



Barnes Team Ministry

St Mary's Church Barnes Report
for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2008
for the year 2007

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THE ANNUAL MEETINGS

To be held in St Mary's Church on Wednesday, 30 April 2008 at 8 pm-9 pm
 6-7 pm especially for families with refreshments
 7-8 pm drinks and refreshments
 9-10 pm refreshments

A G E N D A

The meeting opens with prayer

- A. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners
 For the purpose of electing two churchwardens to serve for the coming year
- B. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 24 April 2007
 2. Church Electoral Roll
 3. Elections
 - (a) The Election to the Parochial Church Council of three representatives to serve for three years
 - (b) The Election to the Deanery Synod of six representatives to serve for three years
 - (c) The Election of Sidesmen for 2008-2009
 4. Finance
 5. 2010 Stewardship Appeal
 6. Appointment of an Auditor
 7. Rector's Review of the Year
 8. AOB
 9. Date of Next Meeting
 10. The Grace

ST MARY BARNES – PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Membership 2007-2008

Rector	The Rev'd Ross Collins (Standing Committee)
Churchwardens	Mr Philip Bladen (Standing Committee) Mrs Fiona Barnett (Standing Committee)
Ex Officio	The Rev'd Lindsay Collins Miss Christabel Gairdner (Reader) Mr Philip Mitchell (Reader) Major Iain Radford (Reader)
Deanery Synod (retire 2008)	Mr Geoffrey Barnett (Reader) Mr Peter Boyling (Standing Committee) Mr Harry Powell Ms Paula Reynolds Mrs Joan Wheeler-Bennett
(retire 2008)	Dr Silke Cresswell (resigned early) Mrs Patty Darke Mrs Jean Lawrence (died January 2008) Mr Michael Murison Ms Anne Sullivan
(retire 2009)	Mrs Juliet Hogan Mr Martin Tomlins
(retire 2010)	Mrs Loraine Budgen Dr Richard du Parcq (Standing Committee) Ms Sarah Moore Mr James Stephenson
Co-opted	The Rev'd Professor Raymond Chapman (Hon Asst Priest) The Rev'd Joseph Ayok
	Mrs Marilyn Walker (Secretary – non-voting)

CHURCHWARDENS

We find ourselves reflecting on several different ways in which people have enjoyed the church or its garden over the past year. Enjoying lunch and tea in the garden on Barnes Fair Day was a real delight; then the imaginative Christmas Fair extended its ground to the church - a good space for different stall holders and visitors alike. And for the second year the very successful Charity Ball was once again held in the beautiful space the church affords without its chairs. We are very blessed with our church and garden. Our globe trotting rector gave a paper in Istanbul, visited the Bishop of Matabeleland in Zimbabwe, was sadly deflected from visiting Malek in Sudan because of the security situation but at the same time he remains the hub of our church life in and around St. Mary's, in worship and in all its other aspects. The variety of people who make up our church and the different gifts they bring make life good and colourful. How enriching it is to be involved.

Fiona Barnett
Philip Bladen

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Through our oversight of St Mary's over the year we are well placed to recognise the great contribution made to our church by so many of its members. Many are thanked

elsewhere within this report but we must mention specifically here our clergy, led by Ross, together with our readers, and the chairs of our committees.

St Mary's benefits so much too from the committed work of our staff: Helen Bladen, children's pastor, Cameron Burns, director of music and organist, Peter Kain, parish administrator, Russell Pearson, pathfinders leader, Emma Powell, family service pastor and Sandra our cleaner, together with Vic Nolan, parish clerk and Sally Copland, our sacristan.

During the year we have continued our work within the objectives we set in 2006, towards the vision of the congregation celebrating the love of God openly and inclusively, and growing in faith and numbers. We welcome feedback from our fellow members of the congregation at any time.

May I personally thank my fellow PCC members for their own contribution to the work of the council. They make our meetings lively, enjoyable and most worthwhile.

Peter Boyling
PCC Vice Chairman

PCC SECRETARY

The Council met on seven occasions during the year, the September

meeting being the All Day Conference held at St Michael's Community Hall.

In pursuit of our objective to provide worship which is vibrant and affirming we appointed Emma Powell as family service pastor to help lead our 11.30 service. In a review of our worship we brought forward the time of Sunday Evensong to 6pm. We discussed with Cameron his plans for the music with which we are delighted. We learnt that David Thomas will join the Barnes Team in September 2008 as a non-stipendiary curate.

We took forward our objective to welcome and support people of all ages and Christian traditions by developing further our Rhythm for Life as an approach to prayer we can all use (emphasising thanks, sorrow and hope). We discussed whether St Mary's was as welcoming as we could be, and took forward some initiatives. We met Helen and Emma to discuss our work with children; and made plans for finding a successor to Helen as children's pastor, whose resignation we received with regret.

We want to maintain our vigorous programme for mission, and heard regularly about the Under Tree Schools project in Southern Sudan, and the Castelnaud Centre Project in North Barnes that we are supporting. We approved expenditure on these and other projects recommended by the Mission Group.

In line with our objective to play a full part in the Barnes Anglican Team and Churches Together in Barnes we met Revd Jean Boulton-Reynolds, vicar of Holy Trinity to discuss the Team youth group which she leads, and heard from her and from Revd Paul Holland, vicar of St Michael's, about their churches. We also welcomed Dr Mike Springate, lay chair of the Deanery Synod, to observe our November meeting.

As part of our plans for efficient management of our finances we approved a budget for 2008 and a process for an appeal for the funds we will need for the three years to 2010. An application for a faculty for improving the Garden of Remembrance and associated paths was made (and approved), and funding determined. We appointed Charlotte Kramer as chair of our Kitson Hall committee with a brief to develop the potential of the Hall.

During the year bequests were reported from Mrs Dorothy Hutchinson (£25,000) and Miss Binks Lauchlin (£5,000). Another donation had been made of £23,000.

Finally the parish was enlarged. A medieval transfer of the Leg o'Mutton reservoir to the Parish of Putney was formally reversed by the church authorities on 25 July 2007.

Full minutes of PCC meetings are available on the St Mary's website. Current minutes are posted on the porch noticeboard.

The Council noted with sadness the death on 2 January 2008 of Mrs Jean Lawrence, PCC member and past Churchwarden.

Marilyn Walker
PCC Secretary

HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIEST

I have had another happy year of co-operation with Ross, other members of the Team clergy and our Readers. Between us we have a considerable range of interests and preferences; the result is stimulating to work with, and I hope productive for the congregations. My main function is to take or assist in services and preaching, a privilege which I greatly value. There are also personal visits, some with home communion, and officiating at funerals. I have contributed a brief devotional thought to the weekly pewsheets. Attendance at meetings of the Executive Committee of Churches Together in Barnes enables me to work in co-operation with other local churches. The new ecumenical spirit is one of the most encouraging developments in recent years, and one most necessary in the face of so many threats to the Christian faith. Under the auspices of CTIB I gave a short series of lectures on some of the paradoxes and tensions in Christianity. Membership of national Christian societies, and some publishing of devotional work, helps to keep me in touch with developments in the

wider Church. St Mary's is a small corner of God's vineyard, but it can be a witness to continuing Anglican loyalty and a force for good locally.

Raymond Chapman

HON TREASURER'S REPORT

These notes go to press, as usual, before the full formal financial statement has been prepared for the auditor. The figures below must therefore be seen as provisional.

We are obliged - by Charities legislation - to produce a full statement of financial activities in a format set by the regulators. For the years 2005, 6, 7 we are further obliged to spend significant money on full registered audit; legislation has raised the threshold for this, but only with effect from 2008.

The full financial statement is a quite forbidding document, which will be available at the APCM. We have produced (see appendix 2) a simplified statement of the PCC's General Account.

The "General Fund" might be seen as the "core business" of St Mary's, which should balance giving by the congregation, and other income sources directly associated with the church, against what we spend on maintenance of the church and churchyard, services and other activities, church music and work with children, other principal PCC functions, and to fund stipendiary

clergy. It makes up more than two-thirds of our total annual turnover; the rest consists of "designated" and "restricted" funds, and endowments.

Two thirds of our General Fund expenditure goes to the "Fairer Share" - our means-tested contribution to the overall cost of diocesan clergy. After the triennial income survey in 2007, and with the congregation increasing, this contribution is set to increase by a [capped] 12% in 2008, 9, 10.

An even larger share of our income - just over three quarters - is provided by congregational giving, augmented by Gift Aid tax refunds. In simple terms the [somewhat unpredictable] level of giving, by us, very largely determines each year whether our General Fund is in surplus or in deficit. The General Fund ran deficits in four of the five years 2002-6; the General reserve fell to less than a month's expenditure, which isn't really enough to keep the show on the road. The PCC budgeted a modest surplus for 2007, with a quite ambitious target to increase general giving by our congregation.

In the event, the increase in general giving was about 2.2% [probably not yet an exact figure, until all tax refund claims are complete].

That said, there have been some most welcome developments in other areas. It will be seen that wedding &c fees have leapt ahead;

money for the hire of space in the church building is up; and most notably "Events", particularly the Christmas Fair and St Mary's activities on Barnes Fair Day, have brought in new income.

Overall however, income was about £7,000 below budget. Happily, expenditure was also below budget, and the deficit on the year quite small.

That position has been transformed - for the one year only - by "Exceptional items": substantial legacies, and a very generous once-only gift-aided donation. The total of these was £59,000 which completely changes the General reserve and our cash flow position.

In my submission this buys us time, to establish the "core business" of St Mary's on a firm footing. We should not forget that our Parish Share is set to rise by £18,000 or more for three successive years; but we have the opportunity to spend a period planning effectively, what we want to do and how we intend to pay for it.

The Kitson Hall, and the Friends of St Mary's, are the subjects of separate sections of this report. They hold useful balances, as too do the Quinquennial Building Maintenance Fund and the Legacies Fund.

I intend to make the full account available to the APCM, when I shall

also be happy to try to answer questions.

Richard du Parcq
PCC Hon Treasurer,

PARISH CLERK

At the beginning of the year we looked as if we were in for another slack year for weddings, but things picked up later in the year and we were back to a reasonable eighteen with even three in December.

Banns were also called for eight weddings at the church.

Everything went well with the usual efficient help from bellringers, organist and choir and florists.

Collections and payments to the church were dealt with in the normal way with donations and Gift Aid now in the hands of Peter Boyling.

Vic Nolan

TEAM COUNCIL

The three Church of England churches in Barnes are legally joined as a Team Ministry. While we keep our own PCCs and finance, being in a team gives us all, clergy and laity, the extra strength that comes with the mutual support that we can receive and give.

Examples of how we benefit include the Team youth group, christened

FOOD by the young people. This is led by Jean Boulton-Reynolds, vicar of Holy Trinity, who draws on her expertise in youth work on behalf of the Team. And we at St Mary's were stimulated to create our book group from learning of the successful group being run at St Michael's.

The Team's children's workers support each other and they cooperated in 2007 to run another in the annual series of very successful Children's Festivals.

The Team jointly owns and manages a curate's house, in which Joseph and Karin Ayok-Loewenberg and their girls are currently living in recognition of the Team's support for the Under Tree Schools project.

We follow closely the developments in each parish. We are delighted that St Michael's have completed their community centre that provides a marvellous facility for them and for the people of Barnes. And the Holy Trinity monthly "Space to Be" event provides a much needed opportunity for people in North Barnes to take a hour or two of peace and quiet from the rush of today's pressures.

Many thanks to our readers, churchwardens and Maisie Brown, who with our clergy and myself represent St Mary's on the Team Council.

Peter Boyling

RICHMOND AND BARNES DEANERY SYNOD

Our deanery consists of the 15 Church of England churches in the Barnes – Richmond - Ham area. Deanery synod consists of representatives of each church meeting together several times a year.

Why do we do it? The government structure of the CofE provides for a national level of synod, synods for each diocese, and synods for each deanery within the diocese. The main decisions taken at national level are normally informed by the views of the lower levels. So for example the decision to ordain women as priests was preceded by the testing of opinion among deaneries.

But deanery synods are also a valuable tool for helping individual churches to learn from each other. Our discussions can focus on practical issues which we all struggle with and where someone else's experience might be helpful. In the last year we have had stimulating speakers and discussions on the Welcare organisation which supports families in trouble; the church and the elderly; and how churches can shrink their environmental footprint.

And if we want to make a point at diocesan level we have a more potent voice if we make it as a

deanery rather than as a single church.

This year we had an important point to make about the increasing difficulty of meeting our annual payment to the diocese. We got the deanery to agree it was important. Discussions with the diocese then led to the announcement of a subsidy scheme for large and growing churches from which St Mary's will benefit.

Our thanks to Christabel Gairdner, Harry Powell, Paula Reynolds and Joan Wheeler-Bennett who have joined Ross and me as St Mary's representatives on the synod. Our term of office is now up and new appointments will be made at the Annual Meeting.

Peter Boyling

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BARNES

As our six partner churches and ourselves work to maintain a high degree of understanding, reporting the CTiB progress is a pleasant task. Agendas with traditional times, spiced up by some thrust to achieve innovation has kept us tuned into each other's needs. Regularly Barnes residents and newcomers, and members of all churches who find the "local rag" *Barnes in Common* a fascinating read would also agree that the mission : To do things together, and not do things

apart” has been an ideal which has kept its value better than society would have imagined. CTiB has arranged for meetings with faiths beyond the terra firma of the pond radius too: The mosque, the temple and soon the synagogue study visits are open to all who are interested in religious challenges.

Some churches are modernizing their appeal. Extended services on Sundays, monthly meditation and therapy sessions, a new civic centre opened for many purposes including counselling, the start of mother and baby groups, and general renovation of the buildings – all these projects are not the subjects of our meetings. The common thrust is the Christian message: how Lent groups, Good Friday witness walk/service, Pentecostal lunches, and Christmas cards and Carols are run effectively to speak to the community.

A summer open-air service is being planned for June.

Our Forum night beamed a spotlight on areas to improvement: Bereavement counselling and more common theology study and a thematic appreciation of the issues of the national campaign about human rights issues of Slavery and the need to speak out to defend our weaker and more abused people of our world. These have been the issues of the day at our meetings. If you would like more information how you could benefit from our group events or are no yet enjoying

the information given in the Barnes in Common, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Ross or myself.

Christine Ljunghammar

FiSH

The demand for the services of FiSH continues to grow year by year. This is partly due to the demographics of an increasingly elderly population and more demand for the voluntary sector to step in where statutory services are not appropriate, unavailable, or have been withdrawn.

This year we have welcomed several new volunteers to our team and also some, who for one reason or another, have come back to help us. We now have well over 260 volunteers registered with FiSH; a net increase of 40 over the year. Many of these volunteers give a huge number of hours per month. Others, because of their circumstances are only able to offer a few hours per year. Some volunteers have supported a single client for a number of years often with weekly visits. Offering clients regular contact often results in reducing social isolation and raises their levels of confidence. This in time has encouraged them to join other FiSH activities. In total throughout the year FiSH volunteers have responded 7989 times with different tasks. This includes all our activities such as work arranged through the helpline FiSH 'n' Chats,

escorting mini bus trips, volunteer office time etc. If we assume that each task takes an average of approximately 2 hours this represents 15978 working hours; this is an increase of approximately 16% compared with the previous year.

The total number of recorded individual FiSH clients is now 706. This does not include visitors to our FiSH 'n' Chats sessions. This figure is a decrease of 28 on last year. This is in part explained by us carrying out a 'spring clean' of our client database to ensure we keep up to date with information. We have been extremely lucky this year to have had the help of volunteer Caroline Edelin working on a weekly basis in the office as the new database officer.

In addition to our tasks booked through the helpline 2043 contacts have been made with people who have attended our FiSH talks, activities and events and 2108 contacts through our FiSH'n'Chats and befriending service. Some funding was received during the year from The Richmond Consortium to develop the one to one befriending service. As a result we are looking to encourage more suitable volunteers to take part in this new project.

Our Partnership with RaKAT (Richmond and Kingston Accessible Transport) under the Transport Enterprise Scheme has grown enormously since January 2005.

This is mostly due to the expert management and organisation skills of Phyllida Cornfield who arranges each outing scheduling all the finer details particularly taking into account the individual needs of each client. As a result our fully accessible mini-bus, housed at Walsingham Lodge in Ferry Road is used to capacity on a daily basis. More often than not second and third buses are required for other outings. The total number of single journeys taken in groups in 2007 was 8116.

Along with our full time paid minibus driver, Clive Wallis, we are extremely lucky to have the wonderful help of a pool of fully trained willing volunteer minibus drivers. This enables us to have the flexibility to produce a full programme of outings as well as providing transport for other community groups in the area and maintain the service when Clive is on leave.

FiSH'n'Chats, the social listening outreach project, continues on Wednesday and Thursday morning at Sheen Lane Centre and once a month at Lady Elizabeth House in Mortlake, Diana House and Walsingham Lodge in Barnes. It has taken 529 individual volunteer sessions to provide coffee and to listen to a total of 1257 client visits. This service offers an opportunity for those often isolated in the community to spend some quality time with volunteers willing to give support through listening.

Training for volunteers included First Aid, Moving and Handling, "Learning to Listen" and minibus training (offered through RaKAT, our transport partner.) Ongoing training is available throughout the year via support meetings for office staff, Helpline volunteers, and FiSh'n'Chats leaders and volunteers. Individual support is always available from the office staff or via feedback forms included with newsletters and other mailings.

FiSH talks on Tuesday mornings at Barnes Green Centre have grown in popularity and now have a regular audience of about 50 people. In total 1135 people attended the different talks throughout the year. These events are designed to stimulate the mind and attract many people from outside our normal client circle.

2007 saw several FiSH events including a very successful day at Barnes Fair in July and the establishment of a FiSH French Group bringing together French speakers who are isolated in the community because of mobility problems. The FiSH Sunday service of dedication was held at Barnes Methodist Church on October 7th and looked at the work of FiSH - "The Whole FiSH". Once again we had some very moving contributions from clients and volunteers; with a central address by Leslie Spatt about how the name and aims of the FiSH Scheme related to the whole of the community it serves.

It has been another busy year for FiSH of growth and consolidation. It could not, of course, have achieved anything without the dedicated support of the churches in our local parishes. On behalf of FiSH I would like to thank St. Mary's Barnes for your continued commitment to our work within this community and for your support as some of our most dedicated volunteers.

Jenny Hughes –
FiSH Coordinator

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship committee is responsible for encouraging responsible stewardship, if you see what I mean.

You will see from the accounts how dependent St Mary's is on the income from giving by the congregation.

You can also see there what we spend the funds on, to pursue our mission in Barnes. But taking on commitments is difficult without some assurance of adequate levels of income.

So the church – in Barnes and nationally – encourages all our members to give regularly. A Standing Order gives us assurance that we can invest in our activities.

Many of us do have standing orders or have joined our regular envelope

scheme. If you don't, yet, can you commit to a standing order?

The amount you give depends on your income and other commitments of course. As a starting point for reflection the church nationally aspires to its members giving 5% of their income. Whether this is practicable or not for you, the lesson for us all is that £1 in the plate when we come to church leaves all the burden on the rest of the congregation.

And the third point is that we cannot afford to pass up the 22% subsidy from the taxman that the Gift Aid system provides if you pay tax.

The committee is now launching a three year appeal to raise the amount of money the PCC needs to balance its accounts over the period to 2010. We commend the appeal to you.

Peter Boyling

MISSION GROUP

The group has continued to encourage the congregation to support two specific projects namely Under Tree Schools (UTS) and the Castelnaud Centre Project (CCP) and to raise the awareness of Mission to the whole congregation.

Under Tree Schools

See also Peter Boyling's report below.

During the year Joseph and his family continued to live in the Barnes Team Ministry house at 52 Boileau Road, while Joseph has of course spent most of his time in the Sudan in his position in the Southern Sudanese Government as Director of Religious Affairs based in Juba. This has enabled him to have more direct control of the project. Ross has continued as a UTS Trustee and Peter Boyling as its Honorary Administrator. St Mary's and various members of the congregation have continued to carry out a number of fund raising initiatives on behalf of UTS, see Appendix 1.

The first phase of the construction of the new school is now complete and this is to a large extent due to the funds raised by St Mary's and its congregation.

On the afternoon and evening of Saturday 5 May, Rev. Simon Airey held a story telling event at St Mary's in aid of UTS. Interspersed between the children's stories and those for the adults, the Mission Group helped organise a supper, comprising Sudanese food prepared by Karin and a BBQ for the children.

On Saturday, 30 June UTS held its Annual General Meeting at St Mary's. Joseph and Karin gave a presentation on the current position of the new building in Malek. Sue Adams kindly provided and donated lunch for all those present.

On Wednesday, 12 September Christabel Gairdner gave a lunchtime piano recital which raised a total of £900 for UTS.

At the Christmas Fair and on the Sundays leading up to Christmas members of the Mission Group sold UTS Gift Certificates and Christmas Cards.

On 12 January the Kit4Kids Sale was held in Kitson Hall. Charlie Grainger, SJ Sedwill, Kathryn Clement, Lucinda Powell and Karin Ayok-Loewenberg organised a sale of new and second-hand children's clothes, toys, equipment with a workshop on Sudan and Sudanese Food available. The Pathfinders helped in setting up and running the event. Over £2000 was raised. This event is planned again for 24 January 2009.

Castelnau Centre Project

Geoffrey Barnett remains as Chairman and Peter Boyling as a Trustee
See the separate section by Geoffrey.

Each year following recommendations from the Group, the PCC allocates within the St Mary's annual budget an amount for mission/outreach. This year the allocated amount was £8,000. In previous years we have tended to give half the allocation to local causes and half to overseas projects. In view of the substantial funds raised over the last year for UTS by

the St Mary's congregation as a whole, the Group decided that a greater proportion of this year's giving by the PCC should be allocated to local causes and in fact 65% of the PCC's allocation was made in this way. Locally we have supported the Castelnau Centre Project (£2,100), Diocese of Southwark Welcare (£1,888), Fish (£400) and SPEAR (£300), Shenehom Housing Association (£300) and St Luke's Hospital (£250). Overseas the PCC's allocation was limited to £2,762 for UTS, but see also the list in Appendix 1 of other projects supported by members of the St Mary's congregation.

During Lent, Fiona Smith, Fiona Barnett, Celia Cleave, Karin Ayok-Loewenberg and I gave short presentations at the beginning of the 10.00 am services, asking for the congregation's support for the five projects being supported by the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2008. I am pleased to say that following the application last year made by the Mission Group, UTS was selected as one of the projects to be supported by this year's Lent Call and hopefully this should contribute between and £15,000 and £20,000 to UTS's activities.

During the year the Group met eight times. The other members of the Group are Ross, Joseph and Karin Ayok-Loewenberg, Philip Bladen, Fiona Barnett, Peter Boyling, Fiona and John Smith, Celia Cleave,

Margaret Collenette, Eleanor Ennals, Cynthia Brown and Markham Jackson. Jean Lawrence was a member of the group but after her severe stroke on Boxing Day 2006 she was unable to attend any more of our meetings and sadly she died on 2 January. Eleanor Ennals was a member of the group for several years but since the year end has decided to stand down and we are very grateful for her work with the Group. We are always anxious to have new members of the Group.

Tim Budgen
Chairman

CASTELNAU CENTRE PROJECT

I hope by now you know something of the Castelnau Centre Project. It has been one of our priority mission projects for over two years and it's six years since St Mary's people first became involved.

The Centre, in Stillingfleet Road, close to Lowther School, seeks to promote a vibrant, self-sustaining community on the Castelnau estate. There's a staff team of seven, all but one part time, under the management of Marie Ellis, who's been in post for just over three years.

Highlights of the last year have been significant growth in all age activity, exemplified by the opening of the Community Internet suite, very visibly right at the front of the Centre, in November, by the

recruitment of a professional family support worker through WelCare to work with parents and children facing acute problems and by a successful application to the Big Lottery Fund to pay for some key core salaries over three years.

But working with children and young people from toddler to school leaver remains at the heart of the work. The mothers and toddlers group goes from strength to strength and there are plans to extend after school provision to five afternoons a week during term time in partnership with Lowther School.

Marie Ellis, CCP manager, chairs the North Barnes Children's Centre Partnership Board which brings into a working partnership the key agencies delivering services to children and their families on the estate, including the school and CCP, the Primary Care Trust, Richmond Housing Partnership, the police and the Council's early years team. It's hoped there will be a good CCP presence again in the parade at Barnes Fair and there will be a summer evening event at the Centre for the community on 3 July. Come along and meet the team and the community.

Peter Boyling and I are two of the eight trustees of the charity. Three of them are residents on the Castelnau estate. Philippa Marshall was appointed full time adult development worker in January. Juliet Hogan supports a Wednesday

evening Allotment Club for children. Chris Madeley offers professional support as a psychotherapist to the staff team.

Geoffrey Barnett

UNDER TREE SCHOOLS

The project is aimed at building and running a school for girls aged 7-15 in Southern Sudan. It is the vision of Revd Joseph Ayok-Loewenberg, who ran makeshift schools for children during the civil war with the north and is setting up a permanent school now that a peace agreement has been made.

Good progress has been made in beginning to build the school, despite the difficulties. Joseph has had to buy cement and wood hundreds of miles from the school site and truck them there over roads which are impassable in the wet season. Over recent months the troubles in Kenya have disrupted the imports of materials on which Southern Sudan construction work still depends.

UTS trustees aim to build not only the school but also a continuing relationship between the local community and ourselves in England. We were particularly disappointed therefore that our first visit to the school has just had to be postponed because of tensions in the area between North and South over

oil. We hope calmer times will soon return.

Meanwhile the building work goes on and with it the need to raise the remaining funds needed to complete and furnish the buildings. The UTS trustees are particularly pleased that Ross has agreed to take on the chairmanship of trustees, as from March 2008. We are planning that the AGM of the charity this year should, as in 2007, be held at St Mary's, which is one of our major funders.

Peter Boyling
UTS administrator

FABRIC COMMITTEE

The committee met five times in the year. In addition there were a number of meetings of smaller groups, undertaking inspections, maintenance, clearing and repair work. The continuing members of the committee were: Ross Collins, Philip Bladen, Tim Budgen, Monty Brown, John Deards, Angie Forster, Trisha Hawkins (Secretary), Alan Mitchell, Iain Radford and myself (Chair).

A major project has been the planning for the Garden of Remembrance. We finally received encouraging signs from the Diocese in autumn 07, subject to our also receiving planning permission from Richmond Council, which came through in January 08. By the end

of January we received a Faculty from the Diocese. By early March we had added items to the specification, as it will be cost effective for the church, once the builders are on site, to carry out a number of additional tasks such as levelling uneven areas. We have also discussed with the Church architect the construction of a disabled-friendly slope from the "circle" up to the NE office door. We plan to carry out the extensive churchyard works in 2008.

Another major project being planned is a new heating system for the main church, in place of the existing blowers, which are noisy, nearing the end of their useful life and inimical to the organ. We commissioned a report from ENG (Martin Dow) on the pros and cons of different systems, and are now developing plans in conjunction with ENG and the Church architect. We want to try to maximise the extent of unseen sources of heat and radiation, making use (if we can) of underfloor in the central nave section, and also making use of existing trenches at the N end, behind, the High Altar, and in the Langton Chapel. We don't yet know the extent of necessary visible radiators – almost certainly somewhere in the medieval church and perhaps elsewhere in the Nave and/or Sanctuary area. We are also receiving advice from the Carbon Trust (arranged for free by the Diocese).

Following an inspection of the churchyard monuments and tombs in January, we have set up a working party to oversee appropriate monitoring and repair, with proposed expenditure on outside contractors being routed through the Fabric Committee. The working party members (Alan Mitchell, Maisie Brown and Brenda Moore) have identified 15 tombs for priority treatment.

We are also working closely with the Garden Committee on the best action in respect of two sycamores, one of which threatens the SE wall and the other a large monument in the NE of the garden. We're awaiting written permission from the Council to remove the two trees (with the SE corner having some smaller trees in place of the sycamore).

An electrical installation check has been carried out, and almost all the necessary work completed. There have been improvements to the high level lighting of the Sanctuary, and the lighting in the Melvill Room.

The church locks for the NW and NE entrances have been replaced. The same key now opens both doors. Key holders are recorded.

A number of plumbing tasks were carried out, including a new radiator in the Sacristy and a new combi boiler for the NW rooms.

In January we carried out a self-assessment of our fire prevention procedures. There will be some follow up action in 2008, including improved signage. We have also reviewed the Fire Evacuation procedures, reminded all users (plus Sidesmen/Friends) and placed updated notices around the church.

We have replaced the main notice board by the lych gate. It is in the same blue colour, designed for a longer life and includes the logos, as recommended, for the Church of England and the Diocese.

We have removed the frayed carpet from the Sacristy.

We have produced outline designs for the office a the new curate expected in autumn 08 (W end of Kitson Room). More discussions will take place to ensure that we're dealing with the legitimate requirements of other users and that material no longer needed in the room is relocated or disposed of.

An updated contact list of suppliers to the church has been drawn up. There is a copy in the church office.

We have contributed to the "think tank" discussions for better organisation of material at the back of the church. The area has already improved and more discussions are taking place to further improve the layout.

Our church, with a lot of different

users, is constantly in need of maintenance and tidying. We're very grateful to a great number of people (both individuals and groups such as the Good Companions), in addition to committee members, who have helped.

A particular thank you to two committee members who are standing down at the end of the year. Angie Forster has made a great contribution: organising, cleaning, clearing and tidying. Monty Brown has been an outstanding member of the committee for 12 years. His engineering knowledge and practical skills have been central to our work. We hope we can continue to approach him from time to time on repairs and servicing issues.

Nick Phillips

KITSON HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Kitson Hall provides a terrific space for a wide range of church and community activities. The hall is regularly used for dinners and receptions as well as daily neighbourhood activities, all of which enhance community life.

The hall continues to be used for Junior Church and Sparklers groups as well as other church activities.

Of particular note this year, the hall played host to a number of fund raising initiatives for St Mary's. Not least, the Kit4Kids sale, the

Christmas fair and the Barnes Charity Ball pre-dinner reception.

There were some personnel changes to the hall management team as Maria Bryant took over from Penny Watkins as booking secretary and Charlotte Kramer became chairperson.

Charlotte is now establishing a proactive management committee to oversee and to plan for the future of the hall. The team will include members from hall management, the community as well as representation from the hall users and the PCC.

In addition, some minor renovation works are planned and opportunities for developing the income stream are being reviewed.

Local businesses have shown great support for hall and its importance within the community. For example, Barnard Marcus has made a financial contribution towards some maintenance projects.

The ongoing success of the hall facilitates a substantial and valuable financial contribution to St. Mary's, easing the burden of the congregation.

Charlotte Kramer

CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE

Work has now started in earnest to clear the north-east corner and tombs

area prior to setting up the new Garden of Remembrance and to lay a new York stone path replacing the existing gravel, thus for the first time making all the paved areas a homogeneous whole, of a pleasing permanent stone which will be easier to maintain than the gravel. The tombs area was infested with pernicious weeds and masses of ivy which in places invaded the tombs themselves. Accordingly I sent in a firm recommended by Neville Otty who have done what proved to be an immensely tough job very well and nicely gave the church a 10% discount!

Work parties continue monthly with the loyal team of Margaret and Mike Marjoram and Elizabeth Cowie and we do all the regular garden jobs - pruning, dead-heading, weeding and watering. And tending the Garden of Remembrance - in regular use as a place of solace for mourners so it has to look good all year round. And we were very heartened to receive the proceeds from Brian and Janice Turk's coffee morning which has bought scented honeysuckle, Roses "Margaret Merrill" and "Holy Rose of Abyssinia" a lovely old wild rose as well as Hidcote lavenders and some Penstemon "Jean Grace" to commemorate Jean Lawrence.

Margaret and I ran a coffee morning in September which raised money towards printing the colour postcards of the churchyard from a lovely photograph taken by Norman. These postcards are now available at the

back of the church and the BCA also asked for some which they will sell at Rose House.

In September the Good Companions had a Work Party to clear the North Path and Kitson Hall. John Deards organised this in his customary exemplary fashion - even laying on a splendid lunch for the team - and we also erected three very large wooden mulch cages to take all our green waste, leaves (of which we have masses and which we plan to turn into leaf mould. John went to a great deal of trouble to choose the right ones for our needs which will stand the test of time and do the job it's supposed to, as well as arranging delivery. The sweepers put their leaves there and the flower arrangers can also put all compostable material in it and the office adds all shredded paper so our aim is to be as green as the Diocese would like us to be! And we will aim to use Tristram to spread the made mulch annually which, in the event of drought is a vital resource.

My warm thanks to Giles Dimock for the job he does cutting the grass - it is no mean feat and time consuming when you look at the terrain but it looks so good when he's done it and we all enjoy the result.

My thanks to the Unsung heroes - the path sweepers John Deards, Patrick Findlater, Iain Radford, David Barrie, Richard Howe, John Smith, Brian Turk, Anthony and

Patsy Miller, Markham Jackson and to Patrick for organising the roster in customary efficient manner. If ever there is a blip in this "service" we know what a mess it can look so it is a source of quiet pride that this job is done so faithfully.

Brenda Moore

THE THINK TANK

Mission

The Think Tank's mission is to propose to the PCC ways to increase the number of parishioners who seek to become actively involved as contributing members of St. Mary's Church, both financially and in other ways.

How do we plan to achieve our objectives?

We are a small group who hope to act as initiators of ideas, facilitators and supporters of people who take on organising roles. It is not our intention, nor are we able, to implement all our proposals ourselves. Indeed, it is our mission to involve a wider proportion of the congregation in running and supporting the activities of this church.

Our priorities in 2007 were to find ways to:

- Create an inclusive, welcoming atmosphere at St. Mary's

- Make it easier for people to get involved and contribute to the life of St. Mary's
- Increase the number of members who commit to regular giving
- Improve methods of communication within the congregation and between the church and the wider community.

Specifically, in the last year we have been involved with the following:

- Expanded presence on Barnes Fair day, July 14.
- Expanded Christmas Fair, Nov. 17.
- Sale of Children's clothes (Kit for Kids)
- Reviewed the use of space at the back of the church
- Planned a new format for this year's Annual Meeting on April 30.

Silke Creswell was a founder member who conceived the idea of Kit for Kids. We miss her on our team but warmly welcome Charlotte Kramer who has recently joined us. New members always welcome!

Michael Murison (Chair), Elena Fletcher, Trisha Hawkins, Juliet Hogan, Charlotte Kramer.

SIDESMEN

The last year has seen some coming and going among the sidesmen. It is very nice to welcome back Ken and

Tiziana George, but sad to lose Wiz and Sue Dundas, although both are on emergency stand by, as is David Greenwood.

The 11.30 service is not within my remit, but I understand that the new team have the situation well under control. I have volunteered to add their roster to this schedule, but at present they are happy to stay with their own systems.

The 10.00 am service is I think running smoothly, although high days and feast days continue to present problems but that is as ever was and probably ever will be!

The 8.00 team are their usual reliable selves and appear to be working well.

This brings us to the evensong service that is looked after by Wendy Kyrle-Pope and Alastair Mackie between them, and to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. In fairness they are helped out for the Choral Evensong services by a number of people, but principally Andrew Summers.

The current list of sidesmen is as follows; David Barrie, David Blacklock, Claire Boyling, Brian and Celia Cleave, Patrick Findlater, Charles Goldsmith, David Heyhoe, Ken Hitchcock, Wendy Kyrle-Pope, Desmond and Josephine Macdermott, Alastair Mackie, Alan Mitchell, Nick Phillips, Ferylith Reay, Peter Siddall, Fiona Smith,

Andrew Summers, Joan Wheeler-Bennett, Jonathon and Emma Wilson, Marjorie Wing and Ken and Tiziana George.

When I took over from Giles Dimock. I told Ross that I would undertake the role for three years; that was in 2005! I intend to retire from the role when I reach the advanced age of 70, which will be in May 2009, God willing. Ladies and gentlemen, you have been warned!

Tony Dundas

PASTORAL SUPPORT GROUP

We continue to meet monthly with Ross to see between us where there is need to offer pastoral support. Jackie, Christabel and I continue to visit Viera Gray House weekly – Jackie with the trolley (selling small items residents might like). Christabel shares taking the monthly communion service with Father Paul. Jackie continues as a member of the chaplaincy team at Barnes Hospital. Margaret Williams likes to send a card to any parishioner who is in hospital – so please let her know if you know of anyone who is ill.

With members of the other churches in Barnes a bereavement support group is being started which I hope will enable those in need of help to find it.

Do let one of us know if you or anyone you know would like to be

visited.

Fiona Barnett, Margaret Collenette, Eleanor Ennals, Christabel Gairdner, Alastair Mackie, Jackie Northen.

Fiona Barnett

MUSIC

Music at St. Mary's continues to flourish; most significantly this year was the re-establishment of the Junior Choir whose membership now totals fifteen and is still increasing. The Junior Choir sings with the Senior Choir once-a-month but as numbers grow, and standards increase, we hope to integrate them more and more with the Senior Choir.

The total membership of the Senior Choir stands close to 35 whilst the Junior Choir numbers around 15, giving a total of 50 people on the books. Of course, that number contains quite a few 'occasionals' who are only able to join for special events and on an average Sunday morning we can expect 15 who still continue to sing an anthem after the sermon. I remain immensely grateful to their commitment in what is a very busy part of the world!

It was a great pleasure for us to appoint three new Choral Scholars at the start of the year: Emma Laws (soprano), Emily Tann (alto) and Nived Lobo (tenor). They have all been a welcome addition and I hope

will continue to benefit from the experience. Sam Chandler was appointed organ scholar having gained the organ scholarship to Jesus College, Oxford – a post which he takes up in October. The encouragement of young musicians is a very important part of our work here and we remain grateful to those members of the congregation who have been so generous in donating to the scheme.

Our monthly Choral Evensongs have become well-established now and pull in an ever-increasing crowd.

Other events to mention include 'Sing Barnes', an event organised by both myself and Andrew Summers to raise money for the Friends of St. Mary's. Around 60 singers (including the Westminster Junior Singers, directed by Caroline Lenton-Ward) took part in this wonderful evening which took a 'Last night of the Proms' theme. In May the choir took part in Choral Scholar Afternoon Tea concert which was well-received and in June I gave a recital with Cara Berridge, cellist with the Sacconi Quartet.

Howard Goodall is currently hard at work on a new communion setting for the parish, for which we are very grateful. Howard is of course a 'local' to St. Mary's as well as being an internationally renowned composer and we await his commission with great anticipation. Many more exciting things are planned for the coming year and we

are always happy to welcome anybody who would like to contribute to the musical life of St. Mary's in whichever way they are able.

Cameron Burns
Director of Music and Organist

BELL RINGERS

Once again I can report a busy year with regular ringing for Services at Barnes and also considerable help and support for and at other towers in the area.

We have continued to ring for the main Service on Sundays with all eight bells manned most weeks, though, for various reasons, ringing for other Sunday Services has declined further. Also our quarter peal attempts and main practice on Friday nights, our training sessions and beginners practices on Saturday morning and monthly Thursday night beginners method practices have all continued to be regularly supported.

We enjoyed three main trips: our winter outing in January to towers in the Guildford area, our 5-day Summer Tour to Kent and the Sussex border in July and a visit to the Whitechapel bell foundry, followed by ringing at three towers in the vicinity and the inevitable curry in Brick Lane, in October.

Edmund Hartley
Captain of the Tower

SACRISTANS, SERVERS AND SATURDAY HELPERS

Nothing further to report this year but to thank Fiona Barnett, Lucy Hine, Betty Gravestock and Elizabeth Casson for their help. I would welcome extra assistance if anybody would like to volunteer.

Sally Copland

FLOWER ARRANGERS

As I walked into church in the Summer for the Under Trees Schools AGM, Joseph had set up a screen in front of the altar showing a rural Sudanese scene – framed by our stunning arrangements of sun flowers – ‘sheep may safely graze’ came to mind – it took my breath away and it brought home to me strongly the fact that flowers do have a part to play in our worship.

It was another year of many weddings of all shapes and sizes finishing up with a wonderful Christmas one on the day before Christmas Eve – the bride and groom chose to have a Christmas tree filled with lights for their marriage in the Langton Chapel – the bride in her kind letter of thanks said it felt so special and intimate and their friends wished that St. Mary’s was their local church!

Harvest was again a beautiful tableau of all things green and vegetable – quite an achievement

after a freak weather pattern this summer – but the rains came in time for the pumpkins to grow all over the place and intrigue us with their unusual colours and shapes.

Annie Bond has kindly donated our super new urns in memory of her husband Derek and we have all enjoyed doing some wonderful and impressive arrangements – I like to think styles in Church flowers as well as everything else have moved on and its nice to be away from the stilted pedestal triangle and indeed gain some points for not disposing of large amounts of oasis!

The team of Nicky Urquhart, Annie Bond, occasionally Judith Walker and Anne Sadler have been joined by Celia Fielder who has returned to Barnes after many years – we are delighted to welcome her and she is very calm and talented – please can I ask again for others to come and join us – its not all work – we do stop for coffee afterwards.

Finally whilst we do weddings and funerals – we love decorating the font for Christenings so please consider that as a possibility.

Sue Adams
020 8748 2040
Sue.adams@btinternet.com

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

We continue to meet on the first Monday of each month in one or

other of our houses to pray for those we know to be in particular need or those for whom our prayers have been asked. It would always be good to expand our awareness of those who would like to be prayed for and indeed anyone who might like to join our small group.

Do please contact one of us if there is a person or situation you would like to draw to our attention.

Evelyn Barquin has joined the group during the last year.

Margaret Collenette, Lucy Hine, Nigel Makepeace, Evelyn Barquin, Fiona Barnett.

Fiona Barnett

BOOK GROUP

Encouraged by St Michael’s who already had a book group, last year we launched St Mary’s book group. A few people from the congregation have been reading books they have chosen together and then meeting for a short discussion. We have read five fascinating books over the year; most recently ‘Tokens of Trust’ by Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, which we chose as our ‘favourite’ book of the year. We devoted three meetings to this book and were pleased that Ross joined us to lead the first of these. In April we are planning a joint meeting with the St. Michael’s book group which will be led by Fr. Paul Holland.

The group is very fluid and participants can decide whether they want to join in reading each book. Members of the group this year have included: Peter Boyling, Margaret Collenette, Patti Darke, Rosie Findlater, Christabel Gairdner, Lucy Hine, Alan Mitchell, James Moore and Nicola Wood. We hope to continue next year and details of the book we are reading will be in the pew sheet, so if you are interested please join us.

Celia Cleave

SATURDAY COFFEE SHOP

For those of you who may be unaware a coffee shop with homemade cakes is run every Saturday in the Melvill Room. Different volunteers run it each week and select a charity for which they would like to raise a small sum of money. If you have never done this and would like to, please get in touch with me. It’s a very enjoyable way of meeting and talking to those who come!

Fiona Barnett

FRIENDS OF ST MARY’S

The aims of The Friends of St Mary’s Barnes are to raise funds for the upkeep of the church building and churchyard, to promote public awareness of its place in the history and life of Barnes and, through the

Daily Friends, to ensure that it is open to the public every day. 2007/08 has been another busy year for the Friends and we are delighted to have raised £25,000 this year for St Mary's from our activities. We also published a leaflet on Legacies to encourage people to consider including a legacy to St Mary's in their wills as a way of expressing generosity at a level often not possible in life.

In May the Lyra Vocal Ensemble from St Petersburg, on tour in the UK, gave us a concert with an enchanting programme of traditional Russian Orthodox Music and Russian Folk Songs. In July we hosted *Sing Barnes* as part of the first *Sing London* festival and St Mary's was filled with people singing English Choral Classics. Led by the Westminster Junior Singers and the Sing Barnes Scratch Choir, conducted by Cameron Burns, the programme ranged from Handel to Novello and from Mendelssohn to Elgar, finishing with a last-night style finale of Rule Britannia and Jerusalem.

In November we held our annual Choral Evensong at which our guest preacher was Rt Rev Dr Tom Butler, Bishop of Southwark. He preached a most thoughtful sermon relating St Mary's long and varied history to the present day with 150 people enjoying not just the sermon but also the final choral music from the St Mary's Barnes Choir led by

Cameron Burns, and the refreshments afterwards.

In February, we held the second Barnes Charity Ball, following on from the successful first event in 2007. This year the theme was Mardi Gras which encouraged many people to come masked to the champagne reception where they were entertained by the Innuendo Sax Quartet and by dancers and musicians from the London School of Samba. They then moved into a candle-lit St Mary's Church where they enjoyed an excellent dinner provided by Tourelle Cuisine and entertainment from the IDMC Soul Singers. There was excited bidding for the amazing auction prizes, expertly led by Ross Collins with help from Gavin Chittick, and then followed the main entertainment of the evening The Fabbagirls, one of whom lives in Barnes, who got everyone dancing to well-known Abba songs. The whole event generated a surplus of £45,000 to go to The Friends of St Mary's Barnes, Under Tree Schools and Castelnau Community Centre and many thanks go to the organising committee led by Helena Wiseman for a wonderful event.

This year the funds generated have been used to pay for all the church and garden maintenance as well as the annual contribution to the quinquennial fund. In addition the Friends this year have funded new lighting and sound systems, repairs to the weathervane, piano servicing and high-level cleaning. Funds have

also been committed to paving the churchyard paths with York stone and to the new heating system when that is decided.

The Advisory Council of the Friends of St Mary's Barnes is drawn from people connected with St Mary's and the wider community of Barnes and consists of Ross Collins, Fiona Barnett, David Barrie, Philip Bladen, Maisie Brown, Tim Budgen, Richard du Parcq, Angie Forster, David Greenwood, Charles Haswell, Christopher Morgan and Derek Senhenn. I am most grateful for their enthusiasm and support for all the Friends activities and we are looking forward to more enjoyable events in 2008/09 which will include a concert by Aled Jones on 23 May and another Barnes Charity Ball in February 2009.

Andrew Summers
Chairman, Friends of St Mary's
Barnes

DAILY FRIENDS

Once again thanks go to all those kind friends of St Mary's who give their time once a fortnight to keep the church open during weekday mornings allowing visitors to use the church to come in and look around and maybe to say a prayer. Allotted areas are also given a good sweep and dust which is much appreciated by everyone.

It gives me pleasure to publish the

names of the helpers. There are still some vacancies so if you think you could spare an hour every other week between 10.30 and 12.30, then please will you get in touch with the Church office - Tel. No :- 020 8741 5422 or contact me Angie Forster to see if a time to suit you can be arranged. Tel. No:- 020 8876 2402

Names on Rota (and see appendix 2)
Miss Sue Adams, Mrs Maisie Brown, Mrs Hilary Cooper, Mr Giles Dimock, Miss Angie Forster, Mrs Rachael Garrett, Mrs Diana Green, Mr John Hopkinson, Mrs Jean Konrdatuik, Mr Nigel Makepeace, Mrs Benita Matthews, Mrs Pam Middleton, Mrs Jo MacDermott, Mr Alan Mitchell, Mr Vic Nolan, Mrs Wendy Kyrle Pope (and Bessie her dog), Sir Alan Reay, Mrs Anne Sadleir, Mrs Jean Sheldrake, Mrs Sue Squire, Mrs Joan Thomas, Mrs Marjorie Wing, Mrs M. Williams, Lady White, Mrs Marilyn Walker, Mrs Joan Woods.

Angie Forster

ST MARY'S SCRAPBOOK

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed items for the scrapbook during the past year, especially those whose photographs ensured that the first Barnes Charity Ball, St. Mary's on Barnes Fair Day, the Christmas Fair and the Sing Barnes Concert among several other events are now graphically recorded in the current book. I should like

also to thank the family members who contributed photographs of the St. Mary's children at their first Communion and Ferelith Reay who responded to my plea for a photo of the finale of the 2007 Nativity Play.

Leaflets, written reports and photographs concerning the various groups and activities which go to make up the daily life of St. Mary's are always welcome, so please keep them coming. Contributions in envelopes addressed to me may be left in the church office or on the scrapbook table.

Maisie Brown

WEBSITE

Website: www.stmarybarnes.org

By the time this report is printed it is likely that St Mary's 'new-look' website will be almost ready to launch, or maybe it will even have done so already. Jill Wigney has been developing her technical skills during the last year and now with a terrific offer of help from Craig Boundy, one of our congregation and a professional in the IT field, we have been able to move forward.

The new site will offer everything that was on the old site with a number of new facilities. Using the modern technology incorporated in the church's new sound system we plan to have a 'listen again' option for sermons and even services such

as choral evensong. There will also be interactive areas perhaps with a 'blog' page from Ross telling us about his activities and another inviting queries about faith. There will be a link with automatic updates to news from the Church of England website, as well as a 'jobs at St Mary's' page with ideas for anyone who would like to volunteer even a small amount of their time. Kitson Hall information will be added to the site so that anyone hoping to use or hire the hall can find out when it is likely to be available and how to make contact.

The main aim is to have a site which gives a feel of who we are, one which motivates people to engage with us and which explores issues of faith and how they connect with our lives. As always, we welcome ideas and suggestions from the congregation so if there is a way in which the site could be improved to suit your needs then please let us know!

Tricia Hawkins

PARISH OFFICE

The church is busy, therefore the office is always busy, and time goes so quickly. After two years, I think I'm getting the hang of things, although some still escape my notice. If you think something could be improved in the way it is done or presented, please telephone or email me, or drop by and tell me

personally. Thank you to those who have helped me in any way during the year, and to those of you who constantly respond to the never-ending pleas for people to take part in the church services/events. Please keep me updated with changes to your telephone numbers, addresses or email addresses.

Peter Kain
Parish Administrator

GOLDEN GIRLS

Following Jean Lawrence's retirement and subsequent tragic illness, the Golden Girls lapsed into hibernation for a while, but it would have been too sad if the enterprise she had founded should disband permanently. We therefore reformed on 20 June 2007 when Joan Woods held a delightful inaugural tea party in her garden, which was attended by 28 members.

We have since met for tea parties hosted by Unity Harvey and Loraine Budgen, Fiona Barnett and Sarah Kearney, a lunch hosted by Margaret Marjoram and Brenda Moore and enjoyed a Christmas lunch at The Bulls Head. We also visited The Orange Tree theatre and Squire's garden centre. Several outings are arranged for 2008 when we hope to spread our wings a little.

This undertaking is a very steep learning curve for me which I could not manage alone. Fortunately I

have the great support of Loraine Budgen whose organising experience is invaluable. Hopefully we shall continue to further Jean's concept as she would have wished.

Hilary Cooper

GOOD COMPANIONS

We are now in our eighth year and have an active membership of about 55. We have continued with our men's lunches, usually once a month when we meet at a member's house and bring with us wine, cheese, pate, fruit etc. During the year lunches have been hosted by John Kelly, Nick Willan, John Smith, Michael Marjoram, Markham Jackson, Adrian Roebuck, Dick Buttle, Tim Budgen and George Brown. In addition to these, we have had several lunches at the Bull's Head and Allen & Jeanne Chubb invited a group of us and our wives down to their new house at Haslemere.

As well as our lunches, we have had a tour of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry followed by lunch at the Pride of Spitalfields, a group of us visited Toynbee Hall to hear the Archbishop of Canterbury's lecture "Multiculturalism Friend or Foe", which was followed by a curry in Brick Lane. Some of us visited Fullers Brewery and Hogarth House and on 31 July some of us visited All Saints' Church, Fulham where Joe Hawes gave us a guided tour of the church and churchyard and

afterwards we visited Fulham Palace. In November a small group of us attended the Remembrance Concert at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, Ian Glennie, one of our members and a Blue Badge Guide, gave us a guided tour of Westminster Memorials old & new and 16 of us went to the Barnes Charity Players' production of Cinderella and several of our group were in the cast.

In July, 48 of us attended a champagne/bubbly evening in Andrew and Frances Summers's lovely house and garden in Station Road. We had to dodge a few showers but the evening remained fine for the most part. We concluded the evening with a "sing along" led by Frances at the piano, Frances had previously prepared a Good Companions Song Sheet.

A group of us are continuing our walk along the length of the Thames, during the year we covered the section from Sonning to Oxford and overall we have now walked from the Barrier to Oxford. After the walk ending in Radley, we went back to Nick and Katherine Phillips's house in Oxford where they gave us an excellent tea and after which we had a guided tour of the area. Brian Turk organises each of our walks, which entails doing a reconnaissance beforehand, booking the Fish minibus and most important of all arranging somewhere suitable to stop for lunch. Vic Nolan has again covered every section, not bad

going considering he is close to 88. In addition to our Thames walks, Alan Sillitoe organised another walk in Surrey, this time in the area around Headley Heath. With the exception of our men's lunches, our wives join us on all our trips, also various friends join us on the walks and in fact everyone is very welcome on these.

On 28 September John Deards organised another St Mary's/Kitson Hall work party. This time we erected compost bins, cleared undergrowth, and took three van loads of rubbish to the tip. Afterwards we sat down to another of John's nutritious lunches.

Forthcoming events include a visit to the British Museum led by John Smith and a coach tour of the various Olympic sites.

Tim Budgen

BAPTISMS AT ST MARY'S

We have had some fabulous Baptisms over the year, and have welcomed many wonderful children into the family of the Church. To help everyone feel comfortable and get the most out of their child's baptism, Ross and I meet the families beforehand in a convivial atmosphere over supper, and a welcome glass or two of wine, kindly hosted by a recent Baptism family. The Baptism suppers have proved very successful over the years, allowing parents to get to

know the other families sharing their child's big day, giving them an opportunity to familiarise themselves about what happens in the service, and to discover what St. Mary's has to offer families. None of this would happen without the generosity of the host families, to whom we are extremely grateful, and hope the tradition, will long continue.

Emma Powell

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

There has been some change in the team over the course of last year, with Mark & Silke Cresswell moving to Canada and Richard & Joanne Nickels taking a break from the group for an extended period. We welcomed two new couples to take their places: Ian & Aphra Brandreth-Stroud and James & Jo Battersby. These new couples were trained in November by Rosemary Hurry (who continues to be a strong supporter to the team) and in a workshop with the existing team and Rosemary in January this year. Overall in 2007, there were 13 couples who underwent the marriage preparation sessions, a slight increase over the previous year.

The team had two meetings with supper last year, to talk generally about how sessions have been, and talk about new ideas. In mid-June, the first "Celebration of Marriage Service" was held at St. Mary's, an idea which was initiated and

arranged by the Marriage Preparation team. This was an opportunity for all couples who had married at one of the churches in the parish over the last few years, to attend a special service followed by refreshments. They were able to meet members of the congregation, clergy, marriage prep. team, and other couples who'd married in Barnes, as well as showing each other a few wedding photos! All who attended felt it was a lovely service that should become an annual event, and so a second service is planned for the Autumn either at St. Mary's or St. Michael's.

Sarah Allen

CHILDREN AT ST MARY'S

This is my last report as Children's Pastor, as I have decided to return to school based teaching, though of course much of what I have been involved in over the last six years has involved some of the most enjoyable aspects of teaching. I have had small motivated groups, the chance to get to know children well over the years, and the privilege of helping nurture children's awareness of God's presence and love in their lives. I can honestly say I have probably learned more from the children, and their unique perspectives, than they have from me.

This is best illustrated in the Admission to Holy Communion which takes place in May every year.

Last year saw a small select group of eight, and this year there are fifteen candidates who are prepared to undertake a fairly lengthy course of preparation. I believe this represents St Mary's approach to children at its best; we are able to offer a truly inter-generational approach, with our team of volunteers from the congregation able to guide and encourage the children, and join in their journey of discovery. The Service of Admission itself is always a joyful occasion, and the children are very proud and excited to play such a large role in it.

After May, we usually have an influx of keen new acolytes; many thanks to Sally Copland who helps lick them into shape, and who generously gave up her garden again one Saturday in September for fun and feasting for this select bunch.

In July St Mary's families were not put off by showery weather or the detour to St Michael's church for the Team Ministry's Annual Children's Festival. The service's theme of outward appearances /inner reality was underlined by Fr Paul in a splendid coat encouraging us to sing along. Springs Dance Company added a beautiful dimension through their performance. Afterwards, children were entertained in the workshops, whilst parents enjoyed the beer tent and barbeque.

Remembrance Sunday this year saw the usual crowd of regulars and visitors at the ceremony and in the

children's groups afterwards. Junior Church worked on a physical interpretation of war and peace, based on Karl Jenkins' 'the Armed Man'; Sparklers worked on the theme of special memories.

This year's Nativity play saw some mice travelling round Barnes trying to return a family's presents. On the way, they discovered some street rats, carol singers, and the cast of Cinderella, who, in true panto style, encouraged everyone to join in singing 'is this the way to SW13?' Needless to say, Ross was the butt of several jokes. Our furry friends ended up witnessing the very First Christmas, touchingly played by the youngest children, which made a lasting impression on them, and us. As ever, the production was a massive display of teamwork involving many ladders, frantic searches for just the right two bars of music, tail making, and backstage microphone passing. Many, many, thanks to all concerned; it really is worth it in the end!

An early Easter this year saw Junior Church travelling round Kitson hall on a Passion Journey, and pre-schoolers using different places in church to find out about Holy week. They coloured eggs, joined in the Last Supper, and made the Easter Garden, which is still displayed near the organ.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me, recently, and in previous years,

in running the children's groups, festivals, and special events, as well as offering advice and encouragement. Their dedication and hard work have ensured that the children of St Mary's have such a positive experience of being part of the family of the church.

Helen Bladen
Children's Pastor

FAMILY SERVICE

The Family Service continues to go from strength to strength, with congregation numbers increasing steadily and more families getting involved in reading, praying, providing coffee and welcoming newcomers. The Family Service is all about the family and we aim to involve everyone – however young - and both Ross and I have been delighted by the way our younger members of the congregation are now active participants in the service – joining in the address, playing musical instruments and even dancing in the aisles! Both children and parents clearly enjoy meeting familiar faces every Sunday and close friendships have been forged at St. Mary's, with many families meeting outside of church.

This year we have followed themes of 'The Life of Jesus' and 'The Parables' and we have had some real highlights including raising over £500 to illustrate the Parable of the Talents; parading through the church waving newspaper palm trees on

Palm Sunday and bringing along a real (well almost!) sheep to re-enact the Parable of the Lost Sheep.

As Assistant Pastor, I am a permanent presence at the Family Service and apart from reading and leading the prayers, I have been lucky enough to lead the entire service on a couple of occasions. I have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to help nurture the developing spirituality of our children and to explore aspects of our faith with such an open and supportive congregation. Of course, my role would not be possible without the help and support of the families of St. Mary's but I would like to give special thanks to Nigel, Elizabeth and Betty who help me prepare the hymn books and orders of service, and generally keep me in line each week! So a big thank you to everyone who has helped me over the past year and I look forward to seeing more of you this year!

Emma Powell
Assistant Children's Pastor

PATHFINDERS

Pathfinders is a proactive, welcoming youth group that combines spiritual exploration with a healthy social experience. The group is for young people in years 7 and 8, and is currently led by Russell Pearson. Russell is now in his final year of an English Literature degree. Working alongside Russell is Mark Harries, a doctor; Lucinda Powell, a

qualified secondary school teacher; and more recently the team has grown with the help of Bryony Britten, also a secondary school teacher. This year Pathfinders has undergone an almost entire change in those who attend. Those who were in year 8 last year have moved up to the Barnes Team Ministry youth group, F.O.O.D (Finding Our Own Destiny). Pathfinders now consists of a whole new range of young people, mostly in year 7. The group is now predominantly made up of boys, which is a contrast to the previous group which consisted almost entirely of girls. This has slightly changed the dynamic of the group, and the adult leaders have worked hard to accommodate such changes.

The year has been challenging, exciting, fascinating and certainly a time of growth and development. Because of the newness of the group, the first term was spent building a positive sense of team and establishing the identity of the new group. Having achieved a clear sense of group community, 2008 has so far been a time of looking at Biblical teaching – more specifically, the Beatitudes. Through the means of media, art, discussion and drama, we have engaged in a wide variety of interesting topics. We aim to grasp the relevance of Jesus' teaching to our lives in the present. The group thoroughly enjoyed helping with the charity event, Kit for Kids. The Pathfinders decorated

a huge banner that was displayed on the Kitson Hall on the day of the event. In addition, some of the group volunteered on the day and helped to make it a great success.

Throughout the two terms we have also had a bowling evening, a party at a member's home, a pizza making evening, and a meal out. The events have been a great success and brought the group closer together.

With further parental, church community, and prayer support, Pathfinders promises to be a group that will continue to enhance the lives and learning experiences of young people at a time in their lives that is incredibly important.

Russell Pearson

FOOD – Barnes Team Ministry Youth Group

The youth group has been meeting on a regular basis and welcomed 4 new members in September. With one member moving away we now have a group of 7. Themes have ranged from Media Influencers to World Class Prayer and the time of Spiritual Chill has become very popular, giving members time to reflect and pray. The group took part in the Holy Trinity Carol Service giving their unique rendering of a traditional carol, much to the delight of all there! We have enjoyed a winter outing to the Ice Skating Rink at Kew Gardens and welcomed the Diocesan Youth

Officer, Dean Pusey, to one of our sessions. We also had an interesting session led by Hope UK, a Christian Charity working with teenagers on drug and alcohol prevention.

In order to expand and develop our Team Ministry to young people, we have a need for more adults willing to give their time to this important ministry. With only two of us, it is difficult to sustain the regular pattern our young people need. Training can be made available—please contact Jean Boulton-Reynolds.

Revd Jean Boulton-Reynolds

ST MARY BARNES SCOUT GROUP

1907 – 2007 100 years of Scouting – the World Scout Jamboree

In the space of just six weeks in the summer 2007, Highlands Park was transferred into a small tent town. (Complete with its own Sainsbury's) This was to become home for two weeks, for 40,000 Scouts from almost every country in the world. We had come together to the world jamboree to celebrate 100 years of Scouting. Quite an achievement when you consider it's all voluntary!

Thanks to our Scouters & helpers hard fundraising efforts and a donation from the BCA, approx 50 members of all ages from SMB, managed to attend this historic event as day visitors.

It is very difficult to put into words, the incredible pride & emotion I felt,

for SMB and every other likeminded person there. To be met by open faces, smiles, & handshakes, it didn't matter if neither of you spoke the same language. There was just an unwritten understanding, just to do your best, and help make the world go around.

So what else have we done? Well thanks to the excellent Scouters at SMB and the trusty band of helpers, we've tried to play our small part to make the world go around. Supporting our young people in camping, and participating in lots of different events as per the Scouting philosophy.

'To help young people achieve their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as Members of their local, national and international communities'

Very appropriate for this report, as Scouting is based on Christian principles, (and we're always looking for helpers in any small way).

So again my sincere thanks to all those past & present that have given up their time and energy. (to help make the world go around)

Without all of them, the world would be a far sadder place.

Pieter van de Wiel
Group Scout Leader

Appendix 1

Mission giving made by the PCC following recommendations from the Mission Group

Under Tree Schools	2,762
Welcare	1,888
Castelnau Centre Project	2,100
Fish	400
SPEAR	300
Shenehom Housing Association	300
St Luke's Hospital	<u>250</u>
	8,000

Collections and Appeals

Bishop's Lent Appeal (2007)	1,260
Children's Society - Collection boxes	596
Children's Society - Christingle	124

In addition St Mary's and its congregation have raised or assisted in raising the following funds for UTS

Grant from PCC (referred to above)	2,762
Baltic Air Charter Association (initiated by Markham Jackson)	4,500
Christabel Gairdner's piano recital	900
Gift Certificates, Christmas cards & Kit4Kids etc	5,099
2008 Barnes Charity Ball	<u>10,000</u>
	23,261

The St Mary's Saturday Morning Coffee Shop

Supported charities including Sight Savers (2), NSPCC, IDE (2), Wildlife Aid, Barnes Youth Theatre (2), Under Tree Schools (3), Richmond Welcare (2), SSAFA (2), Macmillan Nurses, Multiple Sclerosis Trust (2), Trinity Hospice, St Osmund's School Choir, Alzheimers, React, Royal Marsden Hospital (2), Castelnau Centre Project, St Mary's churchyard (3), Viera Grey House, Bellringers, Carers Centre Richmond, Cambridge Nazareth Trust, Water Aid Donations, Diabetes, CLIC Sargent, Knights Youth Centre, British Liver Trust, Barnardo's

APPENDIX 2

2007 account still subject to audit

General Fund INCOME		Outturn 2006	Budget 2007	outturn 2007
General giving				
Planned giving	Gift aid	80,307		84,417
	Income tax recoverable	22,646		23,806
	Not gift aid	6,603		7,109
Loose collections	[all services]	22,667		22,474
Donations	Gift aid	19,091		11,479
	Income tax recoverable	5,384		3,237
	Not gift aid	7,979		15,765
	total	164,677	185,000	168,286
Wedding, funeral &c	fees to PCC	4,074	6,400	8,314
Hire of church		5,242	4,500	6,207
Coffee, net [to St Mary's]		846	850	706
Fundraising events, net	[excluding Friends]	5,769	7,000)	11,243
Sale of Xmas cards, net		789	200)	
Interest		3,647	3,000	5,082
From Kitson Hall		20,000	20,000	20,000
TOTAL INCOME		205,044	226,950	219,838
EXPENDITURE [next page]		208,899	225,479	220,499
Surplus [Deficit if minus]		-3,855	1,471	- 661
Exceptional items	Legacies &c			59,264
Balance, 31st Dec		15,260	16,731	73,864

**General Fund
EXPENDITURE**

	Outturn 2006	Budget 2007	Outturn 2007
Mission giving	7,895	8,000	8,000
Parish share	140,688	148,929	148,929
Clergy expenses	2,384	2,500	2,550
Rectory		1,000	
Readers & SPAs	615	650	510
Church			
Insurance	2,972	3,000	3,117
Cleaning, sanitation ***	1,068	1,300	1,104
Gas	4,280	6,800	6,840
Maintenance, repairs	1,573	1,600	2,391
Electricity	2,266	2,500	1,520
Fire protection	1,067	1,200	896
Altar	1,211	1,300	1,142
Churchyard ***			
Other	605	700	1,745
Church Music net	8,467	10,500	9,664
Books, net	578	600	618
Children	10,530	11,000	10,581
Youth work	1,426	2,000	1,507
BTM		1,000	
Administrator	10,888	10,300	12,098
Office machines	2,396	2,500	2,586
Stationery	1,317	1,350	1,331
Printing	996	1,200	739
Telephones and stamps	925	950	829
Unbudgeted expenditure			
all other	242	600	129
Stewardship appeal			
to QBMF			173
Provision for Audit	1,500	1,500	1,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	208,899	225,479	220,499

Three items supported in
2007 by the Friends, total
*** £7,700



FISH – bus and shopping clients



Fine Dining at the 2008 Barnes Charity Ball



Enthusiastic Singing of Rule Britannia at Sing Barnes July 2007



Lyra Russian Choir May 2007

The Barnes Team Ministry
The Parish Church of St Mary, Barnes

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS
Minutes of the Meetings held in the Church on Tuesday, 24 April 2007 at 8 pm

Present: The Rector (The Rev'd Ross Collins) in the chair, the Churchwardens and approximately 23 members of the parish.

A EASTER VESTRY

For the purpose of electing churchwardens to serve for the coming year.

Nominations for churchwardens had been received as follows:
Philip Bladen, proposed by Joan Forbes Thomas and seconded by George Brown
Fiona Barnett, proposed by Cynthia Brown and seconded by Hilary Cooper

There being no other nominations, these two people were elected churchwardens for the coming year. The Rector thanked the wardens for their support and their work for the whole church throughout the year.

B THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 April 2006

The minutes had been displayed on the porch notice board for the past year and also reproduced in the 2007 Annual Report. Philip Bladen proposed acceptance of them as a true record, seconded by Michael Murison and carried unanimously.

2. Church Electoral Roll

The PCC Secretary reported on behalf of Peter Kain, the Electoral Roll Officer. At the time of the meeting, there were 247 people on the roll, 169 residents within St Mary's boundaries and 78 non-resident (37 resident within the boundaries of the other two churches of the Team Ministry and 41 outside). As this year a completely new roll had been started and not everyone had returned their form in time for this meeting, the Rector proposed the roll be accepted as approved by the PCC at their 8 May 2007 meeting (as it was expected more forms would be returned by then). This was agreed.

3. Elections

a) Parochial Church Council (for five representatives to serve for three years).

Lorraine Budgen, proposed by Margaret Collenette and seconded by Philip Bladen
Richard du Parcq proposed by Wendy Kyrle Pope and seconded by Fiona Barnett
Sarah Moore, proposed by L Powell and seconded by Silke Cresswell
James Stephenson, proposed by Geoffrey Barnett and seconded by Peter Boyling
There were no further nominations and these persons were elected unanimously.

b) Election of Sidesmen for 2007-2008

Those people listed in the Annual Report were those proposed for the following year, namely: David Barrie, David Blacklock, Claire Boyling, Brian and Celia Cleave, Sue Dundas, Tony Dundas, Wiz Dundas, Patrick Findlater, Ken and Tiziana George, Charles Goldsmith, David Greenwood, David Heyhoe, Ken Hitchcock, Wendy Kyrle-Pope, Desmond and Josephine MacDermott, Alistair Mackie, Alan Mitchell, Nick Phillips, Ferelith Reay, Peter Siddall, Fiona Smith, Andrew Summers, Joan Wheeler-Bennett, Jonathan and Emma Wilson, Marjorie Wing.
Nick Phillips proposed acceptance of these persons which was seconded by David Greenwood and passed unanimously.

4. Rector's Survey
Attached as separate paper.
- Philip Bladen thanked the Rector warmly, on behalf of the congregation, for his leadership over the past year, which had been central to the church's achievements.
5. Finance
- Richard du Parcq, PCC Hon Treasurer, addressed the meeting.
- The audit of the 2006 accounts was still in progress. He anticipated some advice from the auditor about the form of our financial control systems and risk management.
- After a deficit in 2006 on the general fund the fund reserve currently stood at £15,000 (enough for 5-6 weeks expenditure) compared with our objective from earlier years of maintaining a £30,000 reserve. He warned that in the medium term a continued running down of the general fund was unsustainable. The main source of income was giving by the congregation. Valuable contributions to running costs had come from the Friends (towards maintenance of the church and churchyard and cleaning) and from Kitson Hall lettings income; but costs of the Hall were increasing and further increases from that source were unlikely. The PCC were concerned that raising income sufficient to fund the annual increases in payment to the diocesan ministry fund was unsustainable; and they had raised this problem with the Archdeacon and the Deanery Synod.
- The meeting was then opened for questions:
- Geoffrey Barnett asked if the £30,000 in unrestricted legacies could be deemed part of the general reserves. The Treasurer confirmed this was so in practice: we had already last year used legacy money to pay for unbudgeted expenditure such as IT and works to the heating.
- The Rector thanked Richard du Parcq for all his work throughout the past year and in dealing with Alistair Cameron and the auditor. Thanks were also extended to Peter Boyling who had also done considerable work connected to finance.
6. Appointment of an Auditor
- Keith Powers had acted as auditor for 2006 and Andrew Summers proposed that he be appointed again for 2007. Seconded by Celia Cleave and passed unanimously.
7. Consideration of Reports for 2006 - The Rector asked permission of the meeting not to go through the Annual Report this year and this was agreed. Geoffrey Barnett made the point that he had read the whole report and was impressed by the amount of things that went on at St Mary's. The Rector endorsed this and warmly thanked all contributors to the report.
8. Any Other Business
- Tim Budgen noted the low attendance at the meeting and suggested that next year's Annual Meeting take place after a 10 am service to encourage more people to attend. The Rector commented that this would raise the issue that the 11.30 am Family Service followed the 10 am service. After a short discussion of possible approaches the meeting agreed to leave this matter with the PCC to discuss.
9. Date of Next Meeting
- To be agreed by the PCC at a date to be announced later. This could be towards the end of April 2008 and as Easter is earlier next year this will allow more after Easter to publicise the date.
10. The meeting closed at 8.45 pm with the Grace.

Pb/mbw (2) 26 April 2007

RECTOR'S SURVEY – APRIL 2007

It is always my pleasure to start with expressing sincere thanks to those who make St Mary's a fascinating place in which to live, work and serve - the Wardens, the PCC and very many others. Their work and support is recorded extensively in the Annual Report and provides fascinating reading and considerable evidence of a Christian community in good heart.

The church life over the last year has had a number of highlights. I'd like to mention the musical life at St Mary's since Cameron Burns came in May as Director of Music. It is almost an entirely different world musically since he came. It's not just that there are more people of all ages in the choir. Musical standards are also fabulous. Choral Evensong has been re-established as a regular event which has the added advantage of providing not just strong liturgy, good music and genuinely spiritual occasions, but also great social events. In addition, they reach a congregation many of whom rarely attend St Mary's.

Attendance at St Mary's has increased 15% over the previous year and about 60-65% over the last 6 years (ie, about 260-70 over four services on a Sunday with nothing special such as Festivals, baptisms, Remembrance, etc). That having been said, there is not much point of people coming to St Mary's if they don't leave having encountered God and encouraged to help build His kingdom on earth. Much of what we do is intended to achieve this.

In the Team, there have been a couple of events worth noting. The St Michael's community centre has now been built and opened after fifteen years since conception. They are now freed from the bulk of the fund-raising of the last few years and can focus on how the building is used and what the church can do in the community and beyond.

Jean Boulton-Reynolds at Holy Trinity has been in post for a year and has done very well indeed in beginning the transformation of Holy Trinity. The congregation is now considerable larger and there are also imaginative plans for using the church for community-orientated projects, including Space to Be, a monthly event offering a range of spiritual and therapeutic care.

We can look to how we co-operate more on a team basis, particularly in terms of children's and youth work and organisation.

I would like to comment on the broader context of our church life in England. The report on the 2005 Church Census figures was entitled Pulling Out of the Nosedive. It suggested that the Church of England had reached the bottom of its numerical decline after some 50 years of steady erosion of congregations. I welcome any good news, but, for once, have to caution against too much optimism.

Even if the overall figures have bottomed out, the decline amongst children and young people is accelerating. People of my generation returning to church are returning, by and large, to the faith of their childhood. In twenty years time, people in their thirties and forties will have no such background and the process of building congregations will involve the much harder task of making new converts. This is one reason why our work with children is utterly central and must constantly evolve.

Southwark Diocese, following a long period of decline, has had a small level of growth in the last two years, bringing it back to attendance levels of 2000. During that period, the parish share has increased by over 40% across the diocese and nearly 70% in St Mary's. The Diocese is proud that during this period it has retained the same number of stipendiary clergy, unlike many other dioceses, so the large increase has enabled the Diocese to maintain the status quo. Nothing more, nothing less. Further increases are in the pipeline - for us, they may be 12% per annum for a number of years. This is, to my mind, unsustainable and the congregation and PCC brought this to the attention of the Deanery Synod and the Diocese. It remains to be seen what the diocesan response will be.

The growth we have experienced here is not normal for the Church of England. There has been growth for the evangelicals but the majority of churches, particularly those of our central tradition are still in decline, even more so amongst younger people. We cannot rely on a few evangelical churches often with a loose allegiance to the Church of England for the reverse of a couple of generations of decline.

What does this mean for St Mary's? We cannot think what is happening here is normal for a Church of England church, particular of a central tradition. It's not. Yet, success can be difficult. Growth, particularly involving

younger generations, means change and change can be disconcerting. I can't wave that discomfort away, but the context is of a church that is both vibrant and faithful to the breadth of its traditions. Ultimately, the background of diocesan finances means our present position is probably unsustainable. It's not that we do not put a lot of imagination or effort into fund-raising: In the last year the ball held in this church raised £24,000 - £11,000 of which went to the Friends of St Mary's. The Christmas Fair significantly boosted funds. The Think Tank is looking into ways of raising money and there is to be a legacies drive in the autumn. While it is possible these will raise an extra £10,000 this year and maybe £15,000 next year, we cannot expect to cover even most of the £50,000 or so in extra parish share likely to be sought in three years time.

There is a certain irony in this pessimism about the diocese, since we are very strongly committed to making the broader church work. In our comments to the Deanery/Diocese, we have never wavered from expressing very strong support for the idea of substantially supporting poorer parishes. It is how the system works we are concerned about.

I am sure that the future of the church will involve churches like us contributing more substantially to the broader life of the church and the world. Our congregations have regular members who have significant influence, such as politicians, councillors, senior people in finance and media and who derive much from their personal faith. But the collective involvement is much less – how we all together as a community express our identity and faith. It is very difficult for one small grouping to contribute to with the engagement of church to world. There is a danger that the current renewed interest in things spiritual and religious will be advanced almost solely within the public realm by leaders and bishops and that the majority of practising members of faith will continue as before in small distinct religious gatherings. If the church has a contribution to make to the issues of national identity, collective ethics, our place in the world, how we deal with difference and hostility – it must be a response that is lived day-in-day out by ordinary people and not just spoken intellectually by church leaders.

This underpins much of what we do:

- the attention to personal spirituality expressed in the rhythm for life – looking our lives and faith through the themes of thanks, sorrow and hope.
- Mission Group involved with the Castelnaud Centre Project and the connection with the Under Tree School – through fund raising (we have, with others, raised over £100,000 in less than a year), development of the project, support of Joseph's work as Director of Religious Affairs in Southern Sudan.
- engagement with the wider world through our involvement with the Anglican Church in Africa
- twinning with a another parish in the diocese
- through the proposal of twinning with a local mosque through the auspices of CTiB
- returning to the themes of engagement beyond ourselves with the world around us. St Mary's will in all of this continue to try and express what it is to be a community of Christ in the world.

I look forward to working with you again this year towards making this a reality.

Ross Collins 24 Apr 07

WHO'S WHO

Sidesmen Tony Dundas	8748 2180
Pastoral Support Group Fiona Barnett	8878 6975
Intercessory Prayer Group Fiona Barnett	8878 6975
Choir Cameron Burns	8741 5422
Junior Church and Sparklers (3-10) Helen Bladen	8748 0277
Pathfinders (age 10-13+) Russell Pearson	8748 5422
Scouts, Venture Scouts, Scouts, Cubs & Beavers Pieter van de Weil	
Brownies Lorraine Budgen	8749 3413
Bell ringing Eddie Hartley	8748 4328
Daily Friends of St Mary's Angie Forster	8876 2402
Flower Arranging Sue Adams	8748 6547
Gardening Brenda Moore	8748 8214
Saturday Coffee Shop Fiona Barnett	8878 6975
Concerts in Church Peter Kain	8741 5422
Hall Bookings Maria Bryant	8748 6116

The Rev'd Ross Collins, Rector
The Rectory, 25 Glebe Road, SW13 0DZ 8404 3177

The Rev'd Prof Raymond Chapman (Hon Asst Priest)
6 Kitson Road, SW13 8748 9901

The Rev'd Lindsay Collins (Hon Asst Priest)
The Rectory, 25 Glebe Road, SW13 0DZ 8404 3177

Mr Philip Mitchell (Reader)
13 Rectory Road, SW13 8876 4867

Major Iain Radford (Reader)
14 The Terrace, SW13 8876 5297

Mr Geoffrey Barnett (Reader)
2 Mill Hill Road, SW13 8878 6975

Miss Christabel Gairdner (Reader)
56 Boileau Road, SW13 9BL 8748 1218

Mrs Fiona Barnett (Warden)
2 Mill Hill Road, SW13 8878 6975

Mr Philip Bladen (Warden)
8 Ferry Road, SW13 8748 0277

Mr Peter Boyling (Vice Chairman of PCC)
2 Meredyth Road, SW13 0DY 8878 3775

Mr Richard du Parcq (Treasurer)
152 Castelnau, SW139ET 8748 8972

Mrs Sally Copland (Sacristan)
24 Suffolk Road, SW13 8748 3150

Mr Vic Nolan (Parish Clerk)
22 Brookwood Avenue, SW13 8487 1208

Mrs Marilyn Walker (PCC Secretary)
10 Woodlands Road, SW13 0JZ 8876 0288

Mr Peter Kain (Administrator)
Church Office 8741 5422

e-mail: stmary.barnes@virgin.net



SERVICES

DAILY PRAYERS

Monday – Friday
9.05 am
Langton Chapel

SUNDAYS

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am PARISH COMMUNION
(with SPARKLERS AND JUNIOR CHURCH)

11.30 am Family Service

6.00 pm Evensong (Choral or Said)
(3rd Sunday – Service of Healing and Wholeness)

MIDWEEK

Thursdays Holy Communion (followed by lunch every fortnight)
12 noon

Saints Days and Holy Days – 10.30 am Holy Communion

In addition to service times, the church is open for visitors and private prayer
Monday – Saturday 10.30 am – 12 30 pm
