



## **ANNUAL REPORT for 2010**

for presentation to the  
**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

on  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011  
at 8.00pm  
in the Moreland Hall,  
Holly Bush Vale, NW3

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# ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010

## Background

The church of St John-at-Hampstead, commonly known as Hampstead Parish Church, was consecrated in 1747 as the latest in a series of buildings on this site, which are assumed to go back to 986. The Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Stephen Tucker, (inducted Feb. 23rd 2001) in the task of participation in God's mission to the world, and taking counsel together for the sake of the pastoral, evangelistic, educational, social and ecumenical ministry of the church in the ecclesiastical parish which covers a large part of central Hampstead.

## MISSION STATEMENT

During the year we adopted a new motto and mission statement:

"Exploring our humanity: encountering the Divine"

Hampstead Parish Church (St John-at-Hampstead) belongs to the Church of England. With God's help we seek to:

- Extend to everyone the unconditional welcome and hospitality that God has shown to us in Jesus Christ
- Worship the living God in ways that engage with our human experience and empower us through his Spirit
- Provide a sense of belonging, spiritual grounding and continuity in our fast-changing society
- Foster a community that instils in people of all ages the values of love and service to both friends and strangers
- Nurture one another through our exploration of Scripture, faith and all that God has created

## PUBLIC BENEFIT

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the advancement of religion. It believes that working with the Vicar and curate for the promotion of the mission of the Church in the Parish, and in the wider community, it benefits the public, in particular, by providing

- 1) a variety of forms of public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development for the wide range of its members and for any member of the public wishing to take advantage of the services and opportunities which the church offers;
- 2) a place open by day providing quiet, rest and shelter for any who desire it, as well as space, facilities and encouragement for educational and community activities and for recreation; and

- 3) financial, moral and practical support for numerous other charities which benefit elements of the public that are in need locally, and national and international charities.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT:

### Acts of Parliament relating to St John-at-Hampstead

The Church building and the Churchyard are vested in the Vicar. Under an Act of Parliament of 1827 a group of Trustees was established in whom were vested the organ, fixtures and furniture of the church, and who have responsibility for maintaining the Church in good repair, and insuring the buildings, fixtures and furniture against damage by fire. The trustees are elected for a period of nine years and must reside within the old parish of Hampstead and requires us to elect 21 trustees.

### Membership of the PCC

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

Members of the PCC are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting [the APCM] in accordance with Church Representation Rules; members must be communicants of sixteen years and upwards on the roll of the parish and are elected for a three year term of office. Churchwardens are elected yearly but normally re-elected for a maximum of four years. In addition members of Diocesan and Deanery Synods are ex-officio members, as are the clergy. The Head Teacher of Hampstead Parochial School is also an ex-officio member of the PCC. As the APCM is held in April a calendar year covers a PCC with two differently composed memberships. At the first meeting of the PCC after the APCM it is agreed that Trustees and PCC members should meet jointly. At the same meeting an introduction is given to the responsibilities of the PCC members and the regulations which control their conduct of business. A new booklet is currently in preparation describing the responsibilities of PCC members. At the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 the PCC was as follows:

### Standing Committee

	Stephen Tucker	Vicar, Chairman ex officio
	Diana Finning	Churchwarden since 2008
	Andrew Penny	Churchwarden since 2007
	Peter Ginnings	Deputy churchwarden
	NickiSiddall	Deputy churchwarden
	Inigo Woolf	Treasurer
	Chris Cole	Stewardship Secretary
	Handley Stevens	Clerk

## Members of the PCC

### A. Trustees - elected for 9 years

2005	Ian Andrews	
2009	Gaynor Bassey	Electoral Roll Officer
2010	Nicholas Braimbridge	
2008	Marilyn Brooks	
2009	Elizabeth Carrington	
2006	Stephen Clarke	
2005	Diana Finning	Churchwarden
2010	Georgina Godwin	
2002	Angela Gardner	
2007	Scott Lupasko	
2008	Christine Money	
2003	Mark Nevard	
2005	Andrew Penny	Churchwarden
2007	Ted Pleasance	
2008	Margaret Rodgers	
2006	Handley Stevens	Clerk
2008	Nicholas White	
2010	John Willmer	
2010	Margaret Willmer	

### B. Members of the PCC – elected for 3 years

2008	Peter Beesley	
2008	Natasha Blumenthal	
2010	Robert Chote	
2010	Chris Cole	Stewardship Secretary
2008	David Diracles	
2010	Bob Dungey	
2009	Vanessa Fitzpatrick	
2010	SekaGraovac	
2008	Angela James	
2008	Suzanne Pinkerton	
2009	Stephanie Scott-Linden	
2008	NickiSiddall	Deputy Churchwarden
2009	Frances Spalding	
2009	Christine Weatherhead	
2008	Robert Welsford	

### C. Members of the Deanery Synod – elected for for 3 years – PCC ex officio

2008	Beryl Dowsett	
2008	Peter Ginnings	Deputy Churchwarden
2008	Rosemary Loyd	
2008	John Willmer	
2008	Inigo Woolf	Treasurer

#### D. Other Members ex officio

	Stephen Tucker	Vicar
	Emma Smith	Curate
	Simon Atkinson	Headteacher, HPS

#### E. In Attendance

	Lee Ward	Director of Music
	David Moore	Ass't Director of Music
	Katherine Reed	Parish Administrator

At the meeting of the Vestry on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010 Nicholas Braimbridge and Georgina Godwin were elected, and John Willmer and Margaret Willmer were re-elected, to serve as Trustees until 2019. At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on the same day Seka Graovac was elected, and Robert Chote, Chris Cole and Bob Dungey were re-elected, to serve on the Parochial Church Council until 2013. Emma Smith joined the parish on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 following her ordination as deacon on the previous day. Jim Walters left the parish in September 2010 to take up an appointment as chaplain to the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The PCC met five times during the year, on 11 February, 13 May, 15 July, 16 September and 11 November.

#### The Electoral Roll

The ER is essentially a list of those entitled to vote in the election of:

- members to the Parochial Church Council, and to the Deanery Synod;
- the Churchwardens

Once updated, the Diocese is notified of the number of people on our Electoral Roll as part of the annual Parish Returns. The year opened with 416 names on the Roll. During the year 20 names were added and 8 were removed either through death or relocation away from the parish. The net result is an Electoral Roll total of 428.

#### Working Parties of the PCC

The Standing Committee meets between the full meetings of the PCC and in an emergency if necessary. This committee is required by law. It has full power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to such directions as the PCC may give.

In addition there have been a number of sub committees or advisory groups to deal with specific areas for parish development described in the Parish Mission Action Plan, which consist of members of the PCC and other members of the congregation.

**The Advisory Group for Worship and Spirituality** exists to listen to congregational comments on the liturgy, to monitor the work of the choir and serving team, to advise the Vicar on the presentation of the liturgy, to explore possible developments in the liturgy, to consider issues referred to it by the PCC, and to review and develop the provision of retreats, quiet days and courses for the spiritual nurture of the parish.  
the Vicar [chair], Judy East (sec.)

**The Working Party for Pastoral Care** exists to review and develop the pastoral care of the congregation (including those who are housebound), to monitor the work of the sidesmen, welcomers and those responsible for hospitality after worship, to set up and monitor network groups to involve all members of the congregation and to ensure that newcomers are properly welcomed and involved.

Handley Stevens (Chair) The Revd Emma Smith (sec.)

**The Working Party for Children and Young People** supports and encourages the work of all our children's organizations and events, oversees parish policy on child protection and seeks to find ways in which the church can reach out and further its work with children and families. (*rewritten Nov. 2010*)

Diana Finning (Chair)

**The Working Party for Buildings and Fabric** exists to monitor the good repair and safety of the church, and to make recommendations for the improved use of the space available to us according to the developing needs of the congregation and the outside users of the crypt space.

Peter Ginnings [chair]

**The Working Party for Social Action** proposes the list of charities to be supported by the sums amounting to 10% of our parochial income agreed each year by the PCC. These sums come mainly from the proceeds of the Spring Fair and from collections taken at Christmas, Easter and Whitsun, the two latter being given to charities selected by the Vicar and Curate respectively. The group also provides information about and personal connection with these charities and a programme for increasing congregational involvement in the mission of the church and our response to the social needs of the area.

Rosemary Loyd (Chair)

**The Stewardship and Fund Raising Committee** meets to set financial targets, to encourage a culture of giving on a regular basis and to devise specific fund raising campaigns.

Charles Perrin (chair) Peter Ginnings (sec.)

**The Working Party for Volunteer Co-ordination** meets to share out responsibility for organising regular annual events (eg Spring Fair, Christmas Market, Harvest Festival) parties and celebrations and manages volunteers in other areas of parish life.

Elizabeth Beesley (chair)

**The Working Party for Communications** is responsible for the oversight and improvement of all areas of parish communication, through the website, magazine, emails, news sheets and notice boards.

Peter Ginnings (chair)

### **Attendance, baptisms, marriages, funerals**

Yet again the statistics which follow are not representative of our average annual figures because half term falls in October and many of our children and families can be away on holiday for at least two of the Sundays. This was offset this year by our holding the Harvest festival in October and by two special evensongs with much larger than average congregations. They do, however, give some guidance to growth or decline. The average attendance at worship on the Sundays in October (the period designated by the diocese for

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gathering such statistical information) was approximately 258 (229 last year) for all services, 211 adults and 47 children (179 adults and 47 children last year) with an average of 130 communicants (128 last year). There were 23 (36) baptisms, 8 (10) confirmation candidates, 8 (10) weddings and 11 (19) funerals. (Figures in brackets are for the previous year).

From the funeral registers we note in particular the death of David and Peter Lund, Judith Bumpus, Megan Prothero, Edith Sewell and David Christie Murray.

### **Activities and Achievements**

At the end of last year's report we set ourselves the following targets; these were discussed by members of the PCC at a meeting on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011 and the following conclusions were drawn:

#### **Targets for 2010 *indicating the relevant working parties***

##### **1 To extend our mission through the welcome of and hospitality for newcomers and visitors (Pastoral Care)**

The work of the group faltered during the first half of 2010 following the departure of Sarah Eynstone. However, a new Chair (HS) and a new Secretary (Emma Smith) were appointed in the summer to complete and implement the thorough review of pastoral care that had been begun. The effects of this should be seen in 2011. The elements of hospitality to newcomers which have already been addressed to some extent include:

- Initial clergy involvement with those who fill out yellow cards (ES phones them all within 10 days)
- Better record keeping for details of baptism and wedding candidates (now dealt with by Vicar's PA)
- New system of invitation to newcomers' parties – done by email from improved records to completers of yellow cards, plus baptism candidates, wedding couples and Holy Hamsters

The following questions were raised:

- Baptism candidates are often not well known to the congregation. Could there be lay follow-up visits after baptism? Could we re-introduce baptism parties for candidates and their families to meet one another and other members of the church?
- How can we encourage those who come to newcomers' parties to get involved in the church (whilst remembering that for some, anonymity and sporadic attendance are what they are seeking)?
- Can newcomers be linked into existing pastoral care groups? (It was felt that the core of these groups needs to be strengthened before this can happen).
- Are some people more likely to join a group with a cause they support (eg social action), rather than a social/support group within the church?

##### **2 To continue to expand our ministry for families and children (Children & YP)**

- The current children's and young people's team work well together.
- There have been a number of successful new events for children and families in 2010, including the Easter Saturday event and service, the Children's Christmas Activity Day, and

the participation of children in the Rutter Scratch Requiem. The Epiphany event and service at the beginning of 2011 was considered particularly successful in integrating whole families, rather than just children, and also other members of the congregation who enjoyed the service.

- Future events are also planned for Ascension Day, and for Emma Smith's first celebration of the Eucharist, which will be linked with the Junior Choir Prom and Sunday School Open Day. There will also be a teenagers event to discuss careers and career choices from a Christian perspective.

Further targets for 2011:

- The Children's Charter will be introduced in the diocese shortly. Churches will need to fulfil certain criteria in order to be signatories.
- It is important to balance the needs of families and other members of the congregation. The All-Age Eucharist needs to be re-considered, to draw children and families in without excluding other people.

### **3 To extend our pastoral networks and introduce a lay visiting programme (Pastoral Care)**

see answers to target 1

### **4 To engage more with our local community (Social Action)**

- The Social Action group has been going through the different charities supported, providing a new list for the next three years and seeking to engage further with them.
- This year, gifts were sought for the Caris Haringey Christmas party, which was very successful.
- Each month one charity is featured in the Parish Newsletter, to offer the congregation better information about the work of the charity, and also of the personal connection there may be to particular members of the church.

A number of further ideas for future targets were proposed:

- A Lenten soup lunch in aid of Christian Aid
- The need to do more for the local, non-churchgoing community, eg a farewell party for the local newsagents
- Forging links with local action groups in areas also important to the church, to demonstrate that the Church wishes to work with them, and does not have its own separate agenda (This has been started with C4WS, the Samaritan's Purse and refugees)
- Research into local fundraising groups, who might be glad of a connection with the church
- A greater emphasis on social action in connection with the Spring Fair
- A list of "designated Sundays" so that social action may be tied in more closely with the liturgy

### **5 To improve our internal and external communications (Communications)**

The group has been working hard on a variety of projects which will soon come to fruition:

- New booklets are nearly ready for distributing to newcomers when they fill in a yellow card, to new members of the electoral roll, and to new members of the PCC

- A new mission statement has been agreed (see above) and a new logo is being discussed by the PCC, for use on all letter headings and official documentation, which adds a grouping of people to the architectural outline of the church to emphasize the community as well as the building.
- Our website has been transferred to a new server making it simpler and easier to run
- New programmes are being identified which will enable us to keep a more effective (data protection compliant) data base, and communicate electronically with the congregation, sending out information, invitations, reports, etc
- Together with the working parties on pastoral care and buildings, the entrance and back of the church is being reassessed as a welcoming and informative space, with a view to providing new information boards and storage space; our architectural adviser has also been consulted

A suggested target for next year was the development of the website to provide more information about all the church's activities, groups and key personnel.

It was also suggested that vicarage parties should be held for those who join the electoral roll.

#### **6 To increase awareness of our true financial costs and shared responsibility for stewardship (Finance & Stewardship)**

- A new process of communication with those on the giving scheme had been introduced this year whereby a thank you letter was sent out at the end of the tax year. Subsequent letters were then sent out in preparation for stewardship month giving information about the church's finances and the needs for the coming year; this pattern seems to have been well received
- A major addition to the stewardship month was the introduction of a gift day when the vicar spent a Saturday in church to receive donations and new pledges and provide information about our finances
- The introduction of pew collections at the main Eucharist and at Evensong has both increased our income and raised awareness of the duty to support the church
- Although we did not achieve our expressed target of an additional £30k in income we did better than in any of the previous nine years in raising just over half the targeted increase

#### **7 To ensure appropriate training for staff and volunteers and administrative support for all our activities (Volunteer co-ordination; Standing committee)**

- The appointment of a paid personal Assistant to the Vicar, Paula Flynn has enabled the vicar to begin to get more control of his office work, emails, and filing
- Elizabeth Beesley, Andrew Penny and Emma Smith have formed a group to explore new ways of encouraging volunteers and matching people with tasks. Elizabeth has also formalised a list of helpers to call upon in catering for events

It was suggested that when people join the electoral roll we should make sure we know what they do and where their skills lie in order to facilitate the process of directly approaching people to help.

#### **8 To strengthen the PCC's corporate identity and engagement (Standing committee)**

- The strong attendance at the PCC morning was an indication of members commitment to their responsibility (26 present and 12 apologies)
- The new handbook will soon be available

It was suggested that at least one more opportunity should be provided for the PCC to come together to discuss the issues facing us, and to stimulate a sense of greater involvement and achievement

## **TARGETS FOR 2011**

1. To explore the reasons why larger churches either decline or fail to grow and to engage with the diocese in order to explore ways in which we might avoid these problems (The PCC)
2. To help those who are new to the church to become better integrated into the community. (Pastoral Working Party)
3. To consider ways in which the new Children's Charter can strengthen our involvement with children and young people and their families. (Children and Young People's Working Party)
4. To explore the provision of occasional services for those who do not wish to attend the All Age Eucharist, and those who might be attracted by non Eucharistic or more experimental forms of worship. (Worship Working party)
5. To detach the spirituality brief from the Worship WP and explore ways in which we might provide Quiet Days, prayer groups and retreats.
6. To provide an additional Saturday morning/afternoon session for the PCC to explore issues of parish policy or national church matters.
7. To strengthen existing practice and find new ways of encouraging members to support the church financially (Finance & Stewardship Working Party)
8. To ensure that all church organisations, groups, activities and personnel are featured on the Parish website and to complete the work on the storage of data and electronic communication with the congregation (Communications Working Party)
9. To install a new clergy vestry and develop the work of improving the provision of welcome and information at the entrance to the church (Buildings Working Party)
10. To develop our connections with the local community – for example through the North London Citizens – and with the Diocesan ALMA link (Outreach Working Party)

Many of the activities of the church are described in the reports which follow, so it only remains to say how deeply grateful we are to all those who continue to guide, and support the mission of this parish church in many, varied and generous ways.

*The Vicar.*

## **Church Wardens' Report**

The checking of the inventory is one of the more melancholy tasks for the Church Wardens, apt to provoke reflection on the vanity of human wishes and the corruption of moth and rust (not quite literally, although much of the unused silver is tarnished and ancient, redundant vestments quietly decomposing). We are, however, pleased to report that everything is present, some items more correct than others, some gathering dust, but nothing is missing. It gives me more pleasure to thank all those loyal volunteers who look after the humbler property of the church, such as the menders of hassocks and the repairers of pews and door handles. We are grateful too to the polishers of brass and sweepers of floors. Their

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actions and the results are indeed fine, and their attention holds back the time when the church will need complete redecoration. For the building, the major current concern is the stained glass windows, several of which need urgent repair at considerable expense. Some grants may be available to meet this but a wider appeal is inevitable.

The Vestry was redecorated in the Summer to make a much more attractive office for Parish Administrator and Curate and the Choir Vestry was reorganised to serve better the needs of Junior Choir and Church. Less visibly the Organ was re-leathered. It was decided not to have the bells re-hung; they are safe and functioning.

Although his paintings are only on loan, we owe a special thanks to Alf Lohr for invigorating the Lady Chapel and for his magnificent crib.

*Andrew Penny*

## **Junior Church Report**

The role of Junior Church is gaining momentum each year with children attending not only from the Hampstead Parochial but from many of the schools in the area. Our groups follow the Church of England Lectionary of common worship and are involved twice a term in All Age Eucharists celebrating events like Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Harvest festival and Candlemas. Fund raising events for the children include the **Spring Fair**, with games and activities for all ages, the **Christmas Market**, unfortunately not as successful this past year which was probably due to the bad weather, and finally the **Candlemas** coffee morning cake sale which is always a great favourite.

Those of us involved with Junior Church at St Johns feel that we are on a '*bit of a roll*' at the moment in terms of involving the children in child friendly activities. With the successful introduction of the Christmas Activity Day and the Epiphany service tea party (which was truly magical), Emma Smith is inspirational in making our children feel part of the church and with Diana Finning, Emma has a lot planned for this coming year. We are so lucky to have them both.

We have seen a shift in attendance between the groups over the past year with the Crèche, St Luke's (9-11) and St John's (12-14) being well attended but a slight fall off in numbers in St Matthew's (3-5) and St Mark's (6-9) groups. This has meant that two of the groups have swapped locations to accommodate the numbers.

Our leaders and helpers have continued to be dedicated in the work they do for the Junior Church and we are so very grateful for all their help. Last summer Annie Bainbridge took over running the Crèche from Vanessa Fitzpatrick and Anne is helped by Jane Padkin. They are introducing the little ones to more religious play and this Christmas the crèche children produced the most charming angels for the Christmas decorations in the church. Vanessa, along with Heather Pilley Hollander, are new leaders in St Mark's group. Junior Church works closely with Fr. Stephan and Emma, Katherine in the office and the two church wardens, Andrew and Diana, who all give invaluable help. We are well supported by Sam Donoghue of the London Diocese providing us with resource information and training courses.

*Chris Money and Marilyn Brooks*

## Holy Hamsters



Holy Hamsters, our baby and toddler service on Thursday mornings, has been growing and thriving over the past year. An average of 14 children and 14 parents or carers attend each week, to join in songs and prayers, to listen to a Bible story, and then to stay on for drinks and playtime.

To help with the growing numbers, and the administration involved, we have now appointed a volunteer lay co-ordinator, Alison Crick, who has completed a paediatric First Aid course, and has also introduced an element of art and crafts into the play session.

Looking ahead, we hope to have regular piano accompaniment for the songs (to add to Fr Stephen's flute), and hope shortly to produce a new publicity postcard to be distributed locally, in the Parochial School and at All-Age Eucharists.

*Emma Smith*

## Servers' Report

We aim to be "an open, welcoming and inclusive community of all ages", as set out in our Parish Mission Statement, and this is reflected in the diversity of our servers. We now have 25 regular servers with the addition of two new volunteers in recent months.

As servers, our role is to assist the clergy at the Eucharist, discreetly and with quiet efficiency. Our Parish Mission Statement describes our "public worship that is both dignified and inspiring", and we take pride in our contribution towards this.

In 2010 we said Goodbye and Good Luck to Father Jim and Hello to Mother Emma, who, together with our churchwardens Andrew and Diana, has done much to involve the children in our worship. As a server, it gives me pleasure to see the children gathered around the altar during the All Age Eucharist services.

We mostly serve at the Sunday Eucharist in teams of five but get busier at Christmas and Easter festivals, and I am always grateful to the team members who avail themselves to assist at evening and weekday services.

As Advent arrived, servers and partners fortified themselves with Angela's mulled wine and mince pies at our annual Christmas party.

*David Gardner*

## Report on the Cleaning Team

The cleaning team currently has 19 members, ideally we need 25 so that the pew cleaners can be responsible for 5 pews instead of 7/8. We have had 2 volunteers step down for various reasons, with the shortfall made up by 2 new volunteers, Patricia Edwards and Jules Lubbock.

The cleaning team continue make a very positive contribution to the church and also save it a great deal of money as otherwise the work would have to be done by contract cleaners. We are solely responsible for the main body of the church and the galleries, lobbies and stairs. We divide our six cleaning sessions between the body of the church and separately, galleries lobbies and stairs. The latter had become rather neglected but we have

conquered layers of soot and dust and we believe we have improved the standard of cleanliness in the church by so doing. This efficiency means that we do not need to work quite so hard to keep our lovely church well maintained. Nonetheless the work requires dedication on the part of the volunteers and a willingness to find the time to carry out their tasks.

I am sorry to say that the choir stalls continue to be mistreated, particularly the tops and this makes the thought of polishing them (done by me) a distressing and depressing undertaking. The tops are being scratched and scored and there is every possibility that this will continue. The paint work to the pews is becoming even more battered. The temptation to use the ledges and the hassocks as foot rests continues unabated as does bringing food and drink with the remains being left for clearing up by those on side duty.

As ever, I am always grateful for the time and care the team take, which means, despite my proprietorial concerns, I can sit in church on a Sunday morning and feel proud of the result we achieve.

*Beryl Dowsett*

### **Traidcraft**

Preparing for this year's Big Brew event, sensibly moved to coincide with Fairtrade Fortnight, gives an opportunity to re-read Traidcraft's promotional literature. Traidcraft is helping over a million poor producers around the world, and countless more will benefit from its advocacy work. You may feel that the increased visibility of Fairtrade marked products in the supermarkets means that the message of a fair return for poor producers is recognised in our society. Sadly fair trade still accounts for only 1% of the total sales of potentially fairly traded products in the UK. When times are tough for us here one may feel that one cannot afford Traidcraft goods, but please remember that every purchase helps. Contacting Traidcraft to find out why there were no almonds on sale revealed that the almond orchards in Pakistan had been washed away and there were therefore none for sale. How do poor producers cope when their livelihood has been destroyed?

This year our sales have remained much the same as last year at about £3,500. We have continued to run our monthly stall with the stalwart help of Judy East, Liz Clapp, Louise Coates, Sheena Ginnings and the Malik Family and are very grateful for their selling skills and ability to lift heavy boxes! Our Big Brew Event in March, held after the Parish Eucharist, was centred on promoting fair trade tea. We offered a cup of tea (or coffee) and a slice of home made cake and had the Tea Quiz, as well as running our usual stall. The charming decorations – tea cups – were produced by the Junior Church classes and we hope to be able to involve more of the children with the Traidcraft activities this year. We received £100 in donations which we sent to Traidcraft Exchange to help it fight poverty through trade.

In the autumn our sales received a boost when many kind members of the congregation bought food items from the stall to donate to the Simon Community, the recipient of our Harvest Festival gifts. We also had a stall after Evensong so that everybody had a chance to contribute. The Christmas Market was an opportunity to sell gifts, cards and Advent calendars as well as food. Choosing which gifts to buy from the catalogue is always a challenge, but Traidcraft makes this easier by having an event in September where one can preview the goods. Of course one person's charming present is another's white elephant

but our sales were good this year, and we welcome feedback of any kind. Products which are guaranteed to sell are dried fruit for Christmas cakes and puddings, as well as chocolate Advent calendars!

Finally, please remember that we are a Fairtrade church! Traidcraft supplies the church with tea, coffee, biscuits, juice and other products and we are committed to promoting Fairtrade during the year. We could not do this without the support of the members of the congregation who faithfully purchase from the Traidcraft stall and support our other events. Thank you all very much.

*Diana Finning*

### **The Churchyard and Additional Burial Ground**

Bought in 1811 and consecrated on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1812 [remember this date, it will become significant later] the Additional Burial Ground is under separate management from the churchyard but since, for the purposes of management by Camden and the lottery project, they count as one this report applies to what is happening in both.

2010 saw the hard landscaping we'd waited for so long finally carried through. The paths in the old churchyard were re-laid with gravel on a grid to stop it sliding down the slopes. The architects were keen to keep to the existing path layout as it goes right back to the 1750 extension. It is, in some places, rather steep but there wasn't much they could do about that. We're not totally convinced it's an ideal surface for wheelchairs but it's certainly better than the badly damaged tarmac that used to be on the paths, and hopefully it will pack down with use thus becoming smoother.

The Columbarium has been given a drastic make-over. It now has a ramp instead of steps, has been repaired, repaved, cleaned, is in the process of replanting, the seat has been re-laid – you need to see it to appreciate the amount of work that has gone on up there.

Several notable tombs have also been restored. The renovation to the Henry Cort gravestone involved adding a new piece of stone to the top corner and recarving a tiny piece of the inscription to complete the original design. So many of the graves have eroded over the years that if we didn't have the Camden History Society records made in the 80s to check with we'd have no idea what they used to say.

The gardeners too haven't been idle. The planting at the front of the church is doing well – the Christmas Box is flowering as I write and adding its fragrance to the cold air. Under the lottery project groups meet twice a week in addition to the monthly Saturday mornings which are open to anyone. There are also regular guided walks advertised around the church and occasional children's activities. A sound trail is in preparation which will be available for download to iPod for visitors to listen to as they go round the church and churchyards. For this local people and members of the congregation rub metaphorical shoulders with famous names [alas, each recording is done separately so we don't get to meet the stars].

We are particularly indebted to Honia Devlin, Lottery Project Officer, for her vision and enthusiasm.

*Judy East*

### **THE FLOWER TEAM**

Continues to provide flowers throughout the year at no cost to the church. For the second year running income has matched expenditure entirely due to the generosity of the team who work on a shoestring, as well as donations from the congregation and gifts from

wedding couples for whom Lesley Dungey and her team provide some truly beautiful arrangements. Costs are rising though and sometimes it is necessary to reduce the number of arrangements; there again, at other times we have flowers everywhere and it's a lovely surprise. As well as the flower arrangers there's a whole backroom team of people who prepare the Easter cross, hang the garlands, water the flowers midweek and drive to the wholesalers, without whose support we would struggle to put on the 'show' that everyone sees. To them too I extend my thanks.

We had an outing to Arundel Cathedral at Corpus Christi to see the flower carpet – a pattern of flowerheads stretching the length of the main aisle and finally processed over at the Corpus Christi service. This was followed up by a pub lunch and a wander round the castle gardens. Nearer home two of the team were invited to do arrangements at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church Flower Festival. Our thoughts are also turning to flower festivals as we have plans to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of the Additional Burial Ground on the 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012 [remember the date?] The flower arranging demonstration at the Spring Fair was popular but too many of the stallholders couldn't take the time out to attend it. We intend to do more over the intervening months to give people ideas. These will be open to anyone, not just the flower team – look out for dates in the parish magazine. We have been delighted to share the Christmas and Easter decorating days with the children helping with the flower cross or making their own Christmas decorations and hope to build on this when it comes to the Festival.

*Judy East*

### **Friends of the Music**

Although the Friends of the Music of Hampstead Parish Church have a much wider remit than merely fundraising, much of the success of the work of the Friends is measured in terms of the financial contribution we make to the music of the Church. So we are pleased to be able to report that, having set ourselves a target of £10,000 for the year, we have comfortably exceeded this. The money we raise is routed through the Hampstead Church Music Trust and we can look back on 2010 with a sense of pride, having raised for the Trust over £14,000. Much of this money comes from fund-raising events, but the donations that Friends make to the Trust in lieu of subscriptions to the Friends themselves are an important contributing factor.

During the year events have included **Desert Island Discs** in February when Frances Spalding was interviewed by Anne Stevens and gave a fascinating account of her life, a **Schumann Evening** in May, generously hosted by Bryan and Sirka Sanderson in their house's splendid Music Room when Martin Oxenham together with William and Leo Melvin provided us with a delightful programme of Schumann songs and chamber music, and the **Martindale Sidwell Recital** in October when we were privileged to be able to welcome James Bowman, who gave us a varied recital of songs ranging from Dowland to Handel and Britten to Finzi interspersed with amusing musical anecdotes. Mention must also be made of the **Scratch Requiem** in November when the Rutter *Requiem* was added to our repertoire – and when we saw the involvement of members of the Junior Choir for the first time as well as the introduction of a number of preparatory rehearsals very kindly taken by David Moore.

An important part of the work of the Friends relates to the training of the Junior Choir, and the strides that the Junior Choir has made during the year under the imaginative and enthusiastic leadership of David Moore are clear for all to hear. It was particularly good that at the end of the summer term we enjoyed an Evensong sung by the Junior and Adult Choirs together, an initiative we hope to see repeated in the year ahead.

Meanwhile, we continue to benefit from the Adult Choir which performs to the highest professional standards under the inspired direction of Lee Ward. We are indeed privileged to be able to enjoy, week after week, music of the very highest standard, maintaining the Anglican choral tradition in Hampstead that means so much to so many of us.

*Robert Welsford*  
*Chairman*

### **The Friends of the Drama**

This year, the Hampstead Players returned to France for the first time since 2006, with our summer production of Antony and Cleopatra. In addition to the French tour and our performances in Hampstead, we also performed at the South West Fest in Pimlico. Bill Risebero directed, with assistance from Ann Duarte.

Our autumn production was Oscar Wilde's classic political comedy An Ideal Husband, directed by Jane Mayfield. Updated to the 1960's, featuring sparkling performances and an even more sparkling wardrobe, this production included new members both onstage and backstage, as well as the return of some old friends.

The spring featured a joint performance with the Friends of the Music, in aid of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. Entitled "Called to Compassion," this evening raised awareness of refugees' experiences in Britain, and was a moving and contemplative performance. John Willmer and the Rev. James Walters were instrumental in organising this evening.

Also in conjunction with the Friends of the Music, we revived our tradition of "Drama in Worship" events, with a dramatised Evensong on Passion Sunday, directed by Margaret Houston. This service included readings from both the Old and New Testament, dramatised by actors and interspersed with choral and folk music. The church choir sang beautifully, and was critical in ensuring the success of the evening.

In the autumn, David Gardner led a play-reading of Ross, a little-known play based on the life of Lawrence of Arabia, and Margaret Houston led the fourth annual Birth and Death poetry evening. Both these events were lively, exciting, and well-attended.

This year, we also had the sad task of hosting two memorial evenings for members who have passed away – Diana Raymond and John Petti. To condense the contributions these two made to our society into a few hours was a daunting task, and on each occasion David Gardner and Bill Risebero worked closely with the families to ensure an evening that was poignant and personal.

*Margaret Pritchard*  
*Chairman*

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## Report from the Social Action and Outreach Committee

Approximately ten per cent of the income received by Hampstead Parish Church is given to charity, and every three years the P.C.C. reviews the list of chosen charities and amounts given. The general principle is that international, national and local organisations each receive approximately one-third of the total available for distribution.

The newly convened Committee met in the autumn, along with the Vicar, to revise the list and amounts given in light the needs of many deserving causes and groups. Each has a well-established link to our parish. This is a rolling programme, and two well-established charities (one local, one Zimbabwean) will now replace three others previously listed whose support we have completed. Several areas of need were taken into account, for instance: aid for education, for mental and physical health, for homelessness and hunger. We also aimed to continue to demonstrate geographical variation and to cover all age groups.

The P.C.C. agreed the Committee's recommendations, and an updated leaflet entitled *Giving and Reaching out 2011* will be available online and at the back of the church. Here you will find a brief description of the work of each charity and the name of the parish representative (from within our congregation). The Parish Magazine will include regular updates and information from the different organisations. Each has been chosen as a result of personal connection with members of our congregation or because they are regarded as important agencies of Christian mission.

Developing our outreach is very much part of the Committee's brief, and in March two new events were held at St. John's, promoting links with the local community and beyond. Responding to the Spring Appeal by the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, an evening of words and music was held in the church, organised in conjunction with its North West London Supporters' group. Secondly, and simultaneously, Fr. Jim had instigated a Passiontide exhibition of paintings of the Stations of the Cross. These were auctioned after Easter, and the proceeds forwarded to U.S.P.G. to support the work of Fr. Nicholas Wheeler in Cidade de Deus.

Meanwhile the Committee have continued to promote the projects with which they have particular connections and which are now very much part of the regular calendar of the parish: the sale of Fairtrade products each month; the highlighting of Refugee Week (with posters in church, Fr. Jim's article in the magazine and an Evensong preacher in June); the packing and blessing of Christmas shoeboxes in November for distribution by Samaritan's Purse (and liaising with Hampstead Hill School on this venture).

In December there was an urgent request from our link with CARIS Haringey: please could St. John's help by providing some toys for the charity's Children's Christmas Party. The congregation responded generously and a Committee member delivered them to Haringey.

The Committee very much hopes that parishioners will be well rewarded with information and involvement in this outreach work. Forthcoming dates include Lent lunches of soup and fruit (donations to Christian Aid) and a concert in church on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April by the St. Martin Singers (in aid of the Medical Foundation). And then on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> May is the parish event which provides the basis for our list of deserving causes – The Spring Fair.

Rosemary Loyd  
Convenor

## **Junior Choir Report**

It's been another busy year for the Junior Choir!

The choir currently numbers 17 choristers and we have been pleased to welcome five new choristers since writing last year. The choir still maintains its usual schedule of Thursday rehearsals 6.00-7.30p.m. and then 9.00a.m. on Sunday morning in preparation for the Eucharist.

Since writing last year one new development is that the Junior Choir have started to sing Choral Evensong by themselves. Saturday 15th March 2010 was the first occasion and was a resounding success! We then sang another service on Saturday 22nd May. This Lent term 2011 we have increased this a little and we are now trialling a service of Choral Evensong on the first Thursday of the month in term-time, starting at 7.00p.m. I feel it's a good route of progression for them as it means the choristers have to 'stand on their own two feet' and gives them a wider repertoire. So far so good at the moment!

Last July the Junior Choir sang Choral Evensong together with the adult choir to celebrate the Royal School of Church Music 'Music Sunday'. It was a great success and we hope to do this again this year.

In November 2010 the Junior Choir were involved in the 'Scratch Requiem' for the first time. John Rutter's setting was used for the first time too and everyone agreed it was a lot of fun! We hope to continue the tradition of the Junior Choir being part of the 'Scratch.'

In the run up to Christmas the Junior Choir had a busy schedule. The choristers sang Carols at Burgh House as part of the Christmas Fayre, a new tradition which we hope to continue, and also at Branch Hill residential home. The Service of Nine Lessons was a usual highlight, with the choristers performing a new carol written by me 'Sing Lullaby.'

The 'Royal School of Church Music' 'Voice for Life' chorister training programme is continuing well and we hope to award some medals at the end of the year. We have broadened the scope of this this academic year and the choristers have been learning about the English Choral Tradition and Hampstead's place in that as well as the 'nitty gritty' musical side. The choir vestry was transformed over the summer of 2010 and now provides a lovely environment for everyone to work in.

An enormous thanks go to many of you who support the work of the Junior Choir, but in particular, The Friends of the Music, Lee Ward, Lizzie Carrington, The Churchwardens, Mother Emma and Father Stephen. We couldn't do it without you!

*David Moore*

## **Report on the Hampstead Christian Study Centre**

The Summer Term and the Autumn Term 2010 were spent at St Peter's Studios, the small hall at St Peter's Belsize Square. In the Summer Term it seemed appropriate to consider some anniversaries falling in 2010 as last year's course on this theme had been popular. We looked at Diaghilev and the Ballets Russe with the Revd Stephen Tucker, Botticelli with a student doing very interesting research on him, Florence Nightingale with a speaker from the Florence Nightingale Museum, and Mrs Gaskell with Mary Shakeshaft. We had a very pleasant evening with a talk by Doris Asher and a video about Joyce Grenfell at St

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Andrew's URC Church, though once again we couldn't go into the garden because of the weather. Several members enjoyed an outing to Cookham and Cliveden.

In the Autumn Term we considered different ways of reading sacred texts. Those who attended this course felt it was one of the best we had run as the topics and speakers were so varied, from a detailed discussion of how the rabbis read scripture from Rabbi Rachel Montague to a dialogue between Rabbi Markus Lange and the Revd Stephen Tucker on the sacrifice of Isaac, from the work of a Jewish Scribe, Avielah Barclay, who demonstrated her craft to an illuminating discussion of the Koran by a liberal Muslim scholar, a lecture by Graham Gould on the origins of the New Testament, a beautifully illustrated lecture on mediaeval British art by Professor Michael Kauffmann and an amusing talk on Alexander Cruden by the Revd Jonathan Dean.

This Spring we have returned to the Crypt Room at St John's where we have again had a course based on the Bible. The Revd Stephen Tucker has given three scholarly and illuminating talks on St Matthew's Gospel. We shall end the course by paying tribute to the King James Bible which is 400 years old this year. Dr Alison Shell will give a talk on the literary influence of the Authorised Version and we shall end with a speaker from the Tyndale Society.

We return to St Peter's for our next Summer Term when our course will be on "Blue Plaques in Hampstead".

Once again I must thank Mrs Angela Read for her careful work as our Treasurer and all the members of our committee – Miss Doris Asher, Sr Patricia Harriss, Mrs Isabel Hariades, the Revd Claire Wilson, the Revd Jonathan Dean and the Revd Stephen Tucker – for their infinite capacity for coming up with ideas.

*Mary Shakeshaft*

### **North Camden Deanery Synod**

Synod met twice in the year 2010 (March and June).

The Clergy chapter enjoyed a post Christmas dinner in January together at a local restaurant and the Synod met at St Mary's Primrose Hill on 4<sup>th</sup> February for a fabulous social evening. Many thanks must go to the team there who worked so hard to make the evening so enjoyable.

The main business of the March meeting held at St Luke's, Kidderpore Avenue was a presentation from Fr Tim Pike about the Diocesan Links with the Church in Russia. A discussion followed. The meeting also received the accounts for 2009 and made some decisions about regular charitable giving including moving our principal support to the Churches Night Shelter. A good number of our parishes actively support and house this initiative and it was felt that after a number of years supporting a national initiative that the move to a local charity was a good one. School grant allocations were also made.

The June meeting at St Saviours considered the Common Fund and a proposed scheme across the Deanery for increasing and fairly sharing the payment of the cost of our clergy as a Deanery. The Clergy Chapter had discussed and agreed in principal a way forward and Synod looked at the scheme and broadly welcomed the approach.

The summer party took place at St Mary's Vicarage on July 11th – 4pm at St Mary's Vicarage and was well attended on a lovely summer's day.

Our October meeting was cancelled.

Deanery Sunday school meetings also took place on two occasions.

During the year three new curates arrived in the Deanery – Mothers Christine Cargill at St Mary with All Souls, Kilburn and St James, West Hampstead; Alysoun Whitton at Emmanuel, West Hampstead and Emma Dinwoody Smith at St John at Hampstead. Fr Ross Hutchinson also arrived as SSM to serve in St James West Hampstead and Fr Mark Speekes, returning to the Deanery to St Peter's, Belsize Park. The year also saw the departure of The Revd Graham Singh from Holy Trinity, Finchley Road and Fr James Walters from St John at Hampstead. The Revd John Lenton also left St John's Proprietary Chapel.

We were fortunate to welcome to the area two newly retired clergy – Mothers Claire Wilson and Joanna Yates. Mother Claire has taken on the role of supporting retired clergy in the Deanery.

The Synod has continued its usual business of reports from other synods and committees and school Governor appointments. The Synod accounts were found to be in order.

*Anne Femi  
Deanery Synod Secretary.*

**THE PARISH OF ST JOHN-AT-HAMPSTEAD  
CHURCH ROW, LONDON NW3  
CHURCHWARDENS (APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNATION) MEASURE 1964  
Minutes of a meeting of the Parishioners held on  
Wednesday 21st April 2010  
In the Moreland Hall, Holly Bush Vale, London NW3**

1. The Vicar, the Reverend Stephen Tucker, was appointed to chair the meeting and Handley Stevens was appointed as clerk.
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009 were approved for signature by the Chairman.
3. Diana Finning and Andrew Penny were nominated and re-elected unanimously, to serve as Churchwardens for the next year.
4. Peter Ginnings and Nicola Siddall were nominated and re-elected unanimously to serve as Deputy Churchwardens for the next year.
5. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

**THE PARISH OF ST JOHN-AT-HAMPSTEAD  
CHURCH ROW, LONDON NW3  
ACT OF PARLIAMENT OF 1827  
Minutes of a meeting of the Vestry held on Wednesday 21st April 2010  
In the Moreland Hall, Holly Bush Vale, London NW3**

1. The Vicar, the Reverend Stephen Tucker, was appointed to chair the meeting and Handley Stevens was appointed as clerk.
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2008 were approved for signature by the Chairman.
3. Nicholas Braimbridge and Georgina Godwin were elected, and John Willmer and Margaret Willmer were re-elected, to serve as Trustees until 2019
4. Reporting developments on the Hampstead Parochial Charities, the Treasurer reported that the sale to a neighbour of a narrow strip of land at Langley Marish had been finalised in the course of 2009. The proceeds of the sale, recorded in the accounts, were £15,000 less costs of £2334. In answer to a question as why there was £2662 of unexpended income, it was stated that there had been a need to provide for the costs in case the sale was not completed. The accumulated income could now be spent.
5. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

## Parish of St John-at-Hampstead

### Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in the Moreland Hall, Holly Bush Vale, NW3 at 8pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010

1. The Vicar took the Chair and Handley Stevens was appointed as Clerk.
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009 were approved for signature by the Chairman.
3. The cloud of volcanic ash had prevented Gaynor Bassey from attending the meeting. In her absence [Andrew Penny] noted that 21 names had been added to the Electoral Roll in 2009 and 5 had been removed as a result of death or moving away, so that there were 410 people on the roll at the end of the year. Gaynor would be asked on her return whether these figures should be brought up to the date of the annual meeting, and if so what they would be.
4. Seka Graovac was elected, and Robert Chote, Chris Cole and Bob Dungey were re-elected, to serve on the Parochial Church Council until 2013. Noting that Doris Asher was resigning from the PCC, the Vicar expressed his keen appreciation of her contribution to the work of the PCC, recalling that she had been Churchwarden at the time he was appointed.
- 5 The following were elected as sidesmen for the coming year:-

Peggy Agnew	David Gardner	Michael Port
<b>Helen Andrews</b>	Patrick Garland	Anne Purvis
<b>Ian Andrews</b>	Peter Ginnings	Mike Rawlings
Doris Asher	<b>Sheena Ginnings</b>	Sandie Rawlings
<b>Jane Bailey</b>	Seka Graovac	<b>Angela Read</b>
John Barker	<b>Howard Hudson</b>	Bill Risebero*
Gaynor Bassey	Anthony Hutton	Christine Risebero*
Peter Beesley	<b>Bridget Johnson</b>	John Risebero
Richard Blakesley	<b>Rosemary Loyd</b>	<b>Margaret Rodgers</b>
Natasha Blumenthal	Jonathan Mance	<b>Jon Siddall</b>
Alison Bolton	Patrick Mitchell	Nicki Siddall
Nick Braimbridge	Mark Nevard	Rebecca Siddall
Diana Brooks	<b>Suzanne O'Connor</b>	Estelle Spottiswoode
Jenny Bunn	Emily Paine*	Nick Walser
Stephen Clarke	Naomi Paine*	Mervyn Warren
<b>Chris Cole</b>	Dido Penny*	<b>Chris Weatherhead</b>
Kate Davey	Hector Penny	Rebecca Welsford*
Paul Daybell	Charles Perrin	Robert Welsford
David Diracles	Gill Perrin	<b>Nicholas White</b>
Bob Dungey	Suzanne Pinkerton	John Willmer
<b>Angela Gardner</b>	Ted Pleasance	Inigo Woolf*

Those whose names are printed in bold type are also welcomers. Those marked\* are not on the regular Sidesmen's rota, but sometimes help at Christmas services etc.

## 6 Annual Report

The Vicar introduced the Annual Report, drawing particular attention to the new format, which requires us to report progress against targets set in advance. In a large and busy parish much depended on the work of others within the structure of PCC working parties which had been developed in recent years to give focus to the different aspects of our work. In this connection he expressed his appreciation of the commitment shown by his curates, his Readers, his churchwardens and deputy churchwardens, as well as the host of other volunteers. Much of this work was reflected in the reports of the different groups at pages 8-20 of the parish report. Looking to the future, he drew attention to the targets for 2010 (page 7), each of which was assigned to one of the Working Parties, and to three proposals with significant financial implications: the next stages in the development of the church building following the successful refurbishment of the crypt rooms; the appointment of a part-time PA to release more of his own time for more productive work; and the growing case for a youth worker to build on and develop our work with children and young people. Questions were asked and answered about the scope for sharing a youth worker with another parish (under consideration, but difficult), about the work needed on the two bells, which might cost in the region of £10,000, and about valuable items on the inventory (see the churchwarden's report) including notably the steeple cup, now a star exhibit in the relevant display case at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Attention was also drawn to deficiencies in our arrangements for pastoral care, and this was acknowledged as a priority for the coming year.

## 7 Treasurer's Report

Introducing the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements of the PCC, which comprised the second half of the annual report, Inigo Woolf explained the principal features of the accounts by reference to a set of eight small charts and tables (copy attached).

- The Fabric Repair Reserve had necessarily been depleted in 2009, but now needed to be rebuilt.
- On the Parish Development Fund, the bank loan which had helped to pay for the curate's flat was being paid off faster than expected, but there was an uncomfortable peak in liabilities over the three years 2015/16/17.
- Within a broadly static figure for unrestricted income since 2005, committed giving was on a gently declining trend, despite repeated stewardship campaigns.
- Our contributions to the diocese had for many years been broadly equal to our own expenditure, but had recently fallen behind, which meant that we were giving less to the poorer parishes of the diocese.
- Too many of our regular contributors were clustered at the lower end of the spectrum.

The following points were made in discussion:

- The curate's flat had been empty since Sarah left in January. Since Emma would continue to live in her own home in West Hampstead, we were in the fortunate position of being able to let it from 1 April 2010 for £360 per week less commission. This would assist materially with the repayment of loans as they fell due.

- The 130 contributors might represent up to 200 parishioners. In addition there were about 30 people whose giving was less regular.
- The decline in committed giving since 2005 was probably because some of those who had died were among the largest contributors, but they often left generous legacies too. The increase between 2001 and 2005 was probably the result of fewer deaths and a growing economy.
- The benefit from gift aid was linked to the rate of income tax. This had been cut by 2% from April 2007, but charities had been given three years' grace at the old rate. When this ended, in April 2011, our income would fall by £3600 in that year, and by £5000 in a full year.
- Savings were pursued wherever possible, but the scope was limited. Basically we were not paying our way. If one assumed that people might be giving 5% of income after tax (as recommended by the diocese) the average level of contributions implied an average income of less than £20,000 per annum. So it looked as if there should be scope to press many existing contributors to give more. In addition, with an electoral roll of more than 400, we should expect to have at least 200 on the committed giving scheme.
- There was a need to give more emphasis to a culture of regular giving. One way to raise the level of awareness was to have pew collections at all the main services every week. It was agreed that this had to come back to the PCC as a matter of urgency.

The Vicar thanked Inigo for his helpful presentation, as well as his work as Treasurer throughout the year. Peter Ginnings proposed that the report and accounts should be adopted. This was seconded by Rachel Nugee, and adopted unanimously.

#### 8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

At the Treasurer's suggestion it was agreed to re-appoint Robert Ashdown as independent examiner for the coming year.

#### 9. Any Other Business

There being no other business, Ted Pleasance thanked the Vicar for his chairing of the meeting, as well as his leadership of the parish throughout the past year, and the meeting responded with applause.