

St. John's Church Stratford London E15

ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2009



The changing face of Stratford: the main Olympic Stadium, within our parish, takes shape

Incorporating the

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PCC

For the Parish of St. John with Christ Church and St. James Stratford

(Registered charity no. 1132176)

for the year ended 31st December 2009

VICAR'S REPORT

I am glad to report that St. John's continued to grow during 2009. We saw a large number of new church members, increased numbers attending the morning service, the Thursday Communion Service and Church on Wednesday, a growth in outreach through the ministry of our new team, led by Dennis, and even a growth in the church building, thanks to the creation of the new Trinity Room and Trinity Chapel, in the basement.

This growth all happened in the context of a shrinking Ministry Team. Rev. Darren McIndoe was "head-hunted" to become Associate Minister at Emmanuel Forest Gate, while Christy Asinugo and Cornelius Henry, our multi-talented Ordinands, both gained the title "Rev" and moved on to curacies following their ordination as Deacon in Chelmsford Cathedral. I am deeply grateful to the remaining members of the team, and particularly to Canon Peter Kolawole, for their hard work and commitment to ensure that our ministry grows and develops. We look forward to the arrival of Peter Ngugi, new Curate, in July, and to Cheryl Ramballi's licensing as a Reader in October. It has been good to see our team of Worship Leaders grow in confidence during 2009; the wide variety of music remains a key part of our worship, and it is good that we have such talented people to lead prayer and praise, to play so many different instruments, and to lead all of our music.

Much of our thinking and planning in 2009 was devoted to the Mission arranged for June 2010, now launched as "The Ultimate Goal". This mission has persuaded 18 local churches to work together, and has enabled a real sharing of gifts, talents and mission opportunities. We hope to continue this process into 2012 and beyond.

It was exciting to complete our work downstairs during 2009. This work not only enabled us to open up some great new spaces for use by the church and the wider community, but it also cleared out the final corner of the Crypt; it's taken 20 years, but I have got there at last! We can now honestly say that we are making maximum use of the whole of our building - the only way to expand now is by another Extension.

Stratford will continue to change during 2010, with plans for a complete renewal of the street scene, in preparation for the opening of the new Westfield development in 2011 and the Olympics and Paralympics in 2012. St. John's building is increasingly recognised as a key feature in the town centre, and the proposed changes will enhance this position. This is important for our ministry, because we are increasingly reliant on people coming to us. It is almost impossible to contact residents in the new (entry-locked) developments, so traditional door-to-door or leaflet-dropping outreach is of limited value. Community involvement strategies are also difficult in a situation where our population is more and more transient. We need to make the church building look attractive, (encouraging people to come in), and need to create opportunities in and around the church where we can meet people and share the Good News of Jesus. I hope that the skills learned in "The Ultimate Goal" will help us to do this more effectively.

Much of what we have achieved together would have seemed impossible a few years ago; we have a great deal for which we can praise God. The message of Jesus reminds us of 2 things: God's amazing and never-ending love for his creation, which we are called to proclaim in words and actions, and God's desire to move his people forward in his service. Life in Stratford is good for our discipleship, because it reminds us that we can never stand still - we have to move on with Jesus! As we respond to the current changes, and look forward to even more change after the 2012 Olympics, we need to let Jesus lead us into new ways of mission and ministry.

David Richards

The Annual Review is, again, in two parts. The first part contains reports, reflecting all that happens at St. John's, written by a variety of people and edited by the Vicar. Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to this section. The second part is the official report of the Parochial Church Council, approved by the PCC and conforming, we trust, to the legal standards required by the Charity Commissioners. Thanks to those who have helped draft this report, and to all involved in compiling our accounts. Thanks, also, to all who have typed, printed, collated and stapled this document.
David Richards

2009 AT A GLANCE – Extracts from the Weekly Newsletters

There are pictures of some of these events on the website (www.stjohnse15.co.uk)

- 2009 started on a sad note with the funeral of Rev Desmond Gritten on 2nd January.
- Roger Murphy from Through Faith Missions met with Stratford Church Leaders on 19th January to start planning for outreach in 2010 and 2012.
- Pippa Pritchard travelled to the Thai/Burma border with Christian Solidarity Worldwide at the end of January.
- In February we said farewell to Jacqui Mwaniki who decided to resign as organist for personal reasons and Geoff Hobbs returned as organist on 1st March.
- Rev Pat Baggaley joined us on placement from parishes in North Norfolk for the whole of March.
- The glitzy new choir robes were worn for the first time on Mothering Sunday.
- Just before Easter, many Year 4 pupils from local schools came to St. John's for an "Easter Experience" organised by Rev. Darren McIndoe.
- The Tuesday morning Bible Group went on an outing to Kew Gardens in April.
- The Women's Group organised an Appeal for children's items that were sent to the Good Life Club in Burma. There was a hitch with the postal service, but the items reached their destination eventually and were warmly welcomed.
- Wednesday Lunchtime Concerts started in May and continued throughout the Summer with a very varied and enjoyable programme.
- The 20s & 30s Group went on a weekend away in early May.
- We said farewell to Darren and Margaret on 17th May and Darren moved to be Associate Minister of Emmanuel Church in Forest Gate.
- There was a Fire Practice at the end of the morning service on 7th June and the Church was evacuated in 3 minutes 40 seconds.
- Sally Trotter, one of our Sidespersons, was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for service to the City of London Corporation as a traffic manager.
- St. John's Women's Group presented "The St. John's Soirée" in June - an evening of light entertainment that was enjoyed by the whole family.
- We said farewell to Christy Asinugo and Cornelius Henry, and their families, in June. They were both ordained in Chelmsford Cathedral on 5th July and Christy is Curate at St. Mary's, Becontree, and Cornelius at Hornchurch.
- Rev David Ibiayo made a welcome return to preach at the Friends' Service in July.
- Swine Flu dominated the Summer and Autumn, and Archbishops told us not to shake hands or drink the wine to try to stop the virus from spreading.
- Despite the poor Summer, the churchyard was well used with the Outreach Team outside with the gazebo on Saturdays and open-air services on Sundays.
- Work started in August on the Trinity Rooms downstairs to enlarge the space for Kingdom Kids and create a new Chapel – and we found a 1st century Roman road!
- Brighton was the destination for the coach trip in August.
- We had a bulb-planting day in September, to make the churchyard look pretty in Spring.
- Children enjoyed traditional party games at the Saints' Party on Saturday 31st October. We celebrated God's goodness and there was nothing to do with Halloween.
- 14 people from St. John's were Confirmed at a packed Service in November.
- Once again, St. John's Choir sang Christmas Carols in Stratford Shopping Centre in December.

SUNDAY SERVICES are an important part of our Mission and Ministry. Attendance at Sunday services continues to increase. Our aim on Sundays is to offer worship, teaching and prayer to ... "build up and strengthen the Body of Christ in faith and Knowledge of the Son of God", (Ephesians 4:12-13), and send people out to live for Jesus, wherever they are, during the week.

THE MORNING SERVICE St John's services continue to show God's love in the heart of Stratford. The morning services continue to form the largest part of our weekly worship, attracting an average of 330 worshippers during 2009, with significantly higher attendances for Easter and for large baptism services. The world-wide nature of our congregation underlines the fact that we are all God's children and worship together in one faith.

The normal pattern of services sees Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays, with Morning Prayer and Praise on the second and fourth Sundays. The fourth Sunday all-age services continue to be popular, with members of Sunday Club taking part in the sermon and playing musical instruments during the worship time. The second Sunday of the month has introduced a more interactive sermon style, with members of the congregation sharing their ideas together. Members of YPF have also remained in church to share in this service. The summer series of open-air services ran with great success, with the weather allowing 6 out of a proposed 6 services to take place in the churchyard.

Importantly, the service has seen a growing number of people leading in our fellowship and worship: this is a valuable and essential part of our mission. Prayer and praise was led variously by Dave, Darren, Frances, Denise, Elis, Christine and Richard, whilst sermons were preached by different ministers, St John's members and guest preachers from our charities and mission links. This has allowed for the introduction of new and diverse methods of preaching as well as new music and worship ideas. St John's continues to be a church with a strong sense of its place in the core of our East London community. The Sunday morning service is, perhaps, the biggest showcase of this, as it continues to grow, to gain in confidence, and to celebrate Jesus in the centre of Stratford.

Report by Richard Aubrey

THE EVENING SERVICE begins, for me, with Choir practice at 6pm. The service starts at 6.30pm, and averages 50 people, unless there is a special event. I enjoy the evening service because it is a quiet, reflective time, although some of the music is rousing and uplifting. There is the sense of God among us and of Jesus as sovereign Lord. There is always bible-focused teaching, and always the opportunity to have some refreshments afterwards.

Specials in 2009 included the Confirmation service, on 15th November, and the Carols by Candlelight at Christmas, both of which attracted a full house.

Report by Yvonne Bailey

PRAYER MINISTRY. This year we have said goodbye to 2 prayer ministers and welcomed 9 newly trained making a total of 39 members. This increase makes it easier for us to meet the needs of the growing numbers who come to us in the prayer chapel during the Sunday morning and evening service for prayer.

We work in pairs listening to individual request and pray as appropriate, we aim to help people to receive the love and peace of Jesus.

22 of us were able to meet in September for reflection and prayer for support.

God has blessed us and we are honoured to continue to in this ministry to His glory.

Report by Sheva Williams, Prayer Ministry Team Leader

THE CHOIR AND MUSIC GROUP

continues to flourish and we are grateful to God that we have a group dedicated to leading the praise and worship Sunday by Sunday. One of the highlights of the year was the unveiling of the new choir robes in the Spring. The collaboration with our "resident composer", John Chapple has continued with three premiers, on Mothering Sunday, Friends Service and the Carol Service. During the course of the year we have been thrilled to welcome some younger singers into the choir, including some members of the Sunday Club- there is plenty of room for more! On the technical side, members a, and some no-choir members have enjoyed starting a music reading course run after the morning service.

Report by Frances Aubrey, Director of Music

THE ARK

At the end of 2009 there were 41 children aged 1-3½ on the Ark Register, which is exactly the same as last year – but not exactly the same 41 children, because a number moved up to Sparklers during the year. Weekly attendance has been higher than last year on average, and we planned some changes to the session at the end of 2009 that were implemented early in 2010 to take account of increased weekly numbers. There are 12 adults who take it in turns to lead the group (thank you). Each session includes a story from the Bible and a special activity.

SUNDAY CLUB

At the end of April 2009 Sunday Club celebrated its 19th Birthday.

There are 4 Sunday Club groups covering the ages from 3½ -13. At the end of 2009 the number of children registered was:

Sparklers (age 3½ – 5)	27 (18 2008)
Kingdom Kids (age 6 – 7)	18 (17 2008)
The 'J' Team (age 8 – 10)	32 (31 2008)
Teen LIVE! (age 11 – 13)	22 (17 2008)

There are 32 adults leading and assisting with the various Sunday Club groups – thank you everyone.

We use the Scripture Union "Light" syllabus. During the year the children covered the following topics: Jesus and John the Baptist, Isaac and our faithful God, Parables about Seeds, Easter, God is with Jacob, Adventures of the Early Church, God's Plan for Joseph, Following Jesus, Birth of a Nation (Moses) and Christmas Praise.

On Easter Sunday the children were given fair-trade Easter Eggs and "He is Risen" balloons. On 31st October Sheva Williams organised a Saints' Party with traditional party games for the children, as we celebrated God's goodness (and there was nothing to do with Halloween). All the children who attended over the Christmas season were given a Christmas present.

Sunday Club children have continued to take part in the "4th Sunday Together" Service - including welcoming, reading, playing musical instruments and sometimes leading the prayers.

The building work downstairs started in August to create a larger room for the Kingdom Kids group. The building work continued until the end of October and this meant that 3 groups shared the Christchurch Room for a few weeks – a difficult time, but everyone managed OK. The benefits of using the new enlarged room downstairs far outweigh the difficulties of the building work.

Reports by Carol Richards

Please pray for all the children in our Church, and for those who lead the various groups on Sundays.

YPF have been meeting during the Sunday morning services, and this year we explored serious life issues as well as deepening our understanding of the Bible. Meetings are a mixture of bible study, games and lively discussion! Themes of meetings have included The Beatitudes, Injustice and spiritual fitness.

We said goodbye to some members who have been in YPF since they were 14 and have gone

on to college, university or employment. Again, several members of the group went to the Venture in Barnstaple for a week of activities and teaching. We hope to send a similar number in 2010.

Report by Elis and Sheila Matthews

Carol Richards is St. John's designated child protection officer

CHURCHWARDENS AND WELCOMERS

There are over 60 members of the congregation who assist in the important Welcome role at St John's. To each of them I send the following note to explain the job they will be doing and why it is so important:

"You are a highly valued member of the St John's Welcoming Team - an important mission task. The first face that people see when coming to St. John's for a Service is that of the Welcomer - you. It might not seem as important as the ministry of our Clergy and our Readers, it may not seem as public as the work done by the Choir and the Band, but I assure you that the Welcome Team is performing a biblical and social task of the highest importance. Thank you for volunteering.

We are now averaging 300-350 people at the Sunday morning service. Sometimes, these numbers will include people who have never been to St John's, or any church, before: so they may not know what is going on or what is expected of them. That is why we are there. We now have three different areas for administering Holy Communion, several Collection areas, issues over seating arrangements, plus the vital task of handing out all the papers for every service. So you can see how important the job of a Welcomer is."

To all of St. John's members: you will now understand how important the Welcomers are to the running of our Church. Please take the time to talk to them.

My thanks to all the Welcome Team.

Report by Chris Aubrey

THE TEA MAKERS! This Ministry is as important as other ministries at St. Johns'.

We refresh church members after Sunday services in the Cafe area, as people relax, chat, meet and make new friends. It is a volunteering Ministry, where the fruit of the spirit is empowering people as they grow in faith to serve, building a relationship with God and his people. Their willingness is seen, in their time and effort spent in meeting to serve others, after a vibrant service.

We operate on a rota basis once a month, after the morning and evening services. We are about 25-30 in number and still growing. We sometimes served home-made cakes, brought in by church members celebrating birthdays or an event. As this ministry is on a monthly basis, these unsung

heroes help in other ministry during the year.

For 2010, the team are ready and prepared to serve, even in an unscheduled situation. May they all be blessed in the service of the Lord.

Report by Patricia Larocque

MIDWEEK SERVICES AND MEETINGS *St. John's ministry and mission continues throughout the week. There are daily prayers at 9am and 5pm Monday-Friday, mid-week services, homegroups, and our Healing Cafe. The church is also open for prayer almost every day*

THE TUESDAY LUNCHTIME SERVICE

continued to be a popular time for a quick mid-week top-up. This service was the special responsibility of Rev. Darren McIndoe until he moved on in May. We miss Darren's ministry, but we are pleased that Margaret Hurley is still able to share leadership of the service. We still manage to pack a hymn, some prayer a bible reading and a reflection into 20 minutes - this must be the fastest service in East End. The amazing Lunchtime Carol service was, again the highlight.

Report by David Richards

THE HEALING CAFÉ cafe is an extension of prayer ministry and is linked into the Tuesday lunchtime service. 5 prayer ministers work together on Tuesday's from 11am-2pm in the cafe area offering refreshment and a chance to chat, prayer and mentor or just to listen to anyone requiring our service. We have about 12 regulars who usually join in prayer, some occasional visitors openly pray while some others remain silent. The usual comment is- Jesus is here we feel the healing, praise God, for this is our aim!

Report by Sheva Williams

THE THURSDAY LUNCHTIME

SERVICE. 2009 ended with an encouraging number of 15 regular communicants on average. Attenders include members of different churches who work in Stratford. Regular members have been considering ideas to increase attendance, and it is suggested that each member should introduce someone during 2010. Some members have also suggested we send out fliers to the shopping centre in the Mall announcing the Lunchtime Holy Eucharist Service on Thursdays.

Report by Canon Peter Kolawole

CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY celebrated it's 6th Birthday in Autumn 2009 with prayer, thanksgiving, bible study, worship and plenty of cake!! This relaxed and engaging midweek

fellowship, held in the informal setting of the cafe, continues to attract an average number of around 16 people each week. Our fellowship brings together a real mix of nationalities and ages ranging from mid-20s to late 70s. Discussions and debates are often enthusiastic and informative, drawing from people's various experiences and levels of faith. Newcomers are always very welcome!

Report by Maxine Webster

St. John's members also meet during the week in HOMEGROUPS.....

The TUESDAY DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY

GROUP is always a lively and fun affair. Usually there are about 8 of us meeting every Tuesday between 10.00am and 12.30pm, coming together to learn more of God's plan and purpose for us as individuals and as a Church. We have a time of generally chat over coffee followed by worship, prayer and Bible study. During 2009 we looked at the message of Isaiah and it's relevance for us as Christians in today's society. During the past year, we did manage a lovely day at Kew Gardens and a tour of Hyde Park and hope to do even more together in 2010.

Report by Gill Carter

The WEDNESDAY Group, having met for 18 years, closed down in 2009. Most of the members have joined Church on Wednesday or the Tuesday Group.

THE 20s AND 30s GROUP meets on Wednesday evenings, (term time only), 7:30 - 10pm, and for Sunday lunch quarterly. They are a large group with 40 'Friends of 20s and 30s', between 8 and 15 attending on Wednesdays and 25 to the first family lunch.

The group exists to provide fellowship, support and deeper Bible study/prayer/praise between people of this age group in addition to Sunday services.

During 2009 the group did lots of things including a weekend away, a family lunch, socials, a study of Revelation and the Traidcraft 'Compassion' series, held a Safari supper, won the Golden Grove quiz an embarrassing number of times, sang Carols around the Three Mills estate in the rain, had fun, shared prayers, hopes and dreams, attended parties and grappled with challenging areas of faith.

The group constantly explores how we can serve our community whilst holding down various commitments and time constraints. We feel as though we are a good network for young adults in the church, and seek to serve the wider community through involvement in the planned outreach projects and serve the church community by a flexibility in meeting times (i.e. the addition of the Sunday Lunch fellowships).

We hope to lead a Sunday service in 2010 and we are expecting to rally round to help the new parents with a few new arrivals!

Report by Joanne Smallman

St John's has 3 "geographical homegroups", the A12 group, the A13 group and the Lakeside group. They generally meet monthly - watch the Newsletter for details.

The LAKESIDE GROUP write: This group, which started in May 2008, has a regular attendance of 5 adults and 6 children (the children are active members of the discussions). They meet once a month at the hosting family's house to study the Bible. During 2009 we started with resources provided by the Church.

Once all the resources were completed, the group decided to study the books in the Bible and chose the book of James as the starting point. The practical nature of James enriched the group with the confidence and zeal that Christians living in today's society require.

Plans for 2010 include studying Ruth and, at some stage, the book of Revelation.

Report by Dolapo Peters

During 2009 we continued our **TELEPHONE PRAYER HOTLINE**. Urgent prayer requests can be phoned through to the Church Office and quickly circulated around a group of people who will pray these requests immediately. The hotline has 10 members and is co-ordinated by Jean Scott.

St John's continues to host some **workplace prayer groups** for those who work in Stratford.

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S GROUP meets on the first Friday of every month, 7.30pm. The group exists for fellowship with each other combining bible study, as well as, discussion on preparation, coordination and support of Church functions, as well as, women's issues.

During 2009 the coordinated three main events, relief packages to Burma; St Johns Soirée-musical evening and established fellowship with the team of churches in Mundesley, Norfolk.

During 2010 the group hopes to continue support to St Johns functions (including hospice visits) and Women's issues, assist Mundesley church in their fundraising through a St Johns members' concert in Norfolk; provide further relief packages to Burma and Haiti and organise a 'Pamper evening' during the Ultimate Goal Outreach week.

Report by Sharon Cumberbatch

ST. JOHN'S MEN'S GROUP has met on the last Thursday of each month, from 7-10pm for over a year. The group exists to enable men to come together for fellowship and to support each other. There are 21 members, and 7-8 members turn up on a regular basis. I would like to thank these members for their support, and like to see more members turn up.

Over the last year we have been working through a book called "Mission", to consider our purpose within the church today.

Our aim for the coming year is for this group to grow as a fellowship

Report by Dennis Pritchard



MISSION, OUTREACH and SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

St. John's Church aims to be, "Local, Outward-Looking and Participating", (Faith in the City Report). We want to relate to the local community and reflect the love of Jesus for those around us.

EVANGELISM AT ST. JOHN'S is overseen directly by PCC. This ensures that Evangelism is at the heart of all PCC decisions.

Much of our planning in 2009 was devoted to the 2010 "Ultimate Goal" event - a major mission involving 18 local churches with St. John's and Highway taking a lead.

We continue to work at making the most of the Mission opportunities, provided by our location, Sunday Services and open doors. We have continued with a number of regular Mission events and initiatives during the year:

- **Prayer Walks** have continued, led by Gill. These provide an opportunity to pray for a small area and invite prayer requests from residents.
- **The Healing Cafe** continued every Tuesday with Sheva in charge.
- The outdoor **Christmas Nativity Scene and Easter Garden**, were, again, powerful reminders of the Christian message. Thanks to Chris Aubrey for all his work on these.
- Gill Carter organised the **Flower Cross** at the front of the church for Holy Week and Easter and the poppy cross, with prayer requests, on Remembrance Sunday.
- We again sent out 3000 **Easter cards**, incorporating a message and an advert for our Easter services.
- We managed 6 out of 6 **Open-air morning Services** in the churchyard during July and August, with very good feedback from passers by.
- Richard and his team organised an excellent **Quiz Night** in March.
- We took full advantage of the **Christmas** mission opportunities with carol singing in the Shopping centre, our annual Lunchtime carol Service and a host of other special services. The 20s & 30s Group sang Carols at the Three Mills estate. We continued to deliver Christmas cards to all accessible homes and workplaces.

Report by David Richards

During the summer months Dennis Pritchard, our PARISH EVANGELIST, organised a series of outreach days in the churchyard. He writes:

The meeting time of the **Outreach Team** varies with the time of the year. During the summer we try to meet weekly, during the winter, once a month. 17 church members have been involved in the Outreach, and I want to thank them for their constant support. We have now acquired a

gazebo to help us with this venture, and it has been a great blessing to us, (I think we should get another one). The group meets to offer outreach through prayer, refreshments, or just a chat. We aim to continue this work in 2010.

Dennis Pritchard

The ACHOLI LONDON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, which had met at St. John's for many years, moved to St. Matthew's at the end of 2008. The group had expanded and needed a longer time to meet, which was not possible with our evening service.

MISSION/CHARITY GIVING

The MGC (Mission Giving Committee) meets to agree recommendations to the PCC for St John's Mission Giving Fund. The fund is made up of 10% of budgeted Giving from the congregation. 80% of this is given to organisations as a regular donation, while the remaining 20% is given to emergency appeals, usually through charities. (In addition to this, it is worth noting that St John's gives away the Christmas Collections from its Lunchtime Carol Service, and the Midnight Christmas Communion – this usually goes to Turnaround Trust for their work with the Homeless in Newham).

Darren McIndoe left the post of convenor of MGC, to be replaced by Rafe Smallman. Jean Scott (host!), Dorothy Hylton and Dave Richards remained members of MGC. In September Joel Lewis was added to the committee.

We gave regular donations to 14 organisations in 2009 and supported 4 appeals with the Emergency money.

In 2009 we had speakers from 3 organisations that we support. In February, Medicines for Muheza came to give a talk at an evening service, Spitalfields Crypt spoke to us on a Wednesday evening, and in October Amos Trust spoke at a morning service.

The committee met 5 times in 2009 to discuss which groups to support, which appeals to receive emergency money, which month to pray for each group, and who to invite as guest speakers.

If you have any questions about Mission Giving, or would like to suggest an organisation we should consider, speak to a member of the MGC.

ALLOCATION OF MISSION GIVING in 2009

£500 Christian Solidarity Worldwide –

Advocates for human rights/religious persecution

£400 Archbishop Janani Luwum Trust -

providing support for the church in Northern Uganda

£500 NAPAC – UK's only provider offering support, counselling and helping adults rebuild their lives after suffering child abuse

£500 Leprosy Mission – responding to medication needs and the eradication of poverty

£1300 CMS (Church Mission Society) – supporting Gautam and Sabrina Money in mission work in Delhi

£300 CBM (Christian Blind Mission) – providing eye care in more than 100 countries

£500 Spitalfields Crypt – A Christian run hostel for single men based at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch

£500 St. Joseph's Hospice – A hospice in Hackney run by the Roman Catholic Church providing care for terminally ill patients

£500 Through Faith Missions – A mission organisation working with local churches to organise evangelistic missions

£500 Medicines for Muheza – providing support for a Christian run hospital in Muheza, Tanzania

£500 Lifewords formerly known as Scripture Gift Mission – Providing evangelistic tracts in every language

£500 XLP - providing Christian support for assemblies, RE lessons and activities in Newham secondary schools

£400 Amos Trust - working with the deprived people of Palestine

£200 Church Urban Fund - support for Christian projects in Urban Priority Areas

£7100 TOTAL

EMERGENCY FUND DONATIONS:

£500 for the Disasters Emergency Committee
GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

£195.59 Packing for goods and supplies sent to the Good Life Club in Burma

£500 for the Aid UGANDA FAMINE RELIEF APPEAL

£650 for the Oxfam EAST ASIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

£1845.59 TOTAL

OTHER DONATIONS:

- **£976.84** for Turnaround (Newham Nightshelter) was collected at Christmas Services.
- **£216.05** (collection at the Confirmation Service) was donated to the Church Urban Fund
- **£160** was collected for the Poppy Appeal, but not sent until 2010
- **£69** (from a Quiz night) was donated to Richard House

Report by Rafe Smallman

MUSIC AT ST JOHN'S.

During 2009, we continued to hosted concerts by Newham Music Academy and the East London Clarinet Choir and World Citizens Soloists. We also hosted a gospel concert organised by the St. John's Women's Group

LUNCH TIME MUSIC 2009: This year saw the longest programme ever, with 22 concerts from early May to the end of September. Of these, 7 of the planned events involved people who had not previously performed in St John's and 3 concerts saw the return of musicians who had not been here for several years. Our magnificent organ had a good airing with 6 recitals and the rest covered the whole spectrum of instruments, voices and musical styles. One very interesting new event was the Maryland School choir who sang, with great enthusiasm and skill, songs from the musical they were preparing. Audience were again good, building up through the Season, and plans are well advanced for an exciting 2010 programme.

Reports by Frances Aubrey and David Richards

THE MINI-SHOP

The Accounts for the year appear elsewhere in the Annual Report.

Rev. Darren McIndoe was very involved in the Newham Fairtrade campaign and we regularly provided goods for different events that he was involved in before he moved last summer. Scilla Morgan has continued to help us promote fair-trade, and the "Just Buy One" campaign has been a success.

Christian Books, including Bible Notes, and other items such as cards and CDs are obtained from "Books for Life" in Bethnal Green. "Books for Life" also supplies the Scripture Union leaflets used by the children's groups.

Thanks to Richard Aubrey, Margaret Hurley (until May), Keziah Jimoh, and Scilla Morgan who have taken charge of the Mini-shop during the year.

Report by Carol Richards

SCHOOLS WORK continued during 2009, with a large number of school groups visiting St. John's. Some of these visits were linked to the Newham "Visit a Place of Worship" week, but many were arranged independently by the schools. The Easter Experience, organised by Darren McIndoe and his team involved almost 500 children from 8 local primary schools to learn about Easter and take part in some exciting workshops.

COMMUNITY MEETING FACILITIES

St. John's aims to be open all week to serve the community. The requests for use of the Church facilities are increasing year on year.

Our priorities are to meet the perceived needs of the local community. We particularly seek to provide space and encouragement for:

- Community arts
- Children and young people
- Community meetings and events
- Education and training
- A subsidiary aim is to allow the church to be open for a large part of every day as a place of peace and quiet in a busy part of London, and as a venue for displays and exhibitions.

During 2009 a large number of organisations used our facilities.

The London Borough of Newham held several of their meetings in the Church space, including meetings for LBN Social Services, LBN Leisure Services, Newham Home Improvement Agency, Older People's Rep Group, Newham Advocacy Parents Project, Newham Youth Offending Team, and Learning Disabilities Group. The Stratford and Newtown Ward Councillors hold their weekly surgery at the Church.

Other Public Sector users included: Newham Primary Care Trust, Newham Centre For Mental Health, Newham House, East London Environment Health, Olympic Delivery Authority, Royal Geographical Society, Substance Misuse Group, Service User Council, Stratford Town Centre Forum, Community Health Team, Stratford Community Forum, Inland Revenue,

Voluntary Organisations included: Landmark Training, Newham Asian Women's Project, Newham Writers Group, Newham Bookshop, Cemvo, Newham Age Concern, Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium, Newham Unison, Newham Refuge and Urban Development, Asian Health Agency. and Terrance Higgins Trust.

Music and Arts users included: Eastend Opera, Newham Music Academy, Stratford Circus, East London Clarinet Choir, Lunchtime Concerts.

Education/Training: Apple Pie Enterprises, Stratford Saturday School, Chelmsford Diocesan Youth training, Birkbeck College, NewTec, Actorshop.

Community Groups included Epilepsy Action, LookAhead Housing, Mind, Anger Management, Black & Ethnic Minority Care Forum, Community Empowerment Network, Fairtrade Groups, The Heights Residents and Leaseholders Group.

Counselling – Mental Health Groups, Hearing Voices Group, Newham Psychology Treatment Centre.

Children's Development /Training: Theatre Royal (Youth Theatre), Scouts and Iroko Theatre Company.

Other Users included: Local Space, Weight Watchers, Waltham Forest Unison, Iceland, Somalia Women Advice Network, Drug and Alcohol Service For London, Mind, Diocesan Regeneration Forum, Diocese Youth Training, Market Research, Expert Patients Programme, Street Cred.

God always blesses us with new groups coming to use our facilities. The groups are always amazed at what goes on in St John's, and it is always nice when they phone back after a meeting and thank us for our help. This could not happen without the hard work of our team - it is good that we can all work together. Once again I would like to thank all our staff, who help to keep St John's Church going each year. Our new facilities downstairs are working out well, and during 2009 we completed another project in the crypt - the new Trinity room and Trinity Chapel - more space for Community use.

With God's love and Blessing always:

Report by Kay Garib

STAFF AT ST. JOHN'S DURING 2009:

** Denotes volunteer worker.*

- VICAR: Rev. David Richards
- CURATE: Rev. Darren McIndoe
- ASSISTANT MINISTER (Children and Young People) Carol Richards*
- ASSISTANT MINISTER (Administration) Kay Garib
- ASSOCIATE MINISTER: Canon Peter Kolawole*
- READERS: Maureen Gowrie*, Rosemond Isiodu*, Sheva Williams*
- READER IN TRAINING: Cheryl Ramballi
- VERGER: Fitzroy Williams,
- VERGER/BUILDING SERVICES SUPERVISOR: Motie Ramballi
- DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Frances Aubrey*
- ORGANIST: Geoff Hobbs
- CONCERT TEAM: Frances Aubrey*, John Chapple*, Geoff Hobbs*
- EVENING SITE SUPERVISORS: John Grey, Sheva Williams
- OFFICE HELPERS: Pat Cordrey* Jacqui Mwaniki
- CASHIERS: Gill Carter*, Shirley Lacey*
- HEALING CAFE CO-ORDINATOR: Sheva Williams*
- RECEPTIONISTS: Roma Allen*, Chris Aubrey*, Yvonne Bailey*, Rosemarie Drummond*, Anita Hallcup*, Margaret Hurley*, Shirley Lacey*, Evadney Mapp*, Christine Morris*, Ephraim Namanya*, Violet Ogunleye*, Jean Scott*, Bev Slingo*.

RECEPTION REPORT: St. John's currently has a team of 13 volunteer Receptionists, each covering half a day per week. Their job is to welcome everyone to the building, direct them to the correct room, (sometimes a challenge with 6 different spaces in the building), and act as security guards! In their "spare" time they do administrative work for the Vicar.

The Receptionists are a dedicated group who add a great deal to our ministry. Some of them will have stapled this report together

Report by Jean Scott

ST JOHN'S WEBSITE From an average of 218 visitors a week at the end of 2008 to 293 a week at the end of 2009, the site continues to attract attention from all over the world.

As a part of the site's outreach Dennis Pritchard is contributing an occasional series on "What Do We Believe"

In order to make the site more accessible the navigation was re-arranged, making it easier for people to find exactly what they are looking for, and screen-reader friendly menus were added.

The website continues to offer the most up to date information on St. John's mission, ministry and special events.

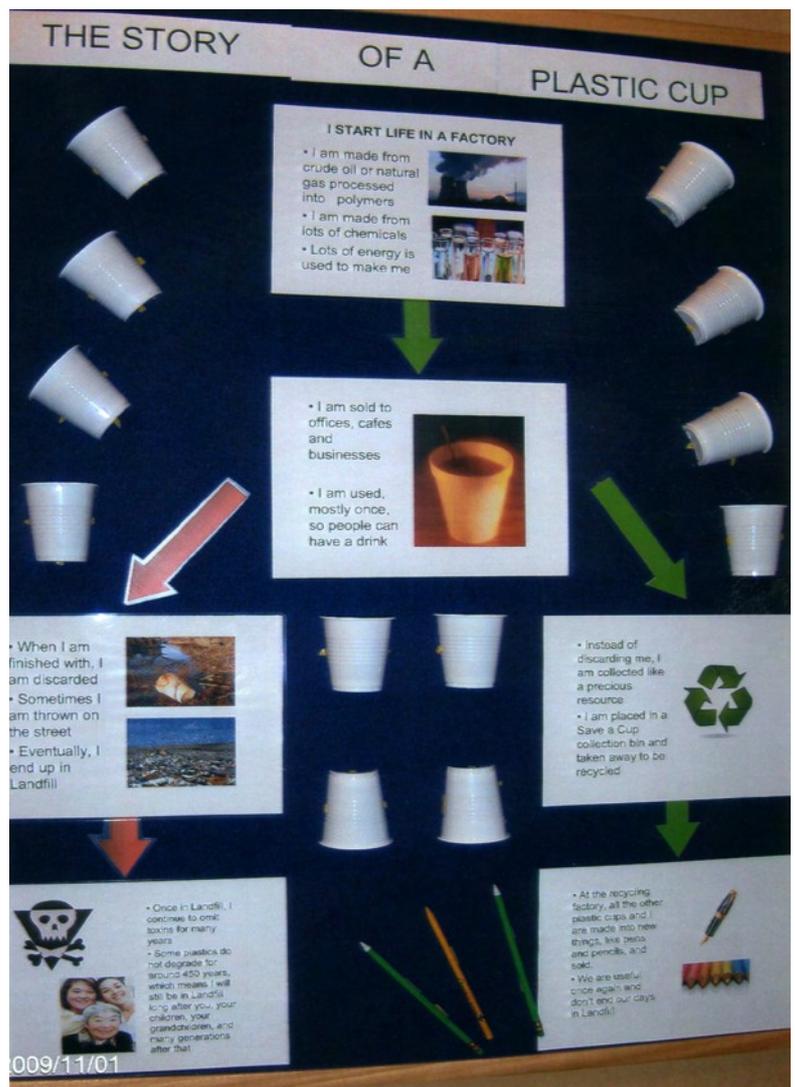
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT.

St John's Environmental Policy, "Treading lightly on the earth", is the church's response to the challenge of caring for God's creation against the back drop of climate change and its consequences. The Policy has been in place since April 2008 and is implemented through an action plan, which outlines areas of development for the church.

In 2009, some of our achievements included teaching regarding God's creation at Harvest, along with two notice board displays, one to promote the church plastic cup recycling scheme and the other on the theme of waste and landfill; installation of a tap filter to reduce the use of bottled water to users of the building; provision of fair-trade Easter eggs; the reuse and recycling of earth and concrete removed to create additional car parking spaces and Newham Reuse Group's involvement in Stratford and West Ham's Active Community Team's environmental event in July 2009.

Plans for 2010 include making an application for an Eco-congregation Award (made in January 2010), working through some of the Eco-congregation modules relating to children, young people and the community, continuing discussions regarding catering supplies and cleaning materials, choosing and planting of new trees in the church yard and the provision of information for the East London Waste Authority website.

Report by Pippa Pritchard



Environmental awareness - the story of a plastic cup

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2009.

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting the whole mission of the church pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in the ecclesiastical parish of St. John with Christ Church and St. James, Stratford

The PCC became a registered charity during 2009; the charity number is 1132176.

THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2009.

ST. JOHN'S

MINISTERS

Rev. David Richards *Vicar*

Rev. Darren McIndoe *Curate (to June 2009)*

Rev. Canon Peter Kolawole *Associate Minister*

Carol Richards *Assistant Minister, Children and Young People, Child Protection Officer for St. John's, Deanery Synod representative*

Rosemond Isiodu *Reader*

Sheva Williams *Reader*

Kay Garib *Assistant Minister, Administration*

CHURCH WARDENS

Chris Aubrey *(Deanery Synod representative)*

Tolu Babarinsa

Gill Carter *(PCC Vice Chair)*

Patricia Larocque

Richard Aubrey

Jane Ajayi

Yvonne Bailey *(Diocesan Synod representative to August 2009, co-opted from September 2009)*

James Beckles *(from April 2009)*

Adrian Clarke

Eleanor Humphrey *(Deanery Synod representative)*

Manny Ibiayo *(Treasurer)*

Keziah Jimoh *(from April 2009)*

Glyn Morgan

Pippa Pritchard

Cheryl Ramballi

Alfred Talabi *(to April 2009)*

ST. JAMES'

MINISTER

Rev. Canon Jeanette Meadway *Minister-in-Charge, Child Protection Officer for St. James'*

CHURCH WARDENS

Janet Williams *(Deanery Synod representative)*

Barbara Tomlinson

John Meadway *(Treasurer) (Deanery Synod representative)*

Edith Biryabarema *(from April 2009)*

Robert Brown

Sandra Walden *(PCC Secretary)*

Rene Gudgeon *(to April 2009)*

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and all members of the Roll are eligible to stand for election to the PCC.

There are 2 church buildings within the parish, St. John's, the Broadway, London E15 1NG and St. James, 98 St. James' Road, London E15 1RN.

Day to day responsibility for the mission, ministry and maintenance of St. James Church is delegated to the St. James Church Committee, which meets regularly and is chaired by the Minister in Charge of St. James'. This Committee reports regularly to the PCC.

The PCC met on 10 occasions during 2009. Meetings were held at St John's Church on Monday evenings during all months except August & December.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

In order to discharge their responsibilities the following items were discussed by the PCC:

- PCC gave attention to the regular agenda items including finance, building maintenance and special services
- PCC majored on looking forward to 2012 and beyond with our 'Look Ahead' project that began by looking at where we have come from, where we are at now and where we need to be as a Church for the changing community and opportunities these changes will bring to us. PCC planned the 'Ultimate Goal' mission due for 2010. Both of these exercises will help prepare church members to get involved and use their gifts and talents.
- During 2010 we look forward to the 'Ultimate Goal' mission as we shall be working together with other churches in Stratford in preparation for the 2012 Olympics and the legacy that these and the regeneration will bring to this part of London and how the Good News of Jesus can continue to be shared.
- PCC reviewed the Environmental Policy and Child Protection Policy for St John's, and agreed a policy for the protection of vulnerable adults at St. John's.
- The PCC oversaw the work of St James Committee: this included building improvements to the interior, the exterior and the electrics; and the development of a weekly Sunday afternoon and evening programme to cater both for junior age groups and for those unable to attend morning worship.

During 2010 we will continue to be challenged given the current economic climate as to how to use our buildings and resources to best effect in our efforts to take the Good News of Jesus beyond our church walls.

To facilitate this work the PCC has responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric St. John's Church, the Broadway, London E15 and St. James Church, St. James' Road, London E15. During 2009 the following building issues were addressed:

At St. John's:

- Following the issue of faculty, extensive work was done in the Crypt to create the Trinity Room and the Trinity Chapel. This was partly funded by reserves and with the assistance of grants and donations from various sources, given or promised, totalling £9,800
- We completed work to remove a raised flower-bed in the Churchyard which had become a dumping-ground for knives and stolen property and created 2 extra parking spaces
- We carried out a Health and Safety inspection, which was received by PCC.
- Emergency Evacuation procedures were reviewed and a Fire Drill was held.
- The Quinquennial Inspection was carried out by Chris Betts of Purcell, Miller, Tritton and Partners, which found only minor faults with the building.
- An Electrical Inspection was carried out by Lodge and Sons, and a certificate issued. Minor faults were corrected, some light fittings were upgraded in the corridor and meeting rooms and labelling of switchgear was improved.

At St. James':

- At the east end of the church, the store was converted into a useful office, and blinds were installed;
- Key parts of the electrical installation were renovated and improved;
- Outside, new weatherproof boarding was installed at the east end of the building;

- The Quinquennial Inspection was carried out by Tracey Skovronek of Purcell, Miller, Tritton and Partners, and confirmed the need for work on the vestry and office roof, and for a phased programme of external redecoration.

In addition to the St. James Committee, the PCC also has the following committees, which meet and report, as necessary, to full PCC meetings.

- ◇ **Standing Committee** for the whole PCC, which transacts emergency business between PCC meetings and occasionally meets to consider business referred to it by PCC.
- ◇ **Parish Housing Committee** for the whole PCC, which manages the 2 assistant clergy houses owned by the PCC.
- ◇ **Building Committee** for St. John's, which is responsible for the maintenance of St. John's church building.
- ◇ **Personnel Committee** for St. John's, which oversees lay workers, both voluntary and paid, at St. John's
- ◇ **Mission and Charity Giving Committee** for St. John's, which is responsible for giving away 10% of St. John's collections to missions and charities.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

The PCC are keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. All are welcome to attend our regular services.

- On the day of the 2009 Annual Meeting the Parish Electoral Roll numbered 341 (St. John's: 284, St. James': 57)
- During 2009, average Sunday attendances at St. John's were 331 morning and 56 evening.
- During 2009, average Sunday attendances at St. James' were 36 morning, 12 afternoon and 11 evening.

In addition to our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

We want our churches to be open to our community for private prayer and this is achieved at St. John's through the employment of paid staff and the time generously given by our unpaid receptionists.

Both churches benefit the wider community as places for community meetings and activities and through our work of welcoming local schools for educational visits.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During 2009, PCC income from direct giving exceeded budget. Deanery Share payments to the Diocese were met in full by St. John's and St. James'. The Deanery Share payment is assessed by Newham Deanery, according to an agreed formula. Actual figures showed an increase over 2008 and will continue to increase for some years because of increased congregations at both churches. This payment goes towards the cost of clergy stipends throughout the Diocese of Chelmsford

The freehold house at 2 St. James' Road continued to be let, temporarily. This letting produced a small deficit to the Parish Houses Fund, as a result of building work undertaken, offsetting the small surplus in 2008.

Both churches are committed to giving away 10% of budgeted annual Giving income to missions and charities identified as organisations we aim to support.

During 2009 St John's gave away a total of £10,147.48. £8,900 was assigned to the Charities Fund, and donated to 18 organisations in line with our Mission and Charity donations policy.

OTHER DONATIONS:

- **£976.84** for Turnaround (Newham Nightshelter) was collected at Christmas Services.
- **£216.05** (collection at the Confirmation Service) was donated to the Church Urban Fund
- **£69** (from a Quiz night) was donated to Richard House
- **£160** was collected for the Poppy Appeal, but not forwarded to the Royal British Legion until 2010

More details of Mission and Charity Giving are included in the St. John's Annual Review.

During 2009 St. James donated a total of £950 to 5 organisations.

The net result for the year, in general funds, was a year on year deficit of £48,947.63 for St. John's, (caused by the use of reserves for the Trinity Room project), and a deficit of £184 for St. James. Transfers of funds are shown in the full accounts.

RESERVES POLICY:

St. John's policy is to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, (if possible), which equates to approximately six months unrestricted payments. This policy is based on the following factors:

- Church membership is constantly changing within a community with a very transient population. Members' giving is therefore subject to fluctuation.
- Rents received for use of space in St John's church building are also subject to fluctuation because most users are community groups or Local Government departments, and are dependent on funding decisions for continued bookings
- St. John's has significant liabilities for staff salaries, and the possibility of heavy repair bills to the building in the future.

The balance in the general fund at the year-end was £28,346.92, which is less than this target. PCC took the strategic decision to use some of the accumulated reserves to undertake building work, (the Trinity Room project), in the Crypt during 2009. PCC aims to restore the balance to our target level over the coming years.

St. John's also has a designated Capital Asset Fund to meet some expected costs for fabric and equipment replacement. At the year-end this stood at £25,125.70.

St. James' policy is to maintain a balance on general funds (if possible), which equates to approximately six months general payments. This policy is based on the following factors:

- Church membership is constantly changing within a community with a very transient population. Members' giving is therefore subject to fluctuation.
- St. James has fewer regular bookings, which are also subject to change.
- St. James building is liable to require expensive repairs in the future.

The balance in the general fund at the year-end was £6,660, reasonably close to this target.

More detailed financial information may be obtained from the annual accounts, available from the Church Office.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEWHAM DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod brings together the Anglican clergy of Newham and elected lay representatives of their churches. Lay representatives elected to the Deanery Synod for three year terms at the 2008 annual meeting for St John's are Chris Aubrey, Eleanor Humphrey and Carol Richards. Yvonne Bailey was a member while she was on the Diocesan Synod. From St James there are Janet Williams, and John Meadway, who is Deanery Treasurer. Under church law Deanery Synod may consider and express opinions on matters referred to it by the General or Diocesan Synod, and consider resolutions passed to it by PCCs to go on to higher levels. Its lay members are in their personal capacities the electors to the Diocesan and General Synods. Typically it has evening meetings four times a year at churches around Newham, with attendances of 30-40. These are reported regularly to PCC meetings.

In March 2009 the main topics of the meeting were the work of the Renewal Programme; and the lack of suitable faith provision in the plans for the use of the Olympic legacy sites. In June this was addressed again after a presentation by the community engagement leader of the Olympic Legacy Directorate. In September the Rev Russell Ogston explained his work as Chaplain at Newham General Hospital and particularly his efforts to strengthen links with Newham churches when their people were ill. At the last meeting in November the Synod welcomed an interesting session led by Bishop David.

An important activity of the Deanery Synod each year is to decide the size of each parish's share of Newham Deanery's part of the overall diocesan family purse bill. The family purse pays for clergy stipends and housing and most of the rest of the diocese's expenditure. The overall pattern of this allocation to parishes does not change much from year to year, as the Deanery attaches importance to having as much stability as possible in the financial environment for parishes. It continues to allocate the family purse bill in proportion to size of congregation, as far as possible, and this was the core policy for the 2010 allocations, again with a phasing-in to avoid excessive increases for those churches that have shown relatively large growth in their

numbers. The limit on the increase (over and above the increase in the Deanery share) was increased from 3% to 4% for 2010, a feature of importance to St John's and St James's. Even so, there remains for the future a substantial problem arising from the impact of big increases in numbers at the rapidly growing parishes over recent years.

Report by John Meadway

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Incumbent: Rev. David Richards, St. John's Church, Stratford Broadway, London E15 1NG

PCC Vice-Chair: Gill Carter, St. John's Church, Stratford Broadway, London E15 1NG

PCC Secretary: Sandra Walden, St. John's Church, Stratford Broadway, London E15 1NG

PCC Treasurer: Manny Ibiayo, St. John's Church, Stratford Broadway, London E15 1NG

St John's Bank: Natwest Bank, 1-11 The Broadway, Stratford, London E15 4DX

St James' Bank: Natwest Bank, 309 Romford Road, London E7 9SH

Independent Examiner: Mr. Peter Morley FCMA

Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2009 are on the following pages.

David Richards, Vicar Gill Carter, PCC Vice Chair 15th March 2010

<p>A SEPARATE REVIEW of the work of St. John's Church in 2009, published by the Vicar, is bound with this report. The material in that review is collected and edited by the Vicar, has not been presented to the PCC for approval, and does not form part of this report.</p>
