

meeting once a week on a permanent basis. The Lent Lunches (with Bible Study) has been well-attended, and it has been good to offer something different this Lent in the form of a Holy Hour. In these things we give glory to God, and we deepen our relationship with him.

In October-November we held a Stewardship Campaign, during which we each thought and prayed about how much we give financially to mission and ministry at St John's. In many churches stewardship campaigns are depressing. This was far from the case here. There was a real sense of positivity as we engaged with this issue, and the pledges people were made were extremely encouraging.

The Luganda Service, which meets once a month, under the supervision of Fr Godfrey Kaziro and with Harriet Pouillon as our link, is in very good health, and it has been good to begin to work out ways in which this congregation can be more self-sufficient, while still developing the relationship with St John's.

In June, Dennis Clarke, a long-standing member of the congregation, passed away. Dennis was a true gentleman, and we miss the care and diligence with which he would read from the Scriptures. His Funeral Mass was celebrated at St John's, before his committal at the City of London Crematorium. His daughter, Janet, was particularly grateful for the support that both Dennis, before he died, and she, after, received from the community here. May he rest in peace.

Thank you to all who have contributed in so many ways to our common life over the past year, and helped St John's to flourish. It is remarkable how so much is achieved by a relatively small congregation, and even more remarkable to consider how much more we might achieve as, by God's grace, we grow!

Because of the late Easter, our APCM falls at the beginning of Paschtide. On one hand, holding a business meeting at this time of year is not ideal! However, we give thanks to God for the year past as we look forward to our celebration of the events of Holy Week and Easter. I urge you all to make attendance at the liturgies of the Holy Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Eve) a priority, simply because what we celebrate over those days is at the core of what we are all about. Nothing in this report means anything without the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we enter into the mystery of these days, may we allow God to transform our lives and our church. May we seek to worship and serve him more faithfully over the coming year, and to draw one another into the wonder of his love.

Fr Daniel Sandham, Vicar

**St John the Evangelist
Brownswood Park**



Annual Meetings

Sunday 6 April, 2014

Agenda and Reports

Agendas

Introduction and Opening Prayer

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

- 1 Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Reports
Reports are included in this booklet. They will not be read out at the meeting. There will be an opportunity for questions.
 - 1 Parochial Church Council
 - 2 Fabric, Goods and Ornaments (Churchwardens' Report)
 - 3 Electoral Roll
 - 4 Deanery Synod
 - 5 Soup Kitchen
 - 6 Luganda Service
 - 7 Activities of the Parish Generally (Vicar's Report)
- 3 Presentation of Accounts
- 3 Elections and Appointments
 - 1 Parochial Church Council (three representatives)
 - 2 Deanery Synod (two representatives)
 - 3 Sidesmen
 - 4 Auditor
- 4 Capital Vision 2020

Concluding Prayer

First Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

- 1 Elections
 - 1 Vice-Chair
 - 2 Treasurer
 - 3 Secretary
 - 4 Electoral Roll Officer

Other highlights of the year included a community 'Big Lunch' with local neighbours, organised with the Manor House PACT project in June; a concert given by Diego Carneiro ('cello) and Andrew Kennaugh (piano) in July; the annual parish barbecue in August; and a 'behind-the-scenes' tour of St Paul's Cathedral in February.

The Bishop of Stepney presided over our Group Confirmation, held here on Advent Sunday, at which Danny Precilla and Siân Whitaker were confirmed. The Group Chapter continues to meet regularly, and all three churches are hosting events in Holy Week, and we are planning a joint pilgrimage to Canterbury in the autumn.

Just two weeks after the Confirmation an even bigger crowd thronged the church for our Christmas Carol Service, which attracted over 100 people, and numbers were up at all the Christmas liturgies. I was particularly struck by the atmosphere after the Carol Service, as nearly everyone stayed to chat over mulled wine and mince pies. There was a palpable sense that the threshold between 'church' and 'community' was exactly that – a threshold – rather than the boundary it can be in so many places.

This has been manifest in many of the plans we have been putting together recently, most noticeably the Soup Kitchen, co-ordinated by Rose Atkinson, and the children-parents after-school initiative (both of which we hope to begin after Easter) and having the church open during the day at weekends. These projects have generated interest from people 'outside' the church, and many people have remarked how St John's seems to be 'part of the community'. This is nothing new in itself, but is a reflection of an increasingly outward-looking church community.

And so we continue to nurture links with a broad range of organisations and groups in the parish, including Transition Finsbury Park, Parkwood Primary School (where I now chair the Curriculum Committee), Manor House PACT, and the Safer Neighbourhood Team meetings. We enjoy excellent relations with the other Christian churches in the parish, with whom we shared a pilgrimage to Oxford in the spring. Prebendary Stephen Coles has reconvened the forum of Muslim and Christian leaders in the Finsbury Park area, which met for the first time last month, and many of us enjoyed attending the open day at Finsbury Park Mosque last June, and meeting and learning from our Muslim brothers and sisters.

Attendance at the Parish Mass has remained pretty constant over the past 12 months, but, being a small congregation, it doesn't take much for us to feel well below or well above average. There are, however, signs of growth, and it has been good to welcome many new people to worship at St John's, and people often comment on the warmth of the welcome. We must, however, make sure that 'welcome' is not just something which happens on a newcomer's first Sunday, but rather is ongoing.

Church growth should not be measured by numbers alone, otherwise it is not *the Church* which is growing. Therefore it has been a real joy to St John's grow in faith and spiritual awareness. The Rosary group, which was planned for Advent only, is now

The number of volunteers interested in this project is ever increasing and we look forward to working together to get the Soup Kitchen running after Easter.

Rose Atkinson
Soup Kitchen Coordinator

6. Luganda Service

St John the Evangelist, Brownwood Park hosts the Luganda Service and the Rev Dr Kaziro is still leading this service. This year the number in the congregation has increased and they are very active in the church activities.

On 12/01/14 Luganda Service had a general meeting with the Vicar, Fr Daniel, to discuss how the relationship with St John's would develop starting in April 14. There are some changes which will occur.

Fr Daniel explained that Luganda Service should be independent and responsible, but still under St John's supervision, and to draw up a proper hiring Agreement. Some of the points he emphasised:

- Fr explained to that the Luganda service needs a proper bank account and financial records
- The safeguarding of children: Luganda service must have a safeguarding policy and must provide recent CRB checks.
- He said that the Luganda Service can ask for assistance in some of the matters.
- An increase in the money to be paid by Luganda Service for every meeting to St John's. This has to be agreed by St John's PCC but Luganda Service suggested to pay £45 starting from March 2014.

Harriet N Pouillon
Secretary and Mediator of Luganda Service

7. Activities the Parish Generally (Vicar's Report)

This is the second Vicar's Report I have written for the APCM, and I am grateful for the opportunity to take stock, and realise just how much has happened in the year since I wrote my first report.

Just a few weeks after last year's APCM we celebrated our Patronal Festival. It was, I think, the first time St John's has celebrated the 'secondary' feast of St John (at the Latin Gates) in May, rather than his principal feast day, which falls between Christmas Day and New Year. It was wonderful to have over 100 people in church for a Mass at which the Archdeacon of Hackney preached, concluding in a marvellously joyful outdoor procession (complete with helium balloons) and bunfight.

I. Parochial Church Council Report

The Parochial Church Council has met six times (plus one Special Meeting) since the last APCM, including the annual Away Day in September, held at the Good Shepherd, Tottenham. In addition to routine business, the following matters have been discussed:

In July we finalised our **Mission Action Plan**, which focusses on our life as a *worshipping community*, a *growing community*, a *missional community*, and a *diverse community*. In these last two areas there has been significant development:

- Our **Redevelopment Working Group** has met regularly to take forward plans to refurbish and possibly extend the church building. We have been awarded a grant of £7,500 to carry out a community audit, the results of which we will use to inform our plans and to provide evidence of need when we apply for more grants.
- The idea of a **soup kitchen** was discussed, and this initiative has been coordinated by Rose Atkinson, with the intention of opening in May 2014. (See separate report.)
- The idea of an **after-school activity zone** for primary school aged children was also discussed. Denise James and Fr Daniel have taken this forward, in partnership with Manor House Development Trust, and Friends of Parkwood School (the new parents' association), and this will begin in April 2014.
- The PCC decided to **open the church** to make it available for private prayer and reflection for a trial period from February 2014.

Our **Away Day** in the autumn focussed on the area of **financial stewardship**, and a Stewardship Campaign took place later in the autumn. (See Vicar's Report.)

Finsbury Park Homeless Families Project continues to rent the church halls on a permanent basis, with the rent increasing this April in line with inflation. In terms of **casual lettings**, Ezechiah Ministries and the House of Divine Love continue to rent the building on a regular basis. However, AN Highways Ministries decided to seek alternative accommodation.

In July 2013 we welcomed Archdeacon Rachel, who made her triennial **Archdeacon's Visitation**. Thanks particularly to the work of Churchwarden Chris Gillooly, this ran very smoothly, and the recommendations she has made have been followed up.

An anonymous donation of £500 was made for the purchase of a **grand piano**.

As always, I am deeply grateful to the PCC officers: Alan Murray as Vice Chair, Beryl Warren as Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer, and Chris Gillooly and Hyacinth Joseph, who have completed the first year as Churchwardens with aplomb! Special thanks goes to Robert Pade, who steps down from his role as Treasurer at the APCM. I am very grateful for the work Robert has done over several years. Parish finances are no small

task, and Robert has been attentive and dedicated in his service, including during the interregnum.

Finally, I look forward to another year working with our dedicated and enthusiastic PCC, seeking to further the mission and ministry of God's church in this place.

Fr Daniel Sandham, Chair

2. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments (Churchwardens' Report)

The year has seen a series of small works being undertaken on the fabric of the church premises in some cases catching up on work not undertaken during the Interregnum. Services on Fire equipment, boilers and electrical systems have now been completed. Minor repair works have been carried out as required. A detailed list is available commencing from May 2012 and is available for inspection as required.

In preparation for the Parish Visitation by Archdeacon of Hackney in July 2013, the following documentation was prepared:

- Health and Safety Policy.
- Risk Assessment.
- Asset and Appliance Log.
- Chemical Register.
- Health and Safety Action Log.

The Visitation report requested an annual inventory check (which will next be undertaken in July 2014) and the addition of photographs of all assets. The boiler was noted as requiring maintenance which has now been completed. The Quinquennial Inspection Report of February 2011 was noted and all major actions have been completed. Some minor points will require attention before the 2016 inspection as funds allow.

No work has been undertaken on the Vicarage in which one room should be redecorated annually. This will require attention next year.

There have been no Health or Safety issues this year.

C J Gillooly, Churchwarden

3. Electoral Roll Report

The Roll stands at **81** (of which **38** are from the Luganda Congregation).

One name has been removed since the APCM in 2013: Dennis Clark RIP
There are **Nine** new entrants.

B. Warren , Electoral Roll Officer

4. Deanery Synod Report

The first meeting was held in May at St Peter's De Beauvoir, and was mainly on the Common Fund and diocesan finance.

On 20th July 2013 the second meeting was held at St Paul West Hackney, it was a Synod Meeting with Bishops Waltham Deanery, and was on the impact of austerity measures in Hackney and in Hampshire.

In October the third meeting was held at St Mary of Eton. This meeting was based on hospitable buildings. Fr Reuben gave a clear presentation on the project at St Mary's.

On 30th November at St Paul's Cathedral, there was an Advent Procession and a Carol Singing on Hackney buses.

On 12th February at Christ Church Spitalfields, this meeting was a joint synod with Islington & Tower Hamlets Deaneries in which Alan Piggott gave a presentation on Stepney Contextual Study.

On 1st March at St Peter De Beauvoir Town, North Church Terrace, there was a pancake party and the Area Dean's Farewell service.

Harriet Pouillon and Ruth Olaoyenikan
Deanery Synod Representatives

5. Soup Kitchen

The St John's Soup Kitchen held its first volunteers' meeting on Wednesday 19th March. It was great to gather the supporters of the project and brainstorm on what needs to be covered to get the Soup Kitchen running.

Creating a budget for the project we have come up with a need of £500 start up costs with £1500 costs to keep the kitchen running for 12 months. In discussion with Marlon Nelson, Community Ministry Department, there are a few funding bodies, including the Cinnamon Network and Together Programme from the Church Urban Fund, that shall be approached to help this project.

The other aspect of the project is getting local businesses involved. It is known that many local businesses have waste food and potentially may offer needed equipment or financial support. Volunteers shall be approaching local businesses to discuss their involvement and support of this project. We have also established a link with the St Mungo's centre on Seven Sisters Road.