

St. John's Church Stratford London E15

ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2012



It all happened in Stratford during 2012 - the Olympic Torch Passes St John's

Incorporating the
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PCC and AUDITED ACCOUNTS

For the Parish of St. John with ~~Christ Church~~ and ~~St. James~~ Stratford

(Registered charity no. 1132176)

for the year ended 31st December 2012

VICAR'S REPORT

2012 came and went, and we survived it! We had prepared carefully for the **Ultimate Gold** Mission and we managed to deliver. It was a huge collaborative effort, and an act of faith, and we thank God for the sense of partnership, for the commitment of so many people, for the support from Christians far and near, for the gifts of so many people and, of course, for the good weather!

The **Ultimate Gold** was about more than 2012. We have received a huge amount of training, discovered gifts, learned to work together and formed new partnerships, so we hope and pray that the mission, ministry and spirit of the Ultimate Gold will continue for many years to come. We now know we can do it!

It was good to have Peter Ngugi back for 2012, and great to welcome Belinda and, in due course, Bella. It was also good to welcome Robert Otule to the team. Robert has a special responsibility for the Evening Service and for services at Westfield. We have also been privileged to have Peter Kinyanjui with us all year, although I suspect he will be moving on to a post of greater responsibility soon. The whole team has worked so hard during the year, and I am grateful to be part of such a vibrant team of Ministers. I am also excited by the diversity of the team, and aware of the fact that the Anglican Communion is so apparent in our Church fellowship.

The strength of our team enabled me to take on a new responsibility as Associate Minister at St Matthew's, our neighbouring Church, in autumn 2012. St Matthew's has provided a home for the Co-ordinating Chaplain to inSpire the inSpire Prayer Room at Westfield. With the departure of Rev. Julia Murphy, it seemed natural that I should offer some help during St. Matthew's hour of need. I was delighted that the Bishop appointed Rev. Christy Asinugo as Co-ordinating Chaplain at Westfield and Vicar-designate at St. Matthew's. The plan is that my involvement at St. Matthew's is strictly a temporary arrangement - I will help Christy and the Church work out the future of the building and the ministry there for 2 years or so, then withdraw gracefully. It is wonderful to work with Christy again.

Most of the teenagers Confirmed in November were baptised at St John's as babies or young children. This demonstrates the effectiveness of our on-going work with children and young people. I believe that young people growing up today face far more challenges to their faith than any previous generation for hundreds of years. We must be ready to support and encourage them to grow in faith; they will not grow up as Christians unless their families, and the whole Church family pray for them, encourage them and show them a good example of Jesus at work - that is a challenge for all of us. We aim to develop our 4th Sunday Together All-Age Service during 2013, so that we can all learn to be disciples together.

2013 will bring new challenges and opportunities. Eon Wade will be commissioned as a Parish Evangelist. Patricia Larocque will be commissioned as a Pastoral Assistant. We hope to see new gifts emerging to meet the challenge of post-2012 ministry, of continued growth in our parish population, and of growing ministry to the "Old Town" and to Westfield. In all things, Jesus must be in charge, and he alone must have the glory

David Richards

The Annual Review is, again, in two parts. The first part contains reports, reflecting all that happens at St. John's, written by a variety of people and edited by the Vicar. Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to this section.

The second part is the official report of the Parochial Church Council, approved by the PCC and conforming, we trust, to the legal standards required by the Charity Commissioners. This part also contains the audited PCC accounts. Thanks to those who have helped draft this report, and to all involved in compiling our accounts. Thanks, also, to all who have typed, printed, collated and stapled this document. *David Richards*

2012 AT A GLANCE – Extracts from the Weekly Newsletters

There are pictures of some of these events on the Church website at www.stjohnse15.co.uk/galleries/gallery.html . There are more pictures of the Ultimate Gold Festival at www.stratfordchurches.co.uk/galleries/ugg.html

- Dave welcomed a new baby nearly every week during 2012, it's no wonder the children's groups are overflowing – praise the Lord!
- In January Rev. Peter Kinyanjui was commissioned as our Associate Minister – we knew it would just be for a short time, while he settled into the Church of England.
- Our Olympic & Paralympic Festival (The Ultimate Gold) was launched at Highway Church in February, and life was very busy from then until the middle of September.
- We celebrated marriage in February with a lovely booklet of Bible verses and tips for married life from couples in the congregation (*"He created them male and female....a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."* Genesis 2)
- St. John's was in charge of the Service at the inSpiration Rest & Faith Space at Westfield Shopping Centre once a month. Robert Otule co-ordinated and various people helped him. Different groups joined in – Women's Group, Church on Wednesday, YPF, Men's Group.
- There were some difficult questions at the St. John's Quiz Night in March.
- The children and young people took part in a healthy eating challenge.
- St. John's Women's Group organised a special event on Breast Cancer Awareness.
- Several Church members got married during the year : Tim & Eva in March, Chizoma & Agwu in April, Rajiv & Freya in the West Country in July, William & Shirley in October.
- There was a Men's Barbecue and a Women's Barbecue at Peter & Belinda Ngugi's home.
- The programme for the Summer Wednesday Lunchtime Concerts was the most ambitious ever, and there were extra concerts during the Games.
- The party to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June was a very colourful occasion - red, white and blue, to be precise!
- At the end of July we welcomed the world when the Olympic Games came to town. The sun came out and we joined in the party with the Ultimate Gold Festival.
- The Festival continued in August and lots of dancers and singers performed in the Churchyard – several groups came from Brazil, fact-finding before the Rio Games in 2016
- There was a brief pause, and then the Ultimate Gold Festival started again at the end of August and into September during the Paralympics
- We welcomed Rev David Ibiayo back in September to baptise his niece and nephews.
- Sadly, Lady Comfort Nzewuihe, a long-standing Church member died. The Wake-keeping was at St. John's in September.
- The choir and musicians "hit the big-time" in October, when they went to lead the Service at Chelmsford Cathedral when Robert was licensed as a Reader.
- The Women's Group organised some popular Fellowship Lunches during the year.
- The "Healing Café" on Tuesdays can be a joyful occasion, especially when people celebrate their Birthday, as Sheva did in October.
- Diabetic UK had a workshop after a Sunday Morning Service in October.
- The British Institute of Organ Studies awarded St. John's Church Organ a certificate as an historic Church Organ, and it's now listed in their Register as an historic Pipe Organ.
- Ugandan Church members celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Independence.
- The Poppy Day Appeal at St. John's raised £160 for wounded survivors of wars.
- The Bishop of Barking joined us once again for the Confirmation in November.
- The BBC filmed part of the Sunday Morning Service in November for a documentary on local support for the campaign against the demolition of the Carpenters Estate.
- A new venture this year was the LoveJos Carol Service, supporting Christians in Jos who celebrate Jesus in the midst of persecution.
- At the end of December there was a Christmas Christening, which was a lovely way to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



WE MEET ON SUNDAYS. Sundays are an important part of our Mission and Ministry.

The Bible expects that Christians will meet together to praise God: "*Praise God with the trumpet, the harp, the lyre, the tambourine, strings and flute*" - (Psalm 150), to encourage one another: "*Let us not give up meeting together,.....but let us encourage one another*" - (Hebrews 10:25), and to share ministry together: "*To each one a gift of the Spirit is given for the common good*" - (1 Corinthians 12:7). We meet together to share faith and learn how to live for Jesus, wherever we are, during the week.

11:00 – time for good fellowship and friendship!

The 11:00 morning service on Sundays remains the largest of the weekly services. The average attendance during 2012 was 324. The service alternates between Prayer & Praise and Holy Communion. The outline structure of the service remains the same each week to allow the regular members to feel comfortable and at home, but the service also provides the formal traditional Anglican worship for newcomers or visitors.

In 2012, due to the Olympics, Stratford had an increase in the number of visitors and at St John's we were ready for all those seeking a Sunday morning service at the local Anglican Church. The church was decorated with flags from all around the world and there were welcome cards printed in different languages. We were thrilled and encouraged by the number of visitors from around the world who enjoyed our style of worship and made St John's their 'home from home' whilst residing here for the Olympics.

The challenge for the morning service is possibly to make sure there is sufficient variety to engage all people from different ages, backgrounds and culture. At St John's this is achieved through the different ways of doing liturgy and by valuing the different ministries and gifts of the members as they come together to serve God.

The hymns, songs and music are an integral part of our worship. The choir and the band help to create not only a vibrant atmosphere but to draw us together in worship with God at the centre. The 'all age' service held on the last Sunday of the month is always great fun as the children enjoy crashing and banging any number of instruments. The preaching has definitely seen variety this year as not only has the team expanded, but there have been a number of excellent guest preachers.

The service as a whole reflects the church's commitment to mission, outreach and spreading the gospel. Our time together in prayer focuses on those we support in the mission fields as well as God's purposes for us as church. I believe our time of prayer is important to our members as there are always prayer requests made. This is the time during the service when we stand together as one to petition the Almighty God for one another's needs.

The morning service continues to be a time of good fellowship and friendship. This service relies on a large team of people working well together. Praise God that at St John's we have such a team.

The challenges for the year ahead is possibly how to help regular church members discover new dimensions in worship and how church through its teaching and preaching enables spiritual growth.

Cheryl Ramballi - Reader

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ON SUNDAY

THE ARK. At the end of 2012 there were 43 children aged 1-3½ on the Ark Register, which compares with 44 in 2011 and 40 in 2010. There are usually 12 – 15 children in the group each week. A number of children attend nearly every Sunday, which is excellent, and they make friends and learn a great deal over time. They will always gain more than the children who just attend occasionally. There were 12 leaders during 2012 (thank you).

SUNDAY CLUB. There are 4 Sunday Club groups covering the ages from 3½ -13. At the end of 2012 the number of children registered was:

Sparklers (age 3½ – 5)	51 (46 in 2011)
Kingdom Kids (age 6 – 7)	26 (21 in 2011)
The 'J' Team (age 8 – 10)	28 (23 in 2011)
Teen LIVE! (age 11 – 13)	33 (37 in 2011)

During the year 25 adults have been leaders or assistants for the various Sunday Club groups – thank you everyone. I regularly go to different groups and the quality of the teaching is excellent.

This year, once again, we bought some chickens for a development project at an Anglican mission school in central Zambia, instead of Easter Eggs for the children.

We use the Scripture Union "Light" syllabus. The topics in 2012 were:

January – God is with us from year to year
February – The Sermon on the Mount
March – Jeremiah the prophet
April – Victorious love (Easter)
May – Daring Daniel
June – Queen Esther
July – The early Christian Church in Acts

September – Nehemiah
 October – Jesus heals, helps and provides
 (in Matthew’s Gospel)
 November – Noah and the Flood
 December – God comes to his people
 (Christmas)

At the start of the 2012 Olympic year we knew, as a church, that we couldn’t just carry on as normal. The PCC adopted a policy of “Not in 2012” to scale back on all activities to give us time to plan for the whole Olympic & Paralympic period and recover afterwards. This meant that the Sunday Club Birthday at the end of April was a low-key event and we didn’t organise a Saints’ Party in October. However, the Ultimate Gold Festival during the Olympic & Paralympic Games was a great time for children with lots of special activities every day – puppets, face-painting, entertainers, craft and lots more. It was good to see some of the older children helping in various ways. The extra open-air Services in September during the Paralympics did mean there were a few less Sunday Club lessons in groups, but the weather was good so no-one minded.

Thanks to Frances Aubrey for leading the 12-16s Confirmation classes – in November 12 members of Sunday Club were confirmed. It’s interesting to note that 10 of these young people were baptised at St. John’s.

By Christmas we’d recovered from the Olympics and activities were back to normal. Children in Kingdom Kids made the large Church Christmas card and the children under 8 dressed up for a Nativity procession. All the children who attended over the Christmas season were given a present from St. John’s – a book of Bible stories or similar.

THE YPF GROUP is St. John’s youth group and it meets regularly during the Sunday Morning Service, and occasionally for activities at other times. At the end of 2012 there were 24 young people aged 14 – 19 on the YPF Register. Weekly attendances fluctuate but are generally good and people often bring their friends.

There weren’t many extra activities in 2012 due to the fact that it was a very busy year. The young people did go as a group to the Service at InSpiration at Westfield at the end of May. They also had a Christmas Party in December.

Several YPF members were volunteers during the Ultimate Gold Olympic & Paralympic outreach. They also enjoyed activities like football, table tennis and the different bands. During the summer we were joined by people from YWAM, (Youth With A Mission), and this was very positive for our young people.

In September we said “farewell” to Elis & Sheila

Matthews as Elis has become a student at Vicar training college in Cambridge. Freya Sidhu joined the team after her marriage to Rajiv in July. Chizoma Onwuka went on maternity leave just before Christmas. Thank you to all the YPF Leaders who have served during the year.

Carol Richards, Assistant Minister - Children and Young People

Carol Richards was St. John’s designated Child Protection Officer in 2012



Children at the Ultimate Gold Festival

THE EVENING SERVICE is doing well. We have an average attendance of about 47. This service meets the need of people who cannot make to the morning one for reasons that they are working, or find the evening service quieter and more reflective. The make up of this service is still very multicultural, and a few families come with their children.

The set up of the evening service is almost the same one that we follow in the morning. But we have different teaching series. We have a lively time of Prayer and Praise, although I feel that we may benefit more if we had more people in the choir.

Peter Ngugi - Curate

CHOIR AND BAND

Over the course of this year, the choir has grown and developed, with existing members using their skills and new members quickly settling in making valuable contributions. We contributed special items for both the Easter and Christmas services, which were very well received. Awaydays, now more properly called Workshops, continue to be popular and are a means of learning new work and putting in some concentrated practice. A feature of the 2012 programme has been the introduction of more members developing their

ministries leading the Prayer and Praise section of services and the Worship songs for Communion and Prayer Ministry. Several members have discovered a gift for this and are gradually overcoming the nerve-racking business of standing up in front of 300 people and then singing!

Professor Donald Preece, from Queen Mary College, University of London, who was writing a book on the historic church organs of East London, wanted to include the St. John's organ and advised us that we could obtain Historic Organ status, a formal acknowledgement of the organ's age and quality. With Professor Preece's help and encouragement, Geoff Hobbs, our organist, completed all the paper work and the organ now has a Grade 2 certificate in the Historic Organs Certificate Scheme. This means that the organ cannot be altered in any way without the permission of the Historic Organs organisation.

Saving the best until last, the Choir and Band were invited to lead the worship in Chelmsford Cathedral for the Service when Robert Otule was Licensed as a Reader. We persuaded Richard Aubrey to come with us and lead the singing. We began with a programme of worship songs before the service started and then led the singing of a number of worship songs during the service, including the Fellingham Sanctus, sung during the preparation for communion. Many members of the congregation commented to us afterwards that our singing had greatly helped them in their worship, which is, after all, what we were there for.

Frances Aubrey - Music Director

PRAYER MINISTRY in the Prayer Zone. continues to be a very important part of our Sunday Morning and evening services. Prayer Ministers work in pairs listening attentively with compassion to the request from people seeking help. The steady number of people who come forward for prayer shows that God is moving by his spirit in this ministry.

Seven people were trained in January and joined the group -thank God we have a healthy number of 13 prayer ministers. We did not have a refresher course this year as we were all engaged with the very successful Ultimate Gold Mission. Alleluia!

My vision is that God will enable us to meet in the spring of 2013 for prayer, refreshing and openness that we may continue to grow as one in him for his service to his praise and glory. Amen.

Sheva Williams - Reader and Prayer Ministry Leader

SUNDAY SERVICE WELCOMERS

In his Letter to the Romans Paul writes of seven Christian gifts of service that build up "one body in Christ" (by which he means the Church). Amongst these seven Paul comments "if it is a gift of practical service, then let us devote ourselves to serving", adding that "in the service of the Lord, work not half-heatedly, but with conscientiousness and an eager spirit". It is with these good intentions that, at the last count, around a fifth of the congregation has volunteered to form part of the Welcoming Team. Why is this "service" so important? The first face a stranger or casual visitor to St John's will see will be that of a member of our Welcoming Team; and for a regular attender the face of a known friend is also a sign of community spirit and love. The responsibility here is considerable and valuable and I, for one, am very grateful for all who undertake it, a gratitude I know is shared by the Clergy and other members of the leadership.

St John's has two Parish Wardens and two Assistant Wardens: we have that many because we have a large congregation of worshippers. We all know and appreciate (greatly) the religious service that ordained and lay Ministers give to our community, but they, quite properly, rely on many of the rest of us to perform some of the every-day jobs to leave them free for the more direct Mission. Some of us get to wear badges and go to PCC meetings, yet remember, we are all part of the St John's Team, Wardens, Welcomers, Car Park attendants and, of course, all of us in the congregation. We can all contribute to that "one body of Christ".

If I have any targets for the future then it would be to build upon the generosity of volunteers amongst the congregation: one of the things that really pleases me when on duty "at the back" is the willingness and eagerness of St John's members to step in and help out if, for example, a Welcomer is missing, or latterly, in translating our foreign language Greeting Cards. It is also vital that Welcomers are freed-up to take full part in the central St John's functions of Bible Readings, Sermon, Intercessions. We must be proud of St John's as a beautiful building, as a place of worship, as a symbol for a revived Stratford and, most importantly, as the House of God.

Christopher Aubrey - Churchwarden

TEA MAKERS are volunteers with an ongoing Ministry at St. John's, and are very busy on Sunday's after the morning and evening service. We work as a team that refreshed church members in a relax atmosphere in the café where we meet, greet and make new friends. Volunteers and church members are always at hand to serve

others and in their own special way will celebrate an event of their choice or a birthday.

We operate on a rota basis, once a month, and are still growing in numbers - about 30 – 35, and never short of people wanting to help.

We were faced with challenges during the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics and Paralympics in the year. These unsung heroes were always ready and prepared to welcome visitors and passers-by in the churchyard throughout the late summer evenings.

I thank God for his power at work in the lives of these people stepping out in faith to serve. I am very grateful for all those willing volunteers who gave up their time in an unscheduled situation to serve others. May they all be blessed in the service of the Lord.

Patricia Larocque - Churchwarden

SUNDAY SERVICES AT WESTFIELD SHOPPING CENTRE are shared among several churches which form part of the Stratford churches network.

St John's is one of these participant churches with services led by members of the congregation on the fourth Sunday, (and fifth when applicable), of the month throughout the year.

St John's holds the honour of being the first church group to hold a Sunday service at the Westfield inSpiration Rest and Faith Space, and has since hosted many different types of service meetings ranging from all-age services to Eucharistic services.

WE MEET DURING THE WEEK. Jesus said that the Temple at Jerusalem should be: "*A house of prayer for all nations*" - (Mark 11:17). St. John's ministry and mission continues throughout the week. There are daily prayers at 9am and 5pm Monday-Friday, mid-week services, homegroups, and our Healing Cafe. The church is also open for prayer almost every day

THE TUESDAY DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY makes a start after 10am by catching up on what's going on in our world. Then we pray for all God's people and for ourselves that our creator will continue to guide and protect us as we serve him. After which we sing a few hymns and songs then we read and discuss the Bible we have just finished reading Titus. Most enlightening.

We have also been to the V&A Museum, Lunched at the Britannia Hotel and been to the cinema a few times. Gill usually leads the group, and I stand in when she is away.

Yvonne Bailey

St John's services follow a typical Anglican style of worship with service sheets provided by the church, however services are not rigid to form but rather more open to discussion, fellowship and worship. This hopefully provides the space to anyone who may join in to feel more relaxed and open to God.

Most meetings are led by Robert Otule, supported by Eon Wade, providing musical accompaniment. Services have tended to start at 11.00am until about 12.30pm when regular visitors to the space are admitted into the space.

It is our prayer that more members of the St John's congregation will be inspired to join in the Sunday meetings as this would be an ideal opportunity to train new leaders within the church; allowing musicians, teachers, and those exploring vocational ministry to sense the leading of the Holy Spirit in their own lives. We pray that the ministry of Sunday worship services at inSpiration will grow from strength to strength.

Robert Otule - Reader and inSpire Assistant Chaplain

THE LONDON ACHOLI CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP continues to meet at St John's on the first Sunday afternoon of every month. On January 1st 2012, they joined our morning service, and helped lead some of the worship with their amazing "Udungu" instruments. They also played some music at the Ultimate Gold Festival. This group brings together Acholi-speaking Christians from all over London. It is wonderful to welcome back Rev. Modicum Okello, occasionally, to lead services.

David Richards

THE HEALING CAFE continues to meet every Tuesday 11am-2.30 pm in the church cafe. Six of us prayer ministers work lovingly together supporting each other and catering for the needs of anyone who comes to the healing cafe to the best of our ability. We believe that everyone is special. Numbers vary from 7-20. Regular attendees have grown spiritually and willingly pray openly. Most are happy to stay for the short lunchtime service.

We provide a free self-service trolley of tea, coffee and biscuits. Our 1.30 pm meal after the service started last year has really made a hit. We never know how many to cook for - we tend to aim for

20 people. Thanks to all who contribute to this ministry in various ways especially when we are short of staff. Everyone has expressed gratitude for the service we provide and feel blessed to be of humble service.

With God's help our aim for 2013 is to continue to help all who come to us through listening, mentoring and prayer in the hope that they will receive God's peace and love. We would love to have volunteers for cooking - please talk to me if you think you can help...

Sheva Williams Reader and Healing Cafe leader

THE TUESDAY LUNCHTIME SERVICE

offers twenty minutes of worship, prayer and Bible teaching, a chance to take time out to reflect and recharge.

Over the year, we have looked at the Old and New Testament, sometimes going through a book-1 Thessalonians and Daniel-and sometimes following a theme, including preparing for mission and looking in the gospels at what Jesus offers those who follow Him. We've also looked at Paul's teaching on how to live as Christians and how our faith affects every area of our lives. Dave, Sheva, Peter and I lead the services and its always a challenge to say everything in fifteen minutes! We hope those who come are also challenged, as well as encouraged and equipped.

We have a faithful congregation, some of whom come from different churches, and others join us week by week. As usual, our largest numbers are for the Christmas carol service, when everyone working in the local offices receives an invitation.

Just twenty minutes, but God uses the time to speak and to encourage. Come and join us.

Iris Bryzak

CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY meets at 8pm. For one and a half hours we gather together to worship our Lord, share fellowship and engage in a lively discussion and study of the Bible. We occasionally share Holy Communion.

This meeting is less formal and as such is held in the church's café area. Tea, coffee and refreshments are available throughout the meeting. Attendance is quite fluid with numbers ranging from five to fifteen. We have seen many new faces throughout the year.

During worship, we sing songs of praise, which is then usually followed by a time of prayer. People are encouraged to pray for the issues that concern them. Bible study subjects may be proposed by anyone.

Reading though the Scriptures in this relaxed way

allows questions to be asked which in turn invites friendly debate and discussion. It's the ideal opportunity gain a deeper understanding of God's word. During 2012 we covered:

- Branches - from the Gospel of John
- A step closer to the Passion.
- The Bible - Beginning to End.
- Miracles
- Mission
- Meeting Jesus
- Acts - What happened next?
- Advent hope

Yvy Carter

THE THURSDAY LUNCHTIME HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

is a unique service as it reaches those who want to experience a sacramental service in the week. So far we have an average of 15 people in attendance. The service shows potential in growth but this may have been prompted by the introduction of tea coffee and biscuits after the service. My feeling is that people are enjoying themselves and some have made this service a contact point of meeting with other people.

I enjoy this service.

Peter Ngugi - Curate

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S GROUP meets once a month on Friday evenings. The group's continued emphasis was on fellowship, combined with pastoral care. Some members visited those church members who were ill, bereaved or in need of some support. Come Dine with me Sunday lunches' continued to be a welcome distraction for those who enjoying a chat and fellowship instead of 'busyness'. A workshop on Breast awareness, proved very popular and the group was able to strengthen its mission link to Good Life Club (GLC), through a planned visit to Chiang Mai office and prayers for the persecuted. During 2013, we aim to continue our support for St John's, and to give assistance where necessary during the installation of new clergy for St Saviours, St Matthew's and St Paul's. We also aim to work with other Women's Groups in our Parish. We are planning to arrange another relief package to be sent to our mission partner (GLC), and, possibly, another workshop on Women's health and well-being.

Sharon Cumberbatch Chair of Women's Group

THE MEN'S GROUP meets on the last Thursday of every month from 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Church. We also met on the 2nd Thursday of every month at Pastor Peter Ngugi's residence before Baby Bella's arrival in the summer. Attendance has improved to approximately 15.

The group was set up for men to fellowship together, to learn more and develop in depth what the bible represents and how we as men can better understand and practise it in our daily lives. Also to spread the biblical teaching amongst other men we come in contact with socially and in our respective places of work and business.

We have had interesting discussions from motivational speakers with Medical and Human relations backgrounds who have shared their experiences.

Also in the past year, apart from holding a Men's Breakfast event where an invited special speaker spoke to members on his work as a Christian Minister using his musical skills, and leading the Father's Day Service we have had various other monthly discussions around biblical topics such as, the Armour of God, doing Christian life together, etc. Members also attended the open Deanery Synod meeting where Bishop Stephen of Chelmsford Diocese spoke on the topic "What is Prayer?"

We have held social events - two BBQs with loads of fun - one of them on a wet Saturday afternoon/evening), and a Christmas Dinner at the O2 with the Women's Group.

Members were also very active in the Stratford Churches "Ultimate Goal" event during the Summer Olympics hosted in Stratford - What an experience!

In the New Year, our aim is to hold on faith, develop ourselves by introducing other activities and work more in concert with the Women's Group to the glory of God. We also intend to increase the frequency of our Bible Study meetings and host another Men's Prayer Breakfast among other events.

Alfred Talabi and Tolu Babarinsa.

THE AGENDA GROUP seeks to bring together single (never married, widowed, divorced, separated) adults within the body of St. John's Church to meet on a regular basis to

fellowship, socialise, support and discuss issues and challenges which affect us most. Agenda forums are held on a monthly basis on the last Saturday of each month from 19:00 to 21:30

Since the establishment of the Agenda Forum back in November 2010, we have continued to meet each month to discuss a whole series of interesting and thought provoking topics within informal lively debates. Issues explored during 2012 include:

- Singleness & Time management
- Intimacy & Solitude
- Singleness: a Fashion or Calling?
- Cooking for One
- Singleness after Separation, Death or Divorce
- Single Socialising
- Single & Happy vs. Single & Miserable
- Dating: How to do it? Are you ready?
- Single at Christmas

Maxine Webster

13th NEWHAM SCOUT GROUP meets every Tuesday, term time only, between 5.30 and 8:00 pm.

During the last year the group has increased its members to 15 children and 5 adults this includes 2 new leaders. The group exists to teach young children life skills and independence in a safe environment.

In 2012 the group participated in trips to the Pantomime and Paradise Wildlife Park. We held a jubilee party, a weekend camp and a trip to Colchester Zoo to see Father Christmas.

Our aims for 2013 are to increase the number of our members, both children and adults. We also hope to raise more funds for the group so that we can keep our work within the local community. New members are always welcome.

Christine Grey, Group Scout Leader

THE ST JOHN'S PRAYER HOTLINE, is always ready to offer prayers at a time of emergencies or particular need - simply phone the through to the Office and they will get passed on to our network.

St John's is always nice and clean on Sundays..... because a dedicated band of **GRIMEBUSTERS** work hard to clean the Church every Saturday.
A big thank you to all of them!

WE ENGAGE WITH THE WORLD AROUND US.

Jesus said: "Go and make disciples of all nations". - (Matthew 28:19). St. John's Church aims to be, "Local, Outward-Looking and Participating", (Faith in the City Report). We want to relate to the local community and reflect the love of Jesus for those around us.

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

We continue to work at making the most of the Mission opportunities, provided by our location, Sunday Services and open doors. We have continued with a number of regular Mission events

and initiatives during the year including Prayer Walks, the Healing Cafe, Christmas and Easter mission opportunities and Christmas and Easter cards around the parish.

The big event of 2012 was obviously **THE ULTIMATE GOLD FESTIVAL**. After a lot of training and preparation throughout the year, this became a mission in two phases.

THE OLYMPIC PHASE - 26th July - 12th August

Planning was extensive and detailed. The practice festivals in 2010 and 2011 were very useful in helping the TFM team settle into the area and in working out the format of the festival. We aimed to provide a full and varied programme of Christian entertainment and witness, and enough trained people to talk with enquirers. Lots of gazebos allowed us to survive the occasional shower, and provided shade from hot sun. The outdoor Prayer zone was well-used. The Children's Zone and Puppets were popular. Refreshments were good. It was important to be able to offer hospitality. The Kenyan and Nigerian Evenings were good. There were many Open Air worship events, and the Bishop of barking joined us for 3 of them.

We worked with a number of partners including

- Other Stratford Churches,
- **Through Faith Missions**, who provided the main evangelistic team
- **Open Air Campaigners** who used a variety of different evangelistic opportunities.
- **The YWAM Mega Cities** performing arts team
- **Echo**, a local Christian band, who were a mainstay of the evening entertainment and led an evening service.
- **Share Jesus International and More than Gold**, who provided a full programme of Christian entertainers.
- **The Canadian Greater Europe Mission (GEM) Team** joined us for a week and were useful in the Children's Zone
- **Jolly Jack the clown** added some unique entertainment.
-

- **St John's "Associates"**. Richard Aubrey gave a major concert, and he, Denise Mapp and Paul Ganney led some informal worship times during the evenings. It was great to welcome back Rev. Darren McIndoe; his input was invaluable. Rev. Christy Asinugo, Rev. Cornelius Henry, and Rev. Pat Baggeley all joined in at various times.

92 St. John's Church members were volunteers with an Ultimate Gold badge - some were only able to offer a few sessions, others turned up nearly every day. Church members joined in almost every aspect of ministry from practical fetching, carrying and stewarding to frontline evangelism.

PARALYMPIC PHASE: 29th August - 9th September

Planning was much less detailed. A programme emerged as people got on board, and as we built momentum with the improving weather, things happened.

- **OAC** re-scheduled their annual Prayer Walk to join us for the first few days, and Gareth Owen was around for almost the whole time. This was crucial in providing serious evangelistic input.
- **Echo** played a major concert and led a very successful evening service.
- **YWAM Mega Cities team**. A different team offered dance, music, face painting and drama, and were mainstays of our work during the Paralympics.
- **Games Pastors** used the church for daily briefings and breaks, and proved very useful in talking with individuals.
- **Gideons International** used the church as a base and gave out hundreds of Bibles.
- **The UK Disabled People's Council** brought some events to the Churchyard
- **Wheels for the World**, a Christian charity, spent 2 days supplying athletes and officials with refurbished wheelchairs and mobility aids.
- **Richard Aubrey** did another successful concert.
- **Jolly Jack the clown** joined us again.

The programme which emerged was billed as a "Chill-out in the Churchyard", rather than a festival and included the Prayer Zone, Children's zone, refreshments, presentations, entertainment, busking from Dave, (the Vicar) and Peter Ngugi, (the Curate). Dave interviewed people with a roving mic and encouraged them to share their

faith stories. The God Test was very popular, and led to a number of conversations and some commitments.

This was maintained every day. Chairs and tables were set up "cafe-style" rather than "theatre-style" to reflect smaller numbers and a reduced programme.

St John's participation was amazing. Church members kept turning up and, as we went on, became determined to see the week through, with a genuine commitment to do our best for the Paralympics and a sense that God was blessing our efforts.

Throughout the year **THE GAZEBO TEAM** meet Saturday morning, 9.30am for 30minutes prayer before outreach, the number of people involved range from 4 to 8. They set up the Gazebo outside the church yard from 10.00 am offering prayer, coffee, tea and biscuits to passers by.

During the year they have also:

- Led a Sunday morning service at Westfield for prayer & discussion
- Gone on a letterbox drop to the new apartment blocks in Stratford.
- Joined in an Olympic Park Prayer Walk
- Organised a Westfield Prayer Walk, praying for the management, shops, staff and security guards who work at the centre.
- Joined in the Ultimate Gold Festival - Olympic & Paralympic

After the Festival OAC evangelist Gareth Owen joined the team once a month with his Sketchboard.

David Richards, Vicar, and Eon Wade, Gazebo Team Leader

RECEPTIONISTS. St John's is open every day, and this is made possible through the work of our team. The reception is covered by a team of volunteers, there are two receptionist per day; each do 3 hours from 10am - 1 pm and 1 pm and 4 pm.

Our main duty is to welcome everyone to St John's directing the groups to the different rooms. From time to time we are asked about the history of the church. We also make sure the building is secure. Each receptionist has duties they carry out, from sorting the music, filling envelopes, folding leaflets etc. We also do the Easter and Christmas cards.- we really look forward to these!

During 2012 we had 1 new member to the team - Maria. She is settling in quite well. 2012 was also our Olympic Mission which we were involved in. Some of our Receptionists were trained as Tour Guides, others made tea, sandwiches, and

various other jobs, which brought out the best in all of us.

We look forward to 2013, continuing to do what we do to the very best of our abilities - with God's help we will continue to serve him.

Bridget Richards

LUNCH TIME CONCERTS

The 2012 season of concerts was arguably the best we have yet seen. With 29 concerts over the summer, instead of the usual 22 and with 3 concerts per week during the Olympic and Paralympic Games, we were awash with talented musicians! There was a pleasing mix of 'old' friends and new discoveries. In this season, we saw a marked increase in the number of advanced students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, all of whom were good and some just breath-taking in their musicianship and maturity. From all the wonderful music making over the summer, I would single out the concert during the Olympics, when a new sonata for Flute and Organ, commissioned especially for the St. John's Lunch-time concerts was performed – and uploaded to YouTube the same day! The music was brilliant, as was the performance. Audiences for the Wednesday concerts grew over the summer and from quite early on, we were regularly seeing more than 30 people per concert. The 2013 season is almost fully booked, with another mix of established and new performers. We are also planning a special concert of Passion Music for Holy Week, branching out with musicians from the summer.

Frances Aubrey, Summer Music Organiser

THE MISSION GIVING COMMITTEE

has had a busy year, with new members and a change of Convenor. Ade Awokoya joined the group at the beginning of the year, and Frances Aubrey took over from Rafe Smallman as Convenor. During 2012 we began to support a new group. Faith in Schools (FiS), a new Charity in Newham, working with Primary Schools to give teachers the opportunity of having Christian teachers, with volunteers from local churches, delivering the Christian aspects of the RE syllabus. St. John's is well represented within FiS as several members are volunteers and Frances Aubrey is a Trustee.

Another of our supported groups, Through Faith Missions, already good friends of ours, were much in evidence here throughout the year, with several training sessions leading up to their presence throughout the Olympic Games with a large team working in the churchyard and the surrounding area every day.

Matthew Moran-Ellis, the Leprosy Mission London Area Co-Coordinator, came and preached at an evening service in November and gave us a challenging and insightful talk.

At the end of the year, there were discussions as to how to distribute the emergency fund which had not been called on during the year. We decided to split the money between two UK organisations which had had particularly heavy calls on their aid, NAPAC, because of the Jimmy Saville scandal, and the British Red Cross, as a result of the dreadful floods recently.

Our next task being to decide who will be supported for 2013. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact Frances Aubrey, the Convenor. We are also keen to hear from anyone who feels that their ministry within St. John's could include service on the Mission Giving Committee. There are usually three meetings per year, with some work keeping contact with two of the supported groups during the year. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact me.

ALLOCATION OF MISSION GIVING in 2011

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

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

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

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

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

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

£500 Lifewords – Providing evangelistic tracts in every language

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

£500 St Paul's Church Middleport - funds for supporting ministry in a deprived area of Stoke-on-Trent.

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

£500 Spitalfields Crypt – A Christian run hostel for single men based at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch

£500 St. Joseph's Hospice – A hospice in Hackney run by the Roman Catholic Church providing care for terminally ill patients

£500 Through Faith Missions – A mission organisation working with local churches to organise evangelistic missions

£500 XLP - providing Christian support for assemblies, RE lessons and activities in Newham secondary schools

NEW £500 Newham Faith in Schools - supporting RE teaching in primary schools

£8,100 TOTAL

THERE WERE NO EMERGENCY FUND

DONATIONS:

OTHER DONATIONS:

- **£876** for the Stratford Winter Nightshelter was collected at Christmas Services.
- **£160** was collected for the Poppy Appeal,

Frances Aubrey, Convenor

COMMUNITY MEETING FACILITIES AT ST. JOHN'S.

St. John's aims to be open all week to serve the community. The requests for use of the Church facilities are increasing year on year.

Our priorities are to meet the perceived needs of the local community. We particularly seek to provide space and encouragement for:

- Community arts
- Children and young people
- Community meetings and events
- Education and training
- A subsidiary aim is to allow the church to be open for a large part of every day as a place of peace and quiet in a busy part of London, and as a venue for displays and exhibitions.

During 2012 a large number of organisations used our facilities.

The London Borough of Newham held several of their meetings in the Church space, including meetings for LBN Social Services, LBN Leisure Services, Newham Health Team, Newham Careers Network, Newham Youth Offending Team, Newham Psychological Service, Stratford And Newton Ward Councillors hold their weekly surgery at the Church.

Other Public Sector users included: Newham Primary Care Trust, Newham Centre For Mental Health, Newham House, Newham Link, JLARS, East London NHS Foundation Trust, Olympic Delivery Authority, Newham NHS, North East London Cancer Network.

Substance Misuse Group, Service User Council, Stratford Town Centre Forum, Community Health Team, Stratford Community Forum, Inland Revenue, Met Police Safer Neighbourhood Team

Voluntary Organisations included: Newham Writers Group, Newham Careers Network, Newham Volunteer, Age UK, Deafblind UK, Royal London Society For Blind:

Music and Arts users included: East London Chorus, Newham Music Academy, Stratford Circus, Newham Youth People Chorus, Lunchtime Concerts.

Education/Training: Apple Pie Enterprises, Stratford Saturday School, Diocesan

Communicators Conference, Birkbeck College, Christians IN Education, Faiths in School, Actorshop, On Track Recruitment, North East London Adoption, After Adoption.

Community Groups included Field Studies Council, Mind, UK Disabled People's Council, Black & Ethnic Minority Care Forum, Community Involvement Team, Community Links, LookAhead, Fundamental.

Counselling – Mental Health Groups, Hearing Voices Group, Newham Psychology Treatment Centre.

Children's Development /Training: Theatre Royal (Youth Theatre), One Voice Programme, Scouts and Iroko Theatre Company, The Blend, Adult Training Network, Free Legal Advice Service.

Other Users included: New Fieldworks, Guinness South, FieldVision, Marketing Science, Spa Future Thinking, Iceland, National Childbirth Trust, Mind, Diocesan Regeneration Forum, Diocese Youth Training, Market Research, B M Research, Safer Neighbourhood Team, Three Angels Hair, Theatre Resource, The Forum For Health & wellbeing, Positive East, East London CVS Network, ITN Solicitors, One World Foundation Africa, Ass UK, Dementia Care Team, Fencing For Losers, Epilepsy Action, G4S Security, Mackenzie Arnold Security.

2012 was a blessed year. God had given us the opportunity to host the Ultimate Gold Festival during the Olympics and Paralympics. Everyone was so excited about the Olympics, but I can say I was really excited about our Mission. As a church we were blessed with the work God called us to do in the Mission - what a awesome time I had, and I am sure everyone that took part were glad they did. Glory to God - it's good to see his fruitfulness.

As we enter another year, I know God will keep the groups coming in to use our facilities. Our rooms are reasonably priced so people will keep coming especially as God is for us and he will always provide for us.

Yet again I thank all our hard working staff. We pray to God to keep different groups coming into our church and, as they enter our doors, I know our receptionist will open their hearts to them as they always do. Let us open the doors of St Johns church to whoever wants to know Jesus always:

Kay Garib, Assistant Minister, Administration

ST JOHN'S MINI-SHOP

The Accounts for the year appear elsewhere in the Annual Report.

Our Christian Books and cards are purchased, on a sale or return basis, from "Books for Life" in Bethnal Green. We had extra items this year so we could have a bigger display for Olympic & Paralympic visitors. Several new volunteers helped to staff the Mini-shop during this time.

Fair-trade items are now available much more widely in local supermarkets, which is good news. This does mean that our own sales of fair-trade goods will decrease.

Thanks to everyone who has helped to staff the Mini-shop during the year.

Carol Richards



STAFF AT ST. JOHN'S DURING 2012:

* Denotes volunteer worker.

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2012.

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting the whole mission of the church pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in the ecclesiastical parish of St. John with Christ Church and St. James, Stratford

THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2012.

ST. JOHN'S

MINISTERS

Rev. David Richards *Vicar*

Rev. Peter Ngugi *Curate*

Carol Richards *Assistant Minister, Children and Young People, Child Protection Officer for St. John's, Deanery Synod representative*

Rosemond Isiodu *Reader*

Robert Otule *Reader*

Cheryl Ramballi *Reader*

Sheva Williams *Reader*

Kay Garib *Assistant Minister, Administration*

CHURCH WARDENS

Chris Aubrey *(Deanery Synod representative)*

Tolu Babarinsa

Gill Carter *(PCC Vice Chair)*

Patricia Larocque

Jane Ajayi *(from April 2012)*

Yvonne Bailey

James Beckles

John Burman *(Deanery Synod representative)*

Adrian Clarke

Manny Ibiayo *(Treasurer)*

Chizoma Onwuka *(formerly Mbataku)*

Glyn Morgan

Beverly Slingo

Alfred Talabi

Rev Peter Kinyanjui *(Associate Minister)* was invited to attend PCC meetings

ST. JAMES'

MINISTER

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

CHURCH WARDENS

Edith Biryabarema

Barbara Tomlinson

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

Emmanuel Adomako

Tunji Amuda *(to April 2012)*

Julius Okhomina *(from April 2012)*

Sandra Walden *(PCC Secretary)*

Janet Williams *(Deanery Synod representative)*

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and all members of the Roll are eligible to stand for election to the PCC.

There are 2 church buildings within the parish, St. John's, the Broadway, London E15 1NG and St. James, 98 St. James' Road, London E15 1RN.

Day to day responsibility for the mission, ministry and maintenance of St. James Church is delegated to the St. James Church Committee, which meets regularly and is chaired by the Minister in Charge of St. James'. This Committee reports regularly to the PCC.

The PCC met on 8 occasions during 2012. Meetings were held at St John's Church on Monday evenings at 7.30pm during all months except April, August, September and December.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

In order to discharge their responsibilities the following items were discussed by the PCC:

Most of the country had been focusing on '2012' for the past 7 years, when London was chosen as the city to host the Olympics and Paralympics, and these events did somewhat dominate the year as much time was required to address the 'Ultimate Gold' outreach programme. This proved to need extensive and detailed planning, especially with the practical things of feeding and accommodating the TFM team who were joining us, and with organising the entertainment each day. However, it was so good to partner with many of our neighbouring churches, as well as other Christian organisations from around the world and it proved to be a most successful summer period.

Early in the year, we discussed changes to the parish boundary, relating to the development of what will be the new E20 postcode area and its ongoing changes from 2013 and beyond, and agreed these with the Diocese. We also gave much thought to the Council's proposal to demolish the Carpenters Estate in order to make way for a new university campus and prayed this would not happen and the community would be saved.

We organised further training with TFM in February in preparation for the 'Ultimate Gold Mission' mentioned above and many people discovered new skills and talents along the way.

St John's improved its welcome area with a marvellous display of leaflets in various languages, each showing the flag of the countries represented and also a new display screen in the Café area. New and improved signage was attached also to the church railings.

St James' School got a new Governor in Jeanette Meadway, following on from Janet Williams, who had served in the position for some twenty years. St James Church also improved its welcome by external modifications to ensure easy access for those with a disability. St James also participated in the nationwide Macmillan Coffee Morning and raised more than £450.00 for their work with cancer care.

We continued to make decisions on the maintenance of the church buildings and further damp was discovered and remedied in the crypt of St John's while St James had all metal removed from its roof, which was then completely sealed.

We touched on the issue of the practice of shared leadership and hope to continue with this in 2013.

To facilitate their work the PCC has responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric St. John's Church, the Broadway, London E15 and St. James Church, St. James' Road, London E15. During 2012 the following building issues were addressed:

At St. John's maintenance work was kept to a minimum because of the heavy programme around the Ultimate Gold Olympic Festival. We, did, however manage to complete work to repair broken railings, and relocate a section of railings, which had been damaged by a tree. This work was completed as part of an insurance claim. We also dealt with a leaking drain, which was causing damp in the Crypt.

At St. James': External lights triggered by movement were installed, as was a new ramp at the main door to

improve disabled access (prior to the church being used as a polling station in May 2012). Another substantial phase of work on the area outside the church created improved access round the rear of the church to the fire door using asphalt surfacing.

In addition to the St. James Committee, the PCC also has the following committees, which meet and report, as necessary, to full PCC meetings.

- ◇ **Standing Committee** for the whole PCC, which transacts emergency business between PCC meetings and occasionally meets to consider business referred to it by PCC.
- ◇ **Parish Housing Committee** for the whole PCC, which manages the assistant clergy house owned by the PCC.
- ◇ **Building Committee** for St. John's, which is responsible for the maintenance of St. John's church building.
- ◇ **Personnel Committee** for St. John's, which oversees lay workers, both voluntary and paid, at St. John's
- ◇ **Mission and Charity Giving Committee** for St. John's, which is responsible for giving away 10% of St. John's collections to missions and charities.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

The PCC are keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. All are welcome to attend our regular services.

- On the day of the 2012 Annual Meeting the Parish Electoral Roll numbered 351 (St. John's: 278, St. James': 73)
- During 2012, average Sunday attendances at St. John's were 324 morning and 65 evening.
- During 2012, average Sunday attendances at St. James' were 38 morning, 8 afternoon and 13 evening.

In addition to our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

We want our churches to be open to our community for private prayer, and this is achieved at St. John's through the employment of paid staff and the time generously given by our unpaid receptionists. St James is open for private prayer two days a week and a service of prayer is held at midday.

Both churches benefit the wider community as places for community meetings and activities and through our work of welcoming local schools for educational visits.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During 2012, PCC income from direct giving was below budget. Deanery Share payments to the Diocese were met in full by St. John's and St. James'. The Deanery Share payment is assessed by Newham Deanery, according to an agreed formula. Actual figures showed an increase over 2011 and will continue to increase for some years because of increased congregations at both churches. This payment goes towards the cost of clergy stipends throughout the Diocese of Chelmsford

Both churches are committed to giving away 10% of budgeted annual Giving income to missions and charities identified as organisations we aim to support.

During 2012 St John's gave away a total of £9318 to - *figure to be inserted* - organisations

- £10,200 was assigned to the Charities Fund, and £8100 was donated to 15 organisations in line with our Mission and Charity donations policy. The balance of assigned money, which was reserved for emergency responses, will be given away in early 2013. The remainder comprised money from special projects or collections for specific purposes.

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

During 2012 St. James donated a total of £900 to 4 organisations.

The net result for the year, in general funds, was a year on year deficit of £5307 for St. John's. There was a deficit of £1286 for St. James, partly due to a priority through the year for increasing support to the Fabric Fund in view of work undertaken in 2012. Transfers of funds are shown in the full accounts.

RESERVES POLICY:

St. John's policy is to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, (if possible), which equates to approximately six months unrestricted payments. This policy is based on the following factors:

- **Church membership is constantly changing within a community with a very transient population. Members' giving is therefore subject to fluctuation.**
- **Rents received for use of space in St John's church building are also subject to fluctuation because most users are community groups or Local Government departments, and are dependent on funding decisions for continued bookings**
- **St. John's has significant liabilities for staff salaries, and the possibility of heavy repair bills to the building in the future.**

The balance in the general fund at the year-end was £14232, which is considerably below this target. In 2011 PCC took the strategic decision to use some of the accumulated reserves to undertake urgent repair work, to the parapets, and in 2012, we incurred extra expenditure in relation to our ministry and mission to the visitors to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The lowered balance reflects these decisions. Our income in 2012 was also slightly below budget. The PCC aims to restore the balance to our target level over the coming years.

St. John's also has a designated Capital Asset Fund to meet some expected costs for fabric and equipment replacement. At the year-end this stood at £44500.

St. James' policy is to maintain a balance on general funds (if possible), which equates to approximately six months general payments. This policy is based on the following factors:

- **Church membership is constantly changing within a community with a very transient population. Members' giving is therefore subject to fluctuation.**
- **St. James has fewer regular bookings, which are also subject to change.**
- **St. James building is liable to require expensive repairs in the future.**

The balance in the general fund at the year-end was £3107, which represented just under 40% of this target figure: once current improvement work to the fabric is completed it is intended to start rebuilding the general fund balance.

More detailed financial information may be obtained from the annual accounts, printed on the following pages.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEWHAM DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod is a regional assembly of the Anglican Church, which consists of the Clergy and elected Lay Parishioners, under a Dean's **supervision**. The parish representatives for St John's are: Carol Richards, Chris Aubrey, and myself. St James reps are John Meadway and Janet Williams.

The Deanery Synod convenes 4 times a year at different churches within the Deanery. In 2012, there were 4 meetings, 2 taking place between January and March, with the others occurring between September and December, due to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, with various Churches in the Deanery undertaking mission to welcome visitors.

The Deanery Synod met:

- Thursday 30th January at 7.30 pm in St Bartholomew's Church, East Ham to discuss the Bishop of Chelmsford's Mission Statement
- Wednesday 28th March at 7.30pm in St Paul's Church Maryland Road, for a presentation on Olympic Inclusion, with a quiz about the Olympic Park and Village.
- Monday 24th September at 7.30pm in St Barnabas, Church, Browning Road, Manor Park E12, for a debriefing session on how Churches were meeting the Bishop of Chelmsford's Mission statement.
- Thursday 29th November at 7.30 pm in St Philip's Church, Whitwell Road, Plaistow E13, for an open meeting with the Bishop of Chelmsford on Prayer.

The average attendance was around 40-60 The attendance for November was larger, due to its openness. The Men's Group from St John's were in attendance when the Bishop visited St Philip's.

I feel that the Deanery Synod is meeting its own and the Bishop's aims by meeting their share of the Diocesan purse and coming up with novel ways to bring newcomers into Church and make them feel welcome.

I am looking forward to seeing how newcomers, both clergy and lay representatives, will integrate with existing members to retain the good continuity standard and hard working ethos that exist within the Synod.

Report by John Burman

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Incumbent: Rev. David Richards, St. John's Church, Stratford Broadway, London E15 1NG

PCC Vice-Chair: Gill Carter, St. John's Church, Stratford Broadway, London E15 1NG

PCC Secretary: Sandra Walden, St. John's Church, Stratford Broadway, London E15 1NG

PCC Treasurer: Manny Ibiayo, St. John's Church, Stratford Broadway, London E15 1NG

St John's Bank: Natwest Bank, 1-11 The Broadway, Stratford, London E15 4DX

St James' Bank: Natwest Bank, 309 Romford Road, London E7 9SH

Independent Examiner: Mr. Peter Morley FCMA

Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2012 are on the following pages.

David Richards, Vicar Gill Carter, PCC Vice Chair 18th March 2013

<p>A SEPARATE REVIEW of the work of St. John's Church in 2012, published by the Vicar, is available from the church office. The material in that review is collected and edited by the Vicar, has not been presented to the PCC for approval, and does not form part of this report.</p>
