



The Parish of St Matthew and St Nathanael, Bristol

**ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011**  
*Registered Charity Number 1134719*

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**THE VISION OF ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH**

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'Living for Jesus; Knowing, Growing and Going'

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**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT**

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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 2011 furthered its charitable purposes for the public benefit.



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## THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

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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.

**Vision:** PCC re-visited the Vision, approved a rewording to 'Living for Jesus; Knowing, Growing and Going' and set goals in line with it.

### **Vision Deliver Teams**

The PCC delegated the leading of the three areas of Vision, Knowing, Growing, and Going, to three teams, each led by a member of the Leadership team and containing at least two members of PCC each. These teams report to PCC.

The full PCC met 7 times during 2011 with an average attendance of 16.

**Staff Team;** The staff team comprises Vicar Mat Ineson, Curates Tanya Lord and Joyce Caithness, Children's Minister Cath Hubbuck, Administrator Jackie Burnell, Youth Coordinator Rachel Clarke and Community Minister Vicky Wright. Cath Hubbuck went on Maternity Leave in September and Charlotte Gompertz provided cover for this post.

**Church Partnerships;** We continue to be blessed by our partnership with other churches. This year we continued to work with Bristol Christian Fellowship (see below) and Redland Parish Church in running the 'Growing Leaders' Course and Youth Work. As part of our commitment to the Highbury Church Partnership, we supported the ministry of Cotham Parish Church and St Paul's Clifton and continue to share administrative space and personnel. We continued in our partnership with Trinity College and Woodlands Community Church by co-hosting a Context Based Training Cohort. As part of their training, they work 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.

We are very grateful to The Joseph Rank Trust for their generous support of our Community Minister's ecumenical community work over the past 3 years. This funding ended in September.

**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.

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## Knowing

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Living for Jesus by seeking to know God the Father in Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit; our discipleship. Growth in discipleship 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.

### Worship

Our morning and evening services continue to grow in numbers. Our preaching continues to be a source of challenge and encouragement. We are very blessed by the number of creative and talented musicians in our church community.

### Prayer

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 well-attended 'home retreat' in Advent 2011 and created an Advent prayer space for people to use during the week in our newly refurbished chapel.

### Children's and Youth Work

Alongside our excellent Sunday children's and youth groups, we have continued to run midweek Messy Church as a more open access worship event for families. Eggsplere and our Christmas Christingle services continue to be well attended.

### Midweek Discipleship

Our mid week groups continue to strengthen. These groups give an opportunity to share, worship, pray, and learn together. During 2011, there were six small groups meeting weekly and four Pastorates. The latter are larger groups of 20 or so. During 2011, we ran Tea and Theology on Sunday afternoons. This was attended by those within and outside the church community.

### Encouraging Service

As part of our commitment to encouraging an environment where all can identify and utilise their gifts we ran the Growing Leaders Course with Redland Parish Church and also held a day course on identifying gifts.

### Attendance Figures

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 143 adults and 32 children. Our October average (often used by the national church) was 149 adults and 29 children. Electoral roll figures are set out below.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Electoral Roll	160	162	163	147	127*	124	135	134	133
All Age ASA**	145	142	153	141	142	158	150	174	178
Adult ASA**	116	120	125	108	116	124	120	136	149
Child ASA**	29	23	28	22	25	34	30	38	29

\*indicates complete renewal of the Electoral Roll

\*\* ASA is 'Official' CofE Average Sunday attendance based on October figures

Easter attendance was 258 adults and 42 under 16s (Eggsplere was 60 and 45), Christmas Carol Service attendance 311 and 34, Christingle 206 and 144 and Christmas Day 189 and 42. Messy Church, which meets on a Friday, had average attendance of 32 adults and 43 children.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Baptisms	4	10	3	6	3	7	15	6
Confirmations	0	8	0	0	5	0	5	1
Weddings	5	3	0	4	0	7	8	7
Funerals	4	1	3	1	2	3	5	4

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## Growing

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Living for Jesus by growing in numbers and depth of community.

### Welcome

We ran a welcome course for the church community to improve our welcome to newcomers.

### Home Groups (between 5-12 members)

We now have Six Home groups meeting regularly.

### Pastorates (between 17-30 Members)

We currently run four pastorates; one based in Church, one in Dove Street, one for young women based in St Andrews/Bishopston and one in Redland/Clifton. Each group meets for fellowship, prayer and worship and seeks to work out a missional focus.

### Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care of the church community continues to be led by the staff team alongside the house group and pastorate leaders. The first line of pastoral care is through the smaller mid-week groups. The vicar and curate also support a number of other individuals in the parish.

The Wholeness Course attracted around 10 people who moved on in their journey with God through the teaching and prayer ministry. We also ran a Women's Weekend in November 2011.

### Spring Harvest

A group of 15 from St Matthew's including two newly Baptized Adults went to the Spring Harvest Christian festival in April.

### Social Events

As well as the usual social events including the Burns Evening and Wine Tasting we organized a Christmas Lunch for those who might otherwise be on their own at Christmas. Including helpers we enjoyed lunch with 70 other people.

### Saturday Morning Playtime / Messy Church and Toddlers

Due to the increasing workload of Messy Church we took the decision to close Saturday Morning Playtime in July 2011. The Tuesday Toddler group continues to be strong and Messy Church is developing into a stable community.

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## Going

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Living for Jesus by going into the world to make disciples and serve those in need.

### Drop in at in Fremantle House, Dove Street

Our Monday afternoon drop-in has seen a steady stream of residents coming along and a core group has emerged. It has been great sharing coffee, cake, and friendship as we all to get to know each other and share our lives.

### Dove Street Area

We organised a fun, family carol singing evening around the flats this Christmas, which was great. The Tuesday evening pastorate in Dove Street has provided a natural link with the Monday afternoon drop-in. We are also supporting the work of the Matthew Tree Project providing food for the bank and volunteers to help run it.

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### **Knightstone House**

Our links with Knightstone House, a supported living complex in the parish, have continued to strengthen. A small team has been involved with running coffee mornings and putting on a Christmas Carol event in December.

### **Alpha Course**

During 2011, we ran an Alpha Course with Redland Parish Church and the Bishopston Parish Churches.

### **Ark Project**

Due to financial pressures on our partners at BCF, the Ark Project has ceased to operate. We were disappointed that they have had to sell their building.

### **St Matthew's Playgroup**

St Matthew's PCC runs an OFSTED regulated playgroup that is very popular in the local area. The excellent staff team led by Linda Mallard received an excellent report from OFSTED during 2011 and we are proud of them and their achievements.

### **Kingsdown Homegrown**

In September for the fifth year running, the Kingsdown Home Grown Festival was hosted by St Matthews and co-organised with a local community group. The St Matthew's presence at the event was the largest it has ever been, including catering and helping with the evening event.

### **Colston's Primary School**

St Matthews and the Vicar supported the local school through providing space for their curriculum visits, visits to help with curriculum in school and hosting the school Carol service that had an attendance in excess of 400.

### **Support for Work Outside the Parish**

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 2011, seven missionaries or societies were supported (as reported in note 8 to the accounts including new support for CMS mission partners in Thailand. In addition, we held collections for certain special causes (also reported in note 8).

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

### **Other**

Nick Stroud and Will Hull continue to be involved with the Ashley House Probation Hostel community liaison and management group respectively.

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, pastorates, relevant teaching, worship, prayer, and inviting testimony.

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## **Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults**

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A Nominated Person for Child Protection (Mary Parsons) 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 2011. The St Matthews Child Protection Policy can be obtained from our website (<http://stmatthews-bristol.org.uk>) or from the church office.

The church formulated a new Vulnerable Adults policy under the guidance of our nominated person Val Jeal and the Diocese Officer, Jeanette Plumb. This is also available on our church website.

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## Communications

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Communications are an increasingly important area. Our website (<http://stmatthews-bristol.org.uk>) continued to be well used and well managed. The welcome packs are still well used. Weekly e-bulletins are sent to those who have requested them and all our sermons are now available as a podcast.

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## The Building

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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 and the City of Bristol 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.

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## Lay and Licensed Ministry in the Parish

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In 2011 we enjoyed the ministry of our vicar (Rev Mat Ineson) two assistant curates (Rev Joyce Caithness Ordained Local Minister and Rev Tanya Lord training curate), two Lay Ministers (Martin Stanisstreet and Richard Pendlebury), one Emeritus Lay Minister (Dave Thyer) and Rev Dr Emma Ineson who ministered in the Parish alongside her full time role at Trinity College. All continued to offer their considerable gifts through preaching, teaching and leading of all ages.

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, Rachel Clarke our part time Youth Coordinator, Jackie Burnell our part time Administrator and Cath Hubbuck our part time Children's Minister. Cath Hubbuck took maternity leave from September 2011 and Charlotte Gompertz ably covered her role.

We are also very grateful to God to have a congregation of people who minister in a wide variety of ways both in the church and across the City. Among them are musicians, intercessors, youth and children's group leaders, vergers, 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.

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## Finance

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This year we saw a substantial increase in the planned giving of our donors. In turn, we have increased significantly our missionary and charitable giving together with an increase in our Diocesan Parish Share donated to the Diocese of Bristol. Our Church Management & Administration costs increased (mainly due to additional printing costs due to increased marketing of events), as did the costs of activities directly relating to the Ministry of the Church. Overall Church costs increased slightly over 3.5% during the year. Our Playgroup continues to perform exceptionally well and operates at or near capacity. We are very grateful to the Joseph Rank Trust for their support of our Community Minister that finished in October this year. Please see the full accounts for more information.



## Appendix 1: Fabric Report

The building and the gardens are in good order.

Through the year we tackled several larger projects including the installation of sound attenuating ceiling tiles in the hall, the replacement of the fire alarm panel, the re-carpeting, the repainting of the chapel, the repositioning and refurbishment of “the Eagle” lectern, the repainting of the back wall in the hall, the “wet cleaning” of all the carpeted areas and the setting up of facilities to hang banners outside the church. We also dealt with various emergencies, including the replacement of the water heater in the servery and the replacement of the fridge freezer in the kitchen.

Two further projects were also identified this year as needing action. First, it was agreed that the intruder alarm and access systems needed to be replaced and arrangements are now in hand to complete this. Secondly, it was recognised that the heating control system had exceeded its shelf life. Steps have therefore now been taken to upgrade this with a view to making the whole system much more “intelligent” and efficient; substantial longer-term cost-savings are envisaged. Hopefully all this will be in place well before next winter.

We have also been working away at the clearing of the cellars behind the boiler house below the northeast end of the church. Significant progress has been achieved and our hope is that the place can be fully cleared and refurbished this year; this will create a large additional dry and secure storage space.

Last year we acquired a ride-on cylinder mower for use in the garden alongside the existing rotary mower. Some work was carried out to level the grassed areas to suit the new mower.

It was also decided that a number of the trees needed attention and tree surgeons were brought in to carry out the necessary work.