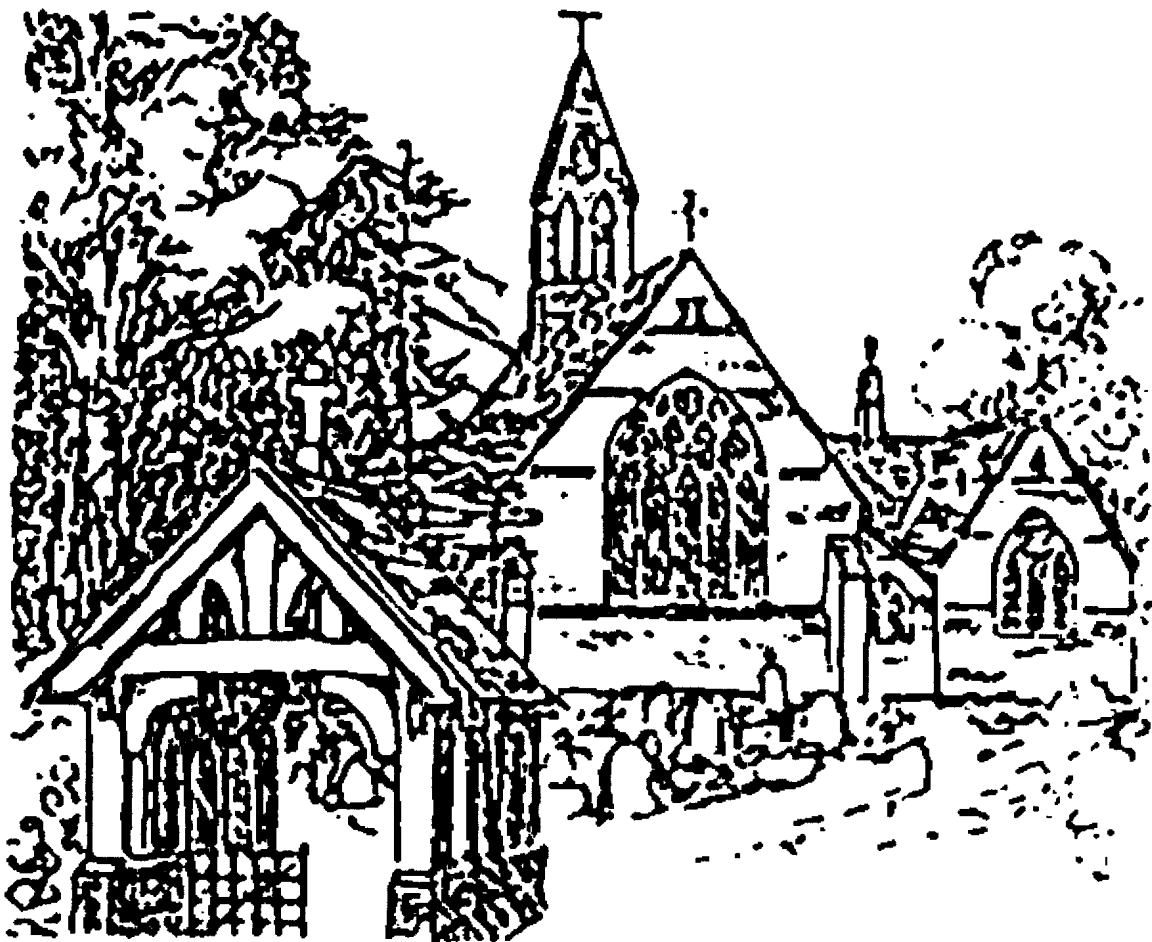


St John the Baptist Parish Church
Crowthorne

Annual Report 2014 - 2015



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CROWTHORNE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS to be held on Sunday, April 26th 2015 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 2014
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 26th 2015 in the Parish Church Hall.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Parish
2. Matters Arising from the Minutes
3. Parish Vision Update
4. Update on Renovation Projects
5. Approval of the Annual Report and Accounts
6. Report on changes of numbers on electoral roll.
7. Presentation of Parish Reports
8. Elections
 - a. Parochial Church Council
 - b. Deanery Synod
9. Appointments
 - c. Hon Secretary
 - d. Hon Treasurer
 - e. Hon Independent Examiner
 - f. Welcome Teams
10. Notices
11. Closing prayers

AGENDA of FIRST PCC MEETING (to follow APCM on SUNDAY, APRIL 26th)

1. Minutes of the PCC meeting of the 11th March 2015
2. Matters Arising from the Minutes
3. Committee Membership.
4. Dates of meetings for the year.
5. Health and Safety
6. Correspondence

7. 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)
Mary Harwood (Hon Secretary)

**Meeting of Parishioners held after 10.00am service on Sunday 27th
April 2014**

Opening prayers

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Beccy Al Jadir, Rosemary Jones, Doreen Norfield, Rev'd David Ramsbottom, Sue Robertson, Irene Simmons, Sheila Smith, Bob Wade, Maggie Wade.

Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the Parishioners meeting held on Sunday April 28th 2013 were proposed by Anna Pearce and seconded by Gillian Gyenes.
Lisa signed the Minutes as a true record

Election of Churchwardens

With regret Karl Simpson has resigned due to ill health. Our grateful thanks were recorded to Karl for his time as Churchwarden.

Anne Mohan has agreed to continue as Churchwarden, Anne was nominated by Grant Robertson and Laszlo Gyenes seconded the nomination. All voted in favour of Anne remaining as Churchwarden, there were no abstentions.

Anna Pearce has agreed to stand as Churchwarden, Anna was nominated by Anne Mohan and Christine Rees seconded the nomination. All voted in favour of Anna as our Churchwarden, there were no abstentions.

There was a round of applause for Anna

David Rance has agreed to continue as Deputy Churchwarden. A round of applause was given to David.

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday April
27th 2014**

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by David Butler seconded by Sarah Dewson 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

David Rance gave an illustrated presentation of the present state of our Parish Vision which was launched at the APCM five years ago. At the end of last year the PCC reviewed the priorities for 2013 and were requested to set priorities for 2014. At the start of this year our priorities were identified.

Our five targets are:

Christ and the Church, the development of leadership – 7 actions

Church: responsible stewardship to resource the vision – 6 actions

Church: enrich parish relationships through social events.

Community to become better known, more inclusive and offer the warmth and hospitality of God – 5 actions

Creation: passionate about global justice – 4 actions

The individual committees responded to a questionnaire and we looked at them at our meeting in January. They included targets and actions, developing leadership, developing ideas, Messy Church was looked at. Other ideas included house groups, PCC away days and general participation in church events. School Out was identified this year and creating leaders for Sunday Church and caring for the community. This is all on-going. In 2014 we will be looking at possibility of a Friends scheme. Our social events are encouraging and include the congregation and external people who join us. We want to improve our Time and Talents forms

In the Community we want to market our message. The May Fair is led by St. John's and we make this known and the scouts and others join us for this.

Creation – passionate about global justice – Ken Perrett and his team have been involved in Kairos Britain and as a parish we are starting to share in this. We are also seeking other opportunities to raise awareness.

Lisa thanked David for his clear presentation.

4. Vicar's sabbatical feedback

Lisa began her sabbatical on 6th January at Loyola Hall, near Liverpool with a silent retreat of 30 days. She completed the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and it was based on the life of Christ. St. Ignatius was a Spanish nobleman turned saint. Lisa said it had been her ambition to undertake this since training in Spiritual Direction and Ignatian Spirituality during her curacy. It involved praying with scripture. She was able to partake of Holy Communion every day. In all it was an intense and powerful experience.

During the half term she had a mini break in York with Mike and attended York Minster.

Then it was back to study leave and her part-time doctorate at Kings College which is at the thesis stage. The research question ‘Ego development or ego denial: Is there a Christian case for a healthy ego?’

At the weekends there was time to visit friends and families and worship in other churches. Most churches were not in the same league for the welcome set up at St. John’s and certainly not with regard to the website. She was able to attend the Diocesan Clergy ‘Imagining Faith’ Conference at this time. One of the speakers there was an amazing woman bishop from the Church in New Zealand.

At the end of her sabbatical was the holiday in Australia with Mike. They visited Cairns – inner coral reef; Ayres rock, Sydney and Melbourne where Mike had family. They came back via Bali.

5. Update on Renovation Projects

Mike Thackray gave an update on the **Church Hall Roof** repairs. Mike said he had worked together with Anne Mohan and they were now ready to let the contract. The procedure laid down by the Diocese had been followed - we do have a Diocesan Architect but it would be too expensive to use him; he has suggested we look at it ourselves. Three contractors were contacted and given similar specifications. One of them looked favourable. Mike and Anne would be meeting them again and getting references. Regarding the faculty side we have put up the public notices required and no objections have been received to date. We have received approval of the work from the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) and now need to submit more detailed information to the Diocese to obtain the faculty. We hope the work will begin in August. We will work together with them and be able to carry on as normal. Mike reminded everyone that they would be needed at a later stage when the interior of the hall is tackled and he was aware that at a later stage the organ will need to be looked at.

Anne Mohan pointed out that it is the flat roof we are replacing not the pyramid roof.

Lisa said the finance had been approved, there was money from the Trust Fund that we can use. Lisa thanked Mike for his presentation

Ken Perrett made a short presentation on the current status of the **Audio-Visual (AVS) Project**. He presented the tasks of the AVS group and the progress to date, followed by a summary of the latest set of AVS requirements as approved by the PCC. He then outlined the next steps to be taken.

Following the presentation Steve Pope asked if

- (i) we could have built into the contract some training
- (ii) it could be future proofed as cd’s and dvd’s are now being replaced by access to the internet.

Ken replied that training would be included and he envisaged 5 people would be trained. It has to be ‘user friendly’ to operate with pre-sets which could be changed.

Regarding future proofing – most is audio and visual sockets. They must plug into the sockets, we will have to review and buy as up to date as we can. It will be more future proofed than what we have at the moment.

Carol Frost asked if we could have a help package.

Lisa thanked Ken for his hard work and there was a round of applause for Ken

6. Approval of Annual Report and Accounts

Richard Ireson started his presentation of the accounts by referring to the summary analysis he had distributed to those present.

Following the successful stewardship campaign the voluntary income rose by £7.5K plus £31K in one off cheques. The May Fair was more successful last year than in 2012.

On the costs side the Parish share increased slightly to £83K. Major works expenditure of £10K was considerably down on the previous year when the new heating system was installed.

The value of the assets at the start of the year was down on the previous year due to the major expenditure on the heating system, however this increased significantly during the year thanks to the recovery in the stock market.

The unrestricted funds available for day to day running of the parish now cover 5 months of expenditure. The Diocese recommends that there should be reserves to cover 3 months expenditure.

The restricted fund of £156K includes £120K in the trust fund and £20K to re-cover the flat roof sections of the Hall roof of which £10K has been raised by transfer of income from the trust fund. Lisa queried the funds for the hall roof as she understood that all of the £20K would come from the Trust fund.

The budget for 2014 projects a surplus of £5K however we cannot afford to take our eye off the ball in generating funds for the R & R projects. Under the new parish share system our contribution will fall by £3K.

Richard concluded his summary by offering a sincere and heartfelt thank you to Beccy for her tireless work and to Julie Sharp for her assistance. This was confirmed by a warm round of applause.

Richard proposed that the accounts be approved by the parishioners, this was seconded by Chris Williams and accepted unanimously.

Lisa thanked Richard for his summary.

Secretary's Note: It was confirmed after the meeting that the hall roof is to be funded entirely from the Trust Fund investments. The 20K released from that is just being held in the R&R fund until we need it. All the fund raising efforts accrued in the R&R fund are solely for the AVS.

7. Report on Electoral roll

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

At last year's APCM it was reported that the Church Electoral Roll figure stood at 227. In the twelve months since then, 12 new names have been added and 2 names removed. Accordingly the Church Electoral Roll figure now stands at 237.

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules the amended Electoral Roll was displayed for 14 days to allow anyone to appeal against the inclusion or removal of any name. No such appeals have been received.

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 expressed her thanks to all who assisted during her sabbatical, the Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwarden, Ministry Team, David, Hazel, Lewis, Gillian for their hard work during her absence.
- *Churchwardens report.* Thank you to the Churchwardens and Deputy for this report and for their help during the year and especially in her absence.
- *Befrienders/Baptismal support.* Thank you to Christine Rees and all Befrienders.
- *Book club.* Thank you to Anne Pelham for a comprehensive report. Lisa hoped the Book Club would continue to thrive.
- *Choir.* Thank you to David Crowe for stepping up and becoming our Choirmaster. The service of Nine Lessons and Carols was well received last year. Lisa said she was sorry not to have been here for the Stainer's Oratorio 'The Crucifixion' on Good Friday performed whilst she was on sabbatical.
- *Christian Discipleship.* Thank you to Gillian and those who lead the courses.
- *Cleaning.* Thank you to Jenny McKeever for taking over the church cleaning and especial thanks Jenny and Jill Pope for organising the spring clean at Easter. Thanks also to Vanessa Burrell who organised this for us for the previous four years.
- *Churches together.* Thank you to Jenny McKeever for this report and to our committee representatives and Hilary Burton who took on the role of Chair. Please support CTC worship and projects.
- *Flowers.* Thank you to Carol Cain and all flower arrangers. It was good to see the Easter flowers. We are looking forward this year to the flower festival.
- *Church Office.* Thank you to Ken Perrett and his team who continue to thrive and to Tracy Perrett for stepping in when Ken was away.
- *Churchyard.* Thank you to David Bainbridge and his team who tend the churchyard throughout the year rain or shine.

- ❑ *Communications.* Thank you to Brian Turner for this report and to the communications group for their superb input.
- ❑ *Deanery Synod.* Thank you to Jenny McKeever for this report and for serving as a representative on the Deanery Synod. Jenny is now standing down but it is a perfect opportunity for someone to make a contribution.
- ❑ *Fabric.* Thank you to Mike Thackray and to the Fabric Committee for their hard work carried out in recent years.
- ❑ *May Fair.* Thank you to Mike and to the committee for all their work and an especial thank you to David Rance for stepping up as Chair of the Committee.
- ❑ *Mini-Advent Fair.* Thank you to Gillian and to all who contributed to the Mini-Advent Fair.
- ❑ *FairTrade.* Thank you to Anne Pelham and to all Fair Trade helpers.
- ❑ *GLorEE.* Thank you to Zella Barrett and the GLorEE group for their enthusiasm.
- ❑ *Library.* The library is going strong. Thank you to Anne Pelham for maintaining it so well.
- ❑ *Minus Fives.* Thank you to Maggie Woodage for taking it from strength to strength. We do need a deputy to assist Maggie.
- ❑ *Missions/Children's Society.* Thank you to Hazel and members of the Mission Committee and to Tracy for her Children's Society report.
- ❑ *Mothers Union.* Thank you to Carol Frost and the Mothers Union who do sterling work throughout the year.
- ❑ *Outreach.* Thank you to David Ramsbottom for the report.
- ❑ *Pastoral Committee.* Thank you to Christine Rees for this report and to all involved. Lisa had not seen a Welcome Table in any other church that she visited. It is a good part of our welcome strategy.
- ❑ *Pathfinders.* Thank you to Tracy Perrett and David Rance for the report and leadership. They have done a good job in recruiting young leaders over the last few years, but we need more leaders.
- ❑ *Prayer Groups.* Thank you to Carol Frost and Gillian Gyenes
- ❑ *Praying for Streets.* Thank you to Anne Pelham and Mary Harwood for organising.
- ❑ *Servers* Thank you to Chris Williams and all servers. Please consider if you would like to join the team.
- ❑ *Social committee.* Thank you to Kay Martin and the Social Committee. It was great to hear that the children's chocolate bingo was such a success. We do need a replacement for Kay as Chair of the Committee.

- ❑ *Stewardship*. Thank you to Steve Pope for his report.
- ❑ *St John's News*. A huge thank you to Richard for St. John's News.
- ❑ *The Net, St. John's Children's Church*. Thank you to Sarah Dewson for the encouraging report and to all teachers and helpers old and new.
- ❑ *Welcome Team*. Thank you to Doreen Norfield and to the Welcome Teams.
- ❑ *Web Site* Thank you to Ken Perrett for managing the website and to Tracy who helped when Ken was away. Also to Brian Turner for technical advice.
- ❑ *Worship* committee will now meet again and a report will be given next year.

9. Elections

There are 7 vacancies on the PCC for terms of 3 years. There were 4 names on the list for these vacancies

Nomination for 3 years	Proposer	Secunder
1 Richard Ireson	Louise Lobley	Jill Pope
2 Sarah Dewson (re-election)	Jill Pope	Anne Pelham
3 Christine Rees (re-election)	Anne Mohan	Steve Pope
4 Emma McInnes	Jenny McKeever	Maggie Wade

As there were only 4 nominations for the vacancies they were all appointed en-bloc. All were in favour. There were no objections.

The **Deanery Synod Elections** are required this year to elect 4 lay representatives to serve on the Deanery Synod from 1st June 2014 to 31st May 2017. The following agreed to stand:

Gillian Gyenes (re-election) Proposed: David Butler Seconded: Jill Pope
 Hilary Burton Proposed: Ken Perrett Seconded: Jean Butler

Secretary's Note: *Following the APCM at the short PCC meeting the following were also elected to serve on the Deanery Synod:*

Carol Frost proposed David Rance seconded by Jade Turner
Christine Rees proposed Jill Pope seconded by Sarah Dewson

10. Appointments

Honorary Secretary, Mary Harwood was proposed by Jenny McKeever and seconded by Gillian Gyenes. All agreed and was so appointed.

Hon. Treasurer, Beccy Al-Jadir was proposed by David Butler, seconded by Steve Pope. All agreed and was so appointed.

Julie Sharpe has agreed to continue the role of Assistant Treasurer. Lisa thanked Julie

Hon Independent Examiner Mrs Laura Myers, was proposed by Hazel Berry and seconded by Sarah Dewson. Agreed by all and was so appointed.

Welcome Teams Doreen Norfield requested the existing members as listed in the Annual Report and who serve at the 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. services be approved en bloc. The proposal was made by Carol Frost and seconded by Jill Pope and agreed by all and so were approved. Doreen has vacancies for three more to join Peter Wright's team to replace Maureen Raybould, Frank Sier and Lorraine Jasper who have stood down. The Welcome teams are not elected. Their appointment is approved by the APCM.

11. Notices

Lisa thanked the Social Committee for the refreshments at the meeting. There was a round of applause.

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

Vicar's Report

At the December PCC meeting we reviewed the vision priorities for 2014, set by the PCC in the January (whilst I was on sabbatical):

Target 1: "Encourage and support the development of leadership within St John's and Churches Together in Crowthorne"

[St John's Vision Categories "Church" & "Christ"/ Diocesan Living Faith priority "Shaping confident collaborative leadership"]

A prime action under this target was to research 'Messy Church' with the aim of establishing a leadership team able to develop to meet the needs of our local community. Yvonne Morris, the Regional Co-ordinator of Messy Church for the Thames Valley, gave a presentation at the January PCC meeting on the origins and rationale of Messy Church. The Worship Committee then took up the gauntlet and mobilised into action. A Messy Church planning group was established, with one or two people taking responsibility for each of the key areas of setting up, catering, craft and worship. The First Messy Church, "Messy Harvest", was successfully launched on the 27th September and the second, "Messy Epiphany/ Christingle" took place on the 10th January this year. Attendance was up from last time, now folk were latching on to it: 19 families, 31 children, in total. We have a wonderful band of enthusiastic and gifted volunteers from St John's to continue this venture on a termly basis.

Another action was to increase church house groups. Initially, they decreased, the one group we had coming to an end. However, newcomers to the church, Julie Samuels and Les Richardson, keen to get involved in a house group themselves, took up the challenge of establishing one. It started this January (in the residents lounge at Oak Lodge) and from the outset has been well supported, with participants all keen to contribute. Thanks to Les and Julie!

Another action was for church members to attend external events within the diocese to support the leadership of the local church. Oxford Diocese made a large provision for this last year with the succession of Living Faith conferences. Firstly, there was the inspirational clergy conference (which I attended during my sabbatical), then the LLMs conference and, finally, the Grand Day Out in September, an occasion for the whole church family. Alas, Mike and I were the only representatives from St John's at this worthwhile day, which offered various workshops and corporate outdoor worship. It was also an occasion to bid Bishop John Farewell as he neared his retirement. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his dedicated, godly, servant leadership.

The Growing Leaders course run at St Michael's, Sandhurst, was undertaken by Carol Frost. It involved quite a commitment on her part and was felt to be beneficial. A final area of church leadership identified was the need for more adult volunteers for The Net (Sunday School). This has been coming on well; the success of the parent-helper rota generating more teachers.

Target 2A: "Encourage responsible stewardship to resource the vision and strategy"

[St John's Vision Category "Church"]

The usual annual stewardship campaign and strategies took place, although due to certain church members moving or dying income is now down again. This will no doubt be reported more fully in the stewardship report. The Time and Talents database has been updated by the office and streamlined: it is now linked to the list of "roles and people responsible" so that a direct contact can be made with team leaders for different areas of church life, where applicable.

Target 2B: "Build fellowship and enrich parish relationships through social events"

[St John's Vision Category "Church"]

The various events will be documented in the Social Committee report. Suffice to say that their hard efforts continue to build a sense of church community and church socials are much enjoyed by those who come to them, including guests that church members bring with them.

Target 3: “Proactively engage with the local community, to become better known, to be more inclusive and offer the warmth & hospitality of God”

[St. John’s Vision Category “Community”]

The CTC activities on the Morgan Rec. were supported by St John’s and we are grateful to Jill Pope for representing us on the planning committee. The activities as a whole have been a great success and well received by the community. “Branding” is clearer now for the May Fair, so that people realise it is actually a St John’s event put on for the benefit of the community. We have continued to engage with Hopezone, supporting this with volunteers and financially. When I dropped in the other Wednesday, it was clearly serving a purpose and a number of St John’s youngsters were in attendance. Anna Pearce has been sitting in on the management committee.

As detailed above, the introduction of Messy Church has been an act of hospitality towards those less familiar with church. It has attracted those on the fringe of church and formed a bridge with our Minus Fives community. The number of Café Eucharists has now increased to three a year, making worship more inclusive for some. This is intended as a more relaxed/ all age approach during school holidays (when the Net is not meeting), than specifically as an outreach service.

Target 4: “Concerned for the whole of Creation: passionate about global justice...”

[St John’s Vision Category “Creation”]

We have continued to support our Missions and drawn the attention of the church community to their work. The retirement of the Mission to Seafarers rep, without a successor, led to the decision that it was time to replace this mission with “Embrace the Middle East”, given St John’s concern about issues of peace and justice in the Holy Land in more recent years. Su McClellan from Embrace the Middle East came to speak last January and was our Missions Speaker on Christ the King Sunday. The “Kairos Group” was formed to enable us to become more aware of the present situation in Israel and Palestine. “Kairos Britain - A Time for Action” was launched at the Greenbelt Festival in August 2013, in response to the “Kairos Palestine - A moment of truth”, calling on the International Community and World Churches to accelerate the achievement of justice, peace and reconciliation in the Holy land. An action plan was adopted in response to the Kairos Britain document “Time for Action”:

- to become aware of the present situation in Israel and Palestine,
- to reflect prayerfully on it, &
- to respond faithfully and courageously and decide whether to become a Kairos Congregation

Following presentations and a Kairos Prayer & Reflection day in June, in September the PCC voted unanimously for us to become a Kairos Community. You can find further information about this on our parish website, including about Ken Perrett’s stay in Bethlehem. Ken has become quite an authority in this area, giving talks to different groups within St John’s and more widely in the deanery. We are grateful to him for his drive in moving us forward and for what we have been able to learn from his experiences and reflections.

St John’s hosted the bi-annual flower festival again, culminating in the Festal Songs of Praise service. Hundreds of people came through our doors over the weekend. As usual it was a truly impressive scene to behold, with so much creativity around and so many people pitching in to help. The centenary of the start of the First World War provided another opportunity to engage with the local community. We held a “Lights Out” vigil service at the Lych Gate on 4th August, hosted the popular Sandhurst Community Band/ Royal British Legion Concert in October and had a record attendance (over 500) at the Remembrance Sunday service, at which the numbers have been growing steadily over recent years.

On the church maintenance front, we were faced with the no small challenge of renewing the hall roof (in addition to our scheduled renovation projects). After a frustrating delay on the “green tape” side of things, this was carried out efficiently at the start of the Autumn.

The vision priorities identified for 2015, now underway, will be shared at the APCM. None of this would be possible without the dedication of so many of you, whether behind the scenes or up front - your efforts are much appreciated in the human and divine realms.

Rev Lisa Cornwell

Churchwardens' Report

On being elected as Churchwarden last year I immediately read the 'Churchwarden - A Survival Guide' and was horrified to find that I might be expected to act as 'a spy and informer for the reformed principles applied to parishes' and administer the Poor Laws. I wasn't sure about 'inspecting the morals and behaviours of the parishioners' either. I read further and discovered that despite the Church taking a very long time to change the duties of a Churchwarden they **have** been updated and the 16 point checklist seemed quite manageable! Fortunately nothing has been too difficult or contentious so far.

My first year as churchwarden has been very interesting with so much to learn and take on board. Invitations from the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire to a Service of Remembrance to mark the 100th Anniversary of the date that England declared war on Germany and from the High Sheriff of Berkshire to the Judicial Opening of the Crown Court were a surprise. I have also had several opportunities to meeting the Archdeacon of Berkshire Olivia Graham. I must pay tribute to my fellow Churchwarden Anne Mohan whom I suspect has protected me from a multitude of arduous task. As Churchwarden in training I very much value her care and friendship and she is proving to be an able and considerate teacher. I should like to extend my thanks to everyone else who has given me advice - please continue to do so - it is very much appreciated.

The main work completed this year was the replacement of the flat roof of the church hall. After a frustrating administrative delay the work was successfully completed in October and now has a reassuring 20 year guarantee. The new skylights are an improvement too, letting a lot more natural light into the hall and foyer.

Every five years the buildings are inspected by an architect who produces a Quinquennial report. Our thanks go to Mike Thackray and the Fabric Committee for addressing the tasks identified in this report and also for their continual monitoring and application of routine maintenance. We also thank David Bainbridge and his churchyard team for their diligent upkeep of the churchyard.

Twice a year we ask for volunteers from the whole congregation for some physical work; in Spring to work inside to give the church and hall a thorough spring clean; and in October/November to give the churchyard hedge a trim. Thank you to all those who volunteered last year and we hope even more will turn out this year.

We extend our thanks to all the members of the congregation, the welcome team, sacristans, the office team and those on the cleaning rota who regularly give their time and talents for the essential tasks that keep our church running smoothly.

We would like to thank the PCC for work they do and for supporting the Vicar and Churchwardens in developing and maintaining God's work in this parish.

The year ahead presents several challenges with the AVS and organ restoration as well as Churchyard regulation compliance. We will work for these objectives and as promised at our admission 'will faithfully and diligently perform the duties of the office of Churchwarden' but if things don't go according to plan the survival guide reminds us 'nobody is perfect', but we sincerely hope our best efforts will be good enough.

*Anne Mohan
Anna Pearce
David Rance*

Befrienders/Baptismal Support

There were only seven baptisms at the 10.00 am service in 2014

Baptisms normally take place on the second Sunday of the month. The preparation evenings normally take place on the 1st Wednesday of the month. If Christine cannot be there to support Lisa, Nella Burnside is pleased to attend. We familiarise the parents with the service and they are given copies for the Godparents. Godparents have to have been baptised themselves.

Parents are given a booklet 'Your baby's baptism' and a folder from the Mothers Union 'Praying through the Day'. Older children are given a book entitled 'Water'. Mothers are encouraged to come along to Minus 5's and it is often through Minus 5's that mothers request a baptism for their child.

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 particularly with the 'All Age Services' by delivering the St. Johns News each month.

Christine Rees

Book Club

The book club meets just 3 times a year. At each meeting, we discuss the selected book over a glass of wine and nibbles at various locations. One of our meetings this year was at Quench book shop. They kindly opened the shop just for us, and we had the opportunity to browse the shelves and make purchases before we started our discussion.

In June 2014 we got together to discuss "Simply Christian" by Tom Wright. This book looks at four areas of concern in today's world, justice, spirituality, relationships and beauty. We had a wide ranging discussion about the book and on the topics that it raised. On the whole, most of us found it a worthwhile read. Some found particular parts that resonated with them, like chapter 4, which is about the beauty of the earth. It is a very mixed book, there were parts where thoughts and ideas were expressed very clearly but other parts were harder to understand. In the introduction Tom Wright says the book's aim is to "commend it (Christianity) to those outside the faith and to explain it to those inside" We felt that it was really for Christians, and that if we gave the book to non-Christians, they would give up on it. If you want to understand our faith better it is a good book to read. There is a copy in the library.

Then in November 2014 we discussed "Love wins" by Rob Bell this book evoked a lively discussion. Rob Bell argues that God's love is for everyone both Christians and non-Christians. He also writes about his concepts of heaven, hell and eternity. We found the style of the book was very staccato, in that it had short paragraphs with lots of questions posed. Not all of those questions were answered. However the book was easy to read, conversational and in parts poetic. We were not always convinced by his arguments and there were no footnotes in the book, so we could not check what he said. The author is a good communicator expressing his views clearly. It was not as academic as a Tom Wright book such as "Surprised by Hope". Mostly, we enjoyed the book; some of us only enjoyed it in parts. Over all I would say that we felt it was a book worth reading. There is a copy available in the library.

Most recently in February 2015 we talked about "The Weeping Chamber" by Sigmund Brouwer. This is a novel based around the events of Holy Week. Almost everyone in the book club enjoyed reading this book. One person wasn't sure of the genre of a biblical story written as fiction. On the whole we found the characterisation convincing and even illuminating, for instance, the exploration of Judas's character, which gave possible reasons for his actions. The character of Jesus came over as someone very powerful, very understanding and strong, who was in control of the events and when they would happen. All the other characters in the book came over very well and drew you into the story. The book also went into the politics of that time and place; it showed the tensions and power struggles between the different groups. In addition there were conversations between Caiaphas and Jesus as well as between Caiaphas and Pontius Pilate. Everyone said that they would read the book again. It is a very good book to read in Lent. We found one review of the book in which the reviewer said they read the book every Holy Week. We would thoroughly recommend this book. There is also a copy of this book in the library.

The next book club meeting is on the 16th June to discuss 'Hilda of Whitby - a spirituality for now' by Ray Simpson. Irene Simmons wrote about the life of St Hilda in a recent edition of St John's News and recommended this book. There is a copy in the library which you could borrow. Otherwise, you could buy your own copy, which I am sure would be available from the Quench book shop. Please do feel free to come and join us.

Anne Pelham

Choir

David has now had a full year leading the choir. We sang Stainer's 'The Crucifixion' last Good Friday (April '14), with Tom Lowe playing the organ while David conducted. In May, we also enjoyed singing Choral Evensong at St Mary's, Northolt, with Tom Shorter at the organ. This was followed by a lively choir party on Tom and Alexis' narrow boat, when we all met baby Robin.

Several members of the choir attended an RSCM Festival at Abingdon in October.

We welcomed extra voices to sing 'The Crucifixion' and then again to augment the choir for the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

We were also delighted to welcome back Jim Wearing (tenor) and Sophie Rance (soprano). We are always pleased to welcome new members to the choir. We would like to congratulate Summer Woodage for achieving her Dark Blue ribbon in the Voice for Life scheme.

Our regular choristers:

Sopranos: Anna, Julie, Pauline, Sophie, Sue, Summer

Altos: Jill, Maggie

Tenors: Jim, plus 'regular occasionals' David Ramsbottom and Mike Pearce

Basses: Bob, Colin, Peter

David Crowe

Christian Discipleship

In Autumn 2014, we held a series of talks on the Gospels. John Castle, from St Michael's, Sandhurst enlightened us on Matthew and John, Julie Ramsbottom from St. James' Finchamstead, on Luke and Lisa on Mark. Lisa also looked at the literary aspect of the Gospels and I gave a short talk on the chronology. The course was very well attended and attracted a number of questions each time. This format seems to be popular and we are planning more talks on different themes for next year.

Another area we have been interested to cover is that of the environment and climate change. In February, the Revd Dr Darrell Hanna gave two talks on this subject, one in relation to the biblical aspects of caring for creation and one on what Christians can do to reduce our 'carbon footprint.' This is one aspect of our vision statement as a Church, that is, to do what we can to improve our record on this.

Our Confirmation/discussion groups began at the beginning of March 2015, based on Adult and Junior Emmaus. These cover 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 look at the Eucharist in detail and at the sacrament of Confirmation in particular. We aim to have lively discussions in both groups and opportunities for proactive learning. These will continue after Easter when the young people take part in a workshop which includes an away day in Winchester. They will play an active role in the Service next morning, as well. The adults also have an excellent support group. The Confirmation will take place on July 5th, here at St. John's, at 6pm with the Bishop of Reading.

We have now reached Lent 2015. The Lent study groups run by the Crowthorne Council of Churches have now started, based on the film 'Chocolat'. There are also opportunities to attend the Lent lectures at St. James', Finchamstead, the Christian Meditation Group (on Mondays throughout the year) and the series of lectures at St. Michael's, Sandhurst which run until April.

A new House Group has been established at the start of this year by Julie Samuels and Les Richardson, running fortnightly at Oak Lodge. This has got off to an encouraging start, with a committed attendance.

Do join us for any of these opportunities to develop our Christian discipleship.

Gillian Gyenes

Church Cleaners

A special thank you to every one of the volunteers who give up their time to keep our church clean.

There are currently 44 volunteers on the church cleaning rota. This is one down on last year's total as we have lost two volunteers and gained one during the year. 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.

The annual 'Spring Clean' will have taken place when you read this and thanks must go to Mike Thackray and to all the volunteers who gave up their Saturday morning or afternoon to remove all the cobwebs and dust from those crevices out of reach of a normal clean and to give the woodwork its annual polish.

Jenny McKeever
771379

Churches Together in Crowthorne

The main news this year has been the success of the Summer Activities which we have supported vigorously. Preparations are beginning in earnest for next summer under the leadership of Louise Truscott of Hope Zone.

Hope Zone is well used by secondary school pupils after school. More helpers would be welcomed. Zone 6 for the older primary school pupils has now begun which has brought in more enthusiastic youngsters.

Services continue regularly at Pinehurst principally run by the Baptists but all are welcome to help cheer the elderly residents. Tuesday coffee mornings are held at the Methodist Church and again on Thursday mornings at the Baptist Church. The home-made cakes are provided by volunteers and the money raised which, in the last financial year totalled just over £1,100 goes to those people, charities and events we support. The summer activities received the largest share at almost £700 with £100 going to Corrymeela and £200 to Amy Truscott for her visit to Mityana to help the school there.

In December, the Late Night Shopping was an enjoyable enterprise although the soup proved less popular than the hog roast. The support of the bell ringers proved a welcome addition. Carol Singing outside the Co-Op livened the morning for shoppers.

The Good Neighbours scheme is a very popular, much valued Outreach enterprise. In twelve months 64 destinations have been reached by the loyal drivers under the direction of Sue Hester. As ever there is a need for more volunteers.

Every meeting we hear of yet more disasters that assail the Chidamoyo hospital in Zimbabwe which continues to operate through the willing, uncompromising hard efforts of its cheerful staff.

The Food Bank is well-used by customers and patrons alike from its new splendid premises in the Vineyard Church Office in Wellington Industrial Estate.

During Lent groups have been studying 'Chocolat' for five Wednesday afternoon and evening sessions.

From the 10th to 16th May, Christian Aid Week, there will be the usual street collection. A service to open the proceedings will start at 6.30p.m. on Sunday 10th May at the Baptist Church.

The annual Walk of Witness round the parish is planned for Good Friday, 3rd April following a service at St John's and finishing with Hot Cross Buns at the Baptist Church.

This year we have had two speakers at the CTC meetings. In November Councillor Janet Rogers addressed the meeting about the 4,000 new houses to be built in Crowthorne and how we might best welcome the new residents. In February David Macleod, a member of the St Sebastian's Ministry team, together with Heather Bull, a social worker in the district were very eager to introduce the importance of fostering and adoption to members of our congregations, a scheme strongly supported by Wokingham District Council.

This is a brief outline of the work done by CTC. More detail has been submitted to editions of St John's News.

Hilary Burton - Chairman

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.

We are down to a team of 17 flower arrangers now as sadly Carol Chau left our team just before Christmas. 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 and very special wedding, that of Hannah and Matt, and some stunning arrangements at the various festivals. 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 12:00 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.

During the year we received a new computer and software through Simon Butterworth (SIBIT). The computer is fast and the software is up to date, making a huge difference to the productivity of the work.

The photocopier is really good - we can produce high quality colour posters at a reasonable price – 6p for A4 and 12p for A3. The price is fixed and not dependent on the amount of colour, so you can go mad with colours. Do exploit this facility to advertise Church groups and events.

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 as usual is keeping busy the team comprising Jean Butler, Andrew King, Pam Bainbridge and Jill Pope.

Progress during 2014 until December has been good with the usual slow down of activity during January and February. The churchyard at present is reasonably under control, and in good shape. We enter a quieter period until May and then everything takes off. The team has a new recruit in John Lindsay who is most welcome.

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

The group consists of Brian Turner, Rev. Lisa Cornwell, Ken Perrett, Richard Ireson, Louise Loble and Lenka Butterworth. The group has met twice in the last year.

The focus of the group is to identify any activities that need promotion in the church. The group manages the communications on the Church web site, St John's News, the weekly Church sheet, the Twitter feed and any posters/designs needed for special events. A calendar of events is used to plan communication for the year. **The group is a service for the church and welcomes other committee's requests for promotion.** The group can help tune the message and content for committees but politely reminds them that the committees should be coming up with the content and meaning for their messages. The Comms group should not be approaching committees to ask them what they want to promote! It should be the other way around. Written content and images for the web site should also come from the members of each activity from each group/committee.

Additional focus was planned before the end of the 2014 year to focus on Christmas services and the "Messy Church". The services were promoted on Twitter and the "We love Crowthorne Village" Facebook page. A new temporary Church sign stating "St Johns invites you to our church for ..." suitable for multiple events went up for the period of the Christmas. At the Comms meeting of 14 January the effect of promotion was discussed and it was felt that the services were well attended. Messy Church attendance continues to grow and communication on Facebook has started new conversations to attract new members to the congregation. Outreach activities that are informal and promoted on digital communications is thought to be a very good direction for the church to go in. For 2015 the focus will be on Messy Church, Chocolate Bingo, the Net and a generic "Welcome to St John's Church" for Outreach .

Thanks to Lisa, Richard, Lenka, Louise and Ken for their efforts to maintain the communication with the congregation and the community.

Brian Turner

Deanery Synod

There are usually 5 Synod meetings a year, the summer one being a Eucharist and business meeting. This was held in Crowthorne and the Synod was given an update on the progress of the Deanery plan. This has involved amalgamating some parishes, like Twyford, Ruscombe and Hurst and Winnersh and Bearwood as a result of changing demographics within the Deanery.

At the chair's request, **David Hodgson** spoke of the 4,000 housing development in Wokingham Town, of which 1,000 were already being built. All the mainstream Christian churches in the town were working ecumenically in consultation with Peter Morgan, the Diocesan New Communities Officer. They were talking to the Borough Council and setting up a website for new people to link the churches to the community. No meeting points in the development were likely to be available for at least 18 months, and the churches were working on the possibility of installing a portakabin to bridge the time gap. The **Area Dean** reported that there was no further news yet in respect of the proposed Arborfield Garrison development.

There have also been discussions during the year about parish responsibility for the new TRL housing development in Crowthorne. This area is historically part of Easthampstead parish, but after discussions with all concerned, it has been decided that St Sebastians and St. John's, Crowthorne will take an area each with the involvement of CTC. Easthampstead have relinquished their claim to the area.

In September there was a presentation by PACT (Parents and Children Together)

The Lay Chair welcomed **Jan Fishwick**, the CEO of PACT, who would be assisted in her presentation by two Synod members. Jan said that PACT had been in existence since 1911. Its patron is the Bishop of Oxford and it operates throughout the south of England. Its objects are to improve the life chances of parents, children and individuals, including vulnerable women, to support and counsel parents in the choices they make for children and to provide a professional adoption, fostering and family support agency. It has particular links in the Christian community with Holy Trinity Brompton, All Saints Wokingham and Dorchester Abbey. Its "Home for Good" Partnership provides support for those who foster or adopt children, at which churches are really good. There are 4,500 children waiting to be adopted. PACT has grown from an initial gift of £100 made in 1911 by Miss Sharp to the Bishop for welfare and support of illegitimate children. It is now rated outstanding by OFSTED and has an award from BAAF (British Association for Adopting and Fostering). Jan highlighted the many myths about adopting, such as age, marital status, home ownership, religious practice, or being a same sex couple. In fact there are very few barriers if one is aged over 21 and with no criminal record of offences against them. Richard Lamey drew attention to the PACT leaflet which had been circulated, and to the posters and bookmarks brought by Jan for parishes.

The November meeting was a talk by Ken Perrett from St John's Crowthorne, who had spent two months in Bethlehem earlier in the year. Ken said he had first become involved in Kairos Palestine in 2009 when the statement was issued by Palestinian Christians, and again at the Greenbelt Festival in

2011. He had joined Bishops John, Colin and Andrew on a pilgrimage in 2013. They had seen the grim separation wall 700 miles long and 8 metres high with check points and soldiers everywhere, but 10 days had not been long enough to see the whole picture. After Greenbelt 2013 and Kairos Britain "Time for Action", Crowthorne PCC had set up a Kairos Action Plan Group and he had returned to the West Bank alone for two months in February and March 2014.

One of his abiding memories was of hospitality and excellent food. Other memories were meeting people who had been Christian since the time of Jesus, discussing the Christian faith with his Muslim host, learning to travel light, learning about hope in the midst of hopelessness, and discovering how customs in the Bible are still practised today. Ken is willing to speak to churches and other groups. He invited prayers for finding ways of working for peace and justice.

In January there was a presentation by the Rev'd Canon Tony Dickinson and the Rev'd Paddy King on the Växjö and Oxford Link. Tony Dickinson explained that the Link was a partnership under the Porvoo Agreement between the British Isles (including Ireland) and the Lutheran churches of the Baltic lands (except Latvia). He showed the diocese of Växjö on a map. The Link was established between the churches of the south east of England and the south east of Sweden; Oxford known for higher education, and Växjö for glass and silver. Both dioceses contain a mixture of urban and rural areas, although different type of country. Both have three counties. The partnership began in Christchurch Cathedral on 2 April 2003.

The main commitments are:

1. Fellowship of prayer
2. Common challenges and issues
3. Opportunity to study each other's pastoral methods.
4. Sharing of diocesan experts.
5. Opportunities for ordination candidates to exchange countries and to learn about different ways of ministering.
6. Opportunities for others to shadow and share, including translating the history of Växjö diocese into English.
7. Finding ways that theological education and training for ministry can be brought into the Link.
8. Sending representatives to special occasions.

The main focus of the March meeting will be 'Lay Ministry' and the acceptance of the Annual Accounts. Efforts continue to encourage parishes to pay their full share and on time, giving support to parishes who cannot meet their share and who raise as much towards it as they are able.

Hazel Berry continues in the role of Deanery Co-ordinator and we are all urged to visit the new Deanery website for details of what is happening in Sonning Deanery.

Gillian Gyenes

Fabric Committee

This year's challenges:

- Creating the specification and finding contractors for the Hall re-roofing
- Keeping on top of all the routine maintenance issues, from dripping taps to light bulb changing etc
- Agreeing an automatic electrical reset option for the current boilers in case of power cuts and getting CBS Ltd to agree a reduced fee and repairing a fault that re-occurred on one of the new boilers
- Annual fire protection and boiler servicing agreements secured and in place
- More people needed for annual Hedge Cutting and Spring Cleaning events with someone to help Mike to get them signed up

Successes:

- Full re-roofing of the Hall roof on time and within budget, despite poor weather condition, with a modern rubberoid product with a 20 year warranty
- Tree root damage repair to drainage pipes from WC's successfully completed
- Continual monitoring and repair of dawn to dusk lighting
- Rota for setting the heating controls for the Church, Vestry and Hall
- Hedge cutting carried out on time and with gusto once more
- Spring Cleaning also carried out successfully
- Obtaining a full survey of the stained glass windows to consider prioritising discovered repairs
- Gutter clearing post autumnal leaf fall
- Freeing a blockage to the drainage run from the flower vestry

Future:

- Phased re-decoration works over the next 2 years to the kitchen, office, crèche and hall
- Thinking and agreeing future strategies for short, medium and long term issues as discovered from the Quinquennial
- More people male or female to join the Fabric Committee to continue to share the load Mike happy to clarify and inform anyone that's interested the various roles, responsibilities and projects that we need help with.

Mike Thackray

Fairs

May Fair

Last Bank Holiday, Monday 5th May our prayers were answered with glorious weather and the Village community joining parishioners of St. John's to enjoy traditional May Fair celebrations in wonderful spring sunshine.

The event was blessed and opened by the Revd Lisa Cornwell, and an afternoon of traditional village fair fun and activity ensued.

A central events arena entertained the crowds with varied performances from the Sandhurst Community Brass Band, Yateley Morris Dancers, St. John's GLorEE singers and local EBOS operatic singers.

Family entertainment was provided in the form of magnificent bouncy castles, toy stalls, pineapple shies, as well as the ever-popular refreshments of tea, cakes, hotdogs, burgers and beer. We were also pleased to welcome the Crowthorne Scouts as a partner community group to our fair who, in addition to the loan of many tents, provided a popular BBQ stall raising important funds for the work of the local Scouts.

The local Fire Brigade were in attendance to support the event, offering the opportunity for youngsters to climb aboard and take a seat within a real Fire Engine!

Whilst the event provided a wonderful boost of energy and fun for the local community, it also assisted St. John's raise essential funds for the work of the church and its supported missions. We raised in excess of £8,500.

The organization for the May Fair continues to be led by a very small dedicated committee. Our long established stalls are led by experienced and knowledgeable fund raisers and many, many helpers, all with the keen customer service skills in evidence to service the village community. We must also not forget that at the quiet of the morning and late into the evening, teams of volunteers toiled with lifting and shifting all things, tents, tables, chairs and everything else to return the Morgan Rec to its clean, green conditions.

To everyone who helped in so many and varied ways, large or small, to make the May Fair happen a huge Thank You.

David Rance

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 £920, which includes donations following the Event as well as what we realised on the day. Thank you to all those who contributed their time and their talents to make it such a success. The money this year went to the Repair and Renovation Fund.

Gillian Gyenes

Fair Trade

I would like to thank all of you who buy the goods from the Fair trade stall; you bought around £1000 worth of food goods in the last year, which is a slight increase on the previous year. 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, who have been Fair trade pioneers since 1979, and last year introduced new fair trade eco-friendly household cleaning range. These products guarantee smallholder growers in Ghana and rural India a fair deal and therefore a brighter future. We brought some of these products; however they did not sell on our stall. Being both fair trade and eco-friendly products they are worth looking out for in the supermarkets.

Currently, we are sourcing decaffeinated coffee from various places, as we cannot obtain the brand that sells best on our stall, from Traidcraft, and for that reason we are unable to always stock it.

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. They are a little more expensive; however, supporting fair trade gives a life line to the people who grow, harvest and process such things as nuts, fruits, sugar, cocoa, dates, olives and wine. Despite being successful in some areas, such as bananas, Fairtrade products still represent less than one per cent of global trade in most categories. Making a small change and buying Fairtrade can make a big difference to some of the poorest and most oppressed people in the world including fellow Christians and Palestinians.

And finally, but not least, I would like to thank everyone who helps on the Fair trade stall after the services.

Anne Pelham

GLorEE

With 5 years now behind us, GLorEE is constantly evolving, and maintains a healthy collection of enthusiastic Christian singers eager to use our voices and interpretation to enhance worship.

It has been another action packed year: we have been busy singing not only at St John's Church, but around the village too. We sang at our very first wedding and have already been booked to do another! Our Flower Festival display was once again well received with our Elton John tribute, but I think our favourite time of year is Christmas when we feel we can really reach out and touch the community.

It is fantastic to have some new singers. At present this includes THREE mothers and their daughters! Everyone is keen to bring new ideas and contribute to our overall production, and we are always happy to welcome even more members to spice up the mix!

I cannot stress how proud I am of all the hard work the group puts in, and the support I have from them and the church.

Zellah 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. Last year all I had to do was move them around, put out books that were particularly relevant at various times of the year, such as Advent and Lent. However, this year we have too many books! There is not enough space on the library bookshelves and the office shelves. I have had to start weeding the books.

Not that many people make use of the library although it is a great resource. For those new to our Church the library is located in the entrance hall, behind the white board. I would urge everyone to browse the library and borrow a book from time to time. Just record the details in the log book when you borrow a book and sign the entry off 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 all those who have donated books to the library.

Anne Pelham

Minus Fives

The weekly toddler group is still going strong. We have regular attendance from a core group, and new children come most weeks. Our Facebook page has helped to bring new families in and posters will be put up again around the village.

Our story rota has grown again this year and many mums take turns to read the story each week. New storyboards and songs were created for Christmas, many thanks to Kate Hargreaves for her assistance, and also to Helen Nolan for helping with supplies and computer tasks. We still try and add new craft ideas each week and the recent activity for Mothering Sunday was well received.

We now have three excellent piano players on our rota. Thanks go to Jackie Pearce and Pat Steer for adding to our singing each week and we welcome back Sue Edwards to the team.

We have been lucky enough to receive many toys as donations, so there are no plans to purchase any soon. A new rug for story time is being discussed to replace using the kneelers in Church. (Children trip over them often)

There is a sponsored trike ride planned, this is being run by Mother's Union and Kate Hargreaves. The money raised will go towards providing keepsakes at a local baby unit.

Many thanks go to all those who help out each week, particularly to Jean Butler and Tracy Perrett for keeping us going with tea and coffee. To Ken Perrett for helping with the furniture and office and to Abigail Ticehurst for helping all of us each week. Abigail has been amazing with her time and energy each week, the parents and children love to see her.

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; The Corrymeela Community – Sophie Rance; Church Army - Gini Cope; the Bible Society - Jenny Sanders and until October Missions to Seafarers - Brian Hooper. At present we have no representative for Hopezone. In 2014, St. John's donated £1,775.65 representing 12½ % of the planned giving by church members to these seven missions.

In early 2014 Brian Hooper expressed a wish to be replaced as representative for Missions to Seafarers but we had difficulty recruiting a replacement. It seemed appropriate therefore with increasing interest and support at St John's for Christians in the Holy Land that we make a regular donation to that area through "Embrace the Middle East" (formerly BibleLands) with Ken Perrett as representative. Sadly this means that we can no longer donate regularly to Missions to Seafarers.

Carol Frost now looks after activities for The Helen and Douglas houses in Oxford which receives occasional donations from St John's. Carol took over from Sheila Clapham and we thank Sheila for all her work on the committee over several years, especially her wonderful soup for the Lent Lunch!

While it does not receive a direct donation from the Church, Tracy Perrett represents the Children's Society on our committee. Please see her separate Children's Society report.

We decided that since Molly Papworth moved away and we have no direct contact with Dayspring School in Jinja, Uganda that we should stop supporting that cause and that the surplus money from the Sunday morning coffee should be given, on an ad hoc basis to causes nearer to home such as the summer activities on the Morgan Recreation Ground.

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. During the year we had visits by Ian Gilchrist - Corrymeela, Ruth Sayers – CMS, and Heather Clements – Bible Society. On Christ the King Sunday we had a preacher from Embrace the Middle East, and the bucket collection on that day raised £224.80. On that day we also had our usual Missions display with a colouring competition. At Epiphany 2015 we had a preacher Rachel Brockie from the Children's Society.

We had a Christmas Giving Tree, which raised £377.20 towards the cost of presents for the Superkidz children's club supported by the Church Army in Kidbrooke South East London. Kidbrooke is one of the most deprived areas in the EEC.

Our annual Lent Lunch was held on Sunday 1st March, this year to raise funds through Embrace the Middle East for projects supporting Syrian refugees now living in the village of Zahle in The Lebanon. The event raised £683.75. 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 work of The Children's Society is very much based on its Christian foundations. That is why it has a vision of a country where children are free from disadvantage, and why its mission involves a willingness to tell hard truths as it fights for change, supporting disadvantaged children to have better lives. It is because its actions have such deep roots in the Gospels, that it continues to draw so much of its support from the church as well as from individuals of other faiths and none who share its vision, and are committed to its mission.

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	£393.02
Christingle service	£470.18 (including £69.30 Gift Aid)
Donations	£177.70
Christmas card sales profit	£319.28
Total raised	£1360.18

We were so fortunate to have Rachel Brockie from The Children's Society come to talk to us at our annual Christingle service this year. Following that service 12 people signed up as new box holders. There are now more than 40 people in our congregation who have a home collection box for The Children's Society. If you would like to join this growing band of supporters, please see me and I shall be glad to give you a collection box for all your loose change.

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

If you would like to find out more about the work of The Children's Society, please go to their website at <http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk> .

Tracy Perrett

Mothers' Union

The Crowthorne branch of the Mothers' Union continues to flourish and be involved with the life of the parish. We have had a variety of speakers and meetings through the year and have been delighted to welcome our members and visitors. All our meetings are open to anyone who would like to come. We decided to change the times of our meetings from 8.00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month to 7.30 pm and from 2.15 pm to 2.00 pm on the second Wednesday. This has worked very well and everyone got used to the new times very quickly.

Carol Frost stood down as Branch Leader in the Summer and I took over in her place. I am very pleased to say that Carol has stayed on the committee and she and the other members have been a great support.

The Mothers' Union has actively fundraised for the Away From it All holiday scheme that sends families away for a holiday. This year the Diocese of Oxford Mothers' Union sent 10 families away and we were able to contribute £415. We also raised £350 for the Wheels Appeal that supports self-help projects for communities here and abroad. We supported the Make a Mothers' Day ethical gifts initiative and facilitated the collection of 97 shoe boxes filled with gifts for disadvantaged children in other parts of the world for Operation Christmas Child. This was a magnificent response by the congregation and we sincerely thank you all.

On top of all that we have had cake stalls at the May Fair and Advent Fair, made Simnel cakes and posies for Mothering Sunday, hosted an ecumenical meeting in October and given support to the Minus

Fives, the 10 o'clock creche, confirmation, and marriage. Our members help with lunches at Woodmancote and in the COATS shop. We also arrange the flowers in the Lady Chapel on a weekly rota and at the Flower Festival.

We were delighted to enrol seven new members to our branch this year. Gillian Johnson, our Diocesan President, came to the 10 o'clock service in November to enrol three and enjoy a piece of Gwen's delicious cake.

We took part in the Wave of Prayer when we follow on from other branches and pray for our link dioceses in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. We learn how they organise themselves and their meetings and are always surprised how alike we are in so many respects. Our links will be changing from January 2015 so we are looking forward to learning about different places. Our prayer meeting is held once a month on the third Monday of the month and Corporate Communion at the 10.00 o'clock service on the third Wednesday. Our meetings are listed in our programmes which can be found in the foyer and advertised on the Mothers' Union board so do come along, we will be delighted to see you.

Penny Rickards
Branch Leader, Crowthorne

Outreach

- **Membership.** The committee has been pleased to welcome 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. But we still need more (both from PCC and wider) to replace those going off to college/university etc.
- **Hope Zone.** Several Church members volunteer their assistance with the Hope Zone "Drop-in" afternoons for local youth at the Baptist church. Outreach committee takes a keen interest, had a presentation by the youth worker Louise Truscott, and will continue to monitor developments.
- **Morgan Rec' Summer Activities.** We continue to support these, taking responsibility for craft work or similar on one of the Fridays, and continuing to provide a representative for the planning committee (Jill Pope).
- **Messy Church.** Members have been very active in facilitating the launch and consolidation of Messy Church at St John's and will continue to support future development.
- **Café Church.** We have also been instrumental in the expansion of Café Eucharist provision, and continued support for non-eucharistic and all other 'outreach' services.

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 act as a support group for those already in a caring role in the various committees, organisations and groups at St. Johns.

We do our best to meet every month at the house of Maggie Wade. Representatives from Baptism Befrienders, the choir, Minus 5's, Mothers Union, pastoral visiting, Pathfinders and 'The Net' attend the meetings. It is useful for the various groups to know what plans are being made by others.

The Pastoral visiting group also meets every other month and the Welcome Table, which is manned after the 10.00 am service on Sunday mornings works well.

Christine Rees

Pathfinders

During the past year Pathfinders have continued to contribute to the worship at St John's through their participation in Youth services, Harvest Festival, the Crib Service, Fathers' Day and Café Eucharist services. A number of Pathfinders also continue to provide a valued contribution to Acolyte and Server teams, whilst others sing within the Choir and/or GLorEE. Pathfinders also helped organise, made cakes, served tea and sang hymns at the Tea and Favourite Hymns service.

Pathfinders are engaged with our church leadership, through membership of the PCC and leadership of the Pathfinder group. David Rance leads Pathfinders with support from the senior Pathfinders; Eleanor Pandya, Victoria Gibson and Jade Turner. Our Curate, David Ramsbottom, leads Pathfinder twice each term bringing his energy and insight to our worship. Carol Frost has joined a number of Pathfinder social gatherings (Christmas party and bonfire celebration at the vicarage) and has provided a link for the new Pathfinders joining us following confirmation.

Within our Sunday 10am worship we have explored our faith through a wide range of bible topics. Our discussions tend to explore the gospel reading of the liturgy and question our understanding of what it meant for the life of Jesus and how we can understand it in today's world.

With many of our older Pathfinders now moving on to full-time work commitments and university studies the average age of our group is younger, young people developing their personalities and exploring their faith. As always, we are fortunate to welcome and retain a wonderful group of young people here at St John's. We give thanks for each one of them and for their contribution to our church family.

David Rance

Prayer Groups

Mothers Union Prayer Group

The Mothers' Union prayer group meets on the third Monday of the month in the Lady Chapel from 9.30 – 10.00. The meeting is open to everyone. We pray for those on the Prayer Board and anyone asking to be remembered, and for our future meetings and seasonal events. We also spend time praying for the dioceses and provinces we are linked with worldwide. We use the Mothers' Union prayer diary which is sent to each member and there are additional copies in the foyer, listing these areas and giving some information which is very interesting and helpful.

Our session ends as the siren for Broadmoor wails out reminding us of the staff and patients who also need our prayers.

Penny Rickards

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 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, although with a lot of new building in the area, it is taking a little longer. If there are any new houses going up around you, can you please let us know, so that we can incorporate them in our outreach.

We thank all of you who kindly delivered the leaflets throughout the year. If you like going for a walk, around where you live, and could deliver some leaflets, then please do speak to us.

Mary Harwood and Anne Pelham

Servers

First looking back over the past year it is pleasing to welcome Les Richardson to our ranks of senior servers also to note that Shaun Rance is willing and happy to serve when on vacation from university. Our usual recruitment is via each year's confirmation candidates, from the 2012 intake we have retained two, from 2013 four and from last year three.

Looking forward if we can maintain that momentum we will maintain a steady pool of altar servers. There seems to be only one downside in that we are mainly a 'termtime' church so it is not always possible to have a full serving team. If there are any others who can help in that situation and would like to assist in our worship at St John's, at the said or sung Eucharist on a Sunday or occasional weekday celebrations please contact either myself or Lisa.

Finally, grateful thanks are recorded to all of our servers who have contributed to our worship over the past year.

Chris Williams

Social Committee

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

The Annual Patronal Barbecue was held on 22nd June under sunny skies, attended by about 65 people. Andy Martin and Brian Turner grilled sausages, chicken and burgers. The burgers were from Dopsons and the strawberries from Grays Farm ensuring that the local economy was supported. There was a

noted lack of families present and efforts need to be increased to encourage them to come to next years event. A gas barbecue was donated to the church for use at the annual barbecue and other events by Andy and Kay Martin.

The Social committee also provided support to the Flower Festival refreshment team but was run separately by Dorothy Sarin to whom we are very grateful. Our thanks also go out to the rest of her team too.

An 8 meets 10 @ 9 breakfast has not been held this year as the proposed dates have clashed with the Café Eucharist services which take place during school holidays when The Net is not in session. The breakfasts have also traditionally been held during the school holidays to allow for a more leisurely breakfast without the pressure of vacating the hall to allow the Sunday school to set up. Suitable dates for a breakfast for the forthcoming year will be looked at with the Worship Committee.

The Harvest supper held on 27th September was up on numbers from last year and the entertainment was provided by the Gloree choir. This had the unexpected benefit of bringing in some families who were very welcome.

A Quiz evening was held on 22 November where members of the congregation were tested by our very own Quiz Master, Roland Fruin. A good time was had by all.

The Social Committee have also supported the church by providing refreshments at the Crowthorne Orchestra concert and Nine Lessons and Carols service in December.

The third Childrens Chocolate Bingo was held on 7th February which, again, increased in popularity over last year with more than 40 children attending. This seems to be proving a successful event and encourages the involvement of children from the C of E school and others that do not regularly come to Sunday school or the Minus Fives.

In total the Social Committee raised just over £1000 for church funds over the year, excluding the Flower festival takings of £1200. This could not be done without the unstinting help of the committee members: Jill Pope, Rosemary Simpson, Sheila Clapham, Jenny McKeever, Richard Ireson, Louise Loble, June Lee, Graeme Muirhead, Sean McInnes and Kay Martin. My thanks go to them all and all "extras" that help too.

The Committee remains without a chair and is still on the lookout for new members although some progress has been made in this area the absence of Jill and Jenny during January and February highlighted the need for greater support. It would be a positive benefit if more families and younger members of the church were to be involved, not only with helping but also by attending events. The committee will consider this carefully when planning the next events.

New ideas and suggestions for events are always gratefully received.

Kay Martin

Stewardship

The work of the committee is seen mainly in a 'stand up' presentation or a heartfelt plea in the SJN aimed at raising awareness of St John's financial situation and the constant need to maintain our regular levels of giving to ensure that we remain in credit. Your response to our appeals is greatly appreciated and we hope that our most recent appeal in the March SJN will receive the same positive response.

In addition to the financial state of our church we work hard to encourage the full involvement of members in giving the equally important gifts of your time and talents; don't wait to be asked simply step forward with your skills and we will put them to good use. This is a great way to offset the need to employ costly professionals when 'professionals' are right here in our midst.

During this past year we have also given thought to the ever topical subject of ethical investment in the light of the Wonga pay day loans furore. Our longer term investment portfolio is in the hands of an established company specialising in ethical corporations only. As you can imagine this is a very complicated subject and one where we need to trust the professionals but at the same time regularly remind them of the need to comply with our principles.

Thanks to all committee members for their hard work and to all in the office for printing and collating letters but mostly our thanks for the generosity of the members of St John's.

Colin Rosekilly

St John's News

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. The editor coordinates with the Communications Group and Louise Lobbey who produces the weekly news sheet.

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. The final copy is now sent to the Church Office by email and this enables the editor to produce SJN from wherever he happens to be (which, increasingly is in his other parish in North Yorkshire).

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.

Richard Ireson
Editor

The Net – St. John's Children's Church

The Net continues to flourish and currently the number of children on our registers is as follows:

Preschool and year 1:	26
Years 2 & 3:	25
Years 4 - 6:	32
Total:	83

There is now a full complement of teachers and the previous staffing issues have been resolved. Additionally two of the team are now happy to lead the session, bringing the total number of teachers to 9 and leaders to 5. We will still try to encourage more of the parents to join us and to this end, we have been nurturing a couple of parents who turn up regularly and who are now expressing

their interest in getting more actively involved.

We have a non-permanent board set up which has been decorated with fish produced by the children and next term we will be re-naming the year groups. The final decision on the names that will be used will be taken on Tuesday the 10th of March at our next meeting and these new group names will be implemented at the beginning of the next academic term.

We have discussed the possibility of a free standing banner that could stand somewhere in the foyer to welcome the parents and children as they join us in our weekly activities but as of yet, this has yet to be printed due to cost. The team think it would help with educating the congregation to the name change from Sunday School to The Net.

The topic rota has now been in place for over a year and the companion notes created to provide story outlines and web site sources seems to be working well. Both are available on the church website.

All in all a great year, with much to celebrate.

Sarah Dewson

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, Grant Robertson, Susan Robertson, Tom Lewis, Brian Turner, Bruce McKenzie-Boyle, Marjorie Watson Kathy Beard, Daphne Bass, Shirley Mather, Tom Jasper, Simon Butterworth.

During the year Adrienne & Peter Wright moved from Crowthorne. Pat Steer, Jenny McKeever and Tracy Perrett joined the teams. Penny Rickards decided not to continue and she has been replaced by Sue Sumner. Tom Burrell has also resigned.

I have asked James Laverick to join us but we still need one or two more men (I suggest that we need men as the job involves moving chairs and tables in setting up for The Net).

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 www.crowthorneparishchurch.org.uk

The website attracts around 1,400 unique visitors each month. It contains details of all the upcoming services and events, and aims to help newcomers find the information they need to visit our church.

Every group within the Church has a dedicated page. Groups may manage their own information, or send new material to the editor for uploading. If your group would like to do this, just let the editor know. Training is available.

Thanks to Richard Ireson who provides most of the material for the website through St Johns News.

Thanks to Simon Butterworth(SIBIT) for hosting the website and for providing support.

Ken Perrett

Website Editor

Worship

The Worship Committee was re-formed in 2013 after a break. It is comprised of the following representatives: Vicar, LLMs – Gillian Gyenes & Hazel Berry, The Choir: Maggie Wade, The Net & GLorEE: Zella Barrett, Pathfinders: Jade Turner – now vacant, Young people: Helen Whitted, 10 am service: Iain Rogers & Emma McInnes (+ Outreach Comm link), 8 am + CTC: Hilary Burton. A reminder of our original remit: “The Worship Committee will seek to retain the aspects of Worship that are valued but also create new opportunities to experience different styles of worship.”

A main focus of the Worship Committee this year has been the introduction of Messy Church, as an outreach enterprise. In order to be able to use the brand name “Messy Church”, we had to include certain components: Coffee & biscuits upon arrival, craft activities, a simple act of worship and a light lunch, which has proved to be a winning formula. A Messy Church planning group was established out of Worship Committee members and additional recruits, including from the Outreach Committee. With one or two people heading up each of the key areas, it has meant that we have been able to reduce these extra meetings to one per Messy Church.

The first Messy Church, “Messy Harvest”, was launched on 27th September. This was well received, although, numbers were not that high. The second, “Messy Epiphany/Christingle” took place on 10th January this year. Attendance was up on last time: 19 families, 31 children, in total, so word had got around. There was a great atmosphere. It also served as a good bridge/advert for our all age “Epiphany Christingle Toy service” the next day. Christingles made on the Saturday, including the large collage one on a board, were then used in the worship on the Sunday. Messy Church will be continued, on a termly basis, as a Saturday morning/ lunch time event. The next theme will be “Messy Pentecost”.

We are particularly grateful to Maggie Woodage for her drive in getting Messy Church going. Maggie needs to take a step back for the rest of this year, due to other commitments but Emma McInnes and Anna Forbes have taken up the mantle to organise the craft. I am indebted to the Messy Church planning group and all the helpers for their energy and enthusiasm and enabling Messy Church to happen.

Certain Sunday 10 am services are designated as non-Eucharistic outreach style services throughout the church year: The Epiphany Christingle Toy service, Mothering Sunday, Father’s Day and Harvest. PACT (Parents and Children Together) no longer take toys and so Berkshire Women’s Aid are now the grateful recipients of the toys from our Toy service; thanks to Mel Saville for putting them on our radar and delivering the toys. Then there are all age Eucharists on Easter Day, Christmas Day and the Patronal Festival, which has been pitched as a parade service. However, given the difficulty in getting the uniformed organisations to attend this (competition with camps, etc) and even our own youngsters last year, it has now been decided to revert to a “normal” Eucharist for our Patronal Festival. It is especially tricky when guest preachers have been briefed to do an all-age talk and the congregation is

99% adult. We were pleased to have Olivia Graham, our new archdeacon with us last year. I'm not sure she believed my protestations about how many children we had the week before! Other all-age services continue to thrive and the Café Eucharists should be added to this mix. The decision was taken a year ago to increase these to three times a year, during school holidays when the Net is not running: February half term, August (as previously) and October half term.

I have focused upon the developments in all age worship in this report but of course we continue to provide a whole spectrum of Worship at St John's, from BCP Holy Communion and Choral Evensong to Common Worship seasonal services, the occasional Taizé service and experimental one offs. Why not try something you have not experienced before and be open to encountering God afresh. Finally, thank you to everyone who contributes to our worship up front or behind the scenes – do you notice, for instance, the neatly trimmed candles and polished brass – it all adds to our worship.

Revd Lisa Cornwell