

St Mary The Boltons

rooted in faith open in thought reaching out in service

Annual Parish Review 2018



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Vicar's Introduction

It is always a good exercise for any organization to look back and reflect on the past year, to see what has happened, what has been achieved, what has been planned for the months to come. We hope that this Review will give a sense of how St Mary's has grown and developed in 2018, and a sense of excitement for the future. Please read it, and share it with your friends and neighbours who may not know what it is we are about; and finally give thanks for our live and ministry together here in this parish.

Jenny Welsh
Vicar



I. **Statutory Reports for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Numbers on the Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll presented to the 2018 APCM stood at 214 members (81 resident, 133 non resident) an overall increase of 1 since the APCM in 2017.

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

A full revision of the Electoral Roll, when everyone who wishes to be included on the Roll must re apply, took place in 2019.

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

Fiona Parsons

Electoral Roll Officer

Annual Report of the Workings of the PCC

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

During the course of 2018 the PCC met five times in the church's north transept and our meetings are always led succinctly and

effectively by Revd Jenny. During the course of the year Jenny and Philip also constantly show hospitality and open up their home for smaller meetings as well as PCC drinks.

During 2018 the PCC have worked hard on bringing the following special projects to fruition:

- New lighting system
- Refurbishment of external stonework
- Plans for the overhaul of the garden
- New choral scholars
- Telecoms licence renewal
- New telephone system

But it isn't all exciting new initiatives. Much of the work of the PCC concerns the day to day running of St Marys and we are responsible for making sure that the important areas of Safeguarding, Health & Safety and Financial Probity are always forefront in our discussions and decision making.

On Saturday 8th September the PCC held an Away Day and were accommodated in the excellent new conference space at Brompton Cemetery. From our discussions many new plans were made for enhancing the life of St Marys and some initiatives such as the Sunday School Christmas outing and a monthly Sunday Discussion Forum have already been implemented.

Revd Jenny is grateful to all members of the PCC who give their time in attending meetings and providing advice and expertise with enthusiasm. The PCC is always very pleased to hear from members

of the congregation with comments or questions concerning the running of St Marys. Please do not hesitate to get in contact, particularly if you would consider sitting on the PCC.

Joanna Hackett

PCC Secretary



Annual Report on Fabric

In recent years it has been possible to report that no major repair work has been required, reflecting the very substantial refurbishment of the church that was undertaken in 2000. After nearly two decades, the endowment effect of that work is declining and in 2018 a substantial amount of maintenance and repair work was undertaken. Some was planned, and some was reactive, in response to unforeseen exigencies, but among all the project work, it is good to be able to report that routine maintenance issues were also attended to in a timely fashion so that gutters were cleaned, the

lightning conductor tested, and the five-yearly inspection of the electrical installations in the church and hall was completed. Where needed, minor repair works recommended as a result of these inspections were completed, and further work in the not too distant future will be needed to lead flashing on the north side of church and at the northeast corner. There is also an on-going concern about the size of the rain water hopper above the southern porch and where the mechanism to divert water from the downpipe into the rainwater butt has failed.

A new contractor, Surrey Environmental Maintenance Ltd., was appointed to undertake the annual servicing of all the gas boilers in the church and hall and flat. During inspection, the boiler in the hall flat was found to be in such poor condition that it had to be closed down immediately on safety grounds. At the same time as it was removed, the immersion hot water system in the flat was also taken out so that the flat is now heated and has hot water on demand from a new combi boiler system.



The church Hall continues to be heavily used by Paint Pots Nursery School on weekdays and by other voluntary groups during the week, as well as for parties at weekends, although there has been a gradual decline in party bookings. During the summer holidays the floor was resealed by an authorised Granwood Flooring contractor.

In a year in which there was other substantial project work, it may seem odd to start this report with the routine maintenance items, but it is by regular maintenance that more serious decay can be staved off. However much maintenance is carried out, the time comes when more serious repairs are needed. In 2018, acting on the advice of our Quinquennial Inspecting Architect and with the work carried out under his supervision, the leak in the south transept was finally repaired, and the stone roof of the gallery stairwell was also repaired to address the damp problem, and the stonework on the west wall of church was defrassed and the old cementitious mortar replaced with lime mortar. The colour of the new mortar was initially concerning, but with time the initial orangey-brown tinge has faded to an acceptable degree.

Work on the project to renew the internal lighting in the church with LED equipment went on throughout the year and by the end of the year a faculty had been obtained and the contract awarded with work to be done in January 2019. The new lighting is now operational but it is worth recording that the design considered three areas: general lighting, feature lighting/uplighting, and lighting for service leading and other activities in church. The aim was to provide a good level of light for reading purposes, and a rich, warmer light when dimmed. The feature lighting illuminates the organ pipes and the corbels, and a new external floodlight lights up the East Window so that it can be seen when it is dark outside. There continues to be time switched internal uplighting on the East Window, with four up lights located in slightly different positions, but still at the foot of the window. Service leading lighting focuses on the light needed in the sanctuary, the pulpit and lectern. It also includes the ability to light the area between the pulpit and lectern, which is useful both for concerts and for weddings. Pulpit and

lectern lights are individually controlled and all the lights will be capable of being dimmed, useful for candlelit services or concerts. The scheme was designed so that there is no need for a general down light in the tower to light the sanctuary, thus removing the need for access to the tower for lighting maintenance purposes. General switching is located in the parish office and in St Luke's Chapel. For reasons of economy, no changes were made in the vestry, although there is a new external light on a sensor on the outside vestry door.

There will be both an economic benefit from the new LED lighting system and an environmental benefit. Cash savings will accrue both on the cost of electricity and on maintenance as the average life of an LED luminaire can be up to 25 times longer than old technology lighting. The lower energy input needed by LED fittings will also help us contribute to the long-term target established by the Diocese of reducing energy usage by 42% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050 when compared to a 2005 baseline.

A significant project to renew the garden on the south side of the church was initiated during the year. The garden suffered considerable damage during the lengthy installation of the mobile telecom masts in the towers and it was recognised that remedial work required was more than could be achieved by volunteers. A professional garden designer was engaged. Plans were prepared and amended and external funding raised from generous supporters so that by the end of the year everything was in place for the actual work on site to begin to bring a new garden to life. There will be a new winter flowering cherry on the right side of the main entrance to balance the magnolia on the left, and a re-laid pathway along the south side. The rockery is to be opened up by the removal of the

trees/shrubs that have outgrown the site. The wisteria is to be professionally pruned and re-fixed round the south porch. The main border beyond will be brought out to the path at either end to enclose the lawn, which is to be re-laid and have permanent edging installed to bring definition to the shape. Four medlar trees will add height to the border without blocking light in the church. The completely replanted border will also feature some of the many plants mentioned in the Bible, while six new benches will be installed. They will sit outside the south porch and along the fence, while the small armchair seats will be re-located along the south wall of the south transept on new paving, with a small area of planting at either end. This is a substantial project, which could not have been achieved without the indispensable contribution of Edwina Sassoon and the personal interest taken by the designer, Non Morris. We are also hugely grateful for the financial support from generous local donors in the neighbourhood who have made this project possible.

Also outside, it is worth recording that at the beginning of the year the noticeboards at the west end of the church were refurbished, while at the very end of the year the long drain from the vestry to the public sewer became blocked. Initial investigations suggest that this is either a collapse or a root blockage, but either way, excavation is likely to be required in order to effect a repair.



Looking forward, the refurbishment of the hall kitchen will be necessary and it would be sensible to complete the preparatory work for refurbishing the church boilers. The existing boilers are reaching the end of their design life, and when replaced, improvements to the ventilation system will be required to meet current legal requirements. Even if the actual expense of replacement can be postponed for a while, having a plan in place



would minimise the disruption that would arise in the event they failed during the winter heating season.

A significant amount of work on the fabric was required in 2018, and it proved very helpful to have a Fabric Committee in place with formal terms of reference approved by the PCC to underpin their work.

*Leo Fraser-Mackenzie
Chair of the Fabric Committee*

Goods and ornaments

All the items listed in the photographic Inventory of Church Plate, and other furnishings were found to be present when checked at the end of December 2018 by Edward Quinton and entries made in the inventory to show that the check had been completed.

We are grateful to the Sacristan, Margarete Geier, for the hard work involved in cleaning and polishing the items held in the Treasury.



II. Annual Parish Review Reports

The Vicar's Annual Report

I must begin by being thankful. The past year has been one of great gladness, at least for me as Vicar here at St Mary's. It has been a year when I have had the pleasure of deepening relationships with parishioners, both long time members and newcomers;; of getting to grips with the business of St Mary's, and of being the Vicar in an extraordinary community of people who are committed to the parish and to its growth. No doubt there will be more to come.

The PCC has worked together, particular at the Away Day in September, to respond to the Mission Action Statement and, determined that we should strengthen our connections with local community activities; build on our relationships with our near

neighbours; encourage the members of the congregation to make more connections between Sunday worship and daily life and work; re-connect with those families who come through the doors for baptisms, funerals and weddings; and build on our connections with local agencies serving homeless people and vulnerable families. To these ends, there are now plans for a Community Christmas Fair in 2019; a couple of outings for the Sunday School families; a monthly Third Sunday Forum after church, looking at the Gospel of the day; Back to Church Sundays for occasional office families, and a concurrent plan to re-start the preschool Sunday School group, to encourage baptism families to keep bringing their children to church. The All Souls service saw six families return after funerals, as we remembered those who had died in the past year. We have installed boxes for collections of food and other staples for Glass Door, St Cuthbert's Centre, and Dad's House Food Bank, which provide food for families locally.

Our worship has been enhanced and enriched by the Choral Scholars' scheme, initiated in January.. Holy Week and Easter and Christmas services were particularly lovely, and well attended. The Carol Service was a great success, and included generous hospitality in the form of mulled wine and mince pies afterwards We are indeed blessed by the contribution that John Ward, our Director of Music, makes to the life of St Mary's, and we are grateful fir this enthusiasm and imagination in making our worship beautiful. We kept our Patronal Festival with Choral Evensong with the Bishop of Kensington preaching, followed by a parish party.

This year we have experienced a modest but steady growth in the numbers of people coming to church, with some new families and single people beginning to attend regularly. However, our accounts

show that we have also experienced a steady decline in our income from congregational giving in the past years, certainly since our last Stewardship Campaign. We have become very dependent on lettings income from the hall and the church space simply to pay our bills, but without making provision for any large and costly maintenance projects coming in the future. Many new people have joined us who have not been invited to contribute financially to the life of the parish, while others who have left us, or are no longer in a position to continue giving. The PCC have determined that in 2019 a new Stewardship Campaign will be held with the hope that we will raise the number of people who are committed to giving regularly, and to become less dependent on lettings, while sustaining, and most importantly, growing our ministry of welcome, witness and worship.



In 2018, in addition to the many children we baptised (including a couple within the main service), we were pleased to present ten children and one adult for confirmation at St Paul's Cathedral at Easter. Our Sunday School has grown in number, and the older

children have begun to take on new roles in worship, particularly at All Age Services. With the recruitment of a new leader, it has been possible to offer regular Sunday School classes for the oldest children, and this has added to the ongoing nurture of the children.

Weddings increased in number in 2018, as has the calling of banns for people being married elsewhere. It is always a joy to welcome couples who come along to hear their banns read in their parish church. Among our number to be married were Iona Thomas and Matt Thome, whose wedding I was glad to take, at Ginny Thomas' church in Great Tew. Funerals and memorial services provided many opportunities for pastoral care to local people who have not been part of the church, as well as some from our congregation, including Anne Garten, Noel Santanna and Elizabeth Davson (whose funeral was taken by former Vicar Gerald Beauchamp). Funerals of residents at St Theresa's Nursing Home have been opportunities for me to get to know the Sisters there, and a new relationship has grown out of those encounters, and resulted in a good mini-Carol Service there in December. We had the privilege of burying the ashes of Belinda Morse in the Memorial Garden, along with others who had seen St Mary's as their church in the past.

We have continued to welcome the local schools for concerts and assemblies, as well as to support the RE syllabus with visits from year groups. We have also continued to host local organisations and charities for their Christmas events, and this goes a long way to build relationships with our neighbours.

We continue to be one of the few local churches to remain unlocked during the week and the flow of visitors through the doors each day has remained steady. People came in to pray, to speak

with one of the members of staff, to ask for advice or help, and many said they appreciated the fact that the building is open and welcoming. We are grateful to Dave Ireton, the Verger, and Margarete Geier for their generous giving of time and energy to make that possible. Max Noak, our administrator, is a great support to me in the office, too, and this past year has been one of working out how to work together efficiently and effectively.

Extra-parochially, I continue to act as one of the Directors of Ordinands in the Kensington Episcopal Area, and currently am seeing three candidates and ordinands through their vocational discernment process. This is valuable work that also enables me to keep in regular contact with St Mellitus College, with which I hope to grow a good working relationship in the coming year.

I was glad to take the opportunity to join the Diocese's Riverside Leadership course, which included eight sessions with input from church leaders and group work with other clergy who are new to incumbency. I also went to a residential course for new incumbents in the spring. Both these courses are provided as part of Continuing Ministerial Education, and are paid for out of the Diocesan Common Fund.

I end with thanks, too: to the many people who make up our congregation and wider fellowship, for your prayers, and support; to the PCC and Churchwardens who patiently and generously give of their time and energy to keep our church on track; to my lay colleagues who help us to be faithful to our calling to be the Church here in this place.

The Reverend Jenny Welsh, Vicar

From the registers - the year in numbers

	Notes	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Communions						
Easter	(i)	94	94	97	109	151
Christmas Midnight		81	60	84	96	41
Christmas morning		44	75	87	65	71
Attendance						
Easter	(ii)	178	161	159		
Christmas	(ii)	427	408	365		
Sunday Average Attendance (over 16years)		81	71	67	76	78
Average Sunday Attendance (all ages)		93	82	76	98	94
Occasional offices						
Baptisms		21	12	4	19	24
Confirmations		10	0	0	2	0
Weddings		5	2	6	6	11
Blessing of Marriage after a Civil Ceremony		0	0	2	1	2
Funerals		11	6	4	8	3
Memorial Services		4	6	2	1	1

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

- (i)The Easter Communion include Easter Vigil on Easter Eve
- (ii)Easter and Christmas attendance figures include attendance at any service on the relevant day and the Eve

Worship and Occasional Offices

The pattern of Sunday services remains constant with a Said Eucharist at 8.0am using the Book of Common Prayer and a Sung Parish Eucharist at 10.30am. All Age Services are offered twice each term, using the regular Eucharistic order with opportunities for the children to read, lead intercessions, serve at the altar and take the collection; the sermons for All Age worship are more child-friendly, interactive and informal. These services usually fall at Candlemas, Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival, Nativity Play in Advent, and two in the Summer term around Pentecost and the end of term.

Baptisms usually take place once per month after the main service, though occasionally families are happy to be included in the 10.30am Eucharist, which is always welcome.

Weekday Eucharists are held each Tuesday, with the first Tuesday of each month including prayers for healing and wholeness. Silent Prayer is held on the second Wednesday of each month. Morning and Evening Prayer are said each weekday, usually by a member of staff, and occasionally joined by other people.

Funerals and memorials are regularly held for people with a link to the parish church, and our Director of Music is glad to help families plan their music for these services. Our verger and sacristan are always on hand to help support the good running of each service. This is also true for marriages and blessings of civil marriages.

The Reverend Jenny Welsh

Vicar

Study Groups

In 2018, it was good to have input from two different leaders, with short courses and groups meeting during the day and in the evenings. In total The Monday Book Group, meeting for two terms at the Vicarage, read two books together: Henri Nouwen's *The Return of the Prodigal Son*; Frederick Buechner's *The Remarkable Ordinary*. Philip Welsh led an evening bible study series on First Corinthians during Lent and a discussion series on Stanley Hauerwas' *Resident Aliens*. An alternative Lent group met on Sunday mornings after the 10.30am Eucharist, which read Archbishop Justin Welby's book, *Dethroning Mammon*. An Advent study group met on Monday mornings for three sessions, to read Michael Mayne's *Giving Attention*. In addition, during Advent the church was kept open on Monday evenings for an hour of Silence, concluding with a Service of Light.

The Vicar prepared nine children for confirmation over the course of an eight-week period, meeting at the Vicarage on Sunday afternoons. There was always at least one parent present for safeguarding purposes, with the added benefit of their being able to provide input and support for the children's learning.

The PCC determined at the Away Day that more regular and consistent opportunities should exist for discussion of theological

questions and bible study, preferably for both adults and children to engage with their faith in a practical way. The Third Sunday Forums meeting in 2019 are in response to this perceived need. A variety of meeting times means that more people have the opportunity to join in.

The Reverend Jenny Welsh
Vicar

Sunday School

We have had an exciting time with the children for the first part of 2019. In early January, we had a first: a Sunday school trip to the pantomime. It was a great success and hugely enjoyed by those who attended. Roll on next year! In the meantime, following on from the success of that trip, we are running a trip to the Wetlands centre. We are hoping that, as well as Sunday school children, we will have children from local schools too.



This term we also restarted Little Lambs- junior Sunday School- after a break of several years. We were hugely excited by the attendance: lots of Babies and young children at the first session made for a noisy but fun time.

Alex – the young person that we sponsor through the charity Compassion in Uganda - continues in his studies; we are delighted that he is hoping to become a vicar himself one day.

Katie Fowkes

Sunday School Coordinator and Children's Champion



Music Report

The year 2018 was a very positive one for music at St Mary's.

The introduction of choral scholars has really breathed new life into our music programme, and the particular format of the commitment required of them has enabled us to continue our very happy 'mixed economy' of music, which I have spoken of in previous reports and which remains an attractive hallmark of St Mary's musical life.

The scholars boost the Come and Sing choir once per month, form a consort as a quartet once per month (to tackle some more ambitious repertoire), and take turns on a rota basis as cantors and soloists on the remaining weeks of the year, giving us a very rich and varied musical diet over the course of the year. There was some difficulty in recruiting our first crop of scholars, with only three out of four voice parts being filled initially and then one of the three having to drop out shortly after starting, due to commitments elsewhere.

We did, however, enjoy the excellent vocal talents of our soprano scholar Bethan Thomas (whose scholarship we were delighted to renew in September) and Louisa Stuart-Smith (who left us to take up

her choral scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge) throughout the first half of the year. Bethan was joined in September by a new team of voices: Kate Lowe (mezzo soprano), Joshua Kerr (tenor), and Daniel Vening (bass), all of whom are currently students at the Royal Academy of Music. Together, they form a very cohesive team and have integrated well into the life of the parish, joining us for lunches and the like from time to time, as well as sharing their vocal talents with us, and we look forward to further music-making in 2019. I am grateful to the PCC for having supported the scholarship programme and very much hope it can be sustained and built upon over the coming years.

We also welcomed Isaac Adni (a pupil of mine from Westminster School) on an informal placement for several months, allowing him to gain experience of service accompaniment, prior to applying to university and cathedral organ scholarships. We congratulate him on his appointments as Organ Scholar at Chelmsford Cathedral, and Organ Scholar Elect at Caius College, Cambridge. As well as



enjoying Isaac's playing in the services, he also treated us to a post-service recital of music in June which was well received.

A month later, we were pleased to welcome another student of mine, Clara Falkowska, who gave us a truly stunning recital on trumpet and flügelhorn, juxtaposing breath-taking virtuosity with a

real lyricism and warmth of tone. Thanks also to her most accomplished accompanist Gamal Khamis. Plans are afoot to make the post-service recitals a more regular feature in 2019. This seems to be a time-slot that can attract a decent-sized audience and we are pleased to be able to provide a platform for young performers.

In 2018, we had occasion to enjoy the expanded forces of a choral octet more often than before, not only for Easter Day and the Carol Service as previously, but also for the Patronal Festival and the Feast of Christ the King (the latter kindly sponsored by Arthur and Ann Tait in celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary). It was a particular delight to enjoy some large-scale anthems, such as Ireland's 'Greater Love' at Easter, and Parry's 'I was glad' for Christ the King. The Choral Evensong for the Patronal Festival was another joyous occasion and the choir were on excellent form in Murrill's exuberant Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in E, and Poulenc's suave and lyrical setting of the Salve Regina (even managing to win over some members of the congregation not ordinarily disposed to like 'modern' music!).

December's Carol Service (which I can scarcely believe is already my seventh in post!) was a splendid finale to the musical year with an excellent turnout and hearty congregational singing 'downstairs' and some great finesse 'upstairs'; the choir's performance of Berkeley's 'In Wintertime' being a particular highlight. The other Christmas services were also something of a musical feast and we are grateful to former choral scholar Louisa Stuart-Smith for her splendid singing at Midnight Mass and to St Mary's regular, Ana-Maria Rincon, for being a real trouser and treating us to some fabulous singing on Christmas day despite being unable to get up to the gallery due to a broken foot!

In November, oboist James Turnbull, as our annual guest instrumentalist for Remembrance Sunday, gave an exquisite performance of a very well-judged programme of music by Schumann, Elgar and Saint-Saëns, which really captured the mood of the occasion, which was particularly poignant in this anniversary year, with the Perspex silhouette of an unknown soldier in the pews.



The Come and Sing choir has continued to flourish, and now that we have choral scholars swelling the ranks, there is less fear of 'exposure' and we have been pleased to welcome several new members to our ranks. The clarity of diction and ensemble in the choir's psalm-singing has several times been remarked on, and there have been first-rate performances of some quite challenging music. This a great achievement, considering we only rehearse on the day of the performance, and a testament to members' dedication to the cause (and to doing their homework on the scores in advance!). I cannot resist, of course, a plug here for new members: we are always happy to welcome anyone who would like to have a go, so

please do consider it. It is right to end with some thank yous: to the visiting organists who have stood in for me in my absence or provided accompaniment so I could better direct the choir for the big occasions (Samuel Ali, Charles Andrews, Jonathan Bunney, Edward Dean, Hannah Parry and Nicholas Woods) as well to the many singers who have joined us for the big occasions and for the many weddings, memorials, funerals and baptisms that have called for musical forces. There are too many to list here, but thanks in particular to our most frequent visitors: sopranos Danae Eleni, Ana-Maria Rincon, Emily Atkinson and Maddie Holmes; mezzos Karen Fodor and Jacki Connell; tenors David Barry, John Beaumont and Michael Solomon Williams; and basses Alastair Merry, Neil Bellingham and Cheyney Kent. Thanks are due of course to the Come and Sing choir, as well as to the several generous anonymous donors who have helped to support our fledgling choral scholarship fund programme. Last but not least, thanks to all the members of the congregation who take a moment to let me know they have enjoyed a particular performance or noticed and appreciated a particular link between a hymn and a reading. It is always so heartening to be making music in such an appreciative church community.

John Ward

Director of Music

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod is a Council that provides an opportunity for lay members to debate and discuss issues concerned with the everyday management of the church. The Chelsea Deanery, of which we are a part, consists of nine churches, including St Mellitus College and Chaplaincies in hospitals. It covers a wide-ranging aspect of church traditions. Each parish has lay members as elected representatives

at the Deanery Synod and the meetings are chaired by our Area Dean, the Revd Emma Smith.

The meetings in 2018 were based on the three component parts of Capital Vision 2020: Confident, Compassionate, Creative. For Confident we discussed 'Vocations' and the importance of nurturing and recognising vocations within our parishes. In looking to Compassionate, we considered the problems connected with age and isolation in the Chelsea area. Creative was introduced with examples relating to art and music and included a theatrical presentation of a 'modernised' Shakespearian performance. It was exciting and at times moving to see the work and dedication that had gone into bringing life to the Capital Vision 2020.

There are three meetings of the Deanery Synod each year. They are a productive and positive way of bringing a sense of community to the Deanery. At each meeting there is an update from a representative of each parish, and we conclude with an enjoyable social event. Becoming a member of the Synod gives a lay person an opportunity to make decisions concerning their church and to take forward the unique and individual composition of their parish.

Ann Mulcare

Deanery Synod Representative

Safeguarding

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

I am in my second year as appointed CSO. I work alongside Joanna Hackett, who is the Parish Evidence Checker and in this role carries out the DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) checks on all persons in a role that brings them into contact with anyone who could be at risk. I am backed up by Kelly Webb, who liaises with the PCC on safeguarding issues if required.

The Parish Safeguarding Audit was completed and submitted to the Diocese in November 2018 with a review due at the PCC in March 2019. The PCC Safeguarding Policy Statement was reviewed in July as required. The Parish Safeguarding Info Poster is pinned up in the entrance to the Church. There have been no safeguarding concerns in the last 12 months.

Fiona Parsons has kindly stepped into the role of Champion for Vulnerable Adults and joins Chris and Katie Fowkes, who continue as Children's Champions for St Mary's.

The focus is primarily on activities around Sunday School.

The guiding principle is that there should always be a minimum of two adults in a room with the children, one of whom must be DBS-cleared. Both leaders and helpers sign up to the Diocesan Code of Conduct on safeguarding good practice via the Volunteer Agreement Form. The vulnerable adults policy from the Diocese is also available and provides helpful guidance for members of St Mary's who are in contact with vulnerable adults in an informal manner. Online training for everyone involved with children, young people and vulnerable adults is recommended by the Diocese including Church Safeguarding Officers, PCC members, licensed lay ministers, Children's Champions and people working with any vulnerable groups (children, young people or vulnerable adults). This

can be accessed via www.london.cofelearning.org. The parish code is needed to register for this and everyone should print out their certificate at the end of the course. Please contact the Safeguarding Officer if you require further information.

Clair Gordon

Church Safeguarding Officer

Verger's Report

This year has been a busy one at St Mary The Boltons. There was a major renewal of the church's lighting system: as well as improving our general lighting state the new lighting also illuminates several of our unique interior architectural features. Works on the church south garden and pathways are currently underway. All of our contractors have been a pleasure to work with. Paint Pots nursery and creative classes continue to be our main hall user in the daytime from Monday to Friday. There are several local community-based groups using the hall in the evenings. One particular highlight of the past year was hosting a concert on behalf of the Royal Thai Embassy with a choir from a Thai university. His Excellency Pisanu Suvanajata, the Royal Thai ambassador to the UK, was hosting the event. The church was full with many smiles and amazing singing. Thanks to all who volunteer at St Mary The Boltons, doing so very often behind the scenes. On a final personal note, 13 years on it still remains my joy to be caretaker verger here. Thank you!

Dave Ireton, Verger and Caretaker

The Prayer Network

The Prayer Network is an important part of our corporate life. Seventeen present and former parishioners constitute the Network. About 50 people are prayed for by the Prayer Network people, in Church at Morning and Evening Prayers, at the Mid-week Eucharist on the first Tuesday of each month, and at the Sunday 10.30am Eucharist. The distribution of updates, new requests and deletions is done by e-mail to those with that facility, and by letter, usually handed out on Sundays, to the other members. A monthly Bulletin,

with all the updates incorporated, is distributed to everyone.

Most requests and updates come from the people of the Network itself or the Parish Office and requests are dealt with as quickly as possible, usually within hours. It is important that changes or progress are also noted and passed on, as this keeps the prayers and intercessions relevant, and the intercessors interested. The intercessors use the list entirely as it suits them, not according to any particular instruction or pattern.

Verena Tschudin



The Clarion

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

The purpose of *The Clarion* is to inform, educate, stimulate, and occasionally amuse readers and a good mix of all these is the aim. Reports of events and items of interest, often also items from the Diocesan Newsletter, and adverts for events were featured. During 2018, eight of the 10 issues were 16 pages in length, which is a net increase on 2017, when no issue was more than 12 pages long. We started having a theme for each issue, published in advance. Each issue also features an art piece related to the theme and a parishioner is invited to write about the theme in relation to the art piece.

The Clarion is the parish 'voice' and to make as many people's voices as possible heard, everyone is encouraged to send material, of whatever kind, ideally by e-mail, either to the Parish Office, or to my e-mail address, and no longer than 500 words and possibly with some illustration. Readings at services, notices of planned events, the names of people whose Year's Mind occurs during the month, and the Parish Directory, are the main reasons for having a parish magazine.

Hard copies are available in church throughout the relevant month, and emails of the magazine's PDF are sent to everyone on the parish database.

Verena Tschudin

Clarion Editor

The Garden

The Garden is dealt with elsewhere in this Report. As the gardener, I have maintained the garden as best as possible for use. Jo Crickmay regularly helped with various jobs, in particular by sweeping leaves throughout the year, for which many thanks.

St Mary's remains part of the Quiet Garden scheme, which gives it some national and international standing and publicity.

Verena Tschudin



Flowers

We are always grateful when people ask us to do the flowers throughout the year. For special occasions we always collect money, which is for Christmas, Easter, and Harvest but we

are always looking for people to volunteer with the flowers and also with giving donations. *Margarete Geier*

Hospitality and Social Life

Parish lunches are still well attended – between 20 and 30 people – but as usual we could still do with more helpers. In 2018, we had ten lunches and only two extra receptions; one for the deanery and one for a social event. Many thanks to all the volunteers who are willing to help preparing the food.

Margarete Geier

Social Secretary

Sacristy

The sacristy work is mostly preparing for our worship: for communion, looking after vestments, silver, and mid-week services. All our vestments are getting very much older and very worn. We may need to look at replacing them in the near future for our priests.

Margarete Geier

Sacristan

Reading Volunteers at St Cuthbert with St Matthias School

A group of volunteers continue to go into St Cuthbert with St Matthias School. At present we have a total of nine volunteers, five are members of St Mary's church.

We normally listen to the children read on a one-to-one basis. Their ages run from five to eleven. The day and time can be chosen to suit the busy lives of the volunteers, although we do need to fit in with the class timetables. Volunteers usually have a preference for a particular age group they feel they would relate to and this can also usually be arranged as there is a need for help throughout the school.

The school continues to appreciate this help very much.

It is such a pleasure to see children increasing their enjoyment of reading as they become more proficient. They particularly appreciate the opportunity of reading on a one to one basis.

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

Sheila Gibbs

Charity Committee's Report

The Charity Committee operates under Terms of Reference approved by the PCC. Its main role is to recommend to the PCC the charities that St Mary's should support each year by our fund raising, with the money going into our Charitable Pot. As much as possible, suggestions for the charities come from members of the congregation. The Committee has an obligation to ensure that the money raised should be as much as possible so we can make meaningful donations to the charities. The main vehicle for doing this is the Summer Fair. A very successful Fair meant that the 2018 Charitable Pot contained the exceptional amount of £11,136.68. This money will be shared by Family Friends, Teach a Man to Fish, Samburu Trust UK, Earls Court Youth Club, Compassion UK (for the Sunday School's Alex) and the Bishop's Lent Appeal.

During 2018 the Committee met on 16 January, 15 May and 16 October, as well as communicating by email. Members also helped with running the Summer Fair. We hosted representatives from two of our charities, who addressed the congregation during a 10.30am Sunday service: Tanya D'Souza from Sound Seekers on 6 May and EmilyBell on behalf of Samburu Trust UK on 30 September.

The *Clarion* featured eight different items about our charities. The committee members during the year continued to be Katrina Quinton, Katrin Roskelly, Caroline Jackson and Anthony Williams (Chairman). Edwina Sassoon was also on the committee until she stood down on 16 October. As a post-2018 update, we are pleased that Alex Burtt and Philp Welsh have agreed to join the committee.

Anthony Williams

on behalf of the Charity Committee

Gift Aid

In 2018 we had the benefit of £14,317 received from HMRC for Gift Aid. This is a valuable addition to the amounts donated by church members in the year, and makes a significant contribution to our finances without any cost to church members other than the time spent completing a Gift Aid Declaration form. We are grateful to everyone whose gifts to St Mary's have contributed to this total. The above amount includes the maximum of £2,000 claimed on church collections under the Small Donations scheme.

The overall total is less than the figure of £16,211 collected in the previous year. At the time of writing our Stewardship campaign is under way, and we hope the effect of this will be to boost the total amount on which gift aid is claimed in future years.

Declarations, Stewardship documents and all records of gifts that I extract from the church financial records are kept securely at my home address and are kept confidential.

Philip Bedford Smith
Gift Aid Secretary

Report on Trusts and Legacies

There are three trust funds from which St Mary's as a community benefits. Redcliffe Gardens Trust, on which a separate report is prepared each year, St Peter's Trust and the Louisa Wilson Legacy. During 2018 there was no change in the way the funds are invested, either as cash at Barclays Bank or in the Church of England Central Board of Finance Deposit Fund or for the longer term in the CBF Investment Fund. The value held in each fund at the end of 2018 was £441,780 in Redcliffe Gardens Trust, £31,152 in St Peter's Trust fund and £53,322 in the Louisa Wilson Legacy. During the year some work was done to ascertain if the income arising in the Louisa

Wilson Legacy should be applied to the Stipends Fund of the London Diocesan Fund, rather being paid directly to the PCC and further action is required to clarify the matter with the LDF. Beyond that, no change was made to the proportion of assets held as cash or longer term investments. The bulk of the cash lies in the Redcliffe Gardens Trust and the question remains that if this is likely to be required for disbursement within the terms of the trust deed (mainly to support the cost of maintaining the church as a place of worship) it is probably best held as cash even though the returns from cash deposits are currently meagre.

The funds in which the trust assets are held are both managed by CCLA Investment Management Ltd, which works within the framework of the Church of England Ethical Investment policy. When investment positions or decisions taken by the investing bodies of the Church of England feature in the popular press they are often heavily criticised. Yet quietly, in the background, the guidelines established and kept under regular review by the Ethical Investment Advisory Group are extremely useful tools for the churches investing bodies to help guide their work to interact with the companies in which they invest and the pressure they put on them to conduct business in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. The 2018 Responsible Investment Report from CCLA (available at <https://www.ccla.co.uk/our-approach/how-we-approach-stewardship-and-ethics>) tells of what it has been doing to improve governance standards in the big companies in which it invests. It also details how it takes climate change considerations into its investment process (and reports on actual engagement with well-known companies), and finally it reports on how it engages with companies on wider social issues, including health and safety and water use and human rights, and even childhood obesity. In its

quiet, but public disclosure of its approach to responsible investing, the Church of England appears to be well ahead of other sections of the investment industry. It was only during 2018 that public consultations began concerning the disclosure of information by pension scheme trustees to their stakeholders about environmental, social and governance factors and stewardship in relation to investments held by the pension scheme. Thank you to the Ethical Investment Advisory Group and CCLA for the work on these important matters done in our name.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie



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