

St. John's Church Stratford London E15

## ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2011



*A bit of culture! The Bayswater Clarinet Quartet at a Wednesday Lunchtime concert.  
St John's is currently the only place in Stratford to promote regular classical music concerts.*

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011

# VICAR'S REPORT

The danger with 2011 is that it could be just the year before 2012 (you know what I mean). I hope that we managed to do a bit more than that, but there was certainly a focus on preparation for 2012. The **Ultimate Dream** long-weekend Mission was a further part of the preparation for 2012, and helped us to improve our skills as churches. Some of the experience gained helped to improve our open Air services and our outreach ministry generally. Other 2012 preparation included some hard planning, a budget and some fundraising for the Ultimate Gold Olympic Mission. This bore fruit in the form of a £20,000 grant from the Chelmsford Diocese Mission Opportunity Fund.

2011 was a difficult year, with 2 of our 3 clergy in Africa almost all year; this was the first time in 20 years that we have been without a Curate or Associate Minister. I am deeply grateful to all of our Ministry team for their extra hard work, and especially to Sheva and Iris for covering so many Tuesdays. It was a great relief to welcome Peter Ngugi back in December, and also to welcome Rev. Peter Kinyanjui as Associate Minister. (As someone commented, we prayed for Peter and got 2 - God's double blessing). Peter K. is an experienced priest, and is with us to help him gain experience of the Church of England, with the expectation that he will one day become a Parish Priest in the C of E. Canon Peter Kolawole remains in Nigeria, but we hope he will return one day.

An important challenge for 2011 was the opening of the **inSpiration** Prayer Room at Westfield. This was the result of much planning, praying and a lot of meetings; many people, including Carol, worked hard to make this possible, and now many more people, including a large number from St John's are working to staff the room 7 days a week. Robert Otule, our trainee Reader also goes down in history as the minister who led the first-ever Christian service at inSpiration on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Since then a number of other Churches have joined in leading services, with St John's covering the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday mornings. I have chaired inSpire, the trust which manages the Prayer Room, since April, and I am very thankful that St. John's has supported this important ministry.

A new challenge for me in 2011 was my appointment as Met Police Chaplain for Stratford; I have always tried to offer pastoral support to our local Police officers, so could not really refuse. I have continued as a Governor at Carpenters School and was re-appointed for a further term in August.

St John's continues to host many visits by classes of children from local schools. We are able to provide an action-packed 45 minute guided tour, which the children find very interesting. This is a unique opportunity to tell the children about Jesus and his Church without the charge of engaging in overt evangelism.

It was good to welcome the London Acholi Christian Fellowship back to St. John's. This is not another group hiring the church, but part of our ministry; we hope to share leadership of the monthly service between the 3 clergy, and I am encouraging the group to lead as much of the service as possible. We have also continued to support the Newham Scouts, hosting the annual Nativity play and Carols service; we will, again, host the St George's Day Service in 2012.

I am always aware of your prayer and care for me: at a recent ministry review with the Bishop of Barking he commented on my positive attitude to ministry; this says a great deal for the way in which we are partners in the ministry and mission to which Jesus has called us all. Thank you for your fellowship during 2011; by God's grace we will survive 2012 and serve the Lord together.

**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. This part is presented in a new format this year.

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*

## 2011 AT A GLANCE – Extracts from the Weekly Newsletters

There are pictures of some of these events on the Church website at <http://www.stjohnse15.co.uk/galleries/gallery.html>

- The new venture in January 2011 was the nightshelter organised by Stratford churches. A large number of St. John's members assisted with the project.
- The Women's Group organised a trip to the pantomime – oh yes they did!
- At the end of January Chizoma Mbataku graduated as a Christian youth leader.
- On the first weekend in February we were joined, once again, by Through Faith Missions for a training course. 14 members of St. John's are now TFM evangelists and 4 people joined the TFM Walk West Dorset mission at the end of September.
- There were several lunches arranged after the Sunday morning service during 2011, some by the TNT Fellowship Group and some by the Women's Group.
- Sporty church members competed in a Table Tennis tournament in February.
- There were regular prayer meetings at the Olympic Park during the year.
- Many church members went to Vange (near Basildon) in March for the Licensing of Rev David Ibiayo, a former member of St. John's.
- The new Bishop of Chelmsford, Bishop Stephen, visited Newham in March and came to St. John's for a Deanery service.
- The annual St. John's Quiz Night was won by a team from the King Eddy.
- Several different Church groups planned and led the Sunday Morning Service during the year – the Women's Group on Mothering Sunday, the Men's Group on Father's Day, and the YPF Group took the Morning Service on 8<sup>th</sup> May.
- On 29<sup>th</sup> April we watched the Royal Wedding on the large screen at Highway Church.
- There was a great variety of music at the Summer Wednesday Lunchtime Concerts.
- There was a good turnout for an event called "Redeeming Our Communities" at Woodgrange Baptist Church in May, when the police, local Councillors and local churches discussed ways of working together for the good of the community.
- The Men's Group had a special event in May with a focus on Pakistan and a speaker from the British Pakistani Christian Association.
- It rained on Pentecost Sunday in June, so the picnic didn't happen, but there was a service of prayer and praise at Highway Church for all the Stratford Churches.
- Pete Saunders from NAPAC spoke at a special "Church on Wednesday" in June
- The Bishop of Northern Uganda joined us on 3<sup>rd</sup> July for a special Evening Service with the Acholi Fellowship.
- "The Ultimate Dream" in July was a dress rehearsal to help us with our planning for outreach during the 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games. On Saturday afternoon there was an excellent "Stratford Churches have got Talent" showcase event.
- Two Church members passed away in July: Birlton Mitchell and "Big" Charles Thomas. We miss them both.
- In the summer the Women's Group organised a Summer Fete and the Men's Group organised a family walk in Wanstead Park.
- Some Sunday Club children went to the Longbarn Camp in Kent and some of the YPF Group went to the CYFA Camp in Devon.
- Shirley Lacey organised a coach trip to Clacton in August.
- There was a Choir Photo in September just before Anna Morgan went to college.
- Westfield Stratford City opened in September along with the rest & faith space staffed by volunteers from churches in the area.
- There was scaffolding outside in September when a high parapet had to be rebuilt.
- The organ was out of action in October as it needed essential maintenance work.
- The big event of October was the "One World" event, organised by Sheva Williams. There was also a Saints' Party for children on the same day.
- We all rejoiced when Rev Peter Ngugi was ordained priest in Kenya in October, married Belinda in Australia in November and returned to St. John's in December.

# THROUGH THE WEEK AT ST JOHN'S

**SUNDAYS** are an important day. Some people think that Sunday Church attendance is declining; not at St John's!

**THE MORNING SERVICE** is an occasion for a lot of different activities, much more than just a service. It is a springboard for worship, teaching, prayer, fellowship, baptisms and an increasing number of after-service groups and meetings. Our worship pattern of alternating Holy Communion and Prayer/Praise Services continues, with a consistent emphasis on praise through music. This service also becomes an Open Air evangelistic event during July and August, showing passers-by a vibrant church at worship and prayer. Attendance continues to grow slowly, with average attendance during 2011 of 342, an increase over 2010.

A very large number of people help to make this service happen, and we need to recognise their hard work and commitment to ministry.

**THE EVENING SERVICE** continues to be a smaller, quieter service, with a high proportion of people who "drop in", sometimes for only part of the service. Smaller numbers and fewer children allow more time for silence and reflection.

Robert Otule joined the leadership team for this service during 2011, and his sensitive leading and thoughtful preaching have been much appreciated. Cheryl Ramballi and Elis Matthews have also contributed greatly to leading this service

Average attendance during 2011 was 68 people, a small increase over 2010. The service also served as a base for some united Stratford Churches services, a welcome service for the new Bishop of Northern Uganda, our annual Confirmation in November and the Carols by Candlelight at Christmas.

*David Richards*

## THE CHOIR AND MUSIC GROUP

2011 has seen significant change in personnel within the Choir and Music Groups. In the early summer, Richard Aubrey, a regular worship leader and 'you name it-I can play it' member of the group, was invited to become temporary music director at St. John's Church, Hackney. The post became permanent in the autumn. Whilst it is sad to see members move on, it is surely part of our ministry at St John's, Stratford to develop skills and gifts in each other so that we can move on as God leads us. We wish him

well in his new post and look to our Father to lead other musicians to the church to swell our ranks. For a few months, we had the pleasure of sharing our practice and worship times with Julia, an Australian violinist, temporarily based in Stratford. In October, the Organ was taken out of action for a couple of weeks while it underwent a vital overhaul, the first major work carried out for many years. Following the necessary treatment, the organ sounds as magnificent as ever, especially in the most capable hands of our organist, Geoff Hobbs.

The Choir has moved forward in many ways in the past year. For many years this report has closed by inviting men and young people in particular to listen for god's call to join us and to respond. Well, this year, they have, praise god! We have seen a growing number sitting on the organ side (where the men sit!) and four new young people have joined - three of them male. We are always open to welcome more newcomers and this year it would be particularly pleasing to welcome any altos who feel the call. With growing numbers and the continuing commitment of those who have served the Lord and the congregation faithfully over the years, we are still making progress, always seeking to develop our musical skills to the full, to use the gifts we have been given in the best way we can.

*Frances Aubrey, Musical Director*

**PRAYER MINISTRY** continues as usual during Sunday morning and evening services in the Prayer Chapel. We now have 32 active prayer ministers from the earlier total of 42. 2 people requested leave for personal reasons; they were thanked for their services and 8 are off duty for a while also for personal reasons. Prayer ministers pray in pairs for people who come forward with prayer requests. Those seeking prayer very much appreciate the service we provide as it helps to meet their need immediately as well as progressively, and many people return to give thanks to god for answered prayers.

We are a growing team spiritually as well as in numbers, all praise and thanks to God. We had 2 very successful meetings during the summer for discussion and refreshing; a total of 28 members attended, gratitude was expressed with a desire for more regular meetings.

The willingness shown by all shows that we love the way that God is using us, and that it is our desire to continue working in 2012 and beyond to fulfil his kingdom here on earth for his glory and pleasure.

*Sheva Williams, Prayer Ministry Team Leader*

## THE ARK

At the end of 2011 there were 44 children aged 1-3½ on the Ark Register, which compares with 40 in 2010 and 41 in 2009. Obviously it's not the same children, as a number move up to Sparklers each year. There were 13 leaders during 2011 (thank you). Most of the leaders have been with us for a number of years and this means they've been able to get to know the children and their parents well, which is always positive. It's always a great joy to me, when I'm in the group, to help the young children start on their Christian journey.

## SUNDAY CLUB

There are 4 Sunday Club groups covering the ages from 3½ -13. At the end of 2011 the number of children registered was:

Sparklers (age 3½ – 5)	46 (39 2010)
Kingdom Kids (age 6 – 7)	21 (24 2010)
The 'J' Team (age 8 – 10)	23 (25 2010)
Teen LIVE! (age 11 – 13)	37 (32 2010)

During the year 26 adults have been leaders or assistants for the various Sunday Club groups – thank you everyone.

We use the Scripture Union "Light" syllabus. During the year the children covered the following topics:

January – God protects David in his early life  
February – The story of Jonah  
March – Jesus' parables challenge us about how we should live  
April – God's plan for our salvation (Easter)  
May – King David  
June – The gift of God's Spirit  
July – Solomon  
September – Elijah the prophet  
October – Jesus, the friend  
November – Elisha the prophet  
December – Good and faithful God (Christmas)

This year, instead of Easter Eggs, we were healthy and thought of others and we bought some chickens for a development project at an Anglican mission school in central Zambia. The younger children still received "He is Risen" balloons. In April Sunday Club celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday.

Some of the older children attended the Scripture union Longbarn Camp in Kent in August. Once again, Sheva Williams organised a successful Saints' Party at the end of October. In November

7 members of Sunday Club (+ 5 members of YPF) were confirmed. Thanks to Frances Aubrey for leading the Confirmation classes. Christmas is always a busy time and children made the large church Christmas card and also took part in a Nativity tableau. All the children who attended over the Christmas season were given a present from St. John's.

*Carol Richards*

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

**YPF** meet during the main Sunday morning service for their separate 30-40 minute time together. Numbers vary with as few as 3 or 4 to around 20 young people aged between 14 to 18 having a good time sharing God's word, getting to know Jesus more and discussing issues that are relevant to their daily lives as they grow in faith. Sessions are usually quite lively and fun and we use lots of different and creative ways to encourage them to discover their talents and find their place in the life of the church.

Hopefully in 2012, we aim to organise a few more outings for the group but will focus on getting them involved in the opportunities that the Olympics will bring them to play their part in witnessing Christ's love for the world as it arrives on our very doorstep this summer.

*Gill Carter*

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

## WELCOMERS

In 1652 the famous Puritan poet John Milton (later author of "Paradise Lost") became blind. This caused him great personal grief as he was concerned how he could continue serving god. So, soon after the lost of his sight, he wrote a beautiful sonnet "On His Blindness", where he asked if the fact that "My light is spent" would make him "useless" to God. His response was that "God doth not need either man's work or his own gifts" and ended the poem with the famous words "They also serve who only stand and wait"

Christ told His parables about "Talents", St Paul wrote at length on "gifts"; certainly the successful message from St John's Church is a result of the spiritual gifts of the leadership, the praise skills of the choir and the musicians, the artistic skills of those many people who first built and now maintain the structure of the building, the administrative skills of those who run the church on a day-to-basis and service the community and maintain the financial stability of our church - submit that Milton's words might also apply to the

many (and there are lots of them) members of the Welcomers group at St John's.

We must always keep in mind, in an area where congregations are not the same week after week, where arrival times are not all the same, where the numbers of new and foreign visitors are increasing (and will increase even more this summer), that for many people the first impression they receive of St John's (and thus of Christianity) are those people "waiting" by the doors to welcome them, to greet them, to direct them, to disperse service papers, to provide information (not forgetting the unsung heroes, the car-park organisers]) This IS a gift, and I remain grateful and impressed at the caring manner with which my colleagues in the Welcomers Team "serve him best" (Milton again). The issue of "gifts" may scare some people, or make them feel inadequate: no, everyone in his or her own way, young and old, can and does contribute to the mission at St John's.

Thank you all very much.

*Chris Aubrey*

**THE TEA MAKERS** offer a very important Ministry, done by volunteers, and working alongside other ministries at St. John's.

We refresh church members after Sunday services in the Café area as people relax, meet and greet new members and make friends. Members volunteer for this ministry as it empowers them to continue in their faith to serve others, building a relationship with God and his people. Their willingness is seen with the numbers growing weekly, operating on rota basis once a month. We are about 30-35 in number and still growing to accommodate the morning and evening services. Sometimes, birthdays or events are celebrated with homemade cakes.

**MONDAY** *tends to be quiet day - maybe everyone is "churched-out", after Sunday.*

One Monday every month the **Church Council** (PCC) meets - *make sure you don't miss the PCC report under the legal section.*

The core team of **Ministers and staff** also try to meet on Monday to plan the week ahead.

The other people who are busy on Mondays are our team of Receptionists; their work starts on Mondays and continues throughout the week. Bev Slings, our hard-working Monday morning Receptionist writes:

There are 12 of us in the **RECEPTIONISTS'** team. We work on a voluntary basis between 10am-1pm and 1pm-4pm Monday to Saturday,

These unsung heroes are equipped, ready and prepared to serve for the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics when visitors are welcomed at St. John's Church for site-seeing and to find God's peace. I am very grateful for all those willing volunteers who make it easier to serve, even in an unscheduled situation. We pray that they all be blessed in what they are called to do.

*Patricia Larocque*

**THE LONDON ACHOLI CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP** returned to St. John's in September, meeting on the first Sunday afternoon of every month. This group began at St John's in the 1990s and now brings together Acholi-speaking Christians from all over London. It is good to have them back, and wonderful to welcome back Rev. Modicum Okello, occasionally, to lead services.

*David Richards*

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH: A YOUTH PERSPECTIVE**

As a young person at Church services, I feel that St. John's caters for all ages. There are a few services that are taken by the young people, also there are many opportunities to take part in different things, such as sound engineering, reading during the service, Choir and Band, welcoming.

I think that this great as it allows everyone to have a chance to get involved with the church. I really enjoy coming to St John's it's a fun and I learn a lot; the Sunday groups provide a relaxed and enjoyable environment. If I had the chance to I'd invite all my friends and family to worship at St John's.

*David Wilson*

two people covering three hours each day. We welcome people as they come into St John's.

Visitors come to spend quiet time for prayer in church, to look around the church and for booked meetings in the rooms. Schools bring children in to see the church and we also have weekly concerts on Wednesdays in the summer.

Receptionists keep the church safe for everyone who use it, and for 2012 it will be busy but we will keep doing the job we are doing with welcoming smile. Thank you to all the volunteers.

*Bev Slings*

**TUESDAY** *is a much busier day - lots of things have come together to make it an important day in our ministry and mission.*

**THE TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

changed venue during the year and now meet at St John's between 10.00am and 12.30pm, usually in either the St Stephen's Room or downstairs in the Trinity Chapel. Our group average is 7 but we do have others joining us from time to time and it was good to welcome Pamela back in October, along with her carer Vera. Our main purpose is to share God's word but we have fun encouraging and supporting each other along the way. For much of 2011, we studied the Book of Job, using 22 CDs prepared by Pastor Chuck Swindoll and we enjoyed tackling scripture in this way and found Job's message challenging. We had a theatre trip to see 'Les Misérables' in the summer and ended the year by having a lunch outing at a posh hotel in Docklands. At both events we were joined by friends and other church members and hope to have a few more visits to places of mutual interest in 2012.

*Gill Carter*

**THE HEALING CAFE** meets Tuesday 11am-2.30pm in the church cafe` except after a bank holiday.

The Healing Cafe is managed by 6 prayer ministers, we are a lively team working together, welcoming all who come to us for what ever reason many are not members of St John's Church but most stay for the lunch-time service we have grown significantly numbers range from 7-20. If we continue to increase we may soon need a larger space Praise God!

Tea, coffee and biscuits are readily available and are free to all. During the summer we started providing a light lunch this has been well accepted and much appreciated by all. Mary enjoys cooking delicious dishes and Iris makes delightful cakes and off course everyone contributes in one-way or another.

We love to see the way people lose their worried look after a session or to with us and leave with a

smile. Our aim is to help all in need through listening, mentoring and prayer in the hope that God's will be done in their lives.

We also pray for the church, the world and for individual prayer requests including the church prayer board we see ourselves as a loving caring family and with god's help we aim to continue.

*Sheva Williams*

**THE TUESDAY LUNCHTIME SERVICE**

offers twenty minutes of worship, teaching and prayer. We've looked at lots of different Bible books, sometimes following themes in the Church's year - Advent, Lent and Easter, sometimes characters - some of the Old Testament Judges, and more recently, whole letters, -1 and 2 Thessalonians. We've also studied the early church in Acts.

Dave, Sheva, and I share the leadership of this service. As usual, our biggest congregation was for the Lunchtime Carol service, following invitations to all the local businesses and offices, but we also have a regular congregation who come as often as they can. It's encouraging to meet people from other churches, who appreciate the opportunity to take time out in the week. If you are free, come and join us.

*Iris Bryzak*

**THE 13<sup>th</sup> NEWHAM SCOUT GROUP** meets every Tuesday in term time from 5.30pm-8pm. We have 10 children and 3 adult leaders. The children have gained several badges within the year and have attended a pantomime, a camp, and a trip to Southend.

Bridget Richards was recently elected chairperson, and is an asset to the overall running of the group.

We welcome new members to build upon our existing numbers.

*John Grey, Scout Leader*

**WEDNESDAY** *Middle of the week already, and a great deal going on, especially in the Summer months*

**SUMMER MUSIC @ ST. JOHN'S.** The 2011 season saw, for the first time, 22 concerts from 22 different musical groupings (although 3 of the groups were the same people playing different instruments!)

A number of the performers were visiting for the

first time, having heard about the concerts and offered to perform. In this category were a flute and guitar duo from New York State University and a wonderful flute and organ duo, whose performance of original compositions for this grouping was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the season.

Amongst the concerts given were 3 by students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama who were highly professional in their performances and delighted with the acoustics and the size of the audience.

The concerts were very well attended throughout the season, with many audiences in the high 20s and 30s, very good audience sizes for mid-week concerts in a London Church.

For 2012, it is anticipated that there will be more contact with London Music Colleges, offering an opportunity for young musicians to gain performance experience. We also hope to be able to increase the number of concerts during the Olympic Games to offer the thousands of visitors a different kind of entertainment.

We are very grateful to all the performers, especially those who have supported us over the years, who give such enjoyment for nothing more than the joy of making music in very sympathetic surroundings.

*Frances Aubrey Music Director and Summer Music Organiser*

## **THURSDAY** *Our Thursday Lunchtime Service has been a fixture since the 1980s, but now there is also the Men's Group.*

**THE THURSDAY LUNCHTIME SERVICE** is always a Holy Communion Service. It lasts for just half an hour and includes a short sermon. During 2011 Dave led almost all the services, with Br. Philip from Plaistow standing in to cover holidays; we hope he will join us again soon.

This short service is popular with those who work in Stratford, and with some who worship at other churches on Sunday. The service has grown during the year and continues to be a place to discover what it means to follow Jesus in a busy world.

*Yvonne Bailey*

**ST JOHNS MEN'S GROUP** had a very good year in 2011.

In January, the group started the year with a presentation on Lent, its origin, traditions and practices. We also invited David Crisp coordinator of Newham Street Pastors who came in to deliver a talk on their work in the community.

In March, there was a special talk on Health with reference to our faith delivered by Dr David Lai Soile – a Pastor and GP. Our April meeting featured a Food and Faith session where we explored Food, Culture and Faith with particular

**CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY** continues to meet each week in the café area of St. John's from 20:00 to 21:45. This relaxed informal mid-week service attracts a widely diverse group of people who meet together for a time of worship, prayer, a Bible study and lots of lively yet reflective debate.

The leadership team comprises David Richards, Patricia Larocque and Maxine Webster. During the year we studied Luke's gospel, the 10 Commandments, Christian Basics, the book of Nehemiah, and the letter to the Hebrews. We also looked at the important subject of "Christians at Work".

With the opening of 'Inspiration': the rest and faith space at Westfield in September 2011, the team from Church on Wednesday will end lead the occasional Sunday morning session.

*Maxine Webster*

reference to Pakistan with a special guest from the British Pakistan Christian Association

The group led the Father's Day Service in June and had a family day out at Epping Forrest in late Summer. We had another opportunity to lead a service/fellowship at Westfield Inspire project in November with the theme "Prepare to meet your God". At the end of the fellowship at the Inspire Prayer room, members went out to socialise and for capacity building including a meal together followed by a game of bowling at the All Stars Lanes Bowling alley at Westfield.

The group Christmas lunch was held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, after the 11:00 o'clock service. Members, friends and families were invited.

And as a Christmas gift, the Lord granted our prayer by making it possible for us to welcome Rev. Peter Ngugi and Belinda back into our fold.

Apart from the above activities, we had a number of Bible-based discussion/study meetings in the year. There are about 15 to 20 members but attendance at meetings varies monthly. It is our hope that the group will continue to grow in numbers and spiritually in the New Year 2012.

Praise God. *Tolu Babarinsa*



## **FRIDAY** *Usually the Vicar's day off, but that doesn't mean everything stops.*

**THE ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S GROUP** meets on the first Friday of every month at 7.30pm. Around 15 people attend, with 25 postal members

The group's main aim was fellowship and supporting the Church.

The group focussed more on support of members, reaching out to absent friends, those who were ill, bereaved or troubled to provide comfort where needed. Come Dine with me

Sunday lunches' were arranged at quarterly intervals by the group, in the Christchurch room, to provide fellowship with church members who, in turn, enjoyed a meal and chat after the morning service.

In 2012 the group aims to continue to provide support to St John's Church in the Olympic year to bring Christian fellowship to a wider audience.

*Sharon Cumberbatch*

## **SATURDAY** *The weekend at last, but Saturday is more than just the day before Sunday...*

**GRIME BUSTERS** meet around 10.30 am, and hope to finish about 11.30, but sometimes some people come in late or don't turn up at all.

We are about 13-15 cleaners. The group exists to keep the church as clean as possible.

This New Year our aim is, to persuade the congregation to keep the church clean by taking their rubbish with them or putting it the bins provided. Since we are volunteers and very pleased to clean the church, it would help a lot.

*Lydia Quartey*

**THE EVANGELISM TEAM**, commonly known as The Gazebo Team, meet on a Saturday morning between 9.30-10am for prayer, the numbers that comes on the Saturday morning range between 4 to 7 people or more.

Our main purpose is to reach out to the community by offering prayer for various needs and healing, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and our testimony, letting the community know who we are at St. John's Church.

In July the Gazebo Team was involved with the Through Faith Missions team in the Pre-Olympic mission in the Churchyard, preparing for the 2012 Olympics.

In November we were also involved in the training for the homeless through the Stratford Churches Night Shelter Initiative. This was a very fruitful training session, which prepared some members of our team to become volunteers in the Night Shelter.

A member of our team was involved with the TFM Walk West Dorset in sharing the Gospel in the area of Weymouth.

Our aim for 2012 is not to sit back, but to prepare ourselves for the big event - 2012 Olympics

*Eon Wade - Member of the Gazebo Team*

**THE AGENDA GROUP** seeks to bring together single (never married, widowed, divorced, separated) adults within the body of St. John's Church to meet on a regular basis to fellowship, support and discuss issues and challenges which affect us most.

Agenda forums are held on a monthly basis on the last Saturday of each month from 19:00 to 21:30

Since the establishment of the Agenda Forum back in November 2010, we have continued to meet each month to discuss a whole series of interesting and thought provoking topics.

### **Issues explored so far include:**

- Faith/spirituality and the single person
- Loneliness
- Friendship & Companionship
- Friendship & Dating
- Dating
- Wanting Children
- Sex/Celibacy
- Health: Emotional, General, Sexual
- Considering Marriage
- The Stigma of Singleness

The Group also went out to dinner and held a Christmas Soiree.

### **Topics agreed for 2012:**

- Singleness & Time management
- Intimacy & Solitude
- Singleness: a Fashion or Calling?
- Cooking for One...bring and share recipes and samples

- Singleness after Separation, Death or Divorce
- Single people in the Media. What statement is being made?
- Single Socialising
- Single & Happy vs. Single & Miserable

- Singleness & Self Image
- Dating: Why do it? Are you ready?
- Dating: How to do it?

*Maxine Webster*

**EVERYDAY AND ANY DAY** *Some things just don't fit into any particular pattern - they happen at any time, or all of the time.....*

## COMMUNITY MEETING FACILITIES

St. John's aims to be open all week to serve the community. **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
- To open 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

During 2011 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 Health Team, Older People's Rep Group, Newham Careers Network, Newham Youth Offending Team, Learning Disabilities Group, Newham Psychological Service, 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, Newham Link, East London Environmental Health, East London NHS Foundation Trust, Olympic Delivery Authority, Newham NHS, North East London Cancer Network, Substance Misuse Group, Service User Council, Stratford Town Centre Forum, Community Health Team, Inland Revenue, Police Safer Neighbourhood Team.

**Voluntary Organisations included:** Newham Writers Group, Newham Bookshop, Cemvo, Newham Refuge and Urban Development, Transform Newham, Stratford Rising, East London Hopefuls, Terrance Higgins Trust

**Music and Arts users included:** East London Chorus, Newham Music Academy, Stratford Circus, Newham Youth Chorus, St John's Lunchtime Concerts.

**Education/Training:** Apple Pie Enterprises, Stratford Saturday School, Landmark Training, Diocesan Communication Officers' Conference, Birkbeck College, Christians in Education, Education Links, Revelation Choir, Jackpot Training, Actorshop, Bipolar.

**Community Groups** included Epilepsy Action, Mind, Anger Management, Black & Ethnic Minority Care Forum, Community Involvement Team, Community Links, Fundamental.

**Counselling:** Mental Health Groups, Hearing Voices Group, Newham Psychology Treatment Centre, Free Legal Advice Service.

**Children's Development /Training:** Theatre Royal (Youth Theatre), One Voice Programme, Scouts and Iroko Theatre Company, Rolling sound, 15billion.

**Other Users included:** New Fieldworks, Guinness South, FieldVision, St Mellitus College, NCT Antenatal Class, Mind, Chelmsford Diocesan Regeneration Forum, Chelmsford Diocese Youth Training, Churches Together in England Urban Mission Forum, Market Research, B M Research, Expert Patients Programme, Alzheimer's Society, Street Cred, African Caribbean Voices Association, Jamaica Trust, Theatre Resource, The Forum For Health & Wellbeing, Lead International, Positive East, British Land Reclamation Society, Karen Routledge Limited, Synovate Limited.

God has blessed us into another year and I thank him. God always blesses us with fresh groups coming to use our facilities. Our rooms are reasonably priced so people will keep coming especially as we are so central. It is God who is at the centre of it all. Yet again I appreciate all the hard work our staff do here at St Johns Church each year. In 2012 with God's guidance we will rise up to whatever challenge comes our way; let's give God the glory for opening ways for us in more ways than one. With so many things to do in this fresh challenges that we face this year lets ask God to open our eyes to see and hear him in all that we do.

*Kay Garib*

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

The highlight of 2011 was the "**Ultimate Dream**" festival in July - a "long weekend" event, in partnership with Through Faith Missions and Open Air Campaigners, again involving 18 Stratford Churches. The aim again was to prepare for 2012, and there was a training weekend for the Ultimate Dream, and for 2012, in February. Further training events are planned in 2012.

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 and Iris. 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.
- There was a **quiz night** in the Spring
- The Gazebo team were out in the Churchyard on many Saturdays (see separate report).
- We managed 5 out of 7 **Open-air morning Services** in the churchyard during July and August, with very good feedback from passers by.

#### **We took full advantage of the Christmas and Easter mission opportunities**

- 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.
- We sent out 3000 **Easter cards**, incorporating a message and an advert for our Easter services.
- The choir brought some **Christmas cheer** to Stratford with carol singing in the Shopping centre, our annual Lunchtime carol Service and a host of other special services.
- We continued to deliver **Christmas cards** to all accessible homes and workplaces.

*David Richards*

#### **ST JOHN'S MINI-SHOP**

Sales of fair-trade items have been steady this year as a number of people have taken on board the idea of replacing one item of their shopping with a fair-trade item.

Our Christian Books and cards are purchased, on a sale or return basis, from "Books for Life" in Bethnal Green. People have been purchasing more Christian cards this year, but children's Bible stories are probably the best seller overall. From time to time the bookshop sells items at a reduced price and I try to grab bargains for St. John's members.

When we started the Mini-shop we said that the profit would go to evangelism, and this year £1600 was given to the special fund for our Olympic outreach in 2012. The Accounts for the year appear elsewhere in the Annual Report.

Thanks to Richard Aubrey, Keziah Jimoh, and Scilla Morgan who have taken charge of the Mini-shop during the year.

*Carol Richards*

#### **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 congregations. 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 year it was given to the Stratford Nightshelter).

Rafe Smallman convenes MGC. Jean Scott (host!), Garry Walker, Dorothy Hylton, and Dave Richards remained as members of MGC. Ade Awokoya joined the group in 2011.

We gave regular donations to 15 organisations in 2011 and supported 3 appeals with the Emergency money. See below for details.

In 2011 we had speakers from 3 organisations that we support. In June, NAPAC spoke about the work they do to our Church on Wednesday group. TFM spoke to the church again as part of the mission week in July, while later in the month the Bishop of Northern Uganda spoke at an evening service, organised in partnership with the Archbishop Janani Luwum Trust.

The committee met 4 times in 2011 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. We also met once socially.

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 2011

**£500 Archbishop Janani Luwum Trust** - providing support for the church in Northern Uganda

**£500 Amos Trust** - working with the deprived people of Palestine

**NEW £300 Burma Refugees** - supports refugees in Thailand fleeing Burma.

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

**£500 Christian Solidarity Worldwide** – Advocates for human rights/religious persecution

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

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

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

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

**NEW £500 Middleport Church Hall** - funds for improving a church hall in a deprived area of Stoke-on-Trent.

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

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

**£7,800 TOTAL**

### EMERGENCY FUND DONATIONS:

**£250 for Mission AVIATION FELLOWSHIP'S** work in the Horn of Africa Emergency.

**£500 for British Red Cross East Africa Food Crisis Appeal.**

**£600 for the Christian Aid Philippines Flood Disaster Appeal.**

**£604.91 THE STRATFORD WINTER NIGHTSHELTER**

**£1,950 TOTAL**

### OTHER DONATIONS:

- **£1,046** for the Stratford Winter Nightshelter was collected at Christmas Services.
- **£160** was collected for the Poppy Appeal,

Rafe Smallman

## ST JOHN'S WEBSITE

[www.stjohnse15.co.uk](http://www.stjohnse15.co.uk) continued to make a significant contribution to our mission with regular updates of the newsletter, teachings, concerts & photo galleries, bringing an average of 303 visitors to the site each week, with visitors from as far afield as Australia, Brazil, Russia & South Africa, and even some from China and Korea.

New developments for 2011 were a new section on the memorials in the church & photo galleries going back to 2000.

Our Facebook page continues to attract new members.

The website continues to offer the most up to date information on St. John's mission, ministry and special events, and ensures that the Church really is open for business 24/7.

Garry Walker

### STAFF AT ST. JOHN'S DURING 2011:

\* Denotes volunteer worker.

- VICAR: Rev. David Richards
- CURATE: Rev. Peter Ngugi
- ASSISTANT MINISTER (Children and Young People) Carol Richards\*
- ASSISTANT MINISTER (Administration) Kay Garib
- READERS: Rosemond Isiodu\*, Cheryl Ramballi\*, Sheva Williams\*
- READER IN TRAINING: Robert Otule
- VERGER: Fitzroy Williams,
- VERGER/BUILDING SERVICES SUPERVISOR: Motie Ramballi
- DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Frances Aubrey\*
- ORGANIST: Geoff Hobbs
- CONCERT TEAM: Frances Aubrey\*, Yvonne Bailey\*, John Chapple\*
- SITE SUPERVISORS: John Grey, Garry Walker, Sheva Williams, Patricia Larocque
- OFFICE HELPER: Pat Cordrey\*
- CASHIERS: Gill Carter\*, Shirley Lacey\*
- HEALING CAFE CO-ORDINATOR: Sheva Williams\*
- RECEPTIONISTS: Mary Agyakwa\*, Roma Allen\*, Chris Aubrey\*, Yvonne Bailey\*, Rosemarie Drummond\*, Evadney Mapp\*, Christine Morris\*, Ephraim Namanya\*, Violet Ogunleye\*, Bridget Richards\*, Bev Slingo\*, Garry Walker\*.

Last, but not least, there's the St John's **PRAYER HOTLINE**, always ready to offer prayers at a time of emergencies or particular need - simply phone the through to the Office and they will get passed on to our network.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011.

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

### THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011.

#### ST. JOHN'S

##### MINISTERS

Rev. David Richards *Vicar*

Rev. Peter Ngugi *Curate*

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*

Cheryl Ramballi *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 *(to April 2011)*

Yvonne Bailey

James Beckles

John Burman *(from April 2011) (Deanery Synod representative)*

Adrian Clarke

Manny Ibiayo *(Treasurer)*

Shirley Lacey *(from April 2011)*

Chizoma Mbataku *(from April 2011)*

Glyn Morgan

Jean Scott *(to April 2011)*

Beverly Slingo *(from April 2011)*

Alfred Talabi

Robert Otule *(Reader in Training)* was invited to attend PCC meetings from April 2011

#### ST. JAMES'

##### MINISTER

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

##### CHURCH WARDENS

Edith Biryabarema

Barbara Tomlinson

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

Emmanuel Adomako

Tunji Amuda *(from April 2011)*

Moses Owusu-Afriyie *(to April 2011)*

Sandra Walden *(PCC Secretary)*

Janet Williams *(Deanery Synod representative)*

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 9 occasions during 2011. Meetings were held at St John's Church on Monday evenings during all months except April, August & December. They were held on a Monday evening at the earlier time of 7.30pm to 9.30pm and the Chair had to maintain tight control to ensure we covered what was always a full and busy agenda.

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:**

In 2011, our 'Look Ahead' exercise continued by focusing on Bishop Stephen's question of how we can serve the people we already have contact with in such a way that the Gospel will be intriguing, challenging and appealing. Many ideas were shared and discussed, some of which we hope to introduce in 2012.

Training for the 'Ultimate Goal' mission was again given in February, with an 'Ultimate Dream' mission, taking place between 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July. As in past years, we partnered with TFM and with other local churches, working together in the run-up to the real event which will be with us in the not too distant future. One event in the programme was a 'Newham Churches have got talent' which took place in our churchyard on the Saturday afternoon. Various acts auditioned, with the aim of deciding which would be suitable to participate in the 2012 event and it was encouraging to see many varied performances all of which are likely to be included in the programme next year.

We continued to make decisions on the maintenance of the church buildings and what initially seemed like a rather straightforward job involving some leadwork and pointing for St John's, eventually became a more complicated and costly task when it was discovered that the top 6 courses of the lower parapet had to be dismantled and re-built. Some of the glass panels in the windows had to be replaced due to some vandalism at the time of the summer riots which hit the streets of our nation in July & August and St James suffered damage following a fire which was probably started deliberately.

The 'Inspiration' rest and faith space' opened in September along with the rest of the huge Westfield Centre and by year end, volunteers from our various churches were signing up for duties on the welcome team and things were generally working out well

The PCC continued to discuss such issues as the church houses, (one of which was sold during 2011), general finance, child protection and the planning of special services.

**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 2011 the following building issues were addressed:

**At St. John's:**

- Emergency Evacuation procedures were reviewed.
- A dead tree was removed
- Repairs were undertaken to the high-level parapets on the north side
- Repairs to the organ were undertaken
- Some broken window panes were replaced

### **At St. James':**

- Folding chairs were purchased to supplement the 70 upholstered chairs
- The vestry and store were renovated and rearranged at the same time as work under insurance necessary to deal with external fire damage to that part of the church

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 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 2011 Annual Meeting the Parish Electoral Roll numbered 353 (St. John's: 282, St. James': 71)
- During 2011, average Sunday attendances at St. John's were 342 morning and 68 evening.
- During 2011, average Sunday attendances at St. James' were 45 morning, 11 afternoon and 13 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 2011, 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 2010 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 was sold, the PCC considering that it would not be required for clergy housing in the near future. Part of the proceeds were used to clear the shared-equity mortgage on 29 Maryland Park, now owned freehold.

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 2011 St John's** gave away a total of £11,144.08 to 23 organisations

- £9,750 was assigned to the Charities Fund, and donated to 19 organisations in line with our Mission and Charity donations policy. The remainder comprised money from special projects or collections for specific purposes.

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

**During 2011 St. James** donated a total of £1,047 to 6 organisations.

**The net result for the year, in general funds**, was a year on year deficit of £16833.78 for St. John's, mainly due to withdrawals from reserves to fund the cost of the essential work undertaken to repair high-level parapet walls. There was a deficit of £1645 for St. James, partly due to a priority through the year for increasing support to the Fabric Fund in view of work planned for 2012. 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 £19539.76 which is considerably below this target. In 2011 PCC took the strategic decision to use some of the accumulated reserves to undertake urgent repair work, to the parapets. The lowered balance reflects this decision. The 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 £43,512.79

**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 £4393.33, which represented just under 60% of this target figure: once current improvement work to the fabric is completed it is intended to start rebuilding the general fund balance.

**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 are elected to the Deanery Synod for three year terms, and since the 2011 annual meeting those elected for St John's are Chris Aubrey, John Burman and Carol Richards. 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.

The first two meetings in 2011 had a diocesan focus. In January there was a discussion of the proposed legislation on Women Bishops which was to go to the Diocesan Synod later in the year, and this was endorsed by the meeting. In March 2011 the meeting was part of Bishop Stephen's inaugural visit to the Newham Deanery. In June Rev James Ramsay led a session on Creative Prayer, and the last meeting of the year in October was on African Christian Spirituality, led by Rev Chigor Chike and Rev Frances Quist.



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 Deanery Share). A large proportion of the family purse pays for clergy stipends, pensions and housing, and it also funds most of the rest of the diocese's expenditure. The Deanery Share currently shows larger increases than elsewhere in the diocese as the number of clergy in Newham has not fallen in the way it has in many other parts of the diocese.

The overall pattern of the allocation to parishes, the parish shares, 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 2012 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 3% for 2012, a feature of importance to St John's and St James's. Even so, there remains for the future a substantial problem in the allocation within Newham Deanery, 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 2011 are available from the Church Office.

***David Richards, Vicar   Gill Carter, PCC Vice Chair   19th March 2012***

<p><b>A SEPARATE REVIEW of the work of St. John's Church in 2011</b>, 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>
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