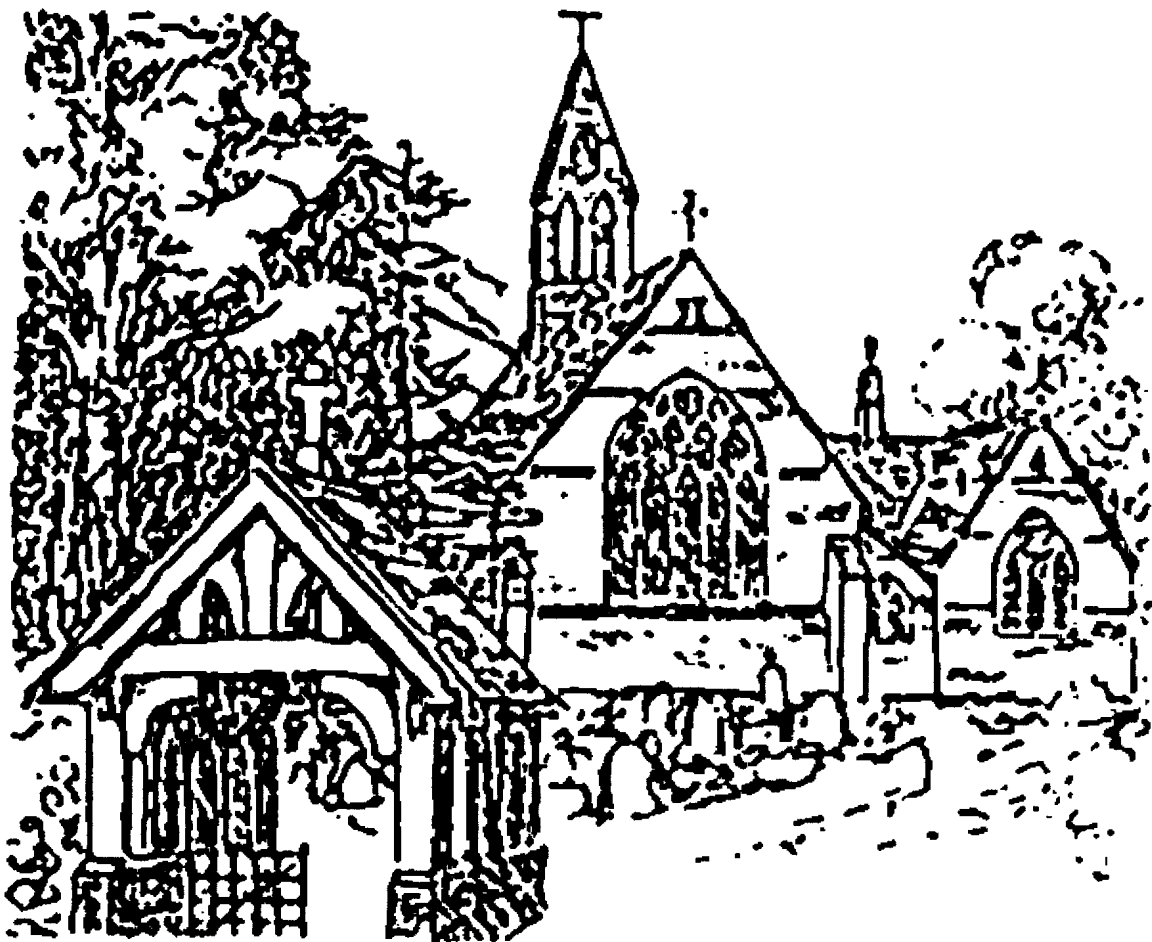


St John the Baptist Parish Church  
Crowthorne

# Annual Report 2013 - 2014



## CONTENTS

Agenda .....	3
Minutes of the Previous AMP and APCM .....	4
Vicar's Report .....	12
Churchwardens' Report .....	14
Befrienders/Baptismal Support .....	15
Book Club .....	15
Choir .....	17
Christian Discipleship .....	17
Church Cleaners .....	18
Churches Together in Crowthorne .....	18
Church Flowers .....	19
Church Office .....	20
Churchyard .....	20
Communications Group .....	21
Deanery Synod .....	22
Fabric Committee .....	22
Fairs .....	23
Fair Trade .....	24
GLorEE .....	25
Library .....	25
Minus Fives .....	25
Missions Committee .....	26
Mothers' Union .....	28
Outreach .....	29
Pastoral Group .....	29
Pathfinders .....	30
Prayer Groups .....	30
Praying for Streets .....	31
Servers .....	31
Social Committee .....	32
Stewardship .....	33
St John's News .....	33
The Net – St. John's Children's Church .....	34
Welcome Team .....	35
Website .....	35

## CROWTHORNE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Notice is hereby given of the ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS to be held on Sunday, April 27th 2014 in the Parish Church Hall after the 10:00 service at 11:45am**

### AGENDA

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of Parishioners 2013
4. Election of Churchwardens

**Notice is hereby given of the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING of the CROWTHORNE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL to be held immediately following the meeting of Parishioners on Sunday, April 27th 2014 in the Parish Church Hall.**

### AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Parish
2. Matters Arising from the Minutes
3. Parish Vision Update
4. Vicar's sabbatical feedback
5. Update on Renovation Projects
6. Approval of the Annual Report and Accounts
7. Report on changes of numbers on electoral roll.
8. Presentation of Parish Reports
9. Elections
  - a. Parochial Church Council
  - b. Deanery Synod
10. Appointments
  - a. Hon Secretary
  - b. Hon Treasurer
  - c. Hon Independent Examiner
  - d. Welcome Teams
11. Notices
12. Closing prayers

### AGENDA of FIRST PCC MEETING (to follow APCM on SUNDAY, APRIL 27th)

1. Minutes of the PCC meeting of the 11th March 2014
2. Matters Arising from the Minutes
3. Committee Membership.
4. Dates of meetings for the year.
5. Correspondence
6. AOB

## CROWTHORNE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Rev'd Lisa Cornwell (Chairman)  
Rev'd David Ramsbottom (Curate)  
Karl Simpson (Churchwarden)  
Anne Mohan (Churchwarden)  
Beccy Al-Jadir (Hon Treasurer)  
Jenny McKeever (Hon Secretary)

### Meeting of Parishioners held after 10.00am service on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2013

#### **Opening prayers**

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Hazel Berry, Sylvie Pedersen, Beccy Al Jadir, Diane Gray, Peter and Adrienne Wright, Bob Wade, Sheila Stickland, Pam Hills.

#### **Minutes**

Approval of the minutes of the Parishioners meeting held on Sunday April 29th 2012 were proposed by Sarah Dewson and seconded by Graeme Muirhead.

#### **Election of Churchwardens**

Karl Simpson and Anne Mohan have agreed to continue as Churchwardens, Karl Simpson was nominated by David Rance. Jean Butler seconded the nomination. All voted in favour of Karl remaining as a Churchwarden.

Anne Mohan was nominated by Gillian Gyenes and Shirley Mather seconded the nomination. All voted in favour of Anne remaining as a Churchwarden.

David Rance has agreed to continue as a deputy churchwarden. Doreen Norfield proposed that he be appointed. Catherine Pandya seconded the proposal and David's appointment was approved.

### Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> 2013

#### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Anne Mohan, seconded by Bob Ebdon and agreed by all. They were signed by Lisa as a true record.

#### **2. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **3. Parish Vision Update**

Lisa gave an illustrated presentation of the present state of our Parish Vision which was launched at the APCM four years ago.

She said that her annual report looked back at last year's vision review which the meeting had already received so her presentation would be looking forward to the coming year's priorities.

The Diocesan priority for this year is "Creating Vibrant Communities". We already tick most of the boxes under this heading, consequently, we will also concentrate on last year's theme "Making a Difference in the World".

The following priorities were highlighted for the current year:

1. Christ: We will aspire to a vibrant Christian community with the help of a network course in the Autumn; an update of the Time and Talents database; the situations vacant initiative in St John's News; an increase in house groups and development of singing. A singing workshop is being planned and the children are to be encouraged to sing in Sunday School with more children being enabled to take a fuller role in the choir.
2. Church: Encouraging responsible stewardship. In December the budget for 2013 showed a deficit of £11,000. The PCC were very concerned. Much thought and prayer went into the Quiet Day and the Gift Day held in March and the Stewardship Committee still have to tidy up the loose ends but the response gives us much to rejoice in and to thank God.
3. Community: There will be a PCC Away Day on 11<sup>th</sup> May facilitated by Alison Webster, the Diocesan Social Responsibility advisor, when we will be looking at ways to support the local community. A recent "Good News for Young People" event high-lighted the need to break the mould of a term-time church and encourage our young people.  
The Garden of Remembrance is principally a project for the community.
4. Whole of Creation: Outside the parish and village we plan to focus on the Kidbrooke Estate in South London and the work being done there by the Church Army, one of the Missions we support.
5. Maximise the use of our sacred space: The next stage in the renovation project is the AVS, (audio visual system). The funds from the February Ball went towards this project. The Fabric Committee have plans to redecorate the church and hall on their agenda.

### **4. Garden of Remembrance**

Ken Perrett gave an illustrated update on the Garden of Remembrance. Work should have started at the beginning of April but because of the weather it will now start on 7<sup>th</sup> May and should be completed in June. He pointed out the corner of the churchyard where the garden will be situated and showed the stone-mason's design for the central feature and the bench. The standing feature will have space for a copy of the book of remembrance with a stainless steel shingle fastened by a steel pin which will pivot to reveal the book.

The cost will be £8,200 of which we have received £6,475. The Parish Council have provided £1,000 of this. £1,890 has come from the Churchyard fund and £3,585 has been received by

way of bequests. Bracknell Forest Homes are carrying out the landscaping work free of charge which will keep the costs down. There is still £1,725 to find.

The Bishop of Reading will visit on 11<sup>th</sup> August and will bless the Garden at a ceremony starting at 3.30p.m. The Garden will then be available to the community as an area for the strewing of ashes in perpetuity.

Lisa thanked Ken and the meeting gave him a round of applause.

## **5. Update on Renovation Projects**

Ken again took to the floor to present an update on the Renovation projects and on the AVS in particular. He apologised for the small screen pointing out the need to update our system to provide proper visual technical facilities. The AVS has been under discussion for three years now since Hazel Berry, David Butler, Lewis Simmons, Peter Hattersley and Ken started to look into what was required. They consulted the various church groups and prepared a brief. The PCC approved the brief. Five contractors were invited to look at the project. Based on their suggestions the group drew up the criteria for the project and invited 3 contractors to quote. The quotations came to around £45,000 to provide a 2.4m wide screen which will drop down behind the chancel arch, a projector and consol desk at the back of the church, 8 wireless microphones, 3 wired microphones, a new loop system, speakers throughout, zoning, 3 cameras to help the organist and in the hall for an overflow congregation and an LCD fixed screen in the hall.

When the funding is in place, then the AVS group will review with the PCC and go back to the contractors to confirm their quotations.

Lisa again thanked Ken and the meeting applauded him.

## **6. Approval of Annual Report and Accounts**

Richard Ireson began his summarisation of the Accounts with a heartfelt thank you to Beccy Al Jadir for her dedicated work as Treasurer. The meeting applauded warmly. Richard circulated a one-page summary of the accounts and explained that the church funds are in two separate accounts, general and restricted. The general fund covers all the normal income and expenses concerning the day to day running of the church. The restricted fund includes donations for specific purposes and outgoings relating to them.

In the unrestricted account the overall income in 2012 dropped £8,000 on 2011. However 2011 income had been boosted by a parish share rebate and a £2,000 legacy while 2012 saw a drop in letting income due to the loss of rent from the Crowthorne Orchestra (who have outgrown the space we can provide) and a very poor May Fair due to the dreadful weather. Expenses have been carefully controlled increasing by only £1,000 last year. The Parish Share (the money paid to the Diocese to cover clergy costs and central expenses) had increased by about 1%.

The previous year showed a small surplus but the 2012 deficit was £9,000. The PCC saw this coming but, after much discussion and prayer, they decided to maintain the mission giving at 12.5%.

The restricted account income was £33K compared with £53K the year before and £60K in the previous year. 2010 and 2011 saw a drive in fund-raising for the renovation fund which was not repeated in 2012. The upgrading of the heating system was carried out in 2012 and though the fund is significantly reduced we have a new roof and a warm church. The investment income reflected the recovery in the market. The Trust fund of £106K can only be used to purchase property.

Since the year end the PCC has been deeply concerned about the church's financial position. The fund balance fell to below £29K which is only 2½ months expenditure less than the preferred 3 months in hand. Richard confessed that he did not hold out much hope from another Stewardship campaign but was happily proved wrong when parishioners gifted £32K in one-off gifts and many have also increased standing orders so that we are almost at a level where we can budget for a breakeven situation this year. He encouraged all present to support the forth-coming May Fair which is our principal fund-raising event of the year. He commended the accounts to the meeting. There were no questions and Lisa thanked Richard for his clear explanation of the accounts. He was given a round of applause. He proposed that the accounts be accepted. David Rance seconded the proposal and the accounts were accepted by those present.

## **7. Report on Electoral roll**

Tracy Perrett, the Electoral Roll Officer, presented her report as follows:

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, 2013 is a year in which an entirely new church electoral roll had to be prepared in advance of the APCM in every parish in the Church of England. Anyone wishing to be enrolled on the new roll had to complete a fresh form of application, whether or not their name was on the previous electoral roll. This process has been completed and I can now report on the new roll.

At last year's ACPM it was reported that the Church Electoral Roll figure stood at 264.

The total number of names entered on the new electoral roll is 227. 36 people who applied for inclusion on the new roll were not on the previous roll. 74 people whose names were on the previous roll did not apply for inclusion on the new roll. The majority of those people had stopped attending services at St John's. Anyone who failed to enrol during the preparation period and still wishes to do so, can apply at any time following the APCM. Tracy added that she had already received some more names of parishioners who wished to be added to the Electoral Roll.

The Vicar thanked Tracy for her report and she was given round of applause.

## **8. Presentation of Parish Reports**

The Chair went through each of the sections in the Parish report as follows.

- *Vicar's report.* Lisa made no comment on her own report.
- *Churchwardens report.* Thank you to Karl for writing the report and thank you too to Anne for stepping up to the mark so ably in her first year as churchwarden.

- ❑ *Befrienders/Baptismal support.* Thank you to Christine for the report. There has been a good demand for Baptisms.
- ❑ *Book club.* Thank you to Anne Pelham. Lisa is pleased that St John's has a book club.
- ❑ *Choir.* Thank you to Tom and David and to all the choir members. Worship would be poorer without the help of music. There was a spontaneous round of appreciative applause from the meeting for the choir.
- ❑ *Christian Discipleship* Thank you to Gillian, Hazel and to David for their hard work. There are 12 junior candidates for confirmation and 12 – 14 adults taking part in the adult Emmaus course.
- ❑ *Cleaning.* Thank you to Vanessa and to everyone on the church cleaning rota. There are still vacancies if anyone feels able to give an hour or so every few months to join the cleaning rota.
- ❑ *Churches together.* Thank you to Jenny McKeever for the comprehensive report and to the representatives. There is a suggestion that each church undertakes to run a craft activity on one of the Fridays during the summer activities. Volunteers will be needed to organise this and to help set up and take down on the five Fridays during the summer holidays.

There is still a vacancy for a Chair for CTC. This role has alternated between the Methodists and Roman Catholics over the last few years, the Secretary is a member of the Baptist Church, so it has been indicated to us that it is up to the Anglicans to provide the next chair.

- ❑ *Flowers.* Thank you to Carol Cain and the team for making the Church so beautiful.
- ❑ *Church Office.* Huge thank you to Ken Perrett and the team who work tirelessly on a Wednesday morning. Thank you too to Beccy's brother-in-law for donating the new photocopier – a big help.
- ❑ *Churchyard.* Very grateful to David Bainbridge and the churchyard team for their work in the churchyard. People regularly comment on how nice it looks.
- ❑ *Deanery Synod.* Thank you to Jenny McKeever for the helpful summary.
- ❑ *Fabric.* A huge thank you to Mike Thackray and to the Fabric Committee for their hard work. Another major project completed last year and the benefits were felt especially over the cold winter.
- ❑ *May Fair.* Thank you to Mike and to the committee for all their work. Again the meeting broke into a round of spontaneous applause. Lisa urged everyone to support the May Fair which is only a week away. Mike is stepping down after this May Fair and a new chair will be needed to run next year's Fair.
- ❑ *Mini-Advent Fair.* Thank you to Gillian and to all who contributed to the Mini-Advent Fair. This is a good return for a reasonably small effort. Next year we will advertise it more widely in the village.
- ❑ *FairTrade.* Thank you to Anne Pelham and to all who man the stall. Lisa urged everyone to support the Fair Trade stall and to support the ethical aspect of our Vision.
- ❑ *GLorEE* Thank you to Zella and the group who bring a diversification to our worship.



- ❑ *Library.* Thank you to Anne Pelham who took over from Jan Lawson who sadly died last year.
- ❑ *Minus Fives.* In addition to thanking all the helpers Lisa took the opportunity to thank Maggie Woodage herself who took over running Minus Fives during the year. This gave rise to a round of applause from the meeting.
- ❑ *Missions/Children's Society .* Thank you to the Committee who do such a good job of keeping us all informed and up to date on the various missions we support. Thank you also to Tracy for organising the Children's Society fund-raising. The funds raised for the Children's Society is in addition to our other mission giving.
- ❑ *Mothers Union.* Thank you to Carol Frost and the Mothers Union committee for all their help behind the scenes. They would welcome new (and younger) members.
- ❑ *Outreach.* Thank you to Sylvie Pedersen for her report. There will be a Songs of Praise service later in the year organised by Gillian Gyenes.
- ❑ *Pastoral Committee* Thank you to Christine Rees for her report and to all involved in the pastoral care of our Church family. This is an umbrella group. Thank you to David Butler for his work on the Pastoral visiting group within the Pastoral committee.
- ❑ *Pathfinders.* Thank you to Tracy for her report. Sadly we lost Claire Rutter who has moved away and need a new leader to replace her. Lisa asked the meeting to keep this role in their prayers.
- ❑ *Prayer Groups.* Thank you to Carol Frost, Gillian Gyenes and to Anne Pelham for their reports. Prayer is a vital part of Church life.
- ❑ *Servers* Thank you to Chris Williams as head server. It is great to have the youngsters involved. Lisa echoed Chris's invitation to adults to join the serving team.
- ❑ *Social committee.* Thank you to Kay Martin for taking over the reins from Jill Pope. Thank you to the committee as a whole especially for the 60/70's supper last night.
- ❑ *Stewardship.* Thank you to Steve Pope for his report. We have heard a lot about the Stewardship campaign already. It was a multi-faceted campaign and thanks must go to Hazel and the Missions team and to David Butler for his ideas. The committee is very pleased with the success of the campaign. Thanks be to God.
- ❑ *St John's News.* Thank you Richard for an outstanding job - the meeting broke into a round of applause for Richard. St John's News also goes to all the parents at the C of E school by email. Richard interposed his thanks to Irene for her Prayer Diary and again the meeting applauded their thanks to Irene.
- ❑ *Sunday School.* Thank you to Jayne Clark and to all the teachers for their continued enthusiasm and hard work. There is room for more helpers.
- ❑ *Welcome Team.* Thank you to Doreen and to the Welcome Teams for facilitating the practicalities of worship. They are at the forefront of welcoming visitors.
- ❑ *Web Site* Thank you to Ken Perrett for managing the website and to Brian Turner for his support and to all those who contribute. Lisa has received feedback from outsiders on how good our website is

Maggie Wade asked about the Worship Committee. Lisa felt that it has not been necessary to have this committee active over the last couple of years but agreed that it was probably time to re-instate it.

## **9. Elections**

There are 5 vacancies on the PCC for terms of 3 years.

There are 5 names on the list for these 5 vacancies.

<b><u>New nominations</u></b> <b><u>FOR 3 YEARS</u></b>	<b><u>Proposer</u></b>	<b><u>Seconder</u></b>
1 Jill Pope (Re-election)	Doreen Norfield	Anne Mohan
2 Maggie Woodage	Christine Rees	Tracy Perrett
3 Jade Turner	Rosemary Simpson	Jill Pope
4 Hilary Burton	Gillian Gyenes	Jenny McKeever
5 Eleanor Pandya	David Rance	Jill Pope

As there were only 5 nominations for the vacancies they were all appointed without a vote. There were no objections.

## **10. Appointments**

Lisa thanked Jenny McKeever who stepped down as Honorary Secretary and presented her with a gift of a Peace Lily. The meeting applauded.

Mary Harwood was proposed as Honorary Secretary by Jenny McKeever and seconded by Jill Pope. All voted in favour and gave Mary a round of applause.

Hon. Treasurer, Beccy Al-Jadir was proposed by Catherine Pandya, seconded by Laszlo Gyenes and all agreed and was so appointed. Julie Sharpe has agreed to take on the role of assistant Treasurer. Doreen proposed her appointment and this was seconded by Sarah Dewson. All voted in favour and applauded Julie.

Hon Independent Examiner Mrs Laura Myers, was proposed by Ken Perrett and seconded by Lewis Simmons and agreed by all and was so appointed.

Doreen Norfield has recruited three new members to the Welcome teams, Chris Stevens, Kingsley Vethakan and Daphne Bass. She is still looking for two more to join Peter Wright's team. These replace Ian Lobley, Phillip Rutter, Joan Colyer, Brian and Audrey Hooper who have stood down for various reasons. Welcome Teams as listed, for the 8.a.m. and for the 10.am services were proposed by Graeme Muirhead and seconded by Brian Hooper and agreed by all and so were approved en bloc. The Welcome teams are not elected. Their appointment is approved by the APCM.

## **11. Notices**

Jean Butler asked for additional help for the gardening team to cover holidays.

Lisa brought the meeting to a close with the words of Dag Hammarskjöld “For all that has been, thanks; for all this is to come, yes.” The Grace was said.

## ***Vicar's Report***

I am writing this report ahead of schedule as I will be on sabbatical at the allotted time. At the December PCC meeting we reviewed the vision priorities we had set at the start of 2013:

### **1) Diocesan Living Faith priority “Creating Vibrant Christian Communities”/ St John’s Vision “Church” category + “Christ” category: “Encourage and support the development of music and singing as a means of glorifying God”.**

In the Autumn Brian Berry, a qualified Enneagram practitioner, ran a six session course at St John’s. It tied in with the theme of self discovery, with a spiritual foundation. The Enneagram is concerned with personal transformation and change. It identifies our blockages, and, unlike other personality tools, dares to refer to our “deadly sins”. For those who attended it was very instructive. We are grateful to Brian for running the course at no profit.

The “Situations vacant” page was introduced into St John’s News, highlighting the specific needs at St John’s where people can exercise their time and talents. Whilst some of the ads remain on the shelf, it yielded a new PCC secretary promptly. A time and talents review was also instigated.

It has long been my desire to multiply our one church house group. This was highlighted for this year and things looked promising when Anne Ireland came forward to lead a day time group. People signed up but sadly, for one reason or another, there was not sufficient commitment to sustain it. House/ small groups are an important means of fellowship and deepening understanding of the Christian faith. I pray that there will yet be growth in this area at St John’s.

On Father’s day the “Junior Choir” (in spirit as well as in age) treated us to a rendition of “Jonah man jazz” during the special all age service. A singing workshop was held on the Heritage Open day but this did not draw a very wide following. David Crowe has now taken over full time from Tom Shorter as Choir Director and Organist and is tasked with continuing to develop the choir. Meanwhile, our alternative singing group, GLorEE continues to thrive and be in demand beyond St John’s.

### **2) “Church: Encourage responsible stewardship to resource the vision and strategy”**

We have always prided ourselves in meeting our parish share and giving to our chosen missions. However, at the end of 2012 due to various mitigating factors, our financial situation was looking bleak. It was time for a major Stewardship Campaign in 2013 to increase our income to sustain our mission and ministry. The gauntlet was thrown down to church members through different media: a presentation, distribution of literature, day of prayer & fasting: “Quiet day” with prayer stations and finally a visiting preacher. The result exceeded our expectations and we are grateful to all who responded readily and generously and to God who blessed our efforts.

### **3) Community**

On 11<sup>th</sup> May, the PCC had an away day facilitated by Alison Webster, continuing to explore the diocesan priority “Making a difference in the world”. This gave impetus to engage in a few areas. We planned to investigate “Messy Church”, still in the pipeline as it took a time to pin down the speaker for a PCC meeting, which was then postponed until the New Year due to illness. St John’s played a part in the CTC

summer activities on the Morgan Recreation Ground, which attracted huge numbers. Then we had a stall at the local traders "Crowthorne by the Sea" Mini Market on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. It was good to be in the heart of the community at these events, as of course, with our annual May Fair reported elsewhere. On the 14<sup>th</sup> September we threw open our doors for the national Heritage Open Day, mounting displays of church life and providing refreshments. There was an organ recital by Irene Simmons, a performance by GLorEE and the choir led singing workshop.

The Garden of Remembrance was another community related project implemented over the summer. We are hugely grateful to Ken Perrett for his work in seeing this through from start to finish. On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August there was a service of blessing by the Bishop of Reading, the Right Reverend Andrew Proud, followed by refreshments. The Garden of Remembrance is now available for the strewing of ashes. It secures a lasting means for ashes to be laid to rest in the churchyard with individual interment plots fast running out.

A few church members were able to attend the "Good news for young people" events run by the diocese. In cascading back to the PCC, it was decided that we should persist in tackling the "term time church" tendency at St John's. It was agreed to hold a summer holiday club for the children on Sundays during church. A huge effort, including publicity, was put in by Tracy Perrett, Hannah Brooks and Maggie Woodage and helpers but alas the attendance was very thin.

#### **4) "Concerned for the whole of Creation: passionate about global justice..."**

The Kidbrooke estate in SE London, a particular focus of Church Army work, one of our 7 missions, featured prominently this year. Awareness was raised through articles in SJN, the Giving Tree and Lent Lunch.

#### **5) "Maximise the use of our sacred space as a means of engaging with God - Ensure a comfortable physical environment for all who come to worship."**

We have continued to fundraise for our renovation project phase 3: replacement of audio-visual system. After all the energies replacing a church roof and central heating system, this is rather an uphill struggle. However, the church ball in aid of this, was a fantastic event last February, thanks to Sarah Dewson and her team. The planned redecoration of church and hall now has to wait until the hall roof is replaced – another pressing project!

**Looking ahead to the start of 2014**, I have been madly forward planning to try and ensure that everything ticks along smoothly during my absence. I am very grateful to all those who will be stepping up to the plate whilst I am away and of course who do so much as well all the year around in the service of Christ.

"Sabbatical" is derived from the root word Sabbath. Stipendiary clergy are encouraged to take a sabbatical approximately every ten years, to include three elements: a retreat, a course of study and a holiday. I have now been ordained over eleven and a half years and in Crowthorne for seven and a half. It will be an opportunity for me to recalibrate. On the 6<sup>th</sup> January, I head up to Loyola Hall Jesuit spirituality centre, near Liverpool, to embark upon the "30 Day retreat", which in fact is five weeks. This is a silent retreat; a full immersion experience of the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola. Then I will have a time of self directed study for my professional doctorate in Theology and Ministry, undertaken at Kings College, London. I am now on the Research Based Thesis stage of this and have a long way to go with it! At the end of this period, I have signed up to the diocesan clergy conference. During the study phase, Mike and I look forward to visiting family and friends at the weekends and experiencing worship in other churches. I will try to resist having the agenda of a "mystery worshipper". Finally, we are looking

St John the Baptist Church – Parish Report 2014

forward to a trip to Australia, where Mike has many relatives and I have never been before. I will return to parish duties in time for the APCM.

*Rev Lisa Cornwell*

## **Churchwardens' Report**

The year March 2013 to April 2014 saw a slowdown of refurbishment work on the fabric of the Church

Earlier this year there were concerns regarding the lack of space in our Churchyard for burying ashes; the current areas would have soon reached their capacity, the PCC approved a project to introduce a Garden of Remembrance within the Churchyard for the strewing of ashes. With help from Bracknell Forest Homes (they supplied the labour and sourced the paving) we completed the landscaping work on the "Garden of Remembrance" during the summer of 2013 and it was blessed by the Bishop of Reading in August 2013.

The garden will give us the ability to strew ashes, indefinitely and will alleviate the problem of space in our Churchyard for burying ashes. We would like to thank Ken Perrett for project managing the building and landscaping work on the Garden of Remembrance.

An area of the Churchyard outside the Lady Chapel entrance was approved last year for a small number of plots for the interment of ashes and the ground was made ready for immediate use. This allowed us to carry out burial of ashes until the "Garden of Remembrance" was completed (Once again thanks to Laszlo Gyenes for arranging this).

We will shortly be renewing the Church Hall roof as it is now in urgent need of repair, this is planned to take place during the dryer (summer) months, the money for this urgent repair is coming from church held funds. We have begun the process of getting a faculty for the work.

Thanks go to David Bainbridge and his team, who keep our Churchyard in immaculate condition, and to Mike Thackray and his Fabric team for all the hard work they put in keeping the building serviceable.

We also thank the many willing volunteers who fulfil the regular jobs each week to help with the smooth running of the church: the welcome team, the sacristans' team, the Church Office team, the people on the cleaning rota, the flower arrangers, the coffee makers as well as the Spring cleaners and Autumn hedge cutters.

In respect of our repair and renovation projects it is thanks to your generous donations and to the hard work of the fund raisers, that we have managed to do as much of the needed refurbishment as has so far been accomplished.

The challenge is on going and there are still further major projects such as the sound system and organ restoration to be tackled, the sound system is in urgent need of replacing/upgrading and hopefully in the coming year we will be able to secure enough funds to tackle this.

We would also like to thank the PCC, as a whole, for supporting the Vicar and Church Wardens in developing and maintaining God's work in this Parish.

Sadly I (Karl Simpson) will be standing down as a Church Warden due to personal problems and I would ask the PCC to support Anne Mohan and the new Church Warden as you have supported me over the last few years.

Finally I would like to thank the Standing Committee Team and the Church Wardens for supporting me over the last few difficult months.

*Karl Simpson*

*Anne Mohan*

*David Rance*

## ***Befrienders/Baptismal Support***

Baptisms continue to take place, when requested, on the second Sunday of the month. Sixteen baptisms took place at the 10 am service during 2013. This number included two sisters in February and two brothers in May. One baptism took place on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 and another has been arranged for 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.

The baptism preparation evenings are normally held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month. The parents are asked to choose a hymn to be used in the service. We go through the service and they are given copies for the Godparents who need to have been baptised themselves. They are also given a booklet 'Your baby's baptism and a folder from the Mothers Union 'Praying through the day'. This is a resource for families who want to pray at home together. Older children are given a book entitled 'Water'.

Mothers are encouraged to come along to Minus 5's; some manage to do so for a short while before they return to work.

I would like to thank those members of the congregation who have befriended the families. They are encouraged to keep the families up to date by delivering the St. Johns News each month.

*Christine Rees*

## ***Book Club***

At the book club we get together and enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles while we discuss the latest book that we have been reading. This year we have read and discussed four books.

On the 14th of May 2103 the book was "The Testament of Mary" by Colm Toibin. This book is a novel based on Mary, telling the story of the crucifixion from her point of view. One review says "this is a short book, but it is as dense as a diamond". It was not our favourite read of the year. Some of us persisted in

reading to the end of the book only because we were reading it for the book club. There were problems with the chronology of the events described. The language throughout the book was modern except when Jesus or Pilot was speaking, and then it changed to the language of the "King James Bible". It was felt that there was a lack of God in the book. None of us liked the way Mary was portrayed. Overall it was rather a depressing book, one that we would not recommend. However, it was shortlisted for the Mann – Booker prize. Um! We did not have many (any?) positive things to say about the book. What does that say about our literary prowess?!

The next book we read was "Father Forgive" Canon Andrew White's new book about reconciliation. We discussed this on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013. The book has a foreword by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury in which the Archbishop explains that the title "Father, Forgive" refers to when the then Provost of Coventry Cathedral went into the ruins of the cathedral in November 1940 and wrote on a wall "Father, forgive" this was the start of Coventry's reconciliation ministry. The Archbishop goes on in the foreword to say "The book is controversial. There will be things in it that inspire most of us. Equally, some may disagree with something he (Andrew White) says". We certainly found this to be true.

The book starts with a lot about the history of various religions and rifts within the religions and between religions. The history of Christianity and the part of the book about Luther many of us found interesting. We felt that the next part of the book became just a vehicle for Andrew White's apparent Christian Zionist views, which surprised many of us. We disagreed with many things that he said here. We also felt that the book did not reflect the title and that a disproportionate amount of the book was given over to discussing just one of the seven parts of the Litany of Reconciliation.

Then on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013 we discussed "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant which is a novel about Jacob's daughter, Dinah. The Bible is told from the male point of view but this book takes just a few chapters of Genesis and imagines what life may have been like for the women who lived at that time and in those places. It goes into a great deal of very intimate detail about the lives of Jacob's four wives. In parts of the book there are detailed scenes about killings. Tracy and Ken came up with some very good questions about the book which led to a wide ranging discussion from Jacob and the Book of Genesis, and women in the Bible to Liberal and Orthodox Jews today. Some of the group had re read Genesis or the relevant chapters to compare them to this book. The book really divided the group. Some enjoyed the book and others disliked it intensely.

The last book we read was "The Pilgrim's Progress" by John Bunyan. On the 18<sup>th</sup> February we got together to discuss this book. Before the discussion we were very lucky to hear from Irene Simmons whose ancestors knew John Bunyan. Irene had made up a time-line of John Bunyan's life including the national events of the time with pictures to illustrate. In addition she had put together a collection of pictures that showed places in Bedfordshire which John Bunyan knew and which may have prompted Bunyan's imagination.

There are two parts to the book. The first part being about Christian and his journey from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City which was published in 1678; the second part, is about the same journey but undertaken by Christiana (Christian's wife) and her children, and was published in 1684. We all thought that the second part was softer and more tender.

We found the book surprisingly modern and erudite. The number of biblical references was really amazing. The book was a very worthwhile read and relevant to us some 300 years after it was written. People had different editions of the book, including one on the Kindle. Some of these were easier to understand being written in more up to date English. If you haven't read it, the group would heartily recommend it.

If you would like to read any of these books you will find them in the church library. There is a separate report for the Church Library in this Annual Report.

The next Book Club meeting will be on 10<sup>th</sup> June when we will discuss "Simply Christian" by Tom Wright. Everyone is welcome to come along

*Anne Pelham*



## **Choir**

Having been blessed with two choir directors for the last few years, last November we sadly had to say farewell to Tom Shorter. After several years of distinguished service to St John's, travelling a significant distance in order to get to Crowthorne, Tom resigned in order to spend more time with his partner Alexis and now, I am pleased to report, young family. Alexis gave birth to a baby girl, as yet unnamed at the time of writing, on 11<sup>th</sup> March. We congratulate the proud parents and wish all three of them the very best for the future!

I agreed to take on the challenge of nurturing and developing the choir full time and musical highlights included Nine Lessons and Carols in 2013 with augmented resources that were very well integrated with our staunch regulars. We were very fortunate to engage the services of a visiting organist, Andy Baldwin, on that occasion. We have introduced an alternative setting of the Eucharist by Peter Nardone for use in the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent, and will be giving a performance of Stainer's '*Crucifixion*' on Good Friday this year.

There were both positives and negatives in terms of Choir membership. Whilst we were extremely happy to welcome Pauline Williamson to the ranks of our Sopranos, we were also sorry to lose the services of Graeme from the tenors and Maggie Woodage from the altos due to work and family commitments. A few of our younger singers have also decided to leave us as they have moved on to Secondary School, or moved away during the University Term. All are greatly missed but this also presents a great opportunity to remind everybody that the choir is open to all and we wish to encourage more singers of all ages and ability to join us. Enthusiasm and enjoyment really are the only prerequisites! I should emphasise that the contribution of our Junior Choir is appreciated and cannot be overstated and therefore we also thank their parents upon whose support we rely throughout the year.

Looking forward, we plan an away day to sing Choral Evensong at St Mary's Northolt in May and would like to continue to engage with the congregation in our services.

### *Our regular Choristers*

Sopranos: Anna, Berenice, Julie, Lia, Pauline, Polly, Sophie, Sue, Summer

Altos: Angelina, Jill, Maggie,

Tenors: Richard

Basses: Bob, Colin, Peter

*David Crowe*

## **Christian Discipleship**

Our Confirmation/discussion groups began at the beginning of March 2013, based on Adult and Junior Emmaus. These covered the basics of our faith from belief in the Trinity as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit to reading the Bible, Prayer, the Sacraments, being a Christian and being Church. We also looked at the Eucharist in detail and at the sacrament of Confirmation in particular. There were lively discussions in both groups and opportunities for proactive learning. These continued after Easter when the young people also took part in a workshop which included an away day in Winchester. They played an active role in the Service next morning, as well. The adults also had an excellent support group. 12 young people and 4 adults were confirmed by the Bishop of Oxford, John Pritchard in Wellington College chapel together with candidates from St. James', Finchampstead. Our Confirmation this year will be at St. Michael's, Sandhurst on June 29<sup>th</sup> 2014 conducted by the Bishop of Reading, Andrew Proud.

In the Autumn, Brian Berry led a series of six workshops on Enneagram Spirituality. There were eleven participants, six from St Johns and five from other parishes. Members were introduced to the Enneagram which is a system for personal and spiritual development whose Christian origins date back to the fourth century desert fathers. A narrative teaching method was used to draw out the differences between the nine Enneagram types and to help participants find their own type. Using the insights of Christian and

St John the Baptist Church – Parish Report 2014

other contemplatives down the ages, participants were encouraged to observe their own type in action, applying the knowledge and techniques of the Enneagram to deepen their spiritual discernment and practice.

Also, the Revd. Canon John Edwards gave a very interesting illustrated talk on 'Pilgrimage' in November which provoked much discussion from those who attended.

We have now reached Lent 2014. The Junior Confirmation classes have begun and so have the Lent study groups run by the Crowthorne Council of Churches. The theme this year is 'Built on the Rock' which starts by looking at faith and doubt and then goes on to consider how Jesus is at the heart of the Christian answer to our questions, as well as is the testimony of many witnesses. Four house groups will be exploring this with members drawn from all the churches in Crowthorne.

There are also opportunities to attend the Lent lectures at St. James', Finchampstead, the Christian Meditation Group (on Mondays throughout the year) and Stations of the Cross at the Church of the Holy Ghost (on Fridays in Lent, followed by a Lenten lunch) as well as the CTC Sunday Lenten evening services.

*Gillian Gyenes*

## **Church Cleaners**

A very big thank you to every one of the volunteers who give up their time to maintain the appearance of our church.

There are currently 45 volunteers on the church cleaning rota plus a rota of MU members who together with Maggie Woodage have kindly agreed to join the monthly rota for cleaning the kitchen. This is an increase of one cleaner on last year's count. There are still gaps on the weekly cleaning schedule so, if you feel that this is a way you could contribute to church life, please talk to Lisa or Jenny McKeever to add your name to the list.

*Jenny McKeever*

*771379*

## **Churches Together in Crowthorne**

Churches Together in Crowthorne are a friendly group who meet together four times a year. There are seven churches involved altogether : Crowthorne Methodists, Crowthorne Baptists, the Holy Ghost Church, St Sebastians, St James, Finchampstead, the Wokingham Vineyard Church and St John the Baptist. The St John's representatives to CTC this year are Christine Rees, Anna Pearce, Jenny McKeever and Hilary Burton who took over as chair at the AGM last September. Lisa resigned as vice chair and this role was taken on by Rita Paxton of the Holy Ghost Church, Carla McLachlan of the Baptist Church and Jenny McKeever of St John's remain as secretary and treasurer respectively.

The Summer activities held on the first five Fridays of the summer school holidays on the Morgan Rec since 2008 have been very successful. In the past Thames Valley Police have been jointly involved with

CTC in organising the activities and have provided the funding. This year TVP are unable to help. A committee has been set up to organise the 2014 events and fund-raising has been kick started by the offer from David Greenwood of the Holy Ghost Church to paint a portrait and donate his fees. If you would like a portrait painted please contact David (774254). If you are able to help either with fund-raising or man-power for an event please let Jill Pope, St John's rep on the organising committee or Hilary, Christine, Jenny, Anna or Lisa know.

The Vineyard Church set up a local foodbank at No 1 Crowthorne High Street over 18 months ago and were able to report that from December 2012 to the end of October 2013, they fed 953 people = 629 adults and 324 children. The organisers were greatly impressed by the donation of 1,797.9 KG of food from the local churches, schools and organisations at harvest time last autumn.

St John's continues to provide helpers to man the Hope Zone Drop-In Centre on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. Louise Truscott and the Hope Zone youngsters supplied most of the manpower for the CTC hog roast at Crowthorne's Late Night Shopping Friday at the beginning of December. However this event is now competing with several other food outlets on the night and will be reviewed for this year.

There was a good turn-out for the carol singing outside the Co-Op held last year on Saturday, 21st December.

Chidamoyo Hospital suffered from a devastating fire last November, thankfully no one was injured and work is now ongoing to rebuild the damaged wing and get the hospital up and running again. Gilly and Mike Withers were heartened by the generous response of local people here to the sad event.

At the time of writing the Lent groups are about to start and thanks must go to Tracy Perrett who has taken over Ken's mantle as organiser while he is in Palestine. We look forward to a good turnout for the "Walk of Witness" on Good Friday which this year starts from the Baptist Church after a short service and finishes with Hot Cross buns at the Methodist Church.

Women's World day of Prayer took place at the Methodist Church on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March and was lead by Carol Frost and Christine Rees with Sue Burrow of the Baptist Church as the speaker.

Christian Aid Week will run from 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May. If you can help to collect even just on your own or a nearby road please contact Jim and Janet Sargent, 01344 780074. The week will start with a 6.00p.m. service at St John's on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

The coffee mornings held at the Methodist Church on a Tuesday and at the Baptist Church on a Thursday allowed a total of £900 to be distributed to the Crowthorne Summer Activities, Crowthorne Foodbank, Chidamoyo Trust, Hope Zone, Corrymeela and to Amy Truscott for her work at Mityana Hospital in Uganda.

We are proud of our links with our fellow Christians in Crowthorne and would encourage you to join in the united services held throughout the year.

*Jenny McKeever*

## **Church Flowers**

The Church Flower arrangers continue to arrange flowers for the Sunday services, except during Lent and Advent. The whole Church is decorated for the festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas, with special arrangements for the Patronal Festival, the Confirmation, if it is at our Church and Remembrance Sunday.

I am very pleased to say that our team of 19 Flower Arrangers has remained the same this year with no-one leaving us. We are a happy bunch of colleagues who work together well and support each other when necessary. For example, it can be quite a daunting prospect doing a special arrangement for a wedding! We are very fortunate to have so many talented flower arrangers in our church family. If any new members of the congregation would like to join us you would be most welcome. Most of us are self

taught and there are plenty of us to help if you have no experience but would like to give flower arranging a try?

Looking back over the year I feel we have had a bumper year of fantastic flower arranging! We have had one beautiful wedding and some stunning arrangements at the various festivals. I would particularly like to thank all the people who gave up hours of their time creating the arrangements for my daughter's wedding last August. I know it is particularly satisfying for the flower arrangers when the event is for members of our church family.

The Mothers' Union continue to donate money for the Lady Chapel flowers, Julia Warnes organises the rota for the Lady Chapel and the flowers are arranged by Mothers' Union members. I would like to thank Mothers' Union and all the church Flowers Arrangers, for their time and talents, in producing such beautiful arrangements throughout the year, for us all to enjoy and enhance our worship.

If you would like to remember a loved one on their anniversary, birthday or other special date by having flowers arranged either at the Remembrance Table or Altar please contact me (01344 776738) or Doreen Norfield (01344 774801).

We have found that the increase in the price of flowers this year has been causing us a problem and some discussion has taken place about reducing the amount of flowers we have in church. A few more donations would be very welcome in an attempt to avoid this situation. I would very much like to thank those people who have made a donation this year particularly the flower arrangers, who I know often give generously with extra flowers.

*Carol Cain*

## **Church Office**

The office is open from 9:30am until 12:30 each Wednesday. We undertake a variety of tasks, such as copying orders of service, St Johns News, and "Praying for Streets" leaflets. We deal with any incoming post, emails and phone messages, and update the automatic door settings.

We have a team of four volunteers who each staff the office once a month – Caroline Grist, Doreen Norfield, Sue Robertson and myself. However, more people often turn up and Shirley Mather comes in to help us most weeks. Thanks to such a willing and able team.

Much of the work depends on our fantastic colour Photocopier and we are always learning about new features as we tackle the various jobs. In February 2014 we will be one year into our 3 year contract.

If you are interested in seeing what we do (or even helping), pop in any Wednesday morning for a coffee and a chat.

*Ken Perrett*

## **Churchyard**

The churchyard and surrounding areas continue to present a major challenge to maintain the appearance and to keep the grass and weeds under control.

The team of Jean Butler, Jill Pope, Andrew King, and Pam Bainbridge meet weekly throughout the year. Progress during 2013 until December has been excellent however there was a slow down during January and February caused by the adverse weather. Despite this the churchyard is reasonably under control, and looking good. We enter a quieter period until May and then everything takes off.

The Garden of Remembrance is installed and well sited.

The annual hedge trimming activity in October involved many volunteers who did a great job. Thank you for all your efforts which contributed hugely to the appearance of the churchyard.

A special thank you to the team named above for their ever present enthusiasm and energy.

*David Bainbridge*

## **Communications Group**

Brian Turner (Chair), Louise Loble (Newsletter), Ken Perrett (Website), Revd Lisa Cornwell, Lenka Butterworth (Support, Posters), Richard Ireson (St. John's News)

The Communication's group is a group in St John's that meets around 4 times a year and has set its remit "to support communications where necessary". Committees in the church are very welcome to approach the team (Contact Brian Turner [mrbgturner@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mrbgturner@yahoo.co.uk)) with their needs should they want support in communicating effectively within the church and outside it.

The group is the assembly of the people who create St John's News, the newsletter, the website, posters and other digital media.

St John's News is produced monthly. The weekly Newsletter is also printed on paper and contains news and events for the church community. Both documents are given out after the church service on a Sunday and are full of interesting content about our church community. The web site reflects much of the same material and can be accessed using the Internet. The Twitter site is used to promote major upcoming events. The church is aware it needs digital media to attract younger people to it.

Over the 2013 year some of the highlights have been :

- 1) Co-ordinated awareness campaign for the May Fair 2013 across all media leading to a very successful fair on a lovely Spring day. Thanks to all who promoted and worked on the May Fair including its committee.
- 2) Transfer of the website and a fresh new look from the old host to being hosted by Simon Butterworth's company host area. The new web site also works on mobile phones. Thanks to Ken and Simon for this magnificent work-stream that took a lot of time and effort.
- 3) Promotion of a mini Fair and a Church stall in the town library area. A new small banner has been created for such events with the church name and details on it.
- 4) A new blog site where you can follow Ken Perrett's trip to Palestine see [kenperrett.blogspot.co.uk](http://kenperrett.blogspot.co.uk).
- 5)

Many thanks to Louise, Lenka, Ken, Richard and Lisa for their hard work over the year keeping the congregation in touch with all of the great events and news from St John's. It is a lot of work and it is appreciated.

**Website** : [crowthorneparishchurch.org.uk](http://crowthorneparishchurch.org.uk)

**Blog site** : [crowthorneparishchurch.blogspot.co.uk](http://crowthorneparishchurch.blogspot.co.uk)

**Twitter** : "follow" @crowthornefair

**Facebook** : [www.facebook.com/crowthornemayfair](http://www.facebook.com/crowthornemayfair)

*Brian Turner*

## ***Deanery Synod***

All the Deanery Synod lay representatives have come to the end of their appointments and in St John's there will be five vacancies to fill for the next three year term of office. One of the very important roles of the Deanery Reps is to vote for the Diocesan and the General Synod representatives in 2015.

There were four Deanery Synods held in the year since April 2013. The Synods are chaired alternatively by the Area Dean and the Lay Chair. David Hodgson resigned as Area Dean in June after nine years service in the role and Martin Hughes is standing down as Lay Chair with all the other Lay representatives in April. Reg Morton also announced his resignation as Deanery Treasurer. Julie Ramsbottom, Rector of St James, Finchampstead, was appointed Area Dean and was introduced to the Synod in a short service led by Bishop Andrew in our church at the November Synod.

As in PCC meetings, Deanery Synods occasionally have visiting speakers to talk about a particular aspect of the Church or the wider world. This year we have had inspirational talks from Maranda St John Nicolle, the Diocesan World Development Adviser, who talked about the work of the Diocesan Partners in World Mission, Bishop Andrew on the theme – "The Church is the living proof of a loving God for a watching world" and Jessica Hall of Christian Aid who told us that almost 70% of their donations come from the collections during Christian Aid week and throughout the year.

The Parish/Deanery/Diocesan new share plan has caused some interesting debate at the Synods this year with several parishes not able or not wanting to pay their full parish share resulting in a shortfall by Sonning Deanery in meeting its Diocesan share. The new Archdeacon of Berkshire, the Venerable Olivia Graham, wrote to the Deanery to point out that the shortfall this year covered the cost of 2.2 paid ministers and would have to be addressed. Julie was able to conclude the year on a positive note that help and advice will be offered to those parishes which were not able to raise the funds to pay their share in full and arrangements could be put in place for those parishes which are refusing to pay their shares to be responsible directly to the Diocese.

*Jenny McKeever*

## ***Fabric Committee***

### This year's challenges:

- Monitoring of the new heating system especially since a fault has occurred on one of the boilers
- Obtaining a Diocesan approved Architect
- Implementing a full Quinquennial inspection
- Replacing the flashings and re-bedding the copings to the hall roof

### Successes

- Appointment of CBS Ltd to work with us to maintain the heating systems
- Ken's successful delivery of the 'Garden of Remembrance'
- Continued sharing of the heating programming between key members of the Fabric Team – to allow shared knowledge and the burden of delivering heat to the congregational use of the Church Building (anyone interested in joining this team – would be **very** gladly welcomed!
- Electrical maintenance survey carried out successfully
- Annual Fire Extinguisher contract set in place

- In house repairs delivered to internal folding wall partition to the hall saving the parish a great deal of money
- Hedge cutting carried out on time and with gusto once more

### Future

- Maintenance contract to be negotiated and secured with CBS Ltd to oversee the whole building – Church and Hall heating systems combined under one professional and modern maintenance standard agreement
- The FC are there to be supporting and to help where needed the separate committee created by Ken and his team on the proposed work/planning to help to implement the next major project to deliver the Audio Visual System upgrade within the building
- Overseeing the work to replace the hall roof covering, with guidance from our Architect this work has started with 3 quotes being asked for from local contractors to hopefully carry out this overdue work this summer
- Thinking and agreeing future strategies for short, medium and long term issues as discovered from the Quinquennial

*Mike Thackray*

## **Fairs**

### **May Fair**

#### Successes

- Tried and tested streamlined committee to procure the event works well
- We made a little over £9,300 (including a generous match-funding donation of £750 from Barclays Bank).
- Reduced Bouncy Castle area meant profits were not eroded as much as in previous years.
- Beer tent sold out of all their stocks
- Ice cream stall needed replenishing twice and a good link was forged with Lidl's to keep stocks for us on the day in their freezers in case we needed them. This is another example of great local outreach and co-operation from the community.
- Clear roles defined for committee members to split up responsibilities
- Superb outreach to the local community delivered every year
- We invested in 3 pop-up gazebos and are now self sufficient on supplying our own tables have also invested in redundant stock to deliver the 2013 event.
- Incredible amount of money secured each year through innovative and simple fundraising methods both before the event and on the day

#### Future

- Is there another way that we can bring the same amount of money in each year with other fundraising events?
- The event is a great spectacle for the village but the pressure annually on the committee is proving to be increasingly stressful to deliver.
- Mike steps down as Chair having led the last 4 years, but remains on the committee.

- Dave Rance takes the helm with continued key roles being delivered by Sarah Dewson, Diana Gray, Graeme Muirhead, Jon and Karen Grainger
- Congregational support and togetherness on the day is well worth while the heart ache and stress in bringing this event together and many thanks must be given to each and everyone that attends and mucks in on behalf of St. Johns every year.

For more information use this link on our website to see what happened in even more detail:

[http://www.crowthorneparishchurch.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=39&Itemid=79](http://www.crowthorneparishchurch.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=39&Itemid=79)

***Mike Thackray***

### ***Mini Advent Fair***

The Mini Advent Fair has now become an annual event in our pre Christmas calendar. It was run on Advent Sunday in the Church Hall following the 10.00 am service. The event was again very well supported and enjoyed. Overall, we raised over £750, which includes donations following the Event as well as what we realised on the day. Thankyou to all those who contributed their time and their talents to make it such a success. This money is much needed for the day to day running of the Church.

***Gillian Gyenes***

### ***Fair Trade***

I would like to thank all of you who buy the goods from our Fair trade stall; you bought around £900.00 worth of food goods in the last year, which is about the same as the year before. We try to hold a stall twice a month but with so many events at Church we are not able to hold the stall on regular Sundays each month.

We buy our goods from Traidcraft , this spring they have introduced the world's first Fairtrade marked household cleaning range. Unfortunately so far we have been unable to obtain any. This is because the demand for these goods has exceeded Traidcraft's expectation and supply. With luck they will appear on the stall before the APCM. We hope you will like them.

Some people still think that Fair Trade goods mean poor quality goods. If you have not tried any for a while please do, you may be surprised. Supporting fair trade gives a life line to the people who grow, harvest and process such things, from amongst others, nuts, fruits, sugar, coco, olives and wine. Despite being successful in some areas, such as bananas, Fairtrade products still only represent less than one per cent of global trade in most categories. Making a small change to buying Fairtrade can make a big difference to some of the poorest people in the world some of whom are our fellow Christians.

And finally, I would like to thank everyone who helps on the Fair trade stall after the services.

***Anne Pelham***



## **GLorEE**

This Christmas GLorEE is three years old and coming along in leaps and bounds! The basic principle of what we do is to have fun singing songs we all love and offering them up to God in worship. We also love sharing our songs with people whether it's at a special service in Church, out on the Morgan Rec at the May Fair, with the residents of Oak Lodge or the shoppers at Holme Grange. Any excuse, we'll sing!

Our rehearsals take place on a Wednesday evening in the Church Hall from 7pm for about an hour. As well as using downloaded backing tracks, we also sing acapello or accompanied by an acoustic guitar. We don't read music – we feel the music. When we first start learning a song, we tend to just sing the melody. But what we find over time is that the song develops in its own special way (we call it "being GLorEEfied!") with different harmonies and changes in tempo and sometimes even words.

This Advent we have shared our singing with the Mother's Union, Holme Grange, Oak Lodge, The Homestead and Pinehurst. We will also be singing at the Crib Service and who knows where else we may pop up! We have given any donations which we have received this Advent to the charity DEBRA.

As our repertoire increases so is our confidence in taking our singing out into the community. In 2014 we will be singing once again at the bi-annual Flower Festival as well as at the May Fair, a number of Church services and hopefully more community events. We have also been asked to sing at our very first wedding!

So if you are interested in joining us or finding out more then please contact Zella by email [zella@geminus.net](mailto:zella@geminus.net) or call 0771 9300167.

*Zella Barrett*

## **Library**

I am pleased to say that many in the congregation continue to donate books to the library. We have so many now that there is not enough space on the bookshelves for them all. I have to move them around, put out books that are particularly relevant at various times of the year, such as Advent and Lent. So do keep browsing the library, as the books do change. To borrow a book all you need to do is sign it out, and then sign the book back in when you return it. We have no late fees! Take as long as you like to read the book. There are still some very nice bookmarks; please help yourself when you borrow a book.

Many thanks to everyone who has donated books to the library.

*Anne Pelham*

## **Minus Fives**

No change has happened with the format of Minus Fives. Families enjoy having the service in Church still, and we are still using the whole space as often as possible.

There are now a number of mums taking turns reading the stories each week, and Pat Steer is now sharing the piano rota with Jackie Pearce.

We currently have £294 in donations, this has been used to buy a number of new story books as well as keeping our craft supplies in stock.

No toys have been purchased due to several donations.

New posters have been put up around the village several times over the year. This has brought many new children to the group. The new welcome letter has been helpful to these families.

There is still a need for another person to help with weekly planning and set-up. Samantha Hammersley is now working and unable to commit any time to the group. My own job is likely to demand more in September, and I cannot guarantee my availability each week.

Thanks go to everyone who helps each week. Jean Butler and Tracy Perrett for keeping the coffee flowing. Ken Perrett, Alex Woodage and Grant Robertson for tackling the chair store each week. Lisa and David for their support and input in the service each week, and Christine for moral support and weekly encouragement.

*Maggie Woodage*

## **Missions Committee**

The Missions Committee has the responsibility of co-ordinating our direct support for the seven Christian missions, which we support on a regular basis. These missions and their representatives for the past year have been, Church Mission Society (CMS) – Claire Taylor, The Leprosy Mission - Wendy Allerton; Missions to Seafarers - Brian Hooper; The Corrymeela Community – Diana Gray; Church Army - Gini Cope; the Bible Society - Jenny Sanders and Hopezone – Maureen Raybould. In 2011, St. John's donated £1,555.55 representing 12½ % of planned giving to the first six of the above missions apart from Hopezone. As Hopezone stated that for that year our donation was not needed, the money was donated instead to St George's Church Baghdad.

Sheila Clapham looks after activities for The Helen and Douglas Houses in Oxford which receives occasional donations, as in 2013, from the bucket collection on Christ the King Sunday.

While it does not receive a direct donation from the Church, Tracy Perrett represents the Children's Society on our committee. The Christingle Service this year raised £404, but for the full picture please see the Children's Society report.

We also support The Dayspring School in Jinja, Uganda from the surplus from the Sunday morning coffee money and St George's Church Baghdad, and the Chidomoyo Hospital in Zimbabwe by occasional events/collections.

We have Missions preachers at the 10am and sometimes the 8am services on a rolling programme from all the Missions we support, and other missions in which we have a particular interest. In April Janet Smith visited to speak about the Dayspring School at Jinja in Uganda. In July Bishop Bill Down preached about the Missions to Seafarers and in October Captain Patrick Samuels and his wife visited to preach on behalf of the Church Army. On Christ the King Sunday we had a preacher from Helen and Douglas Houses, and the bucket collection on that day raised £570. On that day we also had our usual Missions display with a very successful quiz. In February 2014 Martin Pitman from the Leprosy Mission spoke to us and several people wished to make an additional contribution to the work done by the Leprosy Mission; this amounted to £73.88. Also in February Gilly Withers from the Church of the Holy Ghost came to speak, she focussed mainly on supporting Churches Together in Crowthorne and in particular the Lent Study Groups, but she also gave us an update on the Chidomoyo Hospital Charity which she founded and told us about the catastrophic fire at the hospital at the end of last year. There was a retiring collection in aid of the hospital and £270.37 was raised.

We had a Christmas Giving Tree, which raised £299 towards the cost of presents for the children supported by the Church Army in Kidbrooke South East London. This is one of the most deprived areas in the EEC.

Our annual (this year a Pre-) Lent Lunch was held on Sunday 2nd March, this year to raise funds for St George's Church Baghdad, where life is still so difficult with constant bombings and people reluctantly leaving Iraq to live in other parts of the world. The members of the committee donate all the food and so every penny of the total raised, £390 will go to St George's. The Lent Lunch is now established as a regular event in our church calendar and seems very popular with the congregation. As last year we were grateful to the GlorEE who entertained during the period between the end of coffee and the start of the lunch.

The committee contributes regular articles to St John's news and more information about the missions we support can be found on the website.

The committee are a wonderful, hard working group and I would like to thank them for all they have done in this past year to support their own and the other projects mentioned in this report. They will always be very pleased to tell you more about the societies we support, so please ask them.

*Hazel Berry*

## **Children's Society**

The Children's Society is one of the missions supported by St John's. Unlike those that receive a fixed share of the church's annual income, money is raised for the Children's Society at St John's in a number of ways:

- through the annual Christingle Service
- sale of Christmas Cards
- individual collection boxes
- community boxes
- ad-hoc fundraising activities

The Children's Society is a Christian charity committed to helping vulnerable and disadvantaged young people of all faiths and none.

Important areas of their work currently include:

- Helping young runaways and refugees
- Ensuring that individual disabled children are given a voice
- Providing expert services in the area of youth justice
- Supporting children and young people through schools work, children's centres and mentoring schemes
- Providing support for Traveller and Gypsy children
- Giving advice to children and young people who are affected by adult drug and alcohol misuse, as well as young carers.

Once again, the total amount raised through our work here at St John's is up on the previous year. The breakdown of how this has been achieved is shown below:

Box collections	£418.65
Christingle service	£404.08 (including £47.75 Gift Aid)
Donations	£108.57
Christmas card sales profit	£353.60
Community Boxes	£ 37.66
<b>Total raised</b>	<b><u>£1,322.56</u></b>

Many thanks to everyone who give so generously of their time and money in supporting the Children's Society and its invaluable work.

*Tracy Perrett*

## **Mothers' Union**

Crowthorne Mothers' Union continues to meet twice a month, on the first Tuesday evening at 8pm and on the second Wednesday at 2.15pm. This past year we have had a wide selection of meetings and speakers, and we have been able to use some of our own members to lead events. We are so very fortunate to have so many talented members in our branch.

Last year our Diocese had a new President – Gillian Johnson, we also had a new Worldwide President – Lynne Tembey. We remember them both in our prayers as they continue in their roles. Lynne is an excellent speaker and she attended our 2013 Winter Meeting at Benson.

On March 27th our Lady Day service was held in the evening at St James' Finchampstead, which is a special place, and we were pleased to have the service there, our speaker was the Rev. Louise Brown.

The MU 'Wave of Prayer' will take place during the week of 11<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> June. Our Diocesan Summer Meeting / s will be held during July and our Diocesan Winter meeting will be held at Benson in November. Our national AGM will be held in Belfast in June.

Our Branch here in Crowthorne is very fortunate, as we have a good membership, and we are able to be very active within our church, helping with the Mother and Toddler service, the Sunday crèche, Mothering Sunday and the May Fair and Advent Fair, as well as providing flowers in the Lady Chapel every week. We still help out fortnightly at Woodmancote, our village Daycentre, which is a valuable part of our work. We have fund raised successfully throughout the year for various MU projects.

Our Branch outing last June, a trip to the Poppy Factory in Richmond followed by a pub lunch, was very worthwhile and taught us a lot, it was much enjoyed by all who came along, we even made our own poppies! Later in June we enjoyed sharing our annual Afternoon Tea in the church hall and our Social Evening in July is always much enjoyed and well attended.

The fun and fellowship we all share, and the support we give to each other is very special, and we would welcome any new members from our congregation to join us, We very much want the Mothers' Union here to go from strength to strength and hopefully increase our membership for the future. The committee works very hard which makes my job so much easier, and I am most grateful to them.

Please come and find out more about the Mothers' Union which is a truly wonderful international organisation with branches in 78 countries, I would be more than happy to tell you all about us. The Mothers' Union doesn't just offer monthly meetings with friends; it changes lives, bringing love and justice to families wherever it reaches.

Prayers and Blessings

I would like to share with you the Mothers' Union Prayer:

Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

*Carol Frost  
Branch Leader, Crowthorne*

## **Outreach**

The committee is pleased to have welcomed new and younger members in the hope and aim of developing ideas for younger members and families with links to our church and in the wider community. We have made positive progress in initiating a date in September to introduce a similar idea to "Messy church"

Several Church members volunteer their assistance with the Hope Zone "Drop-in" afternoons for local youth at the Baptist church. Last year, St. John's took responsibility for craft work on one Friday during the summer activities on the Morgan centre field. We now have a member of the Outreach Committee involved in the planning for this year's event.

We will continue to work collectively with other sub-committees to advertise events and to be a positive force in communication to the wider community.

*Rev David Ramsbottom*

## **Pastoral Group**

We continue to act as a support group for those already in a caring role in the various committees, organisations and groups at St. John's. We meet every other month at the house of Maggie Wade having representatives from Baptism Befrienders, the choir, Minus 5's, Mothers Union, Pastoral visiting, Pathfinders and Sunday School. We are very grateful to Maggie Woodage for the time she gives to running Minus 5's and we do hope that someone will come forward to assist her. It is good to have a younger member of the group, Eleanor Pandya who is now on the P.C.C and represents the Pathfinders. We enjoy hearing about their plans.

Jean Butler and Tracy Perrett provide the coffee each week for those attending the 10 am service on Wednesday. They then serve the refreshments at Minus 5's. People are very generous with their donations for coffee and we have been able to give the treasurer £100 for church funds and £100 for the restoration fund.

The Pastoral Visiting group also meets every other month and the Welcome Table, which is manned after the 10 am service on Sunday mornings, works well.

*Christine Rees*

## ***Pathfinders***

In the past year our Pathfinders have continued their journey of faith and have expressed it through their words and actions. This year we have established a Pathfinder Leadership Team made up of a number of our 16-18 year olds. One member of the team leads the main discussion and associated activity. This is proving to be a really successful formula for developing communication and cooperation between all members of Pathfinders.

At our Sunday worship we have explored a wide range of subjects. In addition to discussions on the special times of the Church year, we have explored gospel readings of the liturgy and talked about things such as:

- how we view others;
- Nelson Mandela;
- why do we have our faith?;
- characters in the bible;
- stereotyping people in the bible

The Pathfinders also contribute to the worship at St John's through their participation in Youth services, Harvest Festival, the Crib Service, Fathers' Day and Mothering Sunday services. In addition, a number of the Pathfinders are part of the acolyte team, whilst others sing either in the Choir or in the GLorEE Group. Once again they sang hymns, made cakes, served tea and washed up at the Tea and Favourite Hymns service. At Christmas Pathfinders joined with Glore in leading a really lovely CTC Christmas service at Pinehurst.

Pathfinders have also engaged more with our church leadership groups; two Pathfinders are now members of the PCC (Jade Turner & Eleanor Pandya) and Shaun Rance has joined the Outreach Committee.

We are indeed fortunate to have such a wonderful group of young people here at St John's. Many thanks to each and every one of them for all that they contribute to our Church.

*Tracy Perrett and David Rance*

## ***Prayer Groups***

### ***Mothers Union Prayer Group***

The Mothers' Union (MU) prayer group continues to meet on the third Monday of each month from 9.30am - 10am in the Lady Chapel (or in the vestry if it is very cold). Any MU and church members are very welcome. We divide our time praying for our overseas link diocese, and Provinces abroad. All our members receive a prayer diary (there is usually a copy kept in the foyer), guiding us in our daily prayers, and keeping us informed of the Mothers' Union worldwide. We pray for the sick, remembering those on our prayer board, and we pray for our meetings and seasonal events. We finish our time as the siren at Broadmoor echoes round the village, reminding us that all the staff and inmates there need our prayers.

Prayers and Blessings

*Carol Frost*

### ***Prayers for Healing and the Sick***

This group meets every Friday from 6.15 – 6.45, usually in the Lady Chapel, to pray for those on the Prayer Board, on the notice sheet and for any others known to us and for their families. Anyone is very welcome to join us from time to time or as a regular member of the group. Please continue to give us your prayer requests. We know the prayers are valued and even if you can't be there in person, perhaps it would be a good time to pray for someone special to you, as we pray for the parish and beyond. An update of the prayer requests is always appreciated.

*Gillian Gyenes*

### ***Praying for Streets***

The background, for those who don't know about Praying for Streets and just hear about it in the prayer intercessions on a Sunday, is that we endeavour to leaflet a particular street and then pray for that street the week after. It takes just over a year to cover all the streets in the Parish.

Sometimes we receive a note saying how much this is appreciated.

We want to thank all those who kindly deliver the leaflets. If there is anyone else who would like to assist with delivering the leaflets then please do speak to us.

*Mary Harwood and Anne Pelham*

### ***Servers***

First of all, thanks are gratefully recorded to all those servers who have contributed to our worship over the past year. Sadly we lost two as they started new careers and one who is now a valuable Sunday School teacher. Another will be off to university in the Autumn.

Somehow we never seem to get any senior servers joining our ranks and we rely on being able to recruit via our junior confirmation candidates. Last year we gained six out of twelve (two were already committed choir members) but not enough with their busy lives to provide a team every week. The opportunity to start as an Acolyte is discussed when they get to the session entitled "The Church" in their classes.

Please consider becoming an altar server whether at our 8 o'clock said services, occasional weekday celebrations or, of course, the weekly 10 o'clock Eucharist.

If you feel this might be a worship role for you (after all most people who read this regularly attend our services anyway), please speak to myself or any member of the ministry team.

*Chris Williams*

## **Social Committee**

The Social committee organised five main events this year, spread throughout the year plus providing support for a further nine events in terms of refreshments and manpower.

Last year it was the turn of St Johns to host the traditional hot cross buns and tea/coffee following the Walk of Witness on Good Friday. The day was rather chilly and the refreshments were gratefully received by about 70 people from all denominations.

A retro evening was held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013 when food from 1960s and 1970s was served to the tunes of the day. A TV theme tune quiz was also held. Many attending entered the spirit of the occasion with clothes reminiscent of the era – or even from the era !!!! The raffle also had echoes of the time with Black Magic chocolates and even a spider plant.

The weather held fair if a little cool and breezy for the annual patronal Barbecue held in the Vicarage garden on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Andy and Edward Martin stepped in as Barbecuers helped by Brian Turner. Richard Ireson ran the bar and the usual fayre of sausages and burgers were obtained from Dopsons and strawberries from Grays Farm. Many thanks to the Scouts for the loan of their barbecue. A note has been made for extra barbecuing space and more hands to help set up tables etc. for next year. We were able to celebrate David's "priesting"(which was the previous day) at this event with his family in attendance and although the numbers were down– possibly due to weather – it was an enjoyable and memorable occasion. Over the summer break the team supported the Café Eucharist and the dedication of the Garden of Remembrance with refreshments. Further support was lent to the Ride and Stride on 14<sup>th</sup> September by way of provision of cakes and teas to those who came to the church.

Autumn brought the traditional harvest supper with the diners having to "sing for their supper" accompanied by Irene Simmons. We thank her for her support.

An 8 meets 10 @ 9 breakfast was held in October to bring the two "halves" of the congregation together. The date gave no-one any excuses not to attend as it was held on the day that the clocks changed enabling the 10 o'clockers to have a lie in and breakfast. By the time you read this another 8 meets 10 @ 9 will have been held on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

A skittles evening was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November with Fish and Chip supper. This was enjoyed by all – both those who won and those who got the wooden spoons.

Refreshments have also been served after the Nine lessons and Carols and Crowthorne Orchestra concert in December and the Café Eucharist in February 2014.

A second children's Chocolate Bingo was held in February 2014 which increased in popularity over last year with 37 children attending. Some have even already asked to come next year! Children from the Sunday school, Church of England school and their friends were invited to attend as well as grandchildren and neighbours of the congregation. It proved to be a great outreach opportunity and was very enjoyable. Parents, grandparents and guardians were also catered for.

In total the Social Committee raised just under £1000 for church funds over the year. This could not be done without the unstinting help of the committee members: Jill Pope, Rosemary Simpson, Sheila Clapham, Jenny McKeever, Richard Ireson, Louise Lobley, June Lee and Kay Martin. My thanks as chair go to them all and all "extras" that help too.

Kay is to step down as Chair this summer and a new chair is to be found and further committee members to be recruited if possible. Any volunteers please step forward!

New ideas and suggestions for events are always gratefully received.

*Kay Martin*



## ***Stewardship***

I should like to thank members of the Stewardship Committee for all their hard work this year and in particular Colin Rosekilly for his excellent article in the March edition of St. John's News. If you have not read it yet may I recommend it to you? Thanks also go to Rev. David Ramsbottom for his thought provoking address on the First Sunday in Lent, our Stewardship Sunday. If you missed the sermon it is available on our website [www.crowthorneparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.crowthorneparishchurch.org.uk) and well worth a read.

However, our biggest thanks go to you the parishioners of this Parish of St John the Baptist for your continual and unstinting generosity in giving to our church here in Crowthorne. Our church and its mission depend on the dedication and generosity of each and every one of us.

Thank You.

*Steve Pope*

## ***St John's News***

Again SJN was produced for 11 months of the year (except August). The Parish has been wonderfully supportive in providing copy and the editor tries to ensure that all in the Parish who wish to use its pages are given ready access. Each main edition tends to run to 8-10 pages. A more coordinated approach to planning its contents and presentation has been taken by the work of the Communications Group and this has served to enhance the production and consistent presentation of the News. The editor also coordinates with the Louise Loblely who produces the weekly news sheet and hopefully between them the two publications provide most of the information that the Parish need. The content is also helpfully repackaged by Ken Perrett to support the information on the website and there is a growing electronic distribution. It is also distributed via the C of E School.

Again we are grateful to Irene Simmons for her tireless work in producing an extra 4 pages for the **Prayer Diary**. This contains thoughtful and relevant material for the whole of the month and provides an excellent basis for thinking about a relevant prayerful approach within the Parish. We also appreciate the interesting interviews by Maureen Raybould.

The volunteers in the Parish Office have worked hard to print SJN and their efforts are greatly appreciated. About 220 paper copies are usually produced in monochrome.

*Richard Ireson*  
*Editor*

## ***The Net – St. John’s Children’s Church***

The Sunday School was re-branded as ‘The Net – St John’s Children’s Church’ in January of this year in order to give it a more contemporary feel and to move away from the idea that children attend so that they can continue their weekly learning on Sundays and towards the fact that it is a great way to get to know God through various activities carried out in a fun environment.

Bit by bit all supporting paperwork has been changed to ‘The Net’ and all references to Sunday School have also been amended on the Church’s website as well. We are in the process of printing a free-standing banner that will be placed in the foyer welcoming children to join us while the main Sunday service takes place at 10.00.

By the end of the summer term the names of the three groups will change but to what has yet to be agreed. However, names under consideration include dolphins, whales, minnows, stingrays and sharks.

Additionally, and in principal, we have been allowed to attach a piece of tennis net type netting to the wall that backs onto the room that houses the Creche and we plan to install it once the Fabric Committee has seen and approved what we would like to use. It will be used to hang fish shaped name tags for all of the children, together with other things on an ad hoc weekly basis as appropriate. When not in use the netting will be pulled back out of the way to hang behind the piano in the corner of the room.

The Net now has a three year rolling teaching programme that went live in January 2014. It has been devised using topics tried and tested over the past 4 years and contains subjects from all areas of the Old and New Testament that the teachers were able to find good, engaging and fun supporting material for. The programme includes well known stories such as the Creation, Moses and Noah and topics such as Saints and their Festivals, Parables, Fruits of the Spirit and Miracles performed by Jesus. Each term’s programme will be circulated ahead of time and will include companion notes giving back ground information/story outlines and a list of useful websites. So far, new volunteers have reported that they feel more able to contribute and less nervous about helping/leading and this may have helped encourage new volunteers to come forward.

The introduction of a parent rota has proved successful and very popular and new parents have stepped up and joined The Net teaching crew from within its ranks.

We said a fond farewell to Sharon Gibson who leaves us after over 10 years and we sent her on her way with all our love and gratitude. Although Jayne Clark has stepped back from helping on Sundays and hosting our termly meetings, she will still be involved by sending out emails to the parents telling them key information such as term dates and weekly topics.

We welcome Susie Pope who has been helping out over the last term or so and who will now be actively involved, planning activities and leader sessions, together with brands new leaders Michelle Field, Zoe Jarvis, Anna Kennedy and Lindsay Cooper.

Currently in total we have ten Net Teachers and a further three volunteers happy to step in every now again as needed, plus Ken Perrett helps us by doing Godly Plays for us and Tom Burrell uses his singing and signing skills to encourage the children to perform various well known songs.

Finally, there are 73 children registered at The Net and approximately 20 children attend each week, many of these are regulars but in recent history we have had as many as 35 attend in one week. This year we will be sending 8 of our children from year 6 to confirmation classes.

## **Welcome Team**

### **8.00a.m.**

Andrew King, Sally King, Bob Ebdon, Alan Jackson,  
Willoughby Jones, Rosemary Jones, Kath Coutts,  
Mary Clark, Barry Brewster, Richard Ireson.

### **10a.m. and extra services as required**

David Chater-Lea, Doreen Norfield, Sheila Stickland, Guy Sutherland, Penny Rickards, David Rance,  
Ann Cottrell, Ken Perrett, Carol Frost, Mike Thackray, Carol Cain, Jill Pope,  
Julie Sharpe, Keith Wilkinson, Chris Stephens, Tom Burrell, Grant Robertson, Susan Robertson,  
Tom Lewis, Brian Turner, Bruce McKenzie-Boyle, Marjorie Watson, Kathy Beard, Daphne Bass,  
Peter Wright, Adrienne Wright, Shirley Mather, Tom Jasper, Lorraine Jasper, Simon Butterworth.

This year Lorraine Jasper has decided to stand down after several years as a Welcome Team member, thank you for your service Lorraine. During the year Maureen Raybould and Frank Sier joined Peter Wright's team but have decided not to continue. This means that we need two ladies and one man to complete the 10 a.m. rota.

Thank you to all Welcome Team members for their commitment during the year. The Welcome Teams continue to play an important part in Church life in helping to make the services run smoothly and particularly in welcoming people who are new to the Church.

*Doreen Norfield*

## **Website**

The Church website is updated weekly with the Sunday sermon, the news sheet and the services for the coming week. Once a month the articles from St Johns News are used to refresh many of the pages.

Campaigns are now being coordinated through the Communications Group to achieve more consistency across the various publicity media.

There is also link to our website on "A Church near you" ([www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)) and on "Christmas near you" ([www.christmasnearyou.com](http://www.christmasnearyou.com)).

During 2013 the Diocese announced that they would no longer host the website. Simon Butterworth of SIBIT kindly offered to host the site and in January 2014 he completed the process of migrating it to the new home. Since the migration the website has a fresh new look and also works well on mobile phones. Many thanks to Simon and to Brian Turner who provides technical support for the website software.

*Ken Perrett*