



**ANNUAL REPORTS
FOR 2009**

**Annual Parochial
Church Meeting
Sunday 25th April 2010**

planned for the greater school community, which of course includes St Mary's Church.

School attendance at St Mary's Church

Pupils have been in Church during the year, including Science and Music week and the Carol Service in December.

Stabilisation work at the back of the School

Members of St Mary's church who travelled along Dollis Road last summer will have noticed work being carried out at the back of the school. This was to deal with a slippage problem with the slope behind the school which leads down to the road, and the affected area behind the school is now much improved.

Nick Upton

RECTOR'S REPORT

One of the most essential pieces of equipment in an incumbent's study, provided by the bishop, is the Official Map of the parish with the boundaries marked in red on an Ordnance Survey map. A map is a very useful thing because it shows where you are and clarifies issues around church weddings too. A map might also be useful to show where you are going (we always have an A to Z in the car). For both uses a map shows the lie of the land suggesting how you might cross the terrain.

I am sure that it was no accident that Mission Action Plans give us the useful acronym MAP. This year has seen the production of our new MAP for 2009 – 2012. In this we have sought to affirm all the great work that has been done at St Mary's, the "where we are" which makes this such a happy community. We have also sought to look forward to where we hope to go. In doing this our planning has been influenced by the Diocesan document, the London Challenge 2012 specifically expressing our vision for the future in terms of six commitments:

- to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ at home and abroad
 - to equipping the servants of Jesus Christ to develop and express their faith
 - to the young
 - to nurturing and building up our church community
 - to serving London and all her people
- making financial commitments

In terms of statistics this year has seen no real change in the usual Sunday attendance – 40 children and 132 adults. Easter communicants rose by 10 to 222 and Christmas communicants dropped by 12 to 192.

During this year we have seen the launch of GiG, our new Youth Group which complements Smudge, the drama group. Friday evenings see a seamless shift from Smudge to Gig in our Large Hall. Both groups are thriving with dedicated leadership.

A monthly service of Prayer for Healing has also been initiated this year, on the first Sunday of the month at 6pm. This ministry has been warmly welcomed and attendances have been increasing.

Other new ventures are the Open Door quarterly magazine with glorious Technicolor on the outer pages; a Film and Faith group which has watched and discussed both religious and not overtly religious films; lunchtime reflective services in Advent.

Our overseas links have continued to develop. Two of the mission agencies we support, CMS and USPG, have sent speakers. In January we were visited by Fr Alexander and Fr Dmitry from St Petersburg. They had the opportunity to see different aspects of parish life including a visit to St Mary's Primary School as well as a guided tour of Canterbury Cathedral and some time for sightseeing. In August we were finally able to ship out the medical equipment for the Namasoli Health Centre in our link diocese of Butere in Kenya. Loading the container was an interesting experience greatly helped by the presence on site of some gas engineers and the generous loan of a truck with a tail-lift!

An addition to the environment of the church is the plaque by the bus-stop which gives a potted history of the church. This was provided by the Finchley Society, with a donation from the church, and unveiled by the Mayor on June 28th. The Mayor had also been present at the Big Brew along with Bishop Peter, an event which has been immortalised in the pictures on the front of the 2010 Diocesan Directory.



St Albans Pilgrimage celebrations

Film Week

This took place in the Spring Term, and has involved the children producing their own films, involving the development of sets, characters, scripts and screen plays,

An Inspector Calls

Nine St Mary's Children have been cast in a West End production of 'An Inspector Calls'

Comenius

The school has been taking part in the Comenius project, a European Union exchange scheme for school staff. The exchange has involved St Mary's staff visiting schools in other countries, and staff from these schools visiting St Mary's. The countries involved are Northern Ireland, Poland Greece Turkey Italy.

New Website

A new St Mary's School website has been introduced during this school year. Follow this link to find out more about St Mary's School and its activities - www.stmarysfinchley.co.uk.

Wren Academy

Wren Academy, the new Church of England secondary school in North Finchley, is now in its second year, and 24 Mary's school leavers took up places there in September 2009.

Summer and Christmas Fairs

The Summer Fair took place in July – this annual event brings the school and the community together, with many who have current or past involvement with the school taking part. It is also an important source of funds for the Friends. A Christmas Fair took place in the school in December.

School Bi-centennial

The school is very close to being 200 years old. Preparations have started for the celebration of this event in 2012, with wide participation

ST MARY'S SCHOOL

As in previous years, St Mary's Church has continued to maintain and enhance its links with St Mary's, our CE Primary School. St Mary's Church staff team, and members of the congregation, take part in school life through activities such as leading assembly and collective worship, school services in the church, and membership of the school Governing Body.

Members of the St Mary's staff team and congregation who are also members of the school's Governing Body are Philip Davison, Helen Foster, Polly Harman, Stuart Slater, Nick Upton and Nigel Wildish.

Here are some highlights from the year in School since the last St Mary's church AGM:

St Mary's and the Environment

The Schools BEARS (Barnet Environmental Action for Real in Schools) Club works hard to improve the school grounds and to recycle as much as possible. St Mary's takes part in the Eco Schools Program, which encourages schools to take responsibility for their environment. In July 2009, St Mary's received the Silver Eco Schools Award.

Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Jaffa, Deputy Head at St Mary's for many years, retired in March 2010, and the school community took the opportunity to celebrate Mrs Jaffa's huge contribution to the life and work of the school. A rigorous selection and interview process has successfully concluded with the appointment Miss Katherine Hobson as the new St Mary's Deputy Head, and she will join the staff at the beginning of the summer term.

Science and Music Week

This curriculum week took place in the autumn term, and the children explored science and music through sound, music and musical instruments. The St Mary's Church organ had a starring part, and there special workshops, using a working model, to demonstrate and explore the mechanics of a church organ.

Other significant events included a memorial service for Patrick and Patricia Brock and participation in the St Albans Pilgrimage.

In terms of organisation we have this year added a Green and Fair Committee to the PCC Committees, being encouraged by a visit from Brian Cuthbertson the Diocesan Head of Environmental Challenge.

October saw the launch of our Organ Appeal. Through previous concerts and donations we already had a flying start to this fundraising campaign. In October the Primary School science week focused on the organ and both they and members of the congregation were able to enjoy the WOOFYT (wooden one octave organ for young technologists).

Finally, having bought 28 Hendon Lane from Finchley Charities, after a programme of improvement and redecoration, it was let out at the end of November awaiting the time when we might be sent a curate.

Please take time to read the reports of the various organisations and groups to get a feel of what is going on. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the life of St Mary's this year, too many to name. But I would particularly like to thank my wardens John and Pat for their support and hard work this year.

Philip Davison
The Rector



REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A summary of the main points of discussion by the PCC is given below.

20 May 2009

The Council elected officers and appointed committees (Standing, Mission, Children & Young People, Estate, Social, Fair & Green). Representatives were appointed to Churches Together in Finchley and Council for Christians and Jews. A report was made on the initial discussions about the organ restoration.

14 July 2009

The draft Mission Action Plan 2009 - 2012 was considered and the PCC agreed to adopt the plan. The report of the independent Organ Consultant had been received. The PCC awaited tenders from three firms for the work. The Estate Committee reported that work was starting to bring 28 Hendon Lane to rental standard.

The PCC heard that the Junior Church, Youth Group, SMUDGE and the Junior Choir were doing well, membership was expanding and there was good support from adults. The PCC appreciated the enormous amount of work being done with young people. Reports were received from other Committees, the School Link Governor and Deanery Synod Representatives.

16 September 2009

The main item considered was the Organ restoration. The PCC considered the Independent Advisor's Report on the organ and the three quotations for the restoration work. After a full discussion the Council decided to apply for a Faculty for the work; to set up a working party to consider how to fund the project; to indicate that Mander Organs was the preferred contactor.

Reports were received from various Committees and the School Link Governor.

24 November 2009

The PCC considered the purchase of Finchley Charities' share of the Blue Beetle. The Council thought the scheme to purchase and improve the Blue Beetle was good and was happy for £35,000 to be spent on

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FINCHLEY

C.T.I.F. continues to be a very lively organisation of nearly all the churches in Church End and East Finchley. They organise each year a summer pilgrimage to some place of interest. In recent years these have included Westminster Cathedral, the new Coptic Cathedral in Hertfordshire, the ancient Quaker meeting house in Buckinghamshire with a visit to Windsor on the way home.

The winter shelter for rough sleepers was started by the C.T.I.F. and they also dabble in arrangements for the Good Friday walk, Christmas Aid Week, Interfaith Peace Walk, etc.

One of their ongoing and very successful activities is the monthly Pilgrim Prayers which takes place in a different church each month with the host church leading in their own traditional way – sometimes led by clergy and sometimes by a lay person. The next session of Pilgrim Prayers will start again in May.

The executive meets every few weeks with representatives from all the churches. We have recently lost two of our reps, one by removal and sadly one by death so we urgently need two replacements who would be willing to serve and are interested in ecumenism. Another loss to the executive was Tim Atkins (vicar of Christ Church) who retired at Easter. We now have only two reps (one of whom is an octogenarian!)

It is very important that this church should have good representation at C.T.I.F.

John Whittington

THE DEANERY SYNOD OF CENTRAL BARNET

Deanery Synod met at Christ Church, Barnet on 18th June 2009. Fr Isaias from Mozambique spoke about the church in Mozambique and the value of the A.L.M.A. link with the Diocese of London. Fr Isaias spoke of the role the church played in achieving peace in Mozambique which subsequently gave the church many opportunities.

We also discussed "Shrinking the Footprints" and looked at how green issues were being tackled in different churches in the Deanery. The Lay Chair recommended that we read Brian *Cuthbertson's* paper "The Environmental Challenge".

It was reported that the Wren Academy is going from strength to strength.

The meeting on 12th October 2009 was held at St Mary's at Finchley.

As at the June meeting environmental issues were discussed and an Environmental motion approved for presentation to the Diocesan Synod.

The Lay Chair, Nigel Wildish, and Revd Simon Kirby gave a presentation of a proposal for a Money Ministry in the Deanery in the light of present debt statistics. It is proposed that volunteers would be trained to do budget coaching both for members of the congregation and the wider community.

Mrs Alison Ruoff gave a report on the General Synod meeting in York in July.

Revd Adrian Benjamin thanked Revd Nigel Taylor for his commitment to the role of Area Dean over past five years, and made a presentation to him on behalf of Deanery Synod.

On 10th February 2010 Deanery Synod met at St John's Whetstone for a Eucharist presided over by Bishop Peter at which Revd Paul Walmesley McCleod became the new Area Dean.

buying the Finchley Charities' share of the Blue Beetle (the proceeds of the sale of 45 Oakdene Park had been earmarked for the purchase of 28 Hendon Lane, the Blue Beetle and refurbishment of the properties.)

The Council agreed to Mission Committee's proposal for Mission giving for 2009 as follows:

SPCK £1,400; USPG £1,400; CMS £1,400; Mission Aviation Fellowship £550; Mildmay £550; Vinebrach £550; Barnabas Fund £550; Barnet Refugee Service £550; Church Urban Fund £550; Crisis £500.

The Christmas collections to be divided between North London Hospice, Shelter and the Archbishops' Appeal for Zimbabwe.

The Organ Working Group had been set up. The Group gave an outline of some of the fund raising ideas being considered. Reports were received from various Committees, the School Link Governor and Deanery Synod Representatives. There was a report on the Night Shelter which would start on 6 December.

16 January 2010

The PCC spent the morning at St. Peters Bourne to make a detailed review of the Mission action Plan 2009 - 2010 to decide priorities and to make scales.

15 February 2010

The main items considered were the Accounts for 2009 and the Budget for 2010. The PCC approved the Accounts for presentation to the APCM but was concerned at the deficit of £5,917 at the end of 2009. In considering the Budget for 2010 the PCC cut back expenditure on a number of items and approved a balanced Budget.

The Fabric Report was approved for presentation to the APCM. A summary of the discussion on the Mission Action Plan at the January meeting was considered and the PCC accepted the proposals of the Mission Committee based on the discussion. Further consideration of the proposals would take place at the PCC meeting in May. There were reports from various Committees, the School Link Governor and the Night Shelter.

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Committee's members were: The Revd Philip Davison, Margaret Lazarus (who sadly died in early 2010), Pat Bagster, John Hartley, John Bier, John Larkin, Deji Makanjuola, Gordon Kirkwood (Secretary), Daniel Griffith (Acting Secretary, for part of the time) and Nigel Wildish (chair).

The Committee continued to work on its remit, as a committee reporting to the PCC, which was to consider and make plans for the mission activities of the church, to work on a new Mission Action Plan and to organise activities to further the links of the church with other churches.

The Committee met 6 times and dealt with the following matters:

Namasoli: Having raised over £11,000 over 5 years, following on from a parish visit to the Namasoli Medical Centre in Butere in 2004, the Committee was determined to ensure that the equipment which had been bought with our funds would be shipped to Namasoli and put to good use. Eventually, after much effort by several members of the committee, the equipment left St Mary's Hall in mid September and arrived at Namasoli two months later.

Butere: The link was maintained by correspondence via email and Nigel Wildish was able to visit Butere briefly in late September. There was discussion about a fresh pilgrimage to Butere in 2009 and Bishop Michael of Butere expressed his heartfelt thanks for our Lenten continued contributions to the training of clergy and laypeople in theology.

St Petersburg: Early in 2009 Fathers Alexander and Dimitri visited from St Petersburg. We planned their visit and raised a large proportion of the monies needed by them for this trip. The remainder was provided out of the Mission Allocations and Charitable contributions provided by the PCC. The visit was a great success, and was followed in early 2010 by a visit by Father Alexander and his son.

Mission Action Plan: The main activity of the year was a review of the MAP which expired in 2008 and the preparation of a new MAP for the period 2009 to 2012. The Committee met several times to consider this, and issued a Plan in late 2009 which had been approved by the PCC. Then, a PCC meeting was held in

THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S

Once again the ringers – June, Polly, Edmund, Nigel and new recruit Lindsay - have done their best to make the bells heard before the 10am Eucharist service on the first Sunday of each month, and for special services throughout the year. In addition, we were asked to ring for two weddings and, unusually, for the funeral service of a nearby resident who had loved the sound of the bells.

One notable event was a visit by a class of eight-year-old pupils from Chalgrove Primary School. After looking around the church, they came up to the ringing chamber to find out more about the bells, and all had a go at making a bell chime. They found it so exciting that one small boy declared it the best school trip he had ever been on, which was quite a compliment as their previous outing had been to the zoo!

Polly Harman

pipes, which date from 1876.

After full consultation with both diocesan and independent advisors, quotations have been sought for the work from three different organ builders. Now we need to raise the large sum (c. £110K) to complete the work. We are grateful to everyone who is already supporting the **organ appeal** and would like to extend our appeal beyond the parish to local businesses and national charities which might be able to help us. We hope the organ might be refurbished by the middle of 2011.



Organ pipes

In October all the children from St Mary's CofE Primary school visited the church to learn about how the organ works. We hope to welcome more schools and community groups to similar events in the future as part of our learning programme.

The school visits were timed to coincide with the launch of the St Mary-at-Finchley Organ Appeal, which now stands at £27,000. We need to boost this amount with regular giving, donations and charitable funding. If you have ideas about ways of raising money please talk to one of the Organ Appeal Committee. They are: Philip Davison, John Hartley, Alison Fisher, John Huckstep, John Bier and Ben Doof.

early 2010 at which specific activities were considered in order to implement the Plan. Those activities were then approved by a subsequent PCC meeting.

Missions and Charitable Giving: As usual, the Committee reviewed all options for allocations from the PCC budget, for the Good Gift cards to be sold around Christmas, and for the Christmas collections. The Good Gift cards were issued for Homeless Action in Barnet, Barnet Mencap and St Mary's Acorns. The Christmas Collections raised money for North London Hospice, Shelter and the Archbishops' Appeal for Zimbabwe.

Will Aid: In November, the national charity Will Aid was once again in operation and the Committee ensured that those in the congregation who wanted to participate knew how to do so. This enabled charitable solicitors to link up with anyone who wanted to make or change a will, ensuring that instead of payment, the solicitors directed money to certain charities, according to their clients' wishes.

The Committee looks forward to all the work which has been planned in order to implement the MAP for 2009-2012, which will be carried out by various committees and individuals for the PCC.

Nigel Wildish
Chair



9 *Bishop Peter and the Mayor and Mayoress of Barnet arrive at St Mary's for a Fairtrade Tea*

THE ESTATE COMMITTEE

The Committee has continued to recommend and oversee improvements and to undertake the routine tasks necessary to maintain the continued good repair of the Church's estate. In addition, it is responsible for ensuring that the general servicing of all fire equipment, alarm systems, boiler and gas appliances are carried out and asbestos re-inspections are regularly completed.

The most significant development in 2009 was the purchase of **28 Hendon Lane** from Finchley Charities. This was achieved using funds raised from the sale of 45 Oakdene Park. We then undertook an extensive programme of repair and improvement to the property. This included work to the roof and chimney, repairing windows, a new porch and conservatory, improvement of the gas and electricity services, a new boundary wall and fence, new downstairs carpets, loft insulation, new washing machine and fridge/freezer and complete interior and exterior decorating. The work was completed in the Autumn and tenants moved in late November. This is an important source of income for the Church until the property is needed to house additional Clergy.

Church and Churchyard

The main works of repair and maintenance performed during the year in the Church are documented in the Fabric Report. The most important new item is the external signboard. Further progress has been made on items highlighted in the 2006 Quinquennial Inspection as requiring attention over this five-year period.

Hall Complex

The Main Hall, Small Hall, Committee Room and Kitchen continue to be heavily used by both church and non-church groups. They are important facilities for the local community and an important source of income for the Church. The main improvement work this year was the white UPVC cladding on the front of the building and the purchase of a new PA system. The woodblock floors were all re-treated during August.

Blue Beetle Hall

No major works have been undertaken other than routine maintenance. We currently own half of this Hall and an agreement has been reached to purchase the remaining half, which we currently rent from Finchley

which we were joined by the choir of St John's, Palmers Green. At St Paul's Cathedral itself the scale of the event was remarkable. Was this the longest procession of modern times? The huge echo in St Paul's Cathedral makes some elements of music-making fairly hazardous but we took this in our stride and the sound was amazing.

This was a very good year for the adult choir, with excellent teamwork and lots of attention to the sound we make. We hope you can hear the progress we are making, and are able to hear clearer text and a better blend of the voices. Although the learning of the music for the evensong at St Paul's Cathedral took a lot of time we have been able to sing most of the pieces individually within our own services as well as in the Evensongs at St Mary-at-Finchley and at St Paul's Cathedral. One piece which has become a real favourite is *Be Thou my vision*, by Bob Chilcott. Another favourite, particularly with the Youth Choir is *Achieved is the glorious work*, from the *Creation* by Haydn.

We'd like to thank Daniel for deputising during the year, and our team of organists, headed by Gordon Kirkwood. The choir welcomes new members. Please contact Alison Fisher (Alison.smart@ntlworld.com or 8 349 0824) if you are interested.



St Mary's Adult and Youth Choir

Organ Appeal launch

2009 was a year of preparation and planning for the refurbishment of the organ. The church organ is a Willis III pipe organ – which means it was built by the third generation of the Willis family organ builders. We now have a certificate proving the archaeological importance of the

MUSIC

Youth Choir

This past year has been one of consolidation for the Youth Choir, with our newly-established rehearsal time (Thursday, 6.45-7.30pm) allowing us more time and focus. We now have a choice of sweatshirts (for cooler days) or T-shirts (for warmer days). For the Mencap Christmas Carol Service the Youth Choir wore the children's cassocks which have been hiding in the vestry cupboard for some time. They looked very smart and were a big hit with the children. We are now using the RSCM *Voice for Life* scheme as a way of helping the children to learn all about singing, reading music and about being in a church choir. The children's progress will be recognised by awarding them Levels. Margaret Poston and Debbie Salman continue to keep Alison on track, and have been generously assisted by Penny Davison.

In June we enjoyed a lovely BBQ in the Rectory garden, and our YC autumn outing was a bowling session at the leisure park, as reported in the *Open Door* magazine, Epiphany 2010.

In July the Youth Choir sang in Victoria Park on a big outdoor stage on a very breezy Friday afternoon at the start of the Finchley Festival. Margaret nobly coped with music blowing about (even when attached with clothes pegs!) and our audience was very appreciative.

On November 15th we invited the St Mary's school choir to join us for our regular Sunday morning service with the YC and adult choirs. This was lovely, giving a truly polyphonic sound. Over coffee the Youth Choir cake sale raised £232 to be shared between the Organ appeal and their own funds for training materials (*Voice for Life* Scheme).

Our Christmas music, joining forces with some of the St Mary's School choir, went very well.

Adult Choir

The big event of 2009 was a joint trip to St Paul's Cathedral in May to sing evensong with over 200 other choristers from the Diocese of London. This event was organised by the Royal School of Church Music, to which we are affiliated. The music was demanding and copious, but extensive rehearsal preceded the event, and all were well prepared. Part of our preparation was to sing Evensong here at St Mary's, for

Charities. It is hoped that this will be completed in April 2010, enabling us to undertake much needed modernisation and enhancement of the facility.

The Rectory

The dining room was decorated, paid for from Parish funds, as part of our commitment to the upkeep of the Rectory.

John Hartley
Chair

FABRIC REPORT

The Church building continues to be in a good state of repair.

During the year some work has been undertaken to the roof, including repair to slates and the clerestory gutter to the Inner South Aisle. The flat roof to the Outer South Aisle was re-treated.

Work on the boiler room, boiler and boiler room gas pipes was undertaken to comply with current standards. The sound system has been updated.

A new external signboard was erected.

Fire action notices are now displayed and a revised Fire Procedure Plan has been adopted.

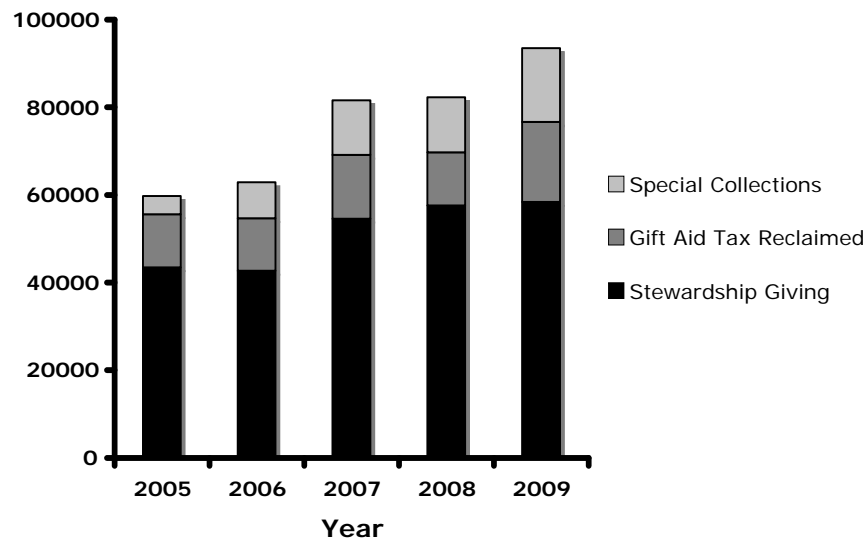
Quotes have been obtained for the major restoration and refurbishment of the Willis Organ and fund-raising is underway.

All scheduled annual inspections, services and tests in the Church have been undertaken.

STEWARDSHIP

"Freely ye have received, freely give."

The chart below shows that Stewardship giving increased again in 2009 and this remains the largest single source of income for our church. The majority of this giving has come from over a hundred individuals or families who have committed to a regular financial contribution to St Mary's. The importance of Gift Aiding contributions is also clear – we were able to claim over £18,000 from the Inland Revenue in 2009.



Special collections in 2009 included our Christmas Charities and Good Gifts, our Lent giving for priest training in the Diocese of Butere in Kenya, and the Organ Appeal.

A big **THANK YOU** to all who continue to respond so positively in what is a clear example of the continued growth and vitality of our community of faith here in Finchley

John Hartley

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

2009 was the 7th year of the Churches Together night shelter in Barnet. St Mary at Finchley continued offering shelter, food and companionship to the street homeless of Barnet. St Mary's is one of 7 churches which participates in the night shelter, each opening their church halls for one night per week December - March inclusive; at St Mary's our night is Sunday. We operate under the guidance of "Housing Justice" and in partnership with Homeless Action in Barnet (HAB).

We have been consistently busy throughout 2009 - perhaps due to the current economic climate. Unusually we had 15 guests on the first week in December - the beginning of the 09/10 winter shelter. We assisted Camden, who weren't able to open their shelter at week ends, and took some of their guests.

Our guests - men and women - continued to reflect a range of backgrounds and ages, reminding us that homeless people are not somehow different to the rest of us. A few poor choices and some bad luck can see many people facing homelessness.

The number of volunteers from St Mary's for 2009 was 43 - the night shelter continues to bind us together as a community in a practical application of our faith. As co-ordinators we would like to offer our thanks to all of the volunteers who make this important work possible at St Mary's.

Kathy Mohan and Penny Igoe
Night Shelter Co-ordinators

GREEN AND FAIR GROUP

Since its formation in January 2009, our group of 12 – from young mums to spirited 90 year olds – has met every six weeks to commit to the challenges of the Diocesan Shrinking the Footprint Campaign.

Activities have included:

Assorted Fairtrade events – including two high profile “Big Brew” family fun days which helped us attain Fairtrade status and certificate for our church. Generated funds for Traidcraft of more than £500, created our own fund of around £150 (towards future projects) and raised £173 for the Chile Earthquake victims.

* Attendance by members of our committee at Diocesan Fairtrade conferences and events throughout the year to improve our efforts to sustain the poorest and most vulnerable nations. Our Chair has been invited to be the Edmonton Diocesan Fairtrade representative.

- A power point presentation on How to Become a Green Church by Brian Cuthbertson, the Diocesan Environmental Officer. As a result of our completion of a detailed questionnaire about our buildings, facilities and varied uses, Brian selected our church to conduct an audit. The audit took place in February but details have yet to be released.
- An Environmental Sunday evening service followed by Fairtrade refreshments in keeping with one of the Diocesan proposals.
- We meet on April 18 to discuss proposals for the church yard drawn up by one of our members, landscape architect Helen Bevan, which include plans for the tombstones, a booklet on the history of the churchyard and monuments, the installation of a water butt (one of our members has agreed to fund) and a clean up Saturday in the late spring.
- Our proposals to meet the parish Mission Action Plan will be available in May/June.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Our first event of two thousand and nine was a New Orleans style Mardi Gras rum punch, which was served during morning coffee on the last Sunday before Lent.

The late June weather was sufficiently kind to permit Parish barbeque to be held in the Rectory garden. A selection of salads and barbecued meats were on offer to families and friends of all ages.

September's Patronal Festival was catered for by the Social Committee with assistance on the day from a dedicated team of helpers. For dessert, a celebration cake had been ordered in honour of Jane Kraft, who had been our guest preacher.

The Harvest Festival service was followed by 'bring and share' lunch for which a delicious selection of main courses and puddings had been produced by the parishioners.

The Christmas events, a festive tea following the Mencap service and mince pies and mulled wine after the Carol by candlelight service were appreciated by all and thank you to everyone who sent donations.

Further events and celebrations are within our condensed budget are planned during 2010.

Patricia Bagster



13 *Tea is served and Smudge provide some entertainment off camera*

JUNIOR CHURCH

Another busy year for the junior church! We now have three groups that meet regularly during the Sunday service, the under 5s, 5-7s and the over 7s. We have managed to keep them all occupied with a variety of activities run by the junior church leaders and helpers. These included some great art work interpretations of heaven and a lovely harvest festival banner.

We regularly contributed to the All Age Services throughout the year and had our usual annual events such as the end of term picnic at Avenue House park and panto trip, which were both well attended and enjoyed by all.

Karen ran another Children and communion course and there are plans for another this year as so many children are interested.

This year we did another original Christmas play written by Alexandra and directed by Jane. This combined the acting talents of the older group with the singing and musical talents of the younger group and was again a huge success!

Plans for 2010 include having more all together events and doing something a bit different for Mother's day.

Many thanks to all those who led or assisted in running the junior church groups and especially to the new helpers who came on board - anyone else is welcome to join us!



Debbie Salman

Junior Church present their ideas about Heaven

ENQUIRERS' GROUP

A group of enquirers have met together throughout the year to explore matters of faith. As a result a service of Baptism and Confirmation was arranged for the beginning of Lent 2010 with six people offering themselves for confirmation.

Congratulations to Billie, Fiona, Charlie, Jana, Aderinsola and Mary! The informal group was enriched by the contributions of Christopher Wheeler, Nigel Wildish and Margaret Lazarus.

There will be more opportunities for enquirers to meet together during 2010.

The Rector

THE PASTORAL GROUP

The Pastoral Group tries to ensure that contact is maintained with all members of the congregation. This contact is especially important for those affected by long-term illness or disability or who have experienced bereavement. The Group is well supported by the many members of St Mary's who visit people in their homes, in residential homes or in hospital, or give practical help such as giving lifts. The Group is very grateful to everyone who undertakes pastoral work in the Parish.

In 2009 the greater part of the Harvest offerings were divided between Homeless Action in Barnet and Barnet Refuge Service. Contact is kept with Beacon Lodge and Fernbank Nursing Home.

Sally Prescott
Secretary