



**REPORTS TO THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL
CHURCH MEETING
Sunday 22 April 2012**





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

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

for the year ended 31 December 2011

Incumbent

Father Kevin J. Morris

**c/o The Parish Office
Priory Avenue
London W4 1TX**

Tel: 020 8994 1380

Email: parishoffice@smaa.org.uk

Website: www.smaa.org.uk

Bank:

**Barclays Bank PLC
Chiswick Branch
Hammersmith Business Centre Group
PO Box 738
London W6 9HY**

Independent Examiner

**Mr Nicholas Ridge
Bryan and Ridge
The Gatehouse
2 Devonhurst Place
Heathfield Terrace
London W4 4JD**

The Church is a charity registered with the Charity Commission Number 1133805

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MINISTRY	Introduction	Fr Kevin Morris	4
	PCC Annual Report for 2011	Jane Blanckenhagen	6
	Retrospective 2011 to 2012	Anne Mower	10
	Confirmation	Fr Stephen Stavrou	11
	Confirmation of Young People	Charlotte Isted	12
	Adult Confirmation	Fr Stephen Stavrou	12
	Baptism Visitors	Fr Stephen Stavrou	13
	Hounslow Deanery Synod	Helen Wareham	14
SERVICES	Master of Ceremonies and Servers	Cathie James	15
	The Sacristy	Anne Mower	16
	Eucharistic Ministers	Anne Mower	16
	Readers	Cathy Millin	17
	Sidespeople	Helen Wareham	17
	Junior and Senior Choirs	Jonathan Dods	18
	YOUTH	Baby and Toddler Group	Fr Stephen Stavrou
Crèche		Katharine Braddick	20
Children's Church		Christina Whiteway	21
Youth Church		Fr Stephen Stavrou	22
Children's Advocate		Jane Thomson	23
FELLOWSHIP	Hospitality at St Michael's	Jane Trigle	23
	Community Lunches	Jane Trigle	24
	Men's Society	Alan Trigle	25
	Women's Society	Fr Stephen Stavrou	25
	Women's Group	Judy Miller	26
	Sunday Morning Coffee Team	Susan Hunt	26
	Book Club 1	Jane Thomson	26
	Book Club 2	Jane Blanckenhagen	27
	The Reflection Group	John Beastall	27
	Chiswick Churches for Justice & Peace	Ros Lister	28
MONEY	Treasurer's Report	Tony Simkin	29
	Planned Giving and Gift Aid	Peter Haigh	30
	Charities and Charitable Giving	Mary Pears	31
	Cards for Good Causes	Anne Mower	33
FESTIVALS	Green Days 2011	Torin Douglas	33
	Bedford Park Festival 2011	Torin Douglas	35
	Chiswick Book Festival 2011	Dinah Garrett	36
	Hymnathon 2012	Oliver West	37
	St Nicholas comes to Chiswick	Fr Stephen Stavrou	38
CHURCH FABRIC	Churchwardens' Fabric Report	Michael Robinson	39
	Health and Safety 2011-2012	Chris Bradley	40
	Organ and Vestry Rooms Project	Helen Wareham	40
	The Use of the Hall and Church	Helen Wareham	42,3
	Flower Report	Sue Jordan	42
	Church Garden	Susan Hunt	44
COMMUNICATIONS	Church Archives	David Beresford	45
	Communications Report	Torin Douglas	46
	<i>The Clarion</i>	Gavin Johnston	47
	Who's Who at St Michael's		48

R E P O R T S T O T H E A N N U A L P A R O C H I A L C H U R C H M E E T I N G 2 0 1 2

M I N I S T R Y I N T R O D U C T I O N

One of the hidden but significant ministries of our church is the building itself. It is open every day for those seeking quiet reflection, or who wish to light a candle or even just to look around the building. It is an unusual church building - 'not what we expected and very green' - and a friendly space, visually open and light, with wide aisles that make it welcoming for wheelchairs and pushchairs. When the church was first opened it was thought to look scandalously theatrical, with benches like a Victorian music hall and a high altar raised up as if on a stage. It is of course a 'sacred space'.

There has been much ink spilled about what makes a space sacred, whether it be a building or land itself, which causes a great deal of contention - even warfare - in our world. When a church building is consecrated, or 'made sacred', the whole of that liturgy presupposes that when the people of God gather faithfully for prayer, to read the Scriptures, to celebrate the Sacraments, to teach and preach, to exercise pastoral care and healing in the name of Christ, that space is made holy by virtue of those things.

Historically, Benedictine community life has had a great influence in shaping and forming Anglican identity and spirituality. The Benedictine vows are: stability, conversion of life and obedience to Christ in His Church. An Anglican church building must represent these important characteristics, but only because the community that inhabits its space is striving for these things.



A church building is a symbol of stability. It reminds us of our links with the past, 'for all who here sought and here found him' as the hymn says, those baptised, married and buried here. (In fact, very often parish churches are the physical repository of local history and community experiences.) It is also a living witness of God's grace amongst us in our living church fellowship today, of which these reports are a testimony.

Our church building means a great deal to us, but whilst it is a sign of the stability of Christian prayer, praise and witness in this place, this does not mean we are to become stagnant. Stability in these terms involves change and development, the very things that mean being alive. In Christian terms this means a sensitivity to the work of the Holy Spirit and a desire for conversion of life and



obedience to Christ, whom we know in word and Sacrament within the Church. This, too, I believe, is reflected in the pages of this booklet.

Over ten years ago we refurbished our Church Hall to create more meeting spaces for our various ministries and for use by the wider community. The Hall building itself is now established as a major part of our ministry and service. It has helped to place our

church at the heart of the community. Both the Hall and the church building are used by a variety of groups enabling us to fulfil yet another important Benedictine virtue: hospitality.

Four years ago we initiated a project to create two more meeting rooms and also to install a new organ. This will mean that our Vestry will be divided into two rooms: a Sacristy space upstairs and a general meeting room downstairs. It has been a long and arduous journey through design and planning permission and later this year (in July) we will begin building work to transform our Vestry. This will take until Christmas. The following July (2013) the new organ will arrive.

All of this has taken a great deal of work already and there is still a great deal of work to come. It is a costly project and there is much fundraising needed. It has already begun, in fact, with our magnificent 'Hymnathon,' which managed to combine raising money with a profound spiritual experience and act of mission which has left us all overwhelmed with the sense of the goodness and love of God.

My hope and my prayer is that these reports will help us to glimpse something more of the working of God's Spirit in Christ amongst us. Our grateful thanks is offered to all who participate in the life of our church family, those whose names are mentioned within this booklet and all those who quietly and unassumingly enrich our life together in various ways – and by just being there.

May God grant us stability, conversion of life and true obedience to Christ in His Church and may we become ever more, through the grace of His Spirit, a hospitable church.

Father Kevin Morris

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

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH PCC ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011

Background

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

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

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

Members of the PCC are either *ex-officio* (The Vicar, the Curate, the Wardens and Deanery Synod Representatives) or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to serve a term of three years, in accordance with The Church Representation Rules. Since the last APCM on 10 April 2011 the following have served as members:

Ex-officio Members

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

Elected Members

Mr Tony Simkin – Treasurer
Mrs Jane Blanckenhagen* – Secretary
Ms Cathy Millin
Mrs Vicky Brooke
Ms Dinah Garrett
Mrs Carol Douglas
Mrs Jane Trigle
Mr Christopher Bradley
Mr John Howard
Mr Sion Hughes Carew

* Will step down at the APCM on 22 April 2012

Committees

The PCC is assisted in its work by a number of committees. Each committee has an individual remit and to each a PCC member is appointed as a liaison person.

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

Church Attendance

Average Attendance at church services

The average number of communicants at the 10 o'clock Sunday Mass during 2011 was 160.

The Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is revised annually and on 1 April 2011 there were 383 people on the Roll, a net increase of 12 from April 2010. In the year from April 2010 to April 2011, one person had left the Roll and there were 13 new joiners.

Review of the year 2011

The full PCC met nine times and average attendance was 76%. The PCC continues to review the work undertaken by the various activity groups. Designated members act as a link between these groups and the PCC.

At most PCC meetings a specific topic was discussed, as well as the on-going parish work. Topics included:

- Choice of charities for support in 2011
- Christmas and Easter worship
- Fabric of the church
- Finance
- Planned giving/time, talents and money campaign
- The church Organ and Vestry Rooms project and the fundraising strategy
- Green Days, the Bedford Park Festival and the Book Festival.

Most of these are reported upon in greater detail in individual reports within this document.

Each meeting of the PCC started with Mass and consideration of a passage from Scripture and its meaning for our parish community.

PCC Annual Conference 2011

The PCC Away Day is a 'retreat day' away from the Church and our usual activities. It is a time set aside to pray, to study, to reflect, to share and discuss, to plan and to get to know one another better too. This year the conference was held at the Kairos Centre, Roehampton where we again received a warm welcome.

The theme of the day was commitment to Christ. We began with a beautiful and contemplative guided Mass in the Chapel. It was a very special start to the day.

Then, having read the scriptures in advance, we had a period of Bible Study looking at Chapter 12 of St Paul's Letter to the Romans: developing our understanding of what it means to be 'A Living Sacrifice, Holy and acceptable to God'. We began our consideration of the importance of each member of our community making a commitment of time, talents and money to God and of the ministry of building teams.

After midday prayer and lunch the afternoon session took the theme of 'God's Co-workers: Building Teams' and we began another period of Bible Study based on St Paul's 1st Letter to the Corinthians. We reflected on what it means to be co-workers with God and not just in getting tasks done efficiently. We discussed our ministry to encourage others to give of themselves in ministry, to work with them. How do we build groups, ministry teams and what do we need to lead them effectively?

The PCC then planned the launch of an autumn campaign to encourage our congregation in the giving of Time, Talents and Money for the worship and ministry of our church.

It was an intense but enjoyable day and Father Kevin and Father Stephen were thanked for the thought and planning which had given it such value.

Clergy

Father Kevin Morris remains our Vicar, Father Graham Morgan and Father Neil Evans our honorary assistant priests and Father Stephen Stavrou our curate.

Health and Safety

This is kept under constant review and in 2011 the PCC:

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

Farewell

At the 2012 APCM Helen Wareham will be stepping down as Churchwarden after several years of effective and loyal service to the PCC and to our community. We thank her warmly for all that she has contributed.

Jane Blanckenhagen will also be stepping down after serving the customary three-year term.*

Conclusion

It was a challenging but successful year for the PCC with much planning for the organ and vestry room project, including the grant of the Faculty. We have begun to implement our fundraising strategy and to progress a project which has the potential to bring great benefit to both the parish of St Michael and All Angels and a much wider community.

Jane Blanckenhagen

PCC Secretary

March 2012

*The PCC notes its thanks to Jane for her time and commitment to the PCC, particularly latterly her hard work and efficiency as PCC Secretary.

R

ETROSPECTIVE 2011 TO 2012

Community Links

The past year has seen St Michael's engaging even more strongly with our local community. The Royal Wedding at the end of April gave us an opportunity to organise a church service for the reaffirmation of wedding vows where 40 couples and many friends and supporters came along. It was followed by a party in the Tabard pub. In fact Father Kevin and Tim, the pub landlord, were interviewed by London Radio at



7am on Easter Sunday morning outside the Tabard about the event.

Chiswick did not suffer damage in the August riots but the congregation and community were, like the rest of the country, deeply concerned by these events.

Some of our congregation attended public vigils in the area and it was the subject of at least one sermon preached to aid our reflection on what had happened and why.

Then in December St Nicholas came to Chiswick, a huge event which involved three local schools, each school bringing all its pupils in turn to learn about the true Father Christmas.

The Bedford Park Festival and the Chiswick Book Festival are firmly ensconced as community events, bringing many people into contact with our church perhaps for the first time. And whoever would have thought that singing all 542 hymns in the *New English Hymnal* would make for one of the most important community events we have ever staged at St Michael's, generating sponsorship from local businesses and providing the opportunity for many groups who use the church to come along and take part.

Children and Youth Work

Sarah Lenton's work with children has at last come to the notice of the wider Church and two books of sessions for children, based on her famous cartoons and homilies, have been published based on the Lectionary Years A and B. It's good to see that these books are selling well and Year C will follow in due course.

New leaders have come forward for our Children's Church and Crèche, and the Breakfast Club has been reborn as Youth Church. Father Stephen began a group for babies and toddlers on Wednesday mornings, and that is now thriving as 'Little Angels', providing a place for parents, grandparents and other carers to drop in for a coffee and a chat while their children play.

Ministry

Last summer many of the congregation went to All Saints, Fulham to witness the priesting of Eileen McGregor, ordinand and longstanding member of our congregation. We then went along again two days later for her first Mass. Anne Mower was licensed as our first Lay Reader on the eve of Michaelmas. Alan Trigle has been accepted for ordination training. Training Curates usually spend about three years in a parish which would have meant Fr Stephen would have to leave this summer. He has been persuaded to stay for a fourth year when he will become Associate Vicar. It has been a joy to watch his ministry developing amongst us and we are fortunate to have such a hard-working and sensitive priest to assist our Vicar.

Commitment Campaign

The autumn commitment campaign produced offers of time and talents to assist with some of what we do as a parish. But it was not financially very successful. We are still running at a deficit so please encourage any you know who count this as their church to give as generously as they can to aid the work of this parish. People might care to think about how much they usually give and compare that with how much they spend on buying cups of coffee through the week, or with how much they might routinely spend on a bottle of wine.

Visiting Preachers

We were very glad to welcome during the year the Right Reverend Stephen Platten, Bishop of Wakefield, to celebrate and preach our Feast of Title; the Very Reverend David Hoyle, Dean of Bristol as the preacher at our 'Mass on the Green' during the Festival; The Bishop of Kensington, the Right Reverend Paul Williams, who preached and celebrated on Advent Sunday and our former curate Mother Nicola Stanley, who preached at Corpus Christi. We also had a presentation from members of one of the charities we support, CEDARS.

Anne Mower

Confirmation

On Sunday 5 February 2012, five adults and four young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Michael's from Bishop Edward Holland, Hon. Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of London. We are very grateful to Bishop Edward for coming to be with us.

As usual the course began in October and continued with breaks for half-term and Christmas until the Confirmation Mass. A new aspect however, was a 'commissioning of catechumens' which took place on the first Sunday in October when those preparing for Confirmation – both adults and young people – came forward and were each given a cross before receiving a blessing. The intention of this was to raise the profile of the Confirmation course among the congregation and to proclaim it as an important part of the life of the whole community.

The adults met on Monday evenings at 8pm for just over an hour, and the young people during the Sunday Mass for about 40 minutes, returning in time for a blessing at the altar. Both groups joined together for a visit to St Paul's Cathedral, which included a tour and attendance at Choral Evensong – for many this was a highlight of the course.

This year there was a new team of catechists for the young confirmands; Charlotte Isted was assisted by Pam Bickley and Carol Douglas, all three of them being trained teachers and between them covering both primary and secondary level. This is a good time and place to thank Anne Mower for all her hard work in teaching confirmands for many years. After that long period of time, she felt it was right to let new people take on this important ministry.

Father Stephen

Confirmation of Young People

It is hoped that something of what they learn remains with them and will sustain them through the years ahead. More immediately, it is hoped that they will continue to attend church, develop a loving relationship with God and go to Youth Church with others who have been confirmed before them. The children come to us with very different starting points in their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and so it needs to be something of a 'crash course' if they are all to gain a grasp of some of the basic Christian tenets. In a practical way, the children are encouraged to learn about Jesus, his love for the world and all of us. This is combined with reflection and action: How can they make a difference? The course seeks to sow a seed somewhere within them that will one day (maybe days, years or decades ahead) be reaped and the love of Jesus brings us all together for a joyous service.

Although leading the course for the first time this year, my task has been made infinitely easier because Father Stephen provided the excellent teaching materials. As a primary school teacher I was impressed (sometimes envious!) with his session plans, materials and activities that catered very well to the group. All I had to do was read and present it. The sessions took us all on a whirlwind ride from Baptism to Holy Anointing, God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and Trinity, the Bible and prayer. There was always time for questions (answers not always guaranteed!), reflection, prayer and a good mixture of study and fun. The children were given a short activity/research during the week for the next week's session in which parents were encouraged to help or discuss it with their child.

*"I really enjoyed the way my Confirmation classes were run and I was lucky enough to make some great new friends. The Confirmation Mass was very special for me and my family, as I was taking the next stage in my faith."
Louis Ryan (age 10)*

In addition to attending church most Sundays the children also committed two precious Saturdays. This year the 'church trail' day was moved forward as in the past we had noticed that it helped to break the ice between those children who didn't already know each other. It makes a large contribution in aiding more comfortable discussion of some soul-searching issues in addition to them learning a lot about the church building. Highlights usually include the hot chocolate, pizza and dressing up in the vestments.

Young Confirmands 2011-12

Louis Ryan, Thomas Miller, Joseph Cherry and Thomas Drake

Charlotte Isted

Adult Confirmation

Like the course for young people, I have this year rewritten and developed the course for adults, building on my experiences over the last couple of years. I believe that preparation for Confirmation provides an unparalleled opportunity for exploration and instruction in the Christian faith. At the same time, I am very much aware that it is experiences that transform people most of all and so I try to build in as many activities as possible, whether that is a time of silent prayer in the church or a concluding celebratory meal at a restaurant.

"I found the confirmation classes extremely thought-provoking and a wonderful way to explore my Christian faith further in a supportive environment. The confirmation ceremony was beautiful and definitely something I'll never forget." – Imogen Hancock

Nevertheless, I do know that it is difficult for some people to come to these evening classes on a regular basis. And even for those who don't, missing a single session might mean they miss something quite important. So I'm pondering about holding a kind of 'mixed mode' confirmation course next year, with the usual 12 evening sessions but also four Saturday intensives (10.30-2 pm), which would cover the same areas. These two courses would run side by side and could be entirely separate or interchangeable – so someone who missed the evening sessions on the Bible could then

attend the Saturday session dealing with the same subject. This would give greater flexibility especially for parents with young children and people who work on a changing shift pattern. If this would be helpful to you I'd like you to get in touch with me or it might not happen.

"The Confirmation classes with Father Stephen were both very informative and really interesting and I felt that I learnt an awful lot from them. The culmination of the classes with the lovely Confirmation ceremony really helped cement my beliefs into place and the classes were a wonderful foundation for this, thank you." Lorna Ko



Earlier in the year I held a reunion for all those who were confirmed in the previous two years. We reflected on our experience of the course, the Confirmation day itself and how we might continue our growth in Christian faith in the future. As a result of the success of the day I am going to organise a post-Confirmation weekend retreat at a monastery, which will first be offered to the recent Confirmands and then opened up to other members of the congregation if there is still space.

The adults and young people with Bishop Edward after the Confirmation Mass

Some things are worth repeating every year – why do you not come to be confirmed? There are many members of the congregation who come regularly to St Michael's and yet do not see this as something both necessary and important. It is never too late, and anyone who regards themselves as a Christian should affirm their Baptismal faith for themselves so that they can then be full participants in the Sacramental life of the church. Parents should remember that in baptising their children they are agreeing to actively encourage and bring their child forward to Confirmation at the right time, which at St Michael's is from the age of 11/school year 6.

Adult Confirmands 2011-12

Imogen Hancock, Johanna Ingram, Adele Francois, Lorna Ko and Nicola Kay

Father Stephen

Baptism Visitors

The Baptism Visitors welcome and prepare parents who seek the sacrament of Holy Baptism at St Michael's for their child. They have brought around twenty children to Baptism in the last twelve months.

In that same time we said goodbye to our longest serving Visitors – Audrey Hillis and Edna Fedonczuk - both of whom had been Visitors for a decade! Thank you gifts were given to them for this wonderful work. Replacing them as Visitors are Matthew Hickley and Nicola Chater, and we really look forward to them as new members of the team.



This year we undertook for the first time a review process, in which all Visitors had an opportunity to reflect on their experience of this ministry through three questions: What do you like about the role? What do you find challenging? How has it changed your faith and/or view of St Michael's? Many commented that the role had made them aware of the very different approach to Baptism among families. Others said that it was a useful reminder of the sorts of things families with young children find intimidating or off-putting about church. This was extremely useful feedback, and our annual training day on 24 March included a session led by Judy Miller on 'active listening' to enable visitors to pick up any anxieties, questions and concerns which sometimes parents find difficult or are too reticent to articulate.

"Being a Baptism Visitor adds another dimension to attendance on Sundays - the pleasure of welcoming new families! The work begins before Baptism and quietly continues with the family enjoying the different things that St Michael's has to offer and the Baptism remains a positive memory of Christian fellowship." Judy Miller

The annual Baptism party on the first Sunday of September after Mass went well. The delicious catering was once again masterminded by Helen Brocklebank, with the culinary and logistical support of the whole team. Our November Baptism Visitors' Mass was a special opportunity to pray by name for all who have been Baptised over the last year and to hold before God our own role in this important ministry.



In response to requests from parents, Amanda Bradley has put together a list of Bible Books for very young children (0-3 years) which is now included in the Baptism Pack. High-street bookshops tend to stock a very poor selection, and many parents don't even know such books exist. We believe that the reading of Scripture, like prayer, should start at the very beginning of a child's life, and that immersion in the stories and characters of Scripture cannot begin too early if Christian faith and understanding is to be instilled in a child.

David Beresford continues his marvellous work as a photographer at Baptisms, and this is now shared with Jim Cox – another excellent photographer – and we are very grateful to both of them for what is an often time consuming (but greatly appreciated) task.

Last of all, the Baptism Visitors have responded to the call for fundraising in a number of ways. We gently encourage families to make a thank-offering for Holy Baptism and now leave out a collection plate at Noon Baptisms. We also suggest an optional donation for the CD of Baptism photos that is given to families. In all cases we have found that parents and families of children are very happy to make a donation and we have raised over £300 in the last six months. This is done carefully, so as not to undermine the important principle that Baptism should always be offered free of charge as an expression God's freely-given love and grace in the Sacrament.

Baptism Visitors

Father Stephen (Chair), Helen Brocklebank (Secretary), Amanda Bradley, Nicola Chater, Matthew Hickley, Phoebe Woollam, Sheleen Smith-Petersen-Church, Cathy Millin, Alan Trigle, Judy Miller.

Father Stephen

Hounslow Deanery Synod

St Michael's lies within the Deanery of Hounslow, one of the six deaneries within the Diocese of Kensington. We have two elected representatives to the Deanery Synod in addition to the incumbent. Helen Wareham is approaching the end of her three year term while Michael Robinson was elected at the 2011 APCM to succeed Anne Mower.

There are three meetings per year but the June one always falls during our Festival. In November Helen and Michael attended the meeting at St Mary's Bedfont, an amazing Norman church with fantastic topiary on the way to Slough (which indicates just how wide an area the Deanery covers). There was a presentation on the shelter project for the homeless being piloted by Christchurch Turnham Green and an interactive session on how we used our space and brought people into our church buildings. The remainder of the meeting comprised deanery administrative business; often more general church business is also discussed. Our impression is that some members are more closely involved with the Synod than we are and that they may feel correspondingly closer to both deanery business and general church business than we do. But it is always an interesting evening nonetheless.

Helen Wareham

SERVICES

Master of Ceremonies and Servers

'Let all things be done decently and in order' 1 Corinthians 14.40

St Michael's Anglo-Catholic tradition offers a visually rich liturgy with the Eucharist at its centre, which seeks to engage the worshipper in the wonder and mystery of God's presence. The serving team's aim is to strive for that liturgical excellence which complements the intricate elements of the Mass with unobtrusive actions and minimal distraction and for which Father Kevin tells me we are 'rightly renowned'.

Behind the scenes this involves constant planning and training, but it is an intensely rewarding and spiritually enriching ministry for which, I am delighted to say, we have no shortage of recruits. St Michael's is very fortunate that we can currently call on a team of 19 senior and eight junior enthusiastic and dedicated servers – considerably larger I am told than St Paul's Cathedral! Their commitment to this ministry is selfless, as they seek to help others reach closer to God through worship.



We have had some memorably beautiful services during the past twelve months and also the excitement of a completely new liturgy in the visit of St Nicholas in December. We provided a serving team of seven for each of the three services carefully crafted by Father Stephen and it was a special privilege to see the delight on the children's faces as St Nicholas appeared, even if quite a serving challenge to arrange a dignified descent for him from a rather frisky pony and trap!

As with all years, we have said some goodbyes and welcomed some new faces to the team. We have also had our second ordination – Andrew Williams from All Hallows, Twickenham, who has served with us at a number of our major Feasts, was made a deacon in June. Congratulations too, to one of our very regular team members, Alan Trigle, who has recently been successful in the selection process for ordination training, but be assured that a calling to ordained ministry is not an



essential preliminary to serve at the altar! It needs only a willingness to make a regular, but not weekly commitment, teamwork, anticipation and an eye for detail. In return you have the enormous privilege of participating at the heart of the Mass. If you would like to learn more, or think you would like to join us, please see the St Michael's website www.smaaa.org.uk/worship/Servers.html or speak to me, the MC (Cathie James). Newcomers are always welcome.

Finally, my thanks are due not only to our excellent servers, whom I am very proud to lead, but also to all those with whom I work so closely: our Sacristan, Anne Mower, our Director of Music, Jonathan Dods, our Churchwardens and especially to Father Kevin and all our clergy for their support, instruction and advice. Onwards now to a challenging year of building works and looking forward to our new Vestry Rooms and Organ.

Cathie James

The Sacristy

The deficit in our finances has meant cutting costs wherever possible and the Sacristy has not been exempt. In the early part of 2011 we changed to a different communion wine of the same quality but at a lower price. Supplies are usually bought in bulk to avoid carriage charges. More of the laundry has been done in house and no major purchases have been made. It would be good to think about replacing some of the altar cloths if, and when, the financial situation improves.

The major challenge over this year will be to run the Sacristy during the building of the new Vestry Rooms and the removal of the organ. It is expected that our present Sacristy will not exist after Easter and the new Sacristy will not be ready until November. The candle crypt will be pressed into service in the interim. Goodwill and patience will be needed as never before through this period but it is an opportunity for us to learn more about living in harmony and charity with one another. It is also a chance to review what is in all the cupboards, drawers and shelves.

Thanks to the commitment campaign last autumn we now have a small group of 'ladies who sew' to assist with refurbishing some of our vestments. Some require only a few stitches, others rather more extensive work. I am grateful to Nigel Woolner who has cleaned and repaired the fine copper ewer which the Woolners donated some years ago and which we use to hold water for baptisms. Thanks also go to Meredydd Howells for his help in putting up and taking down the purple passion-tide array. It would be difficult if not impossible to run the Sacristy single-handed so I am very grateful to Gill Stevens, who is almost always on hand on Sundays and major weekday services to assist and who stands in for me when I am away,

As with so many things in church life, teamwork is important and the MC, Cathie James, and I work closely together, keeping each other sane at hectic periods and ensuring neither has forgotten something important. Our clergy are a constant support, bearing patiently with the occasional mistake and always ready to explain the more esoteric regions of the liturgy.

Anne Mower

Eucharistic Ministers

We have 21 Eucharistic ministers at St Michael's, selected by the Vicar and licensed by the Bishop to assist with the administration of Communion. On Sundays and for major festivals and holy days there are usually four on duty to assist the clergy. For some special services such as the Festival Mass eight or even ten might be needed. Every month one of our clergy holds a communion service at Homecross House and one of the ministers goes along to administer the chalice.

Some of the Eucharistic ministers are trained to lead a service of Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament. This only happens on the rare occasions when a priest is not able to be there to say Mass. Ministers may also take Communion to the sick and housebound. All those licensed would agree that this is a privileged ministry and it is a great joy to be able to serve our congregation in this way.

Anne Mower

Readers

The aims of this group are simple; to read the lessons of Scripture appointed for Sunday Mass, Evensong and key weekday services, such as Maundy Thursday and Corpus Christi, throughout the year. A readers' rota is distributed by email three times a year, and can also be viewed online at the St Michael's website, and in hard copy on the noticeboards at the back of the church. This is an extremely popular ministry at St Michael's and three new volunteers have joined the group this year, bringing the total number of readers on the adult rota to 52.

St Michael's is also fortunate to have a number of talented younger readers amongst our Children's Church and Junior Choir members, who read for us at our family services. I am grateful to Vicky Brooke and Christina Whiteway, who select and rehearse our young readers every month.

All of us who read in church have struggled this year with the increasing decrepitude of our sound system, which can be somewhat temperamental, to say the least. Thankfully, we expect to have a new sound system installed over the summer as the initial stages of our Organ and Vestry Rooms project get underway, which should improve matters considerably and reduce the need to bellow in order to be clearly heard!

As always, I am extremely grateful to all those who volunteer to read at St Michael's, not only for the time and commitment they give, but for the spirit in which these are given. Readers are without exception unfailingly flexible and accommodating when it comes to swapping reading dates, coping with occasional last-minute changes to scheduled readings, and reading at (very) short notice if things go a little awry! I am aware of a strong sense of privilege and pleasure amongst those who participate in this very special ministry, which is highly valued by our congregation and clergy, and our shared Christian lives are the stronger for it.

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

If anyone would like to volunteer to become a reader, please speak to me; all that is required is an ability to read loudly and clearly and all are welcome. If any would-be - or, indeed, current - reader would like to have a practice at reading from the legilium, I'm very happy to facilitate this any Sunday morning after Mass.

Cathy Millin

Sidespeople

The ministry of welcome and service organisation at St Michael's has continued to flourish over the past year and I am very grateful to all those who contribute to the smooth running of the services at the back of the church. The group has changed slightly in its composition - John Beastall and Kim Parkash have stepped down/moved to other ministries. But in the Time and Talents campaign Mike Blanckenhagen, Ben Pearce and Christie Coutin all cheerfully volunteered and Lindsey Howard is our latest recruit. If anyone else would like to volunteer, please let me know.

There is probably no such thing as a standard service at St Michael's. Evensong is quietly popular and has a less demanding role for the sidesperson. Sunday morning Masses often have an extra dimension like a Baptism and our big set piece services require careful attention to detail - and

usually extra chairs! On the detail we are supported enormously by our MC, Cathie James, who gives us invaluable notes on the shape of the service. The orchestration between front and back may not be outwardly visible but it is very much there. We are also now working more closely with the Charities Group in supporting their fund raising at Lent and Christmas.

We are still on occasion mesmerised by the amount of paper we have to assemble for the congregation. But I hope that the lasting memories for sidespeople are the more fulfilling ones of filling every last pew and chair for Christmas Day Mass, working with the children at the Family Service and, most recently, helping at the Hymnathon where we had the privilege of receiving all the appreciative comments as people came and went.

Helen Wareham

Junior and Senior Choirs

Music is a language of emotion; it can speak to us in a very direct and profound way. Its presence in our liturgies, and our continued support for it opens a door to God's love. The care that our musicians give to the quality of music and the way that we as a church support it is a manifestation of God's sacrificial love. When done well, music sets the tone for our services, it expands upon the message of the liturgy. It is also a powerful tool to draw people into the community.

The musical team at St Michael's puts much time and effort into making inspirational music for over 200 services during the year. This consists of working with the people who organise services, researching and sourcing music, studying and rehearsing as well as performing. But we also look to expand and build on the great tradition which has been built up over more than 25 years. In addition to the many areas of classical music we explore, we've recently experimented with jazz and African folk music, all with appropriate instruments. We look for new ways to advance the work of the church through music, leading over 100 people in carol singing in the porch on Christmas Eve, and preparing for the up-coming Gilbert and Sullivan evening in aid of the organ and vestry rooms project. We're also concerned with educating and developing musical talent throughout the church, whether that's giving budding instrumentalists the opportunity to perform, providing singing lessons to help singers find their voice, promoting enthusiastic congregational singing or even guiding young organists in their first steps after Mass on Sunday.

There's a huge amount to do, new music to explore, more people to be involved and new outlets for our talents. This year we particularly need help to refresh and re-organise music for children. The Junior Choir needs a lot of help, rethinking how we recruit and what we can give to the children who sing for us at Family Mass. More generally, the ways in which we support and utilise the many young musicians in our community could be much improved. All this and of course building on the fantastic success of the Hymnathon to raise the money for the new organ. I am very grateful to all our musicians for their tireless efforts in fundraising and their increased support which has meant our expenditure on new music and instrumentalists has been greatly reduced.



The Organ and Vestry Rooms project is at the heart of what we're doing with music. It will strengthen our ability to reach out and draw people into the church. It will give us new spaces and new tools for our work in education, especially with young people. Most importantly it will support the high standard and diversity of music that we have come to enjoy and that the worship of God demands for many years to come.

Jonathan Dods

YOUTH

Baby and Toddler Group (Little Angels)

Little Angels, begun in the summer of 2011, is a new venture for St Michael's. It came out of discussions about what we could do as a church to support parents and carers of young children in the local area. The group is for children aged 0-3 years, and meets on Wednesdays 10-11.30am inside the church. There is time for free play, a story, songs, snacks and a final prayer to end the session.

"St Michael & All Angels' Baby and Toddler Group has been a wonderful experience for my two year old son and me. We have met other local mums as well as thoroughly enjoyed each play and singing session. It is a wonderful and really rewarding group - thank you!" - Lorna Ko

"Toddler group is a lovely opportunity for babies and their mothers to meet and make friends. The children enjoy it so much and the mothers, grandmothers and nannies are able to sit down, drink coffee and forget all the jobs waiting for them at home!" - Phoebe Woollam

I want to thank Sue Jordan who gave us a lot of start-up help and advice and generously donated resources at the beginning. But it's fair to say that there have been 'teething troubles'. It took us a while to get all the right equipment, to find exactly the right environment and to discover a working structure to the sessions. Also, despite the heroic efforts of our volunteers including Phoebe Woollam, Sarah Popoola, Russell Petit and Anne Mower – we do struggle to have enough helpers each week.

We have relaunched for spring 2012 with Tassy Russell as the new group leader. After just a few weeks she has already made some great improvements. Tassy, being a mother of three and trained teacher, has much more time and experience to give the group than I ever did. Kim Parkash has also been of invaluable help and will be undertaking marketing the group within the local community. We do still need more volunteers, even very occasional ones, greeting parents and carers, staying to play, making teas and coffees or even just 20 minutes to help set up or put away.

We have overcome all of the former difficulties – we are now permanently in the spacious surroundings of the church (rather than the less-than-ideal Crypt Chapel), which is now permanently reserved for us. Tassy has started providing activities for older toddlers and is in the process of purchasing new baby toys. We hope to undertake a few seasonal crafts and activities such as making an Easter garden, occasional cookery, a summer and a Christmas party. As a result, I'm really positive about the year ahead. When the Organ and Vestry Rooms project is complete, we hope to move into the shiny new Vestry Room, which is likely to be a perfect space for us. I'd like to encourage some parents who came initially to try it again, now that the group has new leadership and is much more focused.



“I really enjoyed the playgroup, because it was a nice size, in a nice space, with a good selection of toys, and reasonably priced. It was a good opportunity for me to get to know other mums and carers from the church and elsewhere, and a good introduction to an age-appropriate form of worship for my children. It certainly made me feel really part of the community of St Michael’s – Jocelyn Ledward

This group is an important interface between the church and the community. It draws new people into the building and into relationship with members of the congregation. There is real scope for this to become one of our most important ministries, linking up with our existing ministry of Baptism and Crèche. It is one of Jesus’ most urgent commands that we should enable children to come to him, and this is a direct way of doing exactly that. Do let your friends with young children know about it and give them one of the leaflets that are available at the back of the church. As the group grows we will be able to donate some of the admission price (only £2 per child) to church funds.

Father Stephen

“Becoming involved with Little Angels has provided an exciting start to the New Year. There has been vital help provided by Kim Parkash, Judy Miller and Gill Stevens, which has enabled us to provide a routine to the group which the attendees have appreciated. We have had a good number of children attending; having heard about the group through word of mouth, from attendance at church or just walking in off the street. The group is very relaxed and good fun, if anyone can help it would be greatly appreciated and I know anyone who came along would find this thoroughly enjoyable! “ – Tassy Russell

Crèche

St Michael’s Crèche takes place during every Sunday morning service during term time except for Family Mass, and caters for children up to the age that they start to attend Children’s Church – typically we have 12 to 18 children each week, a mix of small babies, toddlers and 3-4 year olds. Our aim is to introduce the children to some familiar stories and important ideas in the Christian faith, and to provide them with an interesting and creative space while their parents can concentrate on the worship happening next door.

Each session is led by one of the volunteers, with another supporting, and we follow the same format each week; routine is important for children at this age. We start by lighting a candle, teaching the children to make the sign of the cross and saying some short prayers. We then talk about and read a Bible story, and the children do an art activity that relates to the story. After another story or two we say grace together and they have a snack and some more play before re-joining their parents in the church for communion. Sessions during last term covered the parable of the lost sheep, the story of Jonah and the whale and making shiny helmets like St Michael’s on the Patronal Festival. At Christmas we talked about several aspects of the nativity story and created a display of stars the children had made – many more were taken home for our Christmas trees!



I took over the running of the Crèche from Katy Timmons in September and we have benefited enormously from the strong foundations Katy created for the organising and running of the Crèche. We are mostly new volunteers – with some esteemed and notable exceptions! – and so during the autumn many of us were learning the ropes. Having enough volunteers to plan, organise and cover each session during term continues to be a significant challenge; inevitably those with an interest in and contact with the Crèche tend to be very busy with their own small children and, often, work.

Katharine Braddick

Children's Church

The Children's Church is a lively, thriving 'micro-community' within the larger family of St Michael's and All Angels. It is run entirely on the goodwill and efforts of willing parents, who administrate and facilitate everything to ensure that the 4 – 11 year olds are engaged in worship at an appropriate level of understanding and in an environment that allows questions and discussion. Combined with fun activities, we aim to provide a strong foundation for their faith, which will continue to grow within the St Michael and All Angels' youth ministry.

Nicola Chater, who tirelessly ran Children's Church for a total of six years, decided last summer to step back and so diligently and patiently handed over the reins (and her invaluable knowledge) to me. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the children and parents, to thank Nicola from the bottom of our hearts for her incredible commitment. I am both honoured and a little bit in awe to take on the leadership of Children's Church and I hope to serve God, the church and the congregation to the best of my ability.



In September we were faced with a crisis as several volunteers felt unable to continue participating as part of the teaching rota and replacements seemed thin on the ground. However, we ran a big recruitment drive and I am delighted to say we now have an amazing team of people (old and new) who lead and assist sessions three out of every four services a month and take on the role of Children's Church sidesperson to assist families in church during the service. We are entirely dependent on these fantastic people and I

thank wholeheartedly Pam Bickley, Eddie Boyle, Karen Drake, James Duckworth, Jonathan Fuller, Bernadette Halford, Matt Hickley, Jane Roberts, Marjolein and Lawrence van Kampen, Hugh Wood, Chris Chauncy, Jane McCabe, Kim Parkash, Simon Cherry and Liz Wilson.

Of the special services for children we have so far had this school year, the skirmish at the Patronal Festival was as rousing as ever. The Christmas Eve Crib Service was breathtaking in the incredible numbers in attendance, the way in which the children performed but not least, a little head getting stuck in the choir stall railings!

We have our Eastertide festivities coming up, plus the Children's Corner on the Saturday of Green Days Festival in June where we would welcome some helpers to man stalls and games. We are also looking for some 'crafty' people to help us restore our spectacular dragon to his former glory before the next Patronal Festival as we fear each year he will fall apart.

Sarah Lenton continues to provide outstanding inspiration and guidance with her children's liturgies and her second book in the series, *Creative Ideas in Children's Worship*, has just been published by Canterbury Press. I personally always look forward to her sermon at Family Service and the panto version of *Treasure Island* on Christmas morning was truly a triumph!



The most important part of the Children's Church jigsaw however, are of course the children, who continue to amaze me, amuse me, teach me and humble me each time we meet.

Christina Whiteway

Youth Church

Youth Church is the new name for Breakfast Club – the group for young people aged 11-15 which meets in the Michael Room on alternate Sunday mornings during part of the Parish Mass for worship, prayer, reflection and activities that are suitable for the age group.

2011 had some real highs, highest of all being the Weekend House Party to Chichester on the weekend 16 to 17 July. Seven teenagers from St Michael's stayed at St George's, Whyke, where we joined with Father Stuart Craddock's youth group in fun activities including kayaking, a beach barbecue and walks on the South Downs. We joined the congregation of St George's for Mass on Sunday and it was a fantastic opportunity to get to know each other better in a different environment. It's experiences like these which have a lasting impression and really shape a young person's faith. We will be doing it again in 2012.



One of the lows however was having to say goodbye to Jonny Hall and Frances Denniss, who have helped to run the group for several years and have done an excellent job. We were sad to see them go and gave them some presents to show our gratitude.

Their leaving however, left a problem of succession and the lowest point of all for me was that, despite repeated appeals, no-one came forward to help with the group, which meant that it lapsed for a term and a half. This is always a disaster in youth work – when momentum is lost everything goes back to square one, as carefully built up friendships and trust fall apart very quickly. But I was determined that this was too important a ministry to give up on and since then a number of people have agreed to lend a hand: Sion Hughes Carew, Ian Flatman and Kate Clements on Sunday mornings, and Gavin Campbell, Jane Kelly and Sarah Bradley for evening events. I'm hopeful for the new group with its new leaders but I still need the support of the congregation. Some of you, when you were teenagers, will have had youth group leaders who had a major influence on your coming to faith – you could be that kind of person to a young person at St Michael's.

The advantage to the 'break' was that it did give me some time to reflect on the nature of the group and ways forward. The change of name came out of this time as I want to emphasise that this is not just a sort of crèche for teenagers but actually a form of worship that is appropriate to them and which addresses their needs and concerns. I've also put in place more social times outside of just Sunday mornings such as Saturday film nights – if it takes off, this could be the embryonic beginning of a youth group. I would like to hear from anyone who would be willing to help with this. I also want to get the group involved with as wide a range of church activities as possible, so do please consider how they might be able to help you in what you already do, and let me know.



Father Stephen

Children's Advocate

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

As Children's Advocate for our church, the task of ensuring that this happens is delegated to me by the PCC. I am very grateful for the good hearted way helpers co-operate to achieve this despite often having already had to go through the process once if not twice or more before as each activity with different organisations requires its own CRB check. Thankfully changes to the CRB procedure have been proposed and are being considered at Government level but are unlikely to be implemented before 2013. In the meanwhile the Diocese requests that we continue with the existing procedure. I know that we all are willing to battle with the paperwork to ensure that children in our care are as safe as we can make them.

Jane Thomson

FELLOWSHIP

Hospitality at St Michael's

Hospitality is one of the foundations for our activity at St Michael's. We welcome people to our services, we welcome them to life in the church, we welcome them to faith - and we offer them suitable refreshment at any opportunity.

We find many such opportunities during our church year, beginning with the Easter Breakfast team - led by David Kerr so ably again. Those who came to the early morning Vigil Mass were rewarded with *'The full Welsh - with a Scottish twist'* - a full English breakfast with champagne - including haggis with a wee dram!

Hard on the heels of Easter was the Royal Wedding and the service of Renewal of Wedding Vows. Refreshment, that afternoon, was provided by our near neighbours in The Tabard. It was a very successful event and over 40 couples took part. The liturgical/refreshment year continued with Corpus Christi, which due to the lateness of Easter, was during the Bedford Park Festival.



During Green Days and the Festival, myriad teams get together to cater for different events and I find myself putting in orders for large amounts of wine and champagne. But all in a good cause. Green Days and the Festival enable us to support the ministry of the church and to give to our chosen charities. So we eat and drink to good effect! Over the summer we host 'Getting to know you' parties in the Vicarage garden and the autumn sees us celebrating Michaelmas - our Feast of Title. During Advent we had a parish lunch, brilliantly

co-ordinated by Carol Douglas, and then into mulled wine and mince pies after Nine Lessons and Carols. In between all the larger events are 'incidental' opportunities for celebration – Baptisms, birthdays and Confirmation – which often mean we break out into fizz after a Sunday service.

As we look forward to the next few years of fundraising events for the Organ and Vestry Rooms Appeal, our team of helpers will be called upon more and more to provide and help serve refreshments after events – on top of an already busy schedule. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who can offer their help – either overseeing an event, cooking, serving drinks and food. Please do contact either me or the Parish Office if you would like to add your name to the volunteer list.

At the APCM I will be standing down from this role, so we will be looking for a co-ordinator (or two) to take on the hospitality mantle. An ability to plan and delegate are the most useful qualities you need to have. Do talk to me if you are interested in taking this on.

Hospitality on this scale would not be possible without the help of all of you who bake, make canapés, pour wine, cook dishes for suppers/lunches etc... I am deeply indebted to you all for the willingness in which you set to and produce yet another 'plate of something delicious' when I send round a begging e-mail. Without this generosity of time and talents St Michael's would be much the poorer. Thank you.

Jane Trigle

Community Lunches

This past year has been momentous for this scheme. After 17 years, we had to finally close, our last lunch being on 22 October 2011.

These lunches had taken place every other Saturday at the Chiswick Day Centre. But for most of last year we lived in the shadow of Hounslow Council saying they were closing the Day Centre and various appeals being lodged. However Hounslow's decision was irrevocable and at the end of October the Day Centre shut its doors to its weekly visitors of the elderly, infirm, lonely and those suffering with dementia - and to our Saturday visitors - those who live in hostels or B&B accommodation, where cooking facilities are extremely limited and were in need of a good hot lunch.

Our decision to discontinue the lunches was not taken lightly. The Committee of Churches Together in Chiswick spent a great deal of time trying to find an alternative venue, but sadly there was none comparable, none that we could use every other Saturday, none that had the facilities for such easy disabled access and none that were free.

On the last Saturday we provided all our guests with a list of alternative organisations that offered cooked meals. I am pleased to say that there are myriad opportunities for lunches and dinners across London every day of the week.

I would like to record my heartfelt and grateful thanks for all those who have been involved with this project, since its inception by Ted Holloway and Jen Jeremy all those years ago. I was the last co-ordinator, but many others had taken that role before me, in recent memory - Moira Broom, Sarah Bradley and Jane Thomson.

Thank you to all you who cooked, served, washed up, poured teas and coffees and chatted to our guests. They were very appreciative (most of the time!) of our efforts and many had kind things to say at the last lunch.

Jane Trigle

Men's Society

Finding your way to church on a Sunday morning can seem intimidating at first, even though we try hard to be welcoming at St Michael and All Angels. However, most men are able to walk into a pub without too much difficulty, so that is where our Men's Society meets on Monday evenings every other month. Essentially, we sit or stand drinking beer and talking for a couple of hours. We don't claim to be offering an experience on a par with Ignatius Loyola's Spiritual Exercises, but it is definitely part of our church's outreach. Many people bring friends and we demonstrate that Christians are normal people who do normal things. We get to know each other better and form friendships – something that's difficult to do in the small amount of time after the service on a Sunday morning. In a society where people can feel under enormous pressure others, we try to provide a place free of expectations and demands.



Despite the warm welcome and kind support we get from landlord Tim, occasionally we venture outside The Tabard. Once a year we have a barbecue in the Vicarage garden, which in 2011 was washed down by a local product called *Naked Ladies* from Twickenham Fine Ales. We also visited the Fuller's Brewery, disconcerting the guide who claimed to be the oldest person present at 84 by pointing to Bert, who is 91. (He was so put out that five minutes later he fainted into Kelvin's arms and had to be taken to the sick bay.) Mark Critchlow has

organised a couple of golf days too, followed by lunch. Members of the Men's Society also came across from The Tabard to join in with the Hymnathon.

Membership is non-exclusive, so next time you see the invitation just turn up after 9 pm, whether for just a few minutes or for an hour, one drink or many! You don't even have to drink beer; wine and soft drinks have also been sighted.

Alan Trigle

Women's Society

The Women's Society (as distinct from the Women's Group) is quite simply a social gathering of women connected with St Michael and All Angels. Clergy, having no particular gender (!), are also there to introduce people to one another and buy the first round!

We decided to set up the Women's Society in the wake of the success of the Men's Society and to fulfil the same function. Nicola Chater comments: "This is a great opportunity for like-minded women to get together in an informal setting and just chat about anything and everything over a relaxing drink or two! It's also a wonderful chance to meet up with women who live in the local area and who you may not already know."

For a change we did at one point try meeting at The Roebuck on Chiswick High Road and at the earlier time of 8 pm, but most people felt it was better to return to The Tabard as everyone knows where it is and to meet at 9 pm as previously.

The Women's Society meets every other month on a Monday evening at 9 pm. Look out for the announcements on the notice sheet. Some, who have been reticent to come for the first time, have said afterwards how much they enjoyed it. We see the fruits of something like this on a Sunday morning when strangers in the pews become friends. It would be good if 2012 was the year we could really get momentum going and this might lead to a greater diversity of events.

Father Stephen

Women's Group

As time has progressed it becomes more and more apparent that this group can be described in one word – varied. There is a wonderfully varied membership and increasingly our activities are becoming commensurately varied too. The journey to this point has been interesting and followed the usual pattern of forming, storming and normalising! There was a period when people seemed to be adamant about what they didn't want, but the main need was for a programme planned in advance and that it should be varied. After Vicky Brooke's enthusiastic start, the organising rather fell on Marjolein Van Kampen. Both of them somehow managed to email notices despite their own punishing schedules. It has now been decided that a number of people will take responsibility for individual meetings, giving support or leading the discussion. I have, with help and support, organised the 2012 programme – but hope this role will be shared as easily in future! Huge thanks are due to Vicky and Marjolein for their stalwart work.

There were always assumptions about what the group is all about – are we 'very religious', 'a load of women slurping back the wine' or even – dare we name it – 'baby talk'? To answer these points: we do end the evening with the Grace; we hold a Stations of the Cross in Lent at 8.30pm, a time when women working in or away from the home can more easily attend and we have a few morality based discussions but these invariably contain a lot of laughter too. Generally the group operates within the spirit and fellowship of our Christian faith rather than in a formal manner. A bottle or two of wine, some cartons of juice and some nibbles are shared among us and the talk is as varied as any group, even when we flow off topic, it tends to reflect current affairs and important times in our lives. The sharing is always supportive and illuminating and it is impossible to predict the nature of any discussion – which is probably the strength of this group.

In 2012, particularly lively and creative sessions with a practical outcome will be Vicky Brooke's craft evenings, when we will make decorations for her table top sale in Advent in aid of the Organ and Vestry Rooms fund - all that is required is a pair of hands (no obvious skills). We will also have a couple of more "serious" discussions *Green & Economical Living* and *Judgement / Justice* and 'lighter' sessions *My Favourite Song* and *My Hero*, as well as the annual Christmas Party.

Meetings convene at 8 pm for an 8.30 start, generally on the first Wednesday of the month unless a festival or school holidays make this impossible – do please look at the church notice boards or go to the website for our full programme and mark the dates in your diaries. **Judy Miller**

Sunday Morning Coffee Team

Grateful thanks to all who have helped with making coffee for the congregation after the Sunday morning Eucharist during the year:

Jennie Best, Moira Broom, Sasha Cherry, Edna Fedonczuk, Charlotte Frische, Doreen Gibbs, Meredydd Howells, Shirley Hudnott, Jane Kelly, Ruth Joseph, Sue Ouseley, Sophie Mackie, Sarah Popoola, Kay Porter, Belinda Selby, Sheleen Smith-Petersen-Church, Sue Stirling, Georgina Taylor, Jane Thomson, Lis West and Liz Wilson

It is a very important ministry giving us the opportunity to meet together in fellowship and to welcome new members of the congregation or visitors to the church and the coffee time has been busier than ever, especially the first Sunday of the month for the Family Service. If you would like to join the team of helpers, do contact me. s.hunt564@btinternet.com. **Susan Hunt**

Book Club 1

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

Our meetings are relaxed and provide the opportunity for exchanging ideas about the chosen books, for extending the scope of one's reading repertoire and importantly, for members to get to know each other. New members are always welcomed and Book Club 2 has been started during the year. If you would like to learn more about them please look at the Parish website under 'Groups and Activities' where there is a list of our chosen books for 2012. We are always delighted to welcome new members so if you would like to join please do not hesitate to contact me directly or via the Parish Office

Jane Thomson

Book Club 2

Book Club 2 was launched in autumn 2010 when it became apparent that Book Club 1 was full and that there were several more people who would like to join a Book Club. We started with just five members, have always had a healthy mix of men and women members and have now grown to a membership of twelve.

As we have been a growing group, we have voted every two or three months on what we might read next so that newer members have had a chance to include their choices. Books we have read have included (in translation!) two Russian, two German and one French novel plus *A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush*. We have also read English, American and Australian novels and are currently reading a book of short stories from New Zealand. We have been richly entertained, but not always by the same things, so can generally look forward to an enjoyable monthly disagreement. It is very hard to predict who will enjoy what but all are united by the anticipation of 'reading things I would not normally read.'

Although not an overtly spiritual activity, ours is a small community of book lovers and as one member remarked about one of our books 'one finds a good explanation of Christianity in the most unlikely places.' We meet monthly on Monday evenings in the Parish Rooms and this use is our only cost to the parish. We buy or borrow our own books and share the provision of refreshments.

I wish I could say please come and join us but just now, I think we feel we have reached a peak for membership but that may change and perhaps there is some enterprising person out there who is ready to start Book Club 3. For further information contact me on janeKelly@jkconsulting.me.uk.

Jane Blanckenhagen

The Reflection Group

We continue to meet at 10.30 am in the Crypt Chapel on most Saturday mornings during the year, except for short breaks at Christmas and Easter and a longer break in August and September. There are usually between 7 and 10 of us. Our staple diet remains topics from the series of books called *Visions of ... (Faith, Hope, Love, Glory, Grace)*, which are anthologies of quotations and reflections assembled by former Oxford chaplain, William Sykes. Sometimes we vary this with extracts from other books or material provided by one of the group. The subjects range widely. Over the last year they have included compassion, sacraments, peace, ambition, inspiration, joy, humility, money, openness, forgiveness, the nature of the world, conscience, sorrow and reflections on Christmas.

Our purpose is to encourage each other, as we struggle to develop our faith and to lead the Christian life, by sharing our doubts, questions and insights. Characteristics of the discussions are a willingness to listen to others, informality and fun. Piety is not required, but a readiness to be honest about ourselves is a great help. We always leave refreshed, even if we don't have all the answers.

Newcomers are most welcome. No prior preparation is required. We start with a time for reading the chosen passages before the discussion begins. Please give me a ring on 020 8998 6315 if you are interested.

John Beastall

Chiswick Churches for Justice and Peace

Chiswick Churches for Justice and Peace is an ecumenical association of parishes in Chiswick founded in 2004 and joined together in our belief that you must love your neighbour as yourself. We meet every few months in the Comboni Missionary Sisters Convent, and hosted by the Comboni Sisters. We welcome anyone interested to join us, or share ideas they might like us to explore further. Please speak to Ros Lister 07701 041095

In March African drummers on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral welcomed everyone to a beautiful service of celebration and thanksgiving as the Diocese of London was declared a Fairtrade Diocese. Because more than 50% of churches are now Fairtrade, this has enabled the Diocese of London to achieve Fairtrade status. Representing St Michael and All Angels Church, Peggy Parlett and Doreen Gibbs received the Diocesan Fairtrade Certificate from The Ven Stephan Welch, Archdeacon of Middlesex.



The Path of Faith: The joy of Mission with the Comboni Sisters: In May the Comboni Missionary Sisters, known also as the Verona Sisters who have a house in Chiswick, gave a presentation on their Order and its particular charism on the life and work of modern missionary sisters in deprived rural and urban areas of Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

EID with Your Neighbours: In September CCJ&P and Hounslow Fairtrade Steering Group joined a Special Celebration – an EID Family Event organised by Muslim Active Women Around Hounslow. There was singing, drummers, comedy, circus acts and delicious food and we were invited to talk to people enthusiastic to know more about Fairtrade.

Social Justice: Working together for the Common Good: In November The Revd Chris Brice, former Advisor on Social Justice to the Diocese of London, spoke on the spirituality of social justice activism generally, based very topically, on the difficult position that the Church had to face, in the form of the anti-capitalism protest camp outside St Paul's Cathedral.

Sharing Our Stories, Sharing Our Faith: In November CCJP joined Hounslow Friends of Faith annual interfaith event at Lampton Park Conference Centre. We shared information about local projects caring for people in our communities – CEDARS, The Upper Room and The Winter Shelter Project, a new project providing night cover in Chiswick churches for the homeless during the freezing winter months. There was an exhibition of the Holy Scriptures of the main world faiths as well as performances from community groups.

Fairtrade Fortnight - Focus on Sri Lanka: In February David Brown from All Hallows Church in Twickenham gave a personal presentation about his second visit to Sri Lanka and South India. His first visit was in 2003 just before the Tsunami. It was interesting to hear about the working opportunities created and the event ended with a challenging Q&A about Fairtrade and the current needs in UK.

Ros Lister

Treasurer's Report Introduction

In this my second year as Treasurer I have continued the tradition of writing a brief commentary on our financial position by how we manage our funds rather than the format we are required to use in order to comply with best practice on Church Accounting. I will, as last year, provide a brief handout at the APCM which seeks to simplify and expand upon the income and expenditure of the church.

The Church Account

Planned Giving and collections at our services remain the two major sources of income which are required to pay for the cost of the clergy and the general running of the church. A planned giving campaign was conducted in the final quarter of 2011 but the impact in the year was largely matched by loss of contributions by members of the congregation leaving the scheme for one reason or another. The amount raised of £108,000 for planned giving was marginally ahead of the previous year and some £12,000 below budget. It is hoped that the benefits of the campaign will be felt during 2012 but it does highlight the need to conduct such campaigns on an annual basis in the future. Collections raised £29,700 against a budgeted figure of £31,000. The Common Fund contribution remained the same as the previous year at £75,000 and we have again paid a contribution of £16,000 towards the cost of our Curate, Father Stephen. As a result of carefully constraining our spending, the deficit for the year was £1,596 against a figure of £4,010 in 2010. As most of our costs are ministry costs, this has meant, in practical terms, not merely cutting down on any waste, but stopping doing things we value and not extending our ministry.

The Parish Hall Account

Hall income of £113,175 does not reflect the receipt post the year end of a further £16,667 from one of our tenants giving a total of £129,832 against a budget of £125,000. Costs for the hall were marginally ahead of budget at £80,389 but well down on the previous year, which saw an exceptional item for the lead theft. This means that the transfer to the Organ and Vestry Rooms project will be in line with the budgeted figure of £40,000. As in previous years 25% of the Hall management and administration costs have been charged to the church as a reasonable approximation of the costs of the Parish Managers time in supporting the activities of the church.

The Festival Account

As always Green Days and the Bedford Park Festival continue to be a major source of income for the church. Whilst the net result for Green Days and the Festival were lower than the results for 2010 by approximately £2,500. This was in large part due to the inclement weather on the Sunday of Green Days. It was still possible to reflect a net profit from the Festival of £38,000 to support our chosen charities and assist in the financing of the Organ and Vestry Rooms project.

Outlook

There is no doubt that 2012 will be another challenging year and as a result the continuing effects of the economic downturn will continue to impact upon the church's ability to operate profitably. A near 10% increase in income from planned giving and collections is again necessary in order to be able to balance the books for 2012 and this will need to be combined with tight cost control. We have agreed, despite pressure to increase our share, to maintain our Diocesan Common Fund contribution at £75,000 for 2012.

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

Finally I would like to place on record my thanks to Rupert Wiles for his excellent bookkeeping work and expert financial advice; to Alan Trigle and Peter Haigh for their willingness as members of the Finance Committee to guide and assist me and share the benefit of their vast knowledge; to Peter Haigh for taking over the role of Planned Giving Officer and to John Little and his team of helpers for ensuring that the banking of funds are dealt with promptly and efficiently. Lastly but not least my grateful thanks are also due to Sara and Anna in the Parish Office for all their assistance throughout the year.

Tony Simkin

Planned Giving and Gift Aid

‘For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.’ 2 Corinthians 8.3-4

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

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

In 2011 income from Planned Giving, including tax relief, totalled £108,151, a slight increase over the figure for 2010 of £107,525. That said almost 75% of this sum pledged represented our contribution to the Diocesan Fund, and a further £16,000 on an annualised basis for our Curate. Planned Giving membership at the end of 2011 remained almost the same as 2010.

During the autumn there was a Planned Giving Campaign to encourage members of the congregation to join the scheme or to increase their contributions. We are very grateful to those who joined and to those who increased their contributions. Unfortunately we also lost some contributors during the year.

As always if we are to continue to widen the ministry of St Michael’s during 2012 we would like to encourage newer members of the congregation to join the scheme and build up the numbers who have already taken that very positive step of signing up to Planned Giving.

There are Planned Giving forms at the back of the church. If having collected a form you have any questions about the scheme and how it works, please don’t hesitate to contact the Parish Office on 020 8994 1380 who will be only too pleased to try and answer your questions.

Gift Aid

The Gift Aid scheme does not require any prior planning or commitment to giving a fixed sum and is open to members of the congregation, visitors and casual worshippers alike. Tax refunds on all gifts can be reclaimed, simply by the donor completing one of the white Gift Aid envelopes or by completing a Gift Aid form available at the back of the church. Please do make use of the envelopes if you are a current UK tax payer as the government will contribute almost 25% of the amount donated so that every £1 given is worth £1.25 if given by a UK taxpayer.

UK Taxation change during 2008

As Tony Simkin mentioned in his 2009 report an important change in UK taxation took effect from 6 April 2008 which saw the basic rate of taxation fall from 22% to 20%. The 2008 budget allowed for a transitional arrangement for the next three years so that the amount of tax that we could reclaim remained at 28 pence for every £1 donated. Unfortunately from 6 April 2011 the amount we can reclaim has been reduced to 25 pence for every £1 donated. For the period April - December 2011 our reclaimed amount has reduced by £1,706 due to this change in taxation. Please do therefore, if at all possible, make sure your donations are made either via Planned Giving or the Gift Aid envelopes to allow us to take full advantage of this still valuable tax concession.

To all who have given so generously during 2011, both new and existing members, either via Planned Giving or by Gift Aid please accept as always our sincere thanks.

Peter Haigh

Charities and Charitable Giving

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

At St Michael and All Angels we have decided to focus our giving mainly around three charities each year. One of these is always a local charity and one an international charity. In 2011 we supported the Upper Room, USPG, Anglicans in World Mission and CEDARS. Funds raised during the Lent and Advent Appeals, from collections at the Christmas Eve services, on Charities Sunday, at the Quiz Supper as well as from the Bedford Park Festival were shared equally between these three. This totalled £20,162.49 so each charity received just over £6,720.

The Upper Room at St Saviour, Wendell Park, cares for the homeless and disadvantaged in West London. In 2011 more than 27,000 hot free meals were served. A wide range of additional support and essential equipment, including clothing, blankets and sleeping bags (272) and toiletries (2,171) were provided and 17 homeless people were referred for housing. A shortage of beds in night shelters and hostels continues to be the biggest concern. Many of the clients have no option but to live in squats.

UR4Jobs continues to assist jobseekers with their paperwork and CVs and has helped 125 people into employment during 2011. UR4Driving helped 26 ex-offenders to pass their driving test as the first step into gainful employment and a stable lifestyle.

During the year, several members of the St Michael's congregation volunteered regularly in the kitchen at the Upper Room; we donated a quantity of warm clothing at Christmas and half the Harvest Gifts and gave a dedicated performance of the St John Passion which raised a further £726.48 towards the work of the charity.

CEDARS is a local project dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged young people in Chiswick through provision of drop-in facilities, activity groups, counselling and support. Much of our donation is spent on payments for the youth workers and the running costs of the centre. CEDARS would like to employ additional workers to counsel those children who demonstrate

aggressive behaviour and to increase the number of hours made available to the ‘Young Mums’ group which meets on Monday mornings. On a practical level, the money we have given has enabled the purchase of a second hand minibus to replace one no longer usable, a second table tennis table and a special CEDARS banner. The charity is currently seeking volunteers who could run activity sessions, help with homework or teach cookery or other skills.

USPG Anglicans in World Mission is an international charity providing aid, teaching and spiritual support through the Anglican Dioceses across the world. We have been supporting two specific projects: HIV/Aids Home Support in Namibia and Tree Planting and Agricultural Development in Madagascar. The Namibian project is now complete and a final report will be available later this year. In Madagascar, a region frequently hit by cyclones, trees have been used to stop farmland from being washed away. A total of 7,850 trees have been planted and there has been a noticeable change in the attitudes of people living close to the reforestation area. College students have received hands-on teaching and they have planted 5,000 square feet of eucalyptus trees and 1,000 square feet of ravintsara (a plant with medicinal properties).

The Charities Group is also responsible for organising St. Michael’s response to Christian Aid week, which last year raised £1,237.16 including the gift aid tax reclaim and for the distribution of gifts brought to Harvest Festival, which were shared between the Upper Room and St Mary’s Convent and Nursing Home.

CHARITABLE FUNDS RAISED IN 2011

Bedford Park Festival	£8,753.01
Lent Appeal	£2,736.21
Quiz Supper (<i>net</i>)	£1,577.31
Book Festival (<i>see page 36</i>)	£6,804.00
Christian Aid Week	£1,237.16
St. John Passion	£726.48
Charities Sunday	£94.00
Advent/Christmas Appeal	£6,926.96
Total	£28,855.13

During the autumn the Charities Group received ten nominations for the new international charity for 2012. After considerable research and reflection, four of these went forward with a recommendation to the PCC, resulting in **Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia** being chosen to follow USPG as our international charity.

The Group’s members are Andrew Bickley, Jane Denton, Ros Lister, Leslie Lyle, Alyson Mitchell, Mary Pears, Michael Pownall and Lynette Royle. We would be delighted to hear from others who could give some time to this part of St Michael’s mission work. We would also like to thank most warmly everyone who has organised, shopped, cooked, served, cleared, quizzed, sung, collected and counted money for any of our events in 2011.

Mary Pears

Cards for Good Causes

The Christmas card shop at St Michael's aims to raise a large amount of money for charities through supplying Chiswick and its surrounds with the best choice of cards to be found anywhere in the area. Once again I am pleased to say that these aims were met. Thirty-eight charities were represented in the shop providing a staggering 304 different designs to choose from. Given the difficult financial times it was not surprising that takings were a little down on the previous season but even so a large amount of money was raised to support the work of these charities. As ever we had a huge team of volunteers, welcoming some new people to learn the mysteries of the till. Thank you, one and all. Two or three others have volunteered their services for next year: I hope you remember doing so because I will be calling on you!

Gill Stevens is a hard-working and supportive co-manager, giving generously of her time on the occasions when, for personal reasons, I was absent. Our caretaker Ken makes himself available to assist with putting the shop together, and even more importantly, dismantling it and moving all the boxes out at the end of trading. Thanks also go to the Vicar and Churchwardens for their support, and to all those in the congregation, particularly to those who sit on the south side pews, for putting up with the disruption.

Gill and I tried to work out when CFGC had first appeared at St Michael's. The previous Area Organiser informs me that it was in 1998. We think that for its first two or three years the shop was in the corner where Our Lady now stands, before moving to its present site when the new cupboards were built by the main door.

At the time of writing this piece the exact dates for next season have not yet been fixed, but we look forward to welcoming you to our 15th season at St Michael's.

Anne Mower

FESTIVALS

Green Days 2011

It had to happen one year – and we hope it won't do so again in the near future! For the first time in over ten years, we had serious rain on Green Days weekend.



Fortunately, it was only on the Sunday – and it followed a fantastic Saturday – so that our takings across the weekend were only slightly down on those for 2010, a remarkable result. But it was a reminder just how dependent we are on good weather for our large income on Green Days.

The official opening at 11am on the Saturday was very emotional, with a large crowd there to see the return of Mr and Mrs Lad, who retired from the newsagents' shop on Bedford Corner at Christmas, after 30 years. Richard Briers formally opened the

Festival with Mr Lad and gave a funny and touching speech, before presenting the couple with a painting of the shop by Nigel Woolner, on behalf of the Bedford Park Society.

Also at the ceremony were Matthew and Jane Wilson, of the Young Veterinary Partnership, who have extended their surgery into the corner premises – and are now major sponsors of Green Days and other events at St Michael's. We were fortunate to attract several new sponsors to supplement – and in some cases – replace businesses that left the area or closed down. More than 130 local firms supported Green Days and other Festival events, led by our main sponsor Savills.

Richard Briers and Father Kevin Morris then judged the Children's Fancy Dress Competition, with some highly imaginative costumes representing children's film characters. BJO again took over the bandstand, launching a sequence of great live music – from Hannah Faulkner, Creak and Jessie Grace – plus a special dance performance from Rambert's youth company, Quicksilver.



Two of last year's Green Days hits - zumba dancing and the marmalade-making competition – returned, supported by local sponsors. The cake stall did amazing business, thanks to the many people who baked and made marmalade - notably Shirley Hudnott who produced 130 jars single-handedly! There were lots of new games on the Children's Corner - creatively masterminded by Sara Gronmark - and despite the recession (or perhaps because of it) we sold an unbelievable number of champagne lottery tickets.

As usual, there were lots of competitions on Green Days and throughout the Festival - particularly for children. Go to www.smaa.org.uk/festival/Winners2011.html where all the winners are listed.

The 5-a-side Football kept dozens of children and parents on the Green, ably masterminded by Andrew Mitchell - now stepping down after a long and successful stint. He has also fulfilled one of the most important tasks, for which we are very grateful – finding his own successor for 2012!



We scoured the parish (not just the church) to find volunteers to run some of our most important stalls in 2011 - including International Food, the High Roller Tombola and Win a Meal. In the end, we found excellent people – though only at the very last minute for Win a Meal! In a two-week blitz, we signed up more restaurants than last year and on Green Days weekend we sold more tickets, helping raise a record sum of money on the Saturday for our charities and St Michael's.

And then came the rain. Sunday was the first wet day on Green Days in 12 years – and though the rain was heavy and steady we decided to stay on the Green, not least to show faith with our commercial stallholders and Craft Fair regulars. Despite some grumbling that the Mass on the Green remained on the Green - and was not moved into the church - it was the right decision. Our visiting preacher, Very Revd David Hoyle, Dean of Bristol, was heard to say that it was the first time he had ever preached to a congregation of umbrellas!

We managed to keep people on the Green throughout the day - albeit in much smaller numbers than usual. After the service, many sought sustenance and shelter in the Refreshments Tent and the craft marquees. We then had the WorldBusk in aid of Musequality, and their performers kept singing and playing despite the rain, as did later performers - Root Juice, the students from Arts Ed and the performers - and judges - for our junior talent show, Bedford Park's Got Talent . The barbecue kept going - and many people found refuge in the Beer Tent, including local Oscar-winner Colin Firth!

As ever, dozens of people played major roles, far too many to mention. Keeping everything on the road, as every year, were Dean and Heather White, who remained remarkably cheerful despite the weather and other tribulations which they took in their stride. Sara Main again ran both the refreshments and Craft Fair very smoothly, Chris Church and David Kerr kept the Bandstand line-up in great shape, ably underpinned as ever by the sound team at Independent Audio.

The oft-unsung team of money counters was kept extremely busy on the Saturday, handling total income of almost £50,000 across the weekend. After deduction of costs, Green Days raised £24,778 for our three charities and St Michael's – only £1,900 less than in 2010, despite the rain!
Torin Douglas

Bedford Park Festival 2011

The 2011 Bedford Park Festival was a great success – with some amazing highlights – but at one stage this looked most unlikely. It certainly had its ups and downs!

In 2011 we coped well with an array of problems. The sponsor of our opera company, which was due to pay all their costs, pulled out with a few weeks to go. We had to replace some events, incurring serious costs, and still had to find volunteers to run three of our potentially most profitable events - and that's not including the rain on Green Days.

The first week started very slowly, for reasons still not entirely clear. There were fewer people at the preview party for the Bedford Park Summer Exhibition – but we'd put up the drinks prices and people bought more of the pictures – so our income was up.

On Sunday evening, after Green Days weekend, we filled the Tabard Theatre for *The Magic of Musicals*, with a great performance by the West End 'killer soprano' Rosie Ashe. But other good shows in the first half of the week - including *Strictly Rambert*, with the artistic director of the Rambert Dance Company - attracted disappointing audiences.

It was a reminder, if we needed it, that nothing is certain and shows don't automatically sell themselves!



(whose birthday it was!). The evening's success was underpinned by a new sponsor, Chesterton Humberts.

Things picked up brilliantly on the Friday with the Festival's first opera of recent times, a real gamble even before the sponsor pulled out! Opera Novella's production of *The Mikado*, with Father Kevin Morris in the title role, proved a triumph, attracting a full and highly appreciative audience (despite a hotly-debated ticket price of £20!) On Saturday, there was a wonderful champagne recital by the international tenor Justin Lavender, held in the beautiful studio at 22 Woodstock Road, thanks to the generosity of Jane and Kenny McKenzie

On Monday, David Juritz's London Tango Quintet – five of the UK's top musicians – gave a brilliant performance in the church, gaining a wonderful response from the audience. This was followed by supper in the Michael Room. Great thanks are due to the performers and the cooks team - Sue Ousley and Nicola Chater. Another new sponsor, Winkworths, added greatly to the atmosphere by donating chocolates and flowers.

Further successes followed with the poetry evening, featuring Blake Morrison, several house concerts, the photographic exhibition and, on the final Saturday, the Bedford Park Film Festival, featuring nostalgic and hilarious clips from films set locally.

But the real highlight was a new film venture - the BPF Shorts Competition for 12-18s, masterminded by Kelvin Murray and judged by Colin Firth and Kevin McNally (who presented the prizes in a packed Michael Room). There were no fewer than 54 entries, many of them of really high quality.

The Festival came to a climax on the Sunday with a wonderful Festival Mass, followed by lunch in the Vicarage garden, a sell-out Bedford Park Walk and the most successful ever Open Gardens – over 300 tickets and lots of cream teas were sold.

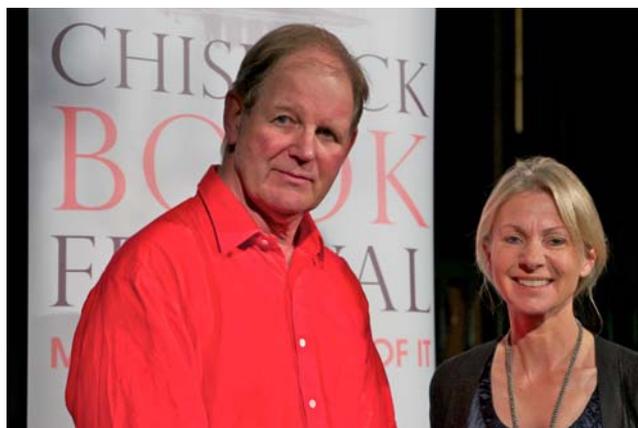
Much of the success in the end was due to those at the centre of things – the Churchwardens, Helen Wareham and Michael Robinson (who is also the Festival Events Director); Helen Simkin, who is now the Festival Administrator as well as running the Box Office; a new assistant, Madeleine Hawes; Tony Simkin, who took over as Festival Treasurer in addition to the already onerous job of PCC treasurer; Jane Trigle, who organises the wine and refreshments and not least the front of house organisers, Sue Jordan and Dinah Garrett, who caught all the difficult balls thrown at them, including rustling up 120 fish and chip suppers and finding a home for the leftovers. Caretaker Ken Phayre was tireless as usual, helped by a strong team of volunteers.

And Father Kevin Morris was as ever at the centre of things – not least as a very stylish Mikado, with a sunflower motif!

The Festival was a success not just in cultural and community terms but financially – raising £39,252 for St Michael's and its three charities for 2011 – The Upper Room, USPG: Anglicans in World Mission, and the CEDARS youth project in Chiswick. **Torin Douglas**

Chiswick Book Festival 2011

Was it really only the third Chiswick Book Festival? Suddenly it seemed to grow up – or certainly grow. It is now firmly in the Book Festivals' diary. A wonderful evening with social historian Lucy Worsley at Chiswick House on the Thursday, in association with the Chiswick House and Gardens Trust; the opening session on Friday afternoon with a church packed with almost 400 youngsters (and slightly older people) to hear Michael Morpurgo (*right with Kate Mosse*) – he had us laughing and crying at the same time. A magic moment when he was asked by one girl why he wrote so often about death. 'What's your name' he asked. 'Hope', she replied. A great start.



Saturday morning opened with the free Children's Book Festival and a poetry extravaganza with Brian Moses' *Rhyme Rhythm and Rap* and a workshop for the entrants to the Young People's Poetry Competition. This was run with great enthusiasm by Nicky Kelly and Susi Stanley-Carroll, with James Priestman and Carol Douglas - 130 entries from 13 different schools.



There were sessions in The Tabard, the Michael Room and in the church – with the Gabriel Room becoming a branch of Waterstone’s and the Raphael Room a Green Room for the many authors coming and going all weekend. On Saturday evening a full house in the Michael Room saw Paul Slack’s powerful one man show *Phoenix Rising: D H Lawrence, Son and Lover*. There was a feeling of buzz throughout the weekend.

Outside – thankfully without rain – the Sofa Workshop Marquee was a welcome retreat with refreshments from Coffee Cart and amazing home-made cakes – thanks to everyone who donated cakes and who ran the stall.

We are so lucky that our literary partners, Jacks Thomas and her Midas PR colleagues, bring us such top line authors including Kate Mosse, Andy McNab, Daisy Goodwin, Katie Fforde, Rosamund Lupton, Tracy Borman, Helen Castor and Isla Blair. Jessica Fellowes’ book on *The World of Downton Abbey* inspired us to lay on an ‘upstairs downstairs’ lunch with a Ploughman’s Plate and champagne or beer (kindly donated by Fuller’s Brewery) whilst hearing about the background to the TV series from Jessica, Phyllis Logan, Lesley Nicol and Brendan Coyle (who dropped in at the last minute!). Sunday ended with another well attended Creative Workshop led by Celia Brayfield and much laughter from several contributors to *Private Eye*, celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Huge thanks to Jacks Thomas and Stephen Williams at Midas PR and their teams, Malcolm Edwards at Orion, Katherine Solomon who runs the Children’s Festival; to Waterstone’s – ever trolleying books to and from the High Road for sale and always smiling; to Helen Simkin who ran the Box Office and Tony Simkin for keeping our finances in order; to everyone who supported the Festival financially – and especially to everyone from St Michael’s who welcomed visitors to the Festival and helped make it all run smoothly behind the scenes.

As a principle when the Festival started, ticket prices were set, and since kept, low. With help from our sponsors and the number of tickets sold, the Chiswick Book Festival was again able to end with a small surplus. This was shared between St Michael’s and the Festival’s three chosen, book-related charities: RNIB Talking Books and Books for Children, InterAct Reading Service and The Letterbox Club, each receiving £1,701.

Dinah Garrett

Hymnathon 2012

On 24 and 25 of February 2012, the first weekend of Lent, the complete *New English Hymnal* was sung through at St Michael’s for the second time in its history. The occasion was the 25th anniversary of the time when we sang it through before in 1987 to celebrate its publication and to raise money for charity.

Father Kevin, in his welcome published in the Hymnathon programme said: “The *New English Hymnal* of 1986 was introduced at St Michael’s 25 years ago with a Hymnathon just like this one. It is very much a liturgical book and this Hymnathon will take us on a journey through the liturgical year and the Christian life from Advent to Pentecost, through saints days, baptisms, weddings and funerals from morn till eve, from birth to death, from prayer and praise to sorrow and joy.”



That is exactly what it was. It was an utterly memorable experience not just for the worshipping and local community but for a much wider community of visitors from other churches, choirs, local organisations and people coming in from the street and the pub.



The purpose of the event was twofold – to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first marathon and to raise funds through sponsorship for the new Organ and Vestry Rooms project. In spite of Father Kevin’s memorable statement the next day that “even if we hadn’t raised a penny it would still have been worth it” the event had raised over £51,022.99 by Easter Sunday. Our grateful thanks go to the hundreds of sponsors and all the people that took part for their extremely generous sponsorship and donations.

The success of the event financially, but even more importantly socially and spiritually, was the result of an enormous amount of work and commitment by the whole church community. In particular our thanks go to the following people who helped and took part:

Torin Douglas	Publicity and co-ordination
Chris Bradley	Finance and Technology
Chris Beauchamp	Organist
Jane Trigle, Carol Douglas, Sue Jordan	Refreshments and Welfare
The Men’s Society	Breakfast
Helen Wareham	Sidespeople and Front of House
St Michael’s Choir	Singing
Kelvin Murray David Beresford Jim Cox	Photography
Sarah Lenton	Hymn board

The Arts Educational School, Chiswick and Bedford Park Preparatory School, Orchard House School, The Giles Ridley Singers, The Sandy Burnett Bach Singers, The Hogarth Singers, The Festival Mass Choir, the PCC, the Youth Club and Junior Choir, St Michael’s Servers, Gardeners and Flower Arrangers and the Men’s Society. **Oliver West**

St Nicholas comes to Chiswick

On Thursday 8th December 2011, St Nicholas – the real and original Father Christmas – came to Chiswick and delighted over 800 children from three schools (Belmont, Orchard House and Chiswick & Bedford Park Prep) along with their teachers and parents.



The children, gathered along the Bath Road, cheered as St Nicholas arrived by horse and carriage. He was welcomed to Chiswick by the Vicar of St Michael’s, the Head Teacher of each school and the Mayors of Hounslow and Ealing. After a grand procession into the church, St Nicholas entered to an impressive fanfare and the children sang songs about St Nicholas and heard the story of his life. Then St Nicholas knelt before the baby Jesus and said a prayer and then gave out the gift of chocolate gold coins to every child present.

In the persona of St Nicholas was Father Jim Rosenthal, who has a special devotion to St Nicholas. His aim, and that of the St Nicholas Society of which he is president, is to restore the Christian meaning of Santa Claus/Father Christmas as a figure of loving generosity who points us towards the Christ-child and his mother Mary. Father

Jim takes part in numerous similar events around the country – most famously in Canterbury and on Oxford Street and it was after hearing about one of these events that I mentioned to Father Kevin that it would be good to invite him to St Michael’s to do something similar – but I didn’t know how big an event it would become!

I can’t begin to thank all those who helped on the day enough, there were so many of you who worked so hard. Father Jim’s compliment is perhaps the best – he was astounded that so many helpers turned up so early in the morning, and said that no other place he had visited (and there are many) could match our enthusiasm, dedication and organisation. I must just mention in particular Sue Jordan for arranging the stewards, Sally Haigh for her persuasive powers of sponsorship, Sara Gronmark for her gorgeous decorations and Cathie James for finding a full complement of servers at such an inconvenient time of day.



We were also grateful for the generous support of a range of local business including, Starbucks, Divine Fairtrade Chocolate and Marks & Spencer’s for the chocolate and The Park Club and Young Veterinary Partnership for sponsoring the horse and carriage which was provided by Westway Stables in Shepherd’s Bush. Thank you everyone.

It was such a wonderful and successful event that we hope to hold it again someday - perhaps in

two or three years time when there will be a new intake of children. It’s worth mentioning that throughout the year the children of various schools - primary and secondary - visit St Michael’s on a regular basis. Father Kevin and I are regularly involved with assemblies, services, concerts and class visits to do with particular aspects of the national curriculum. The big schools event for 2012 will be the Jubilee, and I am currently in the process of planning a Schools Jubilee Service that I hope will be just as big and exciting. Such events are an opportunity to build up our links with our local schools while expressing the Christian faith in fun and creative ways. **Father Stephen**

C HURCH FABRIC

C hurchwardens’ Fabric Report

There is little to report about work done except essential maintenance. Our focus now is on preparing to remove the present organ, install the new one, and to construct the new vestry rooms. This is all planned to start in July. We intend to complete the new sound system before this phase. The Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches has granted a certificate of permission to proceed with this new system, so we are well on the way to being granted a Faculty at the time of writing. For those who do not know what a Faculty is (until recently I could only nod hopefully but wisely when someone said the word), it is the Church of England’s equivalent to planning permission or listed building consent, granted by the Diocese. The Faculty for the Organ and Vestry Rooms project has long been in place.

The principal benefits of the new sound system will be better loudspeaker coverage throughout the church, and an extended hearing loop to cover the north and south aisles as well as the centre of the church. After completing this work, and before building proper starts, we will have to start clearing cellar spaces as much as possible, so that we can empty the vestry in preparation for work there on removing the pillar, installing a new ceiling and constructing a staircase for access to the new upper room. Careful planning will be needed here, and sympathetic co-operation.

I am sure that everyone will rally round, but it is going to be trying at times, as we glare at each other through the dust! The main thing to keep in mind is how wonderful it will be when it is all finished, and we can relish our new organ and luxuriate in the extra space.

I am still determined to have the north façade cleaned and refurbished, but the volume of other work has pushed this down the list of priorities. It has not been forgotten, however. The planned litter bins at least are now in place, and help to keep things a little tidier.

As I said last year in this report, many people help and advise me on fabric and garden matters and I am grateful to all of them. James Scott has advised me with his usual thoughtful care on the new sound system, and mediated with the contractors, and I would again like to thank John Howard, our Fabric Officer, who makes an invaluable contribution with his sound common sense, good humour and expertise, all still in place, even after another year!

Michael Robinson

H **Health and Safety Report 2011-12**

Health and safety at St Michael and All Angels becomes more and more important as we grow. This year, for example, we organised a number of large events – the Bedford Park Festival, the Chiswick Book Festival, the Hymnathon and the St Nicholas Service, to name only a few – all of which have required special consideration in terms of people's safety and security.

For large events such as these, we now undertake a special assessment, allowing us to identify actions to mitigate any risks and to help things run more smoothly on the day.

Our annual risk assessment aims to improve continuously the safety of our buildings. Seemingly small fixes, such as repairing wobbly legs on fonts, issuing updated fire procedures, repairing broken shelves in the vestry, and tidying up the crypt chapel store room have prevented potential accidents this year. Thank you to Anna, Sara, Ken and Meredydd for addressing each of these issues in a conscientious and timely manner.

In 2012, our Organ and Vestry Rooms project will pose additional challenges for maintaining the wellbeing of our volunteers, employees and contractors in and around the church. We will implement a number of changes to the way we use the church during this period, which will be necessary to carry out the work in a safe manner. We hope to minimise any disruption, and ask for your forbearance.

Health and Safety is not only the responsibility of the Vicar and the PCC, but also of every individual who uses St Michael's. If you see anything that you think could be done in a safer manner, then please mention it to one of the wardens, a member of the PCC, or me, the Health and Safety Officer.

Chris Bradley

O **rgan and Vestry Rooms Project – a year on**

Father Kevin ended last year's report on the Organ and Vestry Rooms Project by noting that we were about to submit the petition for Faculty in respect of our proposals. We duly filed the petition at the beginning of April and were then in the hands of the Chancellor. Months passed but in the meantime the organ builders at St Martin in Switzerland were quietly working. Finding ourselves unexpectedly in the vicinity of the organ workshop in July, we dropped in to see

progress for ourselves - our new organ is being built in a quiet, rural setting by craftsmen whose workshop reflects their lives' work of building organs all over Europe. It was fascinating to see some of the interior detailed work which will be hidden from view when the instrument is finished.

After the summer of waiting, the Faculty suddenly arrived in September. After the protracted process, it was tremendous to receive the go-ahead. Since then, we have been concentrating in particular on the building side of the project. The remodelling of the Vestry has to be done in the second six months of this year so that the works are finished well before the installation of the new organ. Currently the timetable for the next few months is planned as follows:



- March : the building works go out to tender – seven firms have been asked to tender
- April : tenders are received and reviewed, a short-list is prepared and a final choice is made
- Late May : the old organ is taken out by an organ builder
- 3 July : the building works start immediately after the Festival ends and while the schools who use our hall space are on their summer holidays
- By end December: the building works should be finished and the new Sacristy and Vestry available for use.



This will be a challenging period for us and for the users of the space. Advance planning is now being done to work out what needs to be available, what can be stored and where, and how we will cope with the inevitable disruption and change caused by no Sacristy, no Vestry and no organ. There is a Project Committee comprising Father Kevin, the wardens, Jane Trigle (the chair of the fundraising committee), Chris Bradley (the Health and Safety Officer), John Howard (who has responsibility for Fabric), Tony Simkin (the Treasurer) and Alan Trigle (who deals with the cash flow and financial forecasts) who will be reporting regularly to the PCC.

At the same time the serious fundraising has started. It was felt difficult to embark on this while we were in the

planning stages and we have been using saved funds from the Hall profits, the last ball, and the Festival allocations to meet the instalments on the organ contract to date. But now Jane Trigle and others are planning a programme of fundraising efforts and fittingly our showpiece inaugural event was the Hymnathon.



Helen Wareham

Use of the Hall and the Church

We are continuing with the summary report of the use of the church (other than for services) and the halls as it gives such a good idea of how our space is used both by the congregation and the wider community. These events require a lot of management from Anna and Sara in the Parish Office beforehand, from Ken and Meredydd on the day and from Beata afterwards. We are so grateful to them for all they do. It is effectively a small business and we have to think carefully about how we can make improvements to the way we run it all the time. Here are some comments from feedback forms from users of the Hall:



You are lovely, you have a great space and easy to get to. (children's party)
Very pleased, thank you. Lovely space for my daughter's party (children's party)
I think it is a beautiful venue with excellent facilities and great location. Many church halls aren't attractive but this one is. (children's party)
It's a really nice venue and also as members of the church we like to support SMAA. We were really happy and many of the parents complimented us on the venue, saying it was a lovely space - roomy but still warm and welcoming. (children's party)
Friendly staff, well organised, clean and large area. Good value for money. (children's party)
Everyone was helpful and made it a very pleasant experience. Couldn't have been better! (adult birthday party)

Helen Wareham

Flower Report 2012

We would really welcome some extra help with the flowers and to remove the 'mystery' of it all – I am very happy to run a couple of sessions that would reveal the quick tricks to creating something that looks effective but simple. Most of us started very cautiously but have grown in confidence over the years. We have fun when we are all working together for a large festival and support or rescue each other during the months of the weekly rota.

Our attempt to cut back on expense has taken in various changes. We have cut the PCC agreed weekly allowance to be spent at Wheelers to an average of £30 (on top of which we are given a very generous discount). The large pedestal at the front has been reduced to a small arrangement on the pillar ledge. This can easily be moved to the Side Chapel for the mid week services, providing there is no memorial arrangement in place there.

During the summer months we experimented with pots planted out with two or three plants in each. The hydrangeas lasted well, and are now in the border in the car park. If they survive to provide new growth, they will be dug up and repositioned in the church for a second year.

I have asked that there is a weekly reminder in the pew sheet (when space allows) to jog peoples' memories that the facility is there for us to provide a personal arrangement for a loved one. Money donated for this certainly helps towards the annual flower budget and brought in £455 towards the flower costs. I have set up a diary so that if anyone wants to tell us at the beginning of the year when they would like a memorial, we can make sure that it is remembered.

This Christmas we dramatically cut what we did in terms of flowers in the church to add to the splendour of the trees. Lots of greenery – red or gold spray on cones and seed heads and artificial poinsettias did much to 'pad out' the arrangements, were very economic and can be used again.

I hope this shows that the flower team are trying hard to contribute to the 'cost cutting' without jeopardising the beauty of the church or the worship at the daily services.

Sue Jordan

Regular external bookings in the hall

Monday to Friday

Chiswick & Bedford Park School
Orchard House School

Mondays

Ballet
Tai Chi
Yoga

Tuesdays

Ballet
Pilates
Creative Writing (annual class)

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

Opera lectures
Ballet
Yoga
Comedy Improvisation Workshops (occasional)

Fridays

Ballet
Swing Dancers
Cercle Francais (monthly)

Sundays

Scottish Dancing

Regular church bookings in the hall

Charities Quiz Night
Bedford Park Festival Events
Lent/Confirmation classes
Women's Group
Lent lunches and other parish lunches, Easter breakfast
Breakfast Club
PCC
Children's Church Meetings
Baptism Visitors Meetings
Readers' Training Course
Chiswick Book Festival Events
Book Club
Church Gardens Meetings
'Adult Sunday School'
Bible Study
Charities Group Meetings

'One off' events

Book launch (1)
Children's Parties (68)
General Meetings (non church groups) (5)
Concert Refreshments (15)
Adult parties (15)
Concerts in the hall (1)
AGMs (4)
Baptism parties (4)
Dance Exams (3)
Wedding Receptions (1)
Artists at home (2)
Carpet sales (8)
Theatrebugs Children's drama workshops (2)
CCJP Event (1) *no charge*
Drama rehearsals (1)
"Abundance" Event (1)
Photoshoot (1)
Autogenic training workshop (1)
Meditation workshop(1)
Children's cooking workshop (1)
Music Talk (1)
Charity fundraising event (1)
Book Talk (1)
Cake decorating workshops (2)
Kensington Area New Church Officers evening (1)

Regular external and congregational bookings in the church

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

'One-off' events in the church

Syred Sinfonia concert
Arts Education Graduation ceremony
Bedford Park Society Betjeman Lecture
Chiswick Seventh Day Adventist Church Concert
West London Sinfonia Concert
Collegium Musicum Concert
The Flautadors Concert
Noronha Orchestra Concert

Church Garden

The successful Hymnathon, to raise money for the Organ and Vestry Rooms project, offered an opportunity for the gardening volunteers to sing together about God's creation – a particularly moving experience. This meant an earlier start than normal (2 am!) in order to catch the harvest section of the hymnal: a highlight was joining the choir in the chancel and observing their “animated” version of *All things Bright and Beautiful*.

During the year we completed the work to the south lawn area which included installation of two litter bins and the provision of paving stones in front of the benches. In the summer a small church group was formed to look at the area to the south-west of the church, taking in concerns about the views to and from the church and signage generally. We are looking at the whole of the land on the South West corner – divided by the footpath, with the church land on one side and Triangle/Hounslow land on the other side. The group has also been liaising with the Bedford Park Society concerning the siting of new BT Broadband Openreach Boxes to ensure views to the church are not obscured. The group are now also producing an historical survey, a time-line of ownership and other significant dates, a site map and survey and a tree audit in order to develop a long term plan for the future.

Braving the sub-zero temperatures on a Saturday morning in early February, the gardening volunteer team joined forces with the Bedford Park Society volunteer gardeners for the task of renovating the boundary hedge which runs around the grassed Triangle area. Previously, the hedge consisted of white-flowering *Rosa rugosa* only. To add bulk to these mature roses and more seasonal interest, nearly 200 bare-rooted native hedging plants were put in – bare rooted plants being only available in the winter season – after the soil had been prepared and the roses pruned the previous week. The species planted were Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Viburnum *opulus* together with some larger Escallonia ‘Eveyi’ plants, which are white flowered.



The Bedford Park Society kindly covered the cost of these plants including compost mulch and a new root gel product to encourage rooting of bare root plants. It is hoped that the plants will establish successfully and that we shall start seeing the results in a few weeks time as they move into leaf and flower.

We are presently formulating plans for the new horticultural year, which we hope will include more social engagement to counter the challenges of managing a public space, together with some new ideas in this Jubilee year.

Our grateful thanks to all those who have helped during the year, to Bud Murryweather of the Outer Space Gardening Company for her dedication and leadership and to Patrick Grattan who takes care of the grass and mowing the lawn. We meet at 10.30 am on arranged Saturday mornings following a notice in the weekly service sheet. Volunteers are very welcome. For further information contact Susan Hunt (s.hunt564@btinternet.com) or Bud Murryweather (o.space@btinternet.com).

Susan Hunt

C OMMUNICATIONS

C hurch Archives

In my report last year, I highlighted the problems of preserving and creating an archive of the life and work of this parish, both past and present. I identified a number of priorities to be addressed in order to secure the existing archive in future years, particularly our documentary archive, in light of burgeoning digital media.

I am glad to report the progress made in addressing these issues.

- My plea for volunteers to come forward to assist with archive work has been certainly heeded. We now have a team of enthusiasts who will bring various vital skills to bear on our needs. We will have some legal assistance, experience in archiving methods, in preservation techniques and in restoration work. We have an additional photographer. We now have the “manpower” to proceed with what previously was a daunting project – an uphill struggle that for most of the time amounted to just a pipe-dream in a time of scarce resources.
- We now have a parish policy on archive, based on official Church of England Diocesan guidelines, that enables us to identify which material should constitute the archive, and what can be discarded. Thanks must go to Helen and Edmund Wareham for kick-starting this process. We have made good progress with this, and have legal guidelines for the retention of certain detailed financial records, other statutory records and the like. The identification and classification of records is proceeding but needs more work quickly because of storage constraints on-site, in light of the Organ and Vestry Rooms project. Volunteer time, but no advanced skills will be needed to complete this, so more volunteers will always be welcome.
- There is also a much more urgent need for adequate provision for storage both inside the church building and also temporary offsite accessible storage facilities. There are always many calls on limited space, but this is an important candidate for priority help. If any parishioner has access to unused dry storage space, please make yourself known to me or the Parish Office! There is also a need for modest funds for purchase of storage equipment. Once these preliminary tasks are completed, we will be able to get down to the much more rewarding and interesting job of preservation and restoration, and making our archive more readily accessible for study and research.

I have been much assisted in trying to put life and impetus into the archiving task by the encouragement and support of Father Stephen and of Vicki Marsland. Vicki has extensive professional archive and preservation skills, without which much of our progress simply wouldn't have taken place. As a complete amateur, with no such specialist knowledge, I have in the past been able only to keep the necessity and importance of archive alive (though mostly dormant) whilst trying to make sure that potentially important material is not discarded and lost forever. Vicki Marsland has gracefully agreed to assume the role of Lead Archivist in my place, so I can look forward to continuing to be involved with archive work under her management and tutelage.

Finally, I am delighted to welcome Jim Cox as an additional photographer to help with the job of graphically recording parish life.

David Beresford

Communications Report

After all the video activity in 2010 - spearheaded by Kelvin Murray's wonderful film of *Green Days - 2011* was always likely to be a quieter year on the communication front.

But there was a great legacy. Kelvin launched the *BPF Shorts Film Competition* for young filmmakers, which attracted more than 50 entries – all of which you can see on the St Michael and All Angels website www.smaaa.org.uk.

The website stands at the centre of communications at St Michael's, along with the weekly email newsletter. Together they provide a huge amount of information about what's going on in the parish each week. We try to ensure they are closely linked to all our other means of communication - service notice sheets, *The Clarion*, notice boards, banners and local media - to keep the work of St Michael's in the public eye.

This has helped boost our congregation and audiences at concerts and Festival events and also makes it possible for us to launch successful one-off events, such as the Reaffirmation of Wedding Vows Service on the day of the Royal Wedding (which was covered by the *Church Times*, *Publican News*, *ChiswickW4.com* and BBC London); the St Nicholas Day event; and, in 2012, the Hymnathon.

We were sad to lose the local newspaper, the *Chiswick Times*, during the year, but we have a strong relationship with *ChiswickW4.com* and also now benefit from the launch of a new Chiswick website, *ForMums.net*, run by Kate Foster who comes to St Michael's. We would welcome more help from other media professionals among the congregation, in writing news releases and liaising with local and national media across the year.

We are fortunate – and grateful - to have excellent professional help from graphic designer Jane Davies, who designs the Bedford Park Festival leaflet and our Christmas banner each year, and web designer Alastair Cassells, who designed the St Michael's website and the Chiswick Book Festival website and keeps them functioning very effectively.

Once again the number of people using St Michael's website grew, according to Google Analytics. 19,706 people visited the site in 2011, compared with 18,678 in 2010 and 14,443 in 2009. As usual, numbers peaked in June, for the Bedford Park Festival, and at Christmas, for the Advent Calendar.

Even so, we know that many in the congregation rarely use it – and are seeking ways to improve the situation.

The site is updated each week by a small team but we could do with more help - perhaps from a student looking to enhance their CV? Our plan to make it easier to find one's way round the hundreds of pages - by creating a comprehensive index page – still remains unfulfilled.

Unfortunately, our internal communications still lag behind.

It's now three years since, in his report to the APCM, PCC member Matthew Hickley pointed out that we're better at communicating with the outside world than keeping the congregation informed about the activities of our various groups and listening to their views.

Matthew and I produced a 'communications toolkit' to help church groups publicise what they are up to. But few groups have anyone thinking about how to publicise their activities, or providing material for the website, the email, notice boards and service sheets. Some groups still have no page on the website. An honourable exception is the Children's Church, which is about to start its own email newsletter for parents.

We are still searching for someone to help keep the notice boards updated and eye-catching. We still need to understand social media and use them better – though at the start of 2012 we made great strides with the publicity for the Hymnathon, which will be covered in next year’s report!

Torin Douglas

T*he Clarion*

The Clarion is our monthly magazine. Its contents are somewhat eclectic but most of the articles either have a religious theme or have some sort of connection to St Michael’s. In addition to recording church events, the magazine also hopes to inform readers of other activities and groups with which members of the congregation are involved. In the last year, we published such diverse contributions as accounts of pilgrimages, visits to cultural events, a history of the reformation, retrospectives from the archives, a cookery column as well as reproductions of sermons given at some of our services.

The magazine would not get published without the much valued contributions from our current and former parishioners. I would like to thank those who have contributed over the last year, in particular Charles Rees who has written two serialised articles. I would also like to thank the others who work behind the scenes to ensure we have financing (Susan Hunt, who is responsible for organising the advertising) and that the magazine is printed (Sara Pask and Anna Benson).

At the moment I am, with a small group, reviewing the format and content of the magazine to ensure that it is consistent with the other media output from St Michael’s. Our target is to complete this review by the middle of the year. This will help us to define what resources are needed to produce the new magazine. I am grateful to all those that responded to the commitment campaign, volunteering to contribute to the magazine, however, I could always do with some more help, particularly from anyone who can help in any redesign of the template. In addition, I would be interested in hearing from anyone who enjoys writing and would like to make a regular contribution to *The Clarion*. Having an editorial team (including reporters, a sub editor and a designer) would enable us to increase the quality and consistency of the magazine’s output.

If you do not want to make a regular contribution, I would be delighted to receive ad hoc pieces. The magazine is usually published on the first Sunday of every month; contributions need to be received by the previous Wednesday to be included. If you would like to contribute, please email your contributions to the Parish Office or to me directly at gavin_johnston@btinternet.com. I am particularly interested in receiving contributions from the younger members of our congregation (who have been under represented in the past) and generally would be grateful for accounts of pilgrimages, reviews of religious or topical arts (books, theatre, film, concerts), poetry and anything else that is ‘liturgically appropriate.’ Also, if you are in charge of a group, please consider using *The Clarion* to publicise what your group has been doing/ is about to do – it is a free resource with a reasonable circulation within and outside the parish.

Gavin Johnston

WHO IS WHO AT ST MICHAEL'S

VICAR	The Revd Kevin Morris	8994 1380
	The Vicarage, Priory Gardens, London, W4 1TT	
	E-mail parishoffice@smaaa.org.uk	
Hon Assistant Priest	The Revd Graham Morgan	8994 1380
Hon Assistant Priest	The Revd Neil Evans	8994 1380
Curate	The Revd Stephen Stavrou	8994 1380
Sub-deacons	Sarah Lenton and Graham Holderness	
Churchwardens	Michael Robinson	
	Helen Wareham	8747 0247
Parish Managers	Sara Pask and Anna Benson	8994 1380
	Parish Office, Priory Avenue W4 1TX	
Sacristan	Anne Mower	8992 7347
Master of Ceremonies	Cathie James	8995 1947
Director of Music and Junior Choir	Jonathan Dods	07899 654358
Youth Church	The Revd Stephen Stavrou	8994 1380
Children's Church	Christina Whiteway	07779302310
Children's Advocate	Jane Thomson	8747 0906
Crèche Co-ordinator	Katharine Braddick	
Sidespeople	Helen Wareham	8747 0247
Readers	Cathy Millin	8810 9980
Brass cleaning	Lis West	8994 8614
Flower Arrangers	Sue Jordan	8995 5589
Electoral Roll Officer	Helen Simkin	8995 3285
Planned Giving Officer	Peter Haigh	8995 7249
PCC Treasurer	Tony Simkin	8995 3285
PCC Secretary	Jane Blanckenhagen	
Magazine Editor	Gavin Johnston	8810 9980
Magazine Advertisements	Susan Hunt	8749 7677
Magazine Subscriptions	Susan Hunt	8749 7677
Charities Group	Mary Pears	8994 4934
Social Group	Jane Trigle	8746 7732
Publicity Group	Torin Douglas	8994 3572
Community Lunches	Jane Trigle	8746 7732
Baptisms, weddings, funerals, Hall Bookings	Parish Office	8994 1380
Sunday Morning Coffee	Susan Hunt	8749 7677
CCJP	Ros Lister	8994 6692
Baptism Visitors	The Revd Stephen Stavrou	8994 1380
Reflection Group	John Beastall	8998 6315
Book Club	Jane Thomson	8747 0906

www.smaaa.org.uk