



The Parish of St Matthew and St Nathanael, Bristol

**ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009**

Registered Charity Number 1134719

THE VISION OF ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

We desire to grow in Christ by ;
Deepening our relationship with God,
Building Community
Engaging with our locality, the world, and through our networks.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

St Matthews benefits the local and wider community by:

1. Providing Christian religious worship services through two services each Sunday plus a monthly service for children and their families and special services at times of celebration (e.g. Easter, Christmas etc).
2. Providing resources for moral and intellectual development for its members and anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers.
3. Enabling Christians to be able to give to, and practically support, their local community through a broad range of activities organised by the church. These include: Sunday school, messy church, youth groups, home groups, prayer groups, community events, social outreach, arts events etc
4. Allowing third party organisations to use church buildings and facilities to run activities that help build a healthier community, including: playgroups, toddlers, brownies, guides, choirs, local interest groups, work with ex-prisoners and environmental groups.
5. By providing weddings, funerals and baptisms.
6. Providing a place for prayer and support.

The Trustees (Parochial Church Council) are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in *The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit* and have had regard to it in their administration of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthew and St Nathanael.

The Trustees believe that this report, taken as a whole, provides further evidence that St Matthew and St Nathanael's work in 2009 furthered its charitable purposes for the public benefit.

THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees of St Matthew's Church are the PCC which has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Mat Ineson, in promoting the whole work of the Church in the ecclesiastical parish.

PCC Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. After the APCM the following served as members:

Incumbent	Rev Mat Ineson - Chairperson (member of Diocese Synod)
Wardens	Mr Simon Pugh-Jones } Joint vice-chairs Mr Tim Snowdon }
Asst Curates	Rev Joyce Caithness Rev Tanya Lord (from July 2009)
Lay Minister	Mr Richard Pendlebury (representative of LLMs)
Representatives on the Deanery Synod	Mrs Chris McConnell (until 2011) Mrs Vanessa Conte (until 2011)
Employees	Ms Vicky Wright (co-opted)
Elected members	Mr Paul Rowlands Treasurer (until 2012) Ms Julia Dunn (until 2012) Mrs Katheryn Caithness (until 2012)(Deputy Warden) Mrs Margaret Williams (until 2012) Mr Stephen Osborne - (until 2011) Ms Cath Beseke (until 2011) Mrs Ruth Rimmer (until 2011) Mr Dominic Hubbuck - (until 2010) Mrs Sally Wood (Deputy Warden) (co-opted until 2010) (Vacancy)
Secretary	Mrs Anna Collins (co-opted non-voting member)

Bank National Westminster Bank plc, 106 Whiteladies Road, Bristol
CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner Burton Sweet Chartered Accountants

THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The PCC operates through a number of sub-committees which meet between full meetings of the PCC

Leadership Team: Operating as the Standing Committee it has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Missions Committee: It co-ordinates the church's support to its mission partners. As well as sending financial support it aims to keep in touch with their news, writes to them and prays for them on a regular basis. The other role of the group is to promote awareness of mission in the church by keeping everyone up to date with news and encouraging members of the church who sense a calling to mission.

Playgroup Management Committee: The committee has responsibility for the management of the Playgroup on behalf of the PCC.

Building Committee: Works with the wardens in the co-ordination and implementation of the care of the fabric of the church building and grounds.

Technology Committee: Has oversight of the audio-visual and computer equipment, and will investigate new equipment and resources if so required to do so by the PCC.

The full PCC met 10 times during 2009 with an average attendance of 15.
The major PCC considerations during this year were as follows.

Vision Area Teams serve the vision of St Matthew's. Three teams lead each of the three areas of vision; Deepening our relationship with God, Building Community and Engaging with our locality, our networks and the world.

During October we held a vision evening to re-communicate and emphasise our vision and how we were achieving it. Also during October the leadership team spent a day with 'Winning Ways' a group of church consultants, exploring how we could develop our mission strategy.

Staff Team; There were two new additions to the staff team during 2009. Cath Hubbuck joined the team as part time Children's Minister in May 09 and Rev Tanya Lord joined as training curate in July 2009.

Church Partnerships; We continue to be blessed by our partnership with other churches. This year we continued to work with Bristol Christian Fellowship on local events and on development plans for the 'Ark building' (see below) and Redland Parish Church in running the 'Growing Leaders' Course. As part of our commitment to the Highbury Church Partnership we supported the ministry of Cotham Parish Church and St Paul's Clifton in their vacancy, worked with them on a Christian basics course Christianity from Scratch and share administrative space and personnel. In September we began a new partnership with Woodlands Community Church and Trinity College in hosting a Context Based Training Cohort who will be working with us in mission in our parish. We look forward to this new partnership developing and the others continuing to grow.

Overall Financial Position; Over the year the income to the General Fund increased through increased generosity and increased attendance. This enabled all costs to be met for the financial year including parish share.

Growth; The PCC is encouraged by the growth in Christ during the past year and it continues to encourage further growth and prioritise areas of ministry to ensure efficient and proper use of resources.

Growing in Christ by Deepening our Relationship with God (*report from the team*)

St Matthew's continues to grow in Christ by deepening our relationship with God as a community and as individuals. This growth is key to our growth in other areas as it is only in God's strength that we will be able to build God's kingdom.

Our morning and evening service continues to grow in numbers. We are very blessed by the number of creative and talented musicians in our church community. We held a review of our musical worship with the intention of releasing more gifts in worship and continuing to develop our services. This led to both an increase in leaders and moved some way to giving a more consistent worship experience. Evening services have now settled into a consistent pattern of café style worship. The fourth Sunday is always a service with prayer for healing which has been well received and has been lay led. In general worship services continue to be creative, well led and appreciated by everyone.

St Matthew's PCC appointed a volunteer prayer coordinator in early 2009. Minty Hull took responsibility for leading and developing the prayer life of the church. Throughout the year it has been encouraging to see the prayer life of the church grow. A monthly church prayer meeting has been well supported, the prayer cycle is widely used and our prayer chains continue to be well used. We ran a 'home retreat' through Advent on Sunday evenings. Prayer before and after morning services continues to be appreciated.

All Age worship is becoming more regular and there is a regular All Age slot at the beginning of the morning service. We began Messy Church in October (see below) and as part of our Mission strategy have continued to run Christingle, Eggsplare and Harvest Trail services which are popular with non regular church goers.

One of the main tools for encouraging deepening relationships with God and one another is our small group structure. These groups give an opportunity to share and learn together and to pray for one another during the week. During 2009 there were 5 small groups meeting weekly.

The Sunday Children’s work continues to grow with the arrival of Cath Hubbuck as children’s Minister. She is building on the excellent work of Catherine Hammond who moved on in April 2009.

The Sunday morning youth group is beginning to grow under the leadership of Ali Berry the Youth Minister and some excellent volunteers.

The size of the church community is assessed by counting the Electoral Roll and Normal Sunday Attendance. Normal Sunday attendance is always difficult to determine. On average attendance has risen and is now 113 adults and 28 children. However, term time attendance across a Sunday is closer to 130 adults and 30 children. Electoral roll figures are set out below.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Electoral Roll	222	164*	160	162	163	147	127*	124	135

*indicates complete renewal of the Electoral Roll

Easter attendance was 145 adults and 38 under 16s (Eggsplare was 54 and 54), Christmas Carol Service attendance 282 and 39, Christingle 148 and 142 and Christmas Day 147 and 49. Messy Church which meets on a Friday had average attendance of 44 adults and 46 children.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Baptisms	10	15	4	10	3	6	3	7
Confirmations	8	2	0	8	0	0	5	0
Weddings	9	3	5	3	0	4	0	7
Funerals	9	7	4	1	3	1	2	3

Growing in Christ through Building Community

Continuing from the previous year the team have been looking at the different areas of our church life. We have been exploring how we can best encourage people to become part of our vibrant, welcoming Christ centred community and, once established in that community, how can we strengthen those connections? The work on Welcoming continued and has contributed to the development of a “welcome pack”, along with the communication group, for new members.

We have introduced “*who’s who*” slides on the screen during the end of service notices to encourage welcome and integration. These are photos of key members of the community with a bit of information about what their role is. We hope that this will help new members to orientate themselves with who’s who, encourage them to offer their gifts in service and aid identification of who might be in a position to help.

Following a larger review of the area teams and what parts of church life they cover the Pastorates, Small Groups and the whole issue of communication within the church really come under the Building Community Team’s umbrella and we are going to be looking at this in the coming months.

The Social Organising Team has been busy again this year, organising events and activities that enable the community of St Matthew's to spend time with one another within a more relaxed social situation as well as hosting events that the church community can invite friends and contacts to. During 2009 we had the Easter Breakfast, a family quiz night, the Party in the Garden, another successful Christmas wine tasting and introduced "Hospitality Sundays" to name a few.

The Building Community Team researched possible venues for our weekend away which was ultimately held at Lee Abbey from March 5th - 7th 2010 and one of the team did a brilliant job of overseeing the booking administration.

Growing in Christ by Engaging with the Locality, World and through Networks

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." 1 Cor 3: 6

This has been an exciting year of seed-planting, seed-watering and growth in different areas of our work. As we hear testimonies from across the country of churches seeing their communities transformed by the gospel, one common thread emerges: partnership. God blesses unity, so it has been great to see our existing partnership with Bristol Christian Fellowship flourish this year and new partnerships with Woodlands and Trinity College developing. The cohort of Trinity students are currently exploring how they can build upon the relationships that have been built up over the years in the Dove Street area of the parish, working with the 'Love Bristol' community from Woodlands who have an established work in Stokes Croft.

The Ark Project with Bristol Christian Fellowship continues to make very good progress. During October, there was a successful community consultation completed with the help of over 40 fantastic volunteers from both churches. During the period of consultation, the 'Open Festival' also happened. From the 24-30th October, there was an Art Gallery open every afternoon in the Ark, two morning 'Craft for Kids' sessions and a number of evening events. Numbers were high this year and we had around 500 people attend over the week.

Over these months, the Ark Development group has been meeting to set out a vision for the Ark and a strategy for engaging with the local area, working towards making an application for a Trust to manage 'The Ark' project. This Trust will initially be made up of representatives from St Matthew's and BCF and trustees are in the process of being finalised. It has been an exciting few months as we see the vision of the Ark becoming a space for community and creativity, a place of Godly transformation, come closer to realisation.

Our work amongst young children and families also continues to thrive and we have seen real growth in this area over the past year. This year has seen the advent of Messy Church which has been an extraordinary success attracting a large number of families from the local area to come and have fun, hear God's word and eat together. We look forward to seeing how God will further this work and the many things that might grow from it.

In September for the third year running, the Kingsdown Home Grown Festival was hosted by St Matthews and co-organised with a local community group. St Matthew's presence at the event was notable - particularly our cider making! We have also seen further connections made with groups in the local community including Knightstone House. Nick Stroud and Will Hull continue to be involved with the Ashley House Probation Hostel community liaison and management group respectively.

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

It is amazing, humbling and exciting that the power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in all of us as we share His good news with those we live near, work with and pray for.

The World

Overseas and home mission continues to be a priority for us. The Missions Committee recommended to the PCC the allocation of the Missions budget which remained at 10% of the giving to the general fund. In 2009 eight missionaries or societies were supported (as reported in note 8 to the accounts (page 8)). In addition, we held collections for certain special causes, also reported in note 8 (page 7).

St Matthew's Church hosted charity events for Changing Tunes as well as providing practice and meeting space for them.

Networks

The majority of the St Matthew's congregation live and work outside the parish boundaries. A key part of the church's strategy is in developing support for individuals in their work life through small groups, relevant teaching and worship, prayer and inviting testimony. At present much of this falls within the Deepening Relationship with God area but as we grow it is expected that St Matthew's will have greater influence outside its parish boundaries.

Child Protection

A Nominated Person for Child Protection (Pauline Roberts) was available to deal with any concerns whilst an Administrator for Child Protection (Isabel Geissinger) dealt with the applications from those wishing to be involved with youth and children's work. The child protection policy was reviewed in January 2009. The St Matthews Child Protection Policy can be obtained from our website (<http://stmatthews-bristol.org.uk>) or from the church office.

The church was involved in a child protection case during 2009 which led to the conviction and sentencing of a long standing church member in early 2010. Child Protection Policies were followed. A review is currently underway of those policies and procedures.

Communications

Communications are an increasingly important area. Our website (www.stmatthews-bristol.org.uk) continued to be well used and well managed. We created a welcome pack to give to newcomers to give information on the church community.

The Building

The maintenance of the building was pursued with the usual care, and some preliminary inspections and reports prepared. Full details are to be found in the fabric report at the end of this document.

On weekdays the building was used regularly by our Playgroup, Toddlers Groups, Saturday Morning Play Time, and Music Group and for prayer and other church group meetings. Our regular outside users were Brownies, Rainbows, Guides, The Bristol and Avon Archaeological Society, a German playgroup, The City of Bristol Choir, Exultate Singers and the Phoenix Choir. These weekly / fortnightly meetings meant not only that we had a regular income but that we maintained our links with a large number of people. On many Saturdays the hall was booked for children's parties. Our visitors expressed appreciation of the welcome and help they received.

We are very thankful for all the church community and for the contribution they make to worship and the life of the church, some in public and visible ways, some hidden and unseen. We are aware of the challenges of striking a balance between the time given to work, the family, the community, recreation and their church commitments.

Lay and Licensed Ministry in the Parish

In 2009 we enjoyed the ministry of an assistant curate (Joyce Caithness Ordained Local Minister) and four Lay Ministers (Catherine Hammond, Martin Stanisstreet, Dave Thyer and Richard Pendlebury). All continued to offer their considerable gifts through preaching, teaching and leading of all ages. Catherine Hammond moved to Wales in April 2009 and Tanya Lord arrived as training curate in July 2009.

Lay ministry extends beyond that of the licensed Lay Ministers. We are blessed by Vicky Wright as our paid full time community minister and leader of community mission, Ali Berry our part time Youth Minister, Jackie Burnell our part time administrator and the appointment in May 2009 of Cath Hubbuck as part time Children's Minister.

We are also very grateful to God to have a congregation of people who minister in a wide variety of ways. Among them are musicians, intercessors, youth and children's group leaders, social event organisers, home-group leaders, sacristans, assistants at Communion, cleaners, flower arrangers, pastoral visitors and others who contributed to the ongoing ministry of the church, by quietly offering acts of service and prayer. They are all very much appreciated.

The Future

We hope and pray that 2010 will bring further challenges of growth. We continue to look forward to all that God is calling us into in this new phase of the Church's life. We look forward to all that He will fulfil in us and through us.

FINALLY

This Annual Report is a composite document prepared collaboratively by the officers and members of the PCC, in line with the terms of the Charities Act 1993. We hope that it gives a clear picture of the life of the church and the way in which the PCC has administered the task placed on them as trustees of St Matthew's Church.

On behalf of the PCC

Rev. Mat Ineson
Priest-in-charge
Chairman of PCC

Tim Snowdon Simon Pugh-Jones
Churchwardens and vice Chairpersons of PCC

date

St Matthew's Prayer

Heavenly Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon St. Matthew's. Grant us a new vision of your Glory, a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your Word, a new consecration to your service so that, through our renewed witness your Holy Name may be glorified and your Kingdom advanced, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen