



REPORTS TO THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 10 April 2011





**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH
BEDFORD PARK**

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
for the year ended 31st December 2010**

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REPORTS TO THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

MINISTRY INTRODUCTION

Father Kevin writes:

It often comes as a shock to some of the visitors to St Michael's that our congregation is flourishing. In so many parts of the country the Church is experiencing a very hard time indeed and so we have much to be thankful for. Hopefully, we will continue to grow in number, but much more importantly we need to grow in faith, hope and love. This is what St Paul taught the early church at Corinth, "*Faith, hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.*" He also reminded them – and reminds us therefore - that "*without love we are nothing.*"



St Michael and All Angels belongs within the Catholic tradition of the Church of England, but it is not "high and dry." There is a great deal of joy, fun and innovation in our life and this last year has been marked with a great many celebrations as the Retrospective in this booklet makes clear. We enjoy our faith and our fellowship together and I hope this joy is contagious and spills over into the wider community. It is our faith in Christ Jesus that brings us joy and I hope this is evident in all we do and say.

There has been much talk in the press about the emigration of Catholic Anglicans in the Church of England to the Ordinariate set up by the Bishop of Rome. Here at St Michael's we are confidently Anglican and confidently Catholic, an inclusive church with a positive view of the ordination of women and gay people in the Church. We may be traditional in worship but that only serves to make us more radical in our proclamation of the Gospel in society.

When I became Vicar, the Archdeacon said to me that he had a vision for St Michael's as a resource for the Episcopal Area, the Diocese and the rest of the Church of England. It was one of those overwhelming, rather over the top statements which was out of character with the rest of his very practical and insightful advice about the parish. Yet, I have never forgotten it and there have been moments over the last decade when I have glimpsed that vision too. In March, Sarah Lenton, who has resourced our children's ministry for 15 years, and who has transformed our Family Masses through her sermons and cartoons, launched her book, *Creative Ideas for Children's Worship Year A* (published by Canterbury Press). It is the children's liturgies that we have experienced at St Michael's now shared as a resource for many other parishes in this country and abroad. It is a refreshingly ecumenical book because it arises out of Sarah's experience of forming children's liturgies in Our Lady of Lourdes in Acton as well as in our own parish: Roman Catholic and Catholic Anglican. We rejoice in Sarah's ministry amongst



us and her gifts and talents generously shared over the years, and we are rightly proud of her and this new publication. So if you have links with other churches and parishes let them know about this book and the engaging and imaginative material for children's ministry between its covers.

There is much that we need to learn from others too and as always time, talents and financial support remains an important priority. It can feel like an uphill struggle financially these days as many families in Britain can now testify. Resourcing our church for its ministry and mission is a



significant concern and yet what the church is able to offer is becoming more important, not less, for our society. This last year we have endeavoured to make stronger links with local schools and other institutions in our locality. The Bedford Park Festival and the Chiswick Book Festival have become leading community arts events in West London bringing hundreds into our church building and establishing relationships with businesses and community volunteers. We are committed to "building up community" and "serving our community."

This booklet endeavours to give the reader a taste of life at St Michael and All Angels. The many different groups that make up our ministry and fellowship have provided snapshots of their activities and how those activities are intended to bear witness to the love of God worked out in the daily life of this parish. We also hope they will inspire you to join one of our task based or ministry groups as you deepen your own commitment to Christ and His Church.



There are of course, a great many things done in our congregation in an unassuming and quiet manner which are not recorded here. We give thanks for those people whose presence and ministry amongst us we can easily take for granted.

Let us not forget the words of St Paul on the meaning of following Jesus Christ: *"for without love we are nothing... Faith, hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love."*

Father Kevin

With special thanks to all those who have written about their work within our church community and especially to David Beresford, who took all the photographs included. We are most grateful to him for ensuring there is such an excellent photographic record of the life of our church.

**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH
PCC ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010**

Background

St Michael and All Angels PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, Father Kevin Morris, in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This includes responsibility for the administration and finances of the parish, the acquisition and management of church property, the framing of an annual budget for maintenance of the church’s work, and the care, maintenance, preservation and insurance of the fabric of the church and its grounds, together with its goods and ornaments.

All this is done within the framework of the church’s mission statement:

*St Michael’s exists within the Anglo-Catholic tradition:
To offer worship to God, to proclaim the Gospel and share the experience
of the love of God with all people*

Members of the PCC are either *ex-officio* (The Vicar, the Curate, the Wardens and Deanery Synod Representatives) or elected by at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to serve a term of three years, in accordance with The Church Representation Rules. Since the last APCM on 18 April 2010 the following have served as members:

Ex-officio Members

Incumbent	Father Kevin Morris - Chairman
Curate	Father Stephen Stavrou
Churchwardens	Mrs Helen Wareham (Vice Chair) Mr Michael Robinson
Representatives on the Deanery Synod	Mrs Anne Mower* Mrs Helen Wareham

Elected Members

Mr Tony Simkin – Treasurer
Mr Kevin Wilson* – Secretary
Mrs Elaine Carew Broke*
Mr Matthew Hickley*
Mrs Jane Blanckenhagen
Ms Cathy Millin
Mrs Vicky Brooke
Ms Dinah Garrett
Mrs Carol Douglas

* Will step down at the APCM on 10 April 2011

Committees

The PCC is assisted in its work by a number of committees. These committees each have an individual remit and a PCC member is appointed as a liaison person to each of the groups/committees.

- **Standing Committee** – This is the only committee required by law. It is made up of the Vicar, the Wardens, the Treasurer and the Secretary. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings – subject to any directions given by the PCC.
- **Finance Committee** – Chaired by Alan Trigle, it assists the Treasurer in overseeing the financial dimension of the work of St Michael's by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting and applying appropriate financial controls, and co-ordinating the planned giving scheme.
- **Charities Group** - co-ordinates the church's charitable giving.
- **Children's Church Group** – attends to matters related to children's worship.
- **Pastoral Visitors Group** – undertakes pastoral visits within the parish in co-operation with the Vicar and Curate.
- **Publicity Committee** – Promotes media coverage and co-ordinates all publicity, both internal and external.

Church Attendance

Average Attendance at church services

The average number of communicants at the 10 o'clock Sunday Mass during 2010 was 185, an increase on the number during 2009 .

The Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is revised annually and on 1st April 2010 there were 371 people on the Roll, a net increase of 12 from April 2009. In the year from April 2009 to April 2010, 8 people had left the Roll, while there were 20 new joiners.

Review of the year 2010

The full PCC met 8 times and average attendance was 79%. The PCC continues to review the work undertaken by the various activity groups. Designated members act as a link between these groups and the PCC.

At most PCC meetings a specific topic was discussed, as well as the on-going parish work. During the past year some of the topics covered were:

- Choice of charities for 2011
- Fabric of the church
- Consecration of women to the Episcopate
- Finance
- Planned giving/time & talents
- Discussion on the church organ and vestry room project and the fundraising strategy.

Most of these are reported upon in greater detail in individual reports within this document. Each meeting of the PCC started with Mass and consideration of the pre-reading undertaken by members. This year the PCC studied Luke's Gospel with help from Mark L. Strauss's commentary.

PCC Annual Conference 2010

The PCC Away Day is a time set aside to pray, to study, to reflect, to share and discuss, and to get to know one another better too. This year the conference was held at St. Michael's Convent, Ham which has beautiful gardens surrounding the building.

The Council split into two groups to discuss feedback on the designated Bible study passages (*St Luke 1.1 - 2.38*). A plenary session was then followed by a detailed study given by Fr Kevin on the

Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. It was centred on the verse “*There was no room at the inn*”, using the insights of Middle Eastern culture from the work of Kenneth Bailey. Fr Stephen reminded us of the themes of St Luke’s Gospel and how they were represented in the opening chapters and then the groups discussed how, where and to whom the Gospel was proclaimed in these passages.

After midday prayer and lunch the afternoon session took the theme of ‘Proclaiming the Gospel in our Ministry’ and focused on our liaison ministries with various groups in our congregation. In groups the PCC shared their experiences and reflections of interacting with the groups for which they have particular responsibilities. The PCC then discussed ministries under three thematic headings: welcome, education and pastoral care. A number of our ministries fall into all three categories and that it was necessary for us to be aware of this and make our groups aware of how they connect to the whole life and ministry of our church. Overall, the PCC members enjoyed the day and particularly the discussion of the Christmas story away from the Christmas period. Father Kevin and Father Stephen were thanked for the effort put into organising the day.

Clergy

Father Kevin Morris remains our Vicar, Father Graham Morgan and Father Neil Evans our honorary assistant priests and Father Stephen our curate. Father Stephen was ordained priest on 27th June at St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, by the Bishop of Kensington, Paul Williams. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Michael and All Angels the following week.

Health and Safety

This is kept under constant review and in 2010 the PCC:

- reaffirmed the Child Protection Policy, in accordance with the London Diocesan Child Protection Guidelines 2001 and re-appointed Jane Thomson as the Children’s Advocate; and
- approved the written Health and Safety Policy and re-appointed Mr Chris Bradley as Health and Safety Officer.

Farewell

At the 2010 APCM we have to say goodbye to four PCC members who take with them a wealth of experience and service. Anne Mower steps down after several years of loyal service to the PCC. Elaine Broke, Matthew Hickley and Kevin Wilson also step down after each serving the customary three-year term. Thanks are extended to all of them for their contribution to the PCC during that time.

Conclusion

It was a challenging but successful year for the PCC with the signing of the new organ contract the culmination of many years’ efforts. Now the work begins as we implement our fundraising strategy and embark on a project which will transform the music and worship of the St. Michael and All Angels.

Kevin Wilson
PCC Secretary

March 2010

RETROSPECTIVE: What's not to celebrate?

In a media intensive age when we are constantly told that the Church is dying, we are experiencing a growing congregation. There are regularly 150 communicants at the Parish Mass and often it is difficult to get a seat on a Sunday morning and chairs have to be added. Since the last APCM there have been 37 baptisms, considerably more than the previous year, and ten people were confirmed in February. These are wonderful things to celebrate and we hope we can continue to improve what we offer to God's glory in our worship and in our ministry. It has, in fact, been a year of celebrations.

Our Curate, Father Stephen, was ordained priest at Petertide last year at St Mary Abbots in Kensington, and three days later celebrated Mass for the first time. A first Mass is always special, and this was no exception. The church looked at its best and a packed congregation enjoyed glorious music as we prayed for God's blessing on Father Stephen. It has been a great joy to see his ministry growing and deepening. The following Saturday, our parish ordinand (the first in this church's life, I believe) Eileen McGregor, was ordained deacon at St Paul's Cathedral and now serves her title at All Saints in Fulham. It was a joyous and proud day for us all. We were en fête again the next day, as on the Sunday evening, Father Neil celebrated the silver jubilee of his priesting, another great occasion. We give thanks too for Father Graham, our Assistant Priest, who gives generously of his time and pastoral skill, and we have a Vicar of vision and energy who heads our pastoral team. This ministerial wealth is why we are a growing church, and it doesn't stop with the clergy; Sarah Lenton leads our children's ministry and it was a joy to see her talents recognised when she was asked to put her liturgies into book form to be published and thus provide a resource available to all parishes. Sarah and Graham Holderness form part of our excellent preaching team.



The Butterfly Ball last September was a major fund-raising event. A large team of people worked hard to create this wonderful evening, decking out the Town Hall and providing an excellent meal. It was a truly splendid occasion and a very enjoyable evening.

January this year saw the tenth anniversary of the opening of our refurbished hall – yet another celebration! We welcomed people, who had donated money or helped in the building of the Hall in any way, to an anniversary party where there was much reminiscing about the old Hall. Those among us who remember the old hall, with its one space for everything and very poor facilities, appreciate just how much the new hall has renewed the social life of the parish, and how much it has enhanced the life of our local community (*see page 35*). The successful completion of such a major project gave us the confidence to embark on other large projects, such as the redecoration of the church and now the redevelopment of the vestry area and the installation of a new organ.

Last July saw eleven people from this parish joining with a slightly larger group from All Hallows, Twickenham to make the annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham. It was a wonderful few days, away from the hustle and bustle of daily lives, drinking in the peaceful calm of that beautiful place and getting to know one another better.





Last November saw a very important first for St Michael's when, again with people from All Hallows, 26 members of our parish made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, spending six nights in Jerusalem and three in Galilee. Every Christian has preconceived ideas of what these places look like, and of course most of those ideas are inaccurate, so there were many surprises. So much was crammed into each day, particularly in Jerusalem, that writing a journal was the only way to remember anything. We were all moved; the emotional highs (and lows) and the solemnity of our worship in those holy places gave a greater intensity

to the fellowship and the fun we enjoyed. Christmas, Holy Week and Easter will never be quite the same again. Another pilgrimage to the Holy Land is planned for November 2012.

Anne Mower

A **Adult Confirmation Course**

Twelve adults from St Michael's received the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, four of whom were also baptised beforehand. The first group of seven was confirmed in November at St Paul's Cathedral by Peter Wheatley, Bishop of Edmonton, after a course that began after Easter. The second course ran from October to February with four adults being confirmed at St Michael's by Bishop Michael Marshall. The noticeable breadth in age and background of the confirmands is a sign of the health, breadth and appeal of our church community.

Both courses were on Monday evenings from 8-9pm. Their aim is to expand and develop an individual's understanding of the Christian faith so as to enable them on their journey of discipleship and relationship with God. There is an emphasis on being able to live out and articulate the Gospel in the modern world while using the full riches of Catholic tradition.

"The classes helped me immensely in preparing for Confirmation. Before the classes started I felt very unprepared, and felt like there was a long way to go in the journey ahead. However the classes were informative, interesting and fun too. The journey was seamless and before I knew it everything was starting to fit into place." Ian Flatman

The paradigm for the course is the walk to Emmaus in Luke's Gospel (ch.24). Jesus is likewise alongside us on our Christian journey, we too can recognize him in the breaking of the bread at the Eucharist, and like the disciples on the Emmaus road we too can feel that *'our hearts burn within us'* as we encounter Christ in our lives.

The course is flexible to suit the needs and knowledge of those involved. This year sessions included: *What is faith? The Christian understanding of God; Who is Jesus Christ and why does he matter? What is the Holy Spirit? The Bible – What is it and how do I read it? Prayer; The Sacraments; Christians and ethical choices; What is the Church and why am I an Anglican? The Church in Heaven – Mary and the Saints and Last Things (death and life afterwards).*

"The Confirmation class had several good sides: a group in which I was able to say what I thought, good teaching material to read between classes (very important), an excursion to St. Paul's, a compatible group of people, different enough for us to learn from each other which we did, and we were confirmed!"
Blanche Wade

Each session involves a mixture of input, discussion, and prayer, the emphasis being on questioning and reflection rather than absorbing information as such. Developing friendships is also an important aspect and so the course involves an outing to St Paul's Cathedral and a restaurant meal at the end. Next year I would like to include a Quiet Day as part of the programme so that we may explore the life of prayer more deeply.

My aim is to encourage more people to come forward for Confirmation next year. There are many in our parish and church community who have yet to be confirmed, perhaps because they do not feel their circumstances will allow them to attend a course. However, we can easily make



arrangements for parents with young children to meet during the day or those with irregular work patterns to make arrangements as time becomes available.

In this way we will be able to increase the numbers of those whom God is calling to be full members of the Church and of St Michael's in particular. In this task of drawing people from the fringes to the centre the help of everyone in the congregation is needed. Consider raising the idea with friends and family – it may just give them the confidence to come forward.

Father Stephen

Confirmation – Children and Youth

On Sunday 13th February 2011, Bishop Michael Marshall administered the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Michael's to ten people, six of whom were aged from 10 to 15. They were taught by Anne Mower, Charlotte Isted and Fr Stephen.



The Confirmation course runs from October to February and can be joined by anyone from Year 6 to Year 11. Older children would have their own group or perhaps join with the adults. Through this course children and young people affirm their Baptismal faith for themselves and in the sacrament of Confirmation are sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit as they continue on their life-long Christian journey.

The course explores all the important areas of the Christian faith but is about experiencing God as much as learning, as members of the group learn to pray and understand worship more deeply. The course is also about friendship as the young people get to know and trust one another during the sessions and also on our two Saturday events. One of these sessions in church included lunch together and the second was to St Paul's Cathedral where many of them were able to enjoy the glories of Choral Evensong for the first time.

We hope that even more children and young people will be confirmed next year at St Michael's and this will involve parents of children of 10 years encouraging them and bringing them forward for Confirmation. Parents should also ensure that their children attend the great majority of the sessions as well as attending regular Sunday worship both during and after the course.

Being part of Confirmation was fun because of the trip to St Paul's and because of what you learn: the services, the saints, objects used at church, decorations etc. The pizza place was really good too. And I made some new friends.

Part of our vision for the future includes increasing parental involvement as the content of the course needs to continue in the home and be supported by a confirmand's family. We will also be bringing the recently confirmed back together in six months time to see how Confirmation has changed their faith. In addition we have decided to conduct a thorough review of the course and produce a booklet that will act as a workbook and resource for both parents and confirmands. We may need to seek out new teachers and helpers for next year.

Father Stephen, Anne Mower, Charlotte Isted

Baptism Visitors

The Baptism Visitors group welcomes and prepares parents who make an application for their child to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism at St Michael's. This happens through a home visit where information is given about the Christian meaning of Baptism and practicalities of the service at St Michael's. It is also an opportunity for parents to ask questions about Baptism and get to know St Michael's through a representative. The same BV continues to welcome the family as they attend St Michael's, and assists on the day of the Baptism itself.

"I feel it is a great privilege to meet the newest members of our congregation in their homes & to take part in welcoming them into the Church's family at their Baptism." – Edna Fedonczuk

It is through this ministry that most of our church's numerical growth derives. Between 10 April 2010 and 10 April 2011 we will have baptised 32 children. With this in mind, earlier this year we changed our name from 'Pastoral Visitors' to 'Baptism Visitors' to reflect the focus of ministry in response to the evident need in our parish and local area.

In addition to that important role, the BVs also have a role in welcoming new worshippers and in pastoral care for members of the

congregation. If anyone knows of someone who might need to be brought to the attention of the group, please let Fr Stephen or any members of the group know, or tell the Parish Office who will pass that information on.

"It is humbling to think that the results of the work of this group will still be being felt by the Church almost a century from now, in the form of the next generation of the faithful." – Alan Trigle

The group meets four times a year for feedback on visits and plan for events, such as the Baptism Party on the 2nd Sunday of September. We invite to this party the parents and children of all who have been baptised in the last three years and this year we had over 60 people who enjoyed lunch together in the Vicarage garden. The BVs also send out invitations to the Family Mass on Mothering Sunday.

We have recently agreed and adopted guidelines on how to prepare older children (i.e. between 4 and 10 years of age) for Baptism - as this is an increasingly common occurrence. Our challenge both as a group and for the whole church community is how to retain parents and children after the Baptism has taken place. Part of this involves continuing to make them welcome and supported both on Sundays but also at other times. This may be achieved through the founding of a parent and baby/toddler group later this year. The current members of the group are: Father Stephen (Chair), Amanda Bradley, Helen Brocklebank, Edna Fedonczuk, Audrey Hillis, Cathy Millin, Alan Trigle, Sheleen Smith-Petersen-Church, Phoebe Woollam and Judy Miller.

Father Stephen

Hounslow Deanery Synod

Our parish is part of the deanery of Hounslow and Anne Mower and I have just come to the end of a three year term of service as the parish representatives. There are three meetings a year and unfortunately the June one clashed with the Festival and the November one with the pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

However, I was able to make the February meeting which included discussion on the Draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure and Draft Amending Canon No 30, a fairly enigmatic title. Where important legislation goes through the General Synod, it requires an Article 8 reference and the draft legislation is voted on at Diocesan Synod level. The dioceses were encouraged to refer this matter to the Deanery Synods to help inform the diocesan discussion. The ordination of women as bishops is not a new issue and there is a plethora of material on it. As I understand it, the Measure and Canon would permit the ordination of women to bishoprics and the continuing ordination of women to the priesthood following the General Synod's affirmation of this principle in July 2008, but the provisions would mostly be concerned with how to help those conscientiously opposed (who are not likely to be a transitional group). The Measure would require

a code of practice to be drawn up which is currently being worked on. The topic is a sensitive one and it is hard to have discussion on what was sought because for most people it comes back to whether they can affirm the principle or not. We had had a helpful prior discussion in the February PCC where Father Kevin and Father Stephen had talked about the underpinning theology and the difficulties of establishing the detail of the provisions for those opposed.

On a quite separate subject, the proposed closure of the Chiswick Community Day Care Centre was brought up under any other business, and the Area Dean agreed to write and ask for this to be re-considered.

Helen Wareham

SERVICES

Master of Ceremonies and Servers

“Nil satis, nisi optimum” – “nothing but the best is good enough”
These were Father Kevin’s opening words to the servers at our get-together in May 2010. Some (not including me!) may have recognised them as the motto of Everton Football Club but equally they reflect an appropriate aspiration for the serving team at St Michael’s.



Our Anglo-Catholic tradition offers a visually rich liturgy with the Eucharist at its centre, which seeks to engage the worshipper in the wonder and mystery of God’s presence. The serving team’s aim is to strive for that liturgical excellence which complements the intricate elements of the Mass with unobtrusive actions and minimal distraction. This does not happen without considerable planning and training. St Michael’s is fortunate to be able to draw currently on a team of 18 senior, and 9 junior servers. Their commitment to this ministry is a selfless one, as they seek to help others reach closer to God through worship.

The excellence in liturgy fostered by Father Kevin has brought St Michael’s to wider notice. As a result we have welcomed fellow servers from All Hallows, Twickenham and Southwark Cathedral. It has also enabled us to take an active part in the Company of Servers (CoS). This national organisation was set up in 2009 to offer support to all who are altar servers in the Anglican Communion. A London Diocese Chapter was launched in January 2011 and some of our team have already joined. David Beresford and I were invited to serve at its Inaugural Mass and I have since been elected its Secretary. I am grateful to Father Kevin and Father Stephen for supporting St Michael’s involvement.

Sometimes our servers have other commitments; unfortunately this often coincides with major Feast Days just when our need for servers is greatest! Learning to be a server takes time – members of the ‘senior’ team will confirm that it takes over a year before one is familiar with all the various roles, so we need constantly to keep an eye on the future to ensure we maintain strength in depth. We shall also be losing two of our ‘junior’ team from April so more volunteers, both adults and youngsters, would be very welcome. Being a server requires a regular but not weekly commitment, teamwork, anticipation and an eye for detail. In return you have the enormous privilege of participating at the heart of the Mass. If you would like to learn more, or think you would like to join us, please see the St Michael’s website www.smaaa.org.uk/worship/Servers.html or speak to



me. Finally, my thanks are due not only to our excellent servers but also to all those with whom I work so closely: our Sacristan, Anne Mower, our Director of Music, Jonathan Dods, our Churchwardens and especially to Father Kevin and all our clergy for their support and advice.

Cathie James

The Sacristy

It's 10am on Sunday morning. The bell rings, the congregation stands and the procession emerges from the vestry to begin the Mass. But have you ever wondered about the preparation that precedes this moment, about what goes on behind the scenes?

My role as Sacristan is to prepare everything needed for Communion – wafers, wine, chalices, water and altar linen: corporal, purificators, lavabo towel – so they can be put out before Mass. Vestments for priests and, when necessary, subdeacons are also prepared. The colour of the chasubles for any service is determined by the liturgical year. When you read this we shall be in purple for Lent.

What sort of qualities does a good Sacristan need? I would include an eye for detail, a good memory and competence with an iron. All those pieces of linen have to be laundered and over the course of a year I will be ironing approximately 500 purificators! A most important quality is the ability to work closely with others to facilitate our worship. This includes, obviously, the clergy, and the MC. But several other people are also involved. Gill Stevens assists most Sundays and looks after the Sacristy whenever I am away; David Beresford looks after the candles; Oliver West assembles the Crib every year and Alan Tringle is usually the tall man on the stepladder getting the crib figures out of their very high cupboard. The person you will probably never see in action but who is essential for Passiontide, is Meredydd Howells, who takes his life in his hands on the fifth Saturday in Lent to climb up on to the sill of the East window to hang the purple Passion array. He repeats this feat on Holy Saturday to take it all down as the church is prepared for Easter.



Looking ahead we are thinking about the building project and the new Sacristy. This will involve careful consideration of where everything is kept and how and where it will be moved. The qualities mentioned above are likely to be severely tested and I shall need to add a large dollop of patience to the list.

A highlight of the past year was the donation by John Rowe of a beautifully crafted box in Arts and Crafts style in which to keep the holy oils. The metal plaques set into oak represent biblical scenes and are much the same age as our church building. We offer our thanks for such a magnificent gift.

I prize my role as Sacristan highly. It is a most rewarding and privileged ministry which gives me great satisfaction. Should anyone wish to see the church's 'engine-house', then please speak to me or come and knock on the Sacristy door after a service.

Anne Mower

Eucharistic Ministers

Eucharistic Ministers are the people selected by the Vicar and licensed by the Bishop to assist with the administration of the Chalice. Usually we have four people assisting the clergy at the Parish Mass on Sundays and at major festivals and holy days. For special events such as Festival Mass, we might have eight or ten on duty. Some of the Eucharistic ministers are trained to lead a service of Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament. This only happens on the rare occasions when a priest is not able to be there to say Mass. Ministers may also take Communion to the sick and housebound. All those licensed would agree that this is a privileged ministry and it is a great joy to be able to serve our congregation in this way.

Anne Mower

Readers

The aims of this group are simple; to read the lessons of scripture appointed for Sunday mass, evensong and key weekday services such as Maundy Thursday and Corpus Christi throughout the year. A readers' rota is distributed by email three times a year and can be viewed online at the St. Michael's website, and in hard copy on the notice boards at the back of the church. I am pleased to say that several new volunteers have come forward during the past year, and there are now 50 readers on the adult rota - an almost exactly even split between men and women.

Thanks are due to Torin Douglas and Cathie James for keeping the website up to date in respect of readings, and to Anna Benson, Sara Pask and Gill Stevens in the Parish Office, who update the rota at the back of the church to reflect reader swaps.

St Michael's is also fortunate to have a number of talented younger readers amongst our Children's Church and Junior Choir members, who read for us at our family services. I am as ever most grateful to Vicky Brooke and Nicola Chater, who select and rehearse our young readers every month. Although reading the lessons at our services is, by its nature, something of a solo ministry, I was very pleased that our readers as a group were invited to help cater for the parish lunch on Advent Sunday last year. Some readers told me what a good idea they thought this was, and I hope that we will be able to do something similar again in the near future - it is an excellent opportunity for those who share this ministry to get to know each other a little better, and to offer something to our parish community as a group, rather than as a set of individuals.

It was also a particular pleasure to mark a very special occasion at the start of March, when Ted Holloway - no longer one of our regular readers, but a stalwart of the readers' rota for many decades until quite recently - read the lesson at Sunday mass to celebrate his 90th birthday (. As always, I am extremely grateful to all those who volunteer to read at St. Michael's, not only for the time and commitment they give, but for the spirit in which these are given. Readers are without exception unfailingly flexible and accommodating when it comes to swapping reading dates, coping with occasional last-minute changes to scheduled readings, and reading at (very) short notice if things go a little awry! I am aware of a strong sense of privilege and pleasure amongst those who participate in this very special ministry, which is highly valued by our congregation and clergy, and our shared Christian lives are the stronger for it.

If anyone would like to volunteer to become a reader, please speak to me; all that is required is an ability to read loudly and clearly and all are welcome.

Cathy Millin

Sidespeople

In past years I have written about what is involved in this ministry of welcome and organisation. This year I would like to do two things. The first is to thank those who have stepped down so they can concentrate on their other ministries and roles – Alan Trigle, Helen Simkin and Tony Simkin. We miss them at the back but we have been fortified by Sion Hughes-Carew, Kim Parkash and Kelvin Murray joining the ranks. The second is to ask anyone who would like to be involved in this role to speak to Michael Robinson or me. It is very helpful for us to have a good number of people to draw on (inevitably there is a huge degree of multi-tasking and sidespeople double/treble/quadruple up as readers, Eucharistic ministers, Sunday school teachers etc) and the change from being in the pew to looking after other people so they can sit in the pew is an interesting and rewarding one.

Helen Wareham

Junior and Senior Choirs

J“*Music is the echo of the glory and beauty of heaven and in echoing that glory and beauty it carries human praise back to heaven.*”
Hildegard of Bingen (1098 - 1179)

Through music we aim to bring ourselves and others closer to God in praise. Music enriches our understanding of the liturgy; it sets the tone for our worship and allows us to articulate things we are otherwise unable to express. For many of us, the beauty of music is fundamental to our experience of church. We are fortunate therefore that music thrives at St Michael’s.



We are working to open music to everyone in the church, whether that’s singing lessons for choir members or making the music for Sunday Mass available for those who want it. We also want to make sure we use our local talent effectively; children to sing in the Junior Choir, adults to sing in the choir and Festival Chorus, and instrumentalists to play for special services. A big part of our vision for the future is the provision of a new organ. An organ is the foundation of music in a church. Our organ will be played at 120 services and many other events this year. A high quality instrument will add significantly to our experience in all the music we do, from hymns at Evensong to anthems on Easter Day. We are getting down to detailed work on the case, pipes, mechanism and console now and some of the wooden pipes are already under construction.



Music is an echo of heavenly love, and it allows us to demonstrate our love of God. We reflect that love in the care with which the music is chosen; I spend many hours searching for the right pieces to compliment our liturgy, and Father Kevin and I work intensively to shape the music programme. We reflect God’s love in the commitment of our musicians’ preparation for services; the choirs will sing for 50 services this year, and practise together for nearly 150 hours. It is a testament to their commitment that someone asked me recently

whether we could practise more! We also reflect God’s love in the joy that we get from meeting to practise and perform together, and in passing that pleasure on to the congregation.

In the past year the choir has visited St David’s Cathedral in Wales and St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, and has sung for weddings and at Fr Stephen’s first Mass and Fr Neil’s anniversary Mass. We have welcomed new singers, and our new assistant organist, Chris Beauchamp. We have a challenging programme of music, but there are other challenges. We are all increasingly busy, so preparing and performing the music for services becomes more of a challenge. More and more of our preparation is done at a distance, by text, email and CD! To take our part in reducing the church’s running costs, we have decided not to buy any new music this year, saving roughly £750.

St Michael’s is fortunate to have a fine musical tradition, and with your prayers and support, we can more perfectly echo the glory and beauty of heaven.

Jonathan Dods

YOUTH

The Crèche at St Michael's

The crèche continues to thrive and remains a popular part of our youngest members' experience of Sunday worship at St Michael's. Our numbers fluctuate but we can sometimes have a full house with 15 or so children crammed around the art activity table and several other mothers and babies around the edges with the youngest and more restless children.

Grateful thanks are due to Yvonne Samuels for her continued professional assistance in the Crèche and the familiar face that this provides for all of the youngsters which is a great benefit and enables the weekly crèche teacher to concentrate on a bible story and relevant prayers and activities with the older children. We have been lucky to have the continued support of several energetic and willing volunteers prepared to put into action the various ideas suggested to them by the Crèche Planning Notes and they should be thanked for all of the time they have given up to benefit the little ones over the year.

The format has not changed: after a few opening prayers, the Crèche Children come together to look at a bible story, often with the help of a few visual aids or props and then reinforce what they have been learning about by doing an art activity based loosely on the theme. After another story the Crèche share a few pieces of fruit or other simple snack – enabling them to share together and to practise thanking God for the good things around us. The art activity is important for two main reasons: obviously it provides the child with a memento of what they have talked about and it is hoped will help them remember something of the message that the week's topic has tried to convey, but it also acts as a prompt to help parents to discuss what their child has been learning about and thereby reinforces the Christian message of that week.

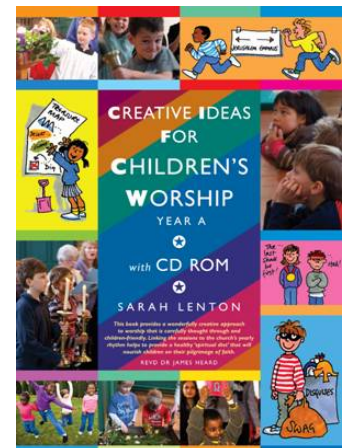
Some of our recent themes have seen the children preparing picnics for the Five Thousand on paper plates with cut out fish and loaves; becoming Kings like Christ in their homemade crowns; making Christingles to symbolise Christ as the Light of the World and putting together a Sea of Galilee display to show a plentiful catch of brightly- decorated fish as Jesus' fishermen friends join him and become Fishers of Men.

Our challenge in the months ahead will be to recruit new volunteers to take over the organisational roles of co-ordination and to lead individual sessions, recognising that many of our children are now about to move onto the greater challenges of the Sunday School.

Katy Timmons

Children's Church

During term time we run Children's Church sessions during Mass on three Sundays out of four (the first Sunday of the month is usually a Family Service). The children process out of Church during the first hymn; they have a short service of worship in the chapel, and then move to the Parish Hall where they hear the Gospel of the day and then explore its meaning through games or artistic activities. Each week Sarah Lenton writes the script for Children's Church and sends it out to the relevant Children's Church leaders with notes on which props are required. Her scripts are original and fun – and she makes it so easy for the whole team to operate. As a result of 15 years of preparing these scripts with the Children's Church team, Sarah has surpassed herself by writing a book – entitled *Creative Ideas in Children's Worship - Year A* (Years B and C to follow) and published by Canterbury Press.





Over the course of the year there are four special services for children – Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Ascension Day and the Crib Service on Christmas Eve – surely our most popular service of the year, attended by more than 800 adults and children! Eastertide is also a well-attended time of the year starting with the Good Friday Service which involves participation of children from all ages; helping to make the Easter Garden on Holy Saturday and, finally, celebrating the joys of Easter Sunday with the ritual blessing and distribution of Easter eggs. In addition,

during our Patronal Festival (at the end of September) the Children's Church performs its famous 'Skirmish', where the dragon is ousted from the church by a lively group of children, each acting the part of St Michael or his angels.

On the Saturday of Green Days Children's Church run their own corner with entertaining activities for Children. For the past couple of years Sara Gronmark has been involved in introducing new ideas for the area. This coming June she has come up with some fantastic new games and activities which will transform the Children's Corner, and our sincere thanks go to her for her creativity and hard work!

Our team over the last year included Kate and David Averre, Pam Bickley, Wendy Callister, Lynette Chesson, Karen Drake, James Duckworth, Carol Douglas, Charlotte Isted, Bernadette Halford and Jane Williams, and last autumn we welcomed Eddie Boyle, Marjolein van Kampen and Christina Whiteway to the team. We simply could not operate Children's Church without this wonderful team of people and, again, we thank them with all our hearts.

Sadly, Debbie Evans has left our team due to work commitments - our appreciation goes to her for all her enthusiasm and hard work over the past few years.

Nicola Chater

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is the youth church of St Michael's for young people aged 11-15 (school years 7-11), which meets on alternate Sundays during term time in the Michael Room from 10am. BC aims to help young people worship, pray and express the Christian faith in a way that is appropriate to their age, while grounding them in the riches of the Catholic tradition of the Church. In so doing, it aims also to foster personal faith, commitment and discipleship to Jesus Christ that will enable them be confident and intelligent Christians now and in the future. BC also seeks to foster friendship among its members and pastoral relationships between members and its leaders (Fr Stephen, Jonny Hall and Frances Denniss).



"I like going [to Breakfast Club] because we talk about God and Jesus Christ in an interesting way and the leaders make it relevant to what happens today"
Oliver Simkin

Each session begins with refreshments and a game. This is followed by an opening prayer and a reading, which leads into a discussion and an activity related to the theme of the session. The terms alternate between being thematic and following the liturgical year; e.g. Summer 2010 was on prayer, Autumn 2010 had sessions on All Saints and All Souls, while the current

Spring 2011 term is exploring less well-known passages and books of the Bible. After a concluding prayer the group rejoins the main congregation during the Eucharistic Prayer. At the end of each term we go for lunch together at a local restaurant.

"I enjoy being with young people of my own age and the trips out to the cathedral and for pizza was GREAT!" Taria Morriscette-Francois

The transition from childhood to young adult is the most challenging period in terms of retaining spiritual interest and development so it is incredibly important that we find ways to meet the needs and issues of our young people if they are to continue as practising Christians. Over the last year I have been greatly encouraged by the modest growth of the group and commitment to attendance by some of the young people. Average

attendance is between 7 and 10.

"I always enjoy the breakfasts (especially when they're sweet!). The days out are great and I like learning about the Bible in that environment because it's fun and makes me want to learn." Sophie Drake

My vision for the future is to have more young people in the group on Sunday mornings. In the long term I want to see other activities such as a residential trip away and the provision of a group for older teenagers. In order to achieve this we will need more leaders, more space and greater commitment from parents to make this group a priority over other activities.

Father Stephen

Children's Advocate

St Michael's is a church which welcomes children and young people and aims to help them develop their knowledge, understanding and belief in the Christian faith whilst also experiencing church as fun. As a part of achieving this, the PCC has the responsibility of ensuring that the children are as safe as is humanly possible while enjoying the many groups we offer. To this end we require all adults working with the under 18 year olds to have clearance from the Criminal Records Bureau. We are sensitive to the issues surrounding child protection and closely follow the guidelines set by the London Diocese Bishop's Advisers Group.

As Children's Advocate for our church, the task of ensuring that this happens is delegated to me by the PCC. I am very grateful for the good hearted way helpers co-operate to achieve this despite often having already had to go through the process once if not twice or more before for other situations with which they are involved. Thankfully changes to the CRB procedure have been proposed and are being considered at Government level but are unlikely to be implemented before 2012. In the meanwhile the Diocese requests that we continue with the existing procedure. I know that we all are willing to battle with the paperwork to ensure that children in our care are as safe as we can make them.

Jane Thomson

FELLOWSHIP

Hospitality at St Michael's

There are myriad events that take place in church and the halls during the year, by and for the church. At most of these events, some sort of refreshment is required and this needs to be organised in advance. We are a most sociable church, and the thought of not being able to rustle up some nibbles and a glass or two of wine would give me palpitations!

The events are wide ranging – Easter morning breakfast, christening refreshments, significant birthdays, Corpus Christi, confirmations, Festival lunch, the Book Festival, Michaelmas, parish lunches, Nine Lessons and Carols etc., etc... Making people feel welcome and comfortable in our sacred and social spaces is very important in a church where not everybody knows each other. Being able to chat over a glass of wine and something to eat is at the heart of our Christian fellowship. The sharing of meals was a significant feature of Jesus' ministry.



As we absorb more and more events into our annual calendar, there is a danger that too much is expected of the same few people again and again. I have a number of volunteers who regularly help pour wine, provide plates of canapés – and most importantly of all – help dry and put away the glasses. But there is room for more! Please do not feel shy of offering help – it will be gratefully

received. In fact, it would be good to have a selection of people who would take responsibility for various events, so that we could spread the load more evenly.

As a church we love to be able to entertain our congregation and the wider community – and I trust that as the year progresses we can expand our hospitality and fellowship further.



Jane Trigle

Community Lunches

This is run as part of Churches Together in Chiswick. A group of about ten churches provide a lunch at the Chiswick Day Centre twice a month for the homeless and those who live in hostels or B&B accommodation, where cooking facilities are extremely limited. This means that St Michael's hosts a lunch about three times a year. Generally we provide a meal along the lines of a casserole, mashed potato and vegetables, with a fruit crumble pudding. I currently have a list about 25 volunteers who help with cooking in advance, and being available on the day to set up the Day Centre, serve the food, wash-up and generally be cheerful and chat to the guests. We always have room for more helpers, and if you'd like to volunteer I'd love to hear from you. This is certainly a case of the more the merrier!

Over this past year we provided the Christmas Lunch for the second year running. A very jolly affair where we provide roast turkey with all the trimmings and Christmas puddings afterwards – together with crackers and a short service of prayers, readings and carols. We had around 58 guests, who ate us out of house and home, and all enjoyed themselves enormously.

As we go to press there is a question mark over the future of the Chiswick Day Centre. Amongst all the cuts in public spending, it is threatened with closure – but I sincerely trust that Hounslow will find other ways of saving money and continue with the Day Centre. During the week it provides much needed respite and companionship for the elderly, isolated and those suffering from differing kinds of dementia in Chiswick. If it closes, the lunches will stop as I fear there is nowhere else suitable in Chiswick to hold them, and that would be a great pity.

Jane Trigle

Men's Society and Women's Society

"Eat thy bread with joyfulness and drink thy wine with a merry heart." Ecclesiastes 9:7
The Men's Society and the more recent Women's Society have been a great addition to our life at St Michael's. They are a way in which people can meet one another and develop friendships with other members of the congregation and local community in a way that is different from Sunday morning after Mass when there isn't much time and often a lot of other things going on. They connect up our worshipping and social lives proclaiming the enrichment and joyfulness that one gives to the other and enhancing the sense of the parish as community.

Both groups meet on the first Monday of the month (alternating months) from 9pm in the Tabard pub opposite, the church - and continue until closing time! People drop in whenever they want during this time, staying the whole night or just for one drink, before dinner or after, often on their way back from work. The atmosphere is very relaxed and informal, and there's no structure other than turning up and having a drink and a chat.

The Men's Society has an attendance of between 30-40 and sometimes more. On one occasion Matthew Hickley spoke about his experience as a journalist in Afghanistan, in the summer we had a barbecue in the Vicarage garden, and just before Christmas there was a dinner in the Tabard. The Women's Society has met twice so far with around 15-20 people and we'd really like to see this increase over the coming year. If you've not been, please do come along one evening – look out for announcements in the notices – and invite others to come along as well.

Father Stephen

Women's Group

The Women's Group has had a select attendance by core members in 2010 but towards the end of the year we have had an interest from other members that now seem to be 'regulars'. We usually have an average of 12 women joining the monthly meetings (first Wednesday of the month).

The meetings usually take place in the Raphael Room and occasionally at one of the member's homes, close to the Church, when the room is not available. We have discussed topics as well as making Christmas decorations. Timings have now changed from 20:00 – 22:00 to 20:00 for 20:30 – 22:00 to accommodate those with small children. We find it important to have some time to just talk informally as we mainly see each other on Sunday and those with children won't always have the opportunity to engage in the way we would do without children.

Although some of us have children, women from all ages have joined the group, some now grandmothers or some without children. We have started a kitty to provide for refreshments and snacks during our meetings. In order to ensure that we have interesting topics, speakers or activities, we have started some forward planning. We end the meeting with The Grace.

Marjolein van Kampen

Sunday Morning Coffee Team

Coffee after the Sunday morning Eucharist (and tea is now provided too!) is exceedingly popular and provides our principal opportunity in the week for fellowship together, getting to know other members of the congregation and to welcome new members or visitors. A big thank you to all who give up their time to help with this ministry: Jennie Best, Moira Broom, Sheleen Smith-Petersen-Church, Edna Fedonczuk, Doreen Gibbs, Shirley Hudnott, Ruth Joseph, Sue Ouseley, Sue Stirling, Georgina Taylor and Liz West. Welcome back to Sophie Mackie and Liz Wilson and to Charlotte Frische, Jane Kelly, Sarah Popoola and Kay Porter who joined the team during the year. Any comments the congregation may have for improving our hospitality are welcome and if you would like to join the team of helpers, do contact me.

Susan Hunt

Book Club One

St Michael's Book Club has just completed another successful year of good 'reads' and lively discussions. Our selection of books to read throughout the year takes place in January when each member is invited to propose one or two books from which the final selection is made. We meet at 8pm on the fourth Wednesday of most months, in either the Crypt Chapel or the Raphael Room, for our discussions which are further enlivened by a glass or two of wine!

Our meetings are relaxed and provide the opportunity for exchanging ideas about the chosen books, for extending the scope of one's reading repertoire and importantly, for members to get to know each other. New members are always welcomed and a second Book Club has been started during the year. If you would like to learn more about them, please look at the Parish website under 'Groups and Activities' where there is a list of our chosen books for 2011. We are always delighted to welcome new members so if you would like to join please do not hesitate to contact either Jane Blanckenhagen or me directly or via the Parish Office.

Jane Thomson



Book Club Two

Last summer, several people expressed an interest in joining a Book Club. St Michael's first Book Club was already fully subscribed so a notice in *The Clarion* invited responses from anyone interested in starting a new one. A preliminary get together was hosted by Jane Thomson in September. Four of us started our joint reading journey and we now meet monthly on Monday evenings in the Parish Rooms. Initially we have chosen books by vote just a few at a time so enabling new members to have a say in what we read. Our purpose is primarily social but we have all enjoyed reading a wide range of books as well as books we might never otherwise have opened. We have quickly grown to ten members (men and women) and would gladly welcome one or two more..... Then maybe it will be time for Book Club 3 to take off.....

Jane Blanckenhagen

The Reflection Group

What are you looking for in your life? I'm borrowing this question from Bishop Michael Marshall, who addressed the congregation before confirming ten members of our church. Maybe you have strong opinions concerning religion, the importance of God or about life in general and would like to share them with other people. Part of my life is being involved in our church's Reflection Group, which meets in the crypt on Saturday mornings. There are usually eight to ten of us, sometimes less.

John Beastall is our chairman and provides each of us with an excellent "learning curve" of a book by Rev. William Sykes called *Visions of Grace* containing quotes, phrases and longer paragraphs by well-known writers, philosophers, etc. All of life is there. Subjects go from 'Christian' to 'Evil' and everything in between. We start by silently reading our chosen topic. John begins by giving us some thoughts and guides us through the discussion, gently bringing us back to the topic if we stray! Our debates are hugely interesting and inspiring and raise many questions. Possibly many of us reflect or 'consult with ourselves' in our quieter moments, but our Reflection Group allows us to listen to other opinions and life experiences and therefore broadens our horizons and maybe our circle of friends.

At the end of our meeting we agree on the following week's subject and are quite spoilt for choice – thanks to William Sykes and his amazing anthologies. Do speak to John (020 8998 6315) if you would like to join. You would be very welcome.

Peggy Parlett

Chiswick Churches for Justice and Peace

Chiswick Churches for Justice and Peace is an ecumenical association of parishes in Chiswick founded in 2004 and joined together in our belief that you must love your neighbour as yourself. We organise forums on a wide variety of topics aiming to stimulate local awareness on issues of justice and peace, both at home and abroad. We welcome everyone to join us in prayer, support, action!

Building security for the common good

In June 2010 at Our Lady of Grace Parish Centre, Pat Gaffney, General Secretary of Pax Christi, shared her experiences and approaches to active peacemaking - a challenge to military security strategies - an interesting talk which provoked stimulating discussion afterwards.

The power of small loans to change

In October 2010 at Christ Church, Peter Ryan, founder of the Microloan Foundation, a Chiswick charity, gave an excellent and engaging presentation. Donations help Microloan give small loans and essential business training to help empower women in sub-Saharan Africa to start their own businesses, enabling them to feed their families every day and to work their way out of poverty. As the loans are paid back the money can be used to help another woman, and so on.... We heard about the 2011 project to collect 4,000,000 pennies to break a world record. The idea is to make the longest-ever line of coins and then send them to Africa - www.microloanfoundation.org.uk.

Expressions of Faith

In November 2010 CCJ&P set up and ran a successful display table, supported by Hounslow Fairtrade Steering Group, at the Hounslow Friends of Faith Interfaith Week event at Hounslow Civic Centre. We talked about care of people in our community, for example the homelessness (Upper Room) and young people's needs (CEDARS) as well as sustainable lifestyles with care of people and the planet (Fairtrade Foundation, Divine Chocolate, Christian Aid, CAFOD, and A Rocha). The event was opened by the Archdeacon of Middlesex, Rev Stephan Welch, and attended by the Mayor of Hounslow, Lead Member for Communities Councillor Raj Bath and Councillor Ruth Cadbury, Acting Leader of the Council. The event was extremely interesting and fun for everyone showing many expressions of faith with singing and music, and familiar and exotic art and crafts.

The work of the Upper Room

In February at Christ Church Turnham Green, Bruce Marquart of The Upper Room spoke about its work as an open door for the needy on Chiswick's doorstep. He explained the Christian mission behind their work and a general overview of charities working within society. Afterwards he met with a few to discuss the possibilities of working together in Chiswick to provide cover for homeless people at night - www.ur4jobs.co.uk.

CCJ&P continues to work with the London Challenge 2007-2012, which includes a specific commitment to work for Fairtrade Diocese status for London.

Ros Lister

MONEY

Treasurer's Report **Introduction**

In this my first year as Treasurer I propose to continue the tradition of writing a brief commentary on our financial position by how we manage our funds rather than the format we are required to use in order to comply with best practice on Church accounting. I will however, as I indicated at the time of my appointment, produce a brief handout at the APCM which seeks to simplify and expand upon the income and expenditure of the church.

The Church Account

Planned Giving and Collections at our services continue to be the major sources of income that are needed to pay for the cost of the clergy and the general running of the church. This year the amounts raised have been lower than were budgeted by some £3,800 resulting in a deficit for the year of £4,010. Planned Giving was budgeted to raise £110,000 but actually produced £107,500.

Collections raised £27,400 against a budgeted figure of £28,700. The Common Fund contribution remained the same as the previous year at £75,000. We have therefore had to constrain our spending to keep the deficit at the figure mentioned above which is well down on the figure of £15,750 for 2009 largely due to the containment of maintenance costs in the year.

The Parish Hall Account

We have benefited from an increase in Hall income of £7,000 to £132,000 over the budgeted figure of £125,000 but unfortunately have had to incur costs of almost £25,000 as a result of the theft of lead from the Hall roof and the consequent damage caused. This means that the transfer to the organ fund will be reduced by this shortfall. As in previous years 25% of the Hall management and administration costs have been charged to the Church as a reasonable approximation of the costs of the Parish Managers' time in supporting the activities of the Church.

The Festival Account

As in previous years Green Days, the Bedford Park Festival and, in addition this year, the Butterfly Ball have all been a major source of Income for the Church. Whilst the net result for Green Days and the Festival were lower than the results for 2009 it was still possible to reflect a net profit from the festival of £40,000 and for the Ball of £26,000 to support our chosen charities and assist in the financing of the organ project.

Outlook

2011 is without doubt going to be another difficult year and there is no doubt that the effects of the economic downturn will continue to impact upon the Church's ability to operate profitably. A 12% increase in income from Planned Giving and Collections is necessary in order to balance the books for the year and this must be combined with tight cost control. We have agreed, despite pressure to increase our share, to maintain our Diocesan Common Fund contribution at £75,000 for 2011.

I have found my first year as Treasurer very challenging but at the same time rewarding, but I recognise that even greater efforts will be needed in both fundraising and cost control in the years to come to try and enable the Church to clear its deficit and move to a position where it can cover its costs and then hopefully move into a position of surplus so that we may be able increase the scope of our Ministry at St Michael and all Angels.

Finally I would like to place on record my thanks to Rupert Wiles for his excellent bookkeeping work and expert financial advice and to Alan Trigle and Peter Haigh for their willingness as members of the Finance Committee to guide and assist me and share the benefit of their vast knowledge; to Peter Haigh for taking over the role of Planned Giving Officer and last but not least to John Little and his team of helpers for ensuring that the banking of funds is dealt with promptly and efficiently. Thank you all.

Tony Simpkin

Planned Giving and Gift Aid 2010

P*“For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.” 2 Corinthians 8: 3 - 4*

Planned Giving

Planned Giving is a very tax efficient scheme which is open to every member of the congregation who is a UK taxpayer. Donors to the scheme decide, and may hopefully review, at the beginning of each year what they are able to give and then makes a pledge of that sum to St Michael and All Angels' Church on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. This regular periodic commitment helps the PCC in planning the parish finances for the year ahead, more certain in the knowledge that the financing necessary to allow the church to maintain and expand its ministry is secure. It is also a

tangible expression of our tremendous gratitude to God for the many blessings received by every one of us.

The donations received plus the related tax credit are used in many ways: to support our ever widening ministry, to increase pastoral care, to fulfil our commitment to charitable giving, and to meet the ever-increasing costs of maintaining the fabric of our beautiful church building. Beyond the parish the money raised contributes towards the Diocesan Fund for the maintenance of ministry in the diocese, and especially to help churches in less fortunate circumstances.

In 2010 income from Planned Giving, including tax relief, totalled £107,525 a slight decrease over the figure for 2009 of £108,400 and slightly below the budget. That said, almost 75 % of this sum pledged represented our contribution to the Diocesan Fund, and a further £16,000 on an annualised basis for our curate. Planned Giving membership at the end of 2010 remained almost the same as 2009.

As always if we are to continue to widen the ministry of St Michael's during 2011 we would like to encourage newer members of the congregation to join the scheme and build up the numbers who have already taken that very positive step of signing up to Planned Giving. There are Planned Giving forms at the back of the church. If having collected a form you have any questions about the scheme and how it works, please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office on 020 8994 1380 who will be only too pleased to try and answer your questions.

Gift Aid

The Gift Aid scheme does not require any prior planning or commitment to giving a fixed sum and is open to members of the congregation, visitors and casual worshippers alike. Tax refunds on all gifts can be reclaimed, simply by the donor completing one of the white Gift Aid envelopes or by completing a Gift Aid form available at the back of the church. Please do make use of the envelopes if you are a current UK tax payer as the government will contribute almost 28% of the amount donated so that every £1 given is worth £1.28 if given by a UK taxpayer.

UK Taxation change during 2008

As Tony Simkin mentioned last year in his report an important change in UK taxation took effect from 6 April 2008 which saw the basic rate of taxation fall from 22% to 20%. The 2008 budget allowed for a transitional arrangement for the next three years so that the amount of tax that we could reclaim remained at 28 pence for every £1 donated. Unfortunately from 6th April 2011 the amount we can reclaim will reduce to 25 pence for every £1 donated. It is estimated that this seemingly minor change in tax rate will have a detrimental effect on St Michael's income worth over £3,000 at the current level of giving. Please do therefore, if at all possible, make sure your donations are made either via Planned Giving or the Gift Aid envelopes to allow us to take full advantage of this still valuable tax concession.

To all who have given so generously during 2010, both new and existing members, either via Planned Giving or by Gift Aid please accept as always our sincere thanks.

Peter Haigh

Charities and Charitable Giving

The purpose of the Charities Group is to encourage and support the PCC and congregation in fulfilling our charitable mission. God calls us to love one another and to respond generously to the needs of others. We can do this both through the gift of our time and talents to help the disadvantaged and through the donation of funds to support other charities serving those in need.

During 2010 a new group of people came together to coordinate St. Michael's efforts for charity and mission projects. They were Christina Balmer, Andrew Bickley, Ros Lister, Leslie Lyle, Alyson Mitchell, Mary Pears, Michael Pownall and Lynette Royle.

The three main charities which were supported during the year were the Upper Room, The Lamb Foundation and USPG, Anglicans in World Mission. Funds raised during the Lent and Advent Appeals, from collections at the Christmas Eve services, on Charities Sunday, at the Quiz Supper as well as from the Bedford Park Festival were shared equally between these three. This totalled £18,700 out of the £28,298 we raised from all our charitable activities. A complete breakdown is included on the facing page.

The Upper Room, based at St. Saviour's Cobbold Road, provides a much needed place of respite for the homeless and disadvantaged of West London. Hot meals are provided daily and visitors are also helped to find work. St. Michael's has a long association with this charity. Members of the congregation volunteer as kitchen staff and some have served as trustees.

Our focus with USPG has been on two mission projects in Africa. One provides HIV home support through the Diocese of Namibia so that volunteers can help to administer treatment, ensure adequate nutrition and provide social support in a country that has one of the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in the world. The other is in Madagascar where 80% of the population lives below the poverty line and is dependent on subsistence farming. The project enables tree planting to prevent soil erosion and trains farmers in agricultural techniques.

The Lamb Foundation provides health care to the North West region of Bangladesh. It operates a hospital and also organises community health care. Several of the younger members of our congregation have worked with Lamb during their gap years or as part of their studies.

In addition to our core fundraising there were special collections during the year for Christian Aid and for disaster relief in Haiti and Pakistan.

Two major events, organised by church members and others from the local community, raised considerable funds. The Chiswick Book Festival (*see page 30*), enabled us to donate to three reading and literacy charities for the second year running. The cycle of Bach Cantatas reached its climax at the end of the year and there was again a significant donation to the Upper Room.

This was the first year that we implemented the new policy for selecting charities. Following a call for nominations, 15 charities were proposed by members of the congregation. It was extremely moving to read about the work of these charities and hard to choose between diverse but equally deserving causes. After considerable reflection, the Charities Group was able to make recommendations to the PCC who have selected CEDARS as a new charity for 2011. CEDARS is a local project dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged children in Chiswick. It provides drop-in facilities, activity groups, counselling and support and has great need for both funds and volunteers.

We will support CEDARS for a three year period and will also continue to work with the Upper Room for a further two years and USPG again during this year. In the autumn we will be looking for nominations for a new overseas charity for 2012.

At a time of economic gloom and increasing unemployment at home and when poverty, hunger and conflict touch the lives of so many around the world, there is so much that needs to be done. Our contribution is a drop in the ocean but each drop counts. We would be delighted if there are others who would like to join the Charities Group. Please get in touch if you would like to help in any way.

Charitable funds raised in 2010

Bedford Park Festival*	£9,310.25
Lent Appeal *	£1,568.76
APCM Lunch*	£315.36
Quiz Supper (net)*	£1,859.37
Charities Sunday 7.11.10*	£425.04
Advent/Christmas Appeal*	£5,224.53
Book Festival**	£3,732.00
Bach Cantatas	£3,955.00
Christian Aid Week	£805.56
Haiti collection	£583.00
Pakistan collection	£519.00
Total	£28,297.87

* in aid of the three charities selected for 2010: The Upper Room, USPG projects and The Lamb Foundation – each receiving £6,234.43

** in aid of book related charities: RNIB Talking Books Service and Books for Children, InterAct Reading Service and The Letterbox Club – each receiving £1,244.00

Mary Pears

Cards for Good Causes

The charity Christmas card shop is an important part of our involvement with the local community. It opens in early November and closes a week or so before Christmas. The staff are volunteers from the congregation and the wider community and the shop provides the best selection of cards in the area. It affords all the customers the opportunity to increase their charitable giving and also brings people in to the church who might never have entered it before.

The 2010 season saw some changes in the charities taking part. RNIB and the National Animal Welfare Trust have withdrawn from CFGC and 2010 was the last year for National Eczema. Age Concern and Help the Aged have combined to become Age UK. This meant we had room for three charities new to our shop: Musequality, Guide Dogs and Parkinson's. Next season there may be other changes and we expect the return of the British Red Cross.



Local actor Elizabeth McGovern, who starred in *Downton Abbey*, gracefully opened the shop, helped by Father Kevin and Anne Mower.

There was competition this year, with Christ Church hosting a CardAid shop, but Chiswick should be big enough for both of us and even more charities will benefit from local shoppers.

Anne Mower, Gill Stevens

FESTIVALS

Green Days 2011

“This is my favourite time of the year” Father Kevin told ChiswickLifeTV on Green Days weekend. “We’ve been running this Festival for over 40 years and it’s one of the greatest joys to be here. With all the community out, and live music, and seeing people enjoying themselves - people of all ages, including little ones like this....” he said holding out his daughter Sophia.



“This is what community is all about” said Radio 2’s Jeremy Vine, as he opened the Festival with a poem. “It generates that old-fashioned sense of community” said a member of the crowd, interviewed for another video, shown on YouTube and ChiswickW4.com. “It’s the closest thing a London suburb has got to a village fete.”

“It’s my first time on Green Days and I’ll definitely come again” said Clare Balding, after judging the Marmalade Making Competition.

Green Days weekend – kicking off the Bedford Park Festival – takes St Michael’s out into the community. It’s a hugely important part of the church’s outreach, as well as raising its profile and lots of money for church projects and charities. The films capture the crowds and sheer enjoyment better than any written report. Simply go to our website – www.smaaa.org.uk – and look for ‘Videos’.

Jeremy Vine proved an inspired choice to open the Festival, staying for much of the day with his family, and memorably joining in the Zumba dancing – one of the highlights of the weekend (courtesy of the Hogarth Club).

Clare Balding was another hit, as was the Marmalade Competition itself, attracting more than 50 entries – several from highly competitive men! Simon Johnson, owner of Marmalade jewellery in Turnham Green Terrace, offered a prize of a £100 gift voucher and a contribution to Festival funds for every entry received.



Colin Firth was also on the Green, helping man the Eco stall and its Elephant Day, in support of the elephant orphanage run by Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Africa. Eco has been one of Green Days’ loyal sponsors, underwriting the recycling activities for several years.



As usual, thousands of people enjoyed the "village fête" atmosphere, listening to the bands and watching the children’s football; buying books, cakes, bric-a-brac and plants; drinking beer, Pimms and tea; eating cakes, sandwiches, strawberries and ice cream; and browsing in the Craft marquee and the High Roller Tombola stall.

On the Bandstand, the 18-piece BJO again provided a rousing start, followed by the inspiring Chiswick Gospel Choir, from the SDA Church in Stamford

Brook Road, and several rock performers.



Sunday began with the Open Air Mass on the Green, which attracted a congregation of over 200. Later there was a memorable preview of the world premiere of *Romeo & Juliet: The Rock Opera* by the Arts Educational Schools London. It was followed by the annual talent competition for under-17s – *Bedford Park's Got Talent*.

Green Days was again supported by around 130 firms from the local community, led by the estate agents Savills, the festival's main sponsor. All their names are displayed on the Bedford Park Festival website.

Dozens of people helped make Green Days 2010 such a success, including all the stall organisers and their helpers. Green Days site manager Dean White ran the event supremely efficiently, as usual. Grateful thanks are also due to Sarah Main and Heather White, who ran the Craft Fair and Sunday stalls; Chris Church, impresario for the talent on the Bandstand; and David Kerr, co-ordinating the audio and electrical team, including the very professional Independent Audio.



Despite the recession, our income over the two days, including sponsorship, equalled the previous year's record. Increased costs took their toll, but overall the 2010 Bedford Park Festival raised £41,379 for St Michael & All Angels (including its trust fund) and its three charities for the year: USPG – Anglicans in World Mission, the Lamb Foundation in Bangladesh and the Upper Room. A great result for a great event.

Torin Douglas

Bedford Park Festival 2010

Some things stick in the mind rather – for good reasons, or for bad. Last year's Bedford Park Festival, my first, sticks for all the right reasons. Some of the most memorable aspects to my mind are here remembered:

The Art Exhibition Preview had a tingly champagne fizz to it, and also provided a gentle introduction to the Festival proper. I recall admiring the many wonderful pieces by local artists, recognising some of the names and also some of the subjects, which was both gratifying and encouraging. This was very discernibly a community event.



The Open Air Mass on the first Sunday of the Festival was so elaborate that it put me in mind of a medieval pageant.

But this was of course no empty gesture – having the privilege and opportunity to demonstrate our faith outside, in the open air and full sunshine, was something of a special moment for me.

My Darling Clemmie was my favourite drama (as in theatre; not what one makes a crisis into – there were mercifully few of those) of the Festival. Seeing the transition of the nervous and slightly fey Rohan McCullough into the determined and unstinting Clementine Churchill, devoted to her husband but very much her own person, was moving to say the least. I was amazed that a one-woman show with such a minimal set put on in a church hall could work so splendidly and be so engaging – I hung on her every word.



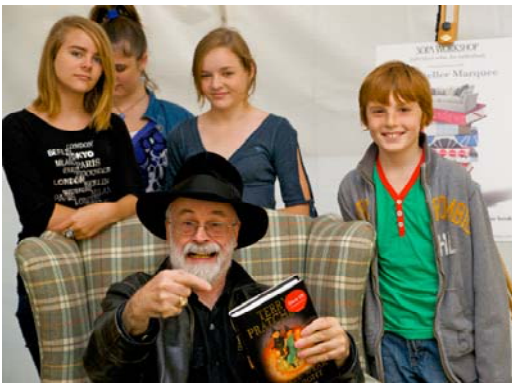
Kate Dimbleby's jazz concert *I'm a Woman* was one of those occasions of comprehensive joy, excitement and good humour that seem to happen only in midsummer. The quality of her voice, the acoustic of the church and the messages of the songs she sang combined to produce a perfect evening's entertainment. I saw many toes tapping along – a sure and certain sign of the event's popularity.

And the culmination of this two-week marathon of community and culture, the *Singalongacelebration* was a wonderfully unceremonious event where everyone felt able to let their hair down, dance, mingle and generally enjoy the balmy June evening. Eating fish and chips in the gloaming while ABBA played and the Vicar danced with his churchwardens will stick in my mind for some years.

Sion Hughes Carew

Chiswick Book Festival 2010

The second Chiswick Book Festival was as successful as the first, confirming St Michael & All Angels' strong relationship with the arts. A stream of top authors entertained large audiences in the Church, the Parish Hall and the Tabard Theatre, helping us raise money for three book-related charities and St Michael's.



Last year, we opened with Anthony Horowitz, filling the Church with young fans. This year it was Sir Terry Pratchett. Last year Lady Antonia Fraser followed. This year it was Michael Wood, previewing his BBC TV series *The Story of England* and selling – and signing – dozens of books before it officially went on sale! Further top names filled the weekend, including Sir Andrew Motion, Adele Parks, Prue Leith, Robert McCrum, Claire Tomalin, Allison Pearson, Charlie Higson, Lucy Worsley, Mavis Cheek, Elizabeth Buchan, Celia Brayfield and Rebecca Frayn.

The climax was a wonderful Crime Fiction tea in the Michael Room, decked out in 30s style. We were celebrating Agatha Christie's 120th anniversary, complete with a *Delicious Death* chocolate cake, to a recipe by Jane Asher. The award-winning crime writer Val McDermid was entertainingly interviewed by actor Kevin McNally, who played the Inspector in a recent ITV *Marple*.



We owe a debt to Waterstone's in Chiswick High Road, which publicised the Festival and sold tickets in-store and books at the Church throughout the weekend. Also to Jacks Thomas and her husband Malcolm Edwards, whose excellent contacts in the book trade secured us such top names.

We could not have done without the organisational skills of Dinah Garrett, who held everything together as the Festival Administrator, and Helen Simkin, who ran the Box Office. New recruits Jill Sinclair and Katherine Solomon provided invaluable help. And Jacks Thomas' team from Midas PR steered us through the maze of publishers, booksellers, authors and all their competing needs and demands. Thank you to all the volunteers from St Michael's and elsewhere in Chiswick, who helped with refreshments, marshalling, chair-moving and lots of other jobs.



The Chiswick Book Festival raised £4,976 from the sale of tickets and refreshments, and sponsorship. £1,244 went to St Michael & All Angels and to each of the three charities:

- RNIB Talking Books Service and Books for Children. The Festival's contribution was used to sponsor the recording of *Sister*, the best-selling novel by Chiswick author Rosamund Lupton.
- InterAct Reading Service, which provides a reading service for stroke patients in hospital.

One of its patrons is Chiswick resident Richard Briers.

- The Letterbox Club, which works with local authorities to send book parcels to children in foster families to improve their educational outlook. It is part of the Book Trust and one of its patrons is Jacqueline Wilson.

Torin Douglas

The Butterfly Ball



On 25 September 2010, The Butterfly Ball offered the congregation, their friends and neighbours an opportunity to emerge from their chrysalises and flutter in their finery. It had been three years since the last St Michael's and All Angels Ball.

The event raised an impressive total of £29,500 for the St Michael's organ and vestry development fund. In a tough economic climate which has left many local businesses - and potential sponsors - under pressure, this final figure came as a pleasant surprise. Loyal individuals and businesses gave

generously to provide auction prizes, while guests on the night bid for the auction lots enthusiastically.

178 guests had a wonderful evening at the newly-renovated Chiswick Town Hall. The extremely talented Sara Gronmark took on the task of transforming the venue for the occasion. She conjured up clusters of blue and white butterflies which hovered above floral decorations, swags of ivy and adorned twig sculptures – with shadow silhouettes dancing on the walls. The champagne reception was followed by a delicious dinner of red onion and goats' cheese tart, salmon with roasted vegetables and spiced couscous and meringue nests with berries for dessert. Those who know anything about the limited kitchen facilities at the town hall will appreciate just what an achievement our volunteer amateur cooks pulled off.



The Ball included a number of fundraising events, which kept guests entertained while parting them from a little more money. These included a balloon race and a series of quick-fire "higher" or "lower" trivia questions. Jane Trigle was the winner of the quiz and the balloon race was won by Mike Pownall whose balloon got to a village west of Paris. Auctioneer Adrian Biddell, from Sotheby's, once again did a superb job at cajoling guests into paying good prices for lots such as breaks in holiday cottages, weekends in hotels, upmarket dinners and a private cinema screening at

the Paramount screening room in Chiswick Park. After dinner, there was dancing to the band *Creak*, who also played at Green Days, and bidding in the 55 silent auctions.

The evening came to an end surprisingly quickly and guests left with a generous party bag of goodies – again donated by local businesses and friends of St Michael’s. A great many thanks are owed to all our generous sponsors; Margaret Bailey, who chaired the organising committee; Tessa Hopkins, Penny Hammal, Phoebe Woollam and John Bailey who cooked the dinner and to compères Torin Douglas and Gerald McGregor.

Fiona Hickley

CHURCH FABRIC

Churchwardens’ Fabric Report

Looking after an old and beautiful building involves a vast amount of detail, as well as predictable general management. Some things cannot be predicted. Last year, a large quantity of lead was stolen from the church and hall roofs. Repairs and replacement were expensive, and there may be other work to be done – repainting in church, and work on timber panels that have cracked. We are waiting for everything to dry out before the final making good. Some of this work is covered by insurance, but there is a cap on payments for church lead, as it is so costly, and thefts are frequent. We have fitted extra security lighting in the car park, and painted the lead with a proprietary product that marks thieves’ hands and clothing indelibly and detectably.

Another drain on resources is the boiler system, which plays up despite being relatively new and under a regular maintenance contract – but no one likes a cold church. The system has been overhauled recently and now seems to be working well.

A further source of justifiable complaint from the congregation is the sound system, which suffers from being in a totally inaccessible place, and was also designed to cover only the centre of the church. We hope to replace the system soon, with a control panel in the church, to make adjustments effective – trying to hear what the sound levels are like from behind the organ loft with the blower motor running is not the best approach! If the Vestry Rooms project goes ahead the system will have to be moved anyway. One small improvement is that we now have a microphone for the Children’s Church’s presentations at the end of Mass – this should come into play soon.

Minor repairs and some replacement work have been carried out on the cellar lighting, to avoid lamps being broken when people bang their heads on them – hardly a safe or sensible situation. Work is also planned for the Crypt Chapel lighting. Some of this is routine maintenance, but we have a beautiful design for a project to upgrade all the lighting in there, which would enhance this space’s attractiveness for letting. Further minor improvements are also to come in the Michael Room, to complete the major overhaul of the lighting there that was started three or four years ago. There are also ideas for improving sound in the Michael Room and for the projection system.

Outside the church, litter bins are to be placed next to the benches on the grass, and we hope to clean up the lower half of the north façade to match the appearance of the brick and stonework at the top.

Many people help and advise me on fabric and garden matters and I am grateful to all of them. In particular I would like to thank John Howard, who has accepted the (honorary!) post of fabric officer, and makes an invaluable contribution with his sound common sense, good humour and expertise.

Michael Robinson

Organ and Vestry Rooms Project

“It’s organ, organ all the time... I’m a martyr to music” complains Mrs Organ Morgan in Dylan Thomas’s radio play *Under Milk Wood*.

A brief history

When I became Vicar 15 years ago, there had already been talk for many years of the need to sort out the organ. There were of course other priorities that had to be dealt with first, not least the Parish Hall. Ten years ago a rather dilapidated Victorian Parish Hall, with stage and gallery, was completely refurbished, which also meant adding a new floor. It sought to meet the needs of the church and the community by providing appropriate meeting rooms. It has been a huge success and the Hall is used every day and night of the week. In January we had a great party to celebrate its opening in 2001, when we invited those who contributed to the renewal of the building as well as representatives from the myriad of groups that now use the Hall.



The renewed Parish Hall allowed our church to become the heart of the community, for the size of the congregation to increase and for our ministry to develop in a variety of ways. It is now difficult to believe that we lived without it for so long. Also, the income from the Hall has allowed us to tackle other outstanding works: the addition of new boilers for the heating system; a re-fit of the cupola; the clerestory windows needed repair; the interior of the church has been repainted to a scheme like its original colours; and we have added new lighting which has brought out the architectural features of the main body of the church and side chapel.

This done, we began to reassess the needs of a much larger and very active congregation as we approached a new decade of the 21st century. We now have a greater variety of ministries and task based groups as well as a fortnight’s Arts Festival and a weekend of Book Festival (both of which have become major events in the West London calendar). Music is also a vital part of our life and growth and it has become essential to tackle the problems with the organ.

Why a new organ?

With all this in mind we embarked on a serious study of what we needed to provide in terms of extra space and commissioned two expert reports on the state of the organ. Both reports agreed that our current organ was not worth saving, that a newly built organ was the best way forward and that this new organ would have to be relocated back into its original position at chancel level, as indicated on the original drawings by the church architect Norman Shaw. The organ, which had been moved up into the north aisle arch in 1926 speaks into a “stone box” rather than into the body of the church. Underneath the present organ is the Sacristy room where the priests robe and altar requisites are kept. A new Sacristy space would have to be found. The new organ position would restore as much as possible the view of the north aisle arch as originally intended.



Why extra meeting spaces?

From the beginning, it has been our contention that we should look at our need for more space as comprehensively as possible and with a long term vision. This has to be balanced of course within severe financial constraints.

It has become clear to us over the last ten years that we need extra meeting space for our children's work on Sundays. It has also become clear that the present Parish Office room in the Hall is too small to house secretary, helpers, and photocopiers and so on. **Our brief** then would be to find space for **a new Sacristy, a meeting room**, and when finances allowed, **a new office space**. We were also looking, where possible, **to increase our storage space**, which is always at a premium.

The new organ

We brought in an organ consultant, Dr John Rowntree, Director of Music at Douai Abbey, to advise us and the PCC eventually settled on a Swiss firm of organ builders called Saint Martin to build a new organ. We have signed a contract (pending permission) for delivery and construction in 2013.

The new meetings spaces

As far as extra meeting space and a Sacristy is concerned, the Wardens and the PCC have looked at a number of options with our architect Ian Angus. This has ranged from building on the car park, to developing the Crypt Chapel, and reutilising the Vestry in various ways. Bearing in mind our brief for a larger Sacristy space, a meeting room, a larger parish office and extra storage space many of these options were rejected.

Finally, we decided on exploring adding another floor to the Vestry room. The inspiration behind this idea has been our positive experience of use of the Hall after its refurbishment. The new lower Vestry room would be slightly taller than the rooms in the lower Hall. It would be redesigned so that current robes etc would be behind cupboard doors and so could be used as a Vestry (mainly on Sundays) and as a meeting room on weekdays.

Besides providing extra space for the development of our children's ministry, we also recognise that some groups have to use the church on weekdays because of the lack of available meeting space in the Hall. This is unsatisfactory as the space is too big, (and sometimes too cold) and it disturbs those who wish to come and pray. This downstairs Vestry/ meeting room would provide an acceptable alternative. The new upper room, (Sacristy) would be big enough for the number of clergy on our staff, for storage and also could be used for certain small group meetings. In other words these multi- purpose rooms would become just that in design. The stairs leading to the upper room would have a stair lift. The lower room of the present Sacristy (the Candle Crypt) would be cleared and provide much needed extra storage.

This design would provide us with a **Sacristy Room upstairs and a sizeable Vestry/ meeting room downstairs** and some much needed extra **storage space**. Any **new office space** would have to be built on the car park and would be looked at in detail after the completion of the first part of the project.

How long will this take?

There have been very many frustrating delays in getting responses from the statutory advisory bodies. It has taken us nearly two years to get to this point. The alterations to the Vestry would mean losing the middle pillar and arches. We have now received positive responses from English Heritage, Hounslow planning authority and a certificate of approval from the Diocesan Advisory Committee. However, the Victorian Society still have questions about the loss of architectural features in the Vestry room which was designed by Norman Shaw. At the time of writing we are about to submit a faculty application for planning approval for this work from the Chancellor of the Diocese which we hope to announce during the Bedford Park Festival this year. We hope to begin building in July 2012 and to accept delivery of the new St Martin Organ in July 2013.

Father Kevin

The use of the hall and church

Regular external bookings in the hall

Monday to Friday

Chiswick & Bedford Park School
Orchard House School

Mondays

Ballet
Tai Chi
Ki Energy
Yes Brazil
Yoga

Tuesdays

Ballet
Pilates
Creative Writing (annual class)

Wednesdays

Pilates
Ballet
Wuxigong
BOSPA (British Obesity Surgery
Patient Association) (monthly)
Realistic Self Defence
Families Anonymous support
group (Crypt)

Thursdays

Opera lectures
Ballet
Scottish Dancing
Victim Support Group (Crypt)

Fridays

Ballet
Swing Dancers
Cercle Francais (monthly)

Sundays

Scottish Dancing

Regular church bookings in the hall

Charities Quiz Night
Bedford Park Festival Events
Lent/Confirmation classes
Women's Group
Lent lunches and other parish lunches
Breakfast Club

PCC

Children's Church Meetings
Baptism Visitors Meetings
Readers' Training Course
Chiswick Book Festival Events
Book Club

'One off' events

Book launch (1)
Children's Parties (63)
General Meetings (non church groups) (6)
Concert Refreshments (12)
Adult parties (13)
Concerts in the hall (6)
Yoga workshops (2)
AGMs (4)
Baptism parties (6)
Wedding Receptions (1)
Funeral Receptions (1)
School Association Social/Fundraising events (2)
Artists at home (2)
Carpet sales (7)
Dance Rehearsal (1)
Wedding Drinks Reception (1)
Theatrebugs Children's drama workshop (1)
Shoe sale (1)

Retirement party (1)
Maskerade children's French workshop (1)
School of Comedy workshop (1)
Mock exams (1)
Leaving drinks (1)
TV Quiz Show pitch/run through (3)
CCJP Fairtrade Event (1) no charge
Drama rehearsals (2)
Child Lanka Food Festival (1)
Baptism Visitors Training Day (1)
"Abundance" Event (1)
Inter-denominational Worship event (1)

Regular external and congregational bookings in the church

Bach Cantatas
Bedford Park Festival Events
Junior/Senior Choir
Reflection Group
Music House for Children
Hogarth Singers
Addison Singers
Chiswick Choir
Ealing Youth Orchestra
Singing Lessons
Chiswick Book Festival Events
School concerts, assemblies and services

'One-off' events in the church

Syred Sinfonia concert
Arts Education Graduation ceremony
Bedford Park Society Betjeman Lecture
Elysian Singers Concert
Chiswick Seventh Day Adventist Church concert
Hounslow Music Service concert
Students' Recital (private music teacher)
Capital Chorus concert

The hall and the church continue to provide a very valuable resource for the congregation and the wider community. There is a very varied use of the space, a good number of regular users and a real pressure on availability – a good problem to have in many ways. We have in recent years included details of our regular bookings and of our one-off events so that the breadth of bookings can be appreciated (*see page 35*).

It is not always plain sailing providing the high level of services we would like to offer our customers. The boilers for both the hall and the church are not as reliable as they ought to be, and soundproofing between the various spaces can also be difficult. But we continue to receive some very nice accolades on the feedback forms.

All this happens as a result of the efforts of Anna, Sara and Gill in the Parish Office, of Ken and Meredydd helping the hirers, of Edna and her team keeping a careful eye on the kitchens, of Beata's indefatigable cleaning. We do not take any of it for granted and we are very grateful to them.

Great space, great facilities, very helpful

Beautiful church, great location, friendly and helpful to deal with, good value, friendly appreciative audiences

It was a joy being there – lovely space, tidy, big, easy!

We are very lucky to have your great facility available to us

Really pleased – much nicer space than all the scout huts and church halls nearby

Helen Wareham

Flower Report and Flower Festival

At St Michael's we worship using all our senses. The members of the flower team strive to add to the beauty of the church and the reverence of the service with floral arrangements. It involves planning and time, but well worth the effort. The PCC have budgeted for an allowance of £40 per week, but we will only use the maximum if all the flowers have to be replaced. We generally spend well below this quota – helped by a generous discount from Wheelers and by donations for arrangements requested as memorials or celebrations. The side chapel is used daily for services, and for several years we have put an arrangement here to last the week. In order to help with the economy drive it is intended that we cease to do this additional display, but will move the front pedestal into the side chapel following the Sunday services.

We would welcome help with the flower expenses and encourage more people to consider donating for an arrangement that will be a private or public sharing of the memory of a loved one, a celebration of a milestone anniversary, birthday or perhaps a family baptism or confirmation. Last year we accumulated an additional £160 which helped towards the costs.



Please do consider joining us – either to help with the watering during the week, or to arrange with one or two others. We all began as mere novices, and have learnt through experience and our mistakes. The advantage of joining us now is that we can share with you the short cuts and the tricks. Large festivals are occasions when we all pull together and stretch our skills to the limit, sustained by hot cross buns, mince pies or other such treats. At present we are an all female team but we would welcome an input from those men who are not afraid to try their hand.

Last April, some of the St Michael & All Angels flower team, along with teams from other local churches, were asked to help with the Flower Festival at St Mary's Convent celebrating 100 years of the Order of St Margaret caring for the aged in Chiswick. The displays were based on one of 12 verses chosen by the Sisters that related to *The Resurrection and Life*. The three day event started with a reception supported by local dignitaries and friends of the Convent. A huge number of



visitors passed through the doors that weekend, and with such wonderful weather, it was impossible not to enjoy the beauty of the garden and the flowers.

It was a joyous time and a wonderful opportunity to work within the community and alongside other church groups. Many of the residents in the Convent were stimulated by the activity and preparation, and I am sure that it gave them much to talk about over the next few days. The St Michael & All Angels team were challenged with the verse - *If we died with Him, we should also live with Him, if we endure, we will also reign with Him.* 2 Timothy 2 v 11 - 12

Sue Jordan

Church Garden

The Gardening Group, usually five or six of us, meets approximately once a month on Saturday mornings to look after the upkeep of the garden surrounding the Church – it is an enjoyable morning for fellowship, gardening together. Our grateful thanks to all who have helped during the year: Richard Seal, Jane Thompson, Carol Douglas, Jennie Best, Audrey Hillis, Sara Gronmark, Vicky Brook & William, Isabel Little, Chris Chater, Sara West, Mike Blanckenhagen, Debora James, Sally Haigh, and of course Bud Murryweather of the Outer Space Gardening Company for her inspiration and leadership. Patrick Grattan again kindly took care of the grass and mowing the lawn. At the end of the year we met again for a very enjoyable Christmas lunch at the Cote Brasserie.

The task during the year has principally been the upkeep of the Spring Garden and South Border. Some herbaceous plants were added, in particular some species Michaelmas Daisies donated by Sara West from the National Collection in Malvern. Our autumn clear-up was delayed owing to the sudden arrival of snow and frost at the end of November. However spring has now arrived in the garden with the daffodils out and in spite of the hard winter, we appear to have lost few plants.



In the coming year paving stones are to be provided in front of the three benches donated in memory of June Reed, Beryl Scoffield and Father Kevin's father, John Morris. The benches are well used by the community and the paving stones will be placed to cover the bare patches in front of the benches. A litter bin will also be provided in the hope of addressing the current litter problem. We are hoping to add some new shrubs to the South Border and to improve the planting either side of the pathway leading to the Church. Although the provision of a

stone trough for seasonal planting by the entrance to the Hall has now been abandoned, owing to the difficulty in finding a suitable trough at a reasonable cost, we do hope to discuss making

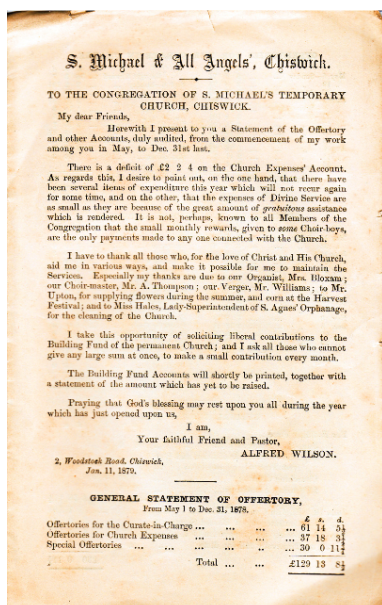
improvements to the West side garden, perhaps taking inspiration from the planting in the Bible Garden at St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem seen by the group from St. Michael's on their Holy Land Pilgrimage. We meet at 10.30 am on arranged Saturday mornings following a notice in the weekly service sheet. All volunteers are very welcome and extra help is always appreciated.

Susan Hunt

C ommunications

C hurch Archives

Because it is such a “back-room” activity, creating and preserving the church archive will never feature at the top of the mind of the average parishioner. It is, let us face it, something of a “Cinderella” function, worthy but not particularly given to enthusiastic attention or participation. It is unlikely to appear in the top half of the list, when deciding how the parish should apportion scarce resources.



But it is vital that we should maintain a record of our parish life, of the means by which we attempt to undertake God's purpose, and celebrate His Grace. Records take various forms. Some records are obligatory, either by statute or at the request of the Diocese. The electoral roll, the records of the PCC, registers of services and of baptisms and marriages, annual reports, financial accounts and an inventory of church property all come into this category. Others are created voluntarily – these are the records of parish life, of events, festivals, our charitable work – all those activities and acts of service that are recorded in this annual report, and of course in the *Clarion* magazine, the web-site and newsletters. In the editor's words that sub-titled my report in 2009 “*As Christians, we need to celebrate what God is doing among us, has done, and will do*”.

We really do need to celebrate the ministry and service freely given by our predecessors and by our contemporaries, learn from their successes and failures, give thanks for their faith and use their example in our planning for the future. The work of archiving has proceeded slowly and piecemeal, as previously reported. I have continued to seek and collect archive material, and attempted to maintain a paper and photographic record of day-to-day church activity. I have had difficulty in persuading people to agree to share material and information; so much duplication may be taking place, for all I know!

In the digital age, there is a problem: the benefits of immediacy of information means that much work previously recorded in documentary form potentially becomes only transient unless steps are taken to record digital material in permanent form. At the same time, any archive becomes useless unless it is readily accessible, and there is a perennial problem with storage. The loft in a private house will not do.

For the future security of archive, I would like to see four developments:

- I would like a parish policy on archive. This would enable us to identify which material should constitute the archive, and what can be discarded. It would also identify priorities.
- There is a need for adequate provision for storage within the church building. There are many calls on limited space, but this is an important candidate for priority help, if the work is to proceed without deterioration of historical material.
- There is a need for realistic budgetary provision for supplies and storage equipment.

- Finally, there is an acute need for additional voluntary manpower. At present, many archiving tasks cannot be addressed and this is very deleterious to the whole project.

Please, do join me in the task.

David Beresford

Communications Report

Anyone who wants to understand St Michael's - and its place at the heart of the community - should watch Kelvin Murray's film of Green Days 2010. As a member of the congregation - and a professional photographer and film-maker - Kelvin was in a unique position to capture the spirit of Green Days and he did so magnificently.



Two other films recorded great Green Days moments – one by Mark Slocombe of Creation Video, for ChiswickW4.com, the other by ChiswickLifeTV - the community TV station. We also now have a video tour of St Michael's, with Father Kevin describing its attractions as a wedding venue, and a series of interviews with James Cracknell, Jeremy Vine, Clare Balding and other performers at the Bedford Park Festival.

To watch them, simply go to St Michael's website – www.smaa.org.uk – and look for 'Videos' on the front page. And do tell your friends! Video is a new and valuable weapon in our communications armoury. We already use the church website, email newsletters, notice boards, banners and the local media to keep the work of St Michael's in the public eye. This has helped boost our congregation and audiences at concerts and festival events.



The St Michael's website went from strength to strength. Google Analytics tells us that 18,678 people visited the site in 2010, peaking in June, for the Bedford Park Festival, and on Christmas Eve, for the Advent Calendar. The site is updated each week by a small team and gives a vivid and varied account of life at St Michael's and its many events. We could do with more help – perhaps from a student looking to enhance their CV? We added pages for most group activities and updated many more. We still plan to make it easier to find one's way round the hundreds of pages, by creating a comprehensive index page.

Less positively, we still haven't improved our internal communications. Two years ago, in his report to the APCM, PCC member Matthew Hickley pointed out that we're better at communicating with the outside world than keeping the congregation informed about the activities of our various groups and listening to their views. Matthew and I produced a Communications Toolkit to help Church groups publicise what they are up to. But we have made little progress. Few groups have anyone thinking about how to publicise their activities, or providing material for the website, notice boards and service sheets. Some groups still have no page on the website.

Matthew is stepping down from the PCC, but we intend to reissue the Communications Toolkit, and actively pursue its aims. I shall reopen the search for someone to help keep the notice boards updated and eye-catching. And we still need to understand social media and use them better – including St Michael's Facebook group.

More positively, at the start of 2011, PCC members started giving brief talks during the 10am service, reporting on their work and discussions.

Torin Douglas

The Clarion

For those of you who don't know, *The Clarion* is a monthly magazine. Its contents are somewhat eclectic but most of the articles either have a religious theme or have some sort of connection to St Michael's. In addition to recording church events, the magazine also hopes to inform readers of other activities and groups with which members of the congregation are involved. In the last year, we published such diverse contributions as accounts of pilgrimages, visits to cultural events (Oberammergau Passion Play), a history of the Avignon Popes, retrospectives from the archives, a cookery column as well as reproductions of sermons given at some of our services.

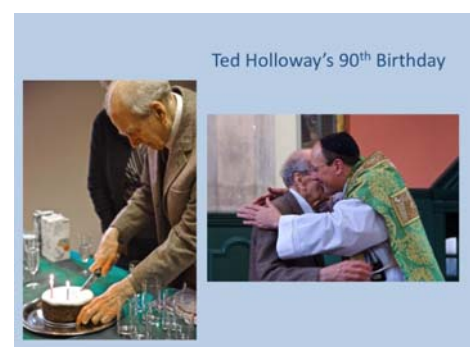
The magazine would not get published without the much valued contributions from our current and former parishioners. I would like to thank those who have contributed over the last year. I would also like to thank the others who work behind the scenes to ensure we have financing (Sue Hunt, who is responsible for organising the advertising) and that the magazine is printed (Gill Stevens).

However, it would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to appeal to some of you to take a more active role in the production of *The Clarion*. Having an editorial team and some "staff reporters" would enable us to increase the quality and consistency of the magazine's output. In particular I would be interested in anyone who would like to volunteer to be a reporter to ensure that more parish events are covered as well as sub editors to help chase copy, edit and proof read contributions and seek out suitable photographic material.

If you do not want to make a regular contribution, I would be delighted to receive ad hoc pieces. The magazine is usually published on the first Sunday of every month; contributions need to be received by the previous Wednesday to be included. If you would like to contribute, please e-mail your contributions to the Parish Office or to me directly at gavin_johnston@btinternet.com. I am particularly interested in receiving contributions from the younger members of our congregation (who have been under-represented in the past) and generally would be grateful for accounts of pilgrimages, reviews of religious or topical arts (books, theatre, film, concerts), poetry and anything else that is "liturgically appropriate".

Gavin Johnston

Some special moments from the last year



WHO IS WHO AT ST MICHAEL'S

VICAR	The Revd Kevin Morris	8994 1380
	The Vicarage, Priory Gardens, London, W4 1TT	
	E-mail parishoffice@smaaa.org.uk	
Hon Assistant Priest	The Revd Graham Morgan	8994 1380
Hon Assistant Priest	The Revd Neil Evans	8994 1380
Curate	The Revd Stephen Stavrou	8994 1380
Sub-deacons	Sarah Lenton and Graham Holderness	
Churchwardens	Michael Robinson	
	Helen Wareham	8747 0247
Parish Managers	Sara Pask and Anna Benson	8994 1380
	Parish Office, Priory Avenue W4 1TX	
Sacristan	Anne Mower	8992 7347
Master of Ceremonies	Cathie James	8995 1947
Director of Music	Jonathan Dods	07899 654358
Junior Choir	Jonathan Dods	07899 654358
Children's Church	Nicola Chater	8742 1097
Children's advocate	Jane Thomson	8747 0906
Crèche Co-ordinator	Katy Timmons	87430381
Sidespeople	Helen Wareham	8747 0247
Readers	Cathy Millin	8810 9980
Brass cleaning	Lis West	8994 8614
Flower Arrangers	Sue Jordan	8995 5589
Electoral Roll Officer	Helen Simkin	8995 3285
Planned Giving Officer	Peter Haigh	8995 7249
PCC Treasurer	Tony Simkin	8995 3285
PCC Secretary	Kevin Wilson	
Magazine Editor	Gavin Johnston	8810 9980
Magazine Advertisements	Susan Hunt	8749 7677
Magazine Subscriptions	Susan Hunt	8749 7677
Charities Group	Mary Pears	8994 4934
Social Group	Jane Trigle	8746 7732
Publicity Group	Torin Douglas	8994 3572
Community Lunches	Jane Trigle	8746 7732
Baptisms, weddings, funerals, Hall Bookings	Parish Office	8994 1380
Sunday Morning Coffee	Susan Hunt	8749 7677
Chiswick Churches	Ros Lister	8994 6692
For Justice & Peace		
Baptism Visitors	The Revd Stephen Stavrou	8994 1380
Reflection Group	John Beastall	8998 6315
Book Club	Jane Thomson	8747 0906

www.smaaa.org.uk