

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

2013

(1 January - 31 December)



rooted in faith

open in thought

reaching out in service

Prepared for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on Sunday 6 April 2014 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

Revd Ginny Thomas

Parish Officers and Elected Representatives

Churchwardens

Mr Leo Fraser-MacKenzie,
Mrs Ann Mulcare (and Deanery Synod Representative)

Members of the Parochial Church Council

Revd Ginny Thomas (Chair), Mr Philip Bedford-Smith,
Mr Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Miss Margarete Geier, (Deanery Synod
Representative), Mrs Mary Godwin, Miss Joanna Hackett (PCC
Secretary), Mr Timon Molloy, Mrs Ann Mulcare, Mr David
Parsons,
Mrs Katrina Quinton, Mr Michael Roskelly, Mrs Judy Rydell, Mrs
Ann Tait

PCC Treasurer & Assistant Treasurer to the Redcliffe Gardens Trust

Miss Carolyn Stubbs

Secretary to the Parochial Church Council

Miss Joanna Hackett

Stewardship Recorder

Mr John Barker

Safeguarding Officer Mr Timon Molloy

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

Inspecting Architect

Mr Michael Staff, Nye Saunders LLP,

Insurers

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

Legal Advisers

Lee Bolton Monier-Williams, 1 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JT &
CMS Cameron McKenna LLP, Mitre House, 160 Aldersgate Street,
London, EC1A 4DD

Payroll Facilities

RSM Tenon (Baker Tilly), York House, York Street, Manchester M2
3BB

Property Management

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

Numbers on the Electoral Roll 201

Statistics					
	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Communions					
Easter	126	106	108	116	160
Christmas Midnight	97	76	101	98	116
Christmas Morning	99	99	98	108	91
Sunday average	73	78	77	98	76
Average Sunday morning attendance, including children	106	107	104	131	100
Occasional Offices					
Baptisms	37	27	31	38	38
Confirmations	1	6	6	7	1
Weddings	9	12	8	11	8
Blessing of Marriage after a Civil Ceremony	0	0	1	0	2
Funerals in Church	3	3	9	8	7
Memorial Services	3	5	3	0	2

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

Worship and Occasional Offices

The Sunday service and Wednesday Eucharist and Eucharist before the Thursday Lunch 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, Olivia LoPrimo, Miranda LoPrimo, David Parsons, Camilla Ruz, Catherine Walcott, Patrick Thomas, Martha Sivaguru and Kara Jackivicz.

Chalice Assistants Phillip Bedford-Smith, Margarete Geier, Sheila Gibbs, Sylvia Gregory, Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, David Parsons, Arthur Tait, Verena Tschudin, Anthony Williams.

Readers and Sidespersons Robin Arbuthnot, John Barker, Hugh Beach, Philip Bedford-Smith, Antony Bryceson, Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Bill Gallagher, Margarete Geier, Sheila Gibbs, Brian Hallock, Michele lamori, Raymond Kyle, Joshua Lee, Ann Mulcare, Mark and Susan Nichols, , David and Fiona Parsons, Joan Rawle, Boo Simpson, Anne Swift, Ann and Arthur Tait, Patrick Thomas, Verena Tschudin, Anthony Williams.

Intercessors Christopher Fowkes, Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Joanna Hackett, Verena Tschudin, Anthony Williams.

Rotas Mary Meeson and Joanna Hackett.

Vicar's Report for 2013

It is rare to have a year where there is little or no change in our church life and this year has again been one of change. The major change was the departure of Ruth Lampard, who came to the end of her five-year appointment as associate vicar. Ruth left in the middle of July to become chaplain to the organisation 'Chapter 1', which provides transitional housing for vulnerable young adults.

During her time at St Mary's, Ruth shared in all the liturgical duties and pastoral care and had special responsibility for Sunday School, Time for Tea, the discussion group 'SW10,20,30' (for those in their 20s and 30s) and the Sustainability Group. In addition Ruth did a great deal to improve the church's administration and was also instrumental in sorting out key issues with our energy provider. We are very grateful for all that Ruth contributed during her time at St Mary's and she is much missed.

In spite of advertising for a successor and receiving applications, no appointment was made. One of the hindrances in making an appointment was our inability to provide housing for an associate vicar. The PCC therefore decided that it would look into the possibility of buying a small flat within reasonable travel distance of St Mary's before considering a new appointment. It is hoped that this will be achieved in 2014.

The PCC were also unsuccessful in appointing someone to supervise and lead our Sunday School and Little Lamb groups. I am very grateful to our Sunday School and Little Lambs leaders who continue to do excellent work with the groups, which have flourished this year.

There have been other significant changes during the year. Boo Simpson and Anita Dowbiggin retired as our chief flower arrangers. Over very many years, and with the help of others, they provided beautiful flower arrangements for our weekly worship, special

occasions and weddings and funerals. I am extremely grateful for their long service and dedication.

It is always a pleasure to welcome new members of our congregation and it is sad to say goodbye to those who move away. It is especially sad to say farewell to those who have died and this year the funerals for two long standing members of our congregation, Dorothy Patrick and Bryan Peers, took place. With few exceptions, both worshipped weekly at St Mary's and their presence is keenly missed, and not only on Sundays, but also at parish events.

Traditionally members of the parish have gone on pilgrimage every other year. The last pilgrimage took place in 2008, but this year we made up for lost time by going on two: to Waldsassen in Bavaria in March and to the Holy Land in October. A group of 12 people went to Waldsassen where we visited the glass factory that provided the glass for the Craigie Aitchison memorial window. We also visited Flossenburg, the concentration camp where Dietrich Bonhoeffer was executed. Our discussions during our visit centred on Bonhoeffer's life and sermons.

A group of seven people from St Mary's joined members and friends of St Luke and Christ Church, Chelsea, for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It was an unforgettable experience as we visited sites associated with the life and death of Jesus in Jerusalem and Galilee. It was encouraging to see and mingle with so many pilgrims from all over the world.

In the autumn we held a successful Planned Giving Programme and I am extremely grateful to everyone who responded so generously. As a result we were able to end the year on a sound financial footing and to begin the New Year with confidence.

Worship remains at the centre of our life and nourishes us for all that we do. This year our Sunday worship has been enhanced thanks

to the generosity of an anonymous donor who has made it possible for us to engage of professional soloist twice a month. On alternate Sundays the adult choir continues to sing for the services and I am grateful to them for their continued commitment. John Ward, our Director of Music, started a Junior Choir before the summer break, which in the autumn rehearsed regularly and sang at the Sunday service from time to time.

I am very grateful to John for taking this initiative and for the music he has provided for us during the year.

It is always a pleasure to welcome guest preachers to our main service and this year we have benefited having the following guest preachers: Steven Platts, Senior Project Manager at West London Churches Homeless Concern; the Venerable Peter Delaney of St Stephen's, Walbrook in the City; Nigel Cooper of Anglican Ruskin University and Vice Chair of the Church of England Shrinking the Footprint Steering Group; the Revd Dr Brian Leathard, Rector of St Luke and Christ Church, Chelsea; Stephen Drew of Medic Malawi and the Revd Jack Dunn, chaplain of Lincoln College, Oxford who is a former parishioner.

In all that we do we continue to be guided by the three principles of being 'rooted in faith, open in thought and reaching out in service'. I am extremely grateful to everyone who contributes to our common life and helps to make St Mary's a lively community. I would particularly like to thank the wardens, Leo Fraser-Mackenzie and Ann Mulcare, who have worked extremely hard this year, members of the PCC, Carolyn Stubbs the Treasurer who continues to work efficiently and diligently behind the scenes, and Bill Gallagher the Assistant Treasurer and John Barker the Gift Aid Secretary.

In addition to my duties as vicar, I was appointed chaplain to the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Charles Williams for the year 2013-2014 and took up the appointment in May. Duties include leading prayers before full Council meetings, attending and taking part in civic church services and supporting the Mayor and

Council by prayer. In June the Mayor and Mayoress, Mrs June Williams, kindly attended our Summer Fair and in December they attended our carol service.

I would like to end this report by thanking John McVeigh, the parish administrator, and David Ireton the vergers/caretaker who have worked hard during the year and helped to make St Mary's a church where everyone is welcomed and where possible have given help and support. They have done so with commitment, humour and professionalism and I am very grateful to them. *Ginny Thomas*

The Parochial Church Council

The PCC of St Mary The Boltons is headed up by Ginny as vicar and other members include our two wardens, a Deanery Synod representative and twelve elected members of the congregation.

During 2013 the PCC met on six occasions, for our regular meetings in church, an accounts meeting, and as ever, we began the year with an Away Day (though just travelling as far as the church hall).

During the year the PCC has discussed and implemented many subjects that impact on the life of St Mary's. Some of these actions were goals set at our Away Day and others have had to be implemented as the need arose throughout the year. Achievements include, though not exclusively, the following:

- Establish a Fabric and Maintenance Group to look at and maintain our building and fixtures and fittings
- Finalise the enfranchisement of the lease on our Redcliffe Gardens property
- Agree and implement a plan with our tenant, Paint Pots, for their future use of the building
- Initiate a six-monthly cleaning day

- Widen our pool of volunteers, especially in catering and intercessing
- Introduce badges for PCC members
- Revamp the website
- Introduce new hymn books
- Organise a Planned Giving Programme
- Introduce a weekly email bulletin to members of the congregation

The PCC exists to provide an important structure to life behind the scene at St Mary's. The members represent the congregation, but are aware of the essential volunteering and support that many members of the congregation provide in order that the PCC can achieve its aims. We are always pleased to hear from members of the congregation and ask that you get in contact if you have any comments, questions or suggestions for the PCC.

Joanna Hackett

Safeguarding

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

Timon Molloy is the CSO (mob: 07816 184207) and works with Verena Tschudin, past Children's Advocate, who continues to carry out the DBS (Database & Checking Service, formerly the Criminal Records Bureau) checks on all persons in a role that brings them into contact with anyone who could be at risk. He also liaises with

Ginny on safeguarding issues and to confirm that the DBS checks register is up to date.

Primarily the focus is on activities around Sunday School, Little Lambs and the Children's Choir. 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.

In the last 12 months there were no reported incidents.

Timon Molloy

Meetings of the Deanery Synod

There were two deanery meetings in 2013. The first in April in St Augustine's church when we had our usual reports from the parishes in the Chelsea deanery, and we had a report by the Revd Paul Cowley on the Wilberforce Trust.

I did not attend the October meeting as I was away on Pilgrimage with the church. According to the minutes of the meeting a report came from lay Chairman James Normand, saying he is stepping down. There will be two meetings in 2014

Margarete Geier

Sunday School & Little Lambs

The junior end of the church continues to thrive, with 25-30 children typically attending one of our two groups – Sunday School (aged ca 6-12) and Little Lambs (birth to ca 6) – each term-time Sunday. During 2013 Clair Gordon and Alexandra Bell joined Judy Rydell and Chris Fowkes in leading Little Lambs and that has enabled us to move from running sessions twice a month to every week during term-time. Jane Dass also stepped down from leading Sunday School after many years of dedicated service; Jessica Molloy and

Katie Fowkes have taken up the reins, assisted by a number of other parents, especially Jane Bonser and Kelly Webb.

Little Lambs sessions are a lively mix of simple Bible stories, songs and music, creative activities and snacks. Sunday School seeks to explore the Bible in greater depth through Bible study, activities and prayer, so that, by secondary school age, the children have both a solid familiarity with the Bible and a healthy view of the church as a source of friendship and support.

Chris and Katie Fowkes

Servers

2013 has seen new servers in our ranks, and Sylvia Gregory has continued her sterling work on organising the rotas and work behind the scenes with our servers old and new. Many thanks to Sylvia Gregory, Olivia and Miranda LoPrimo, David Parsons, Catherine Walcott, Patrick Thomas, Martha Sivaguru and Kara Jackivicz.

Gift Aid

The Treasurer's report for the 2013 year includes a figure of £90,387 for Gift Aid donations. The tax recoverable amounted to £16,595 which we would not have received had not most of our contributors completed and returned a Gift Aid declaration to the effect that they paid UK income or capital gains tax in that year at least equal to the tax reclaimable. If you have not already made such a declaration and would like to, or have any questions on the subject, please contact me on 0208 571 0737 or via jabarker151@aol.com. Gift Aid is not of course new money from an external source. It is money which we have paid in tax the destination of which we can specify, a feature which patently does not apply to the rest of our personal tax outgoings.

Envelope Scheme

This is a facility which enables one to put something to put in a collection bag and know that Gift Aid will be reclaimable on it. This can be achieved using one of the blue envelopes available in the pews or at the back of the church but Envelope Scheme envelopes are numbered, enabling me to know where they come from without your needing to write your name and address on them each time. If you would like a boxed set of these envelopes (covering the complete calendar year) please let me know.

John Barker (Planned-giving Secretary).

Music Report

2013 saw several important innovations in our music, as well as the continuation of some well-established traditions.

Professional musicians have continued to enhance our special services, as soloists, and as part of a quintet. We are grateful in particular to Katerina Nazarova for her exquisite violin playing for Remembrance Sunday, and to regular singers Emily Atkinson, Danae Eleni, and Ana-Maria Rincon for their numerous highly professional appearances at St Mary's. Starting in Lent 2013, an anonymous donation allowed us to begin having soloists approximately every second week to lead the singing and to perform an aria during Communion, which has been a very welcome enhancement of our musical offering. The Carol Service 2013 was, as ever, a magical occasion. Highlights this year included Berkeley's moving 1983 Kings Cambridge commission 'In Wintertime', and a sparkly new setting of 'The Holly and the Ivy' by Matthew Owens. The tradition of alternating verses between men and women in the congregational carols, so well liked in 2012, was reprised.

Later in the spring, a new junior choir came into being, allowing the youngest members of the congregation to begin taking an active role in our musical life; the group began on a rather ad hoc basis, but by the autumn a schedule of regular weekly rehearsals after the Sunday

service had been established, with the choir making several contributions to Sunday services, and giving a memorable performance at the Crib service in December.

Though the adult choir was at times very thin on the ground (increasingly busy lives of members and the difficulty in finding new recruits), some memorable performances were given and I am grateful to the faithful few for their dedication.

In September, we said farewell to our well-thumbed New English Hymnals, and took delivery of our elegant new red hardback copies of the latest incarnation of 'Hymns Ancient and Modern'. We have had the opportunity to put the book to great use already, singing challenging new texts by writers such as Dudley Smith set to familiar tunes, fresh new translations of ancient hymns, alongside more recent classics such as 'Great is thy faithfulness' and 'How great thou art'. Many members of the congregation have expressed their appreciation of the new books, and indeed of the music in general at St Mary's and I have continued to be so heartened by your kind works of appreciation and encouragement.

John Ward

The Flower Guild

Since we took on the flower arrangement from Boo Simpson and Anita Dowbiggin on their retirement, we have continued with the help of past and new members on a weekly basis.

Margarete Geier and Katrina Quinton

Young People

We are continuing to support our young people (11-18) through conversation and opportunities for involvement, particularly within our serving team.

The Prayer Network

The Prayer Network is an important part of our corporate life. Twenty-three 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 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, but by no means exclusively. Anyone with a concern can let Ginny, John McVeigh, or me know and requests are dealt with as quickly as possible, usually within hours. It is important that changes or progress are also noted and passed on, as this keeps the prayers and intercessions relevant, and the intercessors interested. The intercessors use the list entirely as suits them, not according to any particular instruction or pattern.

On 27 February a meeting for the members of the Prayer Network was held in Church, where a general discussion of the needs of the Network took place and updates on the people prayed for were given.

Verena Tschudin

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. After the death of Dorothy Patrick we now meet at Ann Swift's home.

Pat Schleger

Wednesday Bible Study Group

We meet throughout the year on alternate morning. We began by studying the Psalms and then the Book of Revelations. Our numbers have been constant at between 6 and 10 and the meetings were led by Sheila Peers and Ginny Thomas.

Margarete Geier

Monthly Thursday Lunches

Nine Thursday lunches were held in 2013, the 'missing' months being January, July and August: the holiday seasons. Attendance was typically between twenty five and thirty on each occasion, including several visitors from outside the congregation. Anyone is welcome, and participants enjoy the spiritual, social and informative ambience.

We are very grateful to the speakers who give a 20-30 minute talk with some time for discussion. Topics varied widely, ranging from Jill Wood talking about one of our charities 'SMART'; to Ron Howard about trees; and to Alexandra Bell who literally 'sang for her supper' with a selection of 'Songs for Spring' accompanied by Stephen Meakins. The other speakers were Revd Andy Emerton about St Mellitus; Sharon Thurley about Silver Sunday; Patrick Thomas about life in the Outer Hebrides; Revd Sharon Connell about the Multi-Faith Chaplain's unit at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital; Simon de Mare about Egypt; and in December Mary Meeson, Leo Fraser-Mackenzie and Margarete Geier about the recent pilgrimage to Israel. Warmest thanks to them all.

The lunch fare is soup, bread, cheese and pate, fruit and coffee. A donation of £4 is requested from those willing to pay to cover the costs of the food, and sometimes there is a small donation available for the church.

There is the opportunity to attend the 11.45 Eucharist before the lunch.

Great thanks to those who set up and clear and wash up after the lunch, and especially to David, the master of the all-powerful washing machine, who carries the largest part of the burden..

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 life at St Mary's.
June Brudenell and Ann and Arthur Tait.

Reading at St Cuthbert with St Matthias School

The group of volunteers continue to go into St Cuthbert with St Matthias School each week. The number of volunteers fluctuates from time to time - at present we have 14 volunteers. Nine are members of St Mary's church and two others are friends/contacts of parishioners.

One volunteer from the parish is new this year – a very welcome addition to the group.

In a recent newsletter from the school they say that the reading volunteers are improving standards at St Cuthberts. A quote from the Head Teacher's letter in the same newsletter reads "It is very good to celebrate the work of our Reading Volunteers this week, they make a tremendous difference to the school and we are very fortunate to have such a wonderful group of dedicated people helping us".

It is very encouraging to know the school appreciates the contribution made by the volunteers. We hope that more parishioners may feel able to volunteer.

Sheila Gibbs

Sustainability Group

The aims of the sustainability group were to make the church, and us as individuals more aware of the environment, energy saving and the effects we have on the environment. The group feels that it has achieved its aims of bringing sustainability issues more into our general thought.

Katrina Quinton

Traidcraft

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

Communications Committee

St Mary's has recognised that digital communication is an important way of letting both our congregation and our wider community know about what is happening in the church. Following the successful launch of the weekly bulletin sent out by John McVeigh, the Committee met several times to redesign the website, to make it faster, more easily accessible and flexible to use. This new site was launched in May and has been well received. It has essential data on services, who's who, activities and a complete archive of Clarions. We also said farewell to Roger Cornwell who has been very supportive of our efforts both over the past years and during the digital handover.

We monitor site access and use and are pleased to have had feedback from visitors that they have come to St Mary's as a result of reading about us on the website. It also allows prospective wedding couples and baptism parents to find out about what we offer and how to start arranging their special day. Details of church hall bookings, complete with photos and floor plans, are also available. The website contributes to the economic well-being of the church as well.

All this has been a good step forward, but as always with technology we need to continue to update, upgrade and innovate. We meet regularly with our web service-provider, Will Mayes, and explore updating email lists, more flexible templates for the weekly bulletin, and greater use of the calendar and a regular refreshing of the photos.

We could not have achieved what we have done without the help of Camila Ruz, who has been a tower of strength and encouragement as we launched the new site. Now Joanna Hackett has agreed to be the editor for the site and to post items regularly, for which we are most grateful. John McVeigh continues to expand his digital skills, which are contributing to make his life easier and more efficient, and we applaud his diligence in this area. The Communications Committee consists of Timon Molloy, Katrin Roskelly, Patrick Thomas and Joanna Hackett.

Patrick Thomas

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 on the monthly Thursday lunches and other events are regular items, as well as other news and adverts for events. The regular articles by Hugh Beach on various historical and church topics have become a tradition and are much appreciated. During 2013 most issues were 16 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 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. 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, make up some of the remaining regular space.

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.

Verena Tschudin

Social Events

The Sunday lunches continue to be popular with a usual attendance between 25 and 30 people.

We also cater for teas at some funeral and memorial services and have provided some light refreshments for special occasions.

A big thank you to all the helpers during the year, without them we could not continue, many thanks!

Margarete Geier

Community

The *Time for Tea*, in partnership with Age UK Kensington and Chelsea, ended in August. It has now got a new home at St Cuthbert and St Matthias. Margarete Geier and Ruth Lampard offered transport to those who could not walk to Church. We had excellent teams of hosts, with many thanks to Amanda Geddes, John Barker, Mary Godwin, Raymond Kyle, Helen Trafford, Elizabeth Lake and Anne Swift.

John Mcv Veigh

Summer Fair

Flaming June is the title of a wonderful pre-Raphaelite picture and an apt summary of the weather at the Summer Fair again!

I'm sure others have much more spiritual analogies as a definition of faith, but the Summer Fair works for me. There is hope, despair, anger, self-pity, disappointment, joy, laughter, gratitude, relief, comfort, companionship, friendship, generosity, and sense of grace, all in various proportions and sometimes all in the space of ten minutes but laughter, gratitude and awareness of the Almighty's awe-inspiring sense of timing and humour are the strongest for me. He never fails and something always turns up! So many people helped and rallied and laughed when the rain started, then roared with laughter when it rained so hard that all the gazeboes leaked!

It was a day where so many people helped and created a wonderful afternoon for those who came and joined us, and somehow, we made nearly £5,000 for the charities pot. So many people helped and rallied, before, during and after, but the best contribution to the day's success was the genuine good humour of everyone. Thanks are due to many: the lovely Louisa and George who was the best Goalie and who kept the date in his diary for more than six months; Chris and Miriam who got the concept of the Glider Challenge and flew with it; Jessica and the Sunday School crew; the Fowkes family for the fantastic balloons; Nicki, the best and kindest face painter in the business; Val and Lottie for keeping track of the multitudes of books; Anthony Bryceson for the best barbecued sausages and hot dogs and his beautiful family for being without him for so much of the day; Deborah and Phillip Challoner for the fantastically festive coconut shy; the wonderful Hanan-Paul family for coming back yet again to man the cake stall; Margarete, Jo and Nick who managed with gracious warmth and generous hospitality The Boltons Tea Gardens (and recreating it in the hall when it got washed out); Craig and his team for inspirational Pimms; Patrick and Leo for explaining the Tokens System over and over and over again; Sheila, Mary and Pat for raffle and hamper ticket sales; the Hunt family for the

beautiful treasure map and Pin the Tail on the donkey; Jo and John and Mary for helping the mighty Dallas with the bric-à-brac; the ever patient and always tolerant Anthony Williams for organising the sound system and being the compère for the afternoon; all those who put marquees up in the morning, then peeled off tablecloths and moved wet and soggy everything from the garden to the church at the end of the day while the rain kept coming down.

The volunteers continued to help afterwards too, and we appreciated hugely those who helped pack up the tents after church on Sunday morning; who lugged boxes of books and crates of stuff; who organised, fetched and carried; to Ginny for not minding that the church looked like a Scottish Mill with acres of tartan rugs drying over the pews on Sunday afternoon. Dave was marvellous and did much of the donkey work, getting stuff down from the loft and then back up again in time for Sunday morning coffee, and for getting it into the garden and remembering which bit went with what and where it came from.

It never ceases to amaze me as to what can be created and cleared up in the space of a day. It was a very good feeling walking away from church on Monday afternoon, knowing that all was calm and serene again.

We continue to be grateful to the local retail community who help us with the fair and help us create a raffle that people would like to buy tickets for. Gemma and everyone at Knight Frank who printed the posters and flyers; Toby Brown of tlc REAL Estate Agents who gave us the two tickets at Chelsea and lent us their tents and blankets, which were hugely appreciated by the Magic Show audience; Richard Pinner who really is the BEST magician and is completely wonderful and didn't mind the weather at all – brilliant, adaptable, undemanding and completely professional; to the brilliant band who kept our spirits up as the rain came down and didn't give up on us; Russell the florist outside Oddbins on the Earl's Court Road who gave us the flowers for the tea tables; Only Roses who gave us the stunningly beautiful bouquet of roses as a raffle prize;

The Troubadour, Wyndham House, Gail's Bakery and Pure Baby who gave us very generous vouchers as prizes; Lea and Sandemann who gave us wine for the raffle; Daunt Books who gave us some of their own books without a second thought; Farmers Ironmongers and The Boltons Residents' Association too.

Maybe next year the sun will shine!

Katrina Quinton

Verger's Report

It was another busy year in 2013. As well as our regular Sunday and midweek services, we hosted events ranging from piano recitals to concerts on behalf of the local branch of the RNLI, all taking place in the main body of the church. Eight weddings this year with their range of requirements kept me on my toes. The church hall and upper room continue to be heavily used with activities such as Tae Kwon Do and local residents' associations garden parties. We also host several community groups with regular evening bookings. This year we hired the hall out for 48 children's birthday parties, which, combined with regular weekday bookings from Paint Pots classes mean that the hall is rarely out of use. In the early part of the year we were able to have the hall floor professionally refurbished. During the summer months we replaced all of our electricity meters and now have three rather than eight, which makes reading them more accurate.

Dave Ireton

The Sacristy

Margarete Geier and Sylvia Gregory look after other sacristan duties, such as the preparations and setting up of the altar for services, as well as looking after the clergy vestments and supplies for communion.

Charities Committee Report

The current framework for our charitable giving was established in 2008 and has barely changed since that last review. We have a Charitable Pot, Guidelines for the types of work we wish to support, and a Selection process. The Charitable Pot is filled by the funds we raise or collect during the year. Funds come from specific fund raising events such as the annual Summer Fair, as well as from the collection at our Christmas Carol Service, and have been underpinned in recent years by the ground rent from no 11 Redcliffe Gardens, although sadly 2013 will be the last year that the ground rent is available as the freehold was enfranchised during the year.

The Charitable Pot is divided into three equal parts. One third is allocated to supporting a single local charity over two year, one third is allocated to supporting an overseas project, also for two years; these are our major donations. The timing of this two-year support has been staggered, so that each year we select one new major project for support, either locally or overseas. The final third of the charity pot is allocated each year in smaller amounts; these are our minor donations. They are one-off donations and again we aim to have a balance between local and overseas projects. We have guidelines for the types of work we support, which are published on the church website. Our program is not open to unsolicited applications. Instead all nominations submitted to the Charities Committee must be sponsored in writing by a member of the church.

Fifteen proposals were received during the nomination period for the 2013 programme, but one third of them fell outside the guidelines.

The PCC approved the recommendations of the committee so that the principal charities supported during 2013 were Pump Aid (second year) and the new local charity was the new Food Bank at St Luke's Church Redcliffe Gardens. Other donations from the final third of the pot were made to Medic Malawi, the St Nicholas Fund at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and Alex, the school boy in

Uganda sponsored through Compassion UK. In addition, an emergency fund of £500 was established but no disbursements were made from this fund during 2013.

During the year we heard from charities that we have been supporting. At the March Thursday lunch a speaker from SMART, a charity working with people recovering from mental illness, gave a talk, and in November we heard an inspirational talk from the pulpit given by Stephen Drew, who is closely involved with Medic Malawi. The Clarion carried articles about these talks and also about West London Churches Homeless Concern.

Finally, outside of the above framework, it is worth recording that we continue to collect clothing during the winter months for the Earl's Court Community Project and to make a financial contribution to their Christmas lunches from a specific collection at Christmas.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Report on Trusts for 2013

The inexorable process of enfranchising the lease of no 11 Redcliffe Gardens came to a conclusion in 2013, nearly one hundred and three years since the property was first acquired by the church with funds raised for the purpose from generous parishioners. The PCC was advised by Gerald Eve and CMS Cameron McKenna on valuation and legal matters respectively, each on a restricted fee basis. The premium agreed for the freehold was £195,000, and with the contribution of just over £6,000 towards our legal fees from the tenant at no 11, the total sum payable was just over £201,000. The transaction was completed in 2013 and at the year end the funds were being held by CMS Cameron McKenna, but have since been passed on to the London Diocesan Fund as custodian trustee. The PCC has indicated a wish to re-invest in property and so the London Diocesan Fund has been requested to invest the funds in the CBF Deposit Fund until a suitable property can be identified. Work on this is continuing.

There is no such significant development to report on in respect of the St Peter's Trust from which the Parish is entitled to the income, or the Louisa Wilson Legacy, the income from which goes to the Diocesan stipends fund. There was no change to the underlying financial investments in the trusts that are either in cash deposits held in the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or invested in the CBF Investment Fund. These funds are both managed by CCLA Investment Management (www.ccla.co.uk). CCLA has a very clear understanding of the requirements of long term church investments, the need for capital growth as well as income. The Investment Fund performed well in 2013. The total return performance for 2013 was 17.3%. This is before management fees of 0.55% are deducted and also assumes that dividend income is reinvested. Gross dividend yield at the year end was 3.92%, so there was a worthwhile increase in the underlying capital value of the investment during the year as well as the dividend income that was paid out. The Deposit Fund maintained its AAA/VI rating from the Fitch rating agency. Returns on cash continue to be poor (0.5% pa at the year end after management fees have been deducted). The Deposit Fund does not benefit from the Deposit Protection Guarantee Scheme, but this is mitigated by the wide spread of banks in which the fund places money and this in turn is reflected in the triple AAA fund rating that it maintained during the year.

CCLA supports the Church of England's Ethical Investment Advisory Group and they report that at the end of the year they were reviewing their policy investment restrictions regarding alcohol.

There has been no change in the assets of St Peter's Trust or to the Louisa Wilson Fund, which remain invested in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund and the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

Claude Heneage Will Trust - No income was received during the year from the Claude Heneage Will Trust and no further news was

received from the trustee about any potential winding up of the trust.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Fabric Report

In terms of work actually undertaken, 2013 was a year of routine care and maintenance, in marked contrast to the major projects undertaken in 2012. It is good nevertheless to report that the gutters were regularly cleaned and no major deficiencies were noted by those who did the work; photographs are taken if any work is recommended, and lightning conductors are tested. Boilers were serviced and it became clear at the end of the year that a better supply was needed to ensure both boilers could run at optimum capacity. This will involve installation of a wider diameter gas pipe from the main in the street to the boiler room. Small improvements were made to the Vicar's office. A new second-hand but good quality desk chair was purchased, a new carpet was laid and cabling for the desk was re-run under the floor.

The church plate in the Vestry and the Treasury in church has been regularly cleaned. No losses have arisen during the year. Work on the new photographic inventory was resumed. Written descriptions, including details of silver hall marks and makers' marks have been prepared and now it only remains to add details of weights and measurements to complete the work.

An Archdeacon's Triennial Visitation occurred in November, at which the church wardens were able to report that no urgent repair work was outstanding from the last Quinquennial Report by the Church Architect. However, more attention is needed to work on other non-urgent items. Among these are updating the testing on the structural movement of the tower and securing safer ladder access to the tower.

Work on repairing damp in the staircase to the organ gallery is ongoing at the end of the year.

Paint Pots, the weekday tenant of the hall, advised us in the summer of their plans to upgrade the status of their classes to become an OFSTED regulated nursery. This will require additional toilet facilities and an application for a Faculty to undertake these works was made to the Diocesan Advisory Committee. The actual works are expected to be done during the Easter 2014 holiday period.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

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