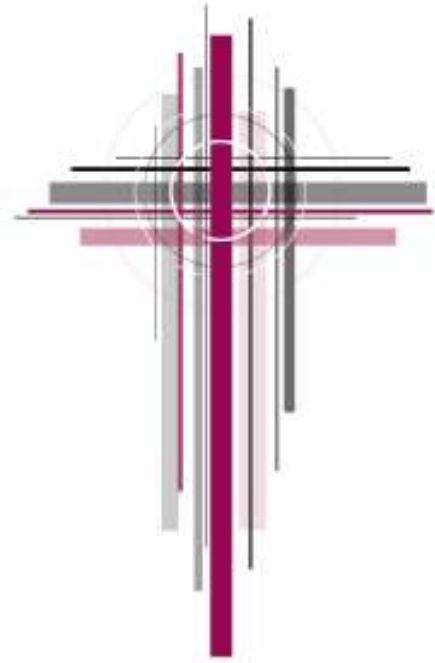


**ST JOHN'S CHURCH
WEST EALING**



**Annual Report
2009**

Presented to the
Annual General Meeting
30th April 2009

Glorify ... Grow ... Go

St. John's Vision Statement

At St. John's, we are called to:

GLORIFY the Father by...

- **declaring** His goodness, greatness and grace
- **responding** to what He has done in Christ
- **surrendering** our lives in obedience to His Word
- **celebrating** His powerful presence among us

GROW as disciples of Jesus by...

- **following** Him whatever the cost
- **deepening** our personal relationship with Him
- **supporting** one another in God's family
- **developing** our gifts and ministries in the life of St. John's

GO OUT in the power of the Spirit to...

- **share** the good news of Jesus in a broken world
- **love and serve** people in Ealing and beyond
- **challenge** oppression and work for justice and peace
- **live and work** to His praise and glory

Our Verse for Spring 2009

*"If anyone would come after me,
he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."*

Matthew 16:24

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*The following reports were invited but not received by the time of going to press:
Worship Bands, 19th Ealing Brownies and Football*

From the Staff

VICAR'S REPORT

These last two years have been a time of tremendous change for the church and the wider parish.

(I note that the last two vicar's reports were written by people who were about to leave.) The departure of Will and Ruth and their family after nine years in the parish left a huge hole in the team of those engaged in ministry. The appointment and arrival of a new vicar can also be a time of uncertainty and change for a parish. My arrival was followed within a few days by Don Smith's departure and within a few months by Sarah Hobbs' move to New Zealand.

There was turbulence in the wider world of course and we at St. John's were not immune from its effects. We had our own financial crisis which made some painful staff cutbacks necessary leading to a reduction in the scale of ministry we are able to deliver. We established a Finance Committee which has helped steer the DCC through these difficulties, and remains in place to support the mission of the church by helping us to steward wisely the Lord's resources.

After all this instability, I hope we can look forward to a period of greater stability for a while.

Over this last year the DCC have discussed and agreed some Common Values (see the box on page 3) following a sermon series at STJOHNS@TEN in the autumn. We are in the process of discerning together the Lord's vision for the next chapter of our mission.

The DCC and a smaller sub-committee are engaged in the process of clarifying what our Management Structure ought to look like in order to shape all ministries for effective and fruitful three-dimensional mission and thereafter to develop mission action plans for each ministry area. This discussion includes the role of the DCC and that of the staff and will lead to a reworking of some job descriptions for staff, volunteers and officers. This is partly to reflect more accurately what is currently happening and partly to improve our effectiveness in mission. We also want to have clearly written working procedures and protocols.

The appointment of Caz Dunk as Associate Vicar at St. James presents us with an opportunity to

explore a great partnership between the two churches, something that the PCC have begun to explore. There are a number of areas of ministry which it may be beneficial to do jointly, without prejudice to the independence of the two churches. In fact we are a family of different congregations (STJOHNS@TEN, St. James, The Maze, Living Water Arabic Church, and Café Church) in the parish and a variety of ways in which we might work together. These might include: Youth Work; Mental Health support (the Phoenix Project at St. James); Social action and street outreach and publicity; Ministry (e.g. preaching, prayer ministry...) training; Men's ministry events etc. The Living Water Arabic Church is in the process of becoming a part of the Anglican church under the auspices of this parish. Pastor Sameh Metry will be ordained deacon at St. Paul's Cathedral this summer. We also need to look at possible ways in which we can work together with other churches, as we do already in a number of areas.

This year we moved into a greater confidence in the use of the spiritual gifts. At STJOHNS@TEN we looked at a theological framework for what might be termed Kingdom Ministry, from Genesis. We held a prayer ministry training evening and kingdom ministry training day in September '08, and a prophecy training day in February, with plans for a further training day on healing ministry in the summer term. Our weekend away gave us the chance to grow in this area, and we need to build on this in the coming year.

We are investing in leadership development by running the CPAS *Growing Leaders Course* this year (September '08 - June '09). We are investigating the possibility of running the youth edition next academic year and the standard version again the following year. Tessa Rust began her training for Ordained Pioneer Ministry last summer and I act as her training supervisor. For part of this year we were able to support Andrew 'Macca' McLeay as an intern, giving him the chance to be more involved in ministry and to develop his leadership gifts. This coming summer we will welcome Sally Hitchiner as our curate-in-training, and I will be serving as training incumbent for both her and Sameh Metry.

Over the last year we have seen growth among our youth work, children's work, 20:30's, SNIPS and with homeless people and at Café Church, and it would be good to keep investing in these areas over the coming year. We need also to keep evangelism in general and Alpha in

OUR COMMON VALUES AT ST. JOHN'S EALING

The Unity of the Body

We seek to be a loving community, in which strong, vibrant life-giving real relationships defeat social exclusion, isolation, division and loneliness. As members we commit ourselves to loving one another. This means we seek to speak the truth to each other in love; to break down divisions and renounce petty jealousies; to honour one another in the way we speak; to maintain good fellowship, repenting and forgiving as necessary. We aim to include everyone of whatever race, culture, age or marital status in our life together as the Lord's Family. Our love should be expressed in quality time and warm hospitality. Fun and laughter, generosity and gratitude should mark our abundant life together. We should seek to extend this to interaction with other churches.

Pastoral Care and Support

We accept everyone for who they are and encourage and exhort one another to grow in Christ-like character and to live an increasingly holy life. We care for those who are hurting and support those who need it. We commit to build relationships, by participating in small groups, with dynamics of trust, accountability, prayer, mutual support and service and discipleship. We aim to pray for and with each other and study and apply the Bible together. We aim to help each other discover and use our spiritual gifts. Groups then multiply by raising up replacement or pioneer leaders and starting new groups.

Discipleship

We recognise that God's purpose for each one of us is to grow as a disciple of Jesus, growing in faith, becoming more like him in our character and exercising his kingdom ministry. We refuse to settle for the way we are, but take personal responsibility to press on towards the goal for which Christ has taken hold of us. We need one another's help in this process and we commit to invest in discipleship, to be investors in each other.

Every Member Ministry

Every person is valued, their potential fulfilled, and their gifts and talents identified, developed and put to good use. We aim to help people identify their passions (which give energy to their service), gifts (which enable them) and their own personal style. We will try to recruit and equip the saints for service and to release them into areas of service for which we provide ongoing on-the-job training and to see them develop in ministry and leadership of various kinds. We aim to model and teach the principle of servanthood within the context of a culture of service and an expectation that we are each called to serve one another.

Enabling and Empowering Leadership

The leaders are to present a clear vision for their area of responsibility, and to endeavour to remain focused and true to what we believe God is calling us to do. At the same time, we need to be conscious of the need to pace ourselves in line with our resources and to allow diversification within the overall vision. To this end we will encourage Functional Structures which allow this process to flourish, promote life, are reviewed regularly and changed where necessary. This is embodied in a team of departmental heads for individual ministry areas. Leaders are to engage in the delegation process (identify, recruit, train, deploy, monitor, nurture) while encouraging others to do the same. We delegate responsibility and the accompanying authority, which we ourselves then support and submit to. This is accompanied by accountability, the freedom to fail and to learn from mistakes.

Passionate and Energising Spirituality

The worship of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is to be at the centre of our lives, being expressed in a well-balanced life of prayer, study and fellowship. Prayer undergirds everything we are and do. Our corporate worship should be full of life, joy and enthusiasm; relevant to our culture and inspiring. We want all our times of worship to be inclusive, inviting and life-giving; where the manifest presence of God is expected and experienced. They should be meaningful and sincere. The main focus for our worship is the honour of God, but there should also be times of refreshment, renewal and receiving of God's grace. People want to be there because they don't want to miss out.

Adventurous Mission

We want to be building relationships with those around us, by being real friends, seeking ways to serve them, especially those with particular needs. Our evangelism is focused on providing a place where questions can be asked and valued and on answering those questions; and addressing the needs of the unchurched. We maintain a commitment to, and involvement in, missions, both domestic and foreign.

Embracing New People

We want to be good at embracing new people, to truly be a welcoming community, which people experience as friendly. We will try to foster an atmosphere of hospitality. We want to help people feel safe and in control; to allow them the freedom to blend in easily; to communicate clear information which enables people. We are aiming to help people have a sense of belonging. There needs to be a paced and directed entry process. We want to avoid cliques, in-jokes and jargon.

Kingdom Ministry

We seek to engage in the mission of Jesus to bring in God's kingdom more and more in the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit through the exercise of faith. We will participate in teaching and training to this end. We work to push back the frontiers of the dominion of darkness, healing sickness, and freeing those who are tormented by evil spirits and trapped by addictions. We work towards a local environment which is safe, free of crime, drugs, ugliness and litter. We care for the planet and the people on it, by living a sustainable modest life-style.

Obedience to The Truth

We believe that Jesus is The Truth incarnated and the Bible is God's truth revealed. We submit to the Bible's authority to form the basis of our world-view, morality and self-understanding. We seek to proclaim the truth through engaging, biblical and relevant preaching, with an application for daily living; and through other forms of communication. We commit ourselves to living out the truth in obedience to God's Word.

Generosity

We aim to base our attitude on the model of God's gracious generosity to us, knowing that we have freely received. We aim to use every moment of our time, every penny of our money and all our resources according to what is right in God's eyes. We share what we have, support one another in need, shun the world's values and the prevalent consumerist culture, and send help to those far away.

These Values were agreed by the DCC in January 2009 and formed the basis of the teaching programme at STJOHNS@TEN in the autumn 2008

particular as a high priority. I also feel that over the next 12 months we need to review our whole pastoral care strategy, and this is something I will be asking the DCC to work on.

Thank God for his grace to us and the privilege of sharing in his mission. I look forward to this next exciting chapter in our adventure with Him, together as His people.

Peter Mackenzie

Vicar

CO-ORDINATOR OF ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

These last twelve months have seen the end of the interregnum, Peter Mackenzie's arrival as our new Vicar, the comings and goings of a number of other members of staff, a financial crisis, a successful church weekend away, busy Christmas and Easter services, and a whole host of other activities. At the end of it all, I am still standing! So here are some of the highlights of this past year, grouped into my five main areas of responsibility:

- **Event Co-ordination** - Shortly after the 2008 AGM, a packed church gathered to celebrate the start of Peter's ministry at St. John's. This was the culmination of months of planning and preparation and marked the official end of the interregnum (hallelujah!). The interregnum generated a significant amount of extra work for everyone at St. John's (thankyou to everyone who has been involved in the ministry of St. John's over those past couple of years) but especially for Alan Reynolds, who worked tirelessly during the period without a vicar, and beyond, as Peter settled in. Thankyou Alan for all the support that you have given us - enjoy your 'retirement'!

The other significant event of the last 12 months was our church weekend away at High Leigh at the end of February. 140 of us enjoyed a fantastic weekend of fun, great food, good Christian fellowship, dynamic worship and some excellent teaching from Peter as we looked together at what it means to be disciples of Jesus. We are already seeing the fruit of that weekend in our church services and our corporate life.

- **Communication and Publicity** - In all this busyness, keeping the church family informed of all that's going on, and making sure that the right people know the right information

at the right time, has continued to be a vital part of my role. All the more so, as more people have become involved in ministry over the past 12 months. The need for a central point of communications within the church has never been greater.

- **Building Management** - St. John's continues to be a busy place with our buildings in use for much of the week. Caring for our buildings and keeping them maintained is an on-going task and once again I am grateful for the dedication of Gary Fenton, our Caretaker, and Steve Taylor, our Deputy Churchwarden. They work hard, mostly behind the scenes, to maintain our buildings and to get everything ready for the numerous groups and activities which take place here.
- **Church Office** - Our church finances have occupied a significant amount of my time during the past year. The newly formed finance team immediately faced the challenge of balancing the 2009 budget and although the staff worked hard to reduce their budgets to a minimum, the DCC were forced to make some painful decisions regarding the ongoing level of support staff we could afford. Consequently, it was necessary to make Iyabo Adeola, our Admin Assistant, and Jeremy Pinkney, our Book-keeper redundant. I am so grateful for the wonderful support they were to me and the rest of the staff during their time at St. John's, and for the gracious way they took this news. I am also grateful to John Quinn, who has picked up the book-keeping role on a voluntary basis, and I am hopeful that some of Iyabo's work can also be absorbed by volunteers in the coming months.
- **Staff Team Co-ordination** - As already noted, there have been lots of comings and goings within the staff at St. John's during the past 12 months. Peter's arrival in May was followed shortly by the end of Sarah Hobbs' curacy and her departure to New Zealand. In September we were joined by Andrew 'Macca' McLeay as our intern, Jo Smith as our gap-year worker and Tessa Rust, now a minister-in-training, and by the end of 2008 we were saying 'goodbye' to Macca (sadly another necessary redundancy) and 'hello' to Caz Dunk, associate minister at St. James. All these changes have presented their challenges as we have tried to get to know each other and learn to work together as a team. Throughout this time, the staff have remained creative, dynamic and committed to God's work at St. John's, and I have appreciated their support and encouragement. We are now looking forward

to the arrival of Sally Hitchiner as our curate in June, which will (hopefully) herald a period of stability within the team.

At New Wine last summer I was delighted to discover that the word Paul uses for administration in his list of spiritual gifts and ministries in 1 Corinthians 12:28 is *kuberneseis*. This Greek word seems to have a nautical background - referring to the person who guided the ship (usually from the rear of the boat), thus setting its course. This has been an incredibly helpful picture for me as I have tried, over these past 12 months, to provide a sense of co-ordination and direction to the operations of our organisation and for all the various activities that have taken place at St. John's.

Mark Parsons

Co-ordinator of Administration

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

I'm planning to step down as churchwarden - it hasn't been boring!

Again I thank Steve Taylor, Mark Parsons, Gary Fenton and Ray Smith for the work they do on our various buildings. It's been a complicated year, with money tight and houses changing occupancy. Please ask God for his continued protection on our buildings. We all prefer to spend money on ministry first and maintenance second - so far we've mostly done that and with a clear conscience. We do, though, have to remain good stewards of the plant God has given us.

It's been a painful year for the business management of St. John's. Our 2008 budget was prudent but our plans are always based on predicting the next year's donations and we got that wrong! If you can say in advance what you plan to give, please do. A lower-than-predicted income meant painful pruning towards the end of 2008 and the effects may continue as we seek to get expenditure equal to income (or is it vice versa?). James Lazarus and the budget-holders (sounds like a 60's pop group?) have done magnificent work analysing the detail and

suggesting changes. The DCC worked hard to choose the right changes. The real pain, though, was taken by our staff team. Several redundancies were necessary and remaining staff have taken on extra work, albeit with extra volunteer help.

Peter Mackenzie officially became our vicar on 12th May and both his assistants promptly left! Excellent news for Don Smith and Sarah Hobbs, but hard work for Peter. Caz Dunk's arrival at St. James' in January eased the pressure and our new curate Sally Hitchiner arrives in June. Thank you Peter for managing with reduced support in your first year.

I recently came across another church described as "several congregations, each with its own flavour". Depending on how wide you cast the net, I think St. John's is also several congregations "each with its own flavour". Nothing wrong with that, but none of us should think of our own congregation as "the real St. John's"! That's why I've found our recent Sunday morning series on Matthew's Gospel so helpful, emphasising The Kingdom of God, not just the fellowship of St. John's. Find it on the website! How will these different "flavours" mingle and mature under God in the coming years...?

I've been challenged by that teaching to "think Kingdom". God commands us in the bible to seek to grow his Kingdom. Many of our established activities honour that command, but the Bible doesn't stop at acts of worship, teaching or compassion ... but also healing, prophecy and the like. Where will God lead us (lead *me* - scary, isn't it?) in the coming months...?

St. John's was changing when Will was our vicar. It changed again between vicars, and the change will continue. I have been encouraged by Peter's confident and clear leadership, especially his emphasis on finding out where God is leading St. John's and the way he encourages us all to play our part. Pray for our leaders.

So many people to thank ... so little space!

Alan Reynolds

Churchwarden

'Glorify the Father'

STJOHNS@TEN

Learning Together

Over the last year we have been learning together in our services. In the summer term we looked at the Foundational Principles of how the Kingdom of God works on earth, from the first few chapters of Genesis, and then saw how this was played out in the living examples of those heroes of faith in the rest of that book.

In the autumn we turned our attention to the sort of Values that ought to govern how we go about being church. Then after a forward-looking Advent and the celebration of Christmas, we have been working our way through Matthew's Gospel asking what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus in the 21st Century.

Looking ahead to the summer term, we will be thinking about the ways in which we may need to change in order to fulfil more effectively and faithfully Jesus commission to us.

As we have looked at God's Word together, I think we have found it challenging, encouraging and inspiring.

Worshipping God Together

When we come together to worship God, we find that it can be a life-changing experience, to the extent that we each take responsibility to engage with him in a real way. We experience his grace and forgiveness; we are refreshed by Jesus' presence; and, inspired by His Spirit, we return thanks, praise and glory to the Father.

This year we have introduced an experimental style of all-age service 'Together@StJohns' and we have also had celebrations jointly with our brothers and sisters from St. James and the Living Water Arabic Church (in particular our Baptism and Confirmation Service in October and services after Christmas and during the Easter period).

Three times over the year (July, December and March) St. James hosted the faithful remnant when we did not have a morning service for diverse reasons. We have also moved the chairs in order to improve sight-lines and we simplified distribution of communion slightly.

Loving One Another

This is expressed in those opportunities we have to pray for one another; in the times of fellowship after the service and during the week and in the way in which we welcome people. There is a steady trickle of people coming to St. John's for the first time and who receive a warm welcome thanks to many individuals and to the Welcome Team. Many thanks here to David and Christine Malindine who have headed this ministry for a number of years and who are laying it down in the summer.

Moving in God's Power

I perceive there to be a growing sense of excitement as we step out in the use of the gifts, words of knowledge and healing. I think there is an increasing uptake for the opportunity to be prayed for by the Prayer Ministry Team and a greater freedom in praying for each other in less formal ways too, both during and outside of the service.

Weekend away

Following our weekend away at the end of February, I hear people talking about, and see evidence of a renewed excitement about worship, a higher level of expectation for healing, a greater confidence in hearing God and a deeper love for one another.

Things we can all work on

I think that our services could more become a life-transforming experience if we each took responsibility for doing a few simple things:

- **Come prepared.** This time ought to be a highlight of our week, an appointment with the living God in the presence of his people. It would be appropriate if we came with a high expectation of what God might do and if we prayed for the service and each other beforehand, even if only for a few moments on the way to church.
- **Be real with God.** Do business with Him. Proactively engaging in sung worship, prayer, liturgy and sacrament, rather than passively receiving what someone else has prepared, changes our service from performance to participation.

- **Pray for one another:** it is when we intercede for each other, hear God for one another that we might encourage, comfort and strengthen each other, and minister God's grace to each other that lives are changed.
- **Love one another.** We all need to take initiative in welcoming people we have not met before, greeting old friends and new and finding practical ways to love and serve each other.

Thanks

I thank God for each one of you, that he has called us together to be a part of this wonderful adventure. Thank you also for your willingness to respond to God's invitation in service and participation. It would not be the same without you. Thanks especially to those who make our worship, ministry, teaching and welcome possible.

Peter Mackenzie

Vicar

CAFÉ CHURCH

I took over the direct leadership of Café Church in the summer. We have at times had as many as 70 people attending and this has sometimes meant that the room has been too small for comfort. A large proportion of the members come to us from the Soup Kitchen. The format is informal and includes sung worship, a talk, interactive discussion in small groups around each table, and opportunities for prayer together and for prayer ministry. We occasionally have a creative activity and we celebrate communion together twice a term.

A highlight of the year was the Café Church weekend away which was a life-changing experience for many. The guest speaker John Robinson returned and was great at relating well with the 35 café church members who came along. Many were touched and made themselves very vulnerable, sharing deep things in their lives. This weekend was made possible by a large donation from one of the Café Church team.

During this year one of the members continues to run an Art Class with the support of Daphne Edwards. Our intern, Macca, ran an Alpha course, and another member offered tuition in English as a Second Language.

Café Church could not run without the dedicated team who turn up week by week to offer hospitality, be table leaders, leading discussions and prayer, those who lead the service, those who lead the musical worship and the preachers and leaders. So a huge thank you to all involved.

Peter Mackenzie

Vicar

20:30

20:30 has had a busy and exciting year! Last July we said goodbye to our then-curate, Sarah Hobbs, who had done such a great job in leading 20:30 and welcoming so many of us to St. John's. As soon as we had started to build on Sarah's vision, we welcomed the summer and had lots of socials, which was a great chance to get to know each other as a good number of us had just started attending the church.

We started the new term in September, meeting at the Vine each Wednesday evening for tea, cake, bible discussions and prayer, looking in particular at the theme "Gathering, Growing and Going". The term was a great success and the following term we looked at "feeling distant from God", and ways in which we can reconnect.

As numbers have been growing significantly, we moved from meeting as one group for the whole evening and now split into three groups partway through the night for the discussion and prayer sections. This means that we can spend time all together whilst also being able to share, discuss and pray for each other in smaller group settings.

Once a month we have a social and our 20:30 social highlights have included pizza nights, cinema nights and visiting the Ealing summer festivals in Walpole Park. The highlight of the year overall was our weekend away in Suffolk in January, where we relaxed and had an informal time of prayer, bible talks and fun. It was a great opportunity to build relationships with new people and strengthen existing relationships, and most importantly, have some time out to relax and find some quiet time away with God.

God has really blessed the workings of 20:30 at St. John's and we really look forward to where God will take us next!

Andrew 'Macca' McLeay

Jody Gunn-Russell

20:30 Leaders

WELCOME TEAM

The Welcome Team serves to welcome newcomers to St. John's and is principally active at the morning service at STJOHNS@TEN. The Team try to look out for people who are new to the church, whether as visitors or those who are looking to join our church family and make St. John's their spiritual home. Our aims are to pass on a Welcome Pack and talk through the contents with the person. We also try to elicit whether the person has particular interests and/or needs that the church can help to meet and to refer them to those who can best help. Over the weeks and months we try to establish friendships and to assist people to get to know others in St. John's as they become a part of our church family.

A further aim has been to develop an awareness amongst the church family of the value of 'whole church welcoming' and it has been encouraging to see this being practised more as we all demonstrate the welcome to others that God has shown to us.

During this year we have organised two Welcome Teas, both of which have been well attended by people newly arrived at St. John's. It is most heartening for the Welcome Team to see folk who have been 'welcomed' settling in to life at St. John's and taking an active part in church activities.

David Malindine

Welcome Team Co-ordinator

SACRED SPACE

Sacred Space continues to offer people from St. John's, St. James and elsewhere, a midweek reflective oasis to meet with God. We gather in the Chancel of the Church, which offers a flexible space for our services, which usually include the sharing of communion. We often explore different liturgies, such as that used by the Northumbria Community or other Celtic forms of worship. The services are frequently lit by candlelight, and this can be a time when God speaks to people in a very personal way, such as when He gave a beautiful vision of Himself to someone about to undergo major surgery.

Recent highlights have included our January Sacred Space when we had a time of led-reflection of the past year, followed by the

opportunity to think and pray in silence about the year just starting. This was particularly appreciated by attendees, as St. John's did not hold its customary Quiet Day this year. On Ash Wednesday we had a special service in the main Church with the imposition of ashes.

We would love to see more people at Sacred Space. The services are deliberately short so as not to occupy an entire evening, and timed after most people have returned from work. The services are from 8:15pm to 9pm and are generally held on the first Wednesday of the month. Everyone is very welcome.

Tessa and I were sorry that Alice Mackenzie stepped down from leading services last year because of work commitments. If anyone feels prompted to join the leadership team, or to lead just one service, please speak to Tessa or me.

Marilla Logan

Sacred Space Team Member

FLOWER ARRANGING TEAM

This year the flower team has created many beautiful arrangements for the pedestals at the front of the church. The flowers remind us, as we worship on a Sunday, of the beauty of God's creation. Each display is different, reflecting the character and creative skills of each member of the team. In addition to the weekly arrangements, we helped decorate the church for Christmas; Ann Lambourne and Edith Thompson's Advent crown was a focal point for the festive season. We provided flowers for several weddings this year; I especially remember the very professional, elegant displays created by Ann and Marilla for the wedding of our own Julie Woods to Paul Guthrie. We also provided floral arrangements for the thanksgiving service that was held to celebrate the life of Ann's mother, Eleanor Davies, which was a great pleasure and a privilege.

There are eleven of us on the team: Fiona Brown, Christine Conacher, Maureen Costello, Judy Dunbar, Ann Lambourne, Marilla Logan, Selina Odina, Isobel Platings, Eileen Robinson, Edith Thompson and myself. I am grateful for each member's dedication and support in the past year, which makes my job of organising the rota an easy one. Also a big thank you and goodbye goes to Jan Lewis, who recently left St. John's. Thanks also to Gary Fenton, who waters the flowers for us. We are keen to welcome new members to join us; the commitment is relatively light, being every 6-8 weeks on a Friday or

Saturday for about 1-2 hours. Full training and finance can be provided; we try to work in teams of two. The only qualification is a love for flowers - I for one find that working in the peace and quiet of the church is an antidote to the stresses of a busy life, and have enjoyed learning a valuable new skill.

We are still operating the donation scheme for St. John's members who wish to publicly or privately dedicate the weekly display to mark a special event, such as a birthday or anniversary - do ask one of us for details.

Shelley Hitch

Flower Team Co-ordinator

ST. JAMES CHURCH

It's been a challenging and interesting year at St. James. Don and Karen Smith left us at the end of May; we had a series of farewell events including a party which was attended by over 150 people (current and previous members of St. James, some people from St. John's, and other local friends such as Karen's work colleagues). Their last service with us was a joint service with the Russian church, Ark of Salvation, who meet in St. James on Sunday afternoons. The service was a mixture of celebration of all that God has done in St. James through Don and Karen's ministry, and sadness that they were leaving our church family after more than 12 years.

We slid smoothly into the interregnum period, and it soon became clear that God had equipped us well to maintain and manage the church through the coming months. Don had trained and developed service leaders and preachers and so we had several church members able to take on the duties Don would normally fill on a Sunday; as well as Peter Mackenzie and others from St. John's who have kindly come down to preach during this time. The Holy Spirit has continued to move in our services, giving prophetic words and guidance, and enabling physical and inner healing.

The interregnum has been a great time of learning and serving for us all - a time of pulling together and God enabled many skills and ministries to come forward which we hadn't foreseen. And we continued to develop our sense of community and family, as we worked together with a remarkable degree of unity and harmony. Personally, I would like to thank everyone at St. James for all their hard work and enthusiasm and support in the last year - we couldn't have done it all without each other.

At the end of January, we were delighted to welcome Rev Caz Dunk as our new Associate Vicar ... and within a few weeks, we are already seeing God use Caz's ministry and gifts to develop and grow our church. Exciting times are ahead!

Caz's Postscript

After months of anticipation it was great to finally arrive. I have been amazed at just how quickly I have felt at home - testimony to the welcome, hospitality and sense of 'family' that is a hallmark of St. James. I too am grateful to all who have given their time and energy during the last year, with special thanks to Martyn Clarke and Conor O'Brien who have shouldered their responsibilities as Churchwarden and Deputy Churchwarden with grace.

There is much to look forward to. As we build on foundations laid and seek God's vision for the future I anticipate many more will come to know His welcome in and through St James.

May His will be done, and His Kingdom come.

Martyn Clarke and Caz Dunk

Churchwarden and Associate Vicar, St. James

LIVING WATER ARABIC CHURCH

In 2008, as in previous years, our church has continued to hold discipleship and prayer meetings to worship, and to encourage the people of God to be Christ-like. We want to be where the Lord wants us to be as a Church, and as individuals in our relationship with Him, so that our lives in the Church have a Godly effect on our community.

- At the beginning of the year we started two cell groups, each with two leaders and two sub-leaders, to disciple and equip the people of God for ministry. We have seen a lot of growth in our people's lives as a result of these cell groups.
- From May 2008, we had the privilege of appearing on TV four times a week with our prophetic worship programme "In His Presence" on the Healing Arabic Christian Channel. The programme reaches all the Middle East, North Africa and Europe. We have received a lot of encouraging reports, with those who watched the programme in the Arab world sharing how they had been touched, encouraged and blessed through the programmes.

- In May 2008, God blessed us by providing a team of four talented people to serve with us for six months in different areas of our ministry, including music, children's ministry and evangelism. They were a great blessing to the church.
- We had three separate family conferences during 2008 - one in May, one in July and one in November. For each one, we had a different guest speaker from Egypt and at all of them we experienced the presence of God in a very special way.
- During the year, God opened the door for Pastor Sameh to travel on ministry trips to Algeria and twice to the USA. These were very fruitful times.
- In 2008, we bought a number of Christian Arabic books and tapes/CD's from Egypt to enable us to establish a Christian bookshop in our church to help the people in their spiritual lives.
- In July, we invited a mission team from Egypt to bring the good news of the Gospel to the Arabs of Ealing for two weeks.
- In July, we also invited a famous Arabic pastor and singer to Ealing for three days of evangelistic meetings - it was heaven on earth!
- One of the great highlights of our church family life together is our celebration of Christmas, Easter and the New Year.
- It is so wonderful to see people who are from different religions and nationalities, who were far away from the Lord, come to know Christ through our church. God has given us the chance to see how the Lord performs miracles by bringing people from many different countries and beliefs into our church to make us one family and citizens of a new Kingdom.
- We must not forget the joy our Church experienced when we joined with all the congregations of St. John's Church for the Confirmation Service with the Bishop of Willesden in October 2008. Our people thoroughly enjoyed what took place on that Sunday, and are praying that the Lord will use us together to do His will.
- One of the highlights of 2008 was when God brought together all the Arabic ministers in London, to meet regularly to pray, share their hearts and intercede for what God wants to do in this country.

Our Weekly Meetings:

- Cell group meeting every Tuesday and Wednesday evening
- Youth Club every Friday evening
- Sunday Services with youth meeting and Sunday School each week

Monthly and Quarterly Events:

- Prayer meeting on the first Friday of the month.
- Leadership meeting on the first Monday of the month.
- Ladies, men's and couples meetings on alternate Fridays.
- Day out for the young people on the first Saturday of the month.
- Praise night quarterly.
- Leadership training day monthly.
- Evangelistic event quarterly.
- Church family conference three times a year.
- Youth conference twice a year.

Finally, our prayer for 2009 is to move further into the depth of God's plan for our Church, to serve the Egyptian, Iraqi, Sudanese, Jordanian, Iranian, Assyrian, British, Syrian Yemenis and Kurdish community in London and take the good news of salvation to wherever they are.

Sameh Metry

Pastor

MYANMAR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

I praise God for giving me the privilege to write this year's Annual Report. I would like to express my thanks to all the members at St. John's Church.

We were very pleased that some St. John's members were able to join us for a special lunch of Myanmar's noodles during the year. It is a Burmese traditional way of showing our thanks to those people who are helping our congregation. We are looking forward to having another one this year as well. I would also like to extend my thanks to those St. John's members that have made using PowerPoint at our worship services possible.

Apart from our Sunday services, we have weekly home cell services at some of our church member's homes around West and East London. We also have a worship service through music which we hold every three months. We had

special worship services on Mother's and Father's Day, Easter Sunday, our Church Anniversary and at Christmas as well. These are good opportunities for us to invite some of our Buddhist friends to attend church.

In this coming year we are hoping to develop a prayer meeting on the last Saturday evening of every month. We believe that a prayer meeting will lead us into better service of our Lord Jesus Christ, a deeper relationship with Christ and help us to bridge the love of God to others.

Finally, thank you very much to all the members at St. John's Church, who allow us to use the

church facilities as a place to worship God in our own dialect. It is sometimes very difficult for us, being away from our families, but by the grace of God and the generosity of St. John's we are able to meet and support each other in Christ and have a regular worship service together in our language every week.

As we pray for you at our worship services, could you please remember us in your prayers as we aim to spread the Gospel of Christ among our Buddhist friends in London.

Thawng Khua Kai
Associate Pastor

'Grow as Disciples of Jesus'

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Each member of St John's is part of the **body of Christ** and as such we all need to look out for each other. However, this Team exists because we know some members may need extra support from time to time. In addition, some may need assistance in seeking more specialised forms of help.

I am very thankful for this very small but very dedicated group of people who do so much quietly and thoughtfully behind the scenes.

The Pastoral Care Team's aim is to support, encourage and pray for members of our church family who have needs that we know about. We meet monthly to share needs and to pray for those requiring our support. It is very good that Peter, our vicar, is now part of this Team, particularly as there are no other men on it.

Just to remind you that being part of a small group is one of the very best ways to give and receive love and care in St. John's. In addition, members of small groups can all learn more about God together. If you are not in a Growth Group or part of any other team then I would encourage you to join one!

We are a tiny Team and so we are limited in what we can do. If you have a heart for showing the

love of God in action by visiting people, even occasionally, then please do get in touch. We can then explore whether this ministry might be for you.

Tessa Rust
Pastoral Team Leader

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

The Prayer Ministry Team consists of **26 ordinary church members** who are happy to pray with people during and after services. Our hope is that through prayer, God's love, grace, guidance and healing power would be released for His glory. We are glad to pray for anything, big or small, always remembering that we are not counsellors. We don't even need to know what prayer is needed for - we can simply lift whatever is on your heart to God.

We have had three training sessions since the last report. Jane and Matthew Grayshon led a helpful evening on praying for people with chronic problems. Guy Harrison, Chaplaincy Team Leader of the West London Mental Health NHS Trust talked to us about the spiritual health of people with mental health issues. We were able to invite members of prayer ministry teams from St. Joseph the Worker and St. Mary's Hanwell to join us. In November Peter Mackenzie led a joint

training evening with prayer ministers from St. James.

It is good that there are often small groups of people in twos or threes praying for each other after the service. It is vital that no-one leaves St. John's with a prayer request that they have been unable to share. Members of the Team are always there in the South Transept during Communion services and after all services.

Although neither Val Lechler nor I are able to lead the Team anymore we are both still part of it. Just to remind you that we are here to pray with you about everything. Please do use us. We also love to hear about answers to prayer!

Tessa Rust

Former Prayer Ministry Team Leader

GROWTH GROUPS

Growth Groups aim to strengthen and support the church family by:

- building friendships and strengthening our sense of belonging
- providing pastoral care and encouragement
- learning and growing together through studying the Bible and discovering God's plan and purpose for His world, the church and our lives
- practicing prayer and intercession
- exploring and using gifts and developing ministries
- serving and reaching out into the community

2008/9 saw the growth groups ticking along - without too many changes. Some people have joined groups, but there is room for more 'growth'...

Groups usually study their own material, including this year, a York Lent course, Romans and the Gospels of Mark and Luke.

During the year, we have held leaders' meetings where we were encouraged by the reports of group developments, and where we could share our experiences as leaders and help each other to grow further. We finished 2008 with a curry (and quiz!) for all Growth Group members in the church Lounge.

Growth Group study materials are available from the church office and a topical index and summary of content can be viewed on the members' pages of the St. John's website.

We would love to see everybody at St. John's become part of a Growth Group as a valuable place for learning and developing together, for sharing our joys and concerns, for praying and for encouraging each other in our walk with Christ. Do get in touch if you'd like to join or perhaps launch a new group...

Paul and Daniela Hagger

Growth Groups Co-ordinators

ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTALL

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to be able to indulge my passion for books by overseeing the church bookstall for the past year - following on from Tessa Rust's magnificent work.

There have been many opportunities to purchase books and seasonal items after Sunday morning services throughout the year. These manned bookstalls have proved very popular, but it is particularly gratifying to report that there is a growing number of folk from the congregation who make known their specific requests for books. Every attempt is then made to obtain the book concerned even when on occasions this quest has taken months!

Wesley Owen Bookshop in Harrow provides most of the books on a 'sale or return' basis. There is a good relationship with the helpful staff there and it is good to be able to support a Christian bookshop - although it is realised that the temptations of Amazon constantly threaten this. Please try when possible to support your local Christian bookshops - including also Perivale Christian bookshop with whom it is hoped to develop closer links. The shops give a small discount for goods sold and any and all 'profit' goes to St. John's.

Grove Booklets are now available for purchase. These provide in-depth research/exploration of specific topics covering every aspect of the Christian life or life from a Christian perspective. They are grouped under the headings of: biblical studies, pastoral ministry, spirituality, evangelism, worship, youth, ethics and renewal. A full list of titles is available for inspection.

Whenever particular bargains have been found, books have been purchased in faith; this has also enabled the bookstall at the back of the church to constantly have a wide selection of Christian books, including some low-cost bibles, on display.

The variety of books bought has demonstrated the rich diversity of Christian books available for

all ages. These have included, biography, fiction, picture books, books on parenting, prayer, living the Christian life, jokes, amusing anecdote, commentary, theological and so on... It has been encouraging to have a number of children as 'regular' customers who have challenged the bookstall to find appropriate material.

Particular favourites or best-sellers in recent months have included *'The Shack'* - a challenging allegory on the nature of the Trinity and what it means to know and trust God; *'Celtic Daily Prayer'* - a compendium of prayers used by the Northumbria Community; *'The Manga Bible'* - cartoon presentation of the bible, especially popular with children; *'How to Really Love your Child'*; *'Secret Believers'* - detailing Brother Andrew's work; books by John Ortberg, Philip Yancey and Joyce Huggert; and children's fiction by Kathy Lee and the *'Topz Secret Diaries'* series.

For World Book Day this year, Wesley Owen sold five of their best selling children's books for only £1 each. This was a great success. (Please note that generic book vouchers can be used for payment at any time).

It is intended to organise a second-hand book sale and/or book swap after Easter to enable those who have finished with their books to 'pass' them on to others who might enjoy them too.

My thanks to Tessa for her support and encouragement, Judith Duckworth, Shelley Hitch and Isobel Platings for their help, to Robert (my son) for his constant assistance in all aspects and to the enthusiastic support of many of the children.

It is my hope and prayer that each person who purchases a book may be encouraged, challenged, blessed and strengthened in their faith as they read it.

Rosemary Beardow
Bookstall Manager

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Looking back to last year *Funzone* and *Lazerlight* were both very successful and our Sunday **Buzz Groups** continued to teach the children about the Christian faith.

I have been doing **Story Time at SNIPS** which has been received well, and has enabled me to develop relationships with some of the mums, dads and carers who attend on a regular basis.

We started a **Puppetry Club ('Hands on Puppetry')** with five members, who have begun to develop their puppetry skills very well. We have now done two performances, one at the church weekend away and the other at the Mother's Day Service. Both of which I hope you agree were very good. The puppets will be used at the Together@St.John's Services and other events when requested.

During last year I began to develop the work in our local Schools: St. John's Primary; Christ Church Juniors; and St. Saviour's Infants:

- **St. John's Primary:** Currently I am involved with their Breakfast Club, supporting their team on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings as a helper.
- **Christ Church Juniors:** With the help of Wendy Ray from Oaktree Anglican Fellowship in Acton, we provide a lunchtime ALF (About Life and Faith) Club every Thursday from 12:15pm to 1pm. During this time we teach openly about the Christian faith using drama, quizzes, discussion, prayer and Bible study. Currently between 22 and 35 children attend every week. Recently we have discussed how we pray and hear from God and looked at the way God works in our lives through miracles.
- **St. Saviour's Infants:** Gay and I provide a lunchtime ALF Club on Mondays (year 1) and Fridays (year 2). We have 9 children at each, selected by the teachers at the beginning of each half term. Meeting from 12:30pm to 12:50pm, the children are told a Bible story, do an art/craft activity connected to the story and finish by praying together.

It is great to see how God is working in our Schools, so please continue to pray for these ministries. Also if you have some time to spare and feel you could help, either at Christ Church or St. Saviour's Schools, I would love to talk to you.

Children's Ministries in 2009:

- As I write we are just preparing for another **Funzone** on Saturday 25th April.
- **Story Time** at SNIPS will continue.
- After Easter a new group (**'Discoverers'**) for children aged 8 to 14 who want to go deeper in their relationship with God will begin on the second and fourth Fridays of each month between 6:30pm and 7:30pm. This group will be an interactive study group, using art and craft, discussion and Bible study to develop the children's relationship with God. There

will be challenges and times when the children can put into practice what they have learnt. If you feel you may be interested in helping with Discoverers please contact me.

- The **Schools Work** will continue to develop, both with the work with children and the development of relationships with teachers and staff.
- **Lazerlight** (our alternative Halloween party) will run once again, hopefully in partnership with St. James.

This year my main focus will be in developing our **Buzz Groups**. We have already changed the format, offering a supervised **Crèche** for children 2 and under. Ramblers have been amalgamated with **Scramblers** to develop a group for 2 to 5 year olds. **Climbers** and **Explorers** remain the same.

With the exception of the Crèche, all these groups now meet in the crypt and begin with a short time of child friendly corporate worship before the children go to their separate groups.

We have had some new leaders join the teams this year and intend to offer training to all our leaders over the coming year. For example, I was privileged to take four of our leaders to the Children's Ministry Conference in February which was a Saturday well-spent. We are hoping to take a larger group to the whole conference next year.

I am hoping to be able to work with our various teams this year developing vision for their groups, upgrading their equipment and, with your help, enlarging the leadership teams. If you are interested in leading our children into a deeper faith, or just want to be a helper in one of the groups, please see me.

Please remember, there are three things you can do to support Children's Ministries at St. John's:

- Pray
- Sign up as a leader/helper
- Encourage those who are involved in the ministries.

Children are not just the Church of tomorrow; they are also the Church of today!

Dave Arrowsmith
Children's Worker

YOUTH WORK & THE MAZE

The last year has been a very exciting and vibrant time for everyone associated with youth work at St. John's. Having become the full-time permanent Youth Worker here last year, it's been the most amazing privilege to be a part of what God is doing amongst the young people in our Church. Both Pathfinders and Links have seen significant growth, with us now regularly seeing up to 25 Pathfinders on a Thursday evening (after a previous lull in numbers for a year or so), while Links and The Maze has continued to grow, with new teens arriving every week!

At the beginning of the last academic year, we decided that the main Church worship space wasn't ideal for hosting The Maze Youth Service, and that a change of location would be beneficial. To that end we moved downstairs into The Vine and have kitted it out with a small PA, Worship Band area, special lighting and invested in some futon mattresses for the teens to sit on. The move has proved very popular! When we first moved down, we were regularly getting 35-40 teens attending the service, but that has steadily grown - in March 2009 we hit 75 teens attending a special Baptism service (for Bryony Platings) - which pushed the room to its limits (both in space and smell!!!). What is really exciting is that this growth continues to be spiritual almost more than numerical.

Links midweek has encouraged us so much. This academic year we moved to a Growth Group system, led by teenagers for teenagers. We have had 8 young leaders take on responsibility for these groups and we estimate that half of the Links attendees are attached regularly to a group! These groups include bible study, worship, prayer and fellowship and are simply awesome to attend! A massive thank you to those guys who have led their groups amazingly.

We have a growing worship team who have been co-ordinated and led by Luke Sears, who has done a terrific job at getting us organised and getting new people involved in leading us in worship. We now have five regular worship leaders and over 20 people involved in that ministry. They have continued to serve on Sunday nights but have also led worship at Back to Reality, Pray Ealing events, and at our church weekend away superbly!

'Links Café' has been a place where our young people feel confident to invite their non-Christian friends, and we're seeing a significant link between our work in Twyford High School and the young people coming to Links Café.

Highlights of the last year in Links would also include our weekend away in November, where 50 of us went to Sunbury Court, and God did some great things amongst us! And in terms of summer camps, Soul Survivor and Venture Camps were again particularly significant times for many of our teens, with a number coming to faith and others sensing God's call on their life in particular ways!

Most encouragingly of all is the way that so many of our Links guys have been such an amazing example to the rest of us in their passion, hunger for God, and in their leadership. Those of us on the church weekend will have witnessed that, and I have to say all the Links Leaders are regularly amazed and challenged at the wonderful and deep faith expressed by our teens. This is exemplified by the "Half an hour Challenge" which Stephen Conacher and Matt Read have pioneered, encouraging so many of us to push on deeper with the Lord. What an absolute privilege it is, to work amongst such amazing young men and women of God!

Pathfinders have also had a great year, and we have seen growth, particularly on Thursday evenings at our weekly meetings. Our 'God Slot' at the end of each session has helped give some spiritual focus each week - led by our gap year worker Jo Smith, with George Kesrouani and Matt Barclay (Links members) also regularly speaking.

Pathfinders on a Sunday morning is also going well, and we spent a term studying the Alpha Course, culminating in an Alpha 'Holy Spirit Sleepover' at the Church, which was great fun, and a significant occasion for many who attended. The standard of teaching on a Sunday remains extremely high, thanks to the dedication of our long-serving team of leaders, even if we

struggle with low numbers sometimes (as our teens enjoy their lie-in on a Sunday a little too much!!!).

We continue to work in Twyford High School running a 'Boys to Men' course for the school, and have spoken at a number of Christian Union meetings and Communion services.

Jo Smith (our Careforce Gap Year worker) has contributed significantly to all of the above work, and has a great rapport with our teenagers, so thanks to God for her provision and her dedication in her role at the Church! Also, we owe a huge thanks to all the leaders who have given incredible amounts of dedication, love and energy into serving and building long-term relationships with our young people! We have been incredibly blessed!

As we look forward to the next 12 months, we are aiming to develop Growing Leaders for teens, and a more substantial evangelistic programme for Links, as well as social outreach opportunities for all our youth. We also want to make sure the large group of Links sixth-formers heading to university or gap years in the next year or two, are fully equipped and prepared for those moves.

Please pray that God would continue to bless the work here, and that we would see more young people come to faith in the next 12 months, as well as the continued spiritual development of our Christian young people! God is doing amazing things - let's give thanks that he continues to surpass our expectations!!!

Tom Callister
Youth Worker

'Go out in the power of the Spirit'

OPEN DOOR

This last year has been a rather sad one for us at Open Door. In December one of our regular members died. Ivy's wishes were that her funeral be at St. John's, and that I should officiate. And so it was that just after Christmas, Ivy's family, (including her great grandchildren), and her friends from Open Door, gathered together at St. John's to celebrate and give thanks to God for her life. We would like to thank Peter Mackenzie for allowing us to carry out Ivy's

last wish, which enabled us also to say our farewells to a much loved friend.

Since then many of our members have become ill and are now housebound, and we miss seeing them week-in and week-out, although Fred Parsons and I keep in touch and try to visit as many as possible. This has led us to send out flyers and information about Open Door to encourage new members to come and be part of what we do here at St. John's. Our male membership has increased of late, and we now sometimes see eight to ten men getting together

at the sessions, and it's good to see them chatting away just as much as the ladies!

Our film and lunch clubs continue to be popular, and we hold 'table top' sales and raffles in order to raise funds for the work. In March we had a singing troupe come to entertain us with songs old and new, followed by a buffet lunch, which was enjoyed by everyone. We had some successful outings last year including, the Poppy Museum in Richmond, followed by a fish and chip supper in Eastcote. We also had a day trip to Eastbourne, and a boat trip to Windsor followed by High Tea at the Castle Hotel. Christmas was celebrated with a Christmas Lunch at The Barn Hotel, Ruislip, and the usual Pantomime at The Beck.

Please pray that Open Door will continue to bring Christ's love to the elderly of the parish, and that some new members will come in response to the outreach and information that has been happening over the last few weeks. Our prayer session continues at 11am each day, for the sick and for anyone in need, and we value your prayers for us as we go forward in His name and in His strength alone. To God be the glory!

Elaine Garrish

Open Door Care Co-ordinator

SNIPS@STJOHNS

Since my last report we have seen a great number of improvements at SNIPS. There is an average of four new families attending each week; many from the eastern European countries. SNIPS has a very rich flavour of nationalities, and children play in safety while parents enjoy the great facilities we provide. We have an average of 60 parents and 70-75 children attending our twice-weekly sessions.

SNIPS is acknowledged as one of the best and friendliest pre-school playgroups in the area. Parents and carers often come up to me after a session and remark on the great facilities and friendly workers. I believe we have achieved what we set out to do since the last report, and this is down to a dedicated team. Highlights include:

- Our provision of **story-telling** by Dave Arrowsmith, which is going well.
- We have produced a **'Welcome Booklet'** setting out our Aims and Mission and general information about SNIPS.

- Our **termly themed activities** are going very well and parents are very excited about this. The summer barbeque and party celebrating SNIPS 21st birthday last July was very well attended and many parents commented on the special time they had.
- The **Christmas party** was also very well attended and Santa (aka Dave) handed out over 150 presents on the day.
- The **Easter egg hunt** happened in the church just before our Easter break and was very well attended.
- We were encouraged to see two parents accept our invitation to attend the **Mothering Sunday service** at St. John's in March.

Other provisions such as Music and Movement and Snippets are going well. Sue Venus (Snippets) is doing a really great work with the new mums, with the help of her daughter Kate.

The second-hand shop is still very popular and our sales since January, where all clothes are 50p, have seen a great take up.

The St. John's staff team meets at SNIPS on Tuesdays for joint prayer. This is going very well and I am very grateful for the help and support we have received from the staff team and especially Peter, over the past months as we prayerfully seek to appoint a new Café Manager.

As we are planning the activities for the future we continue to listen to the leading of the Lord and covet your prayers also.

Catherine Miller

SNIPS Manager

EALING SOUP KITCHEN

The Soup Kitchen takes place in the St. John's Church Room every Saturday and Sunday afternoon throughout the year, and on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. St. John's is one of several churches on the rota, so is 'on' every seventh weekend. Typically 40 to 60 attend - more at times, including many long standing clients, and a good number from eastern Europe. Daphne Edwards works with the clients at a pastoral level, which includes organising special events such as parties, outings and a weekend away. Many clients regularly attend Café Church.

Despite losing a few volunteers through the year, we have gained several more, and St. John's now has a strong list of helpers, organised as three teams of six or seven plus a few reserves. This provides one team each for Saturday and Sunday, and one 'off duty', making it relatively easy to arrange swaps to cover for family holidays, children's birthdays etc.

Although nearly always busy, sessions have generally run smoothly through the year (increased volunteer numbers have helped here), and the clients really appreciate the service, borne out by the numbers who turn up enthusiastically each week. Last Christmas, St. John's ran the Boxing Day evening session from 6pm - 9pm, a more relaxed session than Christmas Eve lunch, which the St. John's team hosted the previous year.

Many thanks, as always, are due to all the volunteers on the St. John's team for their tireless efforts, and especially to the team leaders who devote extra time to buying and preparing the food in advance. In particular, a special vote of thanks goes to Alan Reynolds and Hilary Kelly, two team leaders who are stepping down from Soup Kitchen because of other commitments - they have each made a very considerable contribution to the running of the Soup Kitchen. As always, anyone who would like to lend a hand, and join the team that "gives food to the hungry, and drink to the thirsty" would be most welcome.

Allan Logan

St. John's Team, Ealing Soup Kitchen

EALING CHURCHES' WORKER WITH HOMELESS PEOPLE

Looking back over the past year and thinking about the journey with the Ealing Soup Kitchen and work with the homeless, I am always encouraged by the unity and strength of the Ealing Churches and the strong band of volunteers that enable the local churches to reach out to those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable in our community. I am always amazed that after thirty plus years the ministry is still going from strength to strength and I believe that the promise God gives in Psalm 133 that "when brothers live together in unity he commands the blessing" is realised.

I was pleased in July 2008 to be offered another three-year contract; I had felt my time working with the homeless in Ealing hadn't come to an end and the previous three years had been laying

a foundation with the churches and networking with those in the voluntary and statutory sectors. So I am looking forward to what God will continue to do over the next couple of years.

The Soup Kitchen has or is changing its face with many different people attending, and often the regulars are not so obvious, so we always have to be looking for different ways to meet the various and immediate needs of the clientele we have. With the economic crisis and many people losing their jobs and homes I believe places like the Ealing Soup Kitchen will be in greater need. My vision is to encourage and inspire the existing churches to take on a more independent vision as many desperate people find their way to their churches for support and help. The day may be coming when all churches will have to open their doors to the disadvantaged in more practical ways.

Many activities still continue to provide friendship and family for those who often have no family support at all. Our annual trip to the coast took place in the summer, a Karaoke event in the spring and a party at Christmas. We try to take smaller groups out from time to time to have more quality time with a few.

In October 2008 we expanded the Art Class (which had run consistently on a Friday since 2007) to become a whole day of various events in the Crypt. We ran an Alpha Course in the morning, after which St. Mungo's would be available to give housing advice, along with the Art Class that was already running. We now also have a hairdresser, which is an added help to those who visit. We were also very pleased to have won a Community Award of £1,000 for the Art Class which was sponsored by Barclays Bank / Ealing Gazette. This has helped immensely in the continuation of the Friday events.

The spiritual needs of the clients are of utmost importance to me, because without an encounter with Christ in their lives there is no hope. Café Church continues to help them on their journey in experiencing God's love and acceptance. We were able to take a group away on a weekend to High Leigh Conference Centre in October where our speaker, John Robinson, was able to attend again. His testimony of God's grace in his own life relates really well to our people. Many were touched and able to share some deep things in their own lives. We continue to pray for breakthroughs in their lives.

Daphne Edwards

Ealing Churches' Worker with Homeless People

WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We do mission and money!

People

2008 was a challenging and exciting year for our mission partners, who have faithfully served God in many diverse ways.

- **Lynn Earnshaw** - continuing to work in Peru for Vision Tarpuy Mission. Lynn needed major surgery for cancer in January, but made a good recovery and was able to return to Peru in April, though needed to spend much of the year recuperating. Her work is focusing increasingly on working with training church leaders in rural areas.
- **Dave Bookless** - had his book 'Planetwise' published in February, which is selling well. He spent much of the year speaking at conferences and churches around the UK and Europe. This has been a time of considerable pressure on Dave and the family, and he is now refocusing his role with A Rocha in Southall and spending more time with Anne and the children.
- **Pauline Curtis** - continues to work for YWAM in Harpenden. In 2008, she has been centrally with the development of Oasis ministry which cares for long-term YWAM mission partners through accommodation as well as de-briefing and prayer.
- **Helen Conacher** - continues to study for her MA in Missional Leadership. She finished her placement working in local schools with Connect in Devon, and returned to London. She started an internship with the Evangelical Alliance working on the Micah Challenge project, a coalition of Christian organisations and churches in Britain, united in their concern to fight global poverty.
- **Jenni Creasy** - has had an exciting year as God has led her to working more closely with the Hazara people in Pakistan, by way of starting a 3 year PhD which will enable her to spend considerable blocks of time there. Jenni spent 5 weeks in Pakistan in the summer and again in October/November to start her research.
- **Susanna Lazarus** - spent four months of her gap year in Pisco, Peru on a Latin Link 'Step Team' mission, helping to repair earthquake damage to the local evangelical church and

making further improvements for community use.

- **Heather Wells** - spent five months of her gap year in Belo Horizonte, Brazil with YWAM on their Discipleship Training Scheme. She was based at a community centre in a needy area, working with churches, serving communities, doing one-to-one evangelism and evangelistic drama amongst other activities.
- **Kirstin Chapman** - spent all of June working in Mombasa, Kenya, with 'Education for Life', teaching and caring for children in a local orphanage, but also being heavily involved in re-establishing 'normality' after the riots that occurred all over Kenya just before.

We are very grateful to Sarah Gettings for joining the Committee. Sarah brings direct experience from the developing world as well as a lot of energy and enthusiasm! Please continue to pray for the recovery of Liz Bashford and Illa Popat, valuable members of the Committee, who have both been very unwell.

Money

In 2008, St. John's contributed financially to a number of causes and organizations, as a consequence of the congregation's faithful giving. Whilst it may sometimes seem remote from our own lives, the difference this makes to the lives of those who are on the receiving end should never be underestimated.

Most notably, St. John's initiated and raised money for a small scale water project in Muko, Uganda, where Rev Joshua Owoyesiga, who visited us in 2006, is pastor. 21 water tanks were built, benefitting over 270 people who no longer have to trek several miles for water each day.

Space prevents me from writing further, but do ask if you want any more information on away giving in 2008.

David Loveless

WOC Chair

19th EALING GUIDES

2008 has been a good year for our Unit. We have maintained a full group with a long waiting list.

Six of our 14 year-old girls completed their BP challenge in July. This is the highest award they can achieve in Guides so we are very proud of

them. Four of them have stayed to help the younger girls as members of the Senior section.

The younger guides are very enthusiastic and a full programme keeps them occupied.

In April, one of our leaders, Anne-Marie Rand is running in the London Marathon so recently we put on a show for the parents. They came in for free but had to pay before we would let them go home ... The proceeds were given to Anne-Marie as sponsorship for Leukaemia Research.

We are always on the look-out for more adult helpers, so if you feel this is a way to commit your time to the outreach programme, feel free to come and see us any Tuesday evening.

Cynthia Alleeson
Guide Guider

ST. JOHN'S LAWN TENNIS CLUB

St. John's Lawn Tennis Club is located in Rathgar Avenue, where two grass courts are available for play from the start of May to the end of September. It was originally founded in the 1920's with the aim of encouraging fellowship between church members. This is still our aim, although today just over a third of our membership is made up of neighbours and friends living in the area. Membership rose in 2008 to over 90 members including children who are part of family memberships. For many of our

members, the tennis club is their only contact with St. John's. Thus the club plays a role in reaching out into the community. To do this effectively we need church members to join but more importantly to play regularly. In this way church and non-church members will meet and the Christian atmosphere of the club will be maintained.

The 2008 season started on time at the beginning of May, but poor weather interfered with our coaching programme. This year we did manage to play the preliminary rounds of the singles and doubles tournaments in June and the finals in July. Those American Doubles afternoons that were not rained off were well attended.

Work put in by committee members and volunteers over the winter meant that by the start of the season the perennial weed problem had been tackled successfully and the quality of the grass courts was the best it had been for years. During the year members have also repaired fencing, instigated a system for recycling and composting waste and started work reordering the seating area in front of the pavilion. We believe that this effort will result in improved playing conditions in 2009 and we look forward to recruiting more enthusiastic members who will make full use of the courts. We pray that the Tennis Club will continue to contribute to both the physical and spiritual health of the church at St. John's and its surrounding communities.

Maggie Gold
Tennis Club Secretary

General Reports

TREASURER'S REPORT

St. John's income for 2008 was £341,464 against an expenditure of £354,145. A modest deficit of £2,000 had been budgeted but the final deficit amounted to £12,681. This deficit has been funded from our reserves which have been built up over past years. A summary of the accounts for the year can be found in the table on page 20. For full details, please refer to the 'Annual Report and Accounts' booklet, available from the church office.

Overall income in 2008 was £2,215 less than in 2007. Underlying this figure was a decline of

£46,014 in General Income (as distinct from income designated for specific purposes). Regular giving by standing order and the envelope system decreased slightly. Donations via trusts and the give as you earn scheme declined, mainly because some of the 2007 donors have either left the church or donated by other means. Collections at Sunday services increased. Occasional Giving (one-off gifts) reduced by a very significant £31,153. The overall decline in donations also reduced the amount of recoverable income tax.

Income from the church building increased by £5,817. Out of this £2,836 was attributable to room lettings being higher than forecast. £3,248 of the income came from an insurance claim.

Summary of Income and Expenditure 2008 (compared with 2007)

INCOME	2008	2007	Increase/ (Decrease)
General Income			
<i>Regular Giving</i>	121,246	123,455	(2,208)
<i>Trusts / GAYE</i>	25,520	32,522	(7,002)
<i>Occasional Giving</i>	32,280	63,433	(31,153)
<i>Collections</i>	9,210	7,839	1,371
<i>Income Tax</i>	43,362	50,383	(7,021)
Admin and Office	248	1,224	(976)
Church Building	30,514	24,697	5,817
Other Buildings	28,672	11,612	17,060
Corporate Worship	4,364	4,672	(308)
Pastoral Care, Prayer & Spirituality	2,295	1,224	1,071
Youth & Children	21,605	3,860	17,745
Community Work and Evangelism	9,692	9,214	478
Clergy	-	-	-
Away Giving	4,202	3,195	1,007
Other Income	8,256	6,351	1,905
TOTAL INCOME	341,464	343,680	(2,215)
EXPENDITURE	2008	2007	Increase/ (Decrease)
Admin and Office	53,814	45,541	8,273
Church Building	49,907	41,030	8,877
Other Buildings	17,856	19,472	(1,617)
Corporate Worship	23,373	21,842	1,531
Pastoral Care, Prayer & Spirituality	2,246	1,352	894
Youth & Children	71,285	42,058	29,227
Community Work and Evangelism	10,273	8,586	1,687
Clergy	53,882	57,849	(3,967)
Away Giving	71,510	84,371	(12,861)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	354,145	322,102	32,044
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(12,681)	21,578	29,829

Notes

- The 2007 income above excludes the £350,000 value of a gift of property.
- Items have been rounded to the nearest pound. This may affect some totals.

Income from other buildings increased by £17,060. This was attributable to a full year of rent for the house in Brunner Road plus rent for the house in Leighton Road after it had been vacated by the curate.

Income for Youth and Children's Ministry increased by £17,745. This was mainly from a new annual gift of £16,000 from an anonymous donor to support the employment of a Children's Worker. This gift has been pledged for a period of 3 years.

Overall expenditure in 2008 was £32,044 higher than in 2007.

Administration and office expenditure increased by £8,273. This arose from a number of factors; the employment of a part-time administration assistant, increased audit fees, staff removal expenses and depreciation charges for new equipment. The expenditure also included the cost of replacing stolen items funded by the insurance claim income mentioned previously.

Church building expenditure increased by £8,877. Items contributing to this increase included £3,205 on gas and electricity; £3,187 on servicing, maintenance and repairs and £1,767 on gardening (clearing overgrown shrubs and trees).

Expenditure on other buildings decreased by £1,617. This expenditure included £6,354 for refurbishment of the house in Leighton Road but this was less than refurbishment and legal costs incurred for the house in Brunner Road during the previous year.

Expenditure on Youth and Children's Ministry increased by £29,227. This was due to the employment of a Children's Worker and a general expansion in the scope of youth and children's work.

Expenditure on Community Outreach and Evangelism increased by £1,687. The total expenditure included £6,140 support for SNIPS.

Expenditure on Away Giving reduced by £12,861. These reductions included £3,029 on diocesan quota contributions for other areas; £2,497 for one less overseas mission partner and a general reduction in contributions to both UK and overseas charities.

Clergy expenditure reduced as a result of the interregnum combined with the departure of our curate in the middle of the year.

2008 was expected to be a difficult year and it turned out to be even more difficult than forecast. These difficulties were recognised by the DCC by the middle of the year and it was decided to form a Finance Committee to take the lead in establishing the details of a vision-led annual budget and to make recommendations to the DCC regarding financial procedures and priorities. The committee meets regularly and was instrumental in compiling a detailed 2009 budget for the DCC, which was less reliant on receipt of one-off donations.

The deficit recorded in 2008, together with an expected deficit in 2009, led the DCC to make some very difficult decisions at the end of 2008. These included making three staff positions redundant and further reductions in expenditure across the breadth of church activities.

Throughout the year I was ably supported by many people: the newly formed Finance Committee, chaired by James Lazarus; Amber Hatcher who manages the parish staff payroll; members of the counting team who record the weekly donations ready for banking; and former treasurers who provide valuable advice on procedures and policy.

David Walton

DCC Treasurer

ST. JOHN WITH ST. JAMES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Parochial Church Council is the legal body charged with co-operating with the vicar in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As our parish consists of two churches (St. John's and St. James') most of these tasks are delegated to the District Church Councils (DCC). April 2008 saw the final weeks of the interregnum arrangements up to Peter's induction in May. Over the past year, the PCC has had five meetings: April, June, October, December and February; and one extraordinary meeting (April 2009). The February meeting was not quorate (owing to the severe winter weather on 2nd February). The Standing Committee met once in August. The following people served as members:

St. John's Church

Peter Mackenzie (*Vicar, ex-officio from May 2008*)

Sarah Hobbs (*Curate, ex-officio to July 2008*)

Maggie Gold (*PCC Secretary, elected*)

Elizabeth Major (*PCC Treasurer, elected*)

Alan Reynolds (*Churchwarden - Lay Vice Chair*)

Lois Sheard (*elected*)

Steve Taylor (*Deputy Churchwarden*)

Charles Trotman (*elected*)

Lois Sheard (*elected*)

Carol Vigurs *

Philip Young (*elected*)

St. James' Church

Don Smith (*Associate Vicar, ex-officio to May 2008*)

Caz Dunk (*Associate Vicar, ex-officio from Jan 2009*)

Mike Bowen (*elected*)

Martyn Clarke (*Churchwarden*)

Matt Goodman *

Ian Jamieson (*elected*)

Jason Johnson (*elected*)

Connor O'Brien (*Deputy Churchwarden*)

Yorke Rodda * (*to December 2008*)

Doug Simmons (*elected*)

Ray Thomas (*co-opted, DCC Treasurer*)

* Deanery Synod Representatives

During the year the PCC receives reports from St. James and St. John's, comments on these, shares expertise, supports and where required gives formal approval for work in the parish. Over the past year particular attention has been devoted to staffing needs in particular the approval of the DCC recommendation that Daphne Edwards be employed by St. John's Church subject to funding being made available from the West Ealing Trust, a Ministry Intern was appointed for St. John's in August and a caretaker Kitchen Manager for SNIPS was also appointed.

The PCC discussed the changed status of 23a Culmington Road (St. James 'vicarage', now managed by the London Diocesan Fund), the letting of 41 Leighton Road, the repair of St. John's west windows, the child protection policy and the relationship between St. James and St. John's church families.

Finance occupied considerable time as the optimism of the early part of the year gave way to concerns of an impending deficit. The PCC discussed income, expenditure, and contributions to the Diocese (London Diocesan Fund), approved the movement of funds from reserves and ratified the St. John's DCC decision to reduce staff costs through the reduction of hours in the SNIPS manager post and redundancies (Bookkeeper, Ministry Intern, Administrative Assistant). The appointment of new auditors was also approved.

Maggie Gold

PCC Secretary

ST. JOHN'S DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL

Background

St. John's DCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the church - pastoral, evangel-

Membership of St. John's DCC - 2008-2009

Incumbent:	Rev. Peter Mackenzie (<i>DCC Chair from May 2008</i>) *
Curate:	Rev. Sarah Hobbs (<i>to July 2008, DCC Chair to April 2008</i>) *
Churchwarden:	Alan Reynolds (<i>DCC Lay Vice Chair</i>) *
Deputy Churchwarden:	Steve Taylor *
PCC Representatives:	Margaret Gold (<i>DCC Secretary</i>) Elizabeth Major Lois Sheard Charles Trotman Philip Young
Elected Members:	Andy Baxter * Paul Hagger James Lazarus * Marilla Logan Bruce Marson Carol Vigurs David Walton (<i>DCC Treasurer</i>) *
Co-opted Members:	None
Staff in Attendance:	Dave Arrowsmith (<i>Children's Worker</i>) Tom Callister (<i>Youth Worker</i>) Mark Parsons (<i>Co-ordinator of Administration</i>)
	* denotes member of the Standing Committee

-istic, social and ecumenical to the ecclesiastical district of St. John's.

Membership

Membership of the DCC is made up of the St. John's PCC members, ex-officio members and those elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

A list of those who served as members of the DCC during the year is shown in the table above.

Committees

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the DCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Finance Committee

In July, the DCC appointed a Finance Committee to support the DCC Treasurer and to embed vision

within the accounting process. The members were: Peter Mackenzie, Mark Parsons, Alan Reynolds, James Lazarus, Liz Major, Philip Young, and Bruce Marson.

Church Electoral Roll

There are currently 269 members on the electoral roll (including 21 from the Living Water Arabic church). During the year 22 names have been added to the roll and 19 deleted. This represents a rise of 3 compared with 2008 (266 members including 21 from the Living Water Arabic Church).

Review of the Year

The DCC met seven times in the past year and held an Away Day at Emmanuel Church, Southall in June 2008. The DCC considered the following:

- **The church family:** our values; the corporate vision for St. John's; the organisation and management of St. John's; the Growing Leaders Course; the Church Weekend Away.

- **Finance:** London Diocesan Fund contribution; the budget; financial outlook; budget-holders expenditure; cost savings; staff reductions; reserves policy; fundraising; policy for one-off gifts.
- **Staffing issues:** the post of Ealing Churches Worker with Homeless People was put on the St. John's payroll but with funding from the West Ealing Trust; appointment of a Ministry Intern; reduction of hours for the SNIPS manager post and redundancies (Book-keeper, Ministry Intern, Administrative Assistant).
- **Fabric and maintenance:** Letting and expenditure on 41 Leighton Road; letting 33 Brunner Road; air conditioning for the offices; ladies toilets; west end window repairs; church organ; SNIPS kitchen improvements.
- **Other areas:** including WOC, SNIPS funding, mission and organisation, Child Protection Policy

Maggie Gold

DCC Secretary

EALING DEANERY SYNOD

The Ealing Deanery Synod, which is comprised of clergy and laity from the thirty parishes of Ealing, meets four times a year. The locations this year were St. Peter's Mount Park Road, Ealing, Holy Trinity, Southall, St. Barnabas, Northolt and St. Mary's Ealing. Andrew Corsie was re-appointed as Area Dean for a further two years (until June 2010) by the Bishop of Willesden to provide continuity of leadership both in Ealing and within the Willesden Area and to stagger retirements of Area Deans in the future.

The first meeting of the year is an Act of Worship interceded with items of Deanery Synod Business. At this meeting, the business covered included the Financial Report, Election of a Governor for Twyford High School, our own Louise Gibb, plus a Report on re-visiting the Diocesan Supported Parishes in the Deanery.

This Report outlined the findings of the Deanery Mission Team who had undertaken to visit each of the six parishes at the end of a three-year period to assess progress and determine whether or not financial support should continue.

Their findings were as follows:

- 1) That there was a healthy leadership in each parish which included good clergy deployment and lay participation in the mission and ministry of each parish.
- 2) That each parish has undergone particular demographic changes since 2004 but in each case the Electoral Roll had increased.
- 3) That progress had been made in each church, both in the nurturing of Christian discipleship, sense of community and witness to the wider parish/world.

It was agreed that these six parishes plus St. Gabriel's North Acton should be designated as Diocesan Supported Parishes for another three years when their status would be reviewed to assess progress and whether the support should continue.

The second meeting had elections for Lay Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and both clerical and lay members of the Standing Committee. Andrew Caird was elected Lay Chair, Rosamund Rowe was elected Secretary but no nominations were received for the Treasurer's position and this was referred for consideration by the Standing Committee. The following were elected to the Standing Committee:

- **Lay Members:** Trevor Bates, Suzanne Romain-Baines and Glynis Forbes
- **Clergy:** Revd Pamela Hezell, Revd Mark Powell, Revd David Brammer

Andrew Caird was also elected as a Governor for Edward Betham School.

A former member of St. John's, Mrs. Wei Hei Kipling, presented a Report on Social Trends in Ealing entitled 'Casting the Net', a report on Mission and Ministry; followed by a question and answer session (I have a copy of this report if anyone would like to read it).

Tricia Hillas, Vicar of St. Barnabas welcomed the Synod to Northolt for the third meeting and drew our attention to 'Shalom', a healing and prayer group based at St. Barnabas, which is available to the whole Willesden Area.

The Area Dean reported that we had come to the end of a year which had been spent looking at Mission:

- Community Regeneration with Matthew Girt
- Review of Financial Situation
- Report of further visits to all parishes
- The continuation of Diocesan supported

churches for another three years, and at this meeting,

- Community Ministry with Jack Maple, the Community Ministry Adviser.

Jack spoke about his role in helping parishes engage with their communities. He said working with the community encourages love, friendship, trust and looking out for one another. This leads to safer communities and generous places where people are valued and encouraged. Parishes can carry out a 'Community Audit' to see what is going on in their neighbourhood and can contact him for further information.

The main topic of the fourth and last meeting of the year was on 'Being a Welcoming Church' - a presentation by the Area Dean of Brent followed by questions and answers. Unfortunately, as I was on holiday, I missed this meeting and, as yet, have no details of the presentation.

Carol Vigurs

Ealing Deanery Synod Representative

FABRIC AND MAINTENANCE

Being tall does have its advantages, like getting asked to do all those high up jobs, like hanging the Christmas decorations or painting the ceiling. This year at St. John's seems to have been no exception.

The highlight of the year for me was the lowering of the speakers in the main church. Those of you with a keen eye, or ear for that matter, will have noticed them and benefited from the improved sound that the new positioning gives. It was something that we've had in mind to do for several years and it's great to get it done. David Miller provided the expertise and we borrowed a lift from St. Paul's Church. After we had finished lowering the speakers I used the lift to do a few other jobs. I had Gary's duster attached on a very long pole and from the top of the lift could just

about reach to clean the cobwebs from over the arches.

The other major job that is now complete is the repairs to the west-end leaded light windows. These were sagging badly and in danger of blowing in. After they were re-fitted it was suggested that we should paint the metal frames that they fit into, to keep the rust at bay. I guess that's where a bit of height would be useful, so paint brush in hand I gave them a couple of coats of Hammerite.

The other theme of the year has been water, with the introduction of the hot taps into the ground floor ladies toilets and the challenge of fixing numerous leaks to the crypt toilets, the plumbing kit has had plenty of use. It's also good to see a team of ladies giving the upstairs ladies and disabled toilets a long awaited freshen up. They may well be completed by the time you read this.

Ray Smith has been doing a good job looking after the Church houses with Leighton Road receiving a new boiler, dishwasher and freezer amongst other things.

There's been the usual round of door handles to re-fix and leaky taps to attend to. It certainly seems that the list of outstanding jobs for the Church and the houses isn't any smaller than it was this time last year.

My hope for the coming year is to get together a small maintenance team that can share the load of some of the jobs around the church that could be achieved by members of the church. If you're able to contribute then please drop me an email.

Finally, huge thanks to the ever-dependable Mark Parsons, not just for holding the ladder, but for the many other things he does around the church. Also, thanks to David Miller for helping with those speakers and to Ray Smith for looking after the church houses.

Steve Taylor

Deputy Churchwarden

© St. John's Church, West Ealing, 2009
A big thankyou to everyone
who has contributed to this report.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Mattock Lane, West Ealing, London, W13 9LA

Tel/Fax: 020 8566 3507, Email: parishoffice@stjohnsealing.org.uk, www.stjohnsealing.org.uk