

Christ Church
 Spitalfields

Annual Review 2010



Christ Church logo design by Oliver Smith

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Service to commemorate the restoration of Christ Church

Rector's Introduction

2010 has been an exciting year of growth but not without its challenges. It began with a successful staffing review that then left us six months without an operations manager.

The branch communities are now a real part of Christ Church life and have been resetting their sights as they move into year two. We have established root groups for discipling each other and in September launched our new evening service, the Six.

Like many others though, the recession is taking its toll; whilst church giving was encouraging, our business income dipped as fewer commercial events were booked. The crypt project paused for much of the year due to capacity within the staff team. So as the year drew to a close we had to take some serious strategic decisions. We enter 2011 with a smaller staff team and streamlined governance procedures and are looking forward with anticipation to what God may do with us in 2011.

As ever, it is our faith in Christ that shapes our work and our plans, it is a joy serving at Christ Church Spitalfields alongside so many good and faithful people. Do pray with us that we would make Christ known in this exciting corner of London.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Birch', written in a cursive style.



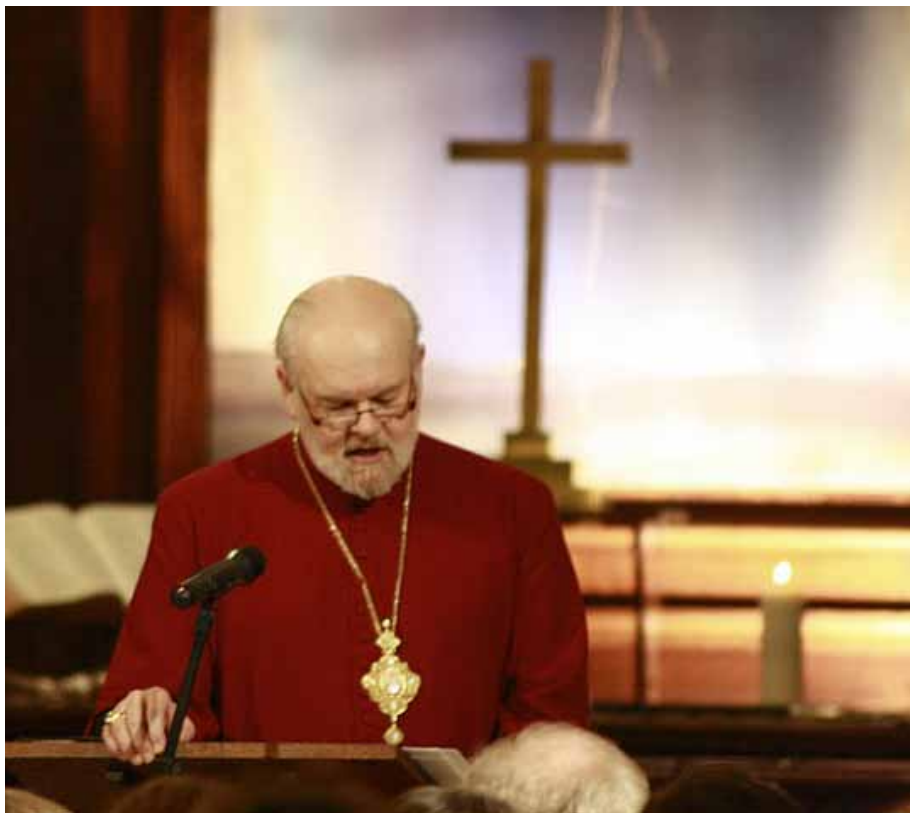
Church members weekend away, Oak Hall Manor

Vision

Our vision for 2011 was honed as we sought to address the financial challenges we were facing. We want more than ever to be growing the church, extending the kingdom and really seeking sustainability across our work. We want to empower and resource our congregation to each be reaching out across this part of London, encouraging our Branches to do the outreach that has often in the past been left to staff.

We want to maximise the benefits of our wonderful building as a resource for education, the arts and heritage across all generations and cultures seeing the building increasingly as a tool for ministry and mission rather allowing it to become a resource-intensive burden as it has sometimes been in the past. We are also looking to explore some new business models in order to ensure our business income stream. We believe this to be in accordance with God's call upon us at this time and hope you will join us in your prayers; your giving and your energy as we push ahead.

Looking Upwards - in Worship and Prayer



Bishop of London Richard Chartres at Christ Church Spitalfields © Martin Euden

Services and Central Meetings

The most significant new piece of life at Christ Church Spitalfields in the last 12 months has been the start of an evening service, the first such weekly service for many years. It began in September under the leadership of our Curate, Rod Green, and our Worship Leader, Matt Tinsley. By Christmas it was already a key point in many people's weeks and the congregation is regularly drawing 40-50 people, the majority of whom tend to be aged in their 20s and 30s. We are looking forward to how this will develop in the coming year.

At the same time, our Sunday morning service has seen a huge growth in the number of children present and is discovering what this means as our Children's Church grows and develops under the leadership of Hannah Spiring.

Meanwhile, our mid-week service for those who work in the area is a regularly attended and much appreciated service by a growing congregation of local people, who stay on for a soup lunch afterwards.

As we move into 2011 we are developing two Wednesday meetings each of them bi-monthly which will draw the church together in the middle of the week and we look forward to these playing an increasingly important part in the lives of our congregations.

Andy Rider

Prayer Ministry and Sung Worship

Prayer Ministry has continued to be an important and valuable feature of our Sunday services at Christ Church. Many members of the prayer team are now worshipping at the Six and contribute to the mutual prayer support encouraged there. This means that the 10.30am team has diminished in numbers so we would like to grow this team.

We also want to encourage the congregation to gain confidence and normalise praying for one another – both in and outside of church. We believe that God wants to do so much more amongst us and we want to grow in our understanding and experience of the Holy Spirit as He heals, renews and transforms our lives. If you are interested in joining the team or want to know more please speak to me or Sophie Maggs.

Lynne Sivour

The Bible is full of examples of God's people using poetry, singing and musical instruments to honestly express themselves to God. The amazing thing is that God meets His people in these moments! (e.g. 1 Samuel 10: 5 - 7) It's been so amazing seeing Christ Church journey deeper into the presence of God through our own times of worship. Everyone reflecting and expressing their relationship with God and seeing God reveal in power his grace, love and mercy as well as his gifts of healing, encouragement and strength in these moments. I look forward to seeing more of this!

Matt Tinsley

Bengali Fellowship

We thank God for His gracious love and provision for the Fellowship. 2010 was another exciting and blessed year as the Fellowship grew in depth and size. We meet every 3rd Sunday at Christ Church, with about 65-80 people attending including many students, Muslims and Hindu friends. All together we had 12 fellowships in 2010. A large number of believers attended and enjoyed the blessing of the Lord and worship in their mother language. Also many non believers experienced the love of Jesus in their life. People come from all over the London but a majority from East London. The Fellowship is playing a significant role in reaching out to many non believers and is also helping Christians of different backgrounds and denominations to grow in their faith. In July the Lord gave a blessed opportunity to baptise two brothers from Muslim backgrounds. Praise God. We also meet regularly in Ponders End and at homes for discussion and bible study.

Outreach activities included book stalls, one 2 one meetings sharing the Gospel, praying with groups, visiting door to door and encouraging local churches about Muslim outreach. We helped at Christ Church's week-long Children's Club, visited many homes providing practical help and Christian counseling. We also produced a one-hour Easter and Christmas TV programme for our local Bangla channel which two to three hundred thousand Bengali people viewed.

Please pray for our leaders, new believers, all the members, me and my family for His guidance and protection.

Kajal Sarker

Reaching Outwards - in Ministry and Mission



Church members preparation for Christ Church Children's Holiday Club

Branch Communities

These communities are local branches of the church embedded into a particular context or culture reaching out to the diverse neighbourhood around us. There have been a number of developments in this year.

Alpha + is now running two courses a year. It's been really encouraging to see those who have completed courses now helping to run them. It's so exciting to hear new Christians enthusing about their relationship with Jesus.

Forum continues to be a source of encouragement and challenge to the artists and creatives in the church. There is now a support group for writers and a growing relationship with the Six, the new evening service.

STP has re-imagined itself as **Dwell**, a place to develop a new understanding of family in response to the challenges of urban living.

The English language classes run by **Pathway** continue and a regular stream of internationals have joined the church community as a result.

In November, **Shanti** (which means 'peace' in Bengali) formed as a new branch community around our outreach to Bengali children.

Local Outreach - Boys Club

In the Spring of 2010 I began building on the foundation laid by Andrew Williams (previous youth worker) with the Christ Church Boys Club. Andrew had achieved great success in developing relationships with many Bengali families in the area, as well creating partnerships with local organisations providing services to youth in the area. The weekly football club, created by Andrew, continues to attract 15-20 (aged 11-17) youth per session and serves as a great tool for integrating the young men into multicultural sporting activities as well as faith based events.

Building a bridge between the local community and the church community has been the inspiration behind the expansion of the Boys Club. Last year we utilised the weekly football and the Summer Action Week to spur involvement from the congregation which proved to be very successful.

Parental involvement was the underlying factor for creating individual home mentoring sessions. These sessions allow the parent to witness the development and growth of their child firsthand. By the end of last year we had over 50 boys benefiting from the mentoring project.

Refining the aim and purpose of the Boys Club was needed in order to attract volunteers as well funding so a statement was produced outlining the vision of the Boys Club.

The aim of the Boys Club is to support, encourage and motivate young people in the Tower Hamlets area, not only through the offering of projects, but also through our faith.

The main objective of all projects are to provide a safe environment for the young people where they will be able to grow and develop their skills and talents under the direction of Christian youth workers. Through the projects the church will have a gateway into the community in order to serve and be a beacon of light.

Last year groundwork was laid for future developments as well building on current activities. These included:

- Creation of a new homework club in collaboration with Christ Church School which integrates with our existing mentoring scheme.
- Development of relationships with local secondary school. Leading regular assemblies.
- Football coaching of 11+ boys
- Mentoring of church teenager as co-leader
- Detached youth work, mentoring and regular home visiting.
- Creation of 'Shanti' a missional community with the aim of building, supporting and sustaining a strong volunteer base at the church.
- Developing links with local youth work providers

Local Outreach - Girls Club and Kids Club

Over the year, there have been some real highlights. Both clubs have run smoothly this year despite the usual challenges recruiting volunteers to the team. Those who have been involved over the year have worked hard with passion and energy as we have sought to reach out to Bengali children, many of whom come from deprived backgrounds.

The **Girls Club** has taken some significant steps forward this year. A stable and committed team of volunteers has enabled relationships with the girls to deepen and grow. A growing sense of trust and mutual respect has provided the context of us to begin our first ever Alpha Course with the girls, which is tremendously exciting.

The **Summer Action Week** was unusually early this year because of the timing of Ramadan but there was a fantastic turn out, with an average of over forty children every day. They enjoyed crafts, games, music, story telling and drama as the team sought to share and demonstrate the love of Jesus to the children.

At the end of the year, after a few months of planning and preparation, a new branch community to launched to help support our local outreach to the Bengali Community. It is called **Shanti** which means 'peace' in Bengali. In it's first month it's members joined with others to learn about Islam. Since then members have been meeting to pray for the future of the outreach in the light of the financial crisis.

Rod Green

Mission Support Team and Away Giving

What a responsibility. We are still amazed that He has brought us here and we never stop looking to Him, expectant. It means so much to us that you are here with us, thanks for standing with us and for all your encouragement.

Mission Support Team exists to pray for and communicate with people who have gone out from our church to serve God in four different continents. See Ian Whitehouse and Sam Longair for details.

Ian Whitehouse

As a church we have a long-standing commitment to give away 10% of our unrestricted income to our overseas mission partners and link charities in our neighbourhood. This year we have launched our Away Giving Committee to oversee our giving and ensure that our gifts are made promptly and efficiently. In 2010 we gave away a total of £15,846.

Sam Longair

Public Programme



Sublime Flesh, designs for new Sacred Spaces by Bartlett School of Architecture, photo © Agnese Sanvito

The Christ Church Public Programme was set up in 2010 to share our building, our community and our faith through Heritage, Education and the Arts. The Public Programme brings together Open Church, schools visits and tours, alongside our music and visual arts programmes:

Open Church saw over 23,000 visitors on Tuesdays and Sundays alone and we have a growing volunteer team who provide a warm welcome to all.

Our **Lunchtime Recital** series continues to be popular with local residents, city workers and visitors, raising funds each month for our Piano Fund.

A productive year in the **Visual Arts** included our first reredos exhibition *Triptych Reredos* by Rebecca Hind, our first dance programme *From Morning*, and an exhibition of designs for sacred spaces *Sublime Flesh*.

Our **Community Activities** included 'Second Sundays' hospitality afternoons with refreshments, crafts and performances for visitors (which in 2011 become 'First Sundays') and a well received Summer Ball and Christmas Fair.

2011 will see the development of our Schools Programme, the celebration of Hawksmoor's 350th Anniversary and many fundraising events. The Public Programme has great potential to tread new ground between the church and our contemporary culture, but continuation is very much contingent on volunteers and funding, we need you!

Lisa-Raine Hunt

Moving Onwards - in Discipleship and Fellowship



Church and local children singing at the Children's Holiday Club

Children's Church

Over the last year we have seen the children grow in both number and in their personal faith.

Embracing the blessing of many more children in our church family, we set about altering the format of Children's Church. Andy gave us two verses which we found useful – the first one was from Luke 18:6 about the little children and the other was from Proverbs 22:6 about teaching a child in my ways. After much consultation and hard work Children's Church was ready to re-launch by year-end. Instead of just one group, the children will in future be broken into age-specific groups, i.e. Under 1's, Under 4's and Over 4's. I am overseeing the younger ones and Louise Vaughan, a seasoned Sunday School teacher, has stepped up to lead the older kids. This change is significant and I thank all our volunteer helpers for their commitment and encourage others to join us in this important mission.

We are at a key stage in developing the ministry with families at Christ Church and ask that you have us in your prayers.

Hannah Spiring



Church members weekend away at Oak Hall Manor © Martin Euden

Root Groups

A root group has up to four members who hold each other accountable and nurture one another's faith as they pray for one another and study the Scriptures together. They meet whenever they like, wherever they like, as often as they like. The website provides start up resources and life application questions to inform and shape discussion and prayer. Root Groups were only launched late 2009 but after an encouraging initial take up root groups have continued to prove popular. There are now over 80 members of the church who are now actively involved in a root group.

In 2011 we will continue to prioritise membership of root groups as we emphasise discipleship in the life of the church. Membership of a root group is now our second mark of membership and the primary means of belonging in the church.

Governance



Triptych Reredos by Rebecca Hind © Christopher Baines

The Parochial Church Council

2010 turned out to be a demanding one for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) in the face of a deficit and difficult economic conditions. The PCC responded admirably to the challenge of discerning the right strategic course for Christ Church in 2011. This course has not been set without some very difficult decisions, and many hours were spent seeking out the way to go. The PCC are to be commended for the integrity and honesty with which they deliberated on some weighty matters.

During 2010, the PCC said a grateful farewell to Ruth Woolley but welcomed to its membership both Sam Longair and Philip Witchelo (Philip has since stood down after the appointment of his wife, Julie Burzacott as Operations Manager). Frank Esslinger was appointed as the new PCC Treasurer. He follows James Bishop, whom the PCC wishes to thank for his many years of valued financial guidance. We were also sad to see Stephen Foster move on from Christ Church. His wisdom will be missed on the PCC. The year saw Daniel Nilsson DeHanas and Sophie Maggs appointed as deputy-wardens. These appointments came about as a result of the disolution of the Church Leadership Team early in 2010. Both Daniel and Sophie were invaluable in providing the PCC's standing committee with a greater depth of wisdom to draw on during 2010.

Church Finance and Christ Church Foundation

Our main sources of income are voluntary giving and revenue from our venue hire business. Our main expenses are our contribution to the London Diocesan Fund, building maintenance and staffing. We are committed to paying our common fund to the Diocese of London. This has continued to increase year-on-year as we seek to meet the full costs of being an Anglican parish. The costs are currently calculated to be £63,000 of which we paid £51,000 in 2010 (up from £45,000 in 2009). The annual upkeep of our Grade I listed building is our second significant fixed financial commitment. Staff costs constitute our third major expenditure. Our staff not only run the life of the church and staff the business but are key players in God's ministry.

The Foundation is our holding fund for long term maintenance of the church. This last year has not seen a surplus from our business being deposited. The trustees meet once a year to approve the accounts and give consideration to the fund's needs. There are no current plans for disbursements.

Christ Church Operations and Venue

2010 has been a year of change. We said goodbye to David Bishop in March and Anisa Johnny in December, both gave a huge amount that we are really grateful for.

The senior staff team began to meet and the staffing review process was finished, with Julie Burzacott joining us as Head of Operations in October. In the interim the Wardens and Rector held the fort.

As expected the recession continued to bite creating a financial challenge. A small but significant drop in corporate bookings had a huge impact that meant that resources had to be cut back and more are anticipated in 2011. We are grateful to all our staff whom have shown a prayerful perseverance and servant mindedness in a year that for many has been personally very difficult.

Kim Gooding

Balancing the budget is a key priority for 2011 and is intended to be the starting point for rebuilding the church's reserves and allowing for investment in the building and activities central to the church and our community. To enable a balanced budget to be achieved, the year-ahead will see the implementation of redundancies, close monitoring of costs and initiatives that aim to lift income from venue hire and visitors to the building.

Julie Burzacott

Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields



Richard Bridge Organ Casing above the West Door of Christ Church

Since their foundation in 1976, The Friends have funded and managed the £10 million restoration of Christ Church. The Friends are backed by the loyal generosity of some 2,000 local, national and international supporters. The restoration of the interior was completed to high acclaim and won seven major awards.

William Drake, one of the most renowned organ restorers in Europe, will begin work to the 1735 Richard Bridge organ this year. This huge and complex task will involve restoring the 18th century case; then will begin restoration of the two thousand pipes. During this year, scholarly research has continued towards establishing the precise scheme.

A historical instrument of international importance ... an undisputed treasure of Handelian times. Dr Gerald Gifford, Honorary Keeper of Music, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

The significance of this project is recognised around the world, and fundraising is going well. This means that work can begin, although some £250,000 is still needed. Please join us and help by giving generously. The Friends publish a newsletter, 'Columns' and organise specialist Hawksmoor tours. Another tour exploring the diversity of 18th century organs is being planned this year. For more information, and to make a donation to the Bridge organ and the historic fabric of Christ Church including the crypt visit www.christchurchspitalfields.org

Christine Whaite

Our Partners



Gardens of Norton Folgate Almshouses

Christ Church Charities and Norton Folgate Almshouses

Operating in the parish of Christ Church Spitalfields, to relieve those in need, hardship or distress.

During 2010 two of our charities, London Dispensary Fund (LDF) and Dame Mary Baker (DMB), were merged into one to create the Mary Baker Charity. In 2010 LDF gave a total of £1,170 to 8 individuals and 1 organisation and DMB gave a total of £4,117.42 to 13 individuals and 12 organisations.

Martin Lane resigned as a trustee in 2010 although he still kindly hosts our meetings in his house. The trustees of Charity Mary Baker are: Andy Rider, Fay Cattini, Hosten Garraway, Ava Bose, Achiya Hassan and Derek Stride (Chair).

Fay Cattini

As you may have seen if you have walked down Puma Court recently, the redevelopment of Norton Folgate House has now begun. It happened rather quicker than we expected with the trustees getting the finance from the Homes & Community Agency in January upon being able to start in March. A big vote of thanks to the residents who have been very helpful in moving so quickly and whom we hope to welcome back into better and improved flats at the beginning of Olympic year 2012.

James Talbot

Christ Church School

It's a story of change and continuity at Christ Church Primary School this year: the soft Federation with Sir John Cass in the City continued, providing benefits to both schools, not least in the form of our energetic and experienced Headteacher, Gerry Loughran. The school was visited by Diocesan inspectors (result: Good) and Ofsted (result: out of notice to improve and into the hallowed lands of "satisfactory" with a number of "good" scores).

After much hard work, planning permission for the first stage of the building works to the school was unanimously granted by the Council and the builders start work in early 2011 on the first stage. The second stage of works (which will lead to a new building on the site of the disused youth centre) will go through the planning process in 2011 and the school will need to raise over £50,000 to ensure its completion.

After more than 5 years of sterling leadership, the Rector, Andy Rider stood down as Chair of Governors, making way for Philip Bujak, a former Headteacher and educationalist.

Christ Church Bellringers

Another good and active year, we have continued to maintain our Service Ringing on the first Sunday of every month, with an increase in the pool of ringers that join us.

The bells have once again proved popular with visitors, 13 peals being rung, including one, “Clerk’s Delight” which commemorated the appointment of local ringer, Philip Vracas as Parish Clerk of Spitalfields! In addition, three Quarter Peals, eleven Outing Bands from around the UK, three Cumberland Youth Practices, the Middlesex Association Open Day, the Southern Universities Striking Competition, London Open House, two Weddings, two Carol Services, one Memorial Service and the opening of an art exhibition held in the Church!

Once again we have been supported by the whole Church and community at Spitalfields, with special thanks to Andy Rider for his support of our ringing.



City Gateway



Christ Church School Playground



Spitalfields Crypt Trust's New Hanbury Project



Crossroads Counselling Service

Deanery, Diocese and THEF

Over the last year Christ Church has continued to play a key part in the life of the Deanery of Tower Hamlets, the Diocese of London and Tower Hamlets Evangelical Fellowship (THEF). Much of our engagement has been through our clergy, who have each been involved in developing Deanery strategy and organising Deanery activities. Together they have sought to shape the working practices of THEF.

During the last year we have encouraged THEF to start a FoodBank, supported the development of Street Pastors scheme and through members of the congregation helped to run the new Tower Hamlets churches night shelter. As these ministries develop we hope as a church to be ever more involved with them. Further afield Andy has is now part of the team that trains new incumbents across the Diocese and Rod teaches on the Readers' course.

Partner Charities

Christ Church supports three key charities in our local community:

The Spitalfields Crypt Trust. The New Hanbury Project - our centre for personal development and training, is becoming increasingly popular and currently we are seeing 100 regular students. Our most popular courses are art, cooking, computing, creative writing and guitar.

“I used to meet my dealer in the church gardens and now I am clean and planting seeds in the garden and watching something I have done grow.”
New Hanbury Project Gardening Student

Roslyn Nancekivell

Crossroads Counseling Service continues to provide long-term professional therapy for those on low incomes in our borough. Through adult therapy and children’s work in schools, we continue working to help people find respect for themselves and others within healthy lives and relationships. With a growing demand, prayer and financial support from the churches we partner with continues to play a vital part in our work in the community. With the help of Spitalfields we are continuing to see lives change in a climate where such help is diminishing. Thank you!

“Crossroads helped me tremendously. I am deeply grateful and privileged to have such a brilliant organisation in my area. The staff there are second to none. Excellent work! Thank you!” Crossroads Client

City Gateway works with some of the most economically excluded people in Tower Hamlets, building their confidence, raising their aspirations and providing them with the skills and training that they need to succeed in work or further learning. The Prime Minister, David Cameron recently said *“I see a really important role for social enterprises, like City Gateway in Tower Hamlets, which takes young adults from local estates and trains them in the skills our economy will need in the future ... I want to see more City Gateways come in, take this recession by the scruff of the neck and help get people into work.”*

By working in partnership with local firms and community organisations City Gateway has become the biggest provider of apprenticeships in the borough and has seen the benefit that these partnerships have had on the lives of the young people and women we work with.

You can support these charities by:

- Praying for them – their staff, their clients and their projects.
- Volunteering your time – all of the charities have opportunities for volunteers (contact details on p39).
- Giving financially – all of the charities welcome personal donations and the church office can provide you with details.

Contact Details

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www.christchurchspitalfields.org

City Gateway

020 3056 4061
www.citygateway.org.uk

Spitalfields Crypt Trust

020 7613 5677
www.sct.org.uk

Crossroads

020 8981 8388
www.crossroadscounselling.org

Door of Hope

020 7729 7982
www.doorofhope.org.uk

Tower Hamlets Evangelical Fellowship

See Andy or Rod



Boys Club



Anisa Johnny, Bookings Coordinator



Nat Gamble and Claire Gunn



Bengali Fellowship



Stitch and Canvas



Worship at the church members weekend away © Martin Euden



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