

**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

2011

(1 January - 31 December)



rooted in faith

open in thought

reaching out in service

Prepared for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on Sunday 22 April 2012
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,

Associate Vicar

Revd Ruth Lampard

Parish Officers and Elected Representatives

Churchwardens

Mr Mark Nichols,

Mr Leo Fraser-MacKenzie,

Members of the Parochial Church Council

Revd Ginny Thomas (Chair), Mr Philip Bedford-Smith, Mr Antony Bryceson, Mr Christopher Fowkes, Mr Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Miss Margarete Geier (Deanery Synod Representative), Miss Joanna Hackett (PCC Secretary), Revd Ruth Lampard, Mrs Mary Lewis, Mr Kevin LoPrimo, Mrs Ann Mulcare (Deanery Synod Representative), Mr Mark Nichols, Mrs Katrina Quinton, Mrs Kristin-Anne Rutter, Miss Camila Ruz, 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,

Children's Advocate

Ms Verena Tschudin,

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

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

RSM Tenon, York House, York Street, Manchester M2 3BB

Property Management

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

Numbers on the Electoral Roll 227

Statistics					
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Communions					
Easter	136	160	116	160	143
Christmas Midnight	101	116	98	116	102
Christmas Morning	98	91	108	91	108
Sunday average	77	98	76	98	88
Average Sunday morning attendance, including children					
	104	131	100	131	130
Occasional Offices					
Baptisms	31	38	38	38	49
Confirmations	6	7	1	7	2
Weddings	8	11	8	11	6
Blessing of Marriage after a Civil Ceremony	1	0	2	0	4
Funerals in Church	9	8	7	8	7
Memorial Services	3	0	2	0	1

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

As we prepare for the yearly Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), the Vicar's report presents an excellent opportunity to look back over the year and to look forward to the coming one.

Looking back over 2011, there is much to celebrate at St Mary's as we continue to be a place where worship is central to our lives and appropriately, it is from our worship that our ministry and mission flow. Ministry and mission are currently the two 'buzz' words in the Church of England and while they may be in danger of becoming over-used, and so lose their validity, 'ministry and mission' underlie our common life.

I am very grateful to Graham Caldbeck, our Director of Music, for another year of memorable music and excellent work with the choir. St Mary's is unusual in that it has choir made up of parishioners who sing twice a month, but for church festivals and other special occasions, professional singers are used. The combination works well and Graham is to be congratulated on the high quality of singers he is able to attract to sing at those services. His choice of music is always made with great care and adds much to our worship.

Our Sunday services are also enhanced by guest preachers and this year we welcomed: the Revd Carolin Clapperton, (daughter of parishioner Dorothy Patrick), Susan McNab founder of the Gogos charity (which we support through our charitable giving), the Revd Dr Andrew Emerton, director of St Paul's Theological College and assistant dean of St Mellitus College; the Revd Canon David Reindorp, Vicar of Chelsea Old Church and Area Dean for Chelsea who preached at our patronal festival, Brian Cuthbertson, head of Environmental Challenge for the Diocese of London, and the Revd Michael Sawyer, Superintendent Minister of Chelsea Methodist Church who chairs the West London Churches Homeless Concern, another charity which we support.

During the year monthly Taizé-style services were held at St Mary's on Thursday evenings, led by Graham Sharpe. These were well attended and much appreciated by those who came, offering a reflective style of worship. I am very grateful to Graham for initiating and leading the services.

It was in 2011 that we sadly said goodbye to parishioner Jack Dunn who finished his training and was ordained deacon at St Paul's Cathedral on 2 July. He is currently serving as deacon at St Luke's and Christ Church, Chelsea, and will be ordained priest in 2012.

In our ministry and mission we continued during the year to reach out to others, both to those who are part of the St Mary's congregation and to those who live in the parish. 'Time for Tea' was one initiative in reaching out to the community (details can be found in Ruth's report), as was inviting a group from the Willow Day Care Centre to come once a month to practise and play music in the north transept.

Our Summer Fair in June attracts many people from the parish and beyond and in addition to providing an enjoyable afternoon, raises money that goes towards our charitable giving. Elsewhere in this report are details of our giving that enables us to support local and international charities; this giving is an important part of our ministry and mission. This year the Fair was another great success and I am very grateful to Joanna Hackett, Katrina Quinton and Jessica Molloy for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

For the first time two Quiz Nights were held this year, which proved to be great fun and very popular. The first was to raise funds for Christian Aid and the second was during our Planned Giving Programme.

The Planned Giving Programme took place in September and October and I am indebted to those who worked very hard to organise it: Mark Nichols, Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Ann Mulcare, Timon Molloy and John Barker. I would also like to thank Gesa Stolting who helped with designing the materials. I am very grateful to everyone who responded so positively to the programme, whether by giving a donation, by

increasing the amount they already give annually, or by committing themselves to give on an annual basis. As a result we received a good number of donations and our regularly pledged income was increased. However, we are still expecting to have a projected deficit in 2012 as other sources of income, such as rental from the halls and parking, do not fill the gap between our income and expenditure. Many churches now have an annual planned giving programme and this is likely to be the case at St Mary's.

There are many aspects to the work of a vicar, but one I particularly enjoy is taking part in are the Bible study groups, Lent and Advent programmes, as well as preparing candidates for confirmation. This year our Lent and Advent groups were well attended. In Lent we followed the York course 'Rich Inheritance: Jesus' legacy of love' and in Advent we had discussions on the theme 'Re-thinking Christmas: what does a "good" Christmas look like in 2011?' In November Ruth and I took seven candidates to be confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral.

This year, 2012, promises to be a busy and exciting year for St Mary's. Not only are there national events such as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games that we will be celebrating, but we also expect to have the Craigie Aitchison memorial window installed in time for Easter and dedicated by the Bishop of London in May. As in 2009, we will have another art show to coincide with the Summer Fair and Professor Ken Howard RA has kindly agreed to open the show.

These and other events will form part of our continuing ministry and mission in 2012, all flowing from our worship which is central to our life at St Mary's. A quick count of those who take part in some aspect of our life together shows that there are some 70 people who contribute regularly to our common life; these are sides people, readers and intercessor at our Sunday services, choir members, altar servers, leaders and helpers with Sunday School and Little Lambs, those who help with vestry duties such as ironing church linen and polishing the brass and silver, arranging the church flowers, helping in the church garden, preparing and serving lunches and teas.

Many thanks to everyone who contributes to so many aspects of our life at St Mary's. Particular thanks must go to the Wardens, Mark Nichols and Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, who have given invaluable support and advice during the year; Carolyn Stubbs, the Treasurer, who calmly and most efficiently deals with our money matters; and members of the PCC for their hard work and support. I would also like to thank those who so generously support Ruth Lampard's stipend as Associate Vicar.

Finally I would like to thank, Ruth, John McVeigh our parish administrator, and David Ireton our verger. Their commitment, hard work, support and sense of humour over the past year have made my role as the vicar of St Mary's much easier and a great pleasure.

Ginny Thomas

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.

Chalice Assistants Phillip Bedford-Smith, Venice Cedras, Jack Dunn, 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, Elizabeth Davson, Michael Farr, Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Bill Gallagher, Anne Garten, Margarete Geier, Sheila Gibbs, Brian Hallock, Keshara Hallock, Michele Iamori, Elizabeth Lake, Joshua Lee, Ann Mulcare, Mark and Susan Nichols, Emma Nichols, David and Fiona Parsons, Dorothy Patrick, Sheila Peers, Joan Rawle, Camila Ruz, Boo Simpson, Anne Swift, Ann and Arthur Tait, Patrick Thomas, Verena Tschudin, Anthony Williams.

Intercessors Christopher Fowkes, Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Anne Garten, Joanna Hackett, Iona Thomas, Verena Tschudin, Anthony Williams.

Rotas Mary Meeson and Joanna Hackett.

Sunday Service Sheet Fabric group.

The Parochial Church Council

The 2011 year has, as always, passed quickly for St Mary's PCC. The committee has met seven times; a mixture of our usual Thursday evening meetings, a meeting to sign off the PCC accounts and in January 2012 an Away Day. Ginny always successfully leads the PCC meetings, starting with a reflection on a piece of scripture, and then getting down to business, of which this year's subjects have included:

- The installation of the Craigie Aitchison window in Spring 2012
- How best St Mary's can make a worthwhile contribution to the Olympic and Paralympic Games
- The results of our Planned Giving Programme
- Our 'Statement' incorporating our values
- The appointment of our new Health and Safety Officer

This year there has been extra input from the many successful subcommittees at St Mary's; the Finance Committee, Sustainability Group and newly formed Communications Committee to name just a few. These subgroups are extremely helpful to the PCC and the work they undertake and reports they provide save a lot of time and unnecessary discussion by the PCC.

The PCC belongs to St Mary's and we are always pleased to hear from members of the congregation with any comments, questions or suggestions.

Joanna Hackett

Children's Advocate

The Child Protection Policy is reviewed every year in September. 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 more changes in legislation concerning the Criminal Records Bureau checks came into force. There are now about 10 people CRB checked in relation to the Sunday School. Revd Ruth Lampard is 'in charge' of the Sunday School and the legislation concerning CRB for St Mary's and keeps an eye on the records we need to keep.

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

There are two meetings of the Deanery Synod held each year.

The first meeting was held at Chelsea Old Church on 29 March 2011 and was concerned with the introduction of Women Bishops in the Church of England, and what action is required in the Deanery. This was passed in favour at the Deanery level.

The second meeting was held at St Andrew's, Park Walk on 28 September 2011 at which our new Area Dean introduced himself and gave a brief talk regarding his duties. He also welcomed new members. The Vicar, the Revd Paul Dawson gave us details of the Parish profile.

The topic of the evening was the London Olympics 'Mission of Opportunities', which was presented by the Revd John Hawkins and Elizabeth Harrison. They outlined the plan to reach out to the public and welcome the visitors to our Churches.

Margarete Geier

Reports

Associate Vicar

This is my third year in post, and it has been a busy year, with the fruition of background work of the past two years, particularly in relation to care for the environment and outreach to the local community; see specific reports. I have continued to enjoy the full range of pastoral work, and now visit Ellesmere House once a month with Home Communion, as well as ongoing visits to housebound parishioners. Background administration continues behind the scenes too, particularly in relation to CRB checks, support for Sunday School, and liturgical administration (yes, it exists!).

Ruth Lampard

Sunday School

It has been a good year for Sunday School, with a strong core of regular children and a team of helpers: Jane Dass, Jane Bonser, Jennifer Smith, Deborah Challinor and Camila Ruz, to whom many thanks. Philip Bedford-Smith has continued to accompany the children on the piano from time to time, and they all enjoy singing. The children, leaders and parents worked hard to prepare for the nativity play, which led the way for our Christmas celebrations. The children are continuing to support Alex in Uganda and worked hard at the summer fair to raise money to support him.

Ruth Lampard

Little Lambs

2011 was the second year of Little Lambs, a 'mini-Sunday School' for toddlers and pre-schoolers. With the help of Sarah Rossi, Adam Coulter and Judy Rydell, we increased the frequency of the sessions, from once a month to twice a month. Little Lambs now meets during the 10.30am service on the Second and Fourth Sunday of every month throughout the year, except 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 10-12 children attend on any one Sunday, out of a group of about 20 regular attendees and with 44 children attending at least one session during

2011. 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 quietly to support our worship on Sunday mornings. Many thanks to all our servers, and especially to Sylvia Gregory, who is co-ordinating the servers' rota.

Ruth Lampard

Music

Music has continued to play a significant role in worship at St Mary's during 2011. 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 Betty Greenland's funeral in September. It is very pleasing to report that we have welcomed a number of new singers into the choir and also have had the occasional pleasure of welcoming several guest singers, too: people who are friends or family members of the choir, as was the case at Betty's funeral, for example. 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 set of anthem books and RSCM resource pack purchased three years ago has continued to provide some useful and enjoyable material for services, in addition to performing other anthems from the choir library.

We have continued to follow the same rehearsal pattern as last year: generally twice a month from 9.30am for 40-45 minutes on a Sunday. This continues to be a satisfactory (and sustainable) pattern, given the busyness and complicated interface of holiday arrangements and, in a few cases, caring responsibilities within a relatively small group of people. Choir members have continued to work hard and some very pleasing performances have been given. The choir enjoyed working with deputy organist, David Patrick on Advent Sunday. The feedback about the choir from the congregation is generally positive, and the choir's identity and sense of humour are strong. Ginny and Patrick again generously hosted a most enjoyable choir party at the Vicarage in June this year.

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 has been pleased to welcome two new recruits this year, Catherine Walcott and Elizabeth Lake, joining the old hands: Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Keshara Hallock, Oriel Robinson, Micki Rogers, Pauline Stephens and Patrick Thomas. All have continued to sing the psalms week by week very conscientiously and successfully. Caroline Mangin, a recently joined choir member has volunteered to be a cantor in 2012, which is good news, too.

The Sunday School has several times included music in its presentations, and we look forward to the children's continuing contribution to worship in the future. Philip Bedford-Smith in particular has generously provided help and encouragement to the children in learning new songs this year for special services and, from time to time, has accompanied them.

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. Occasionally the choir has supported the congregation in the learning and trying out of less familiar hymns. Members of the congregation have frequently expressed their appreciation and enjoyment of this aspect of our worship. The congregational hymn singing at St. Mary's is particularly strong and adds a very positive musical aspect to our worship.

The church has continued to invite professional singers and instrumentalists to perform for major Festivals, Holy Week and special services, as well as for weddings, funerals and memorial services. This is an important aspect of our musical activity, although one that is perhaps less obvious to some 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 2011, professional musicians from outside the church have contributed to seven services, beyond those professional choirs (generally a quintet) arranged to perform at weddings, funerals and memorial services. At one wedding blessing the professional choir stood around the piano in the North Transept singing 'The bare necessities' during the signing of the register, complete with clapping: a first for St. Mary's! Versatility is certainly a requirement here.

An eclectic range of music has been performed in services 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, Ann De Renais (soprano) accompanied by Richard Shepperson performed Brahms' *Ihr habt nun Traurigkeit (Ein Deutsches Requiem)* and the Agnus Dei from Mozart's *Coronation Mass K317*. Ann is the former first soprano of The Swingles and has a great deal of recital and operatic experience too. On Maundy Thursday, Richard Fallas (bass) performed J. S. Bach's *Gladly would I take upon me* (from the *St. Matthew Passion*) and Dvořák's setting of Psalm 23. Richard sings regularly with the BBC Singers, and as a Royal Opera House extra chorus singer. Ruth Lampard again sang the demanding *Exultet* on Easter Saturday. This piece is a real test of stamina and concentration but was dispatched with commendable vigour. In our Easter Day celebrations, Helen Semple (soprano) performed Handel's *Se impassibile, immortale sei risorto* from *La Resurrezione* and Bach's *Ich will dir mein Herze schenken* (*St. Matthew Passion*).

On Remembrance Sunday, the brilliant young Estonian violinist, Kaija Lukas performed J. S. Bach's Andante from *Sonata for solo violin in A minor BWV 1003*, Bach's Andante from his *Violin Concerto in A minor BWV 1041* and the Allegro from Handel's *Sonata in D no.13 op.1*. A senior student at the Guildhall, Kaija has also taken part in the Erasmus exchange programme, studying at Mozarteum University, Salzburg during 2008-9 and at Philadelphia during 2009-2010. 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), guitar (2009) and harp (2010).

A couple in Australia whom Betty Greenland met through music sent a cheque to the church in her memory. This was spent on some copies of the recently published *Carols for Choirs 5* which were used as the basis of this year's Carol Service. It seemed fitting that we should purchase this volume (published last year to celebrate the publication fifty years ago of Volume 1) for the first Christmas at St Mary's without Betty. At the Carol Service on 11 December, as well as many popular congregational carols, the hugely varied and much-enjoyed choice of music included plainchant and carols by Vaughan Williams, Ord, Matthew Owens (the Director of Music at Wells Cathedral), David Blackwell, Bob Chilcott, Richard Lloyd, Hadley, Will Todd and John Gardner. The new/less familiar choir descants were much enjoyed, too. Richard Pearce played music by Daquin, Buxtehude and Pachelbel, and the closing voluntary by Vierne (*Prélude sur les grands jeux*) made an exciting conclusion.

On Christmas Eve a professional quintet performed *Up! Good Christen folk, and listen* (arr. G. R. Woodward), John Rutter's *Nativity Carol*, Holst's setting of *Lullay my liking* and Bob Chilcott's recent setting of *O little town*. The trumpeter, Steven Keogh, played music by Mozart, Harrison Oxley and Boyce. On Christmas Day, Ana-Maria Rincon, soprano, sang Walford Davies' *O little town of Bethlehem*, Charpentier's *Salve puerile*, and Michael Head's *The little road to Bethlehem*.

Members of the congregation take a keen interest in, and are very supportive of the music at St Mary's. I am very grateful to the three talented organists who have deputised for me when I have been away at

various times during the year: David Patrick, Richard Shepperson and Richard Pearce. During the year, some members of the congregation came to hear Nonsuch Singers, the London chamber choir that I conduct, in concerts at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, St. Giles Cripplegate, St. James's, Piccadilly and Holy Trinity Sloane Square. I am grateful to Ginny for allowing me to use the church for the occasional rehearsal.

Quite a number of singers and instrumentalists who work with me in outside concerts have also now performed in the church and these connections are useful. 2011 was another busy year for music at the church, and an encouraging continuation of the church's excellent musical tradition.

Graham Caldbeck.

The Flower Guild

Last year we arranged flowers for six weddings, which is always a pleasure. There were also, sadly, four funerals and two memorial services and also of course large numbers of arrangement's for Church festivals.

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. We are very lucky to have helpers, but could always do with a few more. If anyone is interested, please do get in touch with me. David Ireton is also a great help on those occasions and I am very grateful to him.

Boo Simpson

Young People

This year we have seen a lot of our youngsters in the 11-13 age range move out of the area (8 out of 12 have moved away), as family circumstances changed, and our 14 to 16s have now moved into GCSE years, so we are working at different ways to engage with our young people. A combination of conversation and support seems to be the right way forward, and finding the right ways to provide opportunities for involvement and volunteering. Two young people are now regularly

helping with Sunday School, and two are on our serving team. It was a delight to prepare six young people for confirmation at St Paul's Cathedral in November.

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.

On 2 March Ginny had arranged a meeting for the members of the Prayer Network where a general discussion was considered very interesting and useful.

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.

Pat Schleger

Wednesday Bible Study Group

The Bible Study Group meets regularly on a fortnightly basis during term time and we began the year by studying Romans.

During Lent we discussed *Rich Inheritance; Jesus' legacy of love*. This was followed in Advent with a study on the subject of 'What Christmas means to us at the present time.' Two sermons, relative to this subject, were preached by Ginny and Ruth and were the subject of group discussion.

Throughout the year the groups were led by the clergy and Sheila Peers.
Margarete Geier

Quiz Nights at St Marys

During 2011 St Marys organised and hosted two very successful Quiz Nights.

The first, in May, was part of our efforts towards Christian Aid Week and provided a new and fun way in order for the church to raise funds for that important international charity. Tickets were sold in advance as well as on the door and about forty people came along, met up with old and new friends and arranged themselves into ten teams of four. With question categories as wide ranging as history and geography, current affairs and religion, the little grey cells of all present were highly tested. Patrick Thomas relished his role as quiz master and Ginny kindly kept the all important scores. During a much needed half-way break a buffet supper was served before it was eyes down for the remaining four rounds. A fair and close fight was fought but in the end it was a triumph for the Sunday School teachers team, despite their poor scoring in the religion round....

In October we stuck to what had proved a successful format and held a second Quiz Night, this time as part of St Mary's Stewardship Programme. A fun night was had by all with even the losers insisting that they had played tactically, wanting as they did, new wooden spoons at home.... Special thanks as always to Patrick for so entertainingly asking

the questions and Joanna Hackett for providing the meal. There have been several calls to repeat the Quiz Nights, so we hope to hold another early in 2012.

Joanna Hackett

Monthly Thursday Lunches

The popularity of these lunches was maintained during the year. Attendance was typically between 20 and 30, varying according to mobility, availability of transport, the appeal of the speaker's topic and the weather. There is always room for a few more so, reader, please feel encouraged to attend if you do not already do so. A wide range of interests and ages are present, including often 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 lunch, and sometimes there is a small surplus to add to church funds. The menu is typically soup, bread, cheese, pate, fruit and coffee or tea.

We are very grateful indeed to the speakers who come to 'sing for their supper' with 20 – 25 minute talks. These have undoubtedly been vital in attracting such good attendances at each lunch. This year topics included 'Allotment Notebook' by Edwina Sassoon, 'An Anglican Abroad' by Anita Dowbiggin, 'Sundays and Weekdays' by Jeremy Morse, and Verena Tschudin talking about the International Nursing Award which St Mary's has supported as a charity. There were reports from the Independent Monitoring Board, an Army Chaplain, and Age Concern. In December Dorothy Patrick, Anita Dowbiggin and Margarete Geier spoke about early childhood memories.

As ever many thanks indeed to those who help set up and clear the lunches, including David, the master of the (often functioning) 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.

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 that 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.

The charities benefitting from donations last year were the same as in 2009. That is to say, the two principal beneficiaries were the Earl's Court Community Project and Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza, and also on the list were World's End Under Fives, Chelsea Estates Youth, Earl's Court Community Trust and the Great Garden Adventure, which was part of the Earl's Court Festival. In the overseas category were the Human Rights and Nursing Awards of the International Centre for Nursing Ethics at University of Surrey, and the Gogos Support Group: a group of UK grandmothers working to support grandmothers (Gogos) in South Africa who 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 we follow the progress of the causes we support. This has been done through articles in The Clarion, four 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 that make recommendations to the PCC currently comprises Vanessa Arkell, Katrin Turner, and Anthony Williams and John McVeigh 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

Annual Report on Reading at St Cuthbert with St Matthias School 2012

A group of volunteers go into St Cuthbert with St Matthias School, Earls Court each week to help the children with their reading. There are now 19 of us. About half of this number are members of St Mary's church, and some of the others are friends/contacts of parish members.

Sadly one or two of our previous volunteers have had to drop out because of ill health or family commitments. Fortunately we have two new recruits which is very encouraging.

The children are aged 5 to 11 and the volunteers normally remain with the same age group each academic year. It is always interesting to meet the new children we will be working with each September. Most of the children at the school have English as an additional language and are often very new to England. Although it is a Church of England school children of all faiths are welcome.

In the autumn term 2011 the volunteers had a training session with the head teacher and were given lots of reading material to help us.

We continue to find our time at the school rewarding and enjoyable.

Sheila Gibbs

Sustainability Group

2011 got off to a great start when The Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea formally presented us with our Eco-congregation award on 23rd January 2011. The Award is valid for three years, and we need to keep up our progress in order to re-apply in 2013.

The major focus of this year has been to understand our energy consumption, so that we can know how efficiently we are using our energy compared with other Churches. Brian Hallock has done a lot of

work analysing our meter readings, supplying information about our energy consumption for our parish Annual Return to the Diocese, and we still need to work on the gas supply to our Church boiler in order for it to work fully efficiently. Our aim is to join the Diocese of London's Climate Action Programme, and we were delighted to have the Diocese's Head of Environmental Challenge, Brian Cuthbertson, to preach on 18 September and hold a Q&A afterwards on energy efficiency at Church and at home.

At the summer fair volunteers from Age UK helped the children make simple bird feeders from recycled milk containers – both the children and the volunteers enjoyed this, and CJ Wildbird Food donated the bird seed.

For a second year we held The Great Garden Adventure in Bramham Gardens as part of the Earl's Court Festival. This year volunteers from Bramham Gardens joined in too – and it was a great success. The tickets were nearly all sold before the day, and we had over 69 children and their parents in the garden. The storyteller this year was Kate Corkery, and the Bug Hunt was led by Karis Tanner of the London Wildlife Trust – they both helped the children to engage see the inhabitants of the garden with fresh eyes. Following its success at the summer fair, we introduced a new activity: making bird feeders, which was very successful too.

Camila Ruz led two Sunday school sessions with the children the first a project on how children see science and the second on the creatures of the deep sea – making the connection that faith includes science and an appreciation of the natural world. In June our All Age service measured the height of the Church – to calculate the volume of air in the building – and helped us all to see how much air we heat in the winter.

David Shreeve, the Environmental Consultant to the Archbishops' Council, filmed some of the congregation and conducted interviews here: he is making short videos to encourage Churches to care for the environment.

Sustainability Tops Tips for The Clarion continue – with contributions from the congregation.

We supported the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation Winter Warmth Campaign, encouraging people who do not need their Winter Fuel Payment, to donate it to help local older people who will struggle to stay warm this winter.

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 2011 an increasing variety of contributions has been available, making the magazine an interesting read each time.

Verena Tschudin

Social Events

This year we held a total of nine Sunday Parish Lunches at St Mary the Boltons. Attendance, at these lunches was maintained at a steady twenty to thirty persons. This included our special St Nicholas Lunch, at which the attendance was fifty plus, and was held to celebrate the end of our Planned-Giving Programme.

After the Easter Eve Vigil service we provided wine and light food, and we also provided refreshments and teas after funerals held during the year.

At the conclusion of this year's Carol Service members of the congregation were invited to stay for wine and mince pies. This was a successful evening with an increase in the number of attendees and would be worth doing again.

Margarete Geier

Community

The PCC Awayday in January reflected on the Community Audit and decided to go ahead with two projects. A monthly tea for people who spend a lot of time on their own and a befriending scheme, both in partnership with Age UK Kensington and Chelsea.

On Thursday 17 March we held a Community Engagement Lunch to tell our local Councillors and others about our Community Audit, and were delighted to have over 30 for lunch, including six Councillors, representatives from our schools, Age UK, Kensington & Chelsea Social Council, the police and advice workers. The report was very well received, as was the opportunity to meet together informally.

Time for Tea was launched on 28 July and has continued since. A great team of volunteers from St Mary The Boltons (Anne Swift, Amanda Geddes, Carolyn Seymour, Helen Trafford, John Barker, Elizabeth Lake) is supplemented by Age UK. The focus is very much on people who spend a lot of time on their own, so most of our guests come through contact with Age UK. We meet for tea and cakes from 2.30 to 4pm, and spend lots of time talking, listening, remembering and laughing.

The befriending scheme is being developed, and needs preparation work to make sure that the right plans and people are in place before it takes the next step.

The impact of Housing Benefit Caps in Kensington and Chelsea means that in the three wards the parish is involved with 536 households (affecting 689 children) will probably move out during the course of 2012 – (2,159 household across) the Borough. I have worked with the ecumenical London Churches Group for Social Action to brief Churches across London, to alert clergy to the impact of the caps and to provide simple ways in which Churches can respond to people who are affected.

We helped the Diocese of London to respond to the planning applications for the development of the Earl's Court Exhibition Centre: core concerns were on the density of the housing, provision of affordable housing, provision of space for faith communities, and the impact on local wildlife at the Brompton Cemetery and the West Brompton Station/Seagrave Road nature area.

Ruth Lampard

Charities Committee Report for 2012

The principle donations from our Charitable Pot in 2011 were to Al-Ahli Hospital, Gaza, and West London Homeless Concern. Each received £5,500. We have supported the hospital in Gaza for many years and this was agreed to be the last donation for the time being. Donations of £1,100 were given to Lively Minds, Storybook Dads, Earl's Court Community Trust, the Mental Health Unit at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and £850 to Earl's Court Community Project. In addition there were some smaller donations as reported in the PCC accounts and in

the accounts of Redcliffe Gardens Trust, but together the total amount given by St Mary's to charities in 2011 was £17,727. These funds were raised from the profits at the Summer Fair, which were swelled by the proceeds from the sale of a picture by a well-known local artist, and the collections at the Christmas Carol service and Crib Service and with the usual contribution of the ground rent from Nr 11 Redcliffe Gardens. This was an excellent result that fully meets the fundamental objectives of establishing a Charitable Pot through which to control and measure our giving.

The separate aim of the Charities Committee is to ensure that there is a flow of information during the year about charities that we support and this too was achieved in 2011. During the year speakers from two of the charities receiving funds came to talk at St Mary's: we heard an address from the pulpit by a representative from West London Churches Homeless Concern and a representative from Story Book Dads gave a talk at a Thursday lunch. In terms of written information, there is now a section on our website with the story of Alex, the student in Uganda who we support through Compassion UK. There was publicity at the Summer Fair about the projects, and various items appeared in the Clarion: an article, two adverts, a report on the Thursday lunch and a letter of thanks, and in addition the method through which charities are selected was published in the Clarion. The Charities Committee feel this second objective has been met.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Summer Fair

The 2011 Summer Fair was held on a character forming summer's day. The sun shone, the rain clouds appeared, the sun shone, the rain clouds appeared. All week we had ummed and aahed as to how we could accommodate it inside the church and the church hall. The preparations progressed with only a few last minute heart-stopping panics (such as where are the 25 tables and 40 chairs we had been promised?) and early preparation of the book and bric-à-brac stalls routed out some wonderful finds that would enhance the profits. On Saturday morning we were wondering whether the Almighty was listening to our prayers, and gradually our confidence grew that all would be well. The stalls were

set out, some of them even had canopies over them, and we had half an hour to go when God decided to test our sense of humour and gave us the most horrendous summer hail storm and torrential rain for a good twenty minutes. We laughed – there was nothing else we could do! Those of us who were slightly wet got even wetter and everyone rallied marvellously to cover up what we could, then the rain stopped, we got wetter tipping out the puddles on the tops of the canopies and felt that at this point it could only get better and I am delighted to say that it did.

The sun came out and it felt that everyone was so sympathetic to the meteorological challenges that they arrived in force to enjoy what was on offer. The hot dogs and teas did well, warming people up and the Pimms helped keep the festive spirit. The musicians and magicians kept people smiling and the games and coconut shy used up lots of energy.

Cakes and jams were swept off the tables and the plants and tombola and bric-à-brac added to the traditional feel of a happy afternoon at the church fete. The Sunday School manned the toys and books and children's entertainments fantastically well and the face painter was completely inundated. Bird boxes were also made with our friends from Age Concern who we were pleased to welcome. The raffle thrived with the fantastic prizes we had been given and the Really Splendid Raffle seemed to be a success. The limited edition tickets for the nine grand hampers were a new concept to many and took some explanation, but those who won realised that they really were worth the investment and they all went to good homes! The police horses and fire engine delighted young and old and Knight Frank and their balloon filled car and banners were a sight for sore eyes.

Thanks are owed to everyone, to all the helpers in setting up and manning the stalls. I apologise for not having organised a relief team so that everyone could enjoy the fete from the other side of the table, so to speak. Thanks especially to those who cleared up at the end of the day and helped again on Sunday morning when the gazebos had had a chance to dry out! Thanks also to everyone who donated prizes and made contributions to the stalls and to the hampers, to those who helped clean and tidy the church after our frantic preparations and restored it to the haven of calm that it is. More thanks to everyone for

coming on the day itself and allowing the fete to make a contribution of over £5,000 to the charity fund for distribution to the Al-Ahli Hospital, The Earls Court Project and the five other chosen charities for the year. The fair couldn't have happened without Joanna Hackett who was her usual calm, efficient and unflappable self and as ever a joy to be with, and also Sophie Spencer-Wood for her flair, style, initiative, calmness and humour. Both of them in their quiet and gentle ways did everything and more besides. Final thanks are owed to Ginny and Ruth for their support and guidance and the direct line to the Almighty with regards to the weather.

Katrina Quinton

Verger's Report 2011

2011 was another busy and varied year. We have hosted a good number of events, ranging from a book launch for a local author to a Gala concert for the RNLI. In short, We continue to have a good number of visitors throughout the week, either tourists or those seeking time out to pray or just be still. Paint Pots creative classes continue to be the major booker of the Church hall and also the upper room during the week. At weekends we continue to be well used as a venue for children's birthday parties. If you cast your mind back to Christmas 2010, you will recall we were running on emergency heating; thankfully all now seems to be running well. A regular contract with the London Diocese Gutter Cleaning scheme now ensures we have less problems with outside drainage. The church garden continues to be well used and appreciated, thanks to all those who took part in the Big Leaf Rake. In all some thirty-plus bags were filled on what was one of the coldest days of 2011! Thanks also to Boo Simpson for regular planting out of bedding plants. If you feel like a bit of gardening, volunteers are always welcome. Thanks also to the Thursday morning Fabric Group of Anne Garten, Malcolm Goddard and Margarete Geier for their regular commitment of ironing and polishing, folding etc. 2012 looks like being a busy year with the Jubilee celebrations and the Olympics. Finally a personal thank you from me, having just finished my fifth year at St Mary's, to Ginny and Ruth and John for their advice and support, and last but not least to the entire congregation for your friendship and fellowship.

Dave Ireton

The Sacristy

Margarete Geier and Sylvia Gregory look after other sacristan duties, such as the preparations and 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 irons them. A very big thank you to all.

Dave Ireton

St Mary's Report on Trusts

'The most valuable things in life are not measured in monetary terms. The really important things are not houses and lands and stock and bonds... but friendships, *trust*, confidence, empathy, mercy, love and faith.' (Bertrand Russell)

When houses and land and stocks and bonds and real estate are held *on trust* they can become especially valuable in providing a resource to achieve the purpose for which they were originally placed on trust, and those who are responsible for their management – the trustees – should be held to account for their stewardship of the trust assets. This section of the annual report endeavours to show how the Parochial Church Council has discharged its responsibilities in respect of the trusts for which the PCC is the Managing Trustee.

There are two such trusts that currently directly benefit St Mary's. Firstly, the trust known as Redcliffe Gardens Trust ('RGT') whose principal asset is the freehold of Nr 11 Redcliffe Gardens, but which also holds some cash and investments. The second is the St Peter's 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. In the autumn of 2011 we were notified of a fourth trust, the Claude Heneage Will Trust. The Trustee is the Royal Bank of Scotland and they have indicated that they usually make payments only once a year in August, and that 'the amounts are usually very small.' This trust originally benefitted St Jude's and the Diocese has advised that the enlarged Parish should receive this

income. No trust deed or other information has been provided, but independent research shows that a Mr Claud W Heneage died in Kensington in 1952.

At Redcliffe Gardens, the tenant, Beauly Properties Ltd, again failed to pay the ground rent on the due date in December 2011, but it was received in February 2012, rather earlier than in previous years. Also during the year, the Tenant made a request for consent to carry out alterations at Nr 11, to convert it into four self-contained flats, and also to vary the terms of the lease relating to certain insurance provisions. The PCC was advised on these issues by Stanley Hicks Chartered Surveyors and consented to both requests, receiving a payment of £10,000 for the variation to the terms of the lease and recovering the cost of taking formal advice.

During the year the PCC considered a proposal from the London Diocesan Fund as Custodian Trustee to transfer to the PCC the remaining proceeds from the sale of the long lease of 11 Redcliffe Gardens on the basis that the PCC would hold it only for expenditure on repairs/improvements to the church. This would leave only the permanent capital in the hands of the Custodian. This proposal was still under discussion at the year end. Similarly, in respect to St Peter's Trust, the LDF as Custodian Trustee made a proposal to transfer the permanent capital to the PCC for spending under certain exemptions available in the Charities Act for small charities, but the PCC rejected this proposal.

There has 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, while the income yield from the Investment Fund for 2011 was 4.6% at year end values. Over the last year the value of the Investment Fund fell by just under 1%, but as the trusts are held for the long term, this fall in value of the fund over one year should be considered in the context of the increase in value of

the fund of 8.9% over the last three years and 1.4% over the last five years.

The value of the long term assets in the two funds (i.e. including the value of the property at 11 Redcliffe Gardens, but excluding the bank current account) at the end of 2011 is shown in the table below. The total is a worthwhile sum and the PCC has responsibility for its management, but it should also be noted that the money can only be spent in accordance with the various trust deeds.

	Property	Deposit fund/Cash	Investment fund	Total
RGT Endowment			£ 21,043	£ 21,043
RGT Freehold property: no 11 Redcliffe Gardens lease. Last valued in 2009	£130,000			
RGT Accumulated Income		£168,659	£29,009	£197,668
St Peter's Endowment		£5,281	£17,556	£21,823
St Peter's Accumulated Income		£3,678		£3,678
Total		£177,618	£66,594	£244,212

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 £34,096 and the income that was paid away to the Diocesan Stipend Fund in 2011 totalled £1,585.

CCLA supports 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. The CBF Church of England Investment Fund, in which the trusts invest, is therefore aligned with the Church of England's ethical investment policy and the Fund Manager reports that at the end of 2012, they, together with the Ethical Investment Advisory Group of the Church of England, are undertaking a comprehensive review of two of their restricted investment categories: high interest rate lending and pornography.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Fabric Report

The most important thing we can do in caring for our building is to ensure that it is regularly maintained and so it is good to be able to report that in 2011 all regular maintenance tasks were attended to: the gutters were cleared, the fire and security systems were serviced, the organ was tuned, and the lighting system was re-lamped. The gas boiler for the church central heating, which had failed at the end of 2010, was finally repaired early in 2011 and was serviced/maintained regularly during the year as well.

In May the lightning conductor was inspected and found to be in satisfactory condition.

During the summer the rope for the bell broke and was replaced, and at the end of the year the bell got stuck in an upright position while being rung and scaffolding had to be erected in order to release it. Luckily there was no damage to the bell, which is now only rung by the vergers or clergy.

No metal theft occurred at St Mary's during 2011 and as recommended by our insurance company, SmartWater has been applied to accessible external metal, and appropriate SmartWater signage to deter potential thieves has been displayed. SmartWater is made of robust metal-based inert chemicals and the forensic code within the liquid is designed to withstand direct, long-term exposure to sunlight. For this reason it is recommended by insurance and security companies as a way of deterring theft. The ability to link SmartWater on a particular item of

metal back to a central register ensures that (provided SmartWater is registered before being applied), any metal bearing the paint can subsequently always be traced back to its rightful owners. Our SmartWater kit has been registered.

The church notice boards were renewed during the year.

The sound system has become increasingly unreliable, frequently cutting out entirely. At the end of the year plans were being actively pursued to update or replace it.

The church plate and other ornaments and furnishings remain in good condition. The cleaning of the silver and brassware is undertaken by the Thursday morning group and the Verger.

The Church Hall continues to be used by Paint Pots during the day and by voluntary groups in the evenings, as well as being available for private hire at weekends. It is thus well used and in August the lower hall was painted, the curtains cleaned and the floor resealed.

The most significant item to report concerns the Lectern Window. At the beginning of the year the PCC approved a project to replace the entire window at the east end of the south side of the nave with a stained glass window based on the work of the artist Craigie Aitchison. The window will be manufactured and installed by the Pugin Hardman and Powell Studio in Birmingham under the direction of the glassmaker Neil Phillips.

The existing plain glass of the two lights will be disposed of, but the stained glass in the tracery, which was installed in the early 1960s with funds from the War Damages Commission, will be removed by Pugin Hardman and Powell and mounted so that it can be hung independently in the church. These pieces will be listed in the church inventory and become part of the church's moveable treasures.

As the proposed new stained glass will be a Memorial to the artist Craigie Aitchison it is proposed to install a brass plaque mounted on plain wood on the wall at the lower left hand side of the window. The

plaque will be no larger than 42cms by 30cms (approximately A3 size). A Faculty for this work has been obtained and the new window is to be installed in 2012. A full record of this project is expected to be produced in connection with the actual installation of the window, nevertheless it is also appropriate to acknowledge at this stage the central role played by Edwina Sassoon who initiated the idea for the window and who has brought to the project her vast experience of the visual arts as well as her experience of commissioning and fundraising.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

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