

# **MINISTRIES REPORT 2010-11**



**ST JAMES THE LESS, PIMLICO**

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## FROM THE VICAR

It has been an interesting and exciting first six months in post at St James the Less. Before arriving I had a clear sense that God was saying that before building we needed to clear the rubble and we have certainly been doing that both literally and metaphorically. Foundations built on loose rubble just don't hold – whether they are the foundations of a building or the foundations of a church.

There have been many challenges and many joys. It has been a real joy getting to know the community that is St James, and learning more of some of the stories and journeys which have brought you all to this place. It has been a challenge to 'clear the rubble' as I have tried to bring some sort of structure and order so that

we can move forward together. It is a privilege to work with such a gifted congregation as we bring order and clarity to the situation and I am so grateful for all the hard work that was done before I arrived.



I have so enjoyed working with the whole congregation and the leadership on our vision, it was remarkable to witness the care and the prayer that went into that process. Beginning with the Vision Day in January, followed by the PCC Away Day and then PCC working groups to clarify and refine, and now ultimately a final document coming to the APCM for discussion and agreement.

It has been good to get the structures in place for CRB checking both children's work and among vulnerable adults – many thanks to Miriam Dyer for all her hard work on that. Similarly it is also good to have a Child Protection Policy and Vulnerable Adults Policy now in place.

There have been various staff changes and developments since my arrival. We have moved from a temporary, part-time administrator to the appointment of Jason Alexandre as half-time administrator. Jane Petrie has come on board as Pastoral Assistant for one year with particular responsibility for community outreach, events and fundraising. The staff are meeting regularly now for prayers each morning and have a staff meeting each Tuesday morning followed by Staff Lunch. We are working towards developing an environment in which we operate more as a team rather than as individuals.

As part of our reviewing of structures and good practice we have been reviewing staff contracts and job descriptions and standardising them. Alongside this the PCC has put in place a grievance and disciplinary procedure and a policy on harassment and bullying. These will form the basis of a Staff Handbook, which is an ongoing work in progress.

I have been impressed by the commitment of SjtL to prayer. In the last six months the men's prayers has remained a constant place of support, refreshment and key working for the Kingdom. Alongside that the women have begun meeting every Wednesday morning to pray and this has become an equally important fixture. I am so grateful to have inherited a church which knows that prayer is the pre-requisite of everything we do and want to thank Helena Langford for all the work she has put in with the Prayer Ministry Team and Revive.

In January our service pattern shifted moving from a pattern of 3 services each with the same sermon and worship set (apart from the 9.30) to 3 distinctive services each aiming to do something different. To this end we are now running 2 different sermon series – one for the 9.30 and 11 am and one for the 6pm. Our aim is

that each service should develop its own character and thus grow. We thank God so much for the growth we have already seen since coming, particularly in the 9.30 congregation but also amongst both the other 2. One of the hardest decisions I have had to make since arriving here six months ago was when I came to the conclusion that I should advise the PCC to close the Parish Centre. This was a hard conclusion to reach as it has a real effect upon our ability to function effectively in mission.

However it had quickly become clear that the Parish Centre was not fit for purpose and was in fact a health and safety risk. It seemed very important to take the step to get all the work done as soon as possible rather than going at it piecemeal and not doing any of it properly. We are so grateful to Martin Evans and Sally Redway who have been working really hard at getting everything ready for us to begin the work as soon as possible – not to mention ensuring that we are up to date on the Quinquennial works. Also to Jane Petrie who has taken on the Fundraising. Needless to say I am very aware of all the good work that had been done to set things in place before I came and am more grateful than I can say. We are now praying for God's provision both financially and in terms of the necessary permissions for the building work to go ahead. We would be grateful for any suggestions of fundraising ideas and creative help in that department and looking forward keenly to the day when we will be able to use the Parish centre to its full potential and the mission and ministry of the church will be able move on.

Being part of the Church means being part of the Body of Christ and my hope is that we will discover more and more how much we need each other and be willing to commit to one another more and more. My prayer for SJtL is constantly that we would discover the freedom there is in service and the joy there is in leading others to know Jesus. I pray that we will be a Spirit-filled, Spirit-defined body, firmly rooted and established in Christ.

*Lis Goddard*

## FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

September 2010 saw us come to the end of an eventful interregnum culminating in the amazing induction service for Lis Goddard, our new vicar. The ceremony was a real celebration of joy and thanksgiving. It was a privilege to have the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, presiding over the ceremony. He inspired us with his words and his commissioning and anointing of Lis with the authority and responsibility for the oversight of our church and its future. Lis has taken these up with great alacrity and with loving care & kindness, for which we are very thankful and blessed. This has led to fresh hope, excitement and re-focusing and is a wonderful answer to our many prayers.

### Giving thanks

We recognise getting to this point has been the culmination of a lot of work from a lot a people who continue to play significant roles or serve the church in a many ways. Every act of service, no matter how large or small, is cherished, appreciated and invaluable. And we'd like to say a massive thank you to all.

### Other Highlights

- The first has to be the fun church holiday and excitement of getting to know Lis, her husband Andrew and their family Jonathan & Nell.
- Moving, clearing, repainting and renewing the old office, transforming it from a dark and dirty room to a bright clean one and enabling the office to move into the old Watkins room was a real marker, especially for staff and those of us who had longed for the office to be cleared for many a year. Julia Harvey and her team of boys worked hard on this ....and we've nearly adjusted to the Watkins Room & Office exchange of names!



- The 'clear the rubble day' was also excellent, with many people coming together to clear and clean out the old, ready for the new. One memory from this time is moving hundreds of planks of wood down and out of the church tower.
- The Parish Centre was closed to external bookings in December to enable major vital refurbishment. The School Room has since come into its own and is continually in use. Refurbishments and a new tiled floor in the Vestry are almost complete and the room will shortly become a temporary office whilst the Parish Centre works get underway.

### **Rebuilding**

The refreshing and renewing of the staff team has brought real encouragement and energy to the church office, broadening and developing links with the local community, Bright Horizons Nursery and St Saviour's, to name a few. Relocating the Open Door Meal and partnering with other churches has been a challenge and a success. And despite the physical restrictions great things are happening and continue to happen.

We've all been given the opportunity to participate in discovering the vision for the church, enjoyed new styles of preaching, teaching and discussion forums, as well as enjoying Lis and her family's hospitality at the vicarage. How blessed are we?

### **Looking to the future**

We look forward to a time of Renewal, both of lives and buildings and are pleased to be fully involved and committed to the next chapter.

And as we go, with Lis at the helm, may we heal. Together may we carefully build & order God's house, knowing the real joy and acceptance of His love and forgiveness, basking in radiant light and transformational grace. May we continue to listen, hear, obey and flourish bringing in His Kingdom Revival culture and blessing to this, our part of Westminster.

*Esther Broughton, Jason Alexandre and Sancia Brown*



## **FROM THE TREASURER**

This is my first report as PCC Treasurer, and it has been an interesting, challenging and exciting year as Treasurer. I take great encouragement that the Lord we worship is the Lord of all time: past, present, and future. And just as the Bible reminds us of God's historic acts, his presence in the here and now, and his promises for the future, so my report draws on the past, the present and the future!

### ***The Past***

It is always instructional to remember where we have come from. Over the past few years numbers have changed at St James the Less: decreasing, and consequently, giving has reduced in amount. The wider economic climate has meant a time of belt-tightening for a lot of people. 2010 inherited difficult times from 2009. The Statement of Financial Activities (page 7 of the Annual Report and Financial Statements) clearly shows in the right hand column that 2009 was hard – income was £232,569 and expenditure was £288,635, leaving a net outgoing of £56,066 (meaning we spent 124% of our income in 2009). Put simply, we spent more than we received.

### ***The Present***

Lessons were learned from this. A lot of work was invested during 2010 into avoiding a recurrence of 2009's situation. Praise God for His incredible riches! How amazing God's blessings! How generous the giving of God's people at St James the Less! 2010 finances tell a very different tale to 2009's: there was a surplus of £14,023!

I'd like to thank a few people for their specific contribution with the administration of the finances: John Moffatt (our accountant) and Jeremy Pinkney (bookkeeper), who have served faithfully to produce a good set of financial records throughout the year. Peter Harvey (assistant treasurer) for filling in blanks in my knowledge, and giving prompts as needed. All have adjusted admirably to the challenges of a new Treasurer!

I'd like to give a deeply heartfelt "thank you" to the congregations at St James the Less for your generous giving last year; especially on our Gift Day in November. May the Lord bless you!

### **The Future**

And so to the future... We face exciting times at St James the Less. We closed the parish centre at the end of 2010, for health and safety reasons. We need to raise significant funds to carry out works on the centre, so we can reopen it and continue to benefit from this income stream. We also have a smaller congregation this year compared to last, which impacts on the total given from the congregation. This is not a time for fear or uncertainty, but a reminder that we worship a faithful God who will provide for His people. This doesn't mean taking things lightly, but it does mean we can have confidence, as Paul prayed in Ephesians 3:20-21:

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

*Chris Simpson, PCC Treasurer*

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## **WORSHIP**



The worship ministry has continued to be served and supported by a committed team of musicians, singers, and audio-visual...ers. Special thanks must be given to all those involved in anticipation of receiving a new vicar during the interregnum.

The team has faced a number of losses over the year, and this serves to point out the importance of nurturing a ministry in need of growth. People are tentatively coming forward to offer their services, dusting down their long-neglected instruments, so now is the time for boldness!

While the worship ministry at St James continues to champion excellence and experience, that must never be at the detriment of causing others to feel left out or unable to step forward to get involved – we are keen to see people trained up and given the chance to gain more experience!

Over the last year, the interregnum provided us with the opportunity to look outwards to seek support from other churches. Holy Trinity Brompton did a great job of supporting the church not

only by providing preachers, but also by offering pastoral support from their own worship team. Chris Marsh was able to attend a gathering of other worship leaders working in London, which is already opening up a number of links which will continue to provide encouragement as the worship ministry at church grows.

Our carol service was a great success – many thanks to those who got involved in the choir – and we are very grateful for the help given by Tim Petts who came to offer his services as our organist for the service. It was a reminder of how great it can be to have the organ made use of, so do pray for our continuing 'organist vacancy' to be filled!

A guitar class for beginners began in March, with five church members learning new chords together with great gusto.

Looking ahead, it is our hope that we will see new people joining the worship team in all areas. Communications are open with London School of Theology in anticipation of receiving a student seeking a church placement who is looking to gain more experience in worship, which is a very exciting development.

Please do keep the worship ministry of St James in your prayers, and thank you for all your voices – it is a pleasure and a privilege to lead and to see God's people rejoice in His presence.

*Chris Marsh, Worship Director*

## PRAYER



Common to all Christians, at St James the Less prayer is central - prayer is our life and our life is prayer.

As it should be, prayer amongst our church family takes many varied forms - ranging from formal liturgical prayer to extempore prayer, including using gifts of the Holy Spirit; silent, waiting, listening contemplative prayer to loud proclamations; from prayer using music and within our sung worship to prayer using other creative expression and symbols; and from meditative prayer on the timeless Word of God to prophetic prayer, listening and speaking out God's timely words to us.

Our prayers are at times confident and at times we struggle to find the words and, while our prayer times at SJtL are sometimes marked with tears, raucous laughter is as common a side effect to our praying together. We pray alone, in small groups, in large groups, in women's groups, men's groups and homegroups.

We pray for each other, ministering in the belief the God in his loving compassion delights to work through us to bring healing and wholeness, and we take seriously the call to pray for the wider church, community and world. In everything our aim is to learn to pray like Jesus.

As well as prayer in our Sunday services, our regular prayer meetings include:

- The Wednesday Pause for Prayer meeting, where people gather to study God's word and to pray together, followed by a simple lunch at the vicarage.
- The recently started Women's Prayer Meeting on Wednesday mornings at the Vicarage, followed by breakfast.

- The Men's Prayer Meeting on Tuesday mornings, also at the vicarage and always followed by a hearty (though not necessarily healthy) breakfast at Fat Lou's on Tachbrook Street.

- Our Monthly Revive meeting and our main church prayer meeting, the Quarterly Revive. The Revive meetings always include extended times of worship and opportunities to wait on and respond to the Holy Spirit as well as for intercessory prayer for current church life matters, including our missionaries, and the wider world. Often at these meetings we broaden our styles of prayer, using different aids to prayer such as creative or symbolic prayer stations, Taizé chants and prayerfully walking around the church and the community.

- The staff also meet to pray together regularly.

As well as this, we pray at our homegroup meetings, and many people in the church meet together to pray regularly, and to provide mutual support, as prayer partners or triplets. At our church holiday we have run 24/7 prayer rooms inviting people to provide a continual prayerful presence, praying for an hour at a time even throughout the night, and responding creatively by filling up piles of flipchart paper with inspired thoughts and pictures. As a new initiative we will be having our first night of prayer towards the end of May.



People from SJTL regularly attend conferences and training days both in the UK and abroad, to learn and experience more about prayer, healing and prophecy. Most recently a large group from our church attended the excellent and inspiring one-day conference at St Paul's Theological Centre entitled 'Wisdom of the Ages: Ancient paths of prayer for today'.

For many years the provision of prayer ministry has been a core value but for now it has been withdrawn from the services for a short time while the ministry team regroups to think about training new members. It will be relaunched for the evening service very soon, with the hope of expanding to the other services once team numbers have grown.

The Prayer Ministry and Revive co-ordinator's role has now passed from Helena Langford to Ben and Amabel Ealovega. We are all hugely thankful to Helena for all she has done with Revive and prayer ministry.

*Ben and Amabel Ealovega and Helena Langford*

## **WOMEN'S PRAYER**

Wednesday morning women's prayers have become a regular fixture since February, meeting every week at 7am at the Vicarage. It has been a huge blessing meeting together in this way, bringing women of all ages together, from every decade of life from teens to 80s. As well as praying for each other in the day-to-day stuff of life, we spend time lifting the church and local community in prayer, as well as praying for events and issues happening on a global level.

Prayer is always followed by breakfast in the Vicarage kitchen, with copious amounts of tea, coffee, croissants and hot cross buns – we leave the consumption of chips to the boys and try to fit in the occasional piece of fruit...

We seek to remember that prayer is the most powerful thing we can do, and we thank God that he is so ready to answer when we call out to him!

*Jane Petrie*

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

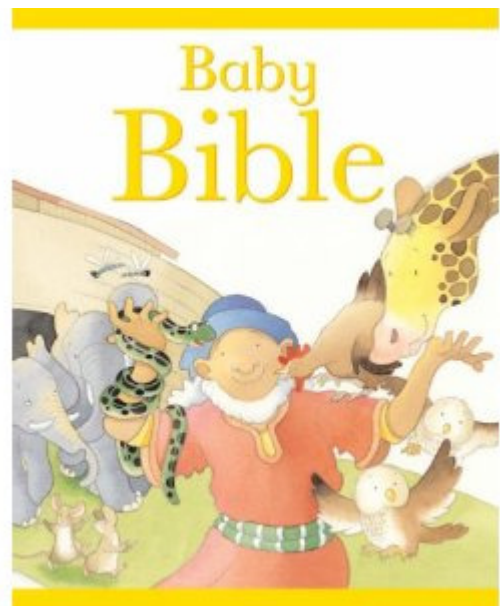
## CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

We would like to start by saying a huge thank you to all those who have helped, supported and encouraged us in the development of children's ministries at St James. In particular, we would like to thank those who have supported us through the interregnum and played an important part in laying firm foundations on which we are now building. Special thanks to all those who have helped in children's church, to Sarah Simpson for the amazing work she is doing in growing and leading the midweek Toddler group and to all parents for their continued support.

It is an exciting ministry to be a part of and we are seeing God work in amazing ways through our young people. This, in turn, encourages and strengthens us in our faith. So thank you all!

After a bit of a bumpy start in 2010, Abi took over the running of Children's Church and has developed a sense of team, consistency and cohesion with the wider church. We have seen the children become a much more active part of the church services with the regular action song each week, and a slot at the end of the service in which the children are given a chance to feedback to the congregation what they have been learning. It has been great to see the children embraced into the family in this way and we are excited to see this grow and develop as God takes us forward into all His plans and purposes for this ministry.

There are two groups that meet on a Sunday morning during the 11am service. Abi leads the group for 0-10 year-olds, which consists of 13 children. She is now following the sermon series and has established her own material and resources, based on the biblical texts that are being studied during the main services. The bible passage is taught through drama, song, prayer, craft and games and this new approach provides families with the chance to journey through the bible together.



Working closely with Abi, Wendy recently began a new group for 10-13 year-olds, consisting of 3 young girls, and has been greatly encouraged by the understanding for God's word that they have displayed. Again, following the sermon series, this group meets to discuss the word at an age appropriate level; teaching foundational truths of the gospel and imparting tools to these children that will enable them to continue on in their faith.

Both groups meet in the schoolrooms where they start each session with snacks and end each session together with prayer and worship. This, again, brings unity and cohesion to the group, encouraging the growth of relationships and the sharing of experiences.

At present we are in need of somebody to step forward to take our young people of 14+ into deeper relationship with God. Evening services have changed to incorporate more of a youth focussed discussion time, however, somebody with passion and vision for this group is very much needed.

As we prepare for the next church holiday in August, we are reminded of the depth of vision and passion that God imparted to us last year as a children's team. Jo Marshall and Abi sent the children on a journey of discovery into the story of Joseph and saw God work amazingly through the children who attended. On behalf of the team, we really want to thank Jo for her faithfulness in leading that time and her involvement in children's church- for her inspiration, enthusiasm and hope. It has really encouraged us in what we find ourselves doing now. Thank you.

So, as we look forward to the coming year, we anticipate great things for our children and young people. We have many ideas involving summer camps, holiday clubs, after school clubs etc etc but our prayer is that

God would be our driving force, not our ideas; that He would be our inspiration, our light and our vision and that in seeking Him with all our heart, our children would be inspired to do the same!  
“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us...” Ephesians 3:20  
Amen!!

*Abi Marsh and Wendy Wyper*

## **TODDLER GROUP**

The Toddler Group has had a successful year and has seen some changes along the way. I took over running the toddler group in the middle of the year, after Clare Courtis-Pond moved away. Also, with the closure of the parish centre we now meet in the school room, a change which has been welcomed as it is a lovely room.

We meet on a Tuesday morning from 10am til 11.30am although there are a number of people who turn up just a little bit early in order to help me set up which I very much appreciate! We have a core group of regulars and many more who come sporadically.

Our mornings consist of lots of fun and play for the children and tea, coffee, chat and the odd biscuit for the parents and carers. After a time of unstructured play the children all sit down for a fruit snack and this is followed by a story and song time. We ask parents and carers for a £1 donation per session.

Lis visits the group regularly helping us to build the relationship between SJtL and the community. She also came and told the Easter story to the children, a wonderful opportunity to get the Christian message across to the children (and adults!) who were there.

I want to thank Lis, Jason, Jane and Chris for their involvement in the sessions. They are always there to help bring toys over for the sessions, Jane has designed a fantastic poster to advertise the sessions and Jason is always so helpful in making sure we have everything we need from paper towels to teabags.

Sarah Simpson

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## **LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

### **PREACHING**

During the Interregnum several of the laity began to preach regularly, supplementing the work done by the many visiting clergy who gave real support to the churchwardens through that difficult time. After my arrival it was agreed to establish a Preaching Group for mutual support, training, planning and prayer.

The group currently consists of Angela King, Chris Marsh, Sarah Simpson, Andrew Goddard, Chris Simpson and Lis Goddard, although it is possible that others may join in the future. We have met 3 times so far and planned the preaching programme for January to April and May to August; we also give one another feedback on sermons preached.

*Lis Goddard*

### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY**



After a bit of hiatus in autumn 2010, quarterly women's events are up and running again. We met in March for breakfast, worship, prayer and a brainstorm about how we 'do' women's ministry, which enabled us to think through and discuss the purposes of women's ministry and brought lots of good ideas about different kinds of events we can do.

We look to equip the ladies of the church to be built up and sent out, and – importantly - to reach out to people on the fringes of the church, to people in the local community and to friends and associates. The next event is going to be taking place in June – details to follow...

*Jane Petrie*

## **MEN'S MINISTRY**

The regular weekly Tuesday morning mens's prayer meeting has continued. This is a chance for men to get together primarily to pray for our church, but also for each other, as well as for good discussion and supportive fellowship. The meeting has grown in numbers, has now moved to the comfort of the Vicarage and always ends with a hearty breakfast at Fat Lou's on Tachbrook Street.

Formal men's ministry is in its infancy. Independent of any set of program or structures, some men have started to meet to pray (for example, as prayer triplets). Others have shown initiative to gather men together primarily in a social context. From these meetings a desire has been born to develop something that will offer support, encouragement and growth for men in St James the Less and this looks likely to flower in the next season.



*Ben Ealovega and Jason Alexandre*

## **HOME GROUPS**

We currently have a number of home groups that meet throughout the Pimlico area and various parts of South London to offer midweek discipleship and fellowship, either once a week or every other week. These offer invaluable time to spend together, to grow in our relationships with the Lord and to support one another in our Christian witness. There also tend to be quantities of food and the chance to spend social time together, whether that's attending Christian events or just taking the time to relax and grow together in fellowship.

*Jane Petrie*

## **CHURCH HOLIDAY**



For the third year running, the Church Holiday took place in the extremely civilised surroundings of Latimer Place, at the northernmost end of the Metropolitan line. We were blessed to have Andy Henman, with his wife and two young daughters, join us as the speaker, preaching on the theme of Joseph: Journey to Destiny. There was also a range of seminars, ranging from exploration of theological issues to the light-hearted – Jayne Armstrong's belly dancing seminars providing some light entertainment among – mainly – the ladies of the group. It was also, of course, the Goddards' first induction to St James the Less, and

their enthusiastic participation was much fun to witness.

As in previous years, all were kept very well supplied with lovely food, an ample supply of coffee and plenty of time for fellowship, reflection, newspaper-reading and football-playing. The Saturday-night evening entertainment, this year with the theme of 'Musicals', was as popular as usual, although speaking as a newcomer to the church, the performance round of the quiz night came as something of a shock. Thanks must go to Chris and Abi Marsh for all their work in organising the holiday (and to Abi for heading up children's work) and to Jo Marshall for heading up the youth activities. A special mention also goes, in her absence, to Debs Kent, who not only did an awful lot in the organisation of the holiday but also won the prize for best fancy dress with a Starlight Express-themed extravaganza.

*Jane Petrie*

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## LOOKING OUTWARDS

### OPEN DOOR MEAL

The Open Door Meal is a fortnightly outreach ministry, which provides a two-course freshly-prepared, cooked meal for the marginalised in society, vulnerably housed and the homeless. We serve the meal restaurant-style to make the guests feel extra-special. The meal is always of a high nutritional content, which gives our guests much needed nourishment. We also do a vegetarian option meal for those who don't eat meat. We also try to offer them love, respect, friendship, a listening ear and prayer at all times. Showing the love of God is always at the back of our minds.



The number of guests we feed can reach up to 160. Our volunteers come from a wide variety of nearby churches and, to say the least, the Open Door Meal could not run without them. They are a joyful bunch and the gift of their time and commitment can not be put into value or words. Our leadership team, John Sunderland, Jenny Pearce, James Holland and Leanne Newall are a committed bunch of people who always turn up and offer their support in all circumstances.

*Amanda Hogarth, Open Door Meal Support Worker*

### BIG LUNCH

Held on 18 July 2010, SJtL partnered with the Lillington and Longmoore Gardens Estate to hold Pimlico's first-ever Big Lunch. It was a really positive example of partnership, with the estate providing the space within the fenced-off area of garden and SJtL – courtesy of Ray and Vani – providing tables and chairs, as well as a grant from Donations Committee. CityWest Homes provided insurance and all who came provided food, with Amanda and John providing soft drinks. 42 people came, including people from St James, members of the Gardening Club, and other residents, including children.



The Big Lunch is planned to run again this year, on 5<sup>th</sup> June, when we will again be joining forces with the estate and bringing a little extra community spirit to SW1.

*Carrie Harvey*

## **SOUTHWESTFEST**

St James the Less took part in SouthWestFest in St George's Square on the Saturday Gala Day, 26<sup>th</sup> June, which drew around 6000 people. We had a stall manned all afternoon by SjtLers, at which passers-by were invited to guess the number of sweets in the jar, buy second-hand books and have the chance to find out more about the renewal campaign and the imminent arrival of our very own Rev. Lis. There was also a carnival parade around the streets of SW1, in which the Simpsons and other local children participated, and for which we provided facilities for children to come and change into their costumes. The stall cost £60, the costs of which were kindly met by Donations Committee. The day was great fun and a very good way of joining together with the local community.

*Carrie Harvey*



## **RIDE AND STRIDE**

In September 2010, for the first time, the annual sponsored Ride and Stride event came to London, with people on foot, on bicycles and on horseback! Ride and Stride has been running since 1981 and seeks to raise money for the restoration and maintenance of Britain's churches. It was wonderful to have the church open on a Saturday, attracting tourists, passers-by and local residents as well as the Ride and Stride participants.

*Carrie Harvey*

## **DONATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **Background**

The Donations Committee reports to the PCC, who have set the guidelines on which we work. These are pinned up on the noticeboard with the Missionaries reports.

### **Aim**

We aim to support members of St James-the-Less (SJTL) church in long-term and short-term missionary work, overseas or in the UK. We also support special one-off projects or missionary visits in which our members are involved.

### **Criteria**

The missionary work or project should explicitly or implicitly further the work of the Gospel and there should be a good link with SJTL for prayer, monitoring and support.

We do not usually contribute to missionary projects as we aim to support SJTL members personally.

Likewise, we do not usually support Christian work with which no church members are closely associated.

### **2010**

We supported the following long-term missionaries:

Andy & Carol Wain, YWAM in Liverpool

Terry & Hanka English, YMCA & Josiah Venture in Czech Republic

Grace (Guinness) & Peter How, CMS Afghanistan

Luci Metcalfe, UCCF Arts rep for London/Interface Arts Graduates (part time) from 1 August

We supported Rachel Millward, on an overseas visit with Five Talents Martin Evans on a project visit with Engineering Ministries International (EMI).

A stand at the SouthWest Fest in St George's Square on 26 June

The Big Lunch – in Lillington Gardens Estate on 18 July

We made a small grant to William How to mark his safe arrival in this world.

### **2011**

We expect to support:

the following long-term missionaries:

Andy & Carol Wain, Terry & Hanka English, Grace (Guinness) and Peter How, Luci Metcalfe.  
other outreach projects or sending out new missionaries, as they arise.

### General

We welcome requests for funding for new members of SJTL going on mission and projects, within the criteria explained above.

We are limited, of course, by the incoming funds available.

The PCC has set this at 10% of all income received by the church. We aim to disburse all that comes in, within reasonable limits for solvency. Our main priority is support for our long-term missionaries. We promise them funds for six months ahead, as decided at our two meetings during the year.

### Members of the Donations Committee

The following have served during 2010:

Peter Harvey (Chair)

Paul Wilhelms (Treasurer)/ Sue Wilson from 15 Dec

Sancia Brown

Robina Coker

Clare Hart resigned in August on moving to another church

Rachel Millward " " " " "

Jeremy Pinkney

Tim Vincent resigned on 1 Dec on moving to Brighton

Cheryl MacDonald (wef 10 Nov)

### Finance

	2010	(2009)
Funds allocated (10% of SJTL income):	£13,683	(£14,001)
Funds expended	£11,860	(£22,138)
Budget for 2010	£10,000	
(actual expenditure depends on SJTL gross income)		

23 March 2011

Peter Harvey  
(Chair)

## 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY – COMING UP!

**Save the date!**

St James the Less, Westminster, is turning 150 in July 2011.  
We'd be thrilled if you would join us for a weekend of celebrations.

Saturday, 30 July | Community fun day

Sunday, 31 July | A service of thanksgiving: 11am - 1pm  
Lunch and celebration: 1pm onwards

RSVP to [jane.petrie@sjtl.org](mailto:jane.petrie@sjtl.org) or 020 7630 6282 | [www.sjtl.org/150](http://www.sjtl.org/150)

On Sunday, 31 July 2011, it will be 150 years to the day since the consecration of St James the Less Church in 1861.

We're planning a rafter-raising celebratory service, followed seamlessly by food, drinks, entertainment and the chance to catch up with current and former members of St James the Less. We'll be reminiscing, both about the recent

and the dim-and-distant past, and looking forward to the next 150 years.

Sunday is the main celebration day for former members of the church and of St James the Less School. On Saturday 30th, we'll be holding a community fun day - please join us in praying for good weather! There will be a variety of different things going on, including food and drink, musical entertainment and children's activities.

Do invite other people whom we should be asking, or let us know if there are people we should get in touch with ourselves. We'll be posting updates via all the normal channels and on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/stjamestheless](http://www.facebook.com/stjamestheless).

*Jane Petrie*

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## **BUILDING RENEWAL**

### **BUILDING PLANS**

**Current Renewal team committee members:** Lis Goddard, Esther Broughton, Martin Evans, Chris Simpson (occasionally), Julia Harvey, Sally Redway, Jane Petrie

### **WORK UNDERTAKEN FOR 2010/11**

**Quinquennial works** – the current Quinquennial works need to be completed by the end of July 2011. Much of these works ideally would have began over the last 5 years and are facing a busy time of catch-up. Tenders have been received from various contractors for these works – relating to general repair of the buildings. Funds are largely available for these works as planned over the next few months.

#### **Watkins Room / office**

Following the master plan for the refurbishment of the Parish Centre, the original Watkins Room was cleared to make way for the new office. This allowed us to clear out many collected pieces of furniture, paperwork and other items and allowed the spaces to be used much more efficiently. The old office has been used for some rental during this period before the closure of the Parish Centre in January 2011.

#### **Clearance and tidying**

As part of the general ongoing refurbishment a second clearance and tidy up day was organised and much rubbish and old equipment was thrown out. This has allowed areas of the buildings to become free of items and will allow works to commence easier when we are ready.

#### **Vestry**

Works to the Vestry are now complete and included a new concrete floor, floor tiles, electrical wiring and lighting, repairs to the original timber cabinets and security to the door and window. The contract value was £17,700.00. We received a grant of £5,000 from the Diocesan fund and the balance was paid from the Monk Fund

#### **Vicarage**

The church undertook works to the Vicarage as part of the payment from the parish towards preparing the home for the new vicar. This included new carpets, cleaning timber floors and shelving. These works came to approximately £6,000.00

#### **School Rooms**

Several items of works have now been completed in the school room including the completion of shelving, toilets and clear out of the yard and entrance area.

#### **Goodyer House**

The house was renovated and furnished in February 2010 and the four bedrooms have been rented on a commercial basis. Funds for these works came from the sale of shares held by the church at a cost of £24,000.00. The bathroom still needs to be completed and some decoration needs to be finished.

### **Closure of the Parish Centre**

The two separate boilers and heating systems within the Parish Centre failed during December 2010. The centre also fails in respect of various Health and Safety issues relating to the electrics, toilets and plumbing. Given that the cost of repairing these and installing new boilers would be high and that the Centre is to be refurbished as part of the building project works, it was decided to close the centre at the earlier opportunity and use the money raised as part of the Building Project Refurbishment.

### **District Heating System**

Talks are ongoing with the City West homes Pimlico and Westminster District Heating system, which would allow us to connect to their system instead of providing our own boilers. This would be an efficient and sustainable heating connection of the church and it is hoped that this connection could be made before the winter 2011.

### **Public square**

As part of the development by Dolphin Square on the corner of Moreton Street and Vauxhall Bridge Road, the public Square in front of the church is to be redeveloped and re-landscaped. Talks are on going with Dolphin Square, the planning department at the City of Westminster to agree the final design before the planning application. We are being consulted on this and have given our comments as various stages. These works would take place in early 2012.



### **Consultant appointments**

A Quantity Surveyor has been appointed by the PCC to provide budget costing and to produce the full specification and contract documents for the renewal project.

## **PROPOSED WORKS FOR 2011/12**

### **Quinquennial works**

The works as set out in the Quinquennial Report are due to take place within the next few months, although many of the items in the report will be incorporated within the Refurbishment works. We will also seek to appoint a new Quinquennial Architect at the end of July 2011 in order to carry out the new Quinquennial Report for works to be carried out over the next 5 years.

### **Parish Centre - Phase 1**

The first phase of the works to the Parish Centre are to renovate and reorganise the existing Parish Centre to provide new toilets, kitchen, circulation space and three good quality meeting rooms. This is hoped to take place within the next 12 months and is budgeted at £500,000

### **Church**

The interior of the church will be refurbished and cleaned. The works will also include new lighting, electrical installation, sound system and acoustic loop. These works are budgeted at £500,000

### **Consultant appointments**

An architect will need to be appointed by the PCC to provide full services including site inspections, drawings, details and other documents for the contractors for the building works for both the Parish Centre and the Church.

*Martin Evans*

## FUNDRAISING

*'..for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.'*  
*Psalm 50:10*

As we come now to our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we thank God for his provision in the past and pray for the present and the future as we seek to raise the funds to refurbish and renew the Parish Centre and restore the Church. The Parish Centre was closed in December 2010 when it became apparent that the combination of a broken boiler in need of replacement and problems with the electrical systems made it unsustainable to keep it open, and the Church remains in need of a whole variety of different works, across the spectrum of cleaning and restoration.

There is so much we believe God is calling us to do, in terms of outreach and mission, for which it is vital that we have the buildings in action, so it's vital that we regain the use of the Parish Centre as soon as we possibly can and give the Church the loving care it so badly needs to make it a sanctuary for prayer and safeguard it for the coming decades.

There is a lot going on behind the scenes. In 2010, we were blessed to receive grants from the City Bridge Trust to carry out an Access Audit of the Church and Parish Centre, and from the Heritage of London Trust towards the cost of restoring the pulpit. Submitting as many grant applications as possible remains a priority: we currently have one in the pipeline to the Garfield Weston Foundation and an initial enquiry to the National Churches Trust, with more to follow. It's time-consuming work but we hope and pray that it will bring forth funds to do the work that so needs to be done.

We also seek to raise funds from those who attend St James and those who have attended in the past. Do think about the kinds of things you as individuals and we as a congregation can be doing to raise funds for the church.

We have been very encouraged in the last weeks by generous donations from members of the congregation, and other signs of progress, such as English Heritage's astonishing readiness to agree in principle to the proposal to build a row of rooms along the outside of the North wall of the Church – having believed permission very unlikely to be granted!

There is still a long way to go. Please do keep the Fundraising team in your prayers, and do get in touch with us if there are things you would be able to do to help, whether you have contacts, time, funds or ideas – or all of the above – to contribute!

I'd like to give a huge thanks to all members of the Fundraising team, past and present, particularly to Carrie Harvey and to Veronica Garbutt, Alex Cintra, Peter Harvey and Ray Michael for all they have done and continue to do to take these plans forward.

*Jane Petrie*

**ST JAMES THE LESS, PIMLICO**  
THORNDIKE STREET, OFF MORETON  
STREET  
LONDON, SW1V 2PS

**020 7630 6282 / [ENQUIRIES@SJTL.ORG](mailto:ENQUIRIES@SJTL.ORG)**