

A L L S A I N T S C H U R C H  
*Boyne Hill, Maidenhead*

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



# Overview Of The Year

My report this year will follow the style of 2008 when we looked at the Diocesan vision of 'Living Faith' and reflected upon how this might act as a framework for mission for our parish.

Let me begin by reminding you of the five priorities of Living Faith;

1. Sustaining the sacred centre
2. Making disciples
3. Making a difference in the world
4. Creating vibrant Christian communities
5. Shaping confident, collaborative leadership

## **1. The Sacred Centre**

In the January 2010 edition of *The Door*, Bishop John challenged us to think about ways in which we might sustain the sacred centre, and it is with that theme I will look back over 2009 at All Saints. Bishop John asks the vital question "How can we make space in our lives to allow God to enter?" We would hope that our Eucharistic worship, our study of the scriptures and our pilgrimages will help.

2009 saw us using Tom Wright's commentary, looking at the Gospel of St Matthew and a good number of people used the study as an opportunity to discover more about the Gospel by sharing together. Members of the congregation shared the leadership and the different style of each leader helped to stimulate good conversation. The Emmaus course had more of a Biblical basis as Sue Price encouraged us to think how we might use Tom Wright's commentary on Luke as a central theme running through the course. John Ainslie has successfully encouraged people to study the Gospel of St John on a Saturday morning and with Barbara Bannister's Friday night study group, we can see an increasing number of people studying the scriptures.

Another part of life at All Saints which I think helps sustain the Sacred Centre are the Pilgrimages. In 2009, 10 of us had the scriptures brought alive for us in the Holy Land. We witnessed first hand the remarkable ministry of Mitri Raheb, a Palestinian Arab and Christian pastor who has set up a college and school for young people in Bethlehem, giving them a better future. I think it is safe to say that all of us grew spiritually on this Pilgrimage and were challenged to give more of our time and talents in our community at All Saints.

We also in 2009 had wonderful pilgrimages to Walsingham and St Alban's and in 2010 we will visit Walsingham, Westminster Abbey and Chichester.

In 2009 we have encouraged young children to pray through the Mothers' Union prayer cards which we have used in Church and in Baptism preparation. It is great to hear of children using 'arrow prayers' to give thanks to God for 'a wonderful tree' and praying to God 'For a safe journey'.

## **2. Making Disciples**

Perhaps the most exciting ministry at All Saints is the number of young families we are blessed with. This I am sure is a reflection of the wonderful ministry we have to children. Young Saints, Baptism preparation and Messy Church are all vital to the life of All Saints. Thanks to the creativity of the leaders of Young Saints, families feel confident worshipping at All Saints knowing that their children are enjoying the activities prepared for them.

At Baptism preparation, Deborah Firth uses Godly Play to explore one of the ways Young Saints encourage young families to bring their children to church.

In our talk to the families we challenge them to see Baptism as the beginning of a journey of faith. I tell them that, as a child growing up in the 70's, if my parents didn't attend church and share the Bible stories then my grandparents did. In the 21st century we cannot be sure that grandparents share the Christian story so there is a danger of the break in the 'Chain of religious memory'.

At Baptism preparation we explain the fresh expression of church that is 'Messy Church' where we use All Saints School to share activities, Eucharistic worship and a meal. We are finding that baptism families are attending and from this we have young families going on the parish holiday together and a Men's Society developing.

For adults we continue to use the Alpha course, Matthew Firth's art courses and the bible studies. The Evangelism team planned a wonderful day for baptism families and in 2010 will be planning events for the Brownies and the Rainbows.

### **3. Making a difference in the world.**

Through our links with the church schools of Boyne Hill, All Saints and Altwood we are working in partnership to support the South African township school of Gutjwa. We are raising money for two new cookers to enable children to enjoy a hot meal and many of you are knitting scarves to keep the children warm.

We continue to support OAK and pray for Eunice as she trains for the priesthood.

On a local level it is important that we celebrate the ministry taking place in Larchfield. An Ecumenical team is taking the Open the Book into the school to share bible stories and a growing number of people are listening to children read on a one to one basis.

In the Larchfield Care Home we offer a service once a month which seems to be appreciated. The Deanery recognises the value of this ministry and is committing £7000 per year for 3 years to house a minister in the area. This means that we will need to match this amount if we really want ministry to grow in the Larchfield area.

Rachel continues to sell Fairtrade products and we as a church are using Fairtrade goods.

### **4. Creating vibrant Christian communities**

I believe that through the work that is happening in our schools through 'Open the book', our school fun days, parish holidays, pilgrimages, concerts, Tuesday Club, Mothers Union, Men's society, our Parish Centre users and many of the activities already mentioned we are creating a vibrant community.

### **5. Shaping confident, collaborative ministry.**

We are fortunate that people have captured the vision of the 'Communion model of the church' which encourages us to respond to our baptism call to use our gifts as members of the Body of Christ.

Elizabeth Bryson was licensed as a Lay Minister at Christ Church Cathedral in November 2009 and her ministry is flourishing. Elizabeth has led the Alpha team, the Evangelism team, is setting up a pastoral care team and is involved liturgically. At the beginning of 2010 Elizabeth planned the service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which was a great success.

At All Saints we have a large number of lay teams working on Messy Church, Baptism preparation, Young Saints, Marriage preparation, Open the Book, Flower arranging, the brilliant office staff (whom I could not survive without), Alpha, Emmaus and Bible study teams, the intercessions team and the list goes on. We remember too the support we get by working alongside other Anglican parishes and other Christian communities.

### **Other major events**

We celebrated in 2009 the restoration work on the tower and spire with a special service with Archdeacon Norman Russell. In November we celebrated a fantastic Confirmation service with the Bishop of Oxford, The Rt Revd John Pritchard. In the summer we had a wonderful holiday to the Lake District which left us all with many happy memories. On Remembrance Sunday we honoured our war victims: family and friends of rifleman Daniel Hume who was killed while on foot patrol in Afghanistan were present at the service, as were Sergeant David Grant and Rifleman Gavin Potter who laid a wreath in memory of Daniel.

### **Thanks to the Congregation of All Saints**

The length of this report I think reflects the fact that I am privileged to serve as a priest in a vibrant Christian community; thank you to all of you who contribute by giving your time and talent to help build the Body of Christ at All Saints. I express my thanks to the choir, the servers, our director of music, all who help with the pew sheet, rotas, service booklets, and those who clean the church and prepare the flowers: other important roles are the ministry of the church wardens, the verger, the sacristan, sidespeople, our school governors and the office staff and our web master. Special thanks this year to the dedicated ministry of Ken Smith as he completes his seven years as Church warden. If I were to list all that Ken has done for this community I would double the length of this report and this is a long report! The highlights for me though are the fantastic work Ken put into the Tower restoration and his support and encouragement to myself as Parish Priest. We will miss your contribution Ken as Church Warden but I hope and pray we will still benefit from your ministry.

I would also like to thank Barbara Bannister as she finishes 50 (Yes 50!) years as a member of the PCC. This is a remarkable statement of a lifelong commitment to her faith and the ministry at All Saints. Thank you Barbara for all your wonderful work and again I hope that you will continue to support us in other ways.

Thank you to Leigh Hutchison- May as she completes 10 years leading and supporting the ministry of Young Saints: again, I hope that Leigh will continue to support the life of All Saints.

Finally I am sure that I have left people out so I thank you all for the love and encouragement that you offer me as your Parish Priest.

With my love and prayers,

Fr. Jeremy

# Churchwarden's Fabric Report

Ken Smith

## **Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991.**

It is a requirement of this measure that a report should be presented to the Annual Church Meeting on the 'fabric, goods and ornaments' of the church by a churchwarden after it has been seen by the PCC. This report encompasses the requirement.

## **Goods and Ornaments**

These are in good order, including the linen, silver, candles and brassware. An Inventory is available.

## **Fabric**

The church building has been carefully monitored throughout the year and attention paid both to major and less significant issues. This report highlights a number of those items and looks to some issues for the future. A Church Log Book for work done during the year to the church is available.

## **Tower and Spire**

The repair and restoration of the tower and spire was completed in June. The renovated clock was reinstated in April and the bells rung again for the first time on Easter morning after a silence of some ten months. Praiseworthy comments on the look of the building have been received from many sources.

The final cost of the work is about to be finalised following a survey by the structural engineers and a few snagging faults have to be rectified, including a leak at the top of the tower staircase.

## **Drains and gutters**

A regular programme of inspection and cleaning has been instituted and should take place each year from now on.

## **Church opening**

The church is now open for visitors on Tuesday mornings and the first Friday morning of each month, staffed by a group of on-call volunteers.

## **Birinus garden hole.**

The hole was filled in and the patio made good again.

## **Wooden Cross**

Brian Hole kindly replaced the wooden cross used at Easter and otherwise kept outside.

## **Pigeons**

The work on the tower unfortunately (?) deprived the pigeons of their normal roosting places with the result that some found their way into the north porch, causing a big problem with their droppings. This was finally solved by the DIY erection of netting supplied by Brian.

## **Ironwork**

The handle on the north gate was repaired and a new, stronger, link fitted to the font cover chain by Thames Forge at no cost to the church.

### **Quinquennial Inspection**

This five-yearly inspection was carried out in June by our architect and a number of not unexpected issues identified for gradual resolution over the next five years.

### **Area Dean's visit**

The Area Dean and deanery lay chairman carried out an inspection in July of among other things the state of the building, inventory and parish records. The review was satisfactory.

### **Stained glass window – south wall.**

This has been removed for renovation, paid for by a very generous donation, and should be re-instated shortly.

### **Stained glass window – west wall**

This one has been removed for safe-keeping as it was being distorted by the movement at the south west corner, evidenced by the cracks in the walls. The situation is under active review by our architect and structural engineer.

### **Future work**

A programme of work has been drawn up, including repointing the archway, but we are awaiting clarity on the amount of money that might be available for the jobs as they must take their place with other areas of mission that we would like to undertake.

# P.C.C. Report

John Ainslie

The PCC has met on 7 occasions in the year following last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting, one of which was a short meeting to elect the PCC Officers and Standing Committee. The Standing Committee has met several times to prepare for PCC meetings and transact occasional business between PCC meetings.

The PCC appointed Dorothy Strack-Hankey as Treasurer to replace Mike Moss who had indicated he did not wish to continue in that post. The PCC has also been pleased to welcome Elizabeth Bryson as a fully licensed Lay Minister.

The Diocesan "Living Faith" vision has again occupied much thought by both PCC and the PCC Standing Committee during the course of the year. This is now shaping the whole agenda for PCC meetings, providing a framework within which to judge priorities. Besides the Evangelism Group, there is now a Pastoral Care Group which will be developing proposals for pastoral care both of members of the congregation and of those who come to our church for baptisms, marriage and for funerals.

The financial position of All Saints has been a source of growing concern to the PCC, especially since our medium term vision includes the provision of a curate or evangelistic worker either to work alongside Fr Jeremy at All Saints or to concentrate work within the Larchfield part of our Parish. This would not be possible without the release of some funds to cover housing costs.

As a consequence, the PCC anticipates looking in detail at stewardship during the course of 2010, including provision of better information on the costs of running the church and ministry at All Saints, and promoting the use of tax-efficient ways of giving by members of the congregation.

Work to the buildings has continued to be of considerable importance despite the completion of the tower and spire restoration, and this is covered in the Fabric Report. The PCC expressed its considerable thanks to Ken Smith for all his work on managing the maintenance and restoration of the church buildings.

The PCC has also put in hand work to the floor of the Parish Centre, to be followed by redecoration.

The PCC is planning a Summer Fete on 17th July, to add to the other activities planned for the year which include the Parish Holiday and the Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

The PCC agreed to make looking at St Paul a main theme for 2010, and this has already included bible study on Romans and an Art Course related to St Paul.

# Young Saints

Christine Dunford

Members of Young Saints this year: Leigh Hutchinson-May, Michelle Symonds, Christine Dunford, Tanya Howarth, Sally Gaines, Nicola Johnston, Hannah Wilson, Sirpa Arovaara (until August '09).

## **Attendance**

We have maintained approximately the same attendance figures as last year. We have had a number of new families joining us this year.

## **Godly Play**

We have continued to work with our existing resources this year. We have not had any leaders attending training this year due to other commitments, but hope that Godly Play will continue this year with more of our leaders receiving training.

## **All age worship**

Michelle has continued to organise the all age worship services with Father Jeremy this year. The children continue to contribute well to these services by eagerly coming to the front and some actively take part in the services. We also have some families reading the prayers.

## **Events**

This year the Young Saints team organised a Christmas Party for the children in the Parish Centre which was hugely successful and enjoyed by lots of families. The children enjoyed crafts, games, dancing and tea and parents enjoyed time together to chat.

## **Teachers**

We have had 6 mums who have run the Young Saints group this year, although one has been on maternity leave since last summer. We are sad to lose Leigh Hutchinson-May as a leader for the time being, as increased family commitments have led to her taking a break. She will be missed by all the children and fellow leaders. We are therefore currently campaigning for new leaders to join us from the congregation.

## **The future**

Young Saints continues to thrive despite the fact that we don't have a leader at the moment. Since Lucy left a year ago, the 4 main leaders have shared responsibility of running meetings, taking minutes and putting together teaching rotas. Other tasks, such as maintaining resources and organising events have been shared between us. It is credit to the commitment of the team that we are able to run without an overall leader.



# Larchfield Report

Sandra Williams, Activities Coordinator, Larchfield Care Home

Larchfield Care Home provides specialist care for people suffering with a dementia. There are many types of dementia. Each person is unique and each person's experience of dementia will be different. We have 75 beds; some are contracted by the local authority and The Primary Care Trust; some are privately funded. Two beds are set aside to provide respite care for those living with dementia in the community.

Dementia is not selective. It can affect any one of us regardless of creed, colour or race. At Larchfield, we promote Person Centred Care, responding to the needs of the person and learning about each person's individual rich history. This helps us to connect with and understand the person we care for. We work with families to enable us to deliver best of care and strive to support them at difficult times.

Here at Larchfield we are very blessed to have great support from All Saints Church, and we extend our thanks especially to Fr Jeremy and Bridget. It is wonderful to welcome the community into our home.

Each month Fr Jeremy Harris and Bridget Ranger visit Larchfield to celebrate God's love for each and every one of us. The Lord's Prayer remains imprinted upon our residents minds. Combining this with their love of music is a good way to join together in worship. Favourite hymns are 'Give me oil in my lamp' and 'He has got the whole world in his hands' which I am sure will surprise people. Sense of rhythm is recognised as one of the last senses we lose. Fr Jeremy always finds a way of preaching the Gospel, mindful of the special needs of those suffering with severe dementia using visual aids as much as possible.

More recently Fr Jeremy was put to the test, when one of our residents challenged him over the parable of the Good Shepherd. He wanted to know why the Shepherd was good, when he looked after his sheep and then killed them! A deep discussion took place after our service.

Over the year Fr Jeremy has conducted a number of funeral services for people who we have cared for and become fond of. The staff of Larchfield is grateful for the support Fr Jeremy has given to our relatives. Care is always taken to ensure that the services are personal, which brings great solace to the family.

In May, Fr Jeremy and Bridget have invited me and our Home Manager, Angeline Ruredzo to join them at a seminar entitled Improving the quality of End of Life Care for elderly people in Care Homes run by The Simeon Trust, who promote the spiritual Life of the elderly in Residential Homes. We look forward to learning about how we can further enrich the lives of those we care for and their families.

# The Alpha Course

Elizabeth Bryson

We had one Alpha Course in 2009, which started on November 11th and finished before Lent in February 2010. We had a wonderful Holy Spirit Day on a snowy day on January 9th. It was great to have people on the Courses wanting to find out what Christians believe. It has been good to have people who have recently started coming to Church as well as new enquirers. It has been a joy to see people grow in knowledge, understanding and experience of the Lord.

We are grateful to the members of the Congregation who support the ministry of Alpha by praying and by providing suppers. The supper enables us to give a friendly welcome, which is an important start to each session. The DVD Talks followed by discussion enable those on the Courses to find out about Christianity, with an emphasis on knowing God and coming into a relationship with the Lord through faith in Jesus.

It is encouraging to read comments written by people who have come to Alpha. Here are some from our recent Courses, which reflect the spiritual journey that has been experienced:

- A better understanding of my faith
- I believe and understand more than before and realise you don't need all the answers
- I think about God more and my behaviour
- I feel an inner peace
- Faith encouraged and strengthened
- Has grown the faith I had
- Far more knowledgeable – now have the bulk of facts to enable me to move forward
- The discussions after can be very helpful.
- I would now describe myself as a Christian. I made a proper commitment towards the end to lead a Christian life by making the commitment prayer.
- My faith changed as I found God on the Holy Spirit Day
- Around week 3 of the Course I realised I just had to open the door, let Jesus in and say sorry for the past.

As in previous years, some people who have enjoyed Alpha now regularly attend All Saints' Church. I hope that the Alpha Course starting in November 2010 will have many guests from outside the Church as well as people from the congregation who would like to join us to grow in their knowledge and understanding about our Christian faith. In previous years the poster outside the Church has drawn guests and the Internet contact of the Alpha and Church websites. There are many people who wonder: 'Is there more to life than this?' They would welcome the opportunity of finding out about Christianity and experiencing the love of God in their lives. The Alpha Course is such a wonderful opportunity to:

- Enjoy a friendly welcome
- Find out what Christians believe
- Ask questions

- Discuss your ideas
- Have a delicious supper

Please will you recommend Alpha to people you know, who you think will be interested and invite them to our next Alpha Course,

Thank you,

Elizabeth Bryson (Alpha Course Leader)

# Emmaus Course

Nicola Johnston

The Emmaus Faith Nurture course began in the Spring and was led by Fr. Jeremy, Neil Bryson, Sue Price, Dorothy Stack-Hankey and Claire Thompson to name some. The course was well-attended at the outset and everyone seemed keen to learn more, both about their own faith journey and from each other.

The book 'Luke for Everyone' by Tom Wright was used as a basis for discussions both in buzz groups and for the group as a whole. This was very helpful for those participating as it meant you could go over some of the topics in your own time and gain additional insight into and background information on some of the bible passages studied.

We began by looking at the life of Jesus and what he taught us by studying some of the key texts in Luke, seeing which of the characters we most identified with. These included Jesus on the road to Emmaus, Jesus anointed by the sinful woman, the prodigal son and the Resurrection.

We moved on to look at 'how Christians grow' through themes such as prayer, and belonging to the Church, and ended in the Autumn by thinking about how to live the Christian Life through Love for God and one another, Worship, Giving and Sharing the Faith.

The course was well planned and informative and made you think in more depth about aspects of faith and worship that you may have taken for granted or given little thought to. I for one thoroughly enjoyed it and would encourage anybody considering the course to attend.

# Evangelism Group

Elizabeth Bryson

The Evangelism Group was formed after the Living Faith Conference on June 7th 2008. We discussed the day and felt that we can celebrate the Nurture Courses that are successful at All Saints and also Young Saints. We wanted to develop the contacts that we already have. Fr Jeremy asked me to be the Parish's 'Evangelism Champion', which I am glad about, as I love to help people come to know the Lord and grow in faith.

In the Autumn 2008 the Evangelism Champions in the Diocese were invited to Courses to help plan a 'Contact Event'. Three of the Evangelism Group came with me and with others in the Evangelism Group we planned a Party for Baptism Families who have had a baby baptised in the last year.

This Party was a great success on March 21st 2009. The Church looked fun and welcoming with balloons outside and inside, worship music playing on a CD as background music, people ready to greet the guests and activities ready for them to enjoy. There was great 'team work' involving and including many people in the congregation using their gifts and talents. Ten families came to this event, they all enjoyed the party, were grateful for the invitation, would like to come again to a similar event. Three of these families often come to the 10am Eucharist, while most of the others had not been back to Church since the baby's baptism. All ten families took packs of information so they know how to take a 'next step' with: dates of Church events and special services for the rest of 2009, information about Young Saints, Messy Church (which lots were interested in), Alpha Autumn dates, a 'Parenting' booklet and a pack with ways to pray with their children. The visitors enjoyed the activities from 3:00 – 3:50: 'angel hunt' around the Church – exploring the building, making a posy of flowers, making a Mothering Sunday card, having cakes and drinks, planting a sunflower seed (the children will need to look after the seed so it grows into a plant, just as their Mums care for them and Jesus loves us so we grow – this symbolism was explained to some of the visitors and appreciated.) At 3:50 we gathered at the front of the Church to sing "Jesus' love is very wonderful" (with the actions), then the Baptismal candles were lit and Fr Jeremy said a prayer from the Baptism Service. The guests left at 4 pm with their information packs, all had enjoyed the afternoon and thanked us for arranging the Party.

The Evangelism Group are planning another contact event for 2010, so we continue to become a Missionary Congregation by developing links with the groups of people that we already have contact with. On Monday 17th May 2010 we will welcome the Brownies to the Church and on Friday 21st 2010 May we will have an event in Church for the Rainbows. The Brownies and the Rainbows meet in the Parish Centre, so we are glad to be able to develop links with these two groups with these contact events. It is wonderful to have an enthusiastic Evangelism Group using their gifts and talents and others in the Church working with us, so we can draw more people in to find out about the Church, come to know the Lord and grow in faith.

Here are some photographs of the Party for the Baptism families.

## OAK (Ordinands Appeal in Kenya)

Elizabeth Bryson

Margaret and Eunice are now Priests in the villages of Kenya, because we paid for their training. We are now funding Patrick through his training for Ordination, in Bishop Samson's Diocese of Taita Taveta in Kenya. Patrick will complete the third year of his training in August 2010, ready to be ordained in the Autumn of 2010. They are all very grateful for the financial and prayer support from All Saints' Church.

Eunice is now acting vicar at one of the churches up in the Taita hills at Sagalla. Margaret has married Judah. Here is a photograph of Margaret and her husband, Judah. Margaret is now vicar of Waa on the coast, South of Mombasa. She is also chaplain of Waa High School. Judah is curate at St. Peter's, Nyali, about 40 minutes away from Waa. The journey involves a ferry crossing and two journeys by matatu!. Both Margaret and Judah sent their best wishes to all at All Saints'.

This OAK project is an exciting way that we can contribute to the building of God's kingdom in Africa. When new priests are ordained, Bishop Samson is able to set up new parishes in his diocese. This means better provision of services, pastoral care and evangelism in the villages and towns of Kenya.

Please give financially to OAK by putting cash or a cheque made out to 'All Saints Church Fund' with OAK written on the back, in an envelope marked 'OAK' in the collection on a Sunday, or leave the envelope in the Church Office.

Here is a photograph of Patrick, holding the Study Bible that we sent as a gift from All Saints Parish, from books given to us by Revd Judith Thomas. Patrick was glad to be given this book, to help him in his theological studies.

Please continue to pray for Margaret, Eunice and Patrick. Next August we hope to be able to start to support a new ordinand in Kenya.

# Mothers' Union

Ena Jones

The Mothers' Union Branch has had another active and interesting year – apart from the January meeting which had to be cancelled because of the snow!

In June we hosted the annual Deanery Festival, to which, as well as our fellow Anglicans in Windsor and Maidenhead, we invited ladies from Edmund Campian and Boyne Hill Baptist Churches. Our Area Vice President, Mrs Penny Rickards, kindly prayed the intercessions which she based on the Mothers' Union prayer, and Mrs Barbara Hawkins (Baptist Leader) read the lesson. Father Jeremy, our vicar, gave an uplifting talk on the work of the Mothers' Union and its contribution to family life all over the world, and some members gave a presentation of the work of the Mothers' Union. The presentation was in the form of a short sketch called "Miss Wannanow Inquires", in which a reporter (Miss Wannanow) interviewed a Branch Leader (Mrs Loyalot) who presented Mesdames Welcomem, Widerworld, Framework, and Mr Livelong, who spoke about aspects of the world wide Mothers' Union. The collection was given to the Mothers' Union Numeracy and Literacy Fund which educates African women in their villages.

As usual, we made an offering for our project 'Feed the Children' at the Lent meeting, and a plastic sack of knitted childrens clothes, blankets, toiletries, and stationery was taken to their depot at Twyford as well as a collection of £30.

At Christmas, those who chose, sent a solitary Christmas card to the Mothers' Union, and gave a donation of money they would have spent had they sent individual cards. The same thing was done at Easter, giving us enough money to buy forty copies of 'Praying through the Day' for Father Jeremy to give to baptism families. Apparently these books have proved to be very helpful, so we hope to continue sponsoring him with them.

As well as our lunch at 'The Toby' and our Afternoon Tea at Wyvale, and in addition to our many informal tea parties, we have had a series of spontaneous get togethers organised by various members, including a pre-Christmas dinner, a visit to Hughenden (we pooled our free National Trust admission tickets) and Odds Farm where we fed the lambs!

We continue to share special meetings with Edmund Campian and Boyne Hill Baptist Ladies, and to share blanket making with St Luke's ladies. Two of us hear reading at Larchfield School, and we still have a member from St Peter's, and two from the Good Shepherd, all of which broadens our outlook – we hope!

Our Christmas meeting started with a carol service, and was followed by a party with presents and entertainment – our version of "Ten little church goers" caused some amusement.

We are a lively and friendly group, and we have a lot of fun. We meet at 2.30pm every second Wednesday in the Parish Centre, and anyone is welcome to come and join us.

# Deanery Synod Report

David Morgan

## **The Role of the Deanery going forward**

Bishop John presided at Eucharist at our spring Deanery Synod. Earlier, he had introduced Living Faith in the Future, highlighting Making Disciples as one of the core tasks of a parish.

At the other three Deanery Synods during the year, each parish talked about mission initiatives or challenges in their community. These covered a wide spectrum.

## **Outreach**

Topics included a regular friendship lunch organised by St John the Baptist Cookham Dean and established ten years ago. The event is run by two teams of six volunteers and is held one Sunday a month from September-May in their church hall, which is equipped to serve 20-30 roast lunches. Targeted at those who eat alone, it has no qualifying rules. 35% of the guests are men; 80% over 60 and 80% have no other church connection.

## **Supporting families, nurturing children**

At the November Deanery Synod, St Mary's White Waltham talked about Project Rainbow, their project to create a purpose-built space, next to the church, for the ministry to the children of St Mary's. Despite buffeting over a number of years, planning permission set-backs, and hearings in the Consistory Court, the project remains on track [www.stmaryswhitewaltham.ik.com](http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.ik.com) Watch this space!

## **Meet and Share**

Established during 2009, the churchwardens Meet and Share initiative took root with an established pattern of two meetings a year. At the autumn Meet and Share churchwardens took up the theme Bishop John had brought to us earlier, and exchanged ideas on Making Disciples.



# Parish Centre Users Committee

Stella Harding

Representatives of All Saints Church and the users of the Parish Centre continue to meet four times a year, fostering communications between the two groups. Three user groups are regularly represented on the Committee: Rainbows, Mothers & Toddlers and AA. Unfortunately the Brownies representative has been unable to attend the last few meetings and there is, at present, no representative from the Courtyard Complimentary Therapy Centre, ("CCTC"). The Committee misses the Brownies representative as she was an enthusiastic and active contributor both at meetings and to the work of the Committee.

This year the Committee has focused on Fire and Health & Safety matters and supported essential repairs in the kitchen, including the replacement of the cooker. Committee meetings have also proved a valuable forum for discussing and resolving user groups' issues and concerns over storage and tidiness, and the Parish Centre Hire Agreement has been updated regularly to reflect changes to the booking arrangements agreed with the PCC.

The day to day presentation and care of the Parish Centre continues to be managed diligently by Sylvia Dennison who does a wonderful job in keeping the Parish Centre clean and tidy. Sylvia is assisted by husband Reg who, in addition to keeping an eye on day to day activity, also undertakes small maintenance jobs around the Centre.

The Committee and the Church continue to remain very keen and fully committed to the aim of refurbishing the kitchen and the hall floor and still hope to replace the current heating system in due course.

Whilst work on the fabric of the Parish Centre was limited to essential maintenance and repairs for most of 2009, there was some very welcome news at the end of the year when the Committee was advised that the necessary funds had become available and been approved for the repair of the hall floor. With this very welcome news it will be possible to start planning the redecoration of the hall as soon as the repair work had been carried out in April 2010.

# 8th Maidenhead Rainbow Guides

Alwyn Kimber

Rainbow Guides are the youngest members of Girl Guiding UK, age range from 5 – 7 yrs old. All Saints has a thriving unit of 12-14 girls who meet at 4:30pm to 5:30pm every Friday in term-time at the Parish Centre. The leaders are Alwyn Kimber (Duck), and Heather Noyce (Hedgehog), ably assisted by Brigitte Ranger (Swan), Lucy Saxton (Rabbit) and Georgie Burfoot (Giraffe).

We have fun playing games, making things, cooking, singing and stories (usually each meeting is based on one theme). Our meetings have included making pancakes, pizzas, Valentine gifts, conker people and decorations for the empty stained glass window plus much, much more. Every year we renew the flowers in three pots in the quadrangle. We have also had a German and a Japanese evening. Our Bring and Buy sale raised some funds towards the new floor for the Parish Centre. We have been quite active too, with silly sports, eating healthily and keeping fit.

This year is the 100th Anniversary of the Guiding Movement. We have already had lots of celebration; a Princess Party for all the Rainbow Guides in the District; an exciting event last September which involved anything from wall-climbing to having a go at playing various musical instruments. On Thinking Day all the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides met to use short-wave radio to contact people throughout the world. It doesn't stop there, because the District Guides are going to have a whole day of fun at the Magnet Leisure Centre in May. In June there is to be an enormous celebration at Newbury Racecourse for all the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in the County.

As you can imagine we have a long waiting list so if you would like your daughter to join us please contact Alwyn on 01628 670176, the sooner the better.

# Flowers

Barbara Bannister

Once again I am able to report on another successful year in which the church has had a good display of flowers each week. Thank you to all members of the congregation for their generous sponsorship of the flowers week by week, and the special gift of lilies at Eastertide.

We have recently replaced the tops of the pedestals as the original ones had become rather rusty. We have also bought two new square pedestals which we shall use for the first time at Easter to do modern arrangements! These are all financed by the profit we make from our weddings. We do not take any money for our time, but plough it all into the church through expenditure on the flowers, or making contributions to special appeals such as the organ, the spire etc.

Thanks are due to Marian Duncombe, Jean Balchin, Katie Easthill and Jean Loveday for their hard work throughout the year. Also, we have been greatly helped by Valerie Duncombe, but she has had to withdraw, at least temporarily, due to her husband's ill health. We wish Paul a speedy return to active life and hope to have Valerie with us again at some time. Brigitte Ranger, Brenda Ilott, and Sue Stannett have also helped us at festivals etc.

We are still looking for more people to become involved and join the rota - in pairs if not on their own. We are very willing for anyone to work with one of us for a while to learn the ropes and gain confidence. You could always join the rota with one of us, just doing the smaller arrangements if you find pedestals daunting. All people are welcome. If you are hiding your light under a bushel please, please let it out and speak to one of us about it. We are all very willing to discuss it with you at any time. We look forward to talking to you and working with you. It really is a very enjoyable way to serve the church and give pleasure to everyone, as well as giving glory to God.

# Open the Book

Brigitte Ranger

Once a week, on Thursday mornings, we present a bible story to the children at All Saints' School in an accessible and enjoyable way. One member of the team is the narrator, another introduces and concludes the story and says a final prayer, whilst others enact the different parts.

Whenever possible we ask for some children to participate. They are so enthusiastic that we are never short of volunteers to come forward.

During the last two weeks before this Easter holiday we concluded with the powerful stories entitled "On the Road to the Cross" dealing with Jesus' trial and crucifixion and "The Road to Emmaus".

Our team consist of members from All Saints Church and Westborough Road Baptist Church.

As we are quite a small group we would benefit from additional people to join us. Anyone interested is welcome to come along one Thursday just to watch. If you would like to do this or find out more about what is involved please speak to one of the All Saints' team, Fr. Jeremy, Dorothy Strack- Hankey, Ursula Hutchinson or Brigitte Ranger.

Our grateful thanks go to Pauline and Brian Hole who kindly donated a wardrobe for the storage of our costumes and props and to Andrew Kimber who transported it on his trailer to the Parish Centre and adjusted some shelving to make it fit the available space.

# Gutjwa Appeal

Peter Scatchard

The past year has seen the integration of the Gutjwa Appeal UK into All Saints Parish, thanks to the enthusiastic uptake of the cause there, first encouraged through Boyne Hill School's support for the Appeal in providing eating and drinking vessels for the pupils of Gutjwa School in late 2008.

Since then, there has been a widespread interest shown in expanding the links between Gutjwa and the All Saints parish schools into a full schools-twinning project, as well as general Parish support.

All Saints Schools and Parish were also active in fund-raising for the next phase of project work at Gutjwa School, with some £3200 added in the past year to the residual £900 remaining from 2008/9 fund-raising activities, including from Father Jeremy's titanic efforts in the Reading Half Marathon recently.

This money is ear-marked for a kitchen-extension at Gutjwa school, to house hygienic and economical oil-jacket cookers (also provided by the Gutjwa Appeal UK) that will in future cook the daily mealie-mealie porridge lunch providing the sole source of daily sustenance for all-too-many of Gutjwa's pupils.

In addition, a programme was instigated of scarf-knitting to provide winter-weather clothing for the children of Gutjwa School, some 50% of whom are orphans, many due to the AIDS epidemic that so ravishes that part of southern Africa.

The knitting programme was enthusiastically adopted by parents, relatives and friends of All Saints schools' pupils, and augmented by members of All Saints parish, as well as some 'outsiders' who helped contribute to the total of around 187 hand made plus 25 commercially-made scarves that were blessed during the Education Sunday service on March 7th.

With the departure back to their home in Australasia of Lorraine and Wayne Hird (the Two Kiwi Bikers, friends of Peter Scatchard, the UK appeal founder, than took Gutjwa School under their wing whilst working in the area on contract) there is a need to establish a new project-management team local to Gutjwa School.

Peter and his wife Val are visiting the school, its adjacent township of Kabokweni and town of White River over Easter 2010. Besides meeting with the school-staff, the involvement of the local White River Rotary Club and Round Table has emerged, so Peter will be meeting with various individuals prepared to help manage the South African end of the school improvement programme.

Accompanying them will be Val's sister, Jenny Stephen, Head Teacher at Boyne Hill School, charged with the task of developing the schools-twinning programme on behalf of Altwood School, All Saints Primary School and Boyne Hill School.

In order to save the not inconsiderable shipping costs, with the aid of some cheap but cunning packaging, they will be taking all 200 scarves as hold-luggage, to present to Gutjwa School at assembly on the first day back from the Easter holidays, in time for the start of the southern hemisphere winter term.

They also expect to witness the commencement of the kitchen extension building project.

Whilst in the White River / Kabokweni township area, they are planning to visit the Two Sisters Orphanage, taking a large number of cuddly toys accumulated from visits to UK charity shops and donations from Boyne Hill pupils over the past few months to present to the young residents.

All of us involved with the Gutjwa Appeal UK would like to offer a huge vote of thanks to all of YOU at All Saints Parish for your support, enthusiasm, encouragement and hard-work in helping us help Gutjwa School.