets to prepare for Sunday services, not to mention rotas and the weekly emails, Clarion to be printed, or bills to be sorted ready for the Treasurer. Then there are interruptions from members of the public urgently seeking to use the toilet. Can you refuse a parent with a young child? And how much time is just spent walking between the parish office and the vestry, not just to help out those caught short, but also on those occasions when a fat finger error means the passcode for the vestry printer has to be re-entered at the parish office computer.

All this and more I learnt while in the parish office over the supposedly quiet summer period in 2016. But I also learnt that sometimes things do go well in the office, lists do come in on time (mostly) for music and prayers, and grateful thanks are expressed frequently, but not always, when those life event services go well, and often too for other smaller actions facilitated through the parish office, and the vestry printer does mostly print volumes of leaflets

very efficiently. Perhaps the most surprising thing is that there is often laughter to be heard in the parish office or the vicar's office or in the vestry. There is never a dull moment working in the parish office.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

The Prayer Network

The Prayer Network is an important part of our corporate life. Eighteen present and former parishioners constitute the Network. About 40 people are prayed for by the Prayer Network people, in Church at Morning and Evening Prayers, at the 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 the other members. A monthly Bulletin, with all the updates incorporated, is distributed to everyone.

Most requests and updates come from the people of the Network itself or the Parish Office 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 it suits them, not according to any particular instruction or pattern.

Verena Tschudin

The Clarion

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

The purpose of The Clarion is to inform, educate, stimulate, and occasionally amuse readers and a good mix of all these is the aim. Reports of events and items of interest, usually also items from the Diocesan Newsletter, and adverts for events were featured. The regular articles by Hugh Beach on various historical and theological

topics have become a tradition and are much appreciated. During 2016 the issues were 8-12 pages in length, which is a sizeable magazine for a parish.

The Clarion is the parish 'voice' and to make as many people's voices as possible heard, everyone is encouraged to send material, of whatever kind, ideally by e-mail, either to the Parish Office, or to my e-mail address. 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, are the main reasons for having a parish magazine.

John McVeigh, the Parish Administrator, left in early 2016 to take up a new position at St Luke's Church, Chelsea. After some time when the Wardens ran the Parish Office and help was given by various people, Sam Mander was appointed as Parish Administrator, and has taken on the production of The Clarion with success. A hard copy is sent to a small number of people in the UK and abroad, and emails of the magazine's PDF are sent to everyone on the parish database.
Verena Tschudin

The Garden

The garden around the church consists of two parts: a large lawn and the Memorial Garden at the north side, and the lawn and beds at the south. The part outside the Hall is often used by Paints Pot and is closed off with a mesh at those times. Paint Pots are using the four half-moon plots for planting with the children.

Because of the installation of the telecoms equipment in the tower, both sides of the garden



were fenced off from June to December, leaving no access. The north garden is fully functional again at the end of the year, but the



south garden remains fenced off, leaving only the small bed near the entrance to the church to be cultivated. It is hoped that the rest of the fencing might come down in the spring. Once the garden is accessible again, it will need significant overhaul and re planting. St Mary's is part of the Quiet Garden scheme, which gives it some national and international standing and publicity.

The garden is not a huge commitment, but helpers of any age are always welcome, especially in the autumn when leaves have to be raked. Jo Crickmay regularly helps with various jobs around the garden, for which many thanks.

Because of the fencing, the public was severely restricted access, making the few visitors who could benefit from the benches especially appreciative of the 'oasis of peace', as they often comment. I hope that more people can use this small but free garden again soon for their benefit.

Verena Tschudin

Flowers

We have had a fairly busy year with a number of requests for arranging the displays for weddings, funerals, memorial services and christenings. Also a number of requests from individuals in memory of their family and friends, which has enabled us to keep our funds even.

Margarete Geier



Reading at St Cuthbert with St Matthias School

For many years a group of volunteers have been going into St Cuthbert with St Matthias School each week. At the moment we have a total of 9 volunteers, five of these are members of St Mary's church.

We go into the school once a week (some can manage twice) to listen to the children read on a one to one basis. The day and time is chosen to suit the busy lives of the volunteers and also to fit the school timetable. It is a pleasure to see the children increasing their enjoyment of reading as they become more proficient

The school much appreciates this help and about twice a year have invited volunteers to a splendid tea to meet some of the teachers and the school governors.

It would be good to have one or two more volunteers. If you enjoy reading yourself and think you may be able to spare an hour a week in school term times please do get in touch with me and have a chat. I am at the 10.30 a.m. service at St Mary's most Sundays.

Sheila Gibbs

Social Events

We have only had seven parish lunches this year and one special Harvest Festival tea party instead of a lunch, plus a special farewell lunch for John, our popular Parish Administrator.

None of this would have been possible without the faithful team who help on these occasions. We could not carry on without them, but do need new helpers.



We still cater for between twenty and thirty people on each occasion.

A very big thank you to everyone who has helped over the last year.
Margarete Geier

Charity Committee Annual Report 2017

St. Mary's is committed to honouring the principle of the historic tithe and give away a proportion of our income each year to help others who are less fortunate than us. The PCC has delegated responsibility for selecting the organisations that we should support to a Charity Committee, and at the end of each year the Committee makes recommendations to the PCC. There were no changes on the Committee during 2016 and its members were Julie Crutchley, John McVeigh (until he moved to St Luke's), Katrina Quinton, Katrin Roskelly, Edwina Sassoon and Anthony Williams (Chairman). We met three times during the year and communicated via e-mail in between meetings.

The Committee has formal Terms of Reference, approved by the PCC, which set out the basic principles we should follow in selecting the organisations to be supported. The main requirements are that they should be a registered charity, small enough for our relatively small sums to make a real difference and a mixture of overseas charities and those that are local to St. Mary, which means in the Kensington diocese. Every year we support two principle charities, each of which receives one-third of the money we raise for two years, and a number of other charities who share the remaining one-third for one year only.

Most of the money for this support comes from three main sources, the Summer Fair, the Lent appeal and loose collections at the Advent Carol Service and the Christmas Eve Crib Service. All the money raised goes into what we call 'The Charitable Pot', which is a restricted fund. In 2016 the Lent appeal was by means of a 'jam jar' appeal for both the adult congregation and Sunday School. There was also a single collection plate at the back of church for visitors and anyone who was not taking part in the scheme. Our appeal for jam jars received an impressive response. The children responded generously but the adult take up of the jars was minimal. However, the combined result was the best ever and generated £757.80 for the Charitable Pot.

Our main fund raising activity is the Summer Fair which this year was organised by Christina Lyons. Her sterling work, a very successful effort to secure sponsors, reasonable weather, help by many members of the congregation plus a steady attendance, enabled the Fair to make an excellent net profit of £5,876.95. We launched a new venture - "Host a Charity Meal" and the first, a dinner, took place in November and raised £115. Adding in the two Christmas collections we estimate that the 2016 Charitable Pot will contain close to £7,941. Our cash support can only be sent after the church accounts are finalised and is therefore not distributed until Spring of the following year.

The charities we support are ideally proposed by the congregation and in the Autumn of each year we ask for suggestions for the charities for which we will raise money during the following year. The Committee then assesses these against all the criteria we have to observe and recommend to the PCC those that we think most worthy for support. The ones approved by the PCC for our money raising activities during 2016 were (with the expected amount of our donation shown next to each charity):

- 0 Arts4Dementia - £2,647 (second year)
- 1 Sound Seekers - £2,647 (first year)
- 2 St Cuthbert's Day Centre - £1,000
- 3 Toilet Twinning - £660
- 4 Compassion UK, sponsorship of Sunday School's Alex - £520
- 5 Bishop of London's Lent Appeal - £200
- 6 Emergency Fund reserve - £267

Additionally, as in previous years, during the winter clothes were collected for the Earls Court Project. St. Mary's also provides support in kind, mainly by making the church available free of charge. During 2016 the organisations we helped in this way were Arts 4 Dementia, who held a six week programme for the people they help in the church, and Trinity Hospice for their Carol Service. This was fewer than usual and reflects the changes we experienced during the year, especially the departure of John McVeigh as the Parish Administrator. The Charity Committee always welcomes suggestion or recommendations from members of the congregation of other charities that we might be able to support in this way.

Anthony Williams on behalf of the Charity Committee

Gift Aid

The Treasurer's Report for the 2016 year quotes a Tax recoverable figure of £13,803 This arose because much of the money given by us as parishioners (or by other well wishers) to St Mary's was provided under the 'Gift Aid' scheme where donors had signed a Gift Aid Declaration for the church enabling it to reclaim back from

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs one quarter of the amount donated. If you are not already a participant in the scheme you are warmly invited to become one. Please contact the Planned Giving Secretary through jabarker151@aol.com.



With many donors their contribution goes straight from their bank account to St Mary's bank account. Others donate using the Envelope Scheme under which those participating are issued with a boxed set of envelopes (providing one envelope for each Sunday of the year) and therefore have something tangible to hand over during the offertory on Sunday mornings. The number of people using Envelopes has declined in recent years but the facility is still available.

It is possible therefore to come to church and not to carry any money. However we do not necessarily recommend this approach, particularly if tea or coffee is to be enjoyed after the service, as donations for those refreshments are always appreciated.

John Barker

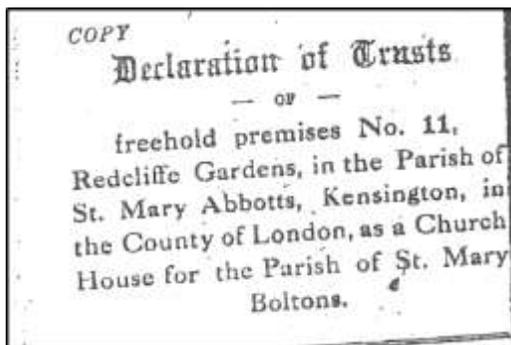
Report on trusts and legacies

In view of the size Redcliffe Gardens Trust, separate financial accounts have been prepared and a treasurer's report is contained in those accounts. But there are other smaller trust funds held by the Diocese of London as custodian trustee. These are the St Peter's Trust and the Louisa Wilson Legacy. Some background about each trust follows.

Redcliffe Gardens Trust

11 Redcliffe Gardens was purchased for the sum of two thousand pounds in 1910 during the tenure of The Reverend Dr William Rosedale. Two hundred pounds more were spent on alterations and fees, so the property purchase was a substantial undertaking. Just taking into account general inflation over the past 100 years £2000 would today be about £1.8 million. The achievement of

Reverend Rosedale and his 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. The value of the funds held in the Redcliffe Gardens Trust at the end of 2016 was some £428,0009 and income accruing during the last year (just under £4,000) was retained in the trust.

St Peter’s Trust

St Peter’s Trust is not quite as old as Redcliffe Gardens Trust. St Peter’s Trust was created in 1926, so 2016 marked its 90th anniversary. It was set up as a growth fund initially, with income to be reinvested for 10 years so as to increase the permanent endowment. 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. It is interesting to note that the last switch of investments occurred in 2009. Previously assets had been held only in bank deposits. After the 2009 switch around two thirds of the total capital was invested in the CBF Investment Fund and one third in cash in the CBF Deposit Fund. At the end of December 2016, the combined value of these investments was some £29,370, and the proportion of cash has fallen from around 33% to under 20% of the total investment fund. In 2016 all income arising in this fund, some £723 was paid to the PCC.

Louisa Wilson Legacy

This trust is a bequest from Louisa Wilson who died in 1949. The purpose of the trust is restricted to either “purchasing a house which 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 the Diocesan Stipends Fund as “reimbursement for part of the stipend of the clergy in the parish”. Looking at the history of this trust provides a salutary reminder not only of the importance of regular and attentive stewardship, but also of the value of clear thinking about the purpose of a trust at its original formation. The leasehold house in the Little Boltons bequeathed to St Mary’s was apparently sold in 1949 and the proceeds of £2,406 invested in War Loan stock, but by the time the performance of the investments was reviewed in 1958 the stock was worth only £1,655, a salutary reminder for all trustees that investments need to be reviewed regularly. In order to have the same purchasing power in 1958 as the original value of the fund had in 1949 would have required a fund of around £3,600. The Will trust is interesting in that it initially states the sum is left for the “augmentation of the existing endowment of the parish” a simple and generous general purpose gift. The difficulty comes with the additional wording at the end of the Will which emphasises that the purpose of the gift is the “augmentation of the income of the living” and it is this additional stipulation that means that the income can be applied directly to the diocesan Stipends Fund.

The assets of the trust are currently wholly invested in shares of the CBF Investment Fund which aims to provide a reasonable opportunity for capital growth whilst at the same time providing some income. The market value at the end of 2016 of the 3302 shares held by the trust fund was £49,652. For 2016 the income was £1,446 which was paid directly to the Stipends Fund.

Legacies – gifts of faith, hope and love

As far as can be ascertained from the records which survive, the Redcliffe Gardens and St Peter's trusts were funded by living donors, but the very generous gift from Louisa Wilson was a legacy under her will. This year's accounts also records for the last time the gift of another benefactor who left money in his will to support the church. Mr Claud Walker Heneage OBE was a barrister and Civil Servant who died in 1952. He appointed The Royal Bank of Scotland of 49 Charing Cross as trustee of his Will and in it he provided for a number of legacies including one of £200 to be invested by the trustee and the income paid to St Jude's Collingham Gardens. St Mary's first received income from the Trustee in 2012, and at the same time the Trustee advised us that as the trust was very small they would be applying to the Charity Commission to wind up the trust and pay over the remaining capital. The sum of £740 was finally received in August 2015.

The life of some trusts, like the Claud Walker Heneage trust, have lives measured only in decades, but others live on and support the church over centuries. Behind the Kensington Parochial Charities ("KPC") are trusts the oldest of which dates from 1617, and it is still providing benefits for those who need support. KPC is managed by the local authority but it still makes distributions according to the parish system, and in making distributions the council still involves each of the parish churches in its area of benefit.

Making provision for gifts to charity in Wills is a long established custom in England and one which has traditionally been encouraged by the Church. In 2016 St Mary's received one generous legacy from a former parishioner which helped to balance our budget in a difficult financial year. Please consider supporting St Mary's in this way.

L T Fraser-Mackenzie

Prepared for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on Sunday 2 April 2017

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