

## **The Children's Society Report 2009/10**

Support for the Children's Society has continued to be strong and we have 30 box holders. Our total collection for 2009 was £430. 65. The Children's Society supports vulnerable young people and is doing excellent work throughout the UK. I do urge you to remember it in your prayers.

I am very grateful to Joan and Roy Houghton who counted most of the box money when it came in last year.

Thank you to all of you who hold boxes and collect your loose change. I have a few spare boxes if anyone wants to start being a collector. I would be grateful if you could start bringing in your boxes from now on so that we can spread the task of counting all those pennies! If you could leave them in the office I would be very grateful.

Thank you,

**Jane Ridout**

## **ASHA TRUST**

It's been another amazing year for Asha Trust. We continue to fund and support a number of projects including a 2 feeding programmes within schools, a school for disabled children, tuition for young people, a children's centre and of course Sister Concepta and her team.

The most exciting aspect of our work this year, (and the most challenging) has been the decision to buy a piece of land in the heart of Athidiya on which a community centre will be built,. Thanks to all at St Marks and other good friends we have now bought the land and move on to developing the building. Please pray for this venture that the centre will become an "oasis of love" for the community.

None of this would be possible without the continued moral and practical support that many at St Marks provide. THANK YOU.

We would once again like to express a special thanks to Julie Thompson for all her support and guidance over the last year.

**Steve & Radhika Bynon**

### **Wednesday Home Group (Godwin Road)**

We have been meeting for about nine months, first in Lorne Road, now Godwin Road. We are grateful for Shanthi's hospitality each week, and have six regular members.

The focus is Bible study and discussion, and we have looked at a chapter of John's Gospel most weeks. We then share needs for prayer. We particularly welcome those new to the church or to new to faith.

**Chris and Alison Aston**

### **Lorne Road Home Group (though we now meet in Ridley Road)**

Membership: 10

Average attendance: 6

It has been a difficult year with illness and bereavement within the group, so we have spent a lot of time praying. We have also said goodbye to Alison, who has moved on to co-lead a new group. We welcome Barbara who joined us recently.

We have been studying 'Bondage Breaker' (about spiritual warfare), '5 Impossible Things about Christmas' and Philemon. Recently we have returned to an old favourite – Max Lucado – and are currently looking at his book 'Cast of Characters'.

Each week we have coffee and chat, Christian study and prayer time. Looking back over the past year's prayer requests, which we record, God, as ever, has been very good to us.

**Julie Thomson**

### **Capel Road Homegroup.**

The Capel Road homegroup is full of discussion, which includes a lot of tangents, questions, wanderings and poor jokes, but also the occasional piece of revelation, of enlightenment, of understanding and wonder .

After 8months we finally finished Marks Gospel and are presently looking at Exodus a story which underpins our faith with its account of redemption and deliverance. If you wish to try out our homegroup you would be welcome.

We meet each Thursday @141 Capel Road from 8 o Clock.

**Steve & Radhika Bynon**

### **Silver Surfers**

My name is Lill Janes and I have been running the Silver Surfers club for two years now. I have about six people that come and use the internet, but it would be nice if more people could come and join us. It is run on a Monday between 1:00pm and 4:00pm. I have had a few difficulties sometimes but I would like to thank Jimmy for his support when I needed it.

**Lill Janes.**

### **St. Mark's Website**

Since this time last year the St. Mark's website has been visited around 2,000 times by people from all over the world, and several former members of St. Mark's have got back in touch with us through it.

On the site you can download the weekly notice sheet and an electronic version of the magazine. You can listen to recordings of talks given at services too. The site also contains a wealth of information about our church and its history, as well as about how to take the first steps in Christian life.

If you have ideas for new features for the website, please let me know.

**Mike Richardson**

### **St. Mark's Magazine**

There have been 11 editions of the magazine in 2009 and 400 copies are printed each time. A number of people contribute to the production of the magazine and special thanks go to Pete for doing the printing, and to those who fold, staple and distribute each edition.

Special thanks go to Glenda who distributes the magazine to former members of the church who have moved away from St Marks but still like to receive the magazine. Also to Wendy and Elizabeth who see that those coming to the parent and toddler groups also receive a copy.

We feel that the magazine should be an important witness for the church and we have tried to get a good mixture of material that is both interesting and has a Christian content. We have made use of Parish Pump, which is a website run by the Church of England News Service to supply material to parish magazines, but it would be nice to have more material from members of the church. Material for the magazine can be left in the church office or emailed to [arnolds@xalt.co.uk](mailto:arnolds@xalt.co.uk).

**Ann Arnold**

## **Treasurer's Report**

Once again the annual accounts use the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) format, which distinguishes between "Unrestricted Funds" which the PCC can use as they see fit to meet the church's objectives, and "Restricted Funds" which can only be used for the purposes for which they were given. Our principal Restricted Funds are (a) money given to St Marks to pass on to specific charities or causes, and (b) money given to support our Youth & Community work.

I am very pleased to report that overall we made a surplus of £431 in 2009, which is tremendous improvement on 2008, when expenditure exceeded income by nearly £16,800. The principal reason for this improvement was your response to the Gift Day which we held in April. The response came to approximately £4,000 in one-off gifts, plus approximately £7,300 in new and increased regular monthly giving in 2009, thus giving a total of approximately £11,300 additional income which we would not otherwise have received.

The bulk of our Unrestricted Funds income is money which is given to the church by people like you and me. Together with the tax refund which we received in respect of money given under the Gift Aid scheme, this amounted to over £72,000 for Unrestricted Funds.

Excluding money given to St Marks to pass on to specific charities or causes, we gave away £8,500 in 2009.

In 2009 we spent £26,900 on the church's ministry. By far the largest part of this (£25,800) was the Family Purse which we paid to Chelmsford Diocese.

Expenditure on the youth & community work was £29,300.

We spent £10,400 on training mission and outreach.

Church expenses (on the building and fittings) came to £11,800. However we only spent just over £2,700 on repairs, which is significantly less than normal.

As always, I would like to thank everyone who gave money to St Marks during 2009. Without the money which is given to St Marks – whether by monthly standing order, by regular envelopes, or in the collection box – we would be unable to do almost everything that we do as a church.

Once again I want to remind everyone about the Gift Aid Scheme, because it is so beneficial to the church. It really is money from Alastair Darling for almost nothing. Gift Aid is extremely simple and flexible to use, and means, for example, that if you give £10 per week for a year, St Marks will receive £130 from the taxman.

I would encourage everyone who pays income tax and who gives to St Marks – however large or small the amount – to make use of Gift Aid. If you would like to know more about Gift Aid, or have any questions, please talk to me. But please remember two points:

Firstly, if you use the yellow Gift Aid envelopes, you must write your name and address on them in the spaces provided, as the tax man does not give tax refunds on anonymous giving. Secondly, please notify the church if you cease to pay UK income tax, as we cannot reclaim the tax if you do not pay an equivalent amount in income tax.

**Peter Arnold**

### **Churchwardens Report**

For me this year has flown by! There have been times when I have felt inadequate and that I cannot do things but I remember Luke 1:37 "Nothing is impossible with God". I have seen that in the life and growth of St Marks throughout the past year.

I would like to thank Kate, Ann, Chris and Peter for acting as deputy wardens and assisting me with the various wardens' responsibilities and also thanks again to Pete Stow for his patience and enthusiastic encouragement.

The Health & Safety team set up with Ann Arnold and Ellen Kemp to look at such things as Fire prevention regulations and Kitchen hygiene and safety has worked through the year and Jackie Randall-Peltier has filled the necessary position of Health & Safety Officer. Progress may have seemed to be slow but we will soon be implementing our fire drills.

The Quinquennial 5 year plan of works has been addressed and many of the most urgent tasks have been completed. The ladies toilet cubicles have been made bigger and are now more user-friendly!

Finally, thank you to every member of our church family who has signed up for the different rotas and getting involved in all aspects of running our church building and for supporting me, Pete and each other. You are all different special parts of the body of St Marks and what you do naturally others would find difficult. It is never too late to offer your services and you may surprise yourselves in what we can achieve together!

**Dave Paxton**

## **Fabric Report**

Thank you to all who have done anything to maintain our Church premises.

We have had "official" work party days this year but many of you have done things individually and behind the scenes. We may not always know who has done something but we all notice when it is done so thank you.

We have a Quarterly workday plan for 10/10/11 and the first will be on a Saturday in April doing some of the smaller jobs highlighted by the Quinquennial report and general cleaning tasks. No skills are necessary and no offer of help will be turned away!!

**Dave Paxton**

## **COMMUNICATION SUPPORT**

We are a team of three. Our aim is to welcome and give communication support to the Deaf members of St Marks to provide access to our morning worship.

We use sign language, gesture, pen and paper. If you would like to join the team speak to Annette, Alison or Clare.

**Clare Dale**

## **St Marks Weekly News Sheet**

The news sheet is issued at Sunday Services and updates us on service types and times, club and group meetings for the coming week, and promotes any future activities that need help, support or publicity. People contact me by 6.00pm each Friday evening by e-mail, telephone or manual note, for inclusion in the following week's issue.

The news sheet acts as a weekly update of our monthly magazine which has more in-depth information.

If you have anything you wish to share with our church family please feel free to contact me.

**Karen Paxton**

## **Traidcraft**

In 2009 we sold £2,155 worth of fairly-traded foods and other goods on the Traidcraft stall. The stall is available after family services, and on every Sunday in December, and provides an opportunity for the congregation to buy a selection of fairly-traded goods, thereby benefiting producers who receive a decent share of the purchase price, plus good conditions of employment, and educational opportunities for their children. This year we were able to put up a stall at the Forest Gate Festival, alongside one for St. Mark's, which was successful albeit hard work.

## **Peter and Ann Arnold**

### **Created Gifts (Tearcraft)**

At the beginning of this season after discussions with their artisans, Tearcraft changed its name to Created Gifts. It is still the same organisation – only the name has changed,

Created is not about handouts or charity, it is about providing work that offers dignity – work that uses craft workers' skills and traditions, work that they are proud of and work that allows them to provide for themselves and their families. They get a fair price for their skill and effort. Typically, half the payment is given in advance to fund purchase of raw materials and work in progress. By buying Created goods you are therefore helping some of the poorest communities by ensuring that a fair price is paid for their work. The stall is available after family services and on every Sunday in December. Many thanks to Kenny who is a great help in getting things out and putting things away.

## **Helen Palmer**

### **Banner Group**

The group meets on most Wednesday's to make and refurbish the banners for the decoration of the church, in 2009 we have remade some of the older banners and accepted a commission to make a banner for another church. We are always happy to see new members and it is an enjoyable time of fellowship for us all as well very satisfying to make the banners.

**Ann Arnold. Joan Houghton, Clare Dale and Glenda Abbot**

### **Flower Guild**

Members of the Flower Guild give a subscription each year to help pay for flowers in church each week. People also provide flowers on dates of their own choice in memory of relatives, or to commemorate special occasions (birthdays, anniversaries etc) – Please sign the list on the noticeboard in the passage.

Since the last AGM, the number of members has dropped and therefore I have a smaller amount of money to spend. Flowers cost an average of £7 - £8 per week,

I would welcome new members or donations ay anytime. Please see me if you would like to know more.

**Elizabeth Palmer**

### **Persecuted Church**

We continue to stand with our heroic brothers and sisters in many countries who suffer oppression and persecution simply for being Christians.

Their plea to us, who enjoy freedom they can only dream of, is never for money or material things but always for our prayers.

Our monthly prayer service helps us to do this as we try to stand for a while in their shoes and inform ourselves of situations they are up against in their daily lives.

Praying together encourages us to keep going on their behalf so that the church in those places may remain faithful and keep the light of the gospel shining. Where it is darkest the light shines brightest.

Please keep on praying for millions of our brothers and sisters for whom persecution is a daily experience and when possible come and join us in united prayer for them.

**Wendy Tandy & Pete Stow**

### **Cradle Roll**

All children who are baptized or dedicated at St. Mark's are on the cradle roll. They are sent a card on behalf of the church on their birthday, at Easter and at Christmas – up until the Christmas after their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. There are at present 16 children on the cradle roll.

**Helen Palmer**

### **Creche Report**

Creche is run during the Sunday morning service for children under the age of 3 years. Children can either be left in the care of the two helpers or parents can come in and stay with their child. Throughout the year it has been great to see new people come to St Marks and this has meant we have got to know more new babies and toddlers. Creche offers a service to parents by enabling them to stay in the service. We welcome new helpers to the rota at any time so please feel free to come and discuss this with me and as a new helper you would be paired with someone who has experience in the crèche . I would like to thank all those who have helped with creche in the last year.

**Penny Scott**

### **Scramblers**

Our numbers on roll have risen to 14, but attendance fluctuates between 4 & 12 with an average age range from 2.5 to 5.5 years. We are in the meeting room every week during morning services. We use a selection of table-top and construction toys together with a colouring or sticking activity related to the weekly Bible story. We follow the Scripture Union Bubbles programme. We have a break mid session for prayer and refreshments and when there is a communion service we join the congregation for the Lord's prayer and a blessing at the altar rail. We usually end with music, choruses and action songs.

As always my thanks go to those who faithfully help me every week, without help this group cannot run, and special thanks go to Sharon & Charlotte who kindly lead the group when I am away.

These little ones are our future congregation and I ask God's blessing on them and His guidance to us as their leaders.

**Anne Stevenson**

## **Parent & Toddler Club**

We have continued to welcome parents/carers and their little ones to our sessions from many different backgrounds with some people coming occasionally others once a week and a few attending all four sessions.

Parents/carers really appreciate having a drink made for them and having the opportunity of some adult conversation. It's good to see the friendliness and support of all the adults for each other and the joy of the children as they play and explore.

As we serve those who come we are rewarded in a multitude of ways including playing a part in the lives of many children from their earliest years.

We are always glad of more volunteers as this lightens the load and makes it possible for us to spend time with people and serve them more effectively.

Please keep on praying for us and for all those we are serving.

**Wendy, Elizabeth, Helen, Kenny, Angie, Violet, Yvonne, Annette**

## **Brownies**

We meet weekly on Monday evenings and have a full pack of 24 girls between 7-10, and a waiting list!

We have been joined by the Durning Hall Brownies and their leaders which has helped tremendously.

This year we have done our entertainer badge, and are now working on our Crime Prevention.

We are having our first sleepover at the church on 16th April and we're very excited. Girlguiding is celebrating its 100th year, so we've had parties and adventures to celebrate.

**Joanne Smallman**

## **Guides**

At present Annette (assistant guider) has had to stand down for family reasons. We have 16 girls – 5 in the 14+ age group. Our emphasis is on encouraging independence and making their own choices within the programme. The 'seniors' work on the 'Look Wider' programme if they want to but can also work on 'Go for it' with the other guides.

Activities in the last year have included a camp and the centenary launch party in Priory Park in July. This centenary year we have lots of activities based on 'Adventure 100' – 100 activities in 10 different categories. They get 5 or 10 points for each activity. The idea is to do at least 1 thing from each category and gain 100 points and a badge. There will be a big camp –G100 in July and we are also hoping to go ice skating (ice cool) and a sleepover (in the dark). All members of Guiding will renew their promise at 20.10 on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

In December one guide was chosen to go to Australia (the only one from the country) and 2 girls are going to India in the summer. Three girls have received a Jack Petchey Achievement award. With the money from these we have been able to buy centenary tops for all the girls and also taken them to Build-a-Bear in Covent Garden (the girls can choose how the money is spent within the unit)

**Helen Palmer**

### **Music Group/Choir**

During the last year we have been moving towards unifying the Music Group and Choir, especially since Mary left the choir to have her baby. Due to commitments both groups are unable at this stage to meet together for fellowship and practice during the week but are both endeavouring to serve our God with the gifts He has given us and together we aim to help people in their worship. It's also exciting that a youth band is developing as well. Please pray that God will equip us all with wisdom and power to establish God's kingdom here. We thank God we are able to join together to lead His praise in all the services.

**Elizabeth Palmer & Phil Ridaut**

### **Mornington Hall**

We hold a short service at our local residential nursing home on the first Sunday of each month. The service comprises of a talk, singing well known hymns and prayers. The residents enjoy chatting with us after the service and we know many of them very well. We take residents flowers or small gifts at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We have very good relationships with the nursing staff and are grateful to be given the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ to those who are elderly or frail.

**Annette, Roger, Jane, Wendy, Anne Stevenson, Elizabeth, Helen, Glenda, Kathy & June**

### **Carers Group**

The Carers Group continues to grow slowly and we have eight ladies on our books. We meet on the last Thursday of each month and provide an evening of rest and relaxation for those who care for a family member who has had a stroke. We also provide a confidential listening service for our members. We are a very mixed group culturally and often end up talking about our faith and religious beliefs. As helpers at the group we seek to show our members Jesus love in many different ways, whether it be a manicure, a meal or a few words of comfort.

**Annette, Anne Stow, Clare**

### **Nifty Fifties**

The Nifty- Fifties Club is now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, although smaller in number than the beginning, it continues to provide lots of interest. Many different subjects are covered, with the ever popular Scrabble games to end with. The trip to Hastings was a great success due to the fine weather. Unfortunately the pantomime came during the icy weather, so many missed out. We lost our Treasurer, Keith, in January after a long illness, he will be sadly missed but very fondly remembered. Thanks to all who assist in many ways, especially Elizabeth with the videos.

### **Flo Cobain**

### **Lunch Club**

Lunch club is still catering for 12-14 people. We have a pleasant time and a good meal. We miss Jean Waring, a good friend.

### **Daphne, Jean, Elizabeth**

### **Coffee Mornings**

These take place usually on the first Friday of every month except during August. We raise money for a variety of charities – a different one each month. In the past year we have raised nearly £1200.00 in total. Many thanks to everyone for their support – especially the parents and toddlers who come so regularly.

### **Helen Palmer**

### **3 in 1**

There is no longer a 3 in 1 meeting as we have lost all but 3 members.

### **Daphne Farrow**

### **Gadabouts**

Once again without a grant to pay for minibuses we have had to rely this year on coach trips, trains or coaches.

This though has not stopped us going out to a jazz evening, Kent villages with lunch, Chelsea Flower Show, Lavenham & Constable country, Saffron Waldren, St. Albans, Sissinghurst and Cambridge.

However the highlights of the year were when 22 folk went to Boulogne and in August a cruise and cream tea on Essex's hidden canal, which was enjoyed by over 20 people.

Look out for notices of this years trips and come and join us.

### **Ellen & Maureen**

### **Tuesday Fellowship**

Although there are only 6 of us, we meet every week on a Tuesday evening. We play board games which are generally connected to quiz questions (and we find out how much we don't know). We meet in each other's homes, enjoying an evening of fellowship.

**Elizabeth Palmer**

### **St. Mark's Players**

The Players meet every Wednesday evening at 8.pm in the church. Over the past year we have met regularly but unfortunately there has been quite a lot of illness and it is hard to work at programmes when people are absent.

Last December we took a Christmas show to Maybrook Court – sheltered housing in Wanstead. We are hoping to provide an evening's entertainment here at St. Mark's in the not too distant future.

If you feel you would like to join us please have a word with any of the Players.

**Elizabeth Palmer**

## Youth Report

The Youth work has taken off in a big way this year with now over 100 young people coming through the church doors every week.

We are currently running the following groups:

**Route 36** - This group has around 15 8-11 year olds attending weekly for games and activities on a Tuesday night

**Wednesday Nite** - This is our drop in on a Wednesday night, with around 20 regular young people attending. We are going away in the summer to Solid Camp, taking 22 from this age group.

**Cell Groups** - This was set up to help the young people who had made a profession of faith, figure out what it meant in their daily lives. This has been really exciting as several of them got baptised and we have seen them all grow in their faith

**Youth Worship Band** - For some of the more musical young people we have set up a worship team which have been playing at youth services and we have seen massive growth with

**Homework Club** - This is a project run with Godwin Junior School where we have 30 8-11 year olds coming to the church after school on a Friday to do their homework. This has been really encouraging and a great way of building relationships in the local area.

**JYT**- JYT is our inter-church project where we run a slightly more formal group where we've been looking at the Ten Commandments. We have around 15-20 young people who attend from across the Forest Gate churches. We had a residential to Colchester last year which was very encouraging and great fun!

We are also currently working in Forest Gate Secondary where we run a **Lunch time drop in** and help run the **Forest Gate Christian Union**

We are in the process of starting a training scheme called Equipping with some of our volunteers to move them towards getting the bishops certificate for youth work

I would like to use this as a chance to say a massive thank you our fantastic volunteer team, without who the project would cease to exist, you are all fantastic people.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who regularly pray for the youth work. God is answering prayers and we are seeing lots of the young people come closer to knowing Jesus.

If anyone would like to help volunteer with the youth work or commit to praying for it, please speak to Jimmy or Sarah

## **Audio and Visual Report**

Last year the church had a big make over of its sound and visual equipment. We updated the sound system and speakers so we now have a much more modern, functional sound system. We also upgraded to a program called Easy Worship for operating the projector, enabling us to show video's pictures, song words and DVD's all with much more ease.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteers on the sound and visual equipment and would like to encourage those who would like to give it a try, there's always someone who'll be willing to teach you.

**Jimmy Dale**

### **Children's Church for 5-10 year olds**

These sessions are led by Charlotte, Di, Jane, Kathy, Miranda and Radhika., with Sharon generously helping several times a year.

We currently have 4-8 children attending on any given week, including a core group of 4 children who attend nearly every week. Several others attend once or twice a month. They are a lovely group of enthusiastic, lively children.

We try to run an enjoyable session each week, combining games and activities with a Bible story and a discussion about its application. A number of the children have a clear faith: they pray regularly, and try to live out their faith in school and at home.

They are happy to pray about all aspects of their lives and have an understanding that God is with them throughout the week. It is a privilege to be able to guide them as they grow in understanding.

Helping the children of our church family to understand our faith is a crucial part of church life. Our team is looking for new leaders who would be willing to help out once a month. Anyone interested is asked to speak to Radhika, Jane or one of the team.

### **Keep Fit Classes**

We run 4 different exercise classes – Monday evenings at 9pm is Legs, Bums & Tums and this is low and high impact aerobics and toning exercises. On Thursday at 8pm the Circuit Class is a combination of cardiovascular and resistance training, We also run 2 morning classes called 'buggy bootcamp' which allows parents/carers to exercise whilst their children are looked after and again these classes incorporate both training and cardiovascular exercises.

We would like to thank the people of St. Mark's for their support and if any of you are interested in coming along to the classes we would be happy to explain more about them and give you advice as to which one might suit you best.

**Mark Stow & Angela Ioannou**

### **Thursday Homegroup – 8.pm Vicarage**

We are quite low in numbers but 4 or 5 of us meet regularly to either watch a DVD and discuss it or have a Bible Study. We finish in prayer and fellowship. Please let me know if you would like to join us.

**Pete Stow**

### **Thursday Bible Study - 2.pm 84 Chestnut Avenue**

A small group of us meet regularly to pray, read and study the Bible. Please let me know if you would like to join us.

**Pete Stow**

### **Wednesday Bible Study 12 – 1 – Church**

Approximately 10 of us meet in the lounge in church. We begin with soup and bread then a Bible Study from 12.15-1.00pm. We have had some lively discussions and have just started St. John's Gospel. All are welcome to join us.

**Pete Stow**

### **The Monday Home Group**

The Monday evening home group meets at 7.30 at Ruth's house in Cranmer Road. The leading of the meetings is shared between Ruth Blackett, Annette Daniells-Smith and Jane Ridout. This works well with each leader having a slightly different presentational style. We aim to finish by 9.30 and recently have been pretty good at achieving this! We usually start as promptly as we can with a Bible study or theme. During the past year since Easter our studies have been: David, After God's Heart, Apprenticeship (following on from Spring Harvest), Hebrews, Parables through multi sensory experiences and, currently, Ephesians. We occasionally go out for a meal or bring food to have a more relaxed celebration evening. We would welcome newcomers or anyone who wants to drop in and see what we are about.

### **Tape & Prayer Group**

We have studied a variety of subjects. In Christ's Image with Francis Frangipane. Some sessions with David Pawson on Contracts versus Covenants, remembering when God makes a promise He will never break it. More recently we have been studying Revelation with Chuck Missler, which has given us much to think about and to pray for. There is a real urge to share the Good News and to be aware of the signs of the times. We will watch to see what the Holy Spirit will do.

Jean Farnham

## **Pastoral Team**

The Pastoral Team was set up by the PCC to consider 'pastoral care' issues in the church. It has met every 2-3 months. It comprises Pete, home group reps and others - Radhika, Jean F, Julie, Wendy, Sheila, Jane, Elizabeth, Claire, Jimmy and Chris.

There are many ways in which the church shares care and encouragement informally and through groups, and we all grateful for Pete's care for us. The team also seeks to make and keep informal links with members and those associated with the church. This includes those new to the church, occasional visitors and those not in regular groups. We have also written a leaflet to go with events to provide an introduction for new members.

The Prayer Diary lists all those who worship at St Marks and was updated in December, following review by the Team. The Diary is also a way all can play a part in identifying and remembering others in the church.

**Chris Aston**

## **Electoral Roll**

The Electoral Roll lists all those who are full members of St Marks. Membership of the Electoral Roll is necessary in order to be able to vote at the AGM or to stand for some roles.

It is also a way of expressing commitment to the church and its mission.

In mid-March, there were 109 on the Roll, 68 from within the parish and 41 beyond. Any change will be reported to the meeting.

**Chris Aston**

