

**ST MARY ABBOTS WITH CHRIST CHURCH AND ST PHILIP, KENSINGTON**  
Charity Registration Number 1132235



**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF  
ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH  
FOR THE YEAR 2015**

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*The Revd Gillean Craig, Vicar and Chairman*  
*Approved by the St Mary Abbots Church Council on 9 March 2016*

**St Mary Abbots Church Council**  
c/o Parish Office, St Mary Abbots Centre, Vicarage Gate, London, W8 4HN

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The St Mary Abbots Parish Church is one of the three churches in the Parish of St Mary Abbots with Christ Church and St Philip, Kensington, which came into being in 2006. Overall responsibility for the affairs of the parish is exercised by the Vicar, the Parochial Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council, but, like the other two churches, St Mary Abbots has its own Deputy Wardens and elected Church Council, to whom all local matters are delegated as far as is possible by law. This is the Annual Report for St Mary Abbots only; it forms a constituent part of the Annual Report for the whole parish.

The members of the St Mary Abbots Church Council are:

<b>EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:</b>				
<b>Clergy</b>	The Revd Gillean Craig The Revd Jennifer Welsh The Revd Mark O'Donoghue	<i>Vicar &amp; Chairman</i> <i>Associate Vicar</i> <i>Associate Vicar</i>	The Revd David Walsh The Revd Lesley Perry The Revd Julia Hedley	<i>Associate Vicar</i> <i>Hon. Assistant Priest</i> <i>Hon. Assistant Priest</i> (until Oct 2015) <i>Vice-Chairman</i>
<b>Parochial Churchwardens</b>	James Dunford Wood ( <i>post APCM</i> ) David Banks ( <i>pre APCM</i> )		Adrian Weale	
<b>Deputy Wardens</b>	James Dunford Wood Carole-Anne Phillips ( <i>pre APCM</i> )		Hannah Stewart ( <i>post APCM</i> )	
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives</b>	Max Croft Pippa Currey Eliza Low Sally Bessada ( <i>post APCM</i> ) Nicholas Helm ( <i>post APCM</i> )	<i>Hon. Electoral Roll Officer</i>	David Wilkinson Thomas Williams David Peerless ( <i>pre APCM</i> ) Hannah Stewart ( <i>pre APCM</i> )	
<b>St Mary Abbots PCC Members</b>	Ben Pilling Andrew Purvis	<i>Hon. PCC Secretary</i> <i>Hon. Secretary</i>	David Peerless ( <i>post APCM</i> ) Michael Finney ( <i>pre APCM</i> )	<i>Hon. PCC Treasurer</i> <i>Hon. PCC Treasurer</i>
<b>ELECTED MEMBERS:</b>	John Elliott Samantha Giles Laura Sylvester ( <i>post APCM</i> ) Harriet Finney ( <i>pre APCM</i> )	<i>Safeguarding officer</i>	Nigel Grieve Emma Porteous Alexandra Swann	<i>Stewardship Secretary</i> <i>Children's Champion</i>
<b>CO-OPTED MEMBERS:</b>	Nicola Doyle Mark Uglow	<i>Head of Church School</i> <i>Director of Music</i>	George MacAllan Adam Norton	<i>Virger</i> <i>Centre Manager</i>

The Church retains the following professionals:

<b>Bankers</b>	<b>National Westminster Bank plc</b> Royal Garden Branch, 55 Kensington High Street, London W8 5ZG
<b>Solicitors</b>	<b>Winckworth Sherwood Solicitors</b> Minerva House, 5 Montague Close, London SE1 9BB
<b>Investment Managers</b>	<b>Charles Stanley &amp; Co Ltd</b> 25 Luke Street, London EC2A 4AR
<b>Architect</b>	<b>Colin Kerr, BA BArch Dip Cons (ICCRUM) RIBA</b> Molyneux Kerr, Unit 14, 112 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4LE
<b>Auditors</b>	<b>Carter Backer Winter</b> 66 Prescot Street, London E1 8NN

Day to day management of the Church is delegated to the incumbent, The Revd Gillean Craig.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Church Council consists of ex-officio, elected and co-opted members as detailed in the table above. Elected members are elected at the Annual Church Meeting. All the lay members are drawn from the congregation of St. Mary Abbots. Office holders and other members of the committee with delegated responsibilities are offered appropriate training.

New members are elected to the Council in April. It delegates various matters of business to the Standing and Finance Committee which meets in particular to discuss and make decisions in relation to financial and legal matters, and whose remit also includes matters relating to staff and the Church Centre.

### **Risk Assessment**

The St Mary Abbots Church Council has considered the major risks to which the Church may be subject, and appropriate systems have been put into place to manage and mitigate those risks.

**Chairman's Report, including:**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE, AND PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

It's my pleasure to offer you this annual report of the ministry and witness of St Mary Abbots Church. These dry and formal pages offer the necessary scrutiny that we give to every aspect of our work here, and provide for all who care to look an assessment of what we have done throughout 2015.

This has been a year of significant development and activity – in retrospect, even somewhat dramatic. The preparations both technical and financial meant that we were able to spend most of the year with the west end and nave wreathed in the most impressive 7-storey scaffolding cage while at long last the nave, aisle, and south transept roofs were stripped back and completely re-slatted, high stonework repaired or replaced, the rainwater goods replaced and upgraded to seek to deal with the far greater incidence of tempestuous downpours we suffer nowadays. This major project, funded by private donations and accumulated reserves including that of the Mary Isa (Renovation) Fund and, completed triumphantly almost exactly on time and on budget. It was noteworthy how easily everyone (it impinged greatly on the school, of course) coped with the necessary disruptions both inside and outside the church during the 10-month period of work. Much of this was owing to extra work put in by Virger George MacAllan, and we thank him greatly.

In 2015 we took on no fewer than three much-needed new staff members: Sophie Gaselee joined us halfway through the year as Vicar's PA, Karen Bryant was appointed as Head of Fundraising, and Nick Benn was made Assistant Virger. Each of them has already made a highly significant contribution to the life and work of St Mary Abbots, and if we are sometimes unaware of all that they do, it is because things going far more smoothly, successfully and on time are taken less note of than things not being all they should be. We now have a real staff team, and I am grateful for the way they work together and support the clergy.

We were sorry to say farewell to Carole-Anne Phillips when she stepped down after 10 remarkable years as deputy churchwarden. She has been the strongest support to me and a leader for the laity of our parish, with indefatigable commitment. We were delighted to present her with a unique silver brooch, a miniature replica of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary which forms the head of the Churchwardens pole. Her loss was greatly offset by Hannah Stewart's willingness to step into the role, and in the months since her election she has displayed a formidable breadth and depth of energy and attention to every aspect of our life here. Together with Jamie Dunford Wood our other Deputy Warden the fabric and management of St Mary Abbots is being overseen splendidly.

In 2015 the Kensington Area said farewell to our Bishop Paul Williams, translated to the see of Litchfield. One of the last acts he performed in the Area was the Consecration and Blessing of the Garth for cremated remains, below the east window of the church. This is a significant moment in our story, the first time since the closure of the churchyard for burials under the mid-C19 Metropolitan Burial Acts that the mortal remains of worshippers can be buried in our own churchyard. Later in the year the first ashes were indeed buried; those of Sarah Lamping, whose family will be giving in her memory a magnificent inscribed Register in which we will record all such interments. We had the honour of holding, just after Easter, the Area Service to say Farewell and Thankyou to Bishop Paul and his family – as we had welcomed him only a few years earlier.

One significant development is that the previous tenants of the Hornton Place property known as the Old Mortuary decided not to renew their lease, and we have awarded it to a private Nursery School which has put in hand significant upgrading of the interior of the building. Jamie, in particular, managed the complex legal and statutory processes involved in making possible this radical new use: we look forward to the school opening shortly.

The greatest sadness of the year was the Revd Julia Hedley's decision, after a period of sick leave, to take early retirement on grounds of ill health. So many of us have reason to be deeply grateful for her exceptional pastoral ministry, liturgical skill, and careful teaching and preaching. In a short time she made a great contribution to our life here in so many areas. We wish her a full recovery and a long and happy

retirement. A further sad consequence of her retirement was that her husband Piers stepped down from Chairmanship of the Appeal, causing something of a hiatus in its momentum, splendidly taken up by Karen despite her being quite new to the church.

Unfortunately Julia's resignation came on the day that I had a long-awaited operation on my foot, meaning I was completely out of action for a while and then throughout the autumn gradually recovered. Alas, just before Christmas it flared up again, and am once again far less mobile than I need to be to do this job properly. We are all – and particularly I am – profoundly grateful for the cheerful way in which Jenny Welsh took on the work of two other colleagues as our sole priest for this period, ably assisted by Philip. Despite this reduction from three resident clergy to one, our pattern of worship and events continued uninterrupted.

In the course of the year we bade farewell to many faithful members of our fellowship – none so faithful in so many areas of our church life and worship as David Wilson – also Joyce Johnston and Gwen Robson. May they rest in peace.

I thank you all for your fellowship and commitment; singling out (unfairly, no doubt) in addition to Jenny, our Wardens, David our church and parish treasurer (Peerless both by name and nature), Susan our Administrator, Sophie my PA, Karen our Head of Fundraising, Adam our Centre Manager, George our Virger, Nick Assistant Virger, Alexandra the Children on Sundays Co-ordinator, Mark the Director of Music and Peter Stubbs, the long-retired priest who enhances our worship with his regular assistance, and Daphne Green who assists regularly whenever she is staying with her mother in the parish. Ivo Morshead has, alas, been poor health throughout most of the year and been unable to assist – he is greatly missed.

I was greatly honoured, just before Christmas, to be appointed by the Bishop of London as Prebendary of St Pauls, as have so many down the centuries who have had the extraordinary privilege of being Vicar of St Mary Abbots.  
*Your Vicar, Gillean Craig*

## **MISSION ACTION PLAN**

***Andrew Purvis***

The format of the SMA Mission Action Plan was formally adopted over a year ago. This plan sets the framework for the many activities which the Church and the congregation are undertaking using four main areas - the worship and welcome we offer to the existing congregation and to new members and visitors; the fundraising group which is now actively engaged in raising money for the large scale, multi year refurbishment; nurturing the young - the inclusive means by which we ensure the children are encouraged to grow in their faith; and the Fabric Committee which energetically looks after all the interiors of the Church. The MAP helps record who, when and how these activities are carried out so that one document captures all the various activities going on.

## WORSHIP STATISTICS 2015

Because we mustn't count each person more than once in one day or week, total numbers are less than the sum of all the services.

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:</b>					
<b>Attending Sunday Services:</b>					
8.00am Holy Eucharist	16	17	15	15	17
9.30am Family Eucharist:					
under 16	75	70	61	64	15
communicants	115	112	110	115	118
total worshippers	199	191	186	196	200
11.15am Choral Matins					
ordinary Sundays	60	59	58	61	67
major festivals	248	345	380	243	306
11.15am Choral Eucharist					
communicants	40	48	46	45	56
12.30pm Holy Eucharist	17	16	16	16	19
6.30pm					
Evensong	34	47	39	44	45
Taizé	36	36	32	32	45
Communicants	14	16	14	16	17
<b>All Sundays – total of all services:</b>					
under 16	78	74	72	71	68
communicants	172	182	163	174	179
total worshippers	365	373	373	367	364
<b>Weekday Services – Holy Eucharists</b>					
Monday 1.05 'Sunday on Monday' Eucharist	12	12	11	12	14
Tuesday 11.30	7	6	7	7	7
Wednesday 7.30	6	6	7	6	5
Wednesday 2.00 Healing Eucharist	27	29	30	36	25
Thursday 9.30 School Eucharist					
under 16	145	143	139	142	145
communicants	52	52	51	53	34
total worshippers	180	185	181	195	190
Friday 7.30	5	4	5	6	5
Saturday 10.00	5	5	4	5	6
<b>Home Communion &amp; Other Services</b>	8	10	4	4	4
<b>Weekday Services: Daily Office</b>					
Morning Prayer	3	4	3	4	4
Evening Prayer	5	6	6	5	5
<b>Attending All Weekday Services:</b>					
under 16	181	212	159	213	200
<b>Including weddings, funerals, memorials and other special services</b>					
communicants	105	94	98	119	144
total worshippers	465	455	384	491	455
<b>Sundays &amp; weekdays combined:</b>					
under 16	259	286	231	244	227
communicants	275	286	261	293	281
total worshippers	827	828	756	858	819
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS:</b>					
- receiving Easter Eve & Easter Day Communion	331	256	260	284	284
- attending Easter Eve & Easter Day Services	696	557	598	659	646
- receiving Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Communion	428	426	525	450	360
- attending Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services	1363	1491	1523	1568	1415
<b>THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:</b>					
<b>The Number of Persons Baptised</b>					
under one year old	21	21	30	17	30
aged 1-12	14	15	4	15	17
aged 13 +	5	10	1	5	7
Total baptisms	40	46	35	37	54
<b>The Number of Persons Confirmed</b>	19	26	16	27	15
<b>The Number of Weddings Solemnised</b>	4	3	6	6	4
<b>The Number of Renewals of Marriage Vows</b>	0	0	0	2	1
<b>The Number of Funerals held in church</b>	6	7	6	8	12
<b>The Number of Funerals taken in Cemeteries and Crematoria</b>	7	7	1	2	2
<b>The Number of Memorial Services held</b>	1	7	3	5	4
<b>The Number of Burials of Cremated Remains</b>	2	0	0	0	0

**Electoral Roll Officer's Report**

**Sally Bessada**

(All figures as at 31 December 2015)

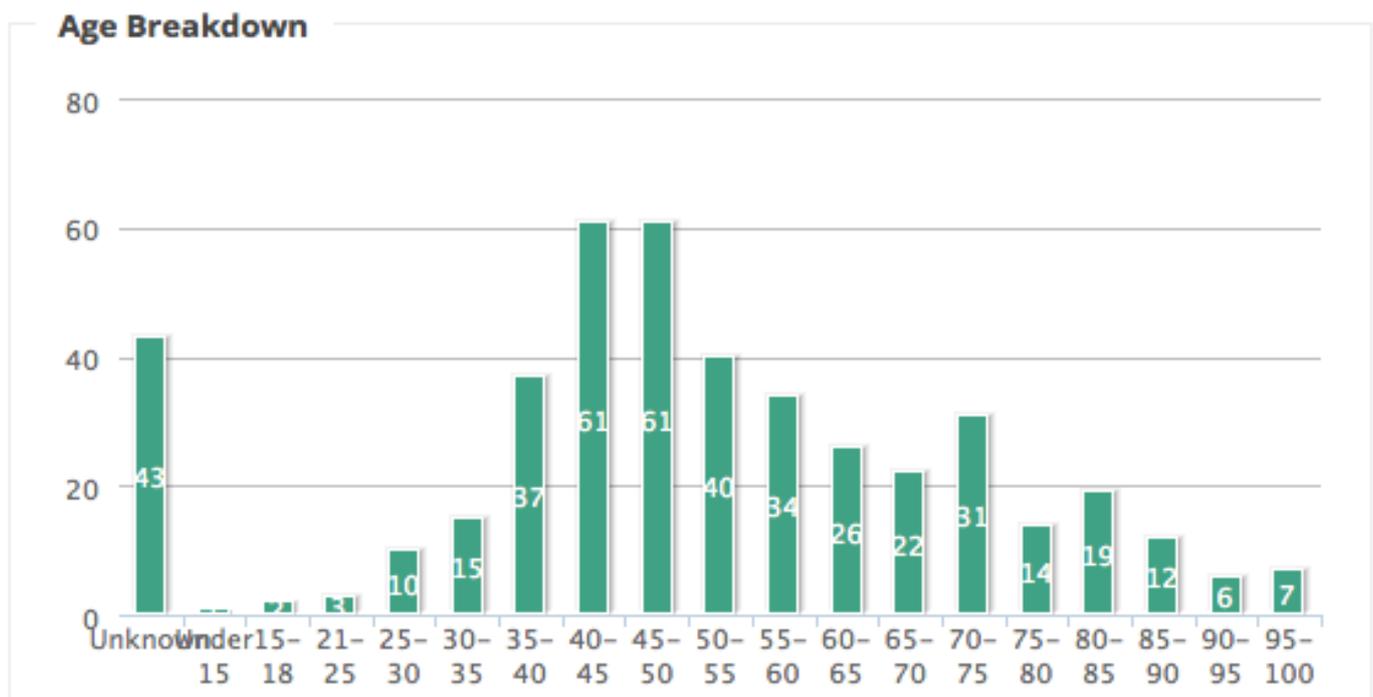
SMA ROLL MEMBERS	2015		2014		2014		2012	
	TOTAL	%	TOTAL	%	TOTAL	%	TOTAL	%
Women	255	57%	253	62%	231	62%	264	58%
Men	189	43%	158	38%	142	38%	192	42%
Total	444	100%	411	100%	373	100%	456	100%

The new Roll, made in 2013, has been continually updated throughout this year adding new applicants and removing those we know no longer attend the church. In common with a lot of other churches we have generally erred on the side of caution with the removals, leaving members on unless we are told or know definitively that they should be removed.

Although the average distance travelled to church is 1.5 miles, with over half of our roll living outside of our parish currently over 200 of our roll live less than a mile from church.

Our Electoral Roll application form invites applicants to supply their year of birth, which enables us to further determine the demography of our members. Most of those on the roll are aged between 40-50, with the average age being 55.

It's important to note that the graph below gives only a partial picture of our congregation -in addition to those who joined our roll during 2015 we added over 140 new adherents to our contacts database. We continue to monitor their attendance, and will encourage those who qualify to join our roll. Also, please note that within an average Sunday congregation there are, on average, over 60 people that are too young to qualify for the Electoral Roll membership!



## **Hon. Secretary's Report**

***Andrew Purvis***

The SMA Church council met 7 times in 2015 and the standing and finance committee met 3 times. The Council discussed all areas of church life and a highlight has been the significant progress that has been made in the overall refurbishment plan for the church. We are delighted that a badly leaking roof has now been repaired as part of the first phase. Additionally the plans were put in place for a major fundraising initiative to take place over the next year. We said a huge thank you to Carole Ann Phillips for her sterling service as Warden of the Church and were all delighted that Carole Ann passed the baton over to Hannah Stewart. Our thanks go to Hannah and Jamie for the excellent work they do as wardens of the church. We also give our thanks to Julia and Piers Hedley for the huge contribution they both made to the work of our church. We give our thanks to Adam Norton for the excellent work he continues to do managing the Centre and we also thank Nicola Doyle for ensuring the relationship between the school and the church is as strong as ever. Finally the Council thanks father Gillean and Jenny for the tireless energy they apply to supporting the congregation and the local community.

## **Deputy Wardens' Report: Fabric and Ornaments**

***Hannah Stewart and Jamie Dunford Wood***

2015 has been a very busy year for St Mary Abbots from the perspective of the fabric of the building.

Of works undertaken, we completed one major project in 2015 - the replacement of the High Roof. This was undertaken on time (completion in November 2015) and on budget, though we did use the contingency for the replacement of 2 stone crosses at high level in the roof.

We completed work to the Garth for the burial of cremated remains, which was dedicated in March by the Bishop of Kensington.

We are most grateful for contributions from the Mary Isa Trust, who provided the bulk of the funds for the High Roof repairs, and the Friends of St Mary Abbots, as well as many generous benefactors for supporting these works.

We also unveiled a magnificent new Memorial in the church, by the West door. This is the Ponsonby Memorial, commemorating Sir William Ponsonby who was killed leading the cavalry charge of the Union Brigade at the Battle of Waterloo. The memorial was fittingly unveiled in July, just a few weeks to the day after the 200th anniversary of the battle. It was commissioned by his descendants, one of whom sculpted the stone.

We have started planning the next phase of the Masterplan for the total restoration and renewal of the church - the opening up of the West end, the re-siting of the font, a interior glass porch for the West doors, and the construction of a facilities block, with kitchen and toilets, in the north-west passageway.

## **Stewardship Officer's Report**

***Emma Porteous***

This year we ended the year with 138 regular giving donors. The regular givers declined again during the course of the year, we lost 14 donors overall, compared to eight last year. We are planning to reinforce the importance to the church of regular giving alongside our fundraising campaign,

Overall, the amount given through regular giving in the year is: £94k (including tax recoverable) which represents a small decrease on last year (2014: £96k).

It should be noted that voluntary income during the year increased substantially from £225k to £335k. This is mainly due to the restricted grants received in relation to our ambitious refurbishment plans.

The legacy income in 2015 saw a reduction on 2014 levels. We finalised a legacy leaflet in 2014 and plan to make this more visible during the course of 2016.

## **Safeguarding Officer's Report**

**Samantha Giles**

2015 was the first full year that we put into practice the new process for clearances under our Safeguarding policy. Applicants complete an online disclosure application, meet with the Church Safeguarding Officer (CSO) to verify their identification and also supply two references, relevant to the role for which they are applying. While no step is complicated the overall process is proving sufficiently involved that some applicants simply do not complete the process. As a result, our total clearances are down and volunteer numbers at Children on Sunday have been under pressure, particularly in the Caterpillar and Chrysalis groups.

The majority of our clearances continue to be for our Children on Sunday volunteers. We also ask for clearance for any Pastoral Care team volunteers, teaching volunteers on the Bell Ringing team and Friday playgroup volunteers. The Door Duty volunteers complete a Confidential Declaration but do not have a DBS clearance.

This has also been a year of turnover in our older children's groups. Some of our volunteers declined to go through the renewal process when due, choosing instead to step back from the voluntary teacher role.

Our cleared volunteer numbers are overall flat year on year:

Children on Sunday: Seniors 6; Juniors 17; Butterflies 15; Chrysalis 13; Caterpillars 16. Friday playgroup: 5. Pastoral Care team: 3. Bell-ringer Chaperones 2: Server Chaperone: 1. Part-time verger: 1.

## **Report on the Proceedings of the Kensington Deanery Synod**

**Eliza Low**

The Deanery meetings are now generally open to all members of the 16 Kensington churches, now under the heading 'Anglicans in Kensington'.

In February, at St John's Notting Hill, we had a conversation about the Church and Church schools. The presentation was given by Chris Doyle, Headteacher of St Barnabas and St Philip School, Sue Hussey, Head of St Clement and St James's School, Sarah Bouette, Head of St Thomas, and the Venerable Stephan Welch, Chair of the London Diocesan Board for Schools. This raised some very interesting and important questions about the involvement of the Church in schools, the point of Church schools and of course their admission policies.

In June we attended the annual Summer Garden Party in the Vicar's Garden. As is now the form, the invitation was extended to a wider group, to include Church officers, administrators and others who are engaged in the Deanery's Churches.

This year there were both General Synod and Diocesan Synod elections, in which members of the Deanery Synod are the electorate.

The Deanery met again in November at St Mary Abbots Centre. Eliza Low was re-elected Deanery representative on the LDBS.

After the Deanery business part of the meeting, Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, gave a talk entitled 'Egypt and Babylon: What's at stake in working with vulnerable and homeless people today'. This explored the theology behind the work St Martin's does with the homeless.

The St Mary Abbots Deanery Synod representatives are Sally Bessada, Max Croft, Pippa Currey, Eliza Low, Nicholas Helm, David Wilkinson and Thomas Williams.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Hon. Treasurer's Report**

*David Peerless*

A major focus this year at St Mary Abbots has been the Appeal and the repair of the High Roofs, at a cost of £620,142. The project, which took most of the year, was completed on time and within budget. Although this work represents Phase I of the Appeal, due to the urgency of the works, it was decided that we should use £518,510 from our reserves to complete the project, including £400,000 from the Mary Isa (Renovation) Fund.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the entire team that made this happen with minimal disruption to the congregation and local community, in particular Colin Kerr (Architect), Universal Stone (Builder), DR Nolans & Co (Quantity Surveyors) and, specially, our Virger, George MacAllan.

A further £36,616 was spent on the refurbishment works on the Resurrection Chapel (completed in 2014).

The church's income was broadly stable in 2015, excluding exceptional items: St Mary Abbots received £20,400 in crane oversailing and right of light fees in 2015, compared to an exceptional £218,000 in 2014.

Meanwhile, expenditure rose slightly as three new members of staff joined us during the year. Karen Bryant joined as Director of St Mary Abbot's Appeal, Sophie Gaselee joined as Vicar's PA, and Nick Benn joined as part-time Virger to assist George Macallan. I would like to welcome them all to St Mary Abbots and wish them well as we embark on the St Mary Abbots Appeal, to enhance St Mary Abbots Church for the 21st Century.

The church's activities during the year ended with a loss of £568,051 in 2015, compared to a gain of £178,910 in 2014.

Susan Russell has again worked tirelessly to maintain the church accounts throughout the year. I would like to thank her for her hard work.

The church accounts are once again audited by Carter Backer Winter.

### **Incoming Resources**

The church's income is derived from the following sources:

1. Voluntary income. While planned giving and collections at services decreased, donations and appeals increased by £13,072, and grants rose by £108,943 to give an overall increase to £334,511 in 2015, from £224,505 in 2014. The Church reclaimed £107,402 in VAT from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, and received £10,880 in grants from the Janet Leng Trust, and £20,000 from the Friends of St Mary Abbots Church for works to the Resurrection Chapel.

2. Church hall lettings, rental and fund-raising income. A total of £291,711 was raised from these sources in 2015, compared to £305,217 in 2014.

3. Investment income. Dividends and interest earned the church £26,236 in 2015 compared with £32,145 in 2014. £200,000 of investments held in the Mary Isa (Renovation) Fund was divested during the year, to raise funds to pay for the roof repairs.

4. Other incoming resources. In 2015, £20,400 was received in fees for the crane oversailing licence, before its termination in April 2015.

### **Resources expended**

Total resources expended rose to £1,262,117 in 2015 from £619,319 in 2014. The reason for the increase was major works to repair the Roof and the Resurrection Chapel.

The Church's Diocesan Parish Contribution was £180,000 in 2015, compared to £175,370 in 2014.

Other costs were broadly stable and, in the context of the Church's incoming resources, remain manageable.

### **Balance sheet**

At the end of 2015, St Mary Abbots Church has total net assets of £3,595,049, compared to £4,177,026 in 2014.

### **Statement of reserves**

St Mary Abbots Church has a number of restricted, unrestricted and endowed funds which, combined, were worth £916,934 at the end of 2015, down from £1,495,255 in 2014.

Unrestricted and designated funds totalled £762,488 in 2015, a decrease from £1,301,096 in 2014, and restricted funds were used for the refurbishment work, and declined to £13,182 from £51,446.

The Curtis Bequest endowment fund decreased from £146,369 to £141,264 mainly because of revaluation of investments at year end.

The Church's investments are managed by David Orr, of Charles Stanley & Co Ltd, who follows the Ethical Investment Policy guidelines of the Church of England.

### **Charitable giving**

Throughout 2015, the Church continued to engage with and support specific charities working locally, nationally and internationally.

The table printed below shows both the donations made directly from church funds and charitable collections at major festivals, collections for charities made at services by external organisations, such as school carol services, and also collections at funerals and memorial services, which a family desires to be given to a specific charity.

**Charities supported in 2015**

		£	£	£	£	£
		StMA	Collections (a) at Services	(b) Fundraising	Total 2015	Total 2014
<b><u>A. From General Fund</u></b>						
Sundry	-	-	-	-	-	10
<b><u>B. From Collections at Services</u></b>						
Age UK	Candlemas collection	-	-	-	-	72
Church Urban Fund	Sunday Collections	-	-	-	-	372
St Andrews Clinic for Children	Mothering Sunday	-	556	-	556	588
LDF - Lent Appeal	Easter services/Donations	-	1,868	-	1,868	981
DEC – Nepal Quake	Collection	-	749	-	749	
Christian Aid	Sunday Collections	-	548	-	548	491
Bishop of Kensington's Discretionary Fund	Confirmation	-	184	-	184	240
Bishop of Kensington's Discretionary Fund	Ordination Service	-	-	-	-	940
Mayor's chosen charity	Civic Service	-	-	-	-	500
CLIC Sargent	School Leavers service Collections	-	-	-	-	327
Red Cross – Refugee Crisis	Patronal Festival	-	657	-	657	535
USPG	Patronal Festival	-	-	-	-	200
Busoga Trust	Harvest	-	745	-	745	978
The Royal British Legion	Remembrance Sunday	-	1,480	-	1,480	977
Children's Society	Christmas	-	1,547	-	1,547	2,262
Save the Children	Christmas	-	1,548	-	1,548	2,262
<b><u>C. Charitable Fund-raising/Other</u></b>						
Christian Aid – cash receipts	Café/Supper/Walk	-	-	872	872	1,172
MacMillan Cancer Support (M&T)	Playgroup	-	-	-	-	126
Lent Appeal	Other	-	-	-	-	385
<b>Total</b>		-	9,882	872	10,754	13,418
<b>Collections and funds raised on behalf of other charities - not included in the annual Accounts</b>						
Marie Curie Cancer Care	David Wilson funeral	-	160	-	160	-
Salvation Army	David Wilson funeral	-	160	-	160	-
Christian Aid	Street Collections	-	120	-	120	-
Christian Aid	Various	-	1,860	-	1,860	-
Christ Church Community Appeal	Thomas' School	-	605	-	605	-
Greenmead Primary School	Colet Court Carols	-	1,230	-	1,230	-
<b>Total</b>		-	4,135	-	4,135	-



## REPORTS ON THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

### Virger's Report

**George MacAllan**

Churchwatchers:

At St Mary Abbots we have the privilege of keeping your church open every day of the year, an extraordinary resource valued by so many who come in to pray, to give thanks, to find help in despair. But this is only possible thank to a team of Churchwatchers. We have serious gaps in the provision and we are desperate to find people who will commit to a couple of hours in the afternoon. Can I take this opportunity on your behalf to thank the Churchwatchers.

Vestry:

We welcome Nick to the role of Deputy Virger and wish him well in his ministry. Fraser Roberts, on a voluntary basis, continues to help on my day off enabling the church to run smoothly in my absence. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Nick and Fraser for their commitment to the life of the church.

### Sidesmen & Readers

**Nigel Grieve**

The panel of active sidesmen has again contracted and now numbers just 35, including 8 couples with family commitments, effectively alternates. As previously, several of those undertaking duties at 9.30am Eucharist also undertake school door security or teaching "Children on Sunday" groups, thus restricting availability. At half term and holiday times availability continues to be critical and we are grateful to those undertaking extra duties and those covering more than one service. We try to maintain an average frequency of duties of once a month for those regularly available. We are grateful to all Sidesmen but particularly to those taking on extra duties covering holiday periods or officiating at more than one service.

Two people are worthy of special mention.

Joan Howe who covers the 8.00am Holy Communion, usually single handed, and then helps to set up for the 9.30am service, before taking a brush to the churchyard to clear leaves and litter.

Also Yoko Harada, who has been a faithful sidesman at Evensong for longer than I recall, previously ferrying the late Bess Chamberlain to and from services, as well as singing alto or soprano in the Voluntary Choir. Yoko was married to Michael towards the end of the year and moved to their new Sussex home. We congratulate them but will sorely miss Yoko in both roles.

Many sidesmen undertake the task with only the most basic knowledge of the task and responsibilities and the Wardens are currently addressing necessary sidesmen training. Recent progress was somewhat delayed following the resignation of Rev. Julia Hedley, at a busy time in Advent, when plans were being formulated for practical training with particular reference to health and safety issues. It is expected that this will come to fruition shortly. Particularly in the current climate it must be appreciated that the task includes not only routine matters, such as welcoming worshippers with the appropriate books and papers, taking collection and clearing up after services. It is important that Sidesmen

know how to deal with any disturbances or emergencies. Sidesmen, together with the Wardens, have legal authority to deal with any disturbance at "Divine Worship" and few know how to approach this.

While many sidesmen arrive in timely fashion, it is noted that not all are uniformly prompt, nor in clearing up after services. Cooperation in notifying Sunday availability when requested continues to be key to timely preparation of rotas and would be appreciated.

Adult readers continue to deliver readings to a usually high standard which is often commented on by visitors and others. There have also been fine readings from some young people at Family Services, coached by clergy or parents, or those with seemingly natural talent.

I continue to coordinate Matins and Evensong reader rotas together with sidesmen for all Sunday services. With a few exceptions, appointed sidesmen read at the same service.

Readers for 9.30am Eucharist service are appointed by Clergy. Children read at Family Eucharist and there is only one reading on Baptism and holiday Sundays. As a result those wishing to read at 9.30am continue to exceed available readings.

### Archives Report

**Jane MacAllan**

A variety of enquiries about the history of the church, its affiliates and members of the congregation have been answered. In addition, the development of the present church has been recorded through photographs. These events include the dedication of the garth, the major roof repairs and the unveiling of the Ponsonby memorial. Following a visit to the church archive by the Local Studies & Archives Department, Kensington Central Library, they have generously donated proper archival boxes specifically for storing the photograph collection. This gift, together with their support, is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the archive over the past year through donations of a variety of materials. These are invaluable in recording the life of St Mary Abbots Church and its congregation.

### Pastoral Care Team and Outreach

**The Revd Jenny Welsh**, Associate Vicar

Members of the pastoral care team continue to visit Beatrice Place each month, inviting residents and staff (and sometimes visitors) to share the sacrament, sing well known hymns and pray together. Twice we were given notice of a resident's death, and were asked to make the monthly service into a quasi-memorial for them—the families were invited back to share in these services, as well, which they appreciated greatly.

Home visits have continued throughout the year. We have conducted 28 home or hospital communion visits in 2015 including anointing in some cases. We were invited to bless one person's home.

The Intercessory Prayer group continued to pray daily for all those on our prayer lists, and to meet on a monthly basis to pray together.

In church, we responded to international incidents by providing a station where visitors could light candles and pray in for victims of particular disasters and atrocities, including the Charlie Hebdo attack in January; the terrorist attack in Paris in November; and the GermanWings plane crash in March.

On Ash Wednesday, we offered ashes (“Ashes to Go”) on the street corner, at the busy point of the day, giving out information cards describing what it was about, and ashing around 150 people. The clergy were supported by a team of lay people who engaged people in conversation, handed out cards and shared in the ashing too. This was real evangelism on the street.

We continued to work with the Kensington and Chelsea Forum for Older Residents. In 2015, we held 6 events for older people, two facilitated by Ann Morisey, one called Celebrations, which addressed how we mark (or dread) things like Christmas or birthdays, and the other called Final Things, encouraging us to consider how to face our own mortality and prepare for funeral and other arrangements. Speakers at other events included a historical writer who talked about the history of Kensington Palace; representatives from the Police and NatWest bank, speaking about protecting ourselves against scams and personal fraud; we also hosted a mini Antiques Road Show, with two experts who offered informal valuations of many treasures brought along by those attending. These events are generously funded by the K&C Forum for Older Residents.

We were invited by Ffiona’s Restaurant to nominate 20 older people in the St Mary Abbots parish to share in her annual Thanksgiving lunch—people who would otherwise not be eating in company on that day. This was a terrifically generous invitation, which was extended to members of St Philip’s and Christ Church.

At Christmas, members of the congregation provided gifts to the elderly and rides to 40 people to the Christmas Dinner held at the SMA Centre on Christmas Day.

Julia Hedley’s departure in September meant that the clergy team were rather overstretched, particularly while Fr Gillean was off on sick leave. One result was that the annual outing, funded by the Kensington Charities was postponed until February 2016. The planning and expenditure of funds was completed by the end of 2015, and we were grateful to be able to arrange theatre tickets, a meal and transportation, for 25 elderly people in our parish.

We continue to collect food for the Dalgarno Food Bank with weekly deliveries by a team of volunteer drivers, who make our support possible. Over the Christmas Holidays, about £700 was donated by those who were going away. This was used for two big on-line orders, delivered in time for Christmas. The Food Bank staff tell us that our

donations go to provide good food for up to 80 people each week.

The Winter Night Shelter continues to be supported by members of the congregation who work as volunteers alongside others from the Kensington Council of Churches, at Fulham Baptist Church.

For the second year in a row, we hosted a concert to raise money for the work of Rahab UK, which drew in about 100 people and raised in the region of £800. Volunteers also continue to work with Rahab UK, as part of the outreach team, visiting and supporting women working in the sex trade.

Christian Aid Week continues to be well supported by SMA, through Fr Gillean’s sponsored walk and collections in church throughout the year. Volunteers collected on the High Street on the Saturday in Christian Aid Week, only; we hope to resume daily collections in High Street Ken Station concourse, in 2016. The Christian Aid Pop Up Café was a great success, due to the tireless efforts of Alison Steel and a team of other volunteers who baked cakes, served drinks and were present on the day, making people welcome.

#### **Intercessory Prayer Group**

The intercessory prayer group is made up of 7 people who commit themselves to pray daily for all the people on our church intercession list, as well as those who particularly ask for prayers but don’t want to be on the public list in church. Julia Hedley kept all the members up to date with the list, week by week—with new requests and thanksgivings, and names of those no longer needing prayers to be said. The group met more or less monthly to pray together through the list and to support each other in prayer as well. This is an important ministry for the Church to engage in, and is valued hugely by those for whom we pray. It is a particularly powerful witness to the power and love of God at work in his people and his world. After Julia’s departure, the Revd. Jenny Welsh has been coordinating this group, and the meetings are now held in her office. If you would like to take part in this important work, please be in touch with her.

#### **Meditation group**

**Margaret Lane**

For many years, a Christian Meditation group has been meeting on Wednesday lunchtime in the Resurrection Chapel for between 45 minutes and an hour. It continues to flourish with the usual mix of regular attendees and people just dropping in. It is open to all and basic teaching is given though the main import of our time together is the 25 minute period of silent meditation. The main purpose of the group is to provide weekly support and encouragement for the individual members’ own daily practice.

#### **Post Confirmation Group**

The group continued to meet on a monthly basis. It has been greatly valued by adults confirmed in recent years, giving them the opportunity to continue the exploration of their Christian faith and discipleship. Unfortunately the shortage of clergy since Julia’s departure has meant that

the group has been in abeyance for the latter part of 2015.

### **Wednesday Evening House Group Sheila Bradshaw**

The evening house group continues to meet each Wednesday during term time, between 7.30 and 9 pm in a private home very close to the church. We have nine members at the moment, though our numbers fluctuate from time to time. Our purpose is to enrich and deepen our faith by studying a wide range of Christian books together so that we can share ideas, insights and interpretations and encourage one another in our Christian journeys. Each evening begins and ends with prayer.

We are currently studying "Deep Calls to Deep" by Tony Horsfall which uses studies of the Psalms to understand more fully the way in which God is at work to shape our characters and form the life of Christ within us during difficult times. Other books we have read recently include "The Great Themes of Scripture" by Richard Rohr, looking at the New Testament as the completion and culmination of the Old Testament, and "The Hole in our Gospel" by Richard Stearns, sub-titled 'What does God expect of us – the answer that changed my life and might just change the world'.

New members are always welcome, and if you are interested in joining or just want to find out what it's all about, you would be welcome to come along, or talk to Pat Wilson or Naomi Pilling.

### **Children on Sundays Alexandra Swann**

(COS Coordinator and Children's Champion)

Activities for Children on Sundays are run by parents with a designated convenor for each group responsible for ensuring the rotas are filled with parent helpers and leaders each week. Teaching materials are accessed online. We meet with convenors once a term and discuss any issues arising.

In addition to the "Children on Sunday" groups meeting every week, there are also several popular social events organised for the children and their families throughout the year.

The Chrysalis group (ages 2-4) is the busiest of all 5 groups, with the others having a good number of regular attendees. There is still an ongoing issue with finding leaders and helpers in this group.

Butterflies and Juniors have merged in the Vicar's Parlour since last April or May due to building works. This has worked rather well and also has meant that the merged group has plenty of helpers to choose from!

More school building works since October meant losing the library where the Seniors group used to meet. We could not find another space and so we had to cancel Seniors until further notice. The Senior children have been invited to serve and help in church instead.

Although we are still using an online service for our Sunday School themes, Jenny and Julia have created a great library of extra books and materials that can be used particularly for the younger groups. They also devised their own list of themes for the preschool groups which followed more closely what is happening in church (our online material is from Canada so the themes don't always relate!).

Julia Hedley, sadly had to retire in September from her work at St Mary Abbots due to ill health. We will miss her and thank her for all she did for Children on Sunday.

As always, we are so grateful to all the convenors and parents who work so hard to ensure that this vital part of our ministry continues week by week.

### **Caterpillars**

**Simone Brigden and Lorena de la Torre**

The Caterpillars group is thriving and has wonderful volunteers who have been very flexible and enthusiastic when helping out. The group has a friendly and warm atmosphere and is welcoming to new parents and their children.

The sessions normally start with a short explanation of the theme and/or a religious story. This is followed by a little prayer adapted to appeal to the very young audience. We then sing a number of religious songs for children before they can start the activity. The creative activities follow the themes discussed at the beginning of the session and are simple enough to be toddler-friendly but also appeal to older siblings attending. For the very young babies there is a matted area and a few age-appropriate toys.

The Caterpillar meetings are a lovely way to introduce Sunday school and worship to the youngest members of our congregation and we are tremendously grateful to all the parents who make this possible.

### **Chrysalis Joanna McNally and Lucie Smerdova**

Chrysalis continues to be an active, engaged group of children who are clearly growing in confidence each week. The changes made to the structure of the session last year have worked well (biblical songs only/no toys/recital of our prayer/story/activity). The children respond well to the lessons and are comfortable participating where necessary. We are extremely proud of the progress the children have made with the recital of our Chrysalis prayer each week. We continue to use the same material for lessons however have broadened the subject choice for leaders as well as the creation of a library at the back of our Church for leaders to also use. We average 30 children each week so leaders are always encouraged to provide sufficient craft material.

We are hugely grateful to those parents who are committed to leading or helping the group however they are small in number and we really do need to recruit from the regular parent attendees. With effect from 01-01-16 Dania El-Kadi will replace Anna McNally as co-convenor with Lucie Smerdova.

### **Butterflies**

**Laura Sylvester**

The Butterfly group has been combined with the Junior group for a number of months. This brings together a much larger group of children than usual — sometimes 20 children aged from 4-and-a-half to 9 share the floor space in the Vicar's Parlour.

The combined group continues to flourish thanks to the enthusiastic parent-volunteers. The younger children love being in the company of older children, and the older ones help the youngest members with the art activity. This year, we had lots of the new children moving up Chrysalis, and they were happy to leave their parents in church and stay with the older children.

We continue to use 'Seasons of the Spirit' as an educational resource, but welcome parents taking their own initiative when teaching the group. Because the group is combined with Juniors, singing has made way for discussion and it's always fabulous to hear from the younger children and what their take on the weekly 'theme' is.

It's lovely to watch the children grow in confidence. The Nativity play is always a highlight, and this year, more Butterfly children had main parts in the play than ever before. They all took the play very seriously with very little time to practice at Church, they worked hard to learn their lines for the performance. It gave a few of the children the confidence to become readers and help out at the monthly Family Eucharists.

In September 2015, Christine Peerless took over from Laura Sylvester as convener of the Butterfly group, and whilst the group is combined Christine is organising the leaders and helpers for each joint session.

The Butterfly group is delightful, and continues to flourish. Much of that is down to the care and attention that our Butterfly leaders bring to the group. We are very blessed our parents are enthusiastic and creative in the way they lead the group, and make sure the children get the most out of the time spent at Sunday School. We regularly have more than 10 children in the group, most are happy to leave parents in Church, but sometimes parents come to the group. Once the new younger children are more confident about being in an older group, their parents feel better about leaving them.

Our Butterfly leaders provide a relaxed and friendly atmosphere where the children get the most out of learning about Faith and Christianity. There is always a fun activity, lively debates, story time, and very loud singing. It is amazing to watch the children grow in spirit and confidence and it is a happy, friendly group. The Butterfly children are encouraged to take part in the monthly family Eucharist and feel very proud when they get a role to play in the service.

### **Juniors (ages 6-9)**

**Jane Hughes**

*Currently merged with Butterflies.*

### **Seniors**

**Jane Hughes**

The seniors group caters for children in school year 4 and above. We average around eight children per session

with one leader/adult running the session. At present we do not have a room to meet in because of on going renovation work in the School building, something that hopefully will be rectified once the work is completed.

We have also lowered the age of the children that attend the group due to lack of space and a merging of the younger Butterflies and Juniors group in the Vicar's parlour. Because of a lowering in age I feel we should include some creative arts & crafts into the session to enhance the Bible reading/lesson or parable. The session is shorter than the other groups so that the children can join the congregation and take part in the Church service.

At present we have five leaders on the rota but could always do with more adults to help spread the load as we have more children now. We do encourage parents of children to volunteer when their children move up from the Juniors group, unfortunately most are put off because of the older children's more advanced questioning.

### **Children on Sunday Door Rota**

**Mark Waring**

Thanks to all those who volunteered throughout 2015 to stand on the door during Family Eucharist. It's a great way to help out and to safeguard the Children on Sunday groups for the parents and children attending.

I send out a request for volunteers before the start of each calendar quarter and all offers of help are welcome. Anyone not already on the mailing list who wishes to help out should either speak to me or to one of the Children on Sunday group leaders and provide their email address, so that it can be added to the mailing list.

### **St Mary Abbots Playgroup**

**Leaders: Laura Sylvester; regular Leaders include Alice deMare, Anna Bardsley, Christine Peerless**

The SMA Parent & Toddler Friday Playgroup continues to be as popular as ever. We have lots of mums attending with children, from new born to toddlers. Whilst sometimes noisy, the atmosphere is friendly, peaceful and pleasant and it is a joy to see families bringing their second and third children to the group. We have an array of kind, sensible, helpful mums helping lead the group.

There are always lots of new families wishing to attend and we still have to maintain a waiting list to join, although we have no wish to keep people waiting it is vital for Health & Safety and the general pleasure and relaxed atmosphere as the essence of this Playgroup that we have a sensible number of people attending at any one time. As the weather becomes warmer (and dryer!) and young families are happier to go outdoors and explore the delights of Father Gillean and Linda's garden, these waiting lists will no doubt shorten again as the natural ebb and flow.

We are delighted to say that this is a fun resource for Parish mothers to meet and relax, chat and enjoy their shared experience whilst accompanying their babies and children (pre-schoolers in term time, school children in the holidays). There are toys for the children to share, healthy

snack time at child-sized tables, lively circle song time and a chance for little ones to play together under mum's watchful gaze. Many young ones (and new mums) take their first steps literally here (and it is many mums' first venture out to a group), all in a relaxed friendly atmosphere.

Parishioner parents - if you would like to join us, please contact [playgroup@stmaryabbotschurch.org](mailto:playgroup@stmaryabbotschurch.org) or speak to Father Gillean, or Jenny. We meet at the Long Room, SMA Centre, Vicarage Gate from 9.45am to 11.15 of Friday mornings.

### Hospitality

#### Alison Steel

There are many rewards, joys and privileges in organising hospitality in and for the Church of St Mary Abbots. However, the greatest is the honour and love we extend on post funeral occasions when we are asked to provide refreshments to members of a congregation, many of whom have travelled some distance to attend. The degree of individual grief is various and a balanced note of compassion must be struck. There is an unspoken but tangible bond between regular members of the congregation, clergy and catering helpers who work together to provide seamless consolation and comfort on these occasions.

Baptism Sundays on the other hand are all round joyous occasions as families and their friends join after the service Sunday Coffee session to which Baptismal families often donate special bubbling and fizzy drinks with which the congregation may welcome and toast the new Christians.

For annual celebrations, welcomes to joining clergy or farewells to beloved members of the Church family, where services are followed by refreshments, many members of the congregation generously donate excellent dishes of food and/or wine. During a year there are probably some six or seven of these celebrations to which requests for donations are always enthusiastically answered. There is a wonderful team of hospitality workers principally led weekly by Melissa Dixon, Juan Carrion, Jan Sadovsky and Grace Manika but this team is strongly supported, touched on above, by willing members of the whole Church.

### St Mary Abbots Guild of Bellringers David Holdridge

Once again, the bell-ringers have enjoyed a successful year. Ringing has taken place every Sunday morning before the 9:30 Family Eucharist, for Evensong three times a month, and for occasional special services. We continued to build on the progress made in 2014, with individual members of the band learning new methods, and ringing different bells. We have also maintained our commitment to teach new ringers at "tied bell" sessions prior to the main practice. Significant progress has been made by all of them, and most have now rung a quarter-peal; an important milestone in any ringer's progress. We are now thinking about ways to improve the training facilities. We always welcome anyone who is interested in learning; just come up to the tower on Thursday evenings at 7:30.

We rang for two weddings at St Mary Abbots during the year (fewer than usual), and successfully completed five full three-and-a-half-hour peals to mark significant church and national occasions; the 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Accession of HM the Queen (February); Easter (April); Ascension Day (May); the 755<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation of the Parish (October); and Christmas Eve. Several of these were in advanced methods, reflecting the progress made by our ringers during the year.

This year, we chose Exeter as the venue for our annual Ringing Week; the 38<sup>th</sup> successive tour and the fourth time we have been based in this city. Highlights included ringing for Evensong at the Cathedral, and at many other attractive churches in Devon. For the second year running, we enjoyed a day trip to the Cotswolds. In September, we held our Biennial Dinner at a Pimlico restaurant, and were delighted that Fr Gillean and Linda were able to join us. We also held a less formal Christmas Dinner at Café Rouge in Victoria Station – the branch opposite the church having closed.

This year, our Annual Meeting in October saw no changes to the Committee membership. The two ringing masters outlined a number of proposals for the development of the band during the following 12 months, and we look forward to seeing these come to fruition in 2016.

### Music at St Mary Abbots

#### Mark Uglow, Director of Music

It is pleasing to report a continuing high standard of performance at a variety of services and other events during the past year.

The highlights to which we have become accustomed have again been the performances of St John Passion and the Messiah. We are again most grateful to the Rudd family for underwriting part of the costs of both concerts. The performance of the *Messiah* in December 2015 was without doubt the best of the whole series of these performances, which began back in 2004. Thanks must also be recorded again to those individuals who help tirelessly behind the scenes to promote and facilitate these performances – David Wilkinson, Julia Swann, Susan Lockhart, George MacAllan and Susan Russell. The promotion we continue to receive through the publications of DMG Media is most welcome and has undoubtedly contributed to some of the excellent turnouts to major services and concerts.

Highlights involving the professional establishment have included the Advent Procession, 9 lessons and carols, the now familiar pattern of Holy Week Services and the Patronal Festival. At Matins with Choral Eucharist in 2015 there have been mass settings, exploring a wide range of styles and periods, by Rheinberger, Hummel, Buxtehude, Lotti, Guerrero, Hassler, Vierne, Eybler, Oldroyd, Aiblinger and Victoria.

The chamber organ, purchased in 2013, has continued to be used frequently in services and has both widened considerably the range of music which is performed as

well as enabling the choir to sing in the nave, acoustically much more desirable than in the chancel. The other aspect of the chamber organ is that it highlights the fact that the main organ remains digital. The quality of the sound is not comparable and makes one realize what St Mary Abbots has been missing for so long, the sound of a good, main pipe organ.

The Director of Music wishes to record his thanks for their loyalty and support to the Associate Director of Music, Nick O'Neill, and to all the members of both the professional and voluntary choirs and acknowledges the contributions which each and everyone makes to the regular Sunday and other services. The musicians at St Mary Abbots acknowledge and pay tribute to the immense support and encouragement which they receive from the clergy and laity, as they use their talent and skill to enhance and adorn the liturgy.

#### **Handicraft Group**

The group contributed £2,323 from their fund-raising activities over several years towards the Resurrection Chapel Fund.

#### **Knitting Group**

#### **Lucy Hammond Giles**

Knitting Group meets monthly on Mondays near Holland Park with Pat as our fearless leader. We continue to knit and purl our way through thought, coffee, laughter and tears and all are welcome. This year we have two nearly finished jumpers, a finished scarf, a nearly finished scarf and lots of hand warmers! Pat of course has knitted and FINISHED jumpers, cardis, scarfs as well as the most ingenious and darling teddy animals you ever saw. I am sure she would make you one too, if you ask nicely!

#### **Barbara Hensman**

#### **Book club co-ordinator**

We have read nine books this year. Eight of them are novels. Themes of the Second World War have featured in three of the books. Harsh Nazi occupation in Guernsey and the privations of life in Germany under Nazi rule are the subjects of two books. Another book is set against the background of life in London during the war and the blitz. It also addresses sexual morality in the context of Roman Catholicism and the guilt and anguish resulting from an extra marital affair. Another book tells a lovely childhood story of a London girl sent to family in Brazil. Another theme is of how relationships transform lives. The ninth book is about drawing. We have read books by great and famous writers, GK Chesterton, AS Byatt, Margaret Atwood. We have read the second instalment of Alan Johnson's autobiography, fact, not fiction. We have read Graham Greene's novel which was listed in 2015 in The Guardian as one of the all time "100 best novels". We have read novels set in Notting Hill and in Clapham. We have read a Booker prize winning novel, which has seventeen hundred lines of original, beautiful poetry and is a satire of modern academia and mating rituals. We have met nine times to discuss these books and the issues they raise, to see them in a Christian context and to pray together. We then enjoy a friendly tea. Rev. Jenny Welsh continues as our leader. Very sadly in the last year three current and past Book Club members have died. Joyce Johnson died on 31st

January 2015 aged 94, Gwen Robson died on Christmas Day 2015 aged 94 and Esmé Bass died on 22nd February 2016 aged 98. They were all remarkable women whom we greatly miss in the Book Club.

Books read this year:

Possession by A S Byatt

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society (TGLAPPS) by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows

The End of the Affair by Graham Greene

The Napoleon of Notting Hill by GK Chesterton

Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

Please, Mister Postman by Alan Johnson

A short book about drawing by Andrew Marr

Moral Disorder by Margaret Atwood

The Book Club has vacancies for new members. We meet on a Thursday afternoon at 2.30 pm on dates agreed with Book Club members.

#### **St Mary Abbots Centre**

#### **Adam Norton**

It has been another busy year at St Mary Abbots Centre with many varied events.

The theatre continues to be one of the most popular rehearsal spaces in London. If proof were needed, we welcomed back "The Full Monty" for a third time prior to yet another nationwide tour! We were also very honoured to host the rehearsals for Sir Richard Eyre's award-winning production of Ibsen's "Ghosts" with Lesley Manville, and the Almeida Theatre's production of "Charles III" prior to their transatlantic transfers. We also continued our relationship with Investec Opera Holland Park who returned with another rarely performed opera "L'Amore dei Tre Re". This year they will be back with something more well-known – Tchaikovsky's "The Queen of Spades". Other productions included Chichester Festival Theatre revival of Anouilh's "The Rehearsal". We are delighted to welcome them back again in 2016 to rehearse two Shakespeare plays. We were also proud to hear the Cory Band running through their prize-winning entry before the National Brass Band Finals at the Royal Albert Hall. Between all these bookings the theatre continues to provide examination space for the University of South Africa. All the above continues to provide vital revenue for the running of St Mary Abbots.

The Long Room provides a meeting space for a wide variety of parish activities including preparation for Confirmation and the annual Lent Talks, in addition to all our Parish Council meetings. It continues to be a very popular venue for children's parties, most of which now seem to be based around the Disney cartoon phenomenon "Frozen"! Other businesses and organisations meeting here included Warner Music, the Doll Club of Great Britain, Cherry Trees Resident's Association and the Kensington Society. We are also delighted to have forged a close relationship with the Kensington and Chelsea Forum for Older Residents who have held several very successful events here. On Thursday evenings the Young Actors Theatre Company continues to meet here. Any young parishioner keen on performing should consider joining – [www.theyoungactorscompany.com](http://www.theyoungactorscompany.com)

In the summer we were delighted to welcome Sophie Gaselee as the Vicar's PA and in September she was joined by Karen Bryant as the new Head of Fundraising working to co-ordinate the extensive Church Appeal. Karen has taken over the Associate Vicar's office and Jenny Welsh has been moved into the far more commodious quarters of the former Committee Room. Jenny, and all her books, seem very happy with this new arrangement.

The Summer Fete in June was again not blessed with the sunshine it deserved, but was still enjoyed by all. None more so than the Vicar who entered into the fancy dress theme of Comic Book Heroes with a wonderful portrayal of The Joker from the Batman comics. The Christmas Bazaar was also a very successful affair, attended not only by many parishioners but also by two reindeer and a splendid owl. Many thanks are due to Marsh and Parsons and Knight Frank for sponsoring these two events. We are also indebted to Sisk Builders who kindly sponsored all the food for Bonfire Night, as well as supplying the wood for the bonfire – the biggest ever!

You can follow future activities on the St Mary Abbots Centre Facebook page - <http://www.facebook.com/StMaryAbbotsCentre>

**St Mary Abbots School Nicola Doyle, Headteacher**  
There were many highlights in 2015 which I bring to your attention. Our Key Stage 1 & 2 results were outstanding once again and significantly above the national average. One year on from our Ofsted Inspection, the school has made many significant changes such as forming a new Leadership Team which has had a very positive impact. The school was delighted to achieve a 'Silver' award for its Healthy School Status and a 'Gold Outstanding Award' for its School Travel Plan for the third year running. The school sporting teams achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place in the annual Swimming Gala, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Athletics competition and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Kwik Cricket Competition.

The pupils enjoyed competing against other schools and proved that despite not having access to green fields they could still compete in the athletics and Kwik cricket to a high level. Another highlight of 2015 was when the Chamber Choir performed at the Albert Hall with other borough schools in a showcase performance of Seven Seeds, a newly commissioned work by the composer John Barber.

Once again the staff team worked incredibly hard over the year to ensure the highest standards possible and as always I am grateful to them all for their dedication and commitment to the school.

**Friends of St Mary Abbots Church Kensington  
Chairman – Tim Moule**

Membership of the Friends of St Mary Abbots Church Kensington is open to people of all faiths or none who wish to be associated with the maintenance and embellishment of the historic church building as an amenity and architectural feature at the heart of the local community. The Friends provide a link with those who live, learn, or work nearby, or who have visited or enjoyed connections with the church.

Whilst 2015 was a quiet year for the Friends, the committee took the opportunity to regroup and redefine its objectives for Church and community, as discussed at the AGM in November. Objectives for 2016 were laid out, including focus of fundraising efforts and events as well as defining how the Friends can actively support the vast renovation works currently underway. As with 2014, our year ended with a lively carol party in the Mayor's Parlour.

The Friends were pleased to donate a new set of hymn books for use by the school in their morning services. We also look forward to specific funding projects within the ongoing renovation works.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL OF  
ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, KENSINGTON**

We have audited the financial statements of the District Church Council of St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, for the year ended 31 December 2015 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the District Church Council, as a body, in accordance with section 154 of the Charities Act 2011. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Council those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Council and the Council's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

***Respective responsibilities of the District Church Council and auditor***

As explained more fully in the District Church Council's Responsibilities Statement, the Council is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view.

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

***Scope of the audit of the financial statements***

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the church's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Council; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Council's Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

***Opinion on financial statements***

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the church's affairs as at 31 December 2015 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

***Matters on which we are required to report by exception***

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Carter Backer Winter LLP**  
**Statutory Auditor**

**66 Prescott Street**  
**London**  
**E1 8NN**

Date:

## **STATEMENT OF THE DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The District Church Council is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the church and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the church for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Council is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the church will continue in operation.

The Council is responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the church and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

	NOTES	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	TOTAL	Further Details See Note10
		General £	Properties £	Funds	Funds £	2015 £	2014 £	
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>								
Incoming resources from generating funds								
Voluntary income	2a	170,627	-	163,884	-	<b>334,511</b>	224,505	
Activities for generating funds	2b	291,711	-	-	-	<b>291,711</b>	305,217	
Investment Income	2c	19,670	-	214	6,352	<b>26,236</b>	32,145	
Incoming resources from Church activities	2d	20,336	-	872	-	<b>21,208</b>	16,001	
Other incoming resources	2e	20,400	-	-	-	<b>20,400</b>	220,361	
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>522,744</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>164,970</b>	<b>6,352</b>	<b>694,066</b>	<b>798,229</b>	
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>								
Costs of generating voluntary income								
3a		320	-	49	-	<b>369</b>	1,279	
Fund-raising trading costs	3b	29,978	-	18,896	-	<b>48,874</b>	31,992	
Investment management costs	3c	2,606	-	-	766	<b>3,372</b>	3,081	
Charitable activities of the Church	3d	497,305	-	676,156	4,032	<b>1,177,493</b>	556,335	
Governance costs	3e	32,009	-	-	-	<b>32,009</b>	26,632	
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>562,218</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>695,101</b>	<b>4,798</b>	<b>1,262,117</b>	<b>619,319</b>	
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>		<b>(39,474)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(530,131)</b>	<b>1,554</b>	<b>(568,051)</b>	<b>178,910</b>	
Transfers between Funds		<b>(491,867)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>491,867</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>		<b>(531,341)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(38,264)</b>	<b>1,554</b>	<b>(568,051)</b>	<b>178,910</b>	
<b>GAINS/LOSSES ON INVESTMENT ASSETS</b>								
On disposal	5b	49,636	-	-	4,758	<b>54,394</b>	-	
On revaluation		(56,903)	-	-	(11,417)	<b>(68,320)</b>	13,827	
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(538,608)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(38,264)</b>	<b>(5,105)</b>	<b>(581,977)</b>	<b>192,737</b>	
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1.1.15.		1,301,096	2,678,115	51,446	146,369	<b>4,177,026</b>	3,984,289	
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31.12.15.</b>		<b>762,488</b>	<b>2,678,115</b>	<b>13,182</b>	<b>141,264</b>	<b>3,595,049</b>	<b>4,177,026</b>	

The notes on pages 5 to 14 form part of these accounts.

**BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2015**

	Notes	2015 £	2014 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets			
Properties	5a	<b>2,678,115</b>	2,678,115
Equipment	5a	<b>5,550</b>	8,325
Investments (market value)	5b	<b>459,770</b>	678,531
		<b>3,143,435</b>	3,364,971
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
CBF Deposits		<b>418,598</b>	778,647
Debtors	7	<b>32,218</b>	37,225
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>58,879</b>	51,648
		<b>509,695</b>	867,520
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>	8	<b>(58,081)</b>	(55,465)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>451,614</b>	812,055
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>3,595,049</b>	4,177,026
<b>FUNDS:</b>	9		
Unrestricted – General		<b>762,488</b>	1,301,096
– Properties		<b>2,678,115</b>	2,678,115
Restricted		<b>13,182</b>	51,446
Endowments		<b>141,264</b>	146,369
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>3,595,049</b>	4,177,026

Approved and signed on behalf of the DCC on 9 March 2016 by:

The Revd Gillean Craig (Chairman) .....

Mr David Peerless (Hon. Treasurer) .....

The notes on pages 5 to 14 form part of these accounts.

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**a. Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and Charities SORP (FRSSE).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

**b. Funds**

*Unrestricted Funds* are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

*Designated Funds* are monies set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

*Restricted Funds* represent

(a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and

(b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

*Endowment Funds* are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used.

It has been ascertained that St Mary Abbots Church enjoys full entitlement to the Curtis Bequest Fund's assets and to the income that these assets generate. The reserves have been re-stated as at 31 December 2008 to include this endowment fund.

**c. Incoming Resources**

All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

***Voluntary income***

*Collections* are recognised when received.

*Planned giving* receivable is recognised only when received.

*Income tax* recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

*Grants and legacies* are recognised when the PCC is legally entitled to the amount due.

***Income from Investments***

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

***All other income***

All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

***Gains and losses on Investments***

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation at 31 December.

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)**

**d. Resources Expended**

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and are accounted for gross.

***Grants***

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

***Church Activities***

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

The PCC contributes to the Church of England Pension Builder Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the PCC in an independently administered fund.

**e. Fixed Assets**

***Tangible fixed assets***

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected. For inalienable property acquired prior to 1996 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Individual items acquired since have been capitalised in the accounts and depreciated over their economic life.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £5,000 are written off in the year they were incurred.

Functional church properties have been included in the accounts at "deemed cost" which in the absence of reliable historical cost information represents the insured values of these properties on 1 January 2006 when they were included in the accounts. This deemed cost will not change unless improvement expenditure is incurred on these properties. Full details of these properties are included at Note 5a to the accounts.

***Depreciation***

Fixtures and fittings and office equipment over £5,000 are depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years

No depreciation is provided on freehold property as it is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. The useful economic life of these assets is so long and residual values so high that any depreciation would not be material. These assets will be subject to annual impairment reviews. Provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

***Investments***

Investments are stated at market value at 31 December.

**f. Current Assets**

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)**

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds	Funds	2015	2014
	£	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Incoming Resources from generated funds</u></b>					
<b><u>2a. Voluntary income</u></b>					
Planned giving: Gift Aid	69,036	-	-	<b>69,036</b>	71,088
Planned giving	8,054	-	-	<b>8,054</b>	7,380
Collections at services: Gift Aid	10,443	336	-	<b>10,779</b>	10,643
Collections at services	7,443	9,312	-	<b>16,755</b>	23,573
Sundry donations and appeals: Gift Aid	18,735	15,695	-	<b>34,430</b>	26,226
Sundry donations and appeals	17,040	7,231	-	<b>24,271</b>	19,403
Income tax recoverable	23,912	3,908	-	<b>27,820</b>	27,083
Grants	14,964	127,402	-	<b>142,366</b>	33,423
Legacies	1,000	-	-	<b>1,000</b>	5,686
	<b>170,627</b>	<b>163,884</b>	-	<b>334,511</b>	224,505
<b><u>2b. Activities for generating funds</u></b>					
Church hall lettings etc.	220,462	-	-	<b>220,462</b>	227,868
Rent (Hornton Place)	45,333	-	-	<b>45,333</b>	48,500
Fund-raising Bazaar/Concerts	25,916	-	-	<b>25,916</b>	28,849
	<b>291,711</b>	-	-	<b>291,711</b>	305,217
<b><u>2c. Investment Income</u></b>					
Dividends and interest	19,670	214	6,352	<b>26,236</b>	32,145
	<b>19,670</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>6,352</b>	<b>26,236</b>	<b>32,145</b>
<b><u>2d. Income from Church Activities</u></b>					
Fund-raising Church groups	8,825	872	-	<b>9,697</b>	5,640
Fees (Church and statutory)	11,511	-	-	<b>11,511</b>	10,361
	<b>20,336</b>	<b>872</b>	-	<b>21,208</b>	16,001
<b><u>2e. Other Incoming Resources</u></b>					
Fee re Crane Oversailing Licence	20,400	-	-	<b>20,400</b>	68,000
Fee re Right of Light – Vicarage Gate	-	-	-	-	150,000
Ground Rent and other sundry	-	-	-	-	2,361
	<b>20,400</b>	-	-	<b>20,400</b>	220,361
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>522,744</b>	<b>164,970</b>	<b>6,352</b>	<b>694,066</b>	798,229

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds	Funds	2015	2014
	£	£	£	£	£
<b><u>3a. Cost of generating voluntary income</u></b>					
Stewardship costs	320	49	-	369	1,279
	320	49	-	369	1,279
<b><u>3b. Fund-raising costs</u></b>					
Fund-raising activities	21,662	-	-	21,662	24,700
Support costs: administration	8,316	18,896	-	27,212	7,292
	29,978	18,896	-	48,874	31,992
<b><u>3c. Investment Management Costs</u></b>					
Charles Stanley fees	2,606	-	766	3,372	3,081
	2,606	-	766	3,372	3,081
<b><u>3d. Charitable Activities of the church</u></b>					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
Overseas	-	5,338	-	5,338	3,667
Home	-	5,416	-	5,416	9,751
Ministry: Diocesan Parish Contribution	180,000	-	-	180,000	175,370
Clergy accommodation and expenses	30,554	-	-	30,554	29,686
Church running expenses	39,820	-	-	39,820	38,880
Church maintenance	3,393	551	-	3,944	17,176
Church major repairs and works	-	661,038	-	661,038	81,490
Services	8,519	-	-	8,519	9,017
Choir and music	44,007	-	4,000	48,007	45,368
Congregational Development	7,819	-	-	7,819	7,741
Church Hall repairs and maintenance	38,349	-	-	38,349	35,095
8 Hornton Place	27,492	-	-	27,492	-
Salaries: Church	32,401	-	-	32,401	24,258
Hall	30,782	-	-	30,782	29,864
Staff Accommodation	11,091	-	-	11,091	10,681
Support Costs: administration	42,755	32	32	42,819	35,516
Sundry	323	3,781	-	4,104	2,775
	497,305	676,156	4,032	1,177,493	556,335
<b><u>3e. Governance costs</u></b>					
Auditors fees	8,140	-	-	8,140	7,580
Solicitors fees	2,181	-	-	2,181	-
Surveyors fees	1,500	-	-	1,500	2,730
Support costs: administration	20,188	-	-	20,188	16,322
	32,009	-	-	32,009	26,632
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>562,218</b>	<b>695,101</b>	<b>4,798</b>	<b>1,262,117</b>	<b>619,319</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)**

**4. STAFF COSTS & PCC MEMBER PAYMENTS**

<b>4a. Wages</b>	<b>2015</b>	2014
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<b>113,869</b>	85,329
Social security costs	<b>10,171</b>	8,002
Pension costs	<b>6,214</b>	5,943
Agency fees	<b>9,850</b>	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>140,104</b>	99,274

In 2015 the PCC employed a Virger, Relief Virger, Vicar's PA, Parish Administrator, Hall Manager, Relief Hall Manager and a Director of Fundraising. None of the staff members earned the Act's minimum figure for declaration of £60,000 p.a.

**4b. Payments to PCC/Church Council Members**

£20,107.30 was paid in fees to Mr Mark Uglow as the Director of Music.

**4c. Church of England Pension Builder Scheme**

St Mary Abbots PCC (PB Classic) participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. The Scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has a section known as the Defined Benefits Scheme, a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic and a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

**Pension Builder Scheme**

The Pension Builder Scheme of the Church Workers Pension Fund is made up of two sections, Pension Builder Classic and Pension Builder 2014, both of which are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension for members for payment from retirement, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Bonuses may also be declared, depending upon the investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum that members use to provide benefits at retirement.

Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. This account may have bonuses added by the Board before retirement. The bonuses depend on investment experience and other factors. There is no requirement for the Board to grant any bonuses. The account, plus any bonuses declared, is payable from members' Normal Pension Age.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This means it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are contributions payable.

A valuation of the scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent scheme valuation completed was carried out as at 31 December 2013. This revealed, on the ongoing assumptions used, a surplus of £0.5m. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

Pension Builder 2014 will be valued in relation to the lump sum payable to members at normal pension age. There are no annual pension benefits. Pension Builder 2014 commenced in February 2014 so the first full valuation of that section will be carried out at the next CWPF valuation date, 31 December 2016.

St Mary Abbots contributes 7.5% of basic salary. The contributions for the year totalled £6,214 (2014 - £5,943) and there were no contributions outstanding at the year end.

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)**

**5. FIXED ASSETS**

**5a. Tangible fixed assets**

		Properties	Church Equipment	Total
		£	£	£
ACTUAL/DEEMED COST	At 1 January 2015	2,678,115	11,100	2,689,215
	Addition at cost	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2015	2,678,115	11,100	2,689,215
DEPRECIATION	At 1 January 2015	-	(2,775)	(2,775)
	Charge for the year	-	(2,775)	(2,775)
	At 31 December 2015	-	(5,550)	(5,550)
NET BOOK VALUE	At 31 December 2015	2,678,115	5,550	2,683,665
	At 31 December 2014	2,678,115	8,325	2,686,440

**Church equipment** includes a second-hand chamber organ purchased in November 2014 for £11,100. Depreciation is charged over 4 years from 2014.

**Properties:** The insurance valuation of the freehold buildings as at 31 December 2005 are listed below:

	£
Church Hall & garages	1,752,214
Cottage - Curate	242,109
Cottage - Hall Manager	242,109
8 Hornton Place	441,683
Total	2,678,115

The buildings are used for the benefit of the PCC to carry out its mission and ministry in the Parish, and are not intended for sale. As functional buildings, their insurance valuations rather than market valuations have been included in the Accounts. An annual impairment review, carried out by the Hall Manager, has identified certain maintenance and repair works that will be carried out as soon as practicable.

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)**

**5b. Investment fixed assets**

**Listed Investments**

	£		
Market value at 1 January 2015	<b>678,531</b>		
Purchase at cost	<b>83,556</b>		
Disposals – proceeds	<b>(288,391)</b>		
Gain on disposal	<b>54,394</b>		
Loss on Revaluation	<b>(68,320)</b>		
Market Value at 31 December 2015	<b>459,770</b>		
<hr/>			
Cost at 31 December 2015	309,597		
<hr/>			
	UK Investments	Non-UK Investments	Total
	£	£	£
General	63,994	-	63,994
Clergy House	72,078	81,042	153,120
Mary Isa Trust (Renovation)	82,699	51,553	134,252
Curtis Bequest	62,368	46,036	108,404
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	281,139	178,631	459,770

**6. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND**

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL
	General	Properties	Funds	Funds	2015
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets for Church use	-	2,678,115	5,550	-	<b>2,683,665</b>
Investment Fixed Assets	351,366	-	-	108,404	<b>459,770</b>
Current Assets	462,556	-	14,112	33,027	<b>509,695</b>
Current Liabilities	(51,434)	-	(6,480)	(167)	<b>(58,081)</b>
<b>Fund balance</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	762,488	2,678,115	13,182	141,264	<b>3,595,049</b>

**7. DEBTORS**

	2015	2014
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	<b>7,134</b>	6,983
Prepayment and accrued income	<b>25,084</b>	30,242
<b>Total</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>32,218</b>	37,225

**8. LIABILITIES**

	2015	2014
	£	£
Accruals	<b>33,049</b>	51,298
Creditors	<b>25,032</b>	4,167
<b>Total</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>58,081</b>	55,465

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)**

**9. STATEMENT OF FUNDS**

	Balance b/f 1.1.15. £	Net Income/ Expenses £	Gains/Losses on Investment Assets £	Transfer to/ from other funds £	Balance c/f 31.12.15. £
<b><u>The Unrestricted Funds comprise</u></b>					
<b>General</b>					
General Fund	450,198	(53,266)	(192)	(66,333)	<b>330,407</b>
<b>Designated</b>					
Bequests	45,952	1,231	-	(25,534)	<b>21,649</b>
Hall Maintenance	30,101	163	-	-	<b>30,264</b>
Christ Church Clergy Cottage	212,872	4,624	(1,799)	-	<b>215,697</b>
Mary Isa Trust (Renovation)	561,973	7,774	(5,276)	(400,000)	<b>164,471</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,301,096</b>	<b>(39,474)</b>	<b>(7,267)</b>	<b>(491,867)</b>	<b>762,488</b>
<b>Properties</b>	<b>2,678,115</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,678,115</b>
<b><u>The Restricted Funds comprise</u></b>					
Appeal	-	(513,229)	-	518,510	<b>5,281</b>
Garth	249	(783)	-	534	<b>-</b>
Hassocks, Church Ornaments & Books Reserve	1,791	(542)	-	-	<b>1,249</b>
Organ Repair	8,325	(2,775)	-	-	<b>5,550</b>
Renovation	31,179	(1,678)	-	(29,501)	<b>-</b>
Resurrection Chapel	9,902	(11,124)	-	2,324	<b>1,102</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,446</b>	<b>(530,131)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>491,867</b>	<b>13,182</b>
<b><u>The Endowment Funds comprise</u></b>					
The Curtis Bequest Fund	146,369	1,554	(6,659)	-	<b>141,264</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>4,177,026</b>	<b>(568,051)</b>	<b>(13,926)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,595,049</b>

Appeal: An appeal was launched to raise funds for the re-ordering of the church.

The following funds were transferred to the Appeal for works to the Roof: £400,000 from the Mary Isa (Renovation) Fund, £29,501 from the Renovation Fund, £25,000 from the Bequest Fund and £64,009 from the General Fund.

Garth: An appeal was launched to raise funds for the creation of a garth to inter cremated remains in the churchyard.

Resurrection Chapel: Restricted donation and grant for the planned renovation works to the Resurrection Chapel in 2015 to commemorate the start of WWI.

The Curtis Bequest Fund is an endowment fund that was bequeathed to the Vicar and Churchwardens of St Mary Abbots Church in March 1965. The income from this Fund is used for the promotion and upkeep of the choir, the organ and church music. The London Diocesan Fund act as Custodian Trustees, and the capital value of £28,569 of this fund is kept as a permanent endowment. The remaining capital value of the fund is permitted to be expended, but only when the Vicar and Churchwardens, in exceptional circumstances, 'deem it necessary'.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)

10. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	NOTES	Unrestricted General £	Unrestricted Properties £	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2014 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Incoming resources from generating funds						
Voluntary income	2a	186,410	-	38,095	-	224,505
Activities for generating funds	2b	303,534	-	1,683	-	305,217
Investment Income	2c	27,308	-	293	4,544	32,145
Incoming resources from Church activities	2d	16,001	-	-	-	16,001
Other incoming resources	2e	220,361	-	-	-	220,361
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>753,614</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>40,071</b>	<b>4,544</b>	<b>798,229</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Costs of generating voluntary income	3a	1,279	-	-	-	1,279
Fund-raising trading costs	3b	24,093	-	7,899	-	31,992
Investment management costs	3c	2,556	-	-	525	3,081
Charitable activities of the Church	3d	473,633	-	78,670	4,032	556,335
Governance costs	3e	26,632	-	-	-	26,632
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>528,193</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86,569</b>	<b>4,557</b>	<b>619,319</b>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>		<b>225,421</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(46,498)</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>178,910</b>
Transfers between Funds		(11,154)	-	11,154	-	-
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>		<b>214,267</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(35,344)</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>178,910</b>
<b>GAINS ON INVESTMENT ASSETS</b>						
On disposal		-	-	-	-	-
On revaluation	5b	11,166	-	-	2,661	13,827
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>225,433</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(35,344)</b>	<b>2,648</b>	<b>192,737</b>
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1.1.14.		1,075,663	2,678,115	86,790	143,721	3,984,289
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31.12.14.</b>		<b>1,301,096</b>	<b>2,678,115</b>	<b>51,446</b>	<b>146,369</b>	<b>4,177,026</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 (continued)**

**11. RELATED PARTIES**

Following the re-organisation in the Kensington Deanery, a new Parish Scheme came into effect from February 2006. The PCC was no longer responsible for St George's Church, and became responsible for St Mary Abbots, Christ Church and St Philip. Each church is responsible for producing its own financial statements and they each have their own financial infrastructure. They operate independently within the confines of the PCC.

The cost of the PCC audit fee for the 2014 Accounts was shared between the three churches in 2015.

**12. COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES**

At 31 December 2015 the church had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>2015</b>	2014
	£	£
Expiry date within two to five years	3,446	3,446

**13. SUPPORT COSTS**

The support cost of administration, which includes the salary of the administrator, has been apportioned to Fund-raising, Church Activities and Governance.

