

**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

2012

(1 January - 31 December)



rooted in faith

open in thought

reaching out in service

Prepared for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on Sunday 21 April 2013
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 Leo Fraser-MacKenzie,
Mrs Ann Mulcare

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), Revd Ruth Lampard, Mr Kevin Loprimo,
Mr Timon Molloy, Mrs Ann Mulcare, Mr David Parsons,
Mrs Katrina Quinton, 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

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 187

| Statistics | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Communions | | | | | |
| Easter | 106 | 108 | 116 | 160 | 143 |
| Christmas Midnight | 76 | 101 | 98 | 116 | 102 |
| Christmas Morning | 99 | 98 | 108 | 91 | 108 |
| Sunday average | 78 | 77 | 98 | 76 | 98 |
| Average Sunday morning attendance, including children | 107 | 104 | 131 | 100 | 131 |
| Occasional Offices | | | | | |
| Baptisms | 27 | 31 | 38 | 38 | 38 |
| Confirmations | 6 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 7 |
| Weddings | 12 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 11 |
| Blessing of Marriage after a Civil Ceremony | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Funerals in Church | 3 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 8 |
| Memorial Services | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

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

At its Away Day in January, the PCC worked on a vision statement and mission statement for St Mary's. After much thought and discussion, it agreed on three statements that were considered to underlie and give purpose to our life: 'rooted in faith', 'open in thought', and 'reaching out in service'. Throughout 2012 these three statements provided the framework for our life at St Mary's.

2012 was an exceptionally full year for St Mary's. In addition to all our usual activities – daily, weekly and monthly worship, our study groups and Lent and Advent programmes, our Sunday and mid-monthly lunches, outreach activities such as our Summer Fair, Art Show (a biennial event), Time for Tea, The Big Garden Adventure and reading at St Cuthbert and St Matthias School in Earl's Court – we offered hospitality to visitors during the Olympic and Paralympic Games and celebrated the installation and dedication of the Craigie Aitchison memorial window.

The memorial window was installed on Maundy Thursday, 7 April, and formed the focus of our Good Friday Three Hour Watch by the Cross meditation. At a service on Ascension Day, 17 May, the window was dedicated by The Bishop of London, The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dr Richard Chartres KCVO, who preached and celebrated the Eucharist. It was a great pleasure to have so many people present, especially those who had been instrumental in bringing the project to fruition: Edwina Sassoon who had suggested and initiated the project and worked tirelessly for it; the Jerusalem and Linbury Trusts; Mary Lewis and her family; Neil Philips who had executed the work; members of Craigie's family and his executor, Terry Danziger Miles; Herr and Frau Meindl at whose factory, Glashütte Lamberts in Bavaria, the glass had been made; many people associated with the art world, as well as parishioners.

The window is a wonderful addition to St Mary's and has brought in many visitors who often marvel at its intense colour and the power of the simple images that continue to reveal ever deeper levels of meaning. The window's intense red colour is a constant source of wonder as it is reflected in the church, lighting up the floor, walls and furnishings as the sunlight changes.

In the middle of a busy and exciting year, it was sad to say goodbye to our Director of Music, Graham Caldbeck, who left in mid-July to join his partner in Jersey. Graham had been appointed Director of Music by my predecessor, the Revd Gerald Beauchamp, in 2004, shortly before I came to St Mary's. During his eight years, Graham managed the music programme with great dedication and put together outstanding programmes for special occasions, such as the annual carol service and special events in the life of the parish. Throughout his tenure he encouraged the choir to sing anthems of an appropriate standard and increased the choir's participation in the Sunday service to twice a month. Graham achieved all this while continuing to conduct the Nonsuch Singers and other choirs.

Our new Director of Music, John Ward, was appointed over the summer and took up his duties on 1 September. I am very grateful to David Patrick and Richard Shepperson who played for the Sunday services and weddings in the intervening period, helping to make a seamless transition between Graham's departure and John's arrival. I am delighted that John has settled quickly into the life of St Mary's. He has introduced new hymns and music for the choir and begun to work with the children in Sunday School. The carol service in December was a splendid continuation of a strong tradition.

Life at St Mary's depends on a large number of volunteers working closely with our salaried staff and I am very grateful to all who give so freely and generously of their time. Very few of the events and activities mentioned at the beginning of my report could take place without the hard work and commitment of volunteers and elsewhere in these pages you can read more about those events and

activities. Two new groups were formed during the year: the Communications Group, and a group tentatively titled 'Adult Formation', which explores ways to develop our faith and faithfulness. Thanks to the work of one or two volunteers, the church garden was once again being looked after on a regular basis and much good work was done in pruning and cutting back bushes and taking care of the flower beds.

Worship remains at the heart of our life together and I am grateful to all who contribute to it in many different ways: as sides people, intercessors, readers, chalice bearers, members of the choir, those who arrange the flowers and those who work behind the scenes keeping the church linen and silver in excellent condition. It is also always a pleasure to welcome guest preachers who this year included the Revd Dr Martin Poulson, lecturer in Theology at Heythrop College; the Revd Ann Coleman, assistant dean of St. Mellitus college and director of NTMTC (North Thames Ministerial Training Course); Hannah Henderson of Christian Aid; Ann Morisy of PSALM; Camila Ruz, a parishioner and member of the PCC, who preached on science and faith; Faith Gordon of CMS; and General Sir Hugh Beach, also a parishioner, who preached on Remembrance Sunday.

Children are an important component of our Sunday worship and I am very grateful to the leaders of Sunday School and Little Lambs who are responsible for these two groups. A great deal of time goes into the preparation of the sessions in addition to the time given to the children on Sundays.

A development in the parish this year was the opening of St Mellitus College, the theological college for the dioceses of London and Chelmsford, in St Jude's Church, Courtfield Gardens. After several years of renovation and reordering, St Jude's now houses modern lecture theatres and seminar rooms with state-of-the-art communications technology. The college was officially opened by the Bishops of London and Chelmsford at a service on 27 November

and offers theological training to those preparing to be ordained and those who wish to take part in lay ministry. It is a pleasure to have the college in the parish and we hope to develop links with the staff and students.

Throughout the year I have been very grateful for the support and work of the PCC and the wardens, Leo Fraser Mackenzie and Ann Mulcare. Their readiness to give constructive suggestions and advice is much valued and appreciated and I am very thankful for it.

I would also like to thank Ruth Lampard our associate vicar, John McVeigh, the parish administrator, and David Ireton, the verger, for their hard work, support and commitment in what has been a very busy year. Their willingness to go the extra mile and to do so in good spirit and with humour has helped to make 2012 a particularly memorable year for me and the parish.

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, 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, Elizabeth

Davson, Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Bill Gallagher, Anne Garten, Margarete Geier, Sheila Gibbs, Brian Hallock, Keshara Hallock, Michele Iamori, Joshua Lee, Ann Mulcare, Mark and Susan Nichols, Emma Nichols, David and Fiona Parsons, 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, Joanna Hackett, Iona Thomas, Verena Tschudin, Anthony Williams.

Rotas Mary Meeson and Joanna Hackett.

The Parochial Church Council

The PCC (Parochial Church Council) of St Mary The Boltons is headed up by the clergy and includes the wardens, a Deanery Synod representative and twelve elected members of the congregation.

During 2012 the PCC met on at least six occasions for regular meetings, accounts meetings, and started the year off in January with an Away Day.

You may have noticed a new 'mission statement' or slogan on St Mary's paperwork during 2012. 'Rooted in Faith, Open in Thought, Reaching Out in Service' was agreed to at the Away Day as a good description of all that we are and what we aim to achieve here at St Mary The Boltons. Also at the Away Day we set several goals to be achieved throughout the year, and whether these were accomplished will be reported in next year's report...

The regular PCC meetings provide an important structure to the life behind the scenes of St Mary's. Ginny is highly accomplished in keeping all meetings relevant, up to the minute and worthwhile. We do not believe in meetings for meetings' sake. During the year the PCC has discussed and implemented many subjects, including, but not exclusively, the following:

- The installation of the Craigie Aitchison window and subsequent service of blessing by the Bishop of London
- The church's response to and plans for the London 2012 Olympics
- The church's financial deficit
- The appointment of our Health & Safety Officer and his subsequent report
- Implementing an annual Stewardship Programme
- Installation of our new sound system
- The importance of attracting legacies
- The opening of St Mellitus College at St Jude's and what this will mean for us
- Discussion of our plans for our freeholding on Redcliffe Gardens.

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

Joanna Hackett

Children's Advocate

The post of Children's Advocate is an appointment of the PCC and a requirement placed on all parishes of the Church of England. With the introduction of Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks of all people who have contact with children in earlier years, constant changes in regulation were part of the brief. In 2012 The Diocese of London joined with NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) to tighten up all aspects of the post of Children's Advocate. In November 2013 this post will become the Church Safeguarding Officer, concerned with safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk. The Diocesan Safeguarding Team requires each parish to appoint a Church Safeguarding Officer.

In addition the Diocese have introduced the role of Children's Champion, who is someone children know they could talk to about any problems, if they so wish. Chris and Katie Fowkes were appointed to this role at the November 2012 PCC Meeting.

In 2012, the Child Protection Policy was displayed in several places around the Church and Hall and all groups using the premises are asked to comply with it. The changes suggested and enforced by the Diocese need to be considered by the PCC by May 2013 and I have agreed to stay in post until then.

Verena Tschudin

Meetings of the Deanery Syond

Two meetings were held this year, in March and October.

The March meeting was held at St. Simon Zelotes Church, Chelsea. We reviewed the usual report from the Chelsea Deanery Parishes, followed by a very interesting talk by the Reverend Dr Leathard on the Anglican Covenant.

This was followed by a report on the Chelsea Academy by its Principal, Andy Yarrow, which was informative and detailed.

The second meeting in October was held in the new chapel of the Margaret Thatcher Infirmary at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. The chaplain, the Revd Dick Whittington, gave us a detailed history of the new chapel, after which the members present discussed the other Deanery items.

Margarete Geier

Associate Vicar

This is my fourth year in post, and it has been a good year with lively activities through the summer with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Olympics and Paralympics. Time for Tea with Age UK Kensington and Chelsea continues to reach out to the people the PCC identified at the 2011 Away Day. My role with children has been ongoing and enjoyable, with two 'mega' parish lunches where lots of families and children came too. My personal highlight was scarecrow making in

the Chancel after the Harvest parish lunch. I said we would make a glorious mess, and we did – and the children loved the scarecrows they had made, who may well still be on active service at home. Care for the environment has been a major theme for us, and long and hard work on our energy meters and bills has led to concrete results: saving energy, carbon dioxide emissions and money.

These particular responsibilities have gone alongside assisting Ginny in general parish life, preaching, teaching, visiting, baptisms, weddings and funerals. It is a privilege to walk alongside people as a priest, and to explore and grow in life and faith together, and for that journey: many thanks indeed.

Ruth Lampard

Sunday School

We have a lively and growing Sunday School, with a strong core of regular children. Jane Dass has led Sunday School once more this year, supported particularly by Jane Bonser, Carolyn Seymour and Jessica Molloy, also by Jennifer Smith and Deborah Challinor, to whom many thanks. The nativity play on Sunday 9 December was the fruit of much hard work by the children, leaders and parents, and a very enjoyable telling of the story of the birth of Jesus. We are now alternating plays by Edwin Thomas and Marcus Smith, which the children have grown to know and love and are enjoying, taking on more major parts. We have welcomed John Ward who came to encourage Sunday School to sing the nativity play song, and look forward to further visits.

The children are continuing to get letters from Alex in Uganda (St Mary's sponsors him through Compassion UK) and to write back to him with our news. They sent him pictures of our Diamond Jubilee celebrations, of Sunday School posting a letter to the Queen, and more recently, of Sunday school in the snow.

Ruth Lampard

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.

Ruth Lampard

Gift Aid

The Treasurer's report for the 2012 year includes a figure of £72,103 for covenants and Gift Aid. Covenants and Gift Aid in 2012 totalled £88,999. The Gift Aid element of this in fact amounted to £16,896 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 8571-0737 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

January – August 2012

Music continued to play a significant role in worship at St Mary's during the first eight months of 2012, after which I relinquished the post of Director of Music at St. Mary's. David Patrick & Richard Shepperson played for services during August and my successor, John Ward, took up the position from the beginning of September.

The Parish Choir's regular contribution to Parish Eucharists was sustained – the choir singing for some thirteen Sunday mornings in all, up to the end of July (including my last Sunday). We have welcomed a number of new singers into the choir from time to time. A reasonably wide variety of music has been performed, although, as has been the case in recent years, the possible repertoire is somewhat restricted by the shortage of men generally, and the absence of any tenors in particular. The set of anthem books and RSCM resource pack purchased four years ago have continued to provide some useful and enjoyable material for services, in addition to performing other anthems from the choir library.

We 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 continued to be a satisfactory (and sustainable) pattern, given the busyness and complicated interface of the holiday arrangements and, in a few cases now, 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 organists, David Patrick and Richard Shepperson on two occasions, and I am particularly grateful to them for their support and help. The feedback about the choir's performances from the congregation is generally positive, and the choir's identity and sense of humour are strong. Ginny & Patrick again generously hosted a most enjoyable choir party at the Vicarage, this year in June - my last attendance at this annual and much-appreciated event.

As hitherto, I was 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 weekly singing of the psalms; to John McVeigh for all his help in a wide range of matters, including arranging organ and piano tuning, producing service sheets and liaison over special services; to Dave Ireton for his support and assistance, particularly with welcoming visiting musicians and help over duplicating music; to the Sunday School for their contribution to All-Age Worship, and to the members of the Parish Choir, not only for their performances but also for their encouragement and interest in music generally at St. Mary's.

A number of less familiar hymns in terms of tunes and words (both together and separately) have been introduced during the year and the church's repertoire of hymns remains wide. From time to time, the choir has supported the 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 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. A wide 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, Kangmin Justin Kim *countertenor* sang J. S. Bach's aria *Buß und Reu* (St. Matthew Passion) and the Agnus Dei (*Mass in B Minor*). On Maundy Thursday, Richard Fallas *bass* performed Maunder's *A new commandment* (*Olivet to Calvary*) and J. S. Bach's *Make me clean, my heart, from sin* (St. Matthew Passion) Ruth Lampard again sang the

demanding *Exultet* on Easter Saturday, delivering it with great conviction. In our Easter Day celebrations, Ann De Renais *soprano* sang Mozart's *Alleluia (Exsultate, jubilate K165)* and *Et incarnatus est (Mass in C Minor)*.

At the Ascension Day service and dedication of the Craigie Aitchison Memorial Window, a professional octet performed three choral works appropriate to the occasion – Peter Philips's *Ascendit Deus*; Stainer's *God so loved the world (The Crucifixion)* and James MacMillan's *Data est mihi omnis potestas* (a Communion motet for Ascension Day). JS Bach's *Fantasia in G* for organ, played after the service, provided the necessary sparkle as well as the essential solemnity appropriate to the occasion.

I was pleased to be invited to give part 2 of a talk '*My life in music*' at the Thursday Parish lunch the same month. In July I was delighted and touched to receive the lovely cards and very generous gifts presented to me at my farewell event after my final Sunday service. Many kind words were spoken publicly and privately and I should like to thank all of the congregation and clergy for helping to make my eight years at St. Mary's so fulfilling and enjoyable. I should like to finish by wishing John Ward and the parish well for the continuation of St. Mary's lively musical tradition, summarized more poetically than any words that I could provide, by the words of a famous early 17th-century English anthem:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Sing my soul to God the Lord all in glory's highest key.

Lay the Angels' choir abroad in their highest holy day.

Crave thy God to tune thy heart unto praise's highest part.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Amen.

Gloria in excelsis Deo - Thomas Weelkes (1575–1623)

Graham Caldbeck.

Music Report

September to December 2012

I was very grateful for the warm welcome I received from members of the congregation and from Ginny, Ruth, John, and Dave when I joined St Mary's in September, and for the continued support they have shown me. Appreciative comments made by members of choir and congregation after the services have so often shown great attention to the detail of the music, and have been truly heartening. I should also like to make special mention here of my predecessor Graham Caldbeck, whose generous and unobtrusive help was a great asset as I was settling in at St Mary's.

The congregation's tradition of hearty hymn-singing has been maintained, the traditional fayre of the New English Hymnal having been leavened both with classic hymns outwith that tradition, such as *How great thou art*, as well as more contemporary texts apposite to particular liturgies often paired with traditional tunes.

The choir too has continued its tradition of singing every second Sunday or so, and has welcomed several new members to its ranks. Some memorable performances have been given, and the choir-members have often appreciated the opportunity to look over music in advance which has been facilitated by the new twitter feed for the choir @boltonsmusic, which I hope to develop further uses for in 2013.

I have programmed a variety of organ music, including a good deal of Bach, which sounds so well on St Mary's neo-Baroque organ. The congregation has appreciated having details of the music played included in the pew-sheet, and I have appreciated their attentive listening particularly at the end of services.

We are grateful to visiting soloists for their contribution to various major services in the Autumn: Ashley Buxton, trumpet – Remembrance Day and Midnight Mass; Emily Atkinson – Patronal Festival and All Saints; Ana-Maria Rincon – Christmas morning.

The carol service, one of the highlights of the calendar of events at St Mary's was a considerable success, the congregation being particularly fond of the innovation of having the verses of longer carols sung alternately by men and women. The professional quintet (Emily Atkinson, Danae Eleni, Cathy Bell, Andrew Boushell, and Cheyney Kent) sung magnificently, their performances of Taverner *The Lamb* and Carter *Mary's Magnificat* attracting particular comment.

I am grateful to David Patrick, by now a familiar face at St Mary's, and to Nicholas Woods for playing the organ in my absence, both to great acclaim.

I look forward to my continued work as custodian of St Mary's excellent musical tradition in 2013.

John Ward

The Flower Guild

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

St Mary's would like to thank the Flower Guild for their very generous donation of £3000 towards the news sound system installed in 2012.

Young People

We are continuing to support our young people (11-18) through conversation and opportunities for involvement, particularly within our serving team. A lively group of four young people prepared for confirmation at St Paul's Cathedral in November, a very moving service.

Ruth Lampard

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 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 7 March a meeting for the members of the Prayer Network was held in Church, 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 Luke.

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

Margarete Geier

Monthly Thursday Lunches

Lunches were arranged on seven Thursdays during the year. These occasions start at 12.30pm after the 11.45 Eucharist service, and end at about 1.30pm. Between twenty and thirty people attended each lunch this year, with a wide range of interests and ages, including some from outside the congregation.

Participants enjoy the spiritual, social and informative ambience. The meal with soup, pâté, cheeses, bread, fruit and coffee or tea is enhanced by short talks given by invited speakers. We are very grateful to these people for their presentations.

Speakers and topics this year were Mark Balaam about the Earls Court redevelopment proposals; Graham Caldbeck on his life in music; Detective Sergeant Jayme Johnson 'On The Beat'; Francis Alexander and Michelle Abbey about the Chelsea Theatre and Community Centre; John McVeigh on 'Behind the Scenes'; Dinah Garrett, about her experience as an Olympic Games Maker; and Christmas readings by Paul and Clare Williamson.

Many thanks, too, to those who helped with setting up and clearing after the lunches, not least David, usually the master of the ever more welcome dishwashing machine.

There is always room for a few more people at these lunches so, reader, please feel encouraged to attend if you do not already do so. You will have a friendly reception. There is also room for more volunteers to help! Please contact Ginny, Ruth or us if you feel able to do so.

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 St Mary's life.

June Brudenell, 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 has remained fairly constant, at present a total of 17. As in the past about half of them are members of St Mary's church and many others are friends/contacts of parishioners.

Some of the volunteers are new this year but many have been faithfully going into the school for a number of years.

Most of the children at the school have English as an additional language and come from families of many different faiths although it is a Church of England school.

We generally remain with the same year group rather than continuing with the same children throughout their time at the school. It is always interesting at the beginning of the new academic year to meet and get to know the children we have been allocated for the next three terms. Normally we will listen to three children reading during a session, working individually with each child.

It is rewarding and the school appreciates the contribution made by the volunteers

Sheila Gibbs

Sustainability Group

We continued our theme of regularly inviting guest preachers with a particular concern for the environment. In the week of Prayer for Christian Unity we were delighted to be visited by Dr Martin Poulosom, a member of the Roman Catholic Salesian Community,

who is a lecturer in theology at Heythrop College. In September, Camila Ruz, a member of the congregation who now is a freelance science journalist, preached movingly about how her faith connects with care for creation.

The major focus of this year has been on cutting our energy consumption and also the cost of our energy. Dave Ireton takes meter readings every month and Brian Hallock has continued analysing our meter readings, supplying information about our energy consumption for our parish Annual Return to the Diocese. I have been working on our energy suppliers, ensuring that we are paying the correct amount of VAT (charities pay 5% VAT, rather than 20%), and we have received VAT refunds during the course of the year. Noel Muddiman of Charity Funding Solutions has advised us when energy contracts come up for renewal, ensuring that we get good deals from new suppliers. We are trying to simplify the multiple energy accounts to ensure that we have one supplier for gas, one for electricity, and that the contract renewal dates fall at the same time. Routine maintenance on the Hall revealed that the ceiling lights and fittings needed to be replaced. The new LED lights give strong, clear light, and should be very low in energy consumption and long lasting.

This year has seen great progress; figures are not yet finalised (at the time of writing), but it seems that both our consumption of energy and our costs have fallen significantly, while still keeping the Church and Hall comfortably warm and light.

This year at the Summer Fair volunteers from Age UK helped the children to make simple herb gardens, taking seedlings home in pots to grow on and eat. For a third year we held The Great Garden Adventure in Bramham Gardens (part of reduced Earl's Court Festival, due to the Olympics), supported strongly by volunteers from Bramham Gardens. The storyteller this year was Anne Johnson from Everyday Magic, and the Bug Hunt was led once more by Karis Tanner of the London Wildlife Trust. To liven things up, we also had Birds of Prey from Countrywide Falconry: a privilege to be so close

to a wild raptor and gaze into its unmoving eyes! It was a lovely summer day, with lots to do and people to chat to, new friends made and old friends caught up with.

David Shreeve, the Environmental Consultant to the Archbishops' Council, continues to draw on St Mary The Boltons in videos and publicity to encourage churches to care for the environment.

Ruth Lampard

Traidcraft

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

Communications Committee

In recognition of the rapid changes in communications media, the PCC has appointed a Communications Committee to look at how St. Mary's uses the web and email to maintain a modern and efficient way of allowing both parishioners and visitors to keep up to date with what is happening. The Committee has physically met four times to review the current approach and identify possible improvements. We have concentrated initially on two key areas;

- 1) a regular distribution of a weekly newsletter with details of services and people involved, as well as notices;
- 2) a complete overhaul of the website, including how this is hosted and kept up to date.

The weekly newsletter has started to be sent out with effect from early January, and initial feedback is very positive, although it has shown how important it is to maintain an accurate and comprehensive database of email addresses. We will continue to refine this and see what additional material may be incorporated, although the goal is not to be exhaustive, but give a quick, easy to read overview of what is happening in the immediate future.

The website as it currently exists has served St. Mary's well and has close to 15,000 hits a year. However, the way material is added is somewhat laborious and a more modern design will allow updates to be made speedily and easily, directly by the church. We have identified areas where additional material is needed, such as to help people find out about weddings and baptisms. Information about the Hall and booking it has already been improved by the Parish Administrator with floor plans and downloadable booking forms, but more visual material will make this even better. The general use of photographs for many of the sections will be expanded, and we are currently exploring a new host for the website. We are confident that this will allow us to have a more interactive site, more user-friendly for our visitors, and probably achieve this at a lower cost than is the case currently.

The Committee is especially grateful to Camila Ruz for her efforts in the redesign and experience in creating our new look.

Patrick Thomas, Timon Molloy, Katrin Rosskelly, Camila Ruz

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 gives updates on the monthly Thursday lunches and other events, and the Sustainability Group has a regular slot of Top Tips or news. The regular contributions from Hugh Beach on various historical and church topics have become a fixture and more are planned. During 2012 an increasing variety of contributions has been available, making the magazine an interesting read each time.

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

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 Diamond Jubilee lunch, at which the attendance was sixty plus. At Christmas we provided refreshments for the music group that uses the church.

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.

Margarete Geier

Community

Our monthly *Time for Tea*, in partnership with Age UK Kensington and Chelsea, has been meeting now for 18 months. We have a strong core of regulars and many people who come for the first time are keen to return. Age UK conducted a review in the summer and the response from participants was strongly positive. Margarete Geier and I offer transport to those who cannot walk to Church. We have had teams of hosts, with many thanks to Amanda Geddes, John Barker, Mary Godwin, Raymond Kyle, Helen Trafford, Elizabeth Lake and Anne Swift.

The Housing Benefit Caps in Kensington and Chelsea has been implemented during the course of this year, and we have continued to be engaged with what this means for local residents, in particular for St Cuthbert and St Matthias School. We have supported St Luke Redcliffe Gardens in the development of a Kensington and Chelsea Foodbank, and were delighted when it opened in the autumn. The harvest produce from St Mary's and Bousfield School was shared between the Foodbank, Chelsea Methodist Church, and the Earl's Court Project. Parishioners from St Mary's sponsored the Earl's Court Project Christmas Lunch.

St Mary's provided hospitality throughout the Olympics and Paralympics: the church was open during the day, offering refreshments to visitors. On the days of the Men's and Women's Road Race parishioners from St Mary's, with parishioners from the Servite Church, gave water to spectators on the Fulham Road as we were waiting for the bikes to whizz by.

Ginny and I have continued to contribute to the Diocese of London's response to the Earl's Court Development. Provision of housing in London and strategic planning for the future, particularly for affordable housing, remains a major concern.

Ruth Lampard

Charities Committee Report for 2012

The role of the Charities Committee is to oversee the framework within which we support other charities. We have established a policy and we ensure that charities we support fit within that policy and within the restrictions of the Redcliffe Gardens Trust from which a sum equal to the annual ground rent on the property at 11 Redcliffe Gardens is disbursed each year. In addition to the ground rent, the charitable pot is funded by the proceeds from the Summer Fair, from collections at the Christmas Carol Service and the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. This work is overseen by the Parochial Church Council to which the committee makes an annual report either in the autumn or as early in the financial year as possible so

that it is clear at the start of the year which charities we will be supporting.

For the 2012 programme the Committee made recommendations that were approved by the November 2011 meeting of the PCC. As in previous years, this committee comprised Anthony Williams, Vanessa Arkell, Katrina Quinton (whose presence in the group ensures that those who do the work at the Summer Fair are represented), John McVeigh and myself.

During September the Committee asked members of the congregation to nominate charities for inclusion in the 2012 programme and as a result 15 names were put forward. On the one hand it is disappointing that one third of the nominations were outside our guidelines and so were put aside. This causes disappointment to those who have put forward nominations, but our guidelines are clear: we concentrate on projects where our relatively small funds can make a difference, supporting work among those on the margins of society, especially in areas that might not attract widespread support, and with a geographical area of benefit either within the Diocese as close to the Parish as possible, or overseas. Thus, large charities with turnover of many millions of pounds fall outside our guidelines. On the other hand, despite those that fall outside of the guidelines, the Committee is faced with difficult choices, and for 2012 the PCC accepted our recommendation that the following charities be supported with a proportionate share of the charitable pot or smaller fixed donations as indicated:

West London Churches Homeless Concern 33% (second year of support), PumpAid 33% (first year of two years support)

Fixed small donations from the final third of the charitable pot went to

- Alex, the school boy in Uganda supported by the Sunday School through Compassion: £350

- General outreach purposes in connection with the Olympic Games/and Paralympics, up to £600
- Great Garden Adventure: up to £600
- Willow Day Service and St Cuthbert's Centre to share equally the residual balance of the one third of the pot allocated to small annual grants.

Brief details of each organisation are set out below:

West London Churches Homeless Concern (charity registration number 1083203). An ecumenical venture involving over 50 churches (now established as a separate charity) providing an emergency night shelter in west London from November to April each year.

This is supplemented by advice work and day time provision of a shower facility, a laundry room and a clothes store.

Pump Aid (charity registration no 1077889) works to combat the global water and sanitation crisis. They work with very poor people in rural Africa to provide the very basic need of fresh water. Through its innovative but simple community-centred technology, their Elephant Pumps have for some years been providing fresh water for very poor communities and more recently they have introduced the Elephant Toilet to help with sanitation.

Outreach in connection with the Olympic Games. All parishes in the Diocese were strongly encouraged to respond to the challenges and opportunities offered by the Olympic Games. Up to £600 of our charitable giving was allocated to underpin any programme of welcome or outreach during the Games that the PCC decided to work on with the proviso that this did not set a precedent for the charitable pot being used to fund outreach activities that would form part of our normal outreach obligations.

Great Garden Adventure. This has been run very successfully as part of the Earls Court Summer Festival for the last two years. In 2011 it reached over 60 children of primary school age and their parents, opening their eyes to the natural world on their doorstep. The Committee recommends that we continue to allocate a portion of our outreach budget directly for the support of this event. Any unspent portion of the sum provided should be returned to the pot and so be available for the residual beneficiaries.

Willow Day Service (part of the Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust) provides an acute mental health treatment service for Kensington and Chelsea. St Mary's already provides a venue for a music therapy group (they meet in church), which is valued by the service as a 'key non-medical venue', which clients feel is a 'wonderful calming space'. Our donation aimed to assist with transport costs and the cost of the musical instruments.

St Cuthbert's Centre (registered charity number 803638). The project, which is based at 51 Philbeach Gardens, is a drop-in day centre for Earls Court and the local area operating an open door policy. Every weekday it provides a welcome, advice and counselling, free clothing and showers, as well as low cost meals and on some days there are activities, such as computer skills training and bingo.

The Committee also aims to ensure that the work of the charities we support is more widely promoted to the parish during the year and in this we were less successful in 2012 than in more recent years when articles have been written for *The Clarion* or speakers engaged for Thursday lunches.

While outside the direct remit of the Charities Committee other ways in which the Parish supports charities are worth recording here: practical support is given to the Earls Court Community Project through the donation of clothes for their work in the winter with homeless people, and money was collected to pay for a meal at Christmas for the project users. As mentioned above, the church

itself is regularly used by the Willow Day Centre for their music group. Other charities use either the hall or the church for fund raising or other activities, paying either fees at our community organisation rates, which are below the commercial rates for use of space of similar size or giving a donation to cover our costs. For example in 2012 Royal National Lifeboat Institute hosted a concert in church, and St Nicholas Fund held a table top sale in the Hall. In addition, local schools regularly use the church for school events.
Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Summer Fair

The 2012 Summer Fair was held on a windy day in the wettest summer for many a year, but our prayers were answered and we stayed dry! It was also the same day as The Queen's official birthday parade or Trooping the Colour so even though the Household Cavalry could not join us, we did enjoy the RAF flypast right over us instead!

It was a very happy day, the car park was transformed into the most delightful café with tablecloths and flowers, which kept the tea warm and health and safety happy! All the usual stalls were there and the barbecue did a roaring trade as the tempting smells wafted over and reminded the early arrivals that it was lunchtime, and then continued to seduce the tastebuds through the rest of the afternoon.

Richard Pinner worked his magic with children and parents alike and provided a moment of peace and calm for parents as he drew the children into his magical world. The races allowed for energy to be used up and much laughter to be created. The flowers, books and bric-à-brac welcomed browsers and buyers and the tombola allowed young and old to win and come away with a trophy. Age Concern helped with the herb planters (the seedlings were a living embodiment of hope!). The coconut shy created new addicts and the queues seemed endless, which hopefully provided many schools with the means of making the horses in the school play become real for the next year or two.

The Sunday School team provided colour and fun and distraction as always with books and toys and things to do. Live music, Pimms, cakes and doughnuts all helped the afternoon flow.

The items donated for the Raffle and the Splendid Hampers meant they were doing well – some sales for the limited hamper tickets dependent on the odds of winning – but everything was accompanied by much laughter.

Thanks are owed to everyone, to all the helpers in setting up and manning the stalls and to those who cleared up at the end of the day – and the rain held off. 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; Sophie Spencer–Wood for her flair, style, initiative, calmness and humour – despite being about to give birth – and to Jessica who seemed to be everywhere at the same time and solving problems before you had even known they existed. Both of them in their quiet and gentle ways did everything and more besides.

Enormous thanks to Verena for taking up the challenge of growing the herbs when neither the weather nor time was on our side! Final thanks are owed to Ginny and Ruth for their support and guidance as always, and to the Almighty with regards to the weather. It was a happy afternoon, relaxed and fun, with much laughter, which is, after all, just what a Church Summer Fair should be. We also raised over £5,000 for the charity pot too.

Katrina Quinton

Verger's Report 2012

2012 proved to be a busy year with lots going on. Several notable highlights included the installation of the Craigie Aitchison window and our involvement with events based around the Olympics. A personal first for me was to see a new stained glass window

installed. Memories of the commissioning service for the window will remain with me for a long time. Our involvement with the London Diocese Faith Walks initiative during the summer enabled us to welcome a small but steady number of visitors to St Mary's over the period of the Olympics. The church and hall continue to be heavily used by many different groups, ranging from local community associations to a Tai Kwan Do class! Paint Pots creative classes continue to be our major weekday hirer of the church hall and upper room. After considerable work on our main boilers toward the end of 2012, they are now fit for purpose and running efficiently. Many visitors to St Marys' enjoy using the church gardens, with many commenting on how well kept they are. Thanks are due to all who have contributed and continue to contribute to their upkeep.

Sadly, Malcolm Goddard and Anne Garten have now stepped down from involvement with the Thursday morning fabric group. Thanks to both for their polishing, ironing, and folding skills.

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.

Report on Trusts

The gradual process of change and decay in the natural world may seem boring and unexciting to those not familiar with its inner working, but viewed with the benefit of time lapse photography and the latest filming techniques it is more interesting, even exciting. So too with trusts: excruciating detail, long periods of inactivity, short periods of wakefulness when nothing seems to happen, and then apparent hibernation again. Yet viewed over time there is a noticeable cumulative effect. For Redcliffe Gardens Trust, 2012 was a year in which small steps taken in previous years and the application of the Leasehold Reform Act took effect.

Most obviously at the end of the year behind the locked doors and closed blinds at 11 Redcliffe Gardens work began to convert the building into four apartments, as per planning first granted in 2008. This work is being undertaken by Beaulieu Properties, holder of the long lease, after the necessary permission was given by the PCC as Managing Trustee and after the appropriate documentation had been executed. This process of approval and documentation has stretched over many more months than simply the last 12. The key event of 2012 was an application by Beaulieu Properties to enfranchise the lease, i.e. to buy the freehold, as permitted under the Leasehold Reform Acts. In its response to this request the PCC has been advised by CMS Cameron McKenna on legal matters, and also by Gerald Eve, Chartered Surveyors, both of whom have generously offered restricted fees. Stanley Hicks, our usual chartered surveyor, also advised at the start of the process. A working party of Mike Roskelly, Mark Nichols, Chris Fowkes and myself have steered this process, although most of the day to day work involving the enfranchisement has been led by Mike Roskelly. At the end of the year detailed negotiations over the price to be paid for the enfranchisement had not started, although formal notification had been received from the tenant.

There is no such significant development to report in respect 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 financial and ethical requirements of long term church investments; the need is for capital growth, as well as income. The Investment Fund performed well in 2012 and paid a gross dividend of 4.27% and the capital value increased as well.

The Deposit Fund maintained its AAA/VI rating from the Fitch rating agency, although as expected, returns on cash were poor (0.7% pa at the year end) compared to the returns in the investment fund. The Deposit Fund does not benefit from the Deposit Protection Guarantee 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 A fund rating, which it maintained during the year.

It is also good to report here that CCLA take very seriously all matters relating to Responsible Investment. This style of investment may be more familiar as ethical investment, but is now widely badged Responsible Investment, reflecting the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment. Fund managers globally are being urged to adopt these principles, which focus on social, environmental, ethical and governance issues. CCLA is a leading responsible investor in the City and the fund in which the trusts from which St Mary's benefits is managed strictly in accordance with the Church of England's ethical guidelines.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Fabric Report

To maintain a church and its contents in good condition requires constant care and attention to details as well as courage to face up to bigger projects.

In 2012 much attention was focussed on big projects. Firstly, the new memorial window in the south nave by the lectern was installed just in time for Easter, and later blessed by the Bishop of London. The window was made to the design of the artist Craigie Aitchison by the glass artist Neil Phillips, using glass from a factory in Germany. Installation was carried out by the glass artist, assisted by the Birmingham-based firm, Fine Design and Build. It was a matter of some concern that the external security window was not installed at the same time and eventually this work was carried out just before Christmas by another London-based firm. The London firm also prepared the coloured glass, which was removed from the old

window for hanging separately and formed the small remaining pieces into a small cross. A leaflet with many other interesting details about the window was published and should be placed in the archives with this report.

The second big project in the year was the installation of a new sound system, entirely replacing the old system that had come to the end of its useful life and had become unreliable. The new system was installed by RG Jones Sound Engineering Ltd from Wimbledon, after several different options had been considered. One feature of the new system is the inclusion of a feed back speaker directed at the sanctuary so that priests at the altar can pick up immediately if there are faults in the system. Care was taken to gain full advantage of all existing microphone points so that for example the microphone in the choir gallery has been brought into use.

As for detailed day to day matters it is good to report that routine maintenance matters have been attended to: the central heating was serviced, gutters cleaned, some flaking radiators in church were repainted, and the clear glass windows in the nave were given a thorough clean in the spring. Also, in the summer the outside of the south porch doors were redecorated.

Work on a new photographic inventory of the treasures of the church was started, but interrupted by maternity leave and it is hoped that this work will be continued in 2013. The church plate in the Vestry and in the Treasury has been regularly cared for, some minor repairs carried out on the wooden acolyte candlesticks, and there have be no losses during the year.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

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