



St George-in-the-East Church
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'St George-in-the East PCC' charity number 1133761

Diocese of London, Stepney Episcopal Area, Tower Hamlets Deanery

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST WITH ST PAUL**

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2010

presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday, 10 April 2011

FOREWORD

Look to the east ... and see the joy that is coming to you from God (Baruch 4.36)

This report has been compiled by officers and other members of the congregation, not merely to comply with Charity Commission requirements but (we hope) to provide an honest and interesting account of the life of our church in 2010. St George-in-the-East has seen many dramatic changes since the church was built in 1729, and in recent years the pace of change has been rapid. What was once a heavily Jewish area now has a Bengali majority population (reflected in our parish school), many of whom live in poverty, and with a high proportion of NEETS (young people who are not in education, employment or training); but in parts of the parish there are also mobile, affluent professionals. The contrasts are sharp. The challenge for us is to minister faithfully to this diverse, and often bewildering, community, with a particular awareness of all that is happening in global politics, not least in the Middle East.

The highlight of the year was the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to preach and preside at a Eucharist marking the 150th anniversary of the 1859-60 Ritualism Riots - an extraordinary period in our history, in which the clergy of the parish sought to offer faithful ministry against considerable odds. It was a marvellous occasion. Rowan clearly enjoyed himself, with the pressures off for an "ordinary" parish occasion, and he talked without any sense of status to everyone, especially the young people. We were honoured that he accepted our invitation, out of the many parishes who ask him to their special events. The other main event in the Ritualism Riots programme was an evening with three church historians, who gave short presentations on various aspects of what happened then, and discussed their significance for us today. On Easter Day we welcomed a visitor from Dunedin Cathedral, where the Bryan King chalice and vestments are now held. Full details of all these events (including the text of the Archbishop's sermon and the historians' presentations, and much background information) can be found on our website.

During the year we said farewell to Elspeth Wilkes, our organist and director of music for twelve years or so. She and her partner have relocated to Reading, where he works, though we still see her from time to time when she needs a rehearsal venue, and hope she will continue to lead quiz nights for us! Living in one of the church flats, Elspeth was very much a member of the parish community, as well as a fine professional musician

who could rustle up a choir for special occasions, and we thank her for all her contributions. During her last months she organised a number of high-quality concerts in church (with the help of Canon Geoffrey White). After a period of uncertainty - because the successor we had appointed failed to materialise - Hannah Brewer was offered the post. She is a Californian, and organ studies graduate, who is currently doing an art history course at the Courtauld Institute. We have much enjoyed her accomplished playing and her calm and confident presence, and trust that she is enjoying being a part of our parish community.

As recorded in more detail elsewhere, with Elspeth's departure we took the opportunity of refurbishing her flat. Managing this complex site, with the flats plus Green Gables and North Thames Ministerial Training Course (part of St Mellitus College) in the crypt, is time-consuming. We value our NTMTC links. I was part of the group that negotiated the inclusion of candidates for Licensed Local Ministry (LLM - formerly Readers) from most of the areas of London diocese into parts of its programme from September 2010. I also teach New Testament Greek for the course, which provides a regular contact with the student body. There are issues about the future presence of NTMTC on this site, but these must wait for the 2011 report.

In 2010 the local authority undertook lengthy - but very helpful - negotiations to establish unambiguous addresses, compliant with current rules, for all addresses on site, to meet the needs of postal, electoral roll and emergency services. The outcome is a ruling that the Rectory and Rectory flat remain as 16 and 16a Cannon Street Road, but that flats 1-4 become 14 Cannon Street Road, and so do Green Gables and NTMTC, with the additional designations as "Crypt West" and "Crypt East" respectively. This is good news if it means that posties will push more mail through the right letter boxes!

Many people express gratitude that the church - unlike others in the area - is open daily, for prayer, quiet and visits. We are fortunate that we can leave it open, (a) because we have little of value to steal and (b) because there are always people around on site. We have had no vandalism during the year. As well as organised groups on the Hawksmoor trail, there are many visitors with a family history agenda. We need to ensure that all our visitors find this a living church, a place where they can pray (and light a candle if they wish), and which is appropriately interpreted. We also have a lot of enquiries through the parish website, with appreciation of the detailed historical material that it offers. Baptism and wedding enquiries now come through this route, as well as through "A Church near You" which the diocese now uses as its primary online church-finder.

Two stalwarts of the congregation, Edith Wyeth and Olive Wagstaff, were in poor health for much of the year, and much-missed on Sundays when they were absent. Both remain very alert and in touch, and keep me on my ecclesiastical toes. I'm grateful to them for this; and to my wife Jan, who finds time and energy to be our honorary assistant priest despite the pressures of her national job - her sermons are much-appreciated; to our devoted wardens and other officers and church council members; to Fiona our unflappable parish administrator; and to all who support the work of our parish. I commend this report to you, as we celebrate the *joy that is coming to you from God*.

Canon Michael Ainsworth
Rector

BACKGROUND AND GENERAL INFORMATION

General

St. George-in-the-East with St Paul is one of four Church of England parishes on or close by The Highway, the road that links the City of London with the Canary Wharf business district on the Isle of Dogs.

The original church was built between 1714 and 1729 and was designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor. It was one of fifty new churches intended to be built under the Act of 1711. A new parish was created from the ancient parish of Stepney. In the mid 19th century the parish was one of the most deprived in the country and the scene of the ritualism riots. In the 20th century, the Church was severely damaged by an incendiary bomb during the Blitz that left standing only the external walls, the tower (of 160 feet), the clergy vestry, the Lady Chapel and four turrets.

The church was rebuilt and reconsecrated in 1964 under a new design by Arthur Bailey. It is smaller than the original church and the remaining space within the original walls has been used to accommodate four residential flats each accessed separately via the four staircase turrets. There is also office accommodation. On entering through the main west entrance there is a small open courtyard before entering the modern church. The crypt was redesigned as a hall, complete with stage, kitchen, storage and lavatories. The building is Grade I listed, and various monuments, walls and gates around the site are Grade 2 listed.

In 2005 the eastern undercroft was redeveloped as office accommodation and a 25 year licence granted to the Diocese of London which, in turn, has sub-licensed the space to the College of St Mellitus, a non-residential ministerial training course for the dioceses of London and Chelmsford. The remainder of the undercroft was refurbished as a nursery in 2006 and is licensed to Green Gables School for a term of 20 years.

In 1877 the churchyard was landscaped as a public garden, now known as St George's Gardens (of which the churchyard forms the greater part), and is maintained by the Council under a 1902 faculty. To the north of the Church adjacent to St George's Gardens is the Churchwardens' Garden, an open space available to the school, the parish and on a controlled basis to the wider community.

Refurbishment work to St George's Gardens funded by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund was completed in 2009. It is hoped in due course to restore the former Nature Study Centre within the gardens in partnership with local stakeholders. The church supports the Council and its Park Rangers service care for the gardens by providing office facilities for the dedicated part-time Ranger.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St George-in-the-East with St Paul (the PCC) is a registered charity. Previously excepted from registration with the Charity Commission it was granted registered status on 26 January 2010. Its registered number is 1133761 with the working name of St George-in-the-East PCC.

The church is in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. It is immediately to the east of Whitechapel, between Stepney, Shadwell and Wapping at the junction of the Highway

with Cannon Street Road. A very small part of the parish falls within the boundaries of the City of London. The parish is part of the Diocese of London within the Church of England.

PCC members who served from 18 April 2010 until the date of this report are as follows:

Ex officio members

Canon Michael Ainsworth* Rector and Chairman
 Rev. Janina Ainsworth Hon. Assistant Priest

Allan Ramanoop* Churchwarden
 Alex Nelson* Churchwarden (also Churches Together in Stepney & Wapping Representative)

Margaret Coulter Deanery Synod Representative
 Richard Powell* Deanery Synod Representative and Hon. Treasurer

Elected members

Kim Ali
 Susan Crocker* Secretary
 Toni Davey
 Cathy Matthew
 Michael Page
 Annadale Ramanoop
 Danny Ramanoop
 Edith Wyeth* Churchwarden Emerita, Vice-Chair, Stewardship Officer (also Churches Together in Stepney & Wapping Representative)

Co-opted member

Terry Bennett Head teacher of parochial school, St Paul's Whitechapel
 Wendy Ramanoop Electoral Roll Officer (non PCC member)

* member of PCC Standing committee

<i>Church Postal Address</i>	<i>Principal Bankers</i>	<i>Auditor</i>
The Parish Office	HSBC plc	Stephen Pearl & Co
St George in the East	196a Piccadilly	3 Bentalls Close
14 Cannon Street Road	London W1V 0DY	Southend-on-Sea
London E1 0BH		Essex SS2 5PS
<i>Solicitors</i>		
Lee Bolton & Monier-Williams	Winckworth Sherwood	
One The Sanctuary	35 Great Peter Street	
Westminster	Westminster	
London SW1P 3JT	London SW1P 3LR	

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended) and the Church Representation Rules 2006 (Rules).

The members of the PCC are also trustees of the Watney Street Hall Trust, Planet Street Institute and Thomas Dickenson charitable trust funds. These trusts were established to benefit the inhabitants of the parish and neighbouring parishes subject to the terms of their specific trusts. The London Diocesan Fund is the Custodian Trustee of the Watney Street Hall Trust.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and the congregation is encouraged to stand for election to the PCC. The PCC welcomes new members and is anxious to see that its membership reflects the diversity of the congregation. Elected members are limited to 9 plus the ex officio members and co-opted members.

The current Rector and holder of the benefice, since 19 July 2007, is the Rev. Canon Michael Ainsworth. The Rev. Janina Ainsworth is Hon. Assistant Priest.

There are two Churchwardens elected at the Annual Vestry meeting (which immediately precedes the Annual Parochial Meeting) at which any person whose name appears on the public electoral roll and resident in the Parish may attend and vote. The Churchwardens are the officers of the Bishop and ex officio members of the PCC.

The PCC has ultimate responsibility for a wide range of matters affecting the parish, including such matters as compliance with health and safety, disability discrimination and child protection. The PCC subscribes to Diocesan policies in this regard, disseminates information received from the Diocese and Deanery accordingly, and encourages its members to attend appropriate training. Criminal Record Bureau checks are carried out as a matter of policy in respect of Clergy, Churchwardens, adult Servers and those responsible for the care of children.

At its meetings the PCC receives reports from the Rector, Churchwardens, its officers including the Hon. Treasurer and its committees against which it monitors the achievement of the parish's aims and objectives. Whilst the PCC takes strategic decisions, the Standing committee, a body required under the Rules, meets monthly and is responsible for the business of the PCC in the meantime subject to any directions given by the PCC.

The PCC through quinquennial reports, professional advisers and its contractors, regularly reviews the major risks to which the parish is exposed. The parish as well as seeking to minimise major risks such as accident, fire and vandalism maintains a policy of insurance for general risks with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company.

Day to day management is exercised by (and as appropriate delegated to) the Rector and Churchwardens and officers of the PCC assisted by the Parish Administrator.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Canon Ainsworth, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is also responsible for maintaining the fabric of the church building and its surroundings.

The PCC sought to achieve these goals in 2010 as follows:

- by continuing the worship and the mission of the church by pursuing its Mission Action Plan (MAP) discussed below under Achievements and Performance;
- by making a fair and affordable contribution to the London Diocese's Common Fund which pays for the clergy, their training and the running costs of the Church of England in London;
- by supporting the Tower Hamlets Deanery and seeking to increase collaboration amongst parishes in our local cluster and the borough.

The PCC keeps these goals under review and monitors progress.

Amongst the specific activities of the parish are the following:

Regular public worship open to all	Taking of religious assemblies in schools
The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation	Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, and the distribution of literature
Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved	Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for children and other groups
Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups	Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas

The contributions of volunteers

The Parish is both dependent on and grateful for the time given freely by members of the PCC and congregation to support the work and life of the parish. This includes preparation of the church for worship, administration, catering, cleaning and general maintenance, and running the children's church on Sundays.

Charitable donations

The PCC seeks to donate approximately one percent of its annual unrestricted income to other charities. It aims to distribute a significant percentage to locally based organisations as well as charities working in less developed countries. The PCC considers

unsolicited requests for giving as well as identifying causes deserving of help at any one time, for example, disaster relief. In 2010 donations of, in total, approximately £1,400 were made to the following: Radicle (£400), Send a Cow (£200), Leukemia & Lymphoma Research (£200), Crisis (£200), The Leprosy Mission (£200), and the National Society (£200).

In addition, further donations were received by the parish on behalf of and passed on to the Archbishop's appeal for Haiti (£432), WaterAid (£70) and Christian Aid (£143). The PCC also purchased Bibles for final year pupils leaving St Paul's school at a cost of (£121).

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

This review of the year's activities is based on the objectives we have set ourselves in the current version of our Mission Action Plan (MAP).

Our 2009-2012 MAP identifies the targets to which we seek to work, not only within the parish, but as part of the "Highway cluster" of parishes, Churches Together in Stepney and Wapping, Tower Hamlets Deanery and the Stepney area of the diocese of London. All these contexts are important, even if some of them are in reality less than dynamic. We review one of the headings of our MAP at each PCC meeting, to see what progress we have made and what more we need to do.

(1) Growing, pastoring and nurturing the congregation:

- *Build and strengthen the congregation numerically and spiritually*
- *Pastoral care and affirmation of existing congregation*
- *Developing children and young people's provision*
- *Identifying individuals' gifts and callings.*

We continue to work on sustaining the life of our congregation. It is not large - as new members come, others leave, as is the way of things in London - but it covers a wider-than-average range of ages (apart from teenagers, sadly), background and ethnicities, with regular or occasional worshippers from all around the world. During 2010, as well as long-standing locals whose family roots lie in Africa and the West Indies, we welcomed Christians from Pakistan, France, Russia, Zimbabwe, Holland, Lithuania, New Zealand, Italy and Albania who made their home with us for a longer or shorter period - some of whom have now left us. Some of our regulars have demanding family or professional responsibilities that regularly take them out of London; they are not with us every Sunday, and cannot commit to regular weekday activities. In such a context, we work hard at making the most of Sunday worship, by offering a positive welcome to all who come, accessible worship (within a clear liturgical framework), thoughtful preaching, and good after-service hospitality - extended from time to time with parish socials, which are much enjoyed. In the autumn we attempted, but failed, to gather a group for a Stepney Area "New Step" course, for which the necessary support from neighbouring churches was not forthcoming, so we are re-thinking our provision in 2011.

We remain strongly committed to making proper provision for children and young people, offering Children's Church sessions (in the panelled room) on as many Sundays as possible despite the shortage of willing leaders. We have also re-equipped the crèche area in church, with individual bags containing a variety of suitable resources, drawing equipment, mats and cushions, and this has been appreciated. Alex, our churchwarden, is

our Children's Advocate, and she and others make sure we keep the needs of children, and their parents, firmly in view.

Because many of our members already use their gifts and enthusiasms through involvement in a variety of projects, both church-based and secular, as well as in their daily work, we see our task as encouraging and equipping them for this rather than making additional demands. On the whole, churches do not take this aspect of ministry sufficiently seriously. We also continue to present the challenge of training for commissioned and authorised lay ministry.

(2) Develop the use of our building as a shared resource for the local community

- *Identify caretaker needs for the church and hall*
- *Develop our vision for the use of our building*
- *Develop a policy to implement the vision*

We are custodians of a fine, but difficult, building. We have “fit-for-purpose” worship space, created in the 1960s in the blitzed Hawksmoor shell, with two ancillary rooms (one of them used during the week by the nursery school), and evening and weekend access to part of the crypt. But the layout complicates access for non-church users, which at present depends on the Rector's availability; hence the need for caretaking, to open, close and clean - on which we have so far made no progress.

During the year, a sketch scheme for disabled access was prepared, which involves reverting to the pre-1800 configuration of steps within, rather than outside, the rotunda area, with a platform lift on one side. This is potentially controversial and awaits responses from the heritage consultees. It will be expensive, whether or not we can attract grant funding, and does not fully address access to crypt level for those with disabilities, but we are agreed that this approach is the best way forward.

Our vision and policy for developing community use depends on resolving these complex factors. We are open to community use of our space, and during the year have had a number of one-off bookings, from groups and individuals, but we know that we need a more proactive policy. The impact of the “Big Society,” and the massive cuts in local spending, presents both challenges and constraints as to what we can do.

(3) Establish a balance between the various needs of the congregation and parish

- *Teaching/education*
- *Social/community*
- *Spiritual*

Finding the right balance underpins the work of our Worship & Nurture Committee, which takes the view that growth in faith and understanding should be set in a social context that also develops the sense of belonging and mutual support. For us, that does not mean Alpha-style pasta suppers (we are too diverse for such an approach), but it does mean that we should make the most of our time together, and arrange appropriate outings and trips as well as “domestic” occasions that combine the social and spiritual. We did not manage any trips in 2010, but as well as the Ritualism Riots events we had good gatherings for our patronal festival, our annual parochial meeting, our feeding of the multitudes on Marathon Sunday (very successful, despite the restrictions imposed on us

by the organisers), our anniversary of consecration barbecue, and our carol service. Impromptu birthday, wedding and anniversary celebrations after church remain a strong feature of parish life. More ambitious events are planned for 2011.

(4) *Develop our institutional engagement with other faiths and within the local community*

- *Make St George's more relevant to our local community*
- *Also for our own information, growth and contribution*

It is important to recognise that church members are routinely engaged with neighbours, work colleagues and others of other faiths, and we need to equip them for this (hence "for our own information, growth and contribution"); but this criterion is primarily about our engagement as an institution. We pursue this through active involvement with the Presence and Engagement Network (PEN) and Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum (THIFF) whose meetings and other events we attend, and whose mailings we circulate. We also host the weekly rehearsals of Sottyen Sen, a secular and well-regarded organisation which promotes Bengali folksong, dance and drama, and performs at various local celebrations, to which we are always invited, and these contacts have been fruitful.

We saw a significant increase during the year in school visits to church (in addition to those from our own church primary school). Many of these are 100% Muslim, and it is usually the first time children, and their parents - and sometimes teachers - have entered a church. These visits are carefully prepared, and the experience is positive. (Initiatives in 2011 build on this.)

Our valued links with our own (predominantly Muslim-intake) church school - to which a strong team of foundation governors, including those from local business and commerce, is deeply committed, and which has a magnificent staff: we are truly blessed! - remain the principal point of contact with those of other faiths in our community. The Rector's weekly assemblies, and twice-termly services in church, are a key part of our ministry, and the children's confident and lively openness to issues of faith is a constant source of delight: our fear is that this is lost when they transfer to secondary schools. The national church has recognised our school as a model of effective inclusion, and arranged for Richard Dawkins to film part of his TV programme on "faith schools" here. He was disarmed by the experience, and virtually none of the day's filming was used as it did not match his agenda! See the separate report from the school.

The Rector

Fabric report

As a result of the Quinquennial Inspection (QI) which was conducted in 2008; work was carried out during the year on the most urgent actions identified and plans have been put in place to carry out the rest of the work.

Key items of work to the fabric include:

- installation of a gate at the North West end of the church to increase security;
- redecoration of the panelled room;
- flat 4 was refurbished throughout and has been let. There are plans to refurbish flat 2;

- the driveway was resurfaced;
- the metalwork on the western stairs has been repaired; and
- as regards continuing servicing and maintenance:
 - the gutters are regularly cleared by Hall & Randall. Under the Diocesan programme this service is currently free. In addition, our own contractor continues to carry out a regular inspection of the drains;
 - the fire extinguishers are serviced regularly;
 - the temporary pump removing the overflow from the boilers is still operational within the boiler room. We plan to reach a more permanent solution in the near future. Heron Building Services, which installed the boilers in 2005, service the boilers annually.

A fire assessment of the building was carried out during the year.

Planning for 2011 and beyond

We expect work on the results of the electrical survey, and CCTV installation and external lighting, to be completed in early 2011.

In 2011, we will be able to focus on the medium term actions from the QI. We continue to investigate possibilities for disabled access together with planning repairs to masonry, patching the roof, fixing leaks and damp patches and repairing roof areas between the flats. There is a programme for external metalwork, woodwork and flagpole repair and redecoration and the church floor will be polished. The north wall in the driveway will also need re-rendering. Finally, repairs and maintenance in the Belfry and to the Ringing chamber are planned.

The Churchwardens, Alex Nelson and Allan Ramanoop

The work of the PCC and committees

The PCC met on six occasions during 2010, bi-monthly with the committees meeting as required. The Standing Committee met five times, roughly bi-monthly, with a gap over the summer. There was also an extraordinary meeting of the Standing Committee and some members of the PCC on 4 January 2010 to plan for the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit of 20 January.

The Archbishop's visit started the year, followed by the visitation of the Area Dean. In particular, the QI report and subsequent planning of maintenance issues have been a predominant theme for discussion. The main business focused on the electrical report; fire risk assessment; decoration of paneled room and general maintenance, including plans for installation of CCTV, outside lighting and re-surfacing of the drive; financial matters including setting our common fund contribution increase and charitable giving.

A main feature of the year was the refurbishment and letting of flats 2 and 4 following the farewell of our organist, Elspeth. This has been the main focus of the Building Committee.

Work on the themes emanating from the MAP have continued to be prioritised where possible at each PCC meeting throughout the year. The MAP tasks remain on-going with the work reflected in the various committees. In particular the theme of growing, pastoring and nurturing has been discussed by the PCC as a whole and subsequently taken up further in the Worship, Nurture and Mission Committee.

PCC Secretary, Susan Crocker

Electoral Roll

In 2007 a new electoral roll was prepared as required by the Rules. In contrast, the 2010 revision was limited to updating the roll with changes that had occurred during the year.

At the 2010 Annual Meeting the revised electoral roll stood at 69 persons aged over 16 (2009: 70). In total, one name was removed and no new names appeared. The roll corresponds reasonably closely with those who attend the church on a regular or occasional basis. 17 live in the parish; the majority 52 live outside the parish, which is geographically small, and most live in adjacent parishes.

Electoral Roll Officer, Wendy Ramanoop

Report of the school year at St Paul's 2010

St Paul's is the parish's Church of England primary school situated at Wellclose Square, London E1. The Rector, Fr Michael, and others members of the PCC are School Governors. As is the usual practice the parish presented bibles to school leavers.

The school is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural inner-city school. It has one form of entry with children from Nursery age up to Year 6 (11 years old). There are approximately 210 children on the roll with 13 different home languages; three-quarters of the pupils are Muslims.

St Paul's Primary School is an outward looking institution and proudly so because we have a strong belief that meaningful interaction with the World outside the school can only enhance our pupils' development. The relationship with St. George's is a crucial facet of this although it should not go unmentioned that the school works with a variety of other religious institutions: Christian, Muslim and Jewish. This look back over the last year highlights some of these interactions and gives a flavour of the advantages that this approach confers.

Review of school year at St Paul's 2010

The main feature of this year has been the major building works at the school; a project that will have occupied the best part of two years by its completion. The work will consist of three phases – an Early Years Unit, Key Stage 1 classrooms and internal refurbishment. As a voluntary-aided school our buildings are not owned by the local authority but by a Trust under the authority of the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS). For major work to the fabric of the school, funding is secured by officers of the LDBS, although the legal "client" for the project is the school's governing body. We are heavily reliant on advice from LDBS officers.

Spring Term

Early in the year the Headteacher attended a meeting at Mulberry school organised by Place2be. This is a charity concerned with the emotional well-being of children. They provide a programme of in-school counselling and are in the process of establishing a "hub" of schools in this part of London. St Paul's was one of the first schools to sign up for this initiative. Interviews for a school project manager will take place in the summer with the service beginning in September.

A number of St Paul's pupils and staff were at St George's to sing for the Archbishop on 21 January. The school held an early Ash Wednesday assembly in the church on Friday 12 February as the beginning of Lent fell in the middle of half term. We were back in St George's on Maundy Thursday for an Easter Assembly where every class did a song or presentation.

Our LDBS student teachers began their block placement at St Paul's. This is a course that was set up by Diocesan Headteachers offering a school-based route into teaching for graduates who are interested in the early years and infants.

At the end of January a group of governors met with our building project managers, Wilby and Burnett and Steve White of the LDBS to examine tenders and award the contracts for the building project. Two weeks after this, at a pre-contract meeting, timelines and protocols were agreed. Soon afterwards a temporary classroom was erected in the Junior playground which the nursery children moved into after half term. The builders began the demolition of the Nursery followed by foundation work on the new Early Years Unit.

St Paul's pupils have a large and varied programme of educational visits and workshops over the course of a year. This term each class had a science workshop at the Soane Centre near Mile End Cemetery. Year 1 went to the Childhood Museum, Year 6 to the Olympic Park and Year 3 took part in an art competition at Wilton's. In addition Years 3 and 4 had bird box building workshops, Year 4 and 5 took part in race equality awareness and Years 5 and 6 took part in a Green Schools initiative looking at our carbon footprint.

Summer Term

Each Term the school's governing body has a formal meeting. May's meeting included discussion and approval of the budget for the following year; the last of a reasonably generous three-year settlement. This is the culmination of a process that balances the school's operational and developmental needs with the streams of government and local authority funding.

St Paul's is a London 2012 Get Set School; a school that demonstrates a commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic Values. Because of this we were chosen to host Lord Coe's launch of the Olympic Mascots in May. The school was inundated with journalists who eagerly sought the children's views of Mandeville and Wenlock.

On Founder's Day in June we held a celebration of school dinners to honour Revd. Dan Greator's innovative introduction of midday meals for pupils in 1864. Earlier that week

the school kitchen had earned its second Gold Nutrition Award, a testament to their high quality provision.

The Deanery Schools Conference, always a productive and convivial event, took place at Churchgate Hotel in Essex at the end of June.

Throughout the year our pupils take part in a large number of sporting events many of which culminate in finals during the Summer Term. We had a cricket tournament at the Oval, athletics at Mile End Stadium, a cross country run in Mile End Park, basketball and volleyball competitions as well as local football matches and our own sports day. A number of pupils visited Lord's to watch England play Bangladesh.

The school's building project which had been progressing well was hampered by a series of problems affecting the programme and its cost. Obstructions in the ground, planning delays, thefts from the site and a miscalculation by the builders that saw the flooring built 9cm too high caused a flurry of activity that continued over the summer break.

Autumn Term

Our Harvest Celebration took place at St George's on 1 October with the usual generous level of food donations.

The Headteacher attended the LDBS Headteachers' Conference in Poole. This is a great occasion for meeting colleagues from schools throughout the Diocese a mixture of work and "play" with guest speakers, workshops and a pleasant hike along the South Coast Path thrown in.

The Nursery and Reception classes moved into the new Early Years Unit after half term in a transition made seemingly effortless due to the hard work of staff and the positive attitude of the pupils. Despite the delays the school now had a building to be proud of. Work immediately began on Phase 2.

The Advent season was soon upon us; the busiest of times in school. The Choir rehearsed energetically for Carol Services and the school Nativity Play under Mr Rubin's direction. Then there were the parties, lunches and our Christmas Assembly at St George's.

This report cannot finish without mention of the many activities taking place for parents a development that has mushroomed in recent years. The school holds regular coffee mornings and workshops for parents on helping their children in school. Parents visit the school for progress reports and special activities such as Science Week, Fathers Day, our Art Café and Fashion Show and our Eid celebration. There are also a number of parents' classes such as English language, Mathematics, I.T. and Strengthening Families

Finally I would like to thank Edith Wyeth and John Allison for their continued valuable support as governors and, of course, Father Michael for his huge contribution to the life of St Paul's School.

Terry Bennett, Headteacher

Report from Deanery Synod representatives

The deanery synod in Tower Hamlets (Synod) comprises both clergy and lay representatives from each of the 18 Church of England parishes in the borough. Amongst other matters, it exercises at deanery level deliberative powers as well as bringing together the views of the parishes in the deanery on common problems. Lay representatives are elected for a three year term, the mandate of the current representatives expiring on 31 May 2011.

David Longbottom (Christ Church, Isle of Dogs) is Lay chairman, co-chairing Synod with Fr. Alan Green, Area Dean. The Synod met on three occasions during 2010: 9 March, 10 June and 7 October. The year also saw the Parish's two representatives casting their votes in the election of a new General Synod.

At its first meeting in March it was reported that both Bishop Stephen and Archdeacon Lyle had sadly resigned on health grounds. Synod discussed during the course of the year the consequences of these vacancies – the three Stepney Area Deans covering for the Archdeacon and the Bishop of Willesden's appointment as acting bishop – together with the process and timing for filling these posts. There was a Thanksgiving service for both men on 6 July at St. John's Hackney. In common with other parishes, St George-in-the-East, contributed to a farewell gift and to a scrapbook presented to them with a page about each parish.

The Diocese's development plans at Kings Cross were successfully opposed by Synod. On its behalf, the Area Dean wrote to the Diocese expressing concern over the wisdom of liquidating the entire diocesan property portfolio in favour of a prestige office development. The controversy and the letter were reported in the *Church Times*.

In June, Synod heard from the Rev. Duncan Ross at St Paul's Bow and two representatives from Poplar Harca on the Bow Project and Partnerships. This gave information and ideas about how the church fits into the re-development of an area and the wider community.

Diocesan finances were an important topic as always. At the Common Fund and Treasurers' meeting in October the parishes in the Deanery agreed an overall increase in the common fund contributions of 10.4 percent (considerably in excess of the 4 percent requested). Theresa Moses, Diocesan Finance Adviser, talked about reducing the 2010 budget deficit of £1.3m. Measures taken to address this problem have included reducing the number of clerical posts across the diocese, limiting the 2009 stipend increase to 3 percent (with no rise in 2010), and reducing administrative costs.

Work on revising the Deanery Review Progress Report led by the Rev. Ric Thorpe continued. The focus has been on collecting information and data from each parish.

In June, acting through Synod, the Area Dean took the initiative in opposing the English Defence League's proposed march through Tower Hamlets. All churches were encouraged to participate in a rally and march from Stepney Green Park to Ali Altab Park. Members of the congregation at St. George-in-the-East took part in the rally.

Deanery Synod Representatives, Richard Powell and Margaret Coulter

Churches together in Stepney and Wapping (CTSW)

CTSW is an ecumenical grouping of churches which has the aim of encouraging churches in the area to work and socialise together. Fr Peter McGeary of St Mary's Cable Street continued as chair.

The group held a few events and services over the year. The Good Friday walk of witness was well attended and CTSW also held an advent service.

CTSW Representatives, Alex Nelson and Edith Wyeth

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Introduction

This review should be read in conjunction with the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet for the year ended 31 December 2010 and the notes therewith.

The financial statements have been prepared on the accruals basis and have been the subject of an independent audit.

As is explained in the notes, the accounts are categorised into unrestricted and restricted accounts. The PCC may also designate unrestricted funds for particular purposes.

The restricted funds include Watney Street Hall Trust, £36,138 (2009: £35,956), Planet Street Institute Trusts, £16,050 (2009: £15,023) and the Thomas Dickenson Fund £12,573. During 2010, the London Diocesan Fund, the Custodian Trustee of Planet Street chose to transfer the custody of the trust monies to the PCC. At the same time, the PCC took advantage of provisions in the Charities Act 2006 passing a resolution to allow it to spend, if necessary, the permanent endowment. The Planet Street fund remains subject to the same charitable objects as before *i.e.*, educational purposes in the parish. Thomas Dickenson is a charitable trust having the object of helping the disadvantaged in the community. It was formerly administered centrally in relation to the parishes of Christ Church Spitalfields, St. Dunstan and All Saints, Stepney and this parish, but will now be administered separately by each church.

Unrestricted income and expenditure

Unrestricted income increased slightly to £141,790 whilst expenditure rose to £107,808. The increase in expenditure relates mainly to repairs and maintenance carried out to comply with the recommendations of the last Quinquennial Inspection (QI) report on the fabric of the building and refurbishment works to flat 4.

The parish's principal sources of income are rental from Green Gables School and the London Diocese for the use of the crypt together with rent from the church's four residential flats. Further income is received by way of hiring fees for the use of the church and its office accommodation. It should be noted that the arrears from NTMTC and Green Gables outstanding at the end of 2009 have been cleared although one of the tenants of the church flats fell into arrears in 2010 and steps have been taken to address this.

Giving by the congregation including Stewardship is also an important part of the parish's income. At £10,386, this was lower than last year (2009: £11,060), but at least the standing order gift aided element was slightly higher. Unfortunately, the amount of tax that may be reclaimed under the Government's Gift Aid scheme will fall from April 2011 thereby reducing the benefit to the church. Other donations of £1,556 (2009: £6,606) were received during the year.

The PCC is most grateful for people's continuing generosity. Details on how to give including information on the Stewardship scheme are available from the Parish website: www.stgite.org.uk.

Major fabric expenditure

A total of £16,202 was spent on refurbishing flat 4 (subsequently licensed to residential occupiers at a market rent) and on miscellaneous repairs to the church flats. Work began on implementing the recommendations in the QI report with expenditure incurred of £6,386. Significant sums are likely to be spent over the next few years. Provisional costs estimates in the QI include £74,700 for those works considered to be essential within 18 months, and those essential within five years, a further £82,950.

In addition, £9,812 was spent on general repairs and maintenance to the church and £12,582 on enhancing security around the church site. The latter was funded from a grant made by the local authority to churches in the area for this purpose.

Common Fund

The parish's Common Fund Contribution (CFC) paid out of unrestricted funds increased in 2010 to £43,000 (2009: £39,000). This is our contribution to the Diocese of London to pay for the Clergy, their training, pensions and central services. The gross Parish Standard cost for 2010 was £64,060 which meant that the parish received significant support through Common Fund from other parishes in the Diocese. 2011 will see the parish make further progress toward paying a greater proportion of this cost. It is our policy to pay a fair and affordable sum gradually increasing the amount we pay.

Reserves

It is the PCC's practice to budget for a surplus on unrestricted funds, £33,982 in order to increase its unrestricted general reserves, now £163,389, to meet the costs of repairs and improvements to the fabric of the building in the long term. Nonetheless, depending on the progress of the QI programme of works and the actual costs incurred, it is likely that the parish will see a deficit on unrestricted funds at sometime over the next few years requiring the use of the reserves.

In addition to its general reserve, the PCC has designated as restricted funds a Wellclose Square depreciation fund out of a proportion of the rental payments from Green Gables School. The objective is to create a redevelopment fund over the course of the 20 year licence period. To this end, up to £22,000 is invested annually (2010: £16,500) in the CBF Church of England Investment fund, an equity based fund, managed by CCLA. This is currently valued at £82,563 (2009: £57,485) the increase this year reflecting general

market conditions and contributions. Its value has been subject to fluctuation during the period, but the PCC considers that it remains appropriately invested bearing in mind that it is for the long term.

Our gratitude and appreciation go to Fiona Lawrence, the parish administrator, for keeping the books and to our auditor, Stephen Pearl.

Hon. Parish Treasurer, Richard Powell

The Annual Report and Financial Statements were approved by St George-in-the-East PCC on 15 March 2011.