



St Stephen's Church
Annual Parochial Church Report for 2025

Vicar's Reports

Our relationship with KETRA and the foodbank there

We support the Kingswood Community through enabling their holiday schemes to use our hall, as well as our congregation contributing Christmas presents and gifts to the foodbank distribution which in fact distributes much more than food.

Resident's associations use of the church

Three of our local associations make use of the church for their meetings: Stonehills Court, Breakspeare and Giles Coppice.

Window Front Page – making connections

A team of us take it in turns to write the front page of the window, the weekly notice sheet. The point of this piece of writing is to make a connection between our daily experience and our living faith in God. The front-page written piece could be something topical (responding to what the media are preoccupied with), it could be something to do with readings or liturgical themes of that particular week or it could be 'drawing our attention to a poem a film or an exhibition'. It is not a noticeboard for forthcoming events. We normally print about 150 copies and members of the congregation take them home and distribute them to the homebound and/or friends. It is available all week at the church (at the times when it is open for prayer etc) and on notice boards. It is also added into parish correspondence, when appropriate. The FP is also a weekly feature on our parish website under the 'thought for the week' and back copies are available there. In 2025 regular writers included: The Vicar, Heather Savini, Susan Patterson, James Fraser and Revd Stiiv Knowers, retired priest living in Tallinn and sometime Sunday Times preacher of the year. New writer volunteers, please contact the Vicar.

CCJ South East London

St Stephen's is affiliated to the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ), the oldest interfaith grouping in England that also has local branches. Our local branch is chaired by the Vicar. Branch meetings are held either at St Stephen's or at Bromley Synagogue, or sometimes also at Catford Synagogue. The purpose of CCJ is to model good interfaith relations through friendship and listening together and secondly to honour the memory of the Holocaust through education and calling out racism and prejudice. In 2025 meetings have included a wide range of topics:

Harry Freedman talked about his research of the Jewish roots of Bob Dylan's poetry; CCJ members attended an interfaith Shabat at Bromley Synagogue; we held a meeting entitled "Casting away our sins" drawing on Christian and Jewish approaches with two speakers: Rev'd Bernhard Schunemann Vicar of St Stephen's Church and Rabbi Marcia Plumb Former Director of Jewish Life and Partnerships.

German Service

In 2025 we continued with our new mission initiative at St Stephen's: an occasional service during which the only language used is German. Partly as a response to Brexit, Germans who live in South London have become more conscious about retaining some of their German heritage for their children. In our part of London there are five German language based nurseries and one state funded primary school that uses German as a medium language (Judith Kerr School). St Stephen's has started offering a German language church service which is Anglican in character, so that Protestants and Catholics from German speaking countries can feel welcome. The Vicar of St Clement and St Peter from St John's East Dulwich, Rev'd Gemma Lau is part of the ministry team in this initiative. During 2025 we have held four German services, between 25 and 60 people attended these services. Members of our own music team have helped with singing items from the rich German church music traditions. There have also been bilingual Holy Baptism services as part of a spin-off from these German services. One of our services was a Holy Eucharist celebrated from the Anglican rite in German.

Chinese Dancing with a Mandarin Bible study

This was a new mission initiative during 2025. Jingmei, a retired Doctor from China, joined our church recently and she has continued with a weekly Chinese dancing group with other Mandarin speakers which includes a Bible study session. The Vicar has helped with the Bible study using translation Apps. Some of the members of this group are currently exploring Christianity and are not yet baptised. We now have ten mandarin Bibles at the back of the church!

Lent Charity

The PCC decided to adopt the local charity Link Age Southwark as their lent charity in 2025. Link Age is originally a charity started by local churches to address isolation of the older members of our community. We collected a total of £1,286.25 (including Gift Aid) in the 2025 Lent period.

Schools in our parish and beyond

During the year we strengthened our ties with all our local schools. Dulwich Wood School came to church three times for a school service which was unusual for a secular state school with a multifaith population. We supported these services with church music and clergy input. In December, just before Christmas, Kingsdale School bring their year sevens and their choir for a carol service, the church is filled with 500 children and teachers! Other schools that have regular services at St Stephen's are Dulwich Prep & Senior (four services), where our Vicar acts as chaplain, Dulwich College (seven services) and Sydenham High School (two services). We also host our own Montessori nursery from our church hall for their carol service. Because of the link with our schools and in particular Kingsdale,

where our Vicar also oversees the admissions lottery, the family of Izaiah Smith, the fifteen year old boy who tragically drowned in Beckenham Place Park, decided to hold his funeral here at St Stephen's.

Lent sermons

During lent 2025 we had a series of talks and sermons on 'Heroes of our Faith'. Speakers were invited to talk about a saint or hero who had inspired them in their Christian faith. We heard sermons about Desmond Tutu, given by Heather Savini, Maria Skobtsova, given by Dr James Roberts, Paul Toomas, given by Fr Meelis Süld and CS Lewis, given by me.

Bernhard Schunemann
Vicar

Churchwardens' Report

Introduction

While our separate fabric report for the past year is below, as churchwardens we felt it would be helpful to share some broader reflections on the year as a whole.

Appreciation for the wider church team

We have once again been fortunate to have Bernhard's leadership and encouragement, alongside the dedication of many volunteers who take responsibility for various aspects of church life. We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone for their contributions, including:

- All members of the standing committee and PCC, with special thanks to Peter Frost (Treasurer) and Michael Stoney (Donations and Gift Aid Officer), whose careful management has ensured our finances have run smoothly and resulted in a better-than-expected financial outcome.
- Oliver Lallemand, Caroline Lenton-Ward, and Tommy Hewitt Jones, who have continued to lead our music programme. The children's choir remains particularly successful, and we are grateful to all choir members and musicians who enrich our services. The high standard of music is frequently praised by both regular attendees and visitors. We also thank this team, along with the organ committee, for their energy and commitment to the pipe organ project.
- Ruth Cousins, supported by Peter Benton (now sadly departed for the Isle of Wight), Lauren George-Wood, Steven Hicks, and James Fraser, for overseeing the church hangings and related work.
- Maria Branchini, Olivia Holmes, Temple Sambo, and Anne Lunkuse, together with other helpers, for providing weekly refreshments and organising special events such as the annual quiz night.

- Our reader Susan, servers, sacristans, and sidespeople, whose dedication supports Bernhard and greatly enhances the spiritual life of the church.
- Penny Fuller, Richard Sontan and Laura Thomas who act as our safeguarding team and Sunday school leaders, ensuring a safe, engaging environment for children while teaching them about faith and its importance.
- Our staff and contractors, particularly Sarah in the office, our caretakers Madeleine and Matthew, and our gardener Adam.
- Felix, who has continued to livestream services on YouTube very reliably.
- Our flower team—Maria, Eleanor, Shivani, Lucy, and Margaret—for their regular and beautiful floral displays, including the Easter garden.

Mission statistics

The latest mission statistics submitted for the year ending December indicate that attendance levels have remained broadly consistent with the previous year, with significant numbers at our Easter, Christmas and school services.

We also completed our annual “articles of enquiry” submission to the diocese and subsequently met with the Area Dean to review church life. We have supported some other churches in the deanery with miscellaneous questions.

Use of the buildings

The church buildings and facilities have continued to be well used throughout the year, benefiting the local community as well as supporting our mission through additional income. Alongside the nursery, the church hall has hosted scouts, ballroom dancing classes, the Perform drama group, and various parties and one-off bookings. The church itself has also been used for recordings, concerts, music practice, Pilates sessions, and similar activities, while remaining a place of quiet reflection and welcome for all who visit.

Church finances

Further details are provided in the finance report, but overall we are pleased with the financial position for the year, with a relatively low maintenance expenditure and a significant boost as a result of Peter fixing our utility costs.

Conclusion

We have thoroughly enjoyed serving over the past year. Eleanor has decided to stand down after five years, and we are very glad that Sue Thompson has agreed to take her place.

***Barney Hearnden and Eleanor Bracken
Churchwardens***

Fabric report

- After the extensive building work in 2024, this year was less busy and lower cost!
- We did some works to the hall – most notably the repair of the paved slope up to the doors, but also replacing the loft ladder and the baby change unit, and repainting the bunker cupboards.
- Some the Dulwich College boys and two teachers spent their “service day” helping with the sanding and repainting of the iron gates (as well as some local litter picking). We were able then to go on and complete the repainting work over the following weeks. We hope the College will help us again in June 2026.
- Repairs inside the church included a new water heater, repairs to some of the pews and door locks, and fixing some issues with the toilets.
- We undertook the usual routine maintenance items such as servicing of our boilers, alarms and fire extinguishers, cleaning windows and cleaning out low level gutters.
- We had a “spring cleaning” day on Easter Saturday which was very successful – thank you to all who helped. Harrison, one of our congregation members kindly helped us to do a deep clean of the church floor.
- Our gardener Adam continued to maintain the garden and we employed a tree surgeon to remove the dead tree near the main church entrance. We replanted the three trees from the pots in the car park into the garden where they will grow better – notably the silver birch in the front which met the council’s requirement that we replace the dead tree with a different tree.
- We maintained a logbook of all work undertaken during the year.

Barney Hearnden and Eleanor Bracken
Church Wardens

Finance Report

2025 has been a satisfactory year financially for the church. Our normal activities on our General Fund produced a surplus of £16,013. Donations have held up and an advantageous three year contract with British Gas has resulted in a significant decrease in energy costs which will run through to 2027. Our Fabric and Mission Designated Fund, which is used principally to meet major repairs has benefited from £30,000 of legacies and our Restricted Funds, used for specific purposes, have been enhanced with grants from various sources. These have enabled us to run services for German speakers, provide organ lessons for aspiring students and to support our regular choir. For 2026, we continue to keep close control on our expenses whilst encouraging general donations, augmented by church and hall hire. Copies of our accounts are available for inspection at the back of the church.

Peter Frost
Treasurer

Reader's Report

In 2025, the joint Bible study group of St Stephen's and St Clement with St Peter met 27 times during term times. During the spring term, the group looked at the Old Testament reading for the Sunday before we meet. In the summer term we read and talked about the Eastertide Sunday readings from Acts, and finished the term by reading *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Henri Nouwen. In the autumn term we started with a one-off session by Bernhard about Bonhoeffer and the baptism of his godson. We continued the term reading and discussing Hosea, which was not for the fainthearted.

I preached on five occasions. These were Sunday 2 March, Sunday 25 May, Sunday 20 July, Sunday 2 November, and Sunday 14 December at St Clement with St Peter.

The Dulwich Deanery Synod met three times in 2025: on 16 February at St John's East Dulwich, 23 July at the home of the deanery chair, and 26 November at St Faith's Church, Red Post Hill, North Dulwich. Revd Anne Clarke (Chair) and Joy Taylor (Lay Chair) presided over all three meetings. In February, Chris Elliott and Jennifer Hyde from the Justice, Peace and Integrity Team at Trinity House gave a presentation on modern slavery, covering how to recognise and report it; Rebecca (Bex) Chapman also reported on General Synod, including the Makin Review, safeguarding independence debates, and racial justice funding. A motion from St Barnabas calling for full independence of safeguarding operations was deferred pending the outcome of ongoing national debate. In July, the main item was children's work, with each parish sharing a report on their activities; Bex Chapman again reported on General Synod, covering the assisted dying debate, the replacement of the 1994 document *Issues in Human Sexuality*, and clergy pension reform. In November, Reg Amoah, the diocesan racial justice trainer, gave a presentation on unconscious bias, the Southwark Anti-Racism Charter, and how parishes can build more inclusive communities; the meeting also agreed that *Living in Love and Faith* would be the main item for the first meeting of 2026.

Diocesan Synod met three times in 2025: on 22 March, 10 July and 13 December, all at St Peter's Battersea.

The March meeting, the first of the new Triennium, covered the diocesan vision — including updates on the investment programme, objectives, budget, environmental policy and property strategy — along with a covenant between the Dioceses of Southwark and Jerusalem, a note on the General Synod debate on the future of safeguarding, and nominations for Kingston area vacancies on the Diocesan Council of Trustees.

The July meeting was devoted mainly to a *Living in Love and Faith* consultation, led by Dr Nick Shepherd, who is the national LLF Programme Director and a Diocese of Southwark Reader. Live responses were gathered through Mentimeter; the wide

range of views expressed was fed into the national consultation. The College of Bishops was due to discuss the results in September, and the House of Bishops in November (a vote to end the process was taken in February 2026).

The December meeting focused on the 2026 budget and annual objectives, House of Laity co-options and nominations to the Diocesan Council of Trustees, and deanery election numbers. Summaries and full papers are available at www.southwark.anglican.org/about-us/who-we-are/governance-synods/diocesan-synod-papers

*Susan Patterson
Reader*

Safeguarding Report

THE ROLE OF SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Whenever we listen to, or read, the news, we hear of the need to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. Here at St Stephen's, like other parishes, we follow the practice set out for us by our diocese, Southwark. We have two Safeguarding Officers:

Penny Fuller and Laura Thomas - Email: safeguarding@ststephenssouthdulwich.org
Phone: 07511 734830

Rev'd Bernhard, our Reader Susan Patterson, our children's minister Richard Sontan, our teams of professional musicians, Parochial Church Council (PCC) members, and other employees know to tell us about any safeguarding concern regarding our church and our congregation. Any of our congregation can talk about any safeguarding worry to one of these, or most effectively by talking confidentially to Laura or Penny. We in turn report to the diocesan safeguarding team who have the professional training and experience to decide whether there is a matter to refer to an appropriate authority. Of course, if there were a matter of immediate threat Laura or Penny would not wait for diocesan opening hours but would go straight to the police or local authority.

WHAT ALL THE CONGREGATION CAN DO – PHOTOGRAPHY and FILMING

One important step we can all take is this: **don't photograph OR film anyone in the Church (except maybe your own family)**. When we show the services on YouTube or publicise music, we have made sure we have necessary consent from the parties involved and children's parents, and we check the security of the systems we use. These days none of us can guarantee that photos taken on mobile phones, or circulated by e.g. email, are secure from hacking. It is very important for all of us to ensure we do not take photos of children or adults without appropriate consents.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN 2025

Safeguarding being confidential, we cannot tell you whether there have or have not been safeguarding incidents in 2025. We can tell you about the training and structure of our approach to safeguarding at St Stephen's:

Regular Review

The safeguarding officers check that two suitably checked and trained members of the Parish, or appropriate replacements (e.g. a child's parent) are present at the Church's children's activities, and social events (as they may involve children and or vulnerable adults).

Review of Safeguarding is a standard item on the PCC's agenda. Members of the PCC are democratically elected and are not DBS checked before they stand for election. Those who undertake roles of particular responsibility are DBS checked. All PCC members are urged to undertake online Church of England Safeguarding Training (see below).

DBS checks

When people take on a role of special responsibility (e.g. Ministers, Churchwardens, Safeguarding Officers, leading servers, employees who meet the public) they are subject to criminal checks (DBS checks) at an appropriate level. Many of the congregation will have been checked in this way in connection with their employment or voluntary work. Those checks should be renewed every three years.

The diocese itself checks Ministers (Revd Bernhard, our reader Susan Pattison and Children's minister Richard Sontan). Our Safeguarding Officers (usually Penny) identify and make the other checks.

Our process in 2025 was interrupted by IT issues. We started the year by completing (with much appreciated help from our Churchwarden Barney Hearnden) a lengthy survey by the diocese on how we deal with safeguarding in the parish. Then, unfortunately the company which undertook DBS checks for us under their contract with the diocese suffered a data breach. We warned all those whose information might have been affected, which eventually narrowed down to two members of the congregation, and we have heard of no bad consequences of that breach. The diocese replaced the company with a different organisation, 31:8, who specialise in making checks for charities and churches. Both the diocese checked 31:8 thoroughly and we checked their suitability for us, and we signed up with them. It all took some time, and we are now catching up with three yearly renewals, some of which should have been done a few months ago.

Safeguarding Training

At St Stephen's, all employees, volunteers, and PCC members are required to complete safeguarding training in line with diocesan guidance, and to refresh this training at regular intervals. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility across the whole church community, and this training supports individuals in understanding their role in promoting a safe and supportive environment. Overall compliance with training requirements is good; however, due to the need for periodic updates, it can be challenging to consistently monitor when individuals are due to renew their training. We recognise that completing training requires both time and access to appropriate technology, which can present practical barriers for some.

Laura is available to support with access to training and to answer any questions that may arise. Please contact her via the safeguarding email address.

Parish Dashboards

Parish Safeguarding Dashboards have been introduced to support the church in monitoring and maintaining good safeguarding practice. They are new to us, but we hope they will be a useful addition. These dashboards provide a clear and accessible overview of key requirements, including training, policy compliance, and safer recruitment processes, helping to ensure that essential elements are up to date. They offer a more structured way to track progress and identify any gaps, enabling a more proactive and consistent approach to safeguarding oversight.

CONCLUSION

Overall, Penny has found this year has suffered a heavy weight of new IT skills and demands. Laura is continuing to get to grips with safeguarding processes, policies, and procedures at St Stephen's.

We applaud all members of our congregation widening their awareness of the importance of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, whether or not their paid or voluntary roles require them to complete lengthy training sessions.

*Penny Fuller and Laura Fuller
Safeguarding Officer*

Music Report

Church Music

The adult choir stayed strong in 2025. Our tenor choral scholar continued with us throughout 2025 (supported by the remainder of a top-up grant from the Ouseley Church Music Trust). It was wonderful several times to welcome Jill and Jernej to play viola and clarinet in services, adding colour to our musical offering, and we also had other instrumentalists for special occasions: strings for Easter Day; brass for Palm Sunday and the Carol Service. The piano is frequently used for accompanying

in services. The repertoire was regularly added to, including several new anthems and carols.

South Dulwich Chorus

Our inaugural SDC concert, Handel's Messiah, took place in October 2025 with a small orchestra, seventy amateur singers, two dozen choristers, and an audience of well over a hundred. It's always a huge undertaking to start a new choir – not least the initial and ongoing publicity as well as the general admin when dealing with 100+ singers who signed up in the first wave to be members – but that was made so much easier thanks to the extraordinary kindness of Fr Bernhard, everyone in the PCC, and the wider church congregation who all supported it since its inception.

Concerts, recordings and rehearsals

The church was again used for a plethora of external musical events in 2025: Myriad, Ionian Singers, Trio Taliesin, Dulwich Choral Society, Pitch Blend Gigs, Charlotte Way, Dulwich Music Academy, various solo recitals, and a few pupils' concerts delivered by local instrumental teachers, amongst others.

St Stephen's continues to be an important local community centre for activities musical and otherwise, and everyone comments on how well we look after them and the audiences who come to watch the performances.

Several recording projects on the new piano took place, which is both a great help to the church finances and a compliment to the quality of our Kawai and the beauty of the church building. These strands of the church's mission are something we should continually strive to encourage by keeping our hire charges reasonable and our welcome warm.

*Oliver Lallemant
Director of Music*

The Choristers (Children's Choir)

The Choristers have continued to flourish in the past year. We now have over forty children attending our regular Tuesday evening rehearsal and between fifteen and twenty singing on Sunday mornings. They are singing an anthem of their own for every service as well as joining the adult choir for other items.

This year saw their third YouTube and Spotify hit as they recorded At the Manger, which was written especially for them by Thomas Hewitt Jones, with words by Caroline Lenton-Ward. The choristers are working on the RSCM Voices for Life awards, which provides both musical and liturgical education, leading to medals and ribbons for each level. We now have six light blue-ribbon wearers and one red which is a much higher level. We have a head chorister and two deputy head choristers.

Last July, they provided the children's choir for a performance of Carmina Burana and also sang in a performance of Messiah. A second of our choristers was awarded a place as a chorister in the newly formed girls' choir at St Pauls Cathedral, one appeared on stage with the Royal Opera at Covent Garden, and two now sing with the Royal Opera Youth Programme as well as one in the National Children's Choir.

Many families now regularly worship at St. Stephen's since their children joined the choir. The children (and parents) have become an extraordinarily dedicated team and work together in an absolutely wonderful way. The parents have their own WhatsApp group, and this year have organised parties for the choristers at the end of terms as well as a successful parish picnic in Dulwich Park. It is an absolute privilege and joy to be able to work with this group of young singers and I am very optimistic for even more success in the coming year, as well as knowing we are encouraging the next generation of musicians and church goers.

Caroline Lenton-Ward
Chorister Tutor

Organ Committee

The organ committee have continued to work extremely hard in the background for the past year. They have secured pledges of just over £250,000 so far. In May 2025 they held a very successful open afternoon when the appeal was launched to the wider community by our Patron Sir Andrew Parmley CEO Royal College of Organists and our local MP Helen Hayes.

It is an extremely exciting once in a lifetime project and one that needs team effort to achieve. I am incredibly grateful to all those on the organ committee and music team for the huge amount of work that has gone on in the past year.

Addendum: Since February 2026, the committee has been exploring the possibility of rehousing a very fine Father Willis organ that is in danger of being scrapped, as the church it is currently in has been closed and sold to a property developer. The committee are working hard on all the legal, practical and financial implications of this prospect. It would be a very exciting instrument of great significance in the organ world, if we can secure it. It will come at a significantly lower cost than the plan for a brand-new organ (approx. £700,000 as opposed to £1.6million) There are details of the plan at the back of church, and any member of the committee will be happy to answer any questions.

Caroline Lenton-Ward
Chair, Organ Committee

Young Musician of the Year

The Young Musician of the Year was held in March 2025. We received a record number of entries for both Junior and Senior Categories. The competition is a chance for young players to perform in a very safe environment as well as the

possibility of winning. The young people are always incredibly supportive of each other, and it is lovely to see the church full of young musicians and their families from the local community.

In 2025 the Senior winner was Kate Shum – Piano. The Junior Winner was Hypatia Cheliotis Xenakis – Violin, and the Audience Prize was awarded to Jules Fuseau Knight – Tenor Horn.

We were also delighted to welcome back a previous winner Etty Ashton, who played the harp for our Crib Service. She has also recently been awarded a full scholarship to study at the Guildhall School of Music from September 2026, and we send her many congratulations.

Caroline Lenton-Ward
Organiser Young Musician Competition.

Youth and Children's Work Report

During this last year our youth and children's worker Richard Sontan completed his training to become a licensed lay minister. This is a first for our Diocese of Southwark and Richard has also been helping in the wider Diocese to encourage lay ministry, whether it be licensed or commissioned. Richard was licensed in a beautiful service at Southwark Cathedral when he became the first to be issued with a yellow lay minister's scarf!

Richard writes:

I am grateful to have the privilege of sharing further developments in my role as Youth and Children's Minister in recent months.

Licensed Lay ministry and wider ministry

This process has been quite thorough but really developed me in a positive way.

I feel that my pastoral authority has increased and new doors for serving our young people sacramentally have opened.

Alongside this, I have been supporting our ministry at diocesan level through promotional events, Q&A sessions, and contributing articles to magazine reports/articles.

This wider exposure brings fresh ideas and resources back into our local work.

Exponential growth and faith impact

Both our Saturday football project and Sunday school have seen exponential growth. Critically, this growth is in numbers as well as in spiritual fruit.

I have built up a growing rapport with a number of young people and their families, some of whom have been introduced to the church through these projects.

By supporting the choristers we are seeing genuine encouragement of their search for faith and ongoing personal development.

Conversations about Jesus now happen naturally on the football pitch and in Sunday school discussions alike.

The football provision regularly draws larger numbers, with Christian and non-Christian young people playing together, building community, and hearing the gospel through relationship. We are able to free up youngsters who might otherwise be looking to play competitive football on Sundays but are now able to attend church.

Sunday school has been expanding which is a good problem to have.

Penny remains a faithful safeguarding lead and Sunday school leader.

The teenage class, led by Angela and Barney, remains a good space for older young people to explore faith on their own terms, although we could do with a bit more structure – we still get a number of them wanting join in with the younger class.

Looking ahead, I am keen to explore how we might recruit and train more volunteers to sustain our growth, while continuing to represent our church's youth and children's work at diocesan level.

Richard Sontan
Youth and Children's worker

Social Committee Report

Members of the Committee: Olivia Holmes, Maria Branchini; Ex-officio members: Heather Savini, Temple Sambo, Sarah Bucknall

The Committee had a quiet start to the year, due to Olivia breaking her hip and Maria being abroad! But later in the year we were able to organise the usual social and fundraising events. Temple kindly stepped in to help provide refreshments for the Young Musicians Competition in March, which is always a popular occasion. Maundy Thursday fell on 17th April; Maria and helpers provided an excellent parish supper, as part of the service, and were most grateful to all those who made soup.

We held another summer coffee morning in the hall on Wednesday 6th August. Coffee, tea and delicious cake was enjoyed by the mostly older people who came. On the 29th August Eleanor gave one of her flower arranging demonstrations which is always an inspirational event. Following the Harvest Festival service on 5th October we held a Bring and Share lunch which is a great showcase of international cuisine! Members of the congregation brought all sorts of interesting and delicious dishes to share and a good time was had by all.

The Quiz Night, with fish & chip supper, on Saturday 16th November was a sell out this year and all 64 tickets were sold. As usual, competition was fierce and it was a lively and entertaining evening. Steven Hicks made a welcome return as our

Quizmaster and did a brilliant job. We were delighted to make a profit of £853 for church funds. The other main fundraiser is the annual Christmas Sale, which was held in the church after the 10am service on Sunday 7th December. We received many generous donations of items for the sale and people enjoyed searching for bargains. Following a smaller left-overs sale the following Sunday, we raised a grand total of £603.94.

We are most grateful to everyone who has helped and supported the Committee throughout the year, especially Heather, Temple and Sarah, also Gina and Barney Hearnden. New members would be very welcome, please speak to Olivia or Maria if interested.

*Olivia Holmes & Maria Branchini
Social Committee*

Millennium Hall and Church Bookings Report

Over the last year we have continued to have an increased number of bookings in the hall and the church. Children's parties here are becoming more popular here again and we have three or four each month, we have also had one or two baby showers and grown-up birthday lunches. Peter's Dance Club has a tea dance every other month.

Regular users of the hall continue to be Peter's Dance Club on 3 evenings, Cubs on Thursday and Perform classes Saturday mornings. The Dulwich Montessori Nursery School continues to use the hall during the day in term time.

We have two fairly regular people booking the church for music recordings where they bring along several clients in a day for music audition videos. There are also a few musicians who come once in a while to rehearse and or video.

We also have Sophie's Pilates holding 6 sessions a week at the back of the church.

All these activities are providing a fairly steady income stream.

*Sarah Bucknall
Parish Secretary and Hall Manager*

Church Decoration

We've been reminded that our primary vocation as Christians is to bring joy to this world. Bearing this in mind the flower team has been busy keeping the church decorated with fresh flowers every Sunday, except during Lent and Advent, every wedding, Easter, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. We occasionally do funeral flowers for long serving parishioners.

Our small team includes Eleanor who is recovering from her leg operation, we wish her well and speedy recovery. Also, we have Lucy and Carry who try their best to

help whenever necessary. We are thankful to Shivani who joined us in May and has shown great interest and been helpful.

However, we need more volunteers and funding and I would encourage anyone who is interested to join the team, whether once in a while, or just as a tester, please contact me, our churchwardens or our Vicar.

Thank you.

Team members: Maria Branchini, Eleanor Bracken, Madeleine Whitlock

