

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



# Overview Of The Year

Again this year I will be using the Diocesan vision of Living Faith alongside the Communion model that we have been developing over the last 5 years to reflect upon the mission at All Saints.

The 5 priorities of Living Faith are;

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

Last year Bishop John challenged the Diocese to think about the ways in which we can sustain the sacred centre. This year in the March 2011 edition has challenged us to 'Go and make disciples...' Some of the examples given are church planting, ministry to men, nurture courses and street pastoring.

Before we reflect on Making disciples at All Saints we should look at Sustaining the sacred centre.

## 1. The Sacred Centre

Following on from the 2009 Bible studies using Tom Wright's commentary on St Matthew we have over 2010 again used Tom's study books to focus on St Paul's letter's to the Romans and Corinth. The study focussing on Paul's first letter to the Corinthians was excellent. Each week we discussed the challenges that the people of Corinth were faced with as they discovered the faith St Paul had for Jesus Christ who he believed had died, to rise to new life, that we might all have new life. Many of the challenges faced by the Corinthians are the same challenges we face today as we attempt to become a 'Missionary congregation'. Other Bible study groups continued with John Ainslie and Barbara Bannister leading people to discover more about the scriptures. Mike Moss and Mary Cooper have led courses and in the future are going to write courses together looking more at the Old Testament.

As well as the Bible study groups we have seen the continuation of the Alpha course. Again this has encouraged a small number of people to understand the Christian faith and has led to some people giving of their time and talents to the congregation at All Saints and within the town. Matt Firth has continued to help us discover more about the importance of Christian Art over the last year and next year will look at the use of Icons.

The annual parish pilgrimage to Walsingham was a great success as we shared a wonderful week in late August with parishioners from Bracknell and Wokingham. The pilgrimage helps people to grow in faith and to develop strong friendships with fellow pilgrims. One person said that 'She had felt like she had been on holiday with God. We also enjoyed a fascinating tour around Westminster Abbey and finished the tour with a candlelit service of compline.

Next year we have planned trips to St Alban's for the 950th anniversary of Walsingham as a place of pilgrimage, a tour of some of the Cambridge colleges and a visit to Pagham and Chichester Cathedral. We will of course be going on our annual pilgrimage to Walsingham in late August.

With the children we continue to use the Mothers' Union prayer cards with children being baptised and at the end of 2010 started 'Tiny Saints' a Christian focussed parent and toddler group using prayer, bible stories, children's songs and hospitality.

Finally and importantly we have a team of people planning All Age worship which now happens every month on the 4th Sunday. We have been helped by La Stacey's input particularly with the use of puppets and having a team has enabled more creativity in the worship.

Our worship is developing through the use of different styles of music and we had a wonderful morning towards the end of the year with David Duvall from the Royal School of Church Music looking at the different variety of music that can be used in church.

## **2. Making Disciples**

The Revd Michael Beasley, the Diocesan Director of Mission has challenged parishes to think about running evangelistic events, considering church planting, ministry to men, nurture courses and street pastoring. All Saints I believe has already started to begin this ministry. Elizabeth Bryson and the Evangelism team have followed the very successful event inviting Baptism families to a church event by offering a tour of the church for the Brownies and Rainbows concluding the evening with drinks and biscuits.

Whilst we cannot claim to have made a church plant we are running Open the Book with the aid of other churches in our schools at Larchfield and All Saints. An Ecumenical team is looking at further developing ministry in Larchfield by offering summer school clubs possibly similar to 'Messy church' and supporting the new family centre. Sirpa Arovaara has supported the family centre and helped the organising group. Jane Morgan and Sirpa have trained to become 'Street Angels' and that ministry will develop next year.

The nurture course are developing from young children through to adults. Starting with Baptism we now have Sue Stannett and Elizabeth Bryson visiting baptism families and making links with them. This has seen families supported at the service and found them coming to Young Saints, Messy church and the newly formed Tiny Saints. This ministry is helped too by the office team of Elaine, Christine, Janet and Doreen and by Christine Pocock, Sue Jeffrey and Ella Titchener at the Baptism services.

At Baptism preparation Deborah Firth has continued to develop the use of 'Godly play' to help teach the young children about baptism.

Thanks to the creativity and dedication of the Young Saints leaders families seem happy to bring their children to church on Sunday mornings. Messy Church, thanks again to a team of people has continued to grow and we see families enjoying sharing activities, food and worship together. From this we have shared a wonderful holiday to Scarborough in the summer and our Men's Society has developed.

The adult nurture courses are offered through the use of Alpha, Art courses and Bible studies.

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

We have further developed the ministry to our schools. In partnership with Boyne Hill, All Saints and Altwood we made scarves, and sent money to support the township school of Gutjwa in South Africa. In Kenya we continue to support the training of people towards the priesthood.

On a local level we are offering Open the Book in our schools, listening to children read in Larchfield and offering services at Larchfield care home. I would like to commend the ministry of Brigitte Ranger who not only supports the services but has now developed a ministry supporting Sandra Williams with pastoral care to the elderly. Sandra describes Brigitte's ministry as invaluable as she has a natural gift ministering to the elderly.

Towards the end of the year we invited Nicki the headteacher of Larchfield, Caroline from the Family centre and Sandra from the Care Home to share their vision with us. Over 70 people met at the Boyn Hill Cricket club to share fish and chips and discuss ministry in Larchfield. Our new curate Debbie Davison was present and we look forward to her developing links in the Larchfield community where she will be based in 2011. This project to develop ministry ties in with Stephen Cottrell's book 'From the Abundance of the Heart' which challenges us to make contact, offer nurture, seek growth and make disciples.

We support the work of Christian Aid at our harvest service and in Christian Aid week. Rachel offers Fairtrade products in our church but it would be good to see some people supporting this work.

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

All Saints has Open the Book, school fun days, parish holidays, pilgrimages, concerts, Tuesday Club, Mothers Union, Men's society, Parish centre users, day trips and our nurture groups. All of these are possible through the commitment of the leaders who plan the events. Thank you to all of you.

Special thanks this year to Christine Watts and the team who planned the fantastic parish fete. The day highlighted the skills within the congregation and drew many people from the community. £3000 was raised towards the parish centre. That leads me to thank Roger Towers, Mike and Christine Watts, David and Brigitte Ranger and Dorothy Strack-Hankey for their efforts in decorating the centre. Special thanks to Roger, Mike and Christine for giving hours and hours of their time and enabling us to have a newly decorated hall, brand new kitchen and new cupboards. This has been a truly remarkable effort.

Other events within the community were the cricket match against the Sikhs when they again offered wonderful hospitality at the Boyn Hill cricket club and the carol singing in the Quad with the help of the Salvation Army Band.

This year we hosted the Diocesan Deaf church to All Saints and although illness prevented me attending I heard that it was a moving service followed by superb hospitality offered by the people of All Saints.

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

As I wrote last year we are fortunate that people at All Saints have captured the vision of the 'Communion model of the church' which has encouraged people to respond to their baptismal call to use our gifts as members of the Body of Christ. Elizabeth Bryson has flourished in her ministry and as I said at a recent PCC meeting she ministers with a sense of joy, whether it's leading Alpha, visiting people with communion or setting up Tiny Saints.

At All Saints we grow in ministry because there are teams of people working on Messy Church, Baptism preparation, Young Saints, Marriage preparation, Open the Book, Flower arranging, the supportive office staff who make my life so much easier, the Alpha and bible study teams, the people who take communion to our nursing homes and our intercessions teams. We give thanks too for the support from our Area Dean Jeremy Hyde, Revd Judith Thomas and other clergy who support the ministry at All Saints.

Looking to the future we pray for La Stacey, Neil Bryson and Debbie Davison as they continue in their training for the priesthood. La will be serving as a Deacon in Bracknell and we will welcome this summer Debbie to serve her curacy at All Saints. We will have a significant role as a parish supporting the training of Debbie as she begins her ministry with us.

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

I believe All Saints is an exciting place to lead and encourage Christian ministry. I would like to express my thanks to the choir, the servers, our Director of music, Brian, all those 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 Andrew and John, the sacristan Sue, the sidespeople, our school governors and the superb office staff. Can I thank Rachel our web master as the quality of our website leads a significant number of people to All Saints.

I would like to give thanks too to the people who have left us with wonderful memories. Margaret Phillips, Brian Hole, Angela Ketley, Pat Langfield and Geoff Lister have all contributed wonderfully to the life of All Saints over many years and their deaths this year leave us feeling sad but thankful that they left us with examples of how to live good Christian lives. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Finally as you all know the last 4 or 5 weeks of this year were difficult for me as I suffered ill health. The people of All Saints, the Area Dean and other supporting clergy supported me superbly and meant that a very busy part of the year was covered. The pastoral love and support offered to me highlighted a genuine Christian community at All Saints. I received cards, meals, prayers, lifts to the doctors, visits in the hospital and at home. The wonderful welcome I received during the peace at the first Eucharist I celebrated on my return made me feel truly humble to serve at All Saints.

Thank you to all of you,

With my love and prayers,

Fr Jeremy

# Churchwarden's Fabric Report

Andrew Stafford

## All Saints Church Fabric Report 2010-2011

Architect: Roderick Maclennan

Structural Engineer: Stuart Tappin:

Cracks consultant: Stephen Bush

Ground Survey: Sandberg Engineers

Heating engineers: John MacNeil: Sleetree Ltd

Gutters, painting and repairs: Jorge Dhillon

Electrical repairs: Steve Langley

Builders: St Blaise

Clock: Smith of Derby

Volunteer working party for Parish Centre ( décor, installation of kitchen and cupboards): Chris and Mike Watts, Roger Towers and others

Resources Committee: Andrew Stafford, Chris and Mike Watts, Roger Towers, Dorothy Strack-Hankey, Ken Smith, Fr Jeremy Harris

The Secretary to the Diocesan Advisory Committee, together with five representatives, made a visit to the Church in January, when they were shown all the items of Church fabric which are listed in this report

## The Church

After the completion of the work on the Spire last year, the next major item for repair has been the Archway, which at the time of writing is now completed but for some tarmac at the base. We exceeded the original budget as the builders discovered concrete infilling once the top layer of lichen and decayed pointing was removed. This meant that the supporting rod inserts had to be upgraded, and more bricks needed to be made, to replace the concrete. This should result in a much firmer structure.

The cracks at the South West corner have continued to be monitored, and the crack below the window seems to be moving very little. Above the window, an acute problem has developed, as several bricks from the top of the window arch moved. The Architect and Structural Engineer were called in and a close inspection of the beams, joins, ties and structure of the roof was carried out by the Architect, the Structural Engineer, and the site manager from St Blaise. An ACROW has been put in place to prevent further movement until repairs are undertaken (which will be determined by the results of surveys). The Architect, Structural Engineer and site manager have inspected this and are satisfied that it is sound.

A radar ground survey has been carried out by Sandberg Engineers, who have recommended that a further investigation through excavation of the ground near the South West corner be carried out.

At our request, a loss adjuster has been appointed by Ecclesiastical Insurance Group and he has made a site visit and is in receipt of all information and findings.

To date, the opinion of the professionals is that the cracks above the window and those below are two different phenomena. Those above the window seem to be linked to the aisle roof as there are clear signs that the beams, joins and ties have moved. The remedial action so far proposed is to use ties to connect the outer nave wall to the central arcade

wall. The work will be expensive though not at the same level as that on the spire, and we will seek for grants from appropriate sources.

During the year the heating shut down on several occasions. We have now had components replaced in both boilers and subsequently a switch inserted in the electrical system to even out the fluctuations in electrical supply to avoid the system cutting out. The safeguards in the event of gas supply problems and major electrical failure remain in place.

Minor decoration of windows in the Birinus room and the Parish Office has taken place.

The gutters and drains have been cleaned and checked.

The clock was serviced. A lever which works the chime hammer needs repair. Smiths quoted £600. John Payne of the bellringers team has inspected the bar and is of opinion that it does not need an urgent repair. We await confirmation of this in writing and a proposal of DIY repair from him.

The redundant organ humidifier caused problems in the extreme cold when the overflow from the water tank froze, causing a leak onto the vestment chest. The pipe has now been lagged. It would be sensible to remove the humidifier in time.

We await a faculty for the boiler railings repair.

We were visited in the summer by the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust, who had awarded us a grant of £20k for the repairs to the tower.

### **Churchyard**

RBWM reduced in size the yew tree at the North East corner. The DAC recommended removal of the rest of this and another yew in this area in view of the danger of root damage to the drains and buildings.

The wooden Cross on the Thackeray memorial has been removed and stored in the Birinus garden, pending repair of the memorial. Research on dependents or family of the Thackerays has been unsuccessful so far. As yet, we have not applied for death certificates etc as these are expensive.

Any further work on the trees (carried out by RBWM as the responsible authority) needs application to the Registrar for a Faculty. The gravel areas have been kept weed free.

### **Parish Centre**

The team of volunteers has painted the parish Centre hall and other areas; installed a new cooker, fridge/freezer and dishwasher; replaced the working tops and cupboards and flooring, and built a new cupboard in the Foyer.

We await planning permission for repair/replacement of the gutter and downpipe over the small porch.

Meters have been replaced and updated in accordance with new legislation.

The main drain was blocked by nappies flushed in the lavatories and this has been cleared. Notices to ask users not to dispose of nappies or other unsuitables in the lavatories have been posted.

We are hoping to replace the Perspex skylight in the kitchen.

Baby carriages are causing damage to the new paint as users will not bother to open both doors and barge through. It has been suggested that baby carriages be stored in the area at the rear entrance and we should build on a roof to cover the area. This is impractical, as the entrance way must be unobstructed at all times as a fire exit. It is unlikely that as a Grade 2\* listed building, we would have planning permission.

Some tiles need replacement on the Parish Centre and on the roofs of the adjacent houses.

We are changing the rates of hire to reflect the upgrade.

### **Properties**

Throughout the year the properties have been kept in good order. All problems reported have been addressed as matters of urgency. It is the case with any building that plants which are allowed to grow close to the walls cause damp and it is essential that occupiers do not grow plants close to the walls and keep any shrubs nearby reduced in size to allow light and air to reach the walls.

The Gresley Flat will be vacated by the current occupiers and we seek a new letting.

We will be negotiating new rates of rent for all properties in line with market value.

The gardens have been kept in order, but a day's work by a team could achieve a transformation.



# Young Saints

Christine Dunford

Members of Young Saints this year: Michelle Symonds, Christine Dunford, Nicola Johnston, Hannah Wilson, Sirpa Arovaara, Sally Dahlbohm, Debbie Firth and Lyn May

## **Attendance**

We currently have 60 children on the register who have attended Young Saints during the past year. We have had a number of new families joining us this year.

## **Godly Play**

This continues to play an important role in teaching, but no further training has taken place this year.

## **All Age Worship**

From January 2011 All Age Worship Services are being held once a month. This year Michelle and Nicola have organised these services with Father Jeremy. The children continue to contribute well by eagerly coming to the front and taking part and children/families regularly read the prayers. We would also like to thank those involved in organising the music for these services, we have had positive feedback from children and adults who have enjoyed the contemporary hymns, often accompanied by a member of the congregation - thanks to Nick and Christine. We would like to continue to encourage adults or children in the congregation who have a talent they can share in this service.

## **Events**

The Young Saints team ran a children's second hand stall and 'hook the duck' at the Summer Fayre last July.

## **Teachers**

During this year Tanya Howarth and Sally Gaines have stepped down from the teaching team. Tanya led teaching sessions for a number of years and Sally gave valuable classroom support and we miss them both. We were pleased to welcome Sally Dahlbohm to our team and thank Debbie Firth and Lyn May for running some of the teaching. Any other members of the congregation who would like to join the team in any capacity would be very welcome.

## **The future**

Young Saints continues to thrive. All team members share the teaching, supervision and administrative tasks. I think we have proved this year that the team can run very well without an overall leader.

# Larchfield Report

Sandra Williams, Activities Coordinator, Larchfield Care Home

Larchfield Care Home, provides specialist dementia care with nursing, and has now been open 4 years. We are grateful to All Saints Church for the spiritual care given to our residents from the inception, which enables people to continue to practise their faith and be a part of the wider community. A big thank you to Fr Jeremy Harris and Brigitte Ranger for their creative ministry, which they have tailored to the needs of those we care for. Residents of all denominations are welcome to attend the monthly services, and the services focus on enabling memory recall, as well as the senses, to aid communication and participation.

A variety of resources have been brought into the home to assist in sharing 'God's Word'. Highlights have been the 'Mary and Martha' doll which was passed around the room – very kindly one of your parishioners knitted us one, as it was such a success and residents were reluctant to hand it back. At our Harvest Service, Fr Jeremy brought the sheaf of bread, so intricately made for your own Harvest Service, which everyone loved to see and touch.

In May 2010, Fr Jeremy and Brigitte invited our Home Manager and me to join them in attending 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. Unlike other delegates we attended as a team already working together for the common good.

In November 2010, I was privileged to be invited to your Stewardship Meeting to speak about the spiritual needs of those in care, as well as their loved ones. It was good to learn about All Saints mission to further develop your ministry amongst the community living on the Larchfield estate.

Our Christmas Carol Service was a memorable occasion and so inclusive. Residents, relatives and staff joined together to celebrate. La stood in for Fr Jeremy and gave a memorable sermon, using a parcel with many layers of wrapping paper. The ultimate gift was the baby Jesus. Our overseas staff shared carols from their own countries and we finished with another sensory element – tea and mince pies!

Brigitte and I continue to be amazed at the way people challenged by a dementia have the most wonderful capacity to remember hymns from deep within their memory – in particular Silent Night. Very recently we have also discovered that the Triune blessing; 'May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all' remains close to people's hearts and in their memories. May we thank All Saints Church for extending God's love to our home and for your fellowship.

# The Alpha Course

Elizabeth Bryson

Alpha 2010 started on January 9th, with a wonderful Holy Spirit Day on a snowy Saturday when people came from the Course that had started in November 2009 as well as people from the congregation who wanted to learn more about the Holy Spirit. The Alpha Course continued on Wednesdays, finishing before Lent. We started another Alpha Course in November 2010, which is also part of the adult Confirmation preparation.

It is 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
- 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 2011 will have 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. 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)

# Evangelism Group

Elizabeth Bryson

The Evangelism Group was formed after the Living Faith Conference on June 7th 2008. 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. The Evangelism Group decided that we would organise an event every year for a group of people who already have some contact with the Church.

In 2010 the Evangelism Group planned a contact event for the Brownies and the Rainbows, who meet in our Parish Centre. On Monday 17th May we welcomed the Brownies to the Church and on Friday 21st May we had an event in Church for the Rainbows. There was an 'angel hunt', when the girls had to look around the Church to find 10 angels that were hidden in different places in the Church: the crèche area, a pew, the Lady Chapel, the pulpit, the altar, the choir stalls near the organ, the lectern, the vestry: where the choir and servers change into their robes, the font and the place where we have drinks and biscuits on Sundays.

We then went round the Church to explain what happens in those places in the Church building and they had drinks and biscuits. The girls then sat and looked at the Emmaus Road stained glass window and heard that story told. Next they enjoyed drawing a picture of something in the Church. We ended with a prayer and by singing 'Jesus love is very wonderful'. We gave the Brownies and Rainbows a bookmark to take home and we laminated their drawings so they would be special for them. The Brownies and Rainbows enjoyed visiting the Church. The Rainbows made 'thank you' cards to express their appreciation.

The Evangelism Group will plan another contact event next year, so we continue to become a Missionary Congregation by developing links with the groups of people that we already have contact with. 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 welcome more people in to Church, to help them come to know the Lord and grow in faith.

# Website

Rachel Andrew

In 2010 I redesigned the church website for All Saints - <http://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk> - and added more information about the various activities that happen in church and within the community.

The website received on average 400 visits per month over half of these visits come from search engine traffic. This is people searching in Google and other search engines either looking directly for our church, or for information about churches in Maidenhead. The top 5 queries entered into a search engine which find our site are:

- all saints church maidenhead
- all saints maidenhead
- all saints boyne hill
- churches in maidenhead
- maidenhead churches

I have tried to add to the site a page about all of the different activities that happen at All Saints and the things we are involved in. As I also create the Annual Report a lot of the information is taken from this report and updated yearly.

## **Can you contribute to the site?**

Contributions are always welcome for the website - for many people it will be their first impression of our church so we have a chance to demonstrate the wide variety of things we are involved in, and the different activities on offer for people of all ages. Some ideas:

- Write a short news piece (just a few paragraphs) about an event you have attended or helped organise.
- Write a news article about something that will be happening soon - to help publicise it. For example the summer fayre.
- Write a short article about why you enjoy being a member of All Saints.
- Send photographs from an event or outing for the gallery? (please make sure that if they feature young people we have permission to put them on the site).
- If you run a group at All Saints check the information about your group is on the site and up to date.

If you could do any of the above then please send your news, photos or edits to Rachel Andrew, [me@rachelandrew.co.uk](mailto:me@rachelandrew.co.uk) and I'll be pleased to add it to the site.

# OAK (Ordinands Appeal in Kenya)

Elizabeth Bryson

The OAK project is an exciting way that we can contribute to the building of God's kingdom in Africa. We give money to pay for the training of Ordinands in Kenya. 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.

We first supported Margaret and Eunice and they are now Priests in the villages of Kenya, because we paid for their training. Then we funded Patrick through his training for Ordination, in Bishop Samson's Diocese of Taita Taveta in Kenya. Patrick completed the third year of his training in August 2010. He graduated in November 2010 and was Ordained Deacon on December 5th 2010. They are all very grateful for the financial and prayer support from All Saints' Church.

Here are two recent e-mails from Patrick, expressing his appreciation:

*'I most sincerely thank the Almighty God for his grace that I was able to complete the three years diploma course of St. Paul's university, in theology and development studies. Accept our heartfelt appreciation for the support you granted to us during the three years. During the course I received two books from the church, the annotated study bible and Introduction to the Christian faith, which are very helpful in the ministry. We are dearly thankful for the partnership, may God richly bless us. I graduated on 13.11.2010 with a diploma 2.2 58points. The chief guest was The Rt Rev Dr Gideon Githiga of Thika diocese in Kenya. The conferring of certificates was done by Rev Mitei, the Academic dean of St pauls university. Friends, as the zeal to go further burns, may the lord richly bless u. Thanks.'*

*'Happy new year! thanks for the prayers and new year wishes. am doing well while settling in the parish. indeed the ordination was good, blessed and colourful and thus we thank God. The parish is quite far from the town thus it takes a considerable time to access the email however God is good at all times. soon I will be posting some ordination photos through the email. am glad and thankful to the Almighty God that am well and that its a unique year in my life to begin serving as a deacon. may the Almighty God richly bless us Amen.'*

We are now supporting Jemima Mkiwa Mgalu. She has been an Evangelist in the Diocese of Taita Taveta for three years. She is now at the Bishop Hanninton Institute where she is studying theology and training for Ordination. She is very grateful for our financial and prayer support.

Eunice is now acting vicar at one of the churches up in the Taita hills at Sagalla. Margaret has married 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'.

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.

Please continue to pray for Jemima, Margaret, Eunice and Patrick.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Bryson (OAK Co-ordinator)

Here is a photograph of Patrick on his Ordination day. He is holding the congratulations card that we sent him from all of us at All Saints Church.





# Mothers' Union

Ena Jones

We had sad year in some ways, losing nine of our long standing members through illness and death, and therefore, some of our association with neighbouring churches, as at least three of them did not attend All Saints. We have three potential members in the pipe line however, and our occasional shared meetings between the ladies of Boyne Hill Baptists, and Edmund Campian still continue.

Otherwise, we have had our usual interesting programme of speakers and outings, which included –Women in the Auxillary Air Service, Inheritance Tax and Legal Affairs, Fire Precautions in the Home, and an outing to Maidenhead Heritage Centre. Of course, we had our usual visit to Wyvale garden Centre to see the Christmas decorations and to enjoy a cream tea as well as our annual lunch at `The Toby`.

Our project for `Feed the Children` continues, and we send them blankets and children`s clothes regularly, besides making a special effort for Lent by collecting toiletries and stationary, and having a raffle at our A.G.M. – the money going to Feed the Children` too. We support this cause because it is easy to visit – the warehouse is at Twyford – and ongoing, as our offerings go all over the world: in fact, wherever the latest disaster occurs.

We also make an annual contribution to the Mothers` Union Literacy and Numeracy fund which educates African mothers, and enables them to manage their household affairs and finances, and to teach their own children to read etc.

On the home front (due to our Christmas and Easter card donation idea) we are able to sponsor Father Jeremy, by buying copies of "Praying Through the Day" – a book which he gives to baptism families- as well as helping with various church activities of all kinds. This year we sold toiletries at the at the church fete, and had the distinction of raising the highest amount of any stall !

The Mothers` Union remit is to support and help family life all over the world, and in any circumstances. Our branch finds that its chief vocation is to the old and lonely, and we visit, and arrange `get togethers`, and in addition, to our birthday lunches, one of our members holds open` house` one afternoon a week for who ever would like to `drop in`.

All Saints Mothers` Union Branch was 112 years old this January, and we feel we have a responsibility to those who founded it to keep it going. We have to `move with the times` of course, and I am sure that our founder, Mary Sumner (who prayed "Let me touch as many lives as possible for God") would agree, were she alive now, that our ministry is to all who need us, whatever their age, and also, to try and emulate her life of prayer as much as possible.

# Deanery Synod Report

David Morgan

The vision of the Deanery is to encourage, support and help parishes as they assist people to become committed followers of Christ.

## **Guest speakers Deanery Synods**

These included the new Director of Mission, for the Diocese Rev Dr Michael Beasley, who explained how the centre can facilitate or encourage mission in the parishes; Theresa May, local MP and Home Secretary, who set the scene for the Big Society. Theresa characterised it as a radical shift in the relative position of state and society, which recognises that action at community level has a role to play alongside action by government.

## **Learning to pray**

Rev Sally Dakin, Spirituality Adviser for the Reading Episcopal Area and Archdeaconry taught us a new way of praying using Prayer Stations. Sally described prayer not as a technique but as a relationship, as a friendship with God with many dimensions.

## **The role of worship in mission**

At the March Deanery Synod a local priest outlined his strategy for church growth. He had drawn on the writing of two American writers and pastors Rick Warren and Richard J Foster. The priest referred to Foster who links worship to mission and quoted Foster's answer to the question: "How do we encourage the crowd to become disciples", as follows:

*"To worship is to experience Reality, to touch life, to feel, to experience the resurrected Christ in the midst of the gathered community. It is breaking into the Shekinah (the glory, the radiance, the Divine Presence) of God."*

In this context 'Crowd' and 'Disciples' are described as follows:

**Community** - The people living in the land of Israel

**Crowd** - Those who flocked to him to hear him speak or be healed

**Disciples** - People who followed Jesus and put his teaching into practice

**The 70** - The ones Jesus sees as fully committed and ready to serve

**The 12** - Those Jesus called to lead

## **Attitudes and perceptions**

The priest described key perceptions in a growing village church elsewhere in Berkshire. Here engaging new people in worship is seen as a function of the attitude of existing worshippers – moving from the attitude: this is mine towards the approach: this is for God

## **Farewell to Rev Richard Holroyd**

After almost 15 years at St Luke's, Richard moved to the Benefice of Cotham and St Paul's Clifton in Bristol. Richard's contribution to the life of St Luke's, to the Deanery, and as a champion of music to serve worship, was highly valued.

# Parish Centre Users Committee

Stella Harding

Representatives of All Saints Church and the users of the Parish Centre meet four times a year, encouraging and enabling good communications between the two groups. Four user groups are regularly represented on the Committee: Rainbows, Brownies, Mothers & Toddlers and AA. By rearranging the day of the meetings the Brownies representative, who had previously been unable to attend meetings, is back on the Committee. All representatives continue to make an enthusiastic and active contribution to the meetings.

This has been an exciting year for the Parish Centre and its users with the work to repair the hall floor in the spring followed by extensive repair and redecoration of the entrance and the hall over the summer by a truly dedicated working party from the Church. The hard work and expertise of this group produced fantastic results and we now have a super facility for the Church, the Parish Centre users and all our visitors.

Following the redecoration of the Parish Centre proposals from the Users Committee to review letting fees were agreed with the PCC.

Whilst all this was taking place, Sylvia Denison, with husband Reg, continued to manage diligently the day to day presentation and care of the Parish Centre.

The end of the year brought more great news that the kitchen refurbishment was to go ahead in early 2011. The Users Committee look forward with great interest and anticipation to contributing to the plan and proposals for this.

We can report that the plans for the kitchen were agreed in the New Year and the work completed in early March by a fantastic group of volunteers - and we now have a beautiful new kitchen!

# 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 from 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), Georgie Burfoot (Giraffe) and Charlotte Dennis (Squirrel).

We have fun playing games, making things, cooking, singing and stories (usually each meeting is based on a theme). Our meetings have included making pancakes; sweets; Christmas gifts; edible hedgehogs plus much, much more. Early this year we had a really fun time at the Pantomime at St Marks Crescent Methodist Church. We also celebrated Chinese New Year, by learning about the meaning of the animals of the calendar and Swan cooking us a delicious stir-fry. We have been quite active too, with silly sports, nature walk, eating healthily and keeping fit. We also had a great talent night with lots of singing, dancing and jokes.

Every year we renew the flowers in three pots in the quadrangle and, this year, we ran the Lucky Dip at the Church Fete. Elizabeth Bryson kindly showed us around the Church, pointing out the significance of various locations. The Rainbows were quite amazed and did some wonderful drawings of the font.

Last year was the 100th Anniversary of the Guiding Movement. The District Guides, Brownies and Rainbows had a whole day of fun at the Magnet Leisure Centre in May. In June there was to be an enormous celebration at Newbury Racecourse for all the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in the County. This was a little daunting for the Rainbows, as it was such a long day with crowds of young people. They coped very well and didn't even go to sleep on the coach coming back to Maidenhead, singing nearly all the way home! On 20th October, 2010 at 20:10 all members of the Guiding Movement throughout the world renewed their Promise. Some of our Rainbows met with others from the area at Ascot Racecourse to renew theirs. Unfortunately, I was unable to be with them, but I renewed my promise on a Game Reserve in South Africa.

Some exciting things for the future are Rainbow Riots – when all the Rainbows in the area have a day together making things, cooking and singing, and a visit from a Guide Dogs for the Blind puppy walker.

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.

# Pastoral Care Group Report

Elizabeth Brson, Licensed Lay Minister

The 'Pastoral Care Group' are those who went to the 10-week Diocesan Pastoral Care Course, in the Autumn of 2009, when I was completing my training as a Licensed Lay Minister. The people who went to that Course with me are: Neil Bryson, Ena Jones, Debbie Firth, Sue Stannet and Brigitte Ranger. We are all doing pastoral care in the Church. We met with Fr Jeremy in January 2010 to discuss the focus of our Pastoral Care activities.

Many other people on the PCC and in the wider congregation are actively giving pastoral care by phone-calls, conversations, home and hospital visiting and helping in many ways to show the love of the Lord in pastoral care.

I will outline here the pastoral care activities of the members of the 'Pastoral Care Team' in 2010. Ena Jones cares for the Mothers' Union and helps at 'Tiny Saints' Toddlers Group. Debbie leads Godly Play at Baptism Preparation and helps organise and welcome people to Messy Church. Sue has done Baptism visits and helped at Baptism Preparation. Sue sent 1st Wedding Anniversary cards, from the Church, to all the couples who were married in church in 2009. These cards have been greatly appreciated. Brigitte goes to Larchfield Nursing Home to visit and help lead the Services. Brigitte planned and helped lead the Christmas Service with Sandra and La. Neil has been doing a placement at Wexham Park Hospital as a Volunteer Chaplain on the Chaplaincy Team – visiting people from our Church and other people – as part of his training for Ordination.

I have visited Baptism families at home, helped at and led Baptism Preparation, helped at Baptisms, visited people from Church at home and in hospital. I take Home Communion to people from Church who are unwell. I organise the 'Tiny Saints' Toddlers Group with a team of helpers: this is for Baptism families and others, giving a wonderful 'immediate next step' for our Baptism families. I lead Alpha - giving teaching, pastoral care and Confirmation preparation.

All the Pastoral Care Team provided refreshments for the All Souls Requiem Eucharist and they were available to listen and talk to people who had been invited to that Service, because there had been a recent funeral of a member of their family.

On Saturday 20th November some of us went to Oxford with Fr Jeremy for an excellent Course called 'Leadership and all that Jazz'. We learned about servant leadership, collaborative leadership, communication, listening, risk taking, developing gifts in other people, about how to focus on solutions not problems and encouragement. The Jazz band taught us about these leadership skills through how they played and interacted. This was an inspirational day and great to enjoy listening while we could hear, understand and see the leadership skills and qualities through the ways that the Jazz band performed. It was interesting to learn from how they discussed their music and how they played as a team, supporting and encouraging one another. We all thought that this was a fantastic Course. We all felt energised and envisioned from the Course and our reflections and discussions about what we have learned from 'Leadership and all that Jazz'.