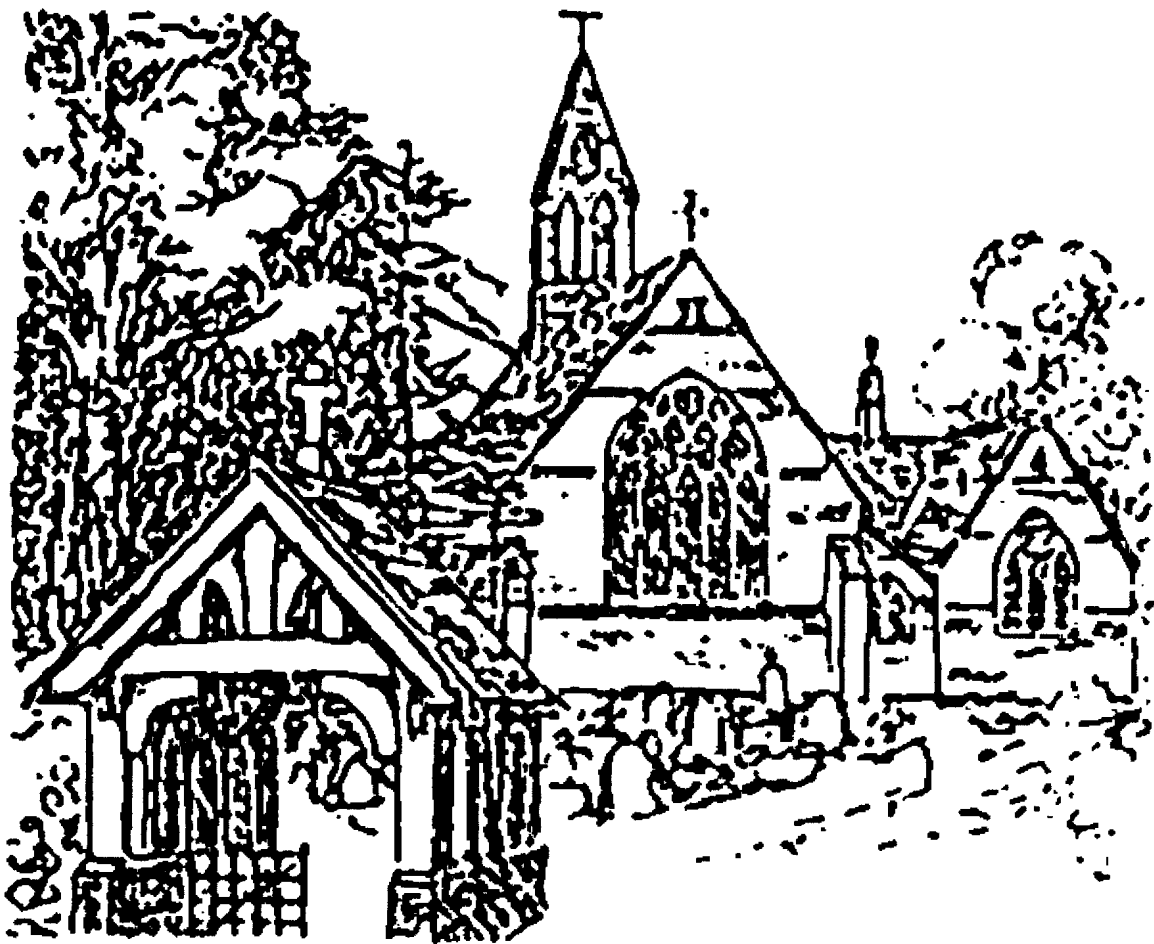


**St John the Baptist Parish Church
Crowthorne**

Annual Report 2010 - 2011



www.CrowthorneParishChurch.org.uk

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CROWTHORNE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHONERS to be held on Sunday, April 10th 2011 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 2010
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 10th 2011 in the Parish Church Hall.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 2010 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
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
 - a. Hon Secretary
 - b. Hon Treasurer
 - c. Hon Independent Examiner
 - d. Welcome Teams
10. Notices
11. Closing prayers

AGENDA of FIRST PCC MEETING

(to follow APCM on SUNDAY, APRIL 10th)

1. Minutes of the PCC meeting of the 8th March 2011
2. Matters Arising from the Minutes
3. Committee Membership.
4. Dates of meetings for the year.
5. Correspondence
6. AOB

CROWTHORNE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Rev'd Lisa Cornwell (Chairman)
Ken Perrett (Churchwarden)
Laszlo Gyenes (Churchwarden)
Beccy Al-Jadir (Hon Treasurer)
Jenny McKeever (Hon Secretary)

Meeting of Parishioners held after 10.00am service on Sunday 25th April 2010

Opening prayers

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Brian & Hazel Berry, Tracy Perrett, Doreen Norfield, Jan Lawson, Martin Whitsed, Carol Frost, Brian & Audrey Hooper, Margaret Barnes, Catherine Pandya, Anna Pearce, Joyce Hull, Bob & Maggie Wade, Molly Papworth, Kaye Martin, Anne Mohan.

Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the Parishioners meeting held on Sunday April 26th 2009 were proposed by David Rance and seconded by Anne Pelham.

Election of Churchwardens

Laszlo Gyenes has agreed to continue as Churchwarden. Ken Perrett nominated him and Willoughy Jones seconded the nomination. All voted in favour of Laszlo remaining as a Churchwarden.

As nobody has come forward to stand as the second Churchwarden, Ken Perrett will continue in the role until 31st July 2010 when his term of office officially comes to an end. A member of the congregation has agreed to act as Churchwarden but will not be able to take on the role until next March when his work load is expected to lighten. He will be appointed at the APCM next year unless someone else is able to take on the role in the meantime.

Ken was warmly thanked for his work as Churchwarden and for his contribution to the smooth running of the Church. Lisa presented him with a small token of appreciation on behalf of the congregation and he was given a round of applause. Ken replied that a bonus of the job of churchwarden was that you received the praise for the work of others although there were the occasional criticisms too. He has enjoyed his term of office and will be available to assist St John's in the future.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday April 25th 2010

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Acceptance of the minutes were proposed by Bob Ebdon and seconded by Sheila Clapham and agreed by all. They were signed as a true record.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Presentation on Living Faith

Gillian Gyenes gave a short talk on “Living Faith”. We have heard many references to this topic over the last year and our Vision process has been linked in with the Diocesan initiative of “Living Faith”. Everyone should have a card which has been distributed by the Diocese with the 5 colours on it. This past year the Diocese has been concentrating on “Sustaining the Sacred Centre” which is coloured red. Sustaining the Sacred Centre is the nucleus before moving out into the other fields.

During the coming year the main focus will be on “Creating vibrant Christian Communities”. At our May Fair on Monday 3rd May we will be taking the church into the community. We should act naturally not artificially to win the trust and respect of the community. Hope Zone is a particular venture which we share with the other churches in the village. “Collaborative Leadership” covers all sorts of ministry. Under “Making Disciples” several new families have joined the congregation recently and we must ensure that we sustain the welcome they initially received. “Making a difference in the World” has seen the Bishops writing about the forthcoming General Election and globally we must continue to meet our mission funding commitments.

Lisa thanked Gillian for her summary and spoke briefly about the areas in which we have already acted to “Sustain the Sacred Centre”. At St John’s we have tried to immerse the life of the Church in prayer. We have held a prayer course, led by Hazel and Lisa and a parish quiet day, led by Elaine Chalmers-Brown. Hazel has prepared a prayer leaflet to be available for visitors to the Church and Irene & Lewis Simmons have made booklets on prayer available in the Church. Irene is also preparing a monthly prayer diary relating to St John’s which is circulated at the back of St John’s News and Hazel will do a churchyard prayer walk leaflet when the roofing work is finished. Molly Papworth runs a prayer time on a Tuesday evening at 6.15p.m. and the Julian prayer group will re-start shortly. There is also a prayer group who meet on a Monday morning under the auspices of the Church of the Holy Ghost. Lisa hopes to see a Parish retreat sometime in the future when the quiet days are better supported and to have a team of people available to pray after church on Sundays with those who want this support. Our regular worship also sustains the sacred centre and in our attitude and approach to this we can benefit greatly by being ready to receive from God as well as by our worship of Him.

4. Update on roof restoration project

Mike Thackray thanked everyone for their patience and perseverance during the upset necessarily caused by the builders while they undertake the re-roofing work. He especially thanked Vanessa Burrell and the cleaners for their extra work. So far he is impressed with the work carried out by the builders. They are stripping the tiles off matching slopes so as to keep the balance and managing to salvage 50% of the tiles removed. The contractors have not found too much insect damage so far. They will be able to carry out the spraying of the support timbers rather than have to sub-contract this work. He does not expect such a good picture when the North Aisle and Vicar’s vestry roofs are stripped. The bellcote may need an extra £3,000 spent on it as the brickwork is in a poor condition and the ironwork is badly rusted. Mike was hoping to clean the ironwork himself but the contractors cannot allow this under health and safety regulations.

Mike also thanked everyone for the May Fair donations received so far.

Richard Ireson suggested that a vote of thanks be made to Mike, Laszlo and the Fabric committee for their hard work on the roof renovation. There was a warm round of applause from all present.

5. Approval of Annual Report and Accounts

The Chairman thanked Beccy Al Jadir for her report and asked her to give an overview of the accounts.

Beccy started with page 2 of the Accounts showing that the overall income in round figures was £166K and the overall expenditure was £140K giving a net income of £25K. She then referred us to note 2 on page 6 showing voluntary income of £63K which appears to have remained similar to last year, though there is an item of £3,500 under Donations last year that ought to have been in Planned Giving, making planned giving £4K down on last year. About £2K of this fall is attributable to the Repair and Renovation Fund appeal, and there have been some deaths and people moving away. The Repair and Renovation Fund appeal under restricted donations include the income tax reclaimable under gift aid of £6K. Under note 3, the May Fair fund raising is down by £321 due to less sponsorship being offered. Under note 4 the interest received was down considerably on the previous year due to the fall in the bank rate. Under note 5 the letting income is down by some £1,200. Under note 8 the mission giving is down by £700 due to the fall in income (mission donations are calculated as a percentage of our income). Our parish share is up by 2½%. Fees increased by £1,400 and church maintenance was up due to an exceptional heating repair of £800. The Church roof item includes the architects fees of £6,200.

Beccy then referred us back to the Balance Sheet on page 3. The investments have dropped from last year as some investments were sold to realise £58K for the roof. This money, together with the Trust deposit account has provided £94,755 for the Repair and Renovation Fund appeal. The balance of £91,063 left in the Trust can only be used for the purchase of a property. The Debtors include the prepaid insurance of £1.8K, hall hire of £411 and prepaid light and heating costs of £751. The cash at bank of £177K, includes £165K held in the Church of England Deposit Account. The creditors in note 14 includes £5K for the organ and £2K for the carpeting, the architect's fee of £2K and fees payable to ODBF of £1,300. In note 15 the £134K receipts in the Repair & Renovation fund includes £94K received from the sale of the trust investments and Trust cash, £38K from the appeal, £732 from fundraising events, and bank interest. Beccy concluded her summary by stating that there is nearly four months expenditure held in the reserves.

Richard Ireson asked what Beccy expects the parish finance picture to look like in 12 months time. Beccy replied that she expects that there will be a deficit of around £4K. The stewardship campaign has increased giving by an extra £330 per month, so planned giving should be back as it was last year. Lisa commented that we need to take heed and increase our stewardship giving and hoped interest rates would come back up.

Laszlo Gyenes proposed acceptance of the report this was seconded by Willoughby Jones and agreed by all. There was a round of applause for Beccy.

6. Report on Electoral roll

Although unable to be present, Tracy Perrett, the Electoral Roll Officer, circulated a report stating that the number of people on the electoral roll as at the APCM last year was 263. In the twelve months since then, 15 new names have been added and 23 removed, mainly those who have moved away from the parish. Accordingly the Church Electoral Roll figure now stands at 255. The amended Electoral Roll has been on display for 14 days to allow for any appeals against the inclusion or removal of any name. No appeals were received.

Lisa thanked Tracy for her report.

7. Presentation of Parish Reports

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

- ❑ *Vicar's report.* Lisa said that she finds the preparation of the Vicar's Report a helpful exercise to review the year.
- ❑ *Churchwardens report.* The vicar expressed her appreciation for the time and efforts Ken has put into the Hope Zone and Laszlo into the roof project and for their diligent and able services to the church.
- ❑ *Adult Learning.* Thanks to Gillian Gyenes for her report and for her work in this field. Special thanks to Carol Frost for organising the house groups. If anyone is able to take over this task please come forward.
- ❑ *Befrienders/Baptismal support.* Thanks to Christine Rees for organising this and to all the befrienders. All members of the congregation have a role to befriend new church families.
- ❑ *Choir.* Thanks to Tom Shorter for his report and leadership of the choir. Lisa thanked the choir and those extras who increase the numbers for "High Days and Holy Days".
- ❑ *Cleaning.* Thank you to Vanessa Burrell for taking over the cleaning rota from Pam Bainbridge who continues to clean the brass. A big thank you to all the cleaners throughout the year.
- ❑ *Churches together.* Thank you to Jenny McKeever for the report, Jenny is the CTC treasurer. More volunteers for the Hope Drop in centre are very welcome.
- ❑ *Flowers.* Carol Cain and all the flower arrangers are very much appreciated. The flowers looked splendid over Easter.
- ❑ *Church Office.* Thanks to Liz Baker and the industrious team who work very hard on Wednesday mornings. Louise Lobley has now joined the team specifically to take on the production of the weekly notice sheet. A huge thank you is due to Lewis for the years of effort and time he has put into producing the pew sheets. Nicola Godfrey has also joined the office team.
- ❑ *Churchyard.* Sincere thanks to David Bainbridge and his team of workers for the upkeep of the Churchyard. Lisa receives many compliments on how well the Churchyard looks from local residents.

- ❑ *Deanery Synod.* Thanks to Gillian Gyenes, who is on the Deanery Standing Committee, for the informative account of deanery activities for the year. It is important to be involved in the wider church beyond our own boundaries.
- ❑ *Fabric.* Many thanks to Mike Thackray and to Laszlo and the committee for their work on the Church maintenance.
- ❑ *May Fair.* A big thank you to Brian Turner and committee for last year's May Fair. Many thanks to Mike Thackray for taking on the role of Chair this year and to everyone who has pitched in. Pray for good weather for Monday 3rd May.
- ❑ *FairTrade* Thank you to Anne Pelham for her illuminating report and to all who continue to support the Fair Trade stall.
- ❑ *Health & Safety* was absorbed into the Fabric committee although we may set up a safeguarding group to maintain awareness of this important aspect.
- ❑ *Lunchtime Talkabout.* Thank you to Anna Forbes and her team. This activity has brought more people into the Church fold.
- ❑ *Missions/Children's Society .* Thanks to Hazel Berry for her report. The Church benefits from the outside speakers arranged by the Missions committee. Thank you to Catherine Pandya for her hard work for the Children's Society and to Pam Hills who is taking over from Catherine in promoting the Children's Society among the congregation and to Anna Forbes who will take over the making of the Christingles.
- ❑ *Mothers and Toddlers.* Thank you to Christine Rees and to Karen Billyard for the report and very grateful to Karen Billyard and the back up team for organising Mother and Toddlers.
- ❑ *Mothers Union.* Lisa expressed her gratitude to the Mother's Union for all their support of our Church's activities. Thank you to Margaret Barnes for her leadership and warm wishes to Carol Frost as she takes on this role.
- ❑ *Outreach.* This committee met a couple of times during the year. Unfortunately there is no one in the chair, the committee needs new blood and leadership. It is an important part of our Church life.
- ❑ *Pastoral Committee* Thanks again to Christine Rees for another report. The pastoral group provides a channel of communication between the PCC and various groups within the Church.
- ❑ *Pathfinders.* Thanks to the terrific team who organise the Pathfinders for their continuing energy and commitment.
- ❑ *Prayer Groups.* Thanks to Gillian Gyenes and Margaret Barnes for their reports. Thank you to Molly Papworth for leading the Tuesday prayer group.
- ❑ *Servers* Chris Williams joined the confirmation group for a session recently resulting in a new intake of acolytes to the team. We owe a huge thank you to Chris for his work in organising and enthusing the servers.
- ❑ *Sidesmen.* Many thanks to Doreen Norfield and all involved. The sidespeople provide an essential role in our worship. Special thanks for their extra work in setting up for special services.

- ❑ *Social committee.* Thank you to Jill Pope and all the team. Lisa suggested that those who have never experienced a St John's social event are missing out.
- ❑ *Stewardship.* General funds have slipped a bit but there has been a useful outcome to the time and talents initiative.
- ❑ *St John's News.* Immensely grateful to Richard Ireson for doing a fantastic job for the last eleven years. A successor to Richard is needed. The website should have its own report, note for next year. It is largely generated from SJN.
- ❑ *Sunday School.* Thanks to Lisa Kemball for her informative report. Thanks to all the teachers who work so well together. The Sunday School is a significant part of the Church family.
- ❑ *Worship Committee* Thank you to the committee for their creative thinking. We need to have more people involved with the worship.
- ❑ *Church Library* A big thank you to Jan Lawson for taking on the library. Next year we will include a library report.

Questions

There were no questions.

8. Elections

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

<u>New nominations</u> FOR 3 YEARS	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
1 Jill Pope	Jenny McKeever	David Rance
2 Martin Whitsed	Mike Thackray	David Rance
3 Louise Lobley	Kath Coutts	Tony Coutts
4 David Chater-Lee	Laszlo Gyenes	Jill Pope
5		
6		
7		

As there were only 4 nominations for the vacancies they were all appointed without a vote.

Deanery Synod

Carol Frost and Catherine Pandya have resigned as representatives on the Deanery Synod so two replacements are required. Gillian Gyenes replied in response to a query from Diana Gray that there are 4 Deanery meetings a year. Diana Gray and Jenny McKeever volunteered to act as parish representatives. The on-going representatives are Gillian Gyenes and Richard Ireson.

9. Appointments

Hon. Secretary, Mrs Jenny McKeever was proposed by Sheila Clapham, seconded by Kath Coutts and agreed by all and was so appointed.

Hon. Treasurer, Beccy Al-Jadir was proposed by Diana Gray, seconded by Grant Robertson and all agreed and was so appointed.

Hon Independent Examiner; Tony Coutts proposed Laura Myers and this was seconded by Mike Thackray and agreed by all and was so appointed.

There is one amendment to the sidesmen as listed in the Parish report as follows; Richard Ireson is retiring from the 10a.m. service and will assist at the 8a.m. service on every 5th Sunday, Ken Perrett will replace Richard at the 10a.m. service. These sidesmen as listed, with the amendment, for the 8.a.m. and similarly for the 10.am services were proposed by Sheila Clapham and seconded by Peter Hattersley and agreed by all and so were reappointed on bloc.

10. Notices

There were no notices

The next APCM will be on Sunday, 10th April 2011, (after the 10.00a.m. service, time to be confirmed.)

Vicar's Report

Three different strands have influenced our activities throughout the last year. Firstly, our own parish vision - it is now two years since its launch. Secondly, the Diocesan "Living Faith" vision, which had "Sustaining the sacred centre" as its priority last year and "Making disciples" as its focus this year. The other consideration for 2011 is the 400 year anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible – this is an opportunity to give recognition to the KJV but predominantly, to promote the ongoing relevance of bible in its contemporary translations for our modern world. In February, Gillian Gyenes gave us a fascinating tour through the history of the KJV. Then the following week, a guest speaker from the Bible Society gave us a very inspiring talk on the work of the Bible Society both worldwide and on how they are resourcing churches in this country. Many of us enjoyed participating in the two week continuous read of the KJV at Wellington College and we will be keeping an eye out for other events to support throughout the year.

A big event in the life of our church last summer was, of course, the replacement of our roof. All went smoothly, even ahead of schedule and thanks are due to Mike Thackray and Laszlo Gyenes for their careful oversight of the project. In October we held our "Thanksgiving for the roof service" to celebrate,

with the Venerable Norman Russell, Archdeacon of Berkshire, as guest preacher and a rousing performance of Captain Noah by the choir.

Fundraising has continued throughout the year to settle the bill for the roof and now we have made a start on the heating project fund. There have been successful concerts by the Crowthorne Orchestra, Sandhurst Silver band and a "Trio Treats" concert. We are very grateful to these groups for their support. St John's in the snow Christmas cards were popular, thanks to Danzi Castle for researching and rallying around to get them produced. Joan Colyer and Irene Simmons have also put their creativity to good use and kindly made cards for sale in the cause. The event that we had all been waiting for, St John's "Jewel Ball" was held at Wellington College on 12th February. Tickets were sold out swiftly and it was good to see many folk from the wider community there on the night. We are immensely grateful to Michelle Field, her team of organisers and everyone who contributed to make this such a winning event.

There were other new initiatives this year. Christmas saw the successful debut of St John's own GLorEE club, under the inspiration and direction of Zellah Barratt. Hopefully to be a feature of all-age and special worship for a long time to come. This is a way of connecting our worship with contemporary culture. The GLorEE club sing contemporary songs with religious imagery or a theme relevant to the occasion.

St John's book group was initiated in the autumn, thanks to Anne Pelham. We have now enjoyed two animated evenings, glass of wine in hand, discussing Philip Yancey's, "What's so amazing about grace", and Adam Bradford's, "The Jesus Discovery".

Tying in with our vision focus, "As the **Church** the body of Christ: we aim to be a community caring for all..." and accompanying action point: "A friendly welcome and clear guidance for all who enter the church", we have been giving particular attention to the area of welcome. Last autumn we ran the "Everybody Welcome Course", to consider the importance of welcome for church communities and how effective we are as a church at the business of welcome. We engaged with teaching material in DVD and book form, completed tick lists, hosted a mystery worshipper one Sunday and had much discussion about our feedback and thoughts. The ground covered ranged from how to make the church more visible to outsiders and the premises more inviting, to welcoming worship and what makes newcomers stick and become fully participating members of the church. We identified lots of positives that we already do but we also generated a substantive list of actions to improve our welcome. To our satisfaction we have now tackled quite a lot of the items on the list, in particular:

- Further develop contacts with outside organisations through hall hire. Action: Christine Rees
- Sensor lighting needed outside back/ kitchen door. Action: Fabric Committee
- Tidy up foyer: noticeboards & clutter. Action: Office team in liaison with Vicar
- Repaint foyer. Action: Fabric Committee
- New flooring for foyer. Action: Fabric Committee/ PCC (Glenda Bateman bequest)
- Hall floor to be polished & sealed. Action: Fabric Committee
- Welcomer to stand outside (weather permitting). Action: Doreen/ Welcome teams
- When newcomers identified – book "giver outers" to pass them onto welcome team members standing by glass doors into church. Their job is to seek out a suitable "regular" in the pews to sit newcomer by for friendly assistance. Action: Welcome teams
- Large print orders of service to be visible by service books on table. Action: Welcome team
- Have a table in the hall with a sign saying "Newcomers Welcome" with a member of the Welcome Team or Pastoral Visiting Group standing by it looking approachable! (The church member who has looked after the newcomer during the service can bring them into the hall and take them over to the welcome table or introduce to other church members) Action: Vicar/ Welcome Teams/ PVG
- Social for newcomers. Action: Vicar/ Welcome teams
- Question to be added on newcomers contact details form "Would you like a visit?" Action: Lisa/ Ken

It is important as well to extend our welcome beyond our own doors and we do this annually with the May Fair, which was all hands to the pump again last year for another memorable May Fair. Another way we

have been engaging in outreach is through increased support for the Churches Together Hopezone project. St John's has now signed up as a "stakeholder", investing financial and human resources. We have adopted Hopezone as one of our seven missions.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your contribution to the life of our church. We have been much preoccupied of late with the fabric of our building but of course the most important definition of the word "church" is the people, without whom there would be no need for the building. Together we can and do make a difference, pooling all our different gifts and experiences. The word "synergy" springs to mind. Collectively, as the body of Christ, we can achieve more for God's kingdom than we can individually.

Last September, I embarked upon the part time/ professional Doctorate in Theology and Ministry at Kings College, London, which I have found very enlivening. I have found my studies and the interaction with other clergy on the course stimulating and relevant to my ministry. It has been good to be reacquainted with teaching that I had begun to forget and to be kept abreast of new developments in thinking. Hopefully, this is being reflected in my sermons, teaching and general outlook.

Rev'd Lisa Cornwell

Churchwardens' Report

I am hopeful that we will be able to welcome Karl Simpson to take up his appointment as our second Churchwarden following the APCM in April. If appointed, Karl and I will serve together until next spring, when my four years of service will end, so we shall then be looking for a further Churchwarden for 2012!

About this time last year, final preparations began to put a new roof on our Church. Thanks to very good weather and to a competent and well managed roofing team, the project has been completed on time and within budget. Lewis Simmons has designed and developed a new bell mechanism, which has also been a success. The cost (£) breakdown of the project, including VAT, was as follows.

Traditional Leadworks and Roofing Ltd.	149,890
Professional fees	24,101
Miscellaneous inc. lightning conductor	1,731
Total	175,722

We will be able to reclaim the VAT on practically all charges incurred subsequent to the date of listing of St. John the Baptist. Thanks to the hard work of the fund raising teams and the strong financial backing of our parishioners, the monies raised have been more than sufficient to pay for the expenses of the project. The surplus of £3,493 will go towards the next major renovation project.

Last year the PCC instructed the Fabric Committee (FC) to look into a partial or complete replacement of the existing heating system. The FC is in favour of a completely new heating installation rather than just a replacement of the existing gas boilers with modern condensing ones. This would not be feasible before summer 2012, at the earliest, or summer 2013, at the latest. The options are wide ranging, the 'green' ones are eligible for grants and for subsidies, whereas conventional fossil fuel options are not. Due consideration has been given to all of the options. There are two favoured ones, slow response and fast response gas fired heating systems. The slow response system is a climate controlled gas fired central heating system with 16 large radiators designed to keep a background temperature of 10/11°C (about 50/52°F) and increase it to 19/20°C (68°F) for periods of occupancy. This would cost £44 thousand plus VAT. The other fast response system consists of an independent set of time and temperature controlled gas fired convector heaters, 7 in the Church and 2 in the Vestries. This would cost £34 thousand plus VAT. Flexibility, lower capital and lower running costs could make it the better choice. However, there are concerns over the effect of fan noise, which will be investigated. Also, the visual impact of external flues might not be compatible with the listed status of our Church. Planning permission will be sought shortly from Bracknell Forest Council.

Another concern being addressed is the lack of space in our Churchyard for further interments. The year before last, the PCC approved a project to investigate the possibility of introducing a Garden of Remembrance within the Churchyard. This will provide for interment by strewing when space elsewhere is no longer available. With the help of David Bainbridge and his team, who keep our Churchyard in an immaculate state, we found another suitable plot by the Lady Chapel for the interment of ashes. This plot would have given us the time needed to make sound preparations for the Garden of Remembrance in the coming year. A few months ago two burial plans were found in our office, one dated 1889 the other 1896. Between 1873, at the start of burials, and 1896 altogether 527 graves were dug and the earliest of those, between 1872 and 1889 were dug in the ground of the designated ashes plot. Both plans show 12 'mounds' (no crosses, no head stones). At present, we have no knowledge of whose remains are in the 12 graves and no precise location of the graves. Unfortunately, we are not permitted to use this plot until we have been granted a faculty by the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Oxford. I am now working on this as a matter of urgency.

As you will see, there is plenty to keep us busy in the next few months. I do appreciate the support that I have received and look forward to bringing these projects nearer to completion in the coming year.

Laszlo Gyenes

Adult Learning

In Summer 2010, we ran a small group course using the Diocesan 'Living Faith' material - five bible studies, based on John's gospel.

In the Autumn, the 'Everyone Welcome' course was held. This generated a good deal of discussion and led to a more strategic approach to the welcome of newcomers, including the introduction of a "Welcome table" in the hall and greater vigilance generally where newcomers are concerned. Also, as a result of considering the first impressions that people have on entering our church, an attractive wooden floor has been laid in the Foyer, and the Hall floor has been repolished and looks very smart again. We record our thanks here to the late Glenda Bateman, whose legacy made this possible. The pigeonholes, for letters etc are now up in the Foyer.

In February, 2 well attended talks were given on the Bible. The first traced the History of the King James' Bible and its impact since 1611, in this the 400th Anniversary year of its publication. (This is now on our parish website, complete with illustrations!) The second, was entitled 'The Bible Today', which was about the work of the Bible Society worldwide.

Our new Confirmation/ discussion groups are beginning in March, 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. There are usually lively discussions in both groups and opportunities for proactive learning. These continue after Easter when the young people will take part in a workshop which includes an away day in Winchester. They will play an active role in the Family Eucharist next morning, as well. The adults also have an excellent support group. Our Confirmation this year will be at St. Michael's, Sandhurst at 6.00pm on Sunday July 10th.

In Lent, there is the opportunity to join the Churches Together Study Groups which cover the York Course on 'Rich Inheritance - Jesus' legacy of Love.' These end with an Agape in Holy Week for all participants.

A book group has been started up this year by Anne Pelham and has had a good following. It meets once a term and has merited some lively discussion on the books read so far: "What's so amazing about grace" by Philip Yancey and "The Jesus discovery" by Adam Bradford.

Looking forward to the summer, we are planning to offer another course based on Bishop John's book, 'Living Jesus.' We have had several requests for more teaching and learning opportunities about the Church and our faith and all are very welcome to take part.

Gillian Gyenes and Lisa Cornwell

Befrienders/Baptismal Support

Eleven baptisms took place at the 10.00am service in 2010. Two of the children were slightly older and the parents recommended a Teddy Horsley Book on Water which we purchased from Quench at Holme Grange and can now recommend to other parents. Baptism preparation evenings continue to be held and families are visited by a befriender. Families are pleased to choose one of the hymns for the service and it is more practical for families to be seated nearer the font. I would like to thank those members of the congregation who have befriended families during the last year.

Christine Rees

Choir

Choir membership – *The Story of David, new choristers, and the old guard!*

2011 has seen the arrival of David Crowe, in a more 'official' capacity, as he and Tom are sharing the role of Directing the Choir and playing the organ. This will hopefully give the choir the best of both approaches!

We have also seen new younger arrivals too, in the form of Lucy and Nadine, bringing a fresh enthusiasm to our singing. As ever, our staunch long-term choristers provide the essential fibre for a balanced choral sound!

Our most regular Choristers:

Sopranos: Anna, Berenice, Julie, Lucy, Nadine, Polly, Sophie, Sophie, Sue
Altos: Jill, Maggie, Liz
Tenor(s)!: Jim
Basses: Bob, Colin, Peter

Recruitment – *Singing in Choir can be Fun!*

Maggie and Jill have worked hard to instigate some fun ways of recruiting. In October we raised the roof in a performance of *Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo*. And, now we're working on *Jerusalem Joy* for a performance (which promises to be unforgettable!) on Palm Sunday. Both cantatas help to engage people (who may be new to singing or being in a musical ensemble) in a story with a chorus (crowd) and main characters. *Jerusalem Joy* depicts Jesus coming into Jerusalem on a donkey, his betrayal by Judas, and his death and resurrection.

Retirement – *Irene Simmons*

Irene has, for many years, made a staggering personal contribution to our music and worship. Although Irene officially 'retired' from regular week-by-week playing this year, we continue to call upon her for important services (such as *Nine Lessons and Carols*). And, we very much hope to be able to continue to call upon her skills and experience in future!

Achievements – *Anna Pearce and Sue Rance*

Anna and Sue made the transition from occasional choristers to regulars this year and have earned their surplices in style!

Solos – Berenice Jasper and Sophie Rance

Amongst the many solos this year, we have heard superb solo-voluntaries sung by Berenice Jasper, and Sophie Rance. They have sung a range of pieces from folk-songs to western art-songs, and these form part of their preparations for music exams at school.

Thanks to...

Lisa, for her hard work and guidance throughout the church year. To Bob and Maggie, our social backbone! To Jill, as 'keeper of the music'. To Jim for 'holding' up (pun intended!) the tenor department (and printing up the sign-out sheets). To Peter for his dedication in getting the hymn numbers printed for the choir and up on the boards for the congregation. To Colin, for his bottom E's. Here's to 2012!

Tom Shorter

Church Cleaners

Thanks to every one of the volunteers who give up their time to maintain the appearance of our church. This has required a good deal of work over the summer months during which the new roof went on to the church which inevitably resulted in considerable layers of dirt below. Special thanks to those who responded to my calls for help for extra cleaning sessions.

There are currently 42 volunteers on the church cleaning rota . This is causing concern as it is significantly down on the number of volunteers last year despite repeated appeals for helpers. This is resulting in some weeks when parts of the church are not being cleaned.

More volunteers are urgently needed to ensure that all areas are cleaned every week. If you are able to help in any way even if only once or twice a year please contact me.

The 'Spring Clean' last year was put back until the roof work was completed at which point a large team turned out to give the church, hall and kitchen a very thorough clean. Many thanks to everyone concerned.

Vanessa Burrell

775644

Churches Together in Crowthorne

The Drop-in Centre which opened in September, 2009 is still well attended with about 100 children using the facilities coming in and out between 3.30pm and 8.00pm. It is staffed by members of all churches but more help is always needed. £10,000 has been earmarked for a wooden building to be built next to the Morgan Centre for this group. There has been a positive reaction from the public and strong support from the Parish Council. The police are a hundred per cent behind this project and a planning application will be submitted shortly.

Summer activities for children were held on the Morgan Recreation Ground. Funding was received from Edgbarrow Community Link, the Co-op, Extended Services, Crowthorne Traders and Youth Opportunities funds. There were 30 volunteers over the four weeks and the number of children went up each week. The children enjoyed face painting, drumming, wall climbing, games and football.

Sue Kirby and others continue to walk around the village on a Friday evening talking and listening to young people. Help is always needed and Sue values prayers from the churches particularly at that time.

Carla McLachlan continues in the role of secretary for C.T.C and Jenny McKeever remains as treasurer. Mike Withers continues to chair but wishes to stand down at the A.G.M in September. Rev Lisa Cornwall continues in the role of vice-chair.

The C.T.C funds come from the coffee mornings run at the Methodist Church on a Tuesday morning and the Baptist Church on a Thursday Morning. We are grateful to Shirley Hopkins and Joan Ford for organising these. The only grant made has been £375 which helped to bring the very successful Vis and Vis Ministries Gig to Crowthorne.

The Darby and Joan tea party went well in Carnival Week.

The Christmas services were advertised in the Crowthorne Eye. A Boxing Day service was held at St. Johns for C.T.C but the carol singing did not take place this year owing to the snow.

The cost of the Lent course books was not covered last year so this year those taking part will be asked to make a donation of £5.00 for the books. Leaders will receive a booklet and a C.D. June Lee has organised the groups again this year and the venues and hosts are much the same as last year. St. Mary and St. Johns at California are now joining with St. James, Finchampstead and some of their members will join the Lent groups. There will be evening services at different churches during Lent and posters have been produced to advertise these. On Good Friday, a service will be held at the Baptist Church at 10.00am. This will be followed by a walk of witness finishing at the Methodist Church where hot cross buns will be served.

There will be a St. Patrick's Day coffee morning at the Baptist Church on Thursday 17th March from 10.30 – 12 noon.

Christian Aid Week will be from 15th – 21st May. An evening service will be held on Sunday 15th May at 6.30pm at the Methodist Church. It was evidently not very well publicised last year. It was the first year the service had been held in the evening as the attendance at the morning service in the previous year had dropped.

Chidamoyo Trust has now become C.T.C's official charity with Gilly Withers as the official representative. That does not mean that other charities will not be supported.

Good Neighbours run by Sue Hester is kept very busy. There was a stand at the Carnival which resulted in six new drivers. As Good Neighbours has been running for about 40 years, Sue is planning to have a celebration for all those involved.

The Vineyard Church continues to hold 'Out to Tea' at Woodmancote once a month and the services, also held once a month at Pinehurst Rest Home, are well supported.

Please continue to support the opportunities throughout the year to join with other churches in Crowthorne to worship together.

Christine Rees.

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 and Remembrance Sunday.

Looking back over the year I feel we have had a bumper year of fantastic flower arranging! We have had four beautiful weddings and some stunning arrangements at the various festivals. I would particularly like to thank all the people who gave up hours of their time creating the arrangements for the weddings. The highlight of the flower arranging year was of course the Flower Festival last summer. The Festival, which is a community event staged as part of Crowthorne Carnival, was entitled 'Rhythm of Life'. The charity we chose to support was Help for Heroes, supporting those members of the armed forces injured in battle. The quality, diversity and creativity within the arrangements were amazing and the festival was an enormous success. This was not only measured by the number of visitors that attended over the three day period, we estimated about 2000! but in the amazing amount of money we raised for Help for Heroes. We were able to present them with a cheque for £4,200 and a further £460 through Gift Aid. In addition to this we raised £950, through the sale of refreshments, for the Church renovation fund. This was an amazing team effort and thanks go to everyone that contributed in so many different ways.

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 10:00am until 1pm each Wednesday. We assist with a variety of tasks, such as copying orders of service, St Johns News, and "Praying for Streets" leaflets. We are fortunate to have a regular team of four volunteers who, with myself, each staff the office once a month – Nicola Godfrey, Caroline Grist, Doreen Norfield and Sue Robertson. Liz Baker has stepped down from running the office during the year and we thank her for her service. I joined the team in December, following my retirement.

The office equipment continues to be improved with a new computer provided by David Chater-Lea. This is a huge improvement and we thank him for arranging this.

We have recently rearranged the furniture in the office so that it is more suitable for use by Pathfinders and as a meeting room. We will shortly embark on the task of reviewing past church documents and preparing for some of them to be passed to the Berkshire Archive.

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

Ken Perrett

Churchyard

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

The team of Jean Butler, Jill Pope, Andrew King, and Pam Bainbridge meet weekly throughout the year. Progress during 2010 and through this winter has been excellent and for the first time ever the churchyard is fully under control. This might change in May and through the summer when the grass and weeds are at their most active.

The highlight of 2010 was the group award made to the garden team by the Crowthorne Awards Committee set up in 1996 to recognise outstanding efforts within the community.

Peter Beaven of the Berkshire Family History Society has almost completed his study of our churchyard. The result is an excellent draft CD with a detailed churchyard plan with location of graves and photographs of each grave, plus any inscription. The final result will be made available on a CD which will provide a permanent record for the future, as well as an easy means to trace burial information. Thank you Peter for your amazing work and endeavours.

The annual hedge trimming activity in October involved many volunteers who did a great job, including partial removal of the tip debris. 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

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod will have met 4 times since our last Annual Parish Meeting however the March Synod will not be held until after this report's printing date consequently only three Synods are included in the report below.

The May Synod was held in St Andrew's Church in Sonning and the September Synod took place at the Cornerstone, All Saints Church, Wokingham. The November Synod was hosted by St John's in our Church Hall. The March Synod will also be in this part of the Deanery as St Sebastian's Church are hosting it.

Our Area Dean was pleased to be able to share the chairing of the meetings with the new lay chair, Martin Hughes, who took up his post at the beginning of the 2010/11 year.

The Deanery Mission Plan was approved and Fresh Expressions Stage-Fright after schools club again received a grant to assist in employing youth workers for the after schools projects centred in Wokingham. Unfortunately the Hope Zone funding application was deferred until a definite building plan for the Drop-in Centre could be presented to the Synod.

There was much discussion on how the surplus in the deanery reserve account should be used. This surplus arose due to the rebates received over the years as the deanery had been able to meet the deadline for paying its Diocesan share on time. Each parish was asked to consider whether the funds should be returned proportionately to each parish, distributed to the most needy parishes or held for funding the new parish of Winnersh or another large scale project. Our PCC opted for a mixture of all three and this was the final consensus agreed at the November Synod. Consequently our Parish received a repayment of £3,649 in January of this year. The Deanery also urged the Diocese to reduce their expenditure and were assured that this was in hand and that overheads are being cut though this reduces the resources available to assist hard-pressed parishes.

The November meeting listened to a very interesting talk on Christ Church Cathedral by the Rev Canon Ed Newell, Sub-Dean of the cathedral. All parishioners worshipping in the Diocese can apply for a pass to visit the cathedral free of charge, see the Cathedral notice on the board in the church lobby for how to apply.

All the Deanery representatives are required to stand for re-election this year. Gillian Gyenes, Richard Ireson, Diana Gray and Jenny McKeever are all willing to put their names forward. We should have five representatives so we need at least one other member of the congregation to stand for election. Please

give your name to Jenny McKeever before the APCM. This is an interesting role enabling the representative to participate in the wider council of the Church of England.

Jenny McKeever

Fabric Committee

Main Fabric Issue was the complete replacement and renewal of the existing tiled roof to all areas of the church building.

Challenges

- Pre-tender information gathering for the roof project
- Faculty application to the Diocese
- Approving the contractor to carry out the project
- Raising funds and awareness to complete the works
- The Bell tower had more work than envisaged

Successes

- Traditional Leadwork and Roofing Ltd an excellent contractor
- Alan Burden the Architect very thorough and diligent
- Extremely dry summer weather
- Fine craftsmanship used
- Excellent blend of tiles chosen by Architect
- Good project and church team communication
- Started and completed precisely on time and in budget

Future

- Renewal of the Heating system
- Choice of systems being evaluated by Fabric Committee
- Quotes are already being compiled for this £40 to £50K project
- Large fundraising project required to pay for this work
- Following the upgrade to our Heating system, attention will then focus on Audio Visual Systems updating and the Organ refurbishment

Mike Thackray

Fairs

May Fair

Topic Area	Item	Responsibility
Recruitment of key players for roles on committee	Chair	Mike
	Treasurer	Dave
	Program & local area Adverstising	Brian
	Purchasing & Stall Support	Sarah

	High St Raffle Sales	Diana
	Stall Holders	Diana
	Site Logistics	Dave
	Set-up & take down manager	Mike/Martin
	Outreach	Dave

Challenges

- Committee still needs support to effect all it's roles
- Program creation, sales to high street and distribution very time consuming
- Difficult economic market
- Competition from carnival
- Plant hire free loans reduced and heavy plant cost the event this year reducing profits
- New layout to Morgan Rec reduced footprint and stall layout
- Mike to step down as Chair after the 2011 event but will remain on the committee taking on the roles he's been doing next year

Successes

- Good media awareness
- Committee used to their roles and able to delegate out to congregation if needed
- Repetition of successful key plan worked things like:
 - Use of SJN to ask for well clarified help in certain areas
 - Advertising the Stall Holders list early on for continued commitment
 - Use of Red Amber Green key role tasks list to monitor progress of event
- Support from Wellington College to print the program once more
- Outstanding marketing effort from Brian & Carol to create, sell and distribute the program
- Superb commitment from Dave, Brian, Martin and Guy to collect equipment and take a day off work to ensure event can go ahead
- Incredible long term vision and support from Sarah and Diana for their purchasing and support of all the stall holders to ensure a successful & profitable event
- Continued fine tuning of the administration of the event so that annual repetition becomes less onerous
- Post event party at the Dial House – supporting local businesses!

Mike Thackray

Mini Advent Fair

This year was the second time that we ran our Mini Advent Fair in the Church Hall following the 10.00 am service on the first Sunday in Advent. The event was again very well supported and enjoyed. Overall, we raised about £800, in addition to concert ticket sales and separate Christmas Card sales. Thank you to all those who contributed. The PCC has now voted to make this an Annual Event.

Gillian Gyenes

Fair Trade

Thank you for buying goods from our fair trade stall. We buy our goods from Traidcraft who sell a very large range of fair trade goods. This year Traidcraft are supplying traders with The REAL EASTER EGG. These eggs are made by the Meaningful Chocolate Company. It is the first fairtrade egg to mention Jesus on the box. There is a donation from the sale of each egg which will go to support the Traidcraft charity, St John the Baptist Church – Parish Report 2011

Traidcraft Exchange and Baby Lifeline. We have ordered some of these special eggs, so please watch out for them on our stall and do buy them from us. It will be first come first served as Traidcraft say that the demand has far exceeded supply.

The world economic difficulties are causing suffering in the West, however, unfair trade rules are one of the reasons, that millions of people in the developing world face real poverty. Two billion people live on just a £1.00 a day or less. The Fairtrade foundation tries to tip the balance in favour of poor farmers and workers.

The effects of Fairtrade are not just economic. Certified Fairtrade producers are required to work to a standard which for some workers means safer working conditions. Workers can also benefit from various training courses. On top of the agreed stable and sustainable prices the producers receive they also get a Fairtrade Premium, to invest in projects that will help their whole communities.

At St John's we have regularly sold Fairtrade goods since June 2004, that's almost 7 years! Thank you to all of you who have brought goods from the stall. For those of you who have not yet tried our goods you maybe surprised at the quality of them. We can only continue selling if you continue to buy the goods.

During 2010 to 2011 we have continued to try and run the stall twice a month, but with so many events going on we have not been able to hold the stall on regular Sundays each month. We advertise the dates in the St Johns News and there is also a copy of the rota on the Fairtrade notice board, so hopefully everyone has advance notice of when the next stall will be taking place.

Anne Pelham

Library

When the Parish Library first opened, it was with a large number of well worn "old favourites", but styles have changed, and we can now offer a wider selection of up to date books in their attractive covers. The large section headed "Miscellaneous" has proved very popular, and we have many members of the congregation who use it regularly.

I have tried to cover the Festivals such as Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter at appropriate times, or publicise special interest on occasions.

We have an "over-flow" section in the Office which people can ask to see.

Books that have been donated, but not considered entirely suitable for purpose, are, wherever possible sent out to Uganda, especially Bibles and Bible Readings. Other books are donated to Charities. Nothing is wasted

The library continues to welcome donations of books of a Christian flavour, and we would particularly welcome some modern, thought provoking ones.

Thank you for your support.

Jan Lawson

Lunchtime Talkabout

A big thank you to Anna Forbes and Lisa Kemball who organised Talkabout for many years. Unfortunately nobody has been found to take over their role so Talkabout has had an enforced break during 2010/11. If anyone would be interested in re-starting this worthwhile and interesting group activity please talk to Lisa or Anna.

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 have been, The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG) – Hazel Berry; Church Mission Society (CMS) - Sheila Clapham, The Leprosy Mission - Wendy Allerton; Missions to Seafarers - Brian Hooper; The Corrymeela Community – Diana Gray; Church Army - Gini Cope; and the Bible Society - Jenny Sanders. In 2009-10, St. John's has donated £10757.39 representing 12½ % of planned giving equally divided between the 7 missions. We are constantly looking for ways in which our support can be more directed, and Diana Gray is actively pursuing links between some young people at Ranelagh School and Corrymeela.

Over the past year we had to take the difficult decision that, because of our need to support the local Hopezone project that we had to cease our financial support of one of the societies, which we have supported for many years. After much thought and prayer USPG received our last donation for the present in November 2010. In future Hopezone will receive a donation as one of our seven supported missions.

During the year Claire Taylor was co-opted on to the committee as CMS representative and Maureen Raybould was co-opted to represent Hopezone.

While it does not receive a similar direct donation, Pam Hills has represented the Children's Society on the committee and the Church raised money through the Crib Service, Christmas morning service (£510) and the Christingle Service (£229). Pam also sold over £700 worth of Children's Society Christmas cards. Sheila Clapham has moved within the committee to act as our liaison with the Helen and Douglas House, the hospices for children and young adults in Oxford. Molly Papworth represents the Dayspring School in Jinja, Uganda, to which the surplus proceeds from the Sunday morning coffee are donated, in the past year, £360).

We have Missions preachers at the 10am and sometimes the 8am services on a rolling programme from all these Missions. In the past year Bill Hewis spoke to us about the Leprosy Mission, Ian Gilchrist about Corrymeela, Martin Ceaser and Sue Kirby about Hopezone (a donation of £183 was made to Hopezone) and Heather Clements spoke about the Bible Society. Some of the preachers also talk to the Pathfinders. On Christ the King Sunday we had our usual Missions display and sister Frances Dominica gave a very inspiring talk on Helen and Douglas houses and the bucket collection raised £672 including money from a cake stall for Helen and Douglas Houses.

A Lent Lunch to raise much needed monies for St George's Baghdad is planned for March 27th.

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 is a great team and I would like to thank them all for their sterling work this past year. 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 aims to make childhood better for all children, especially the most disadvantaged and vulnerable. They transform the lives of around 45,000 children and young people each year by supporting young runaways and children in care, giving a voice to disabled children, helping young refugees to rebuild their lives and providing relief for young carers. Through their campaigns and research, The Children's Society seeks to influence policy and perceptions so that children and young people have a better chance in life.

Once again this year, St John's and the local community has supported this work through its fundraising activities:

Box collections	£370.59
Christingle service	£261.91 (including £42.31 Gift Aid)
Christmas Day and Crib Service	£509.78
Donations	£ 37.60
Coffee Morning Donations	£ 74.76
Christmas Card Sales	£709.61
Community Boxes	£168.58

If you would like to learn more about the work of The Children's Society I have a small booklet which you may take or you can go onto the website at www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Thank you to everyone for all the support I have received during the past year. A special thank you to Tracy for all her help, to Catherine for helping me in the transition period and to Anna for organizing the Christingle Service.

I look forward to the following year and your continuing generous support.

Pamela Hills

Mothers & Toddlers

The numbers at mothers and toddlers continues to fluctuate each week and on average in 2010 we welcomed 14 children each week. In 2010 we took £358 in voluntary contributions and ploughed this back into much needed materials for craft activities which were possible links to the bible story of the week. Examples include growing cress for the story of creation or making sandwiches for the story of Zacchaeus. There are also crafts that relate to other events that take place throughout the year, including Easter, Christmas and the end of term when we have parties to say goodbye to children starting school. We also encourage older siblings to come back and join us in the holidays and prepare craft activities appropriate for them too.

There are currently four mums who are on the story rota and three who share the singing. The pianists, Sue, Marjorie and Jacqui also work on a three week rota. Jean prepares drinks and biscuits for ourselves and those attending the ten o'clock service, with the contributions going to charity. Ken and Tracey now help to put out the furniture on a Tuesday night unless there has been a PCC meeting when everyone helps and I can't stress enough the difference this has made in just the last few weeks. I am now able to dedicate my time to preparing the craft and welcoming families who were being neglected at the beginning of a session. The next challenge is to find a solution to clearing away at the end of a session as sometimes mums have to dash off and it is a mammoth task for one or two.

The questionnaire wasn't conclusive enough to change the timing of the session, although I feel we should not rule out an earlier start time as giving children biscuits just before lunch isn't too popular with mums and the craft is often rushed. Moving the session to the foyer has been very positively received though and came about as a result of the church roof repair and the hazards it posed. The foyer is warmer, more intimate and informal and mums find holding onto their youngsters easier to control. The new wooden floor is also a clean and safe environment. We still use the church when we can, including hiding coins or a lost sheep and of course to share the nativity scene, harvest display or Easter garden.

Karen Billyard.

Mothers' Union

Crowthorne Mothers Union continues to meet twice a month, on the first Tuesday evening at 8pm and on the second Wednesday at 2.15pm. This past year we have had a wide selection of meetings and

speakers, and we have been able to use some of our own members to lead events. We are so very fortunate to have so many very talented members in our branch.

This coming year our Diocese remains without a President, and so a Leadership team and Trustees continue to organise events, and we remember them in our prayers. On March 25th our Lady Day service will be held at All Saints Church in Ascot. All Saints is a lovely church, and we are looking forward to having the service there.

Our Diocesan Summer Meeting will be held at St. James, Finchampstead on July 11th. As it was so successful last year the Diocese has again decided to hold the summer meetings around the area, so members do not have so far to travel.

Our Branch here in Crowthorne is very fortunate, as we have a good membership, and we are able to be very active within our church, helping with the Mother and Toddler service, the Sunday crèche, Mothering Sunday and the May Fair and Advent Fair, as well as providing flowers in the Lady Chapel every week. We still help out fortnightly at Woodmancote, our village Daycentre, which is a valuable part of our work. We have managed to raise £273 this year for our overseas fund, £100 for our Emergency Relief Fund and £252 for AFIA, our holiday scheme for disadvantaged families.

Our Branch outing last June to the Red Cross Open Day at Wellington College was very popular, though once again the weather let us down for our garden party, but never mind, we called it Afternoon Tea instead and a very enjoyable afternoon in the church hall was had by all. The fun and fellowship we share, and the support we give each other is very special, and we would welcome any new members from our congregation to join us, and work through the aims and objectives of our great UNION. The committee works very hard which makes my job so much easier, and I am most grateful to them. Please come and learn more about the Mothers' Union which is a truly international organisation with branches in 78 countries, I would be more than happy to tell you all about us.

Prayers and Blessings

Carol Frost

I would like to share with you the personal prayer of Mary Sumner the founder of the Mothers' Union:

All this day, O Lord,
Let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
And every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,
Whether through the word I speak,
The prayer I breathe,
Or the life I live. Amen

Outreach

This group remains without a leader during 2010/11 and consequently has not met. If any church members would be interested in finding out more about this important work please speak to Lisa or Ken.

Pastoral Committee

We continue to act as a support group for those already in a caring role in the various organisations, committees and groups at St. Johns. We meet every other month at the home of Maggie Wade and have representatives from Baptism Befrienders, the Choir, Mothers and Toddlers, Mothers Union, Pastoral Visiting, Pathfinders and Sunday school.

Sadly, Talkabout is no longer held as new leaders could not be found for this group which was started by Elizabeth Hale. We are grateful to Anna Forbes and Lisa Kemball for running the group for some years.

Peter Hattersley brings us up to date with the mini-bus Sunday rota. Another driver is needed as two people have recently had to drop out. The jazz concert, which is held at Wellington College each year, raises funds for the mini-bus.

St John the Baptist Church – Parish Report 2011

The Pastoral Visiting group also meets every other month. There is now a welcome table at the Sunday 10.00am service. This is manned by members of this group and other volunteers who look out for newcomers.

Those attending the 10.00am service on a Wednesday really appreciate the coffee provided as it gives them a chance to get to know each other.

Christine Rees

Pathfinders

Our Pathfinders continue to meet on a regular basis on Sunday mornings in the Church Office. We are very grateful to the office staff for a number of changes in the office which have improved our meeting space.

Since September, our programme has been based on the weekly lectionary readings. Each week the leader - Mike Thackray, Claire Dibb, David Rance or Tracy Perrett - uses the readings as a guide for our activities and discussion. As well as providing a basis for our sessions, following the lectionary also enables us to integrate more closely with the rest of the Church.

Currently there are approximately 16 Pathfinders ranging in age from 11 up to 17. As well as our Sunday morning meeting, we try to arrange regular social get-togethers – in the past year these have included youth-club type meetings, film nights, a Christmas Party, a Bonfire Party and a camping trip.

It's always a great pleasure to see the Pathfinders getting involved in other activities in the Church. In September they did a great job (once again) of making cakes, serving tea and singing favourite hymns at the very popular annual "Tea and Favourite Hymns" service. In October, a number of them were involved in the production of "Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo". They also took part in the all-age services including Mothering Sunday, Father's Day and Harvest Festival.

In addition they have been involved in a couple of CTC events. We had wonderful time with the Baptist Church helping with the Light Party and participating in the Light Service on the 31st October. At Christmas a few of us went to Pinehurst Care Home where we led the service, sang carols and shared a special time with the residents.

Working with the Pathfinders is often joyful, sometimes frustrating, always challenging and never boring! Many thanks to my accomplices – Mike, Dave and Claire – for all their hard work and support. And special thanks to the Pathfinders for keeping us on our toes and for all that they contribute to St John's.

Tracy Perrett

Prayer Groups

Julian Group

After a short break last year, the Julian Meeting had resumed. It still meets on the third Wednesday evening of every month at St John's Lodge, Church Street. It is interdenominational and is attended by members from other churches in the parish.

The Julian Meetings foster the teaching and practice of contemplative prayer in the Christian tradition. They help and encourage people to practise contemplative prayer in their daily lives and explore ways of doing this that are appropriate to them. Through the quarterly magazine they support individual ecumenical Julian Meetings – groups like ours that meet regularly to practise Christian contemplative prayer together.

A notice about the Julian Meeting is posted on the notice board in the foyer each month, and anyone is most welcome to come along.

Maggie Wade

Mothers Union Prayer Group

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

Prayers and Blessings

Carol Frost

Prayers for the Parish

For the past year two or three of us have been meeting in the church each Tuesday for half an hour for prayers for the work of our church and the parish. We include those in the Prayer Diary so linking together all our prayers for the week, using the The Celtic Daily Prayer by David Adams to provide us with a 'framework'.

If anyone is free from 6.00 -6,30 on a Tuesday please come and join us, you would be very welcome.

Molly Papworth

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.

Gillian Gyenes

Servers

What do we want from our worship?

I believe having servers to lead us in at the start of our main Sunday Eucharist helps us to focus, as the procession and processional hymn remind us of Christ's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, just as the Gospel procession reminds us of how the words of the Bible were brought to the people in an era when candle illumination was essential.

I believe servers are privileged to be closer to and more involved in our worship at the altar.

I believe servers make an important contribution to our worship in helping to prepare beforehand and clear away afterwards.

For recruitment we rely on asking and getting confirmands to become a server but, as with everything in modern times, there is constant attrition, as other activities prove more attractive. Everybody is welcome to join us, whether adult or child, male or female, whether for regular 10 o'clock or 8 o'clock services, or occasionally such as weekday celebrations or just for holiday cover. Please feel free to talk to me or Gillian or Lisa.

As ever, I thank all servers who have contributed faithfully to our worship at St John's.

Chris Williams

Social Committee

On reflection this year seems to have been a mixture of our own annual events and of catering for events offered or organised by volunteers supporting the R & R fundraising.

The Patronal Festival BBQ in June was again blessed with good weather and both this and our Harvest supper were well supported. Thanks go to Melinda Bennett and her husband Dave, members of EBOS, who provided delightful entertainment for the latter occasion.

The Orchestral concert on Carnival night, the presentation of Noah in October, the choir concert in December and the recent "Trios treats" have all functioned with help from the Social committee.

The success of the Flower Festival in respect of raising almost £1,000 speaks for itself, but once again relied on a great "team effort" and contribution from members of the congregation. We are nearly half way to the next one!!

. "Forties Night" last November inspired resourcefulness and was a really fun evening. Of all the events during the year committee members found it perhaps the most relaxing. Thanks to Ken & Tracy for their valuable help with preparation for this evening.

Planning for the "8 meets 10" breakfast and the Family Fun afternoon relies on a certain amount of guess work, but both provide valuable opportunities for Church members to integrate and they continue to receive support.

Thank-you to all who have been so supportive in what has been a busy year.

Jill Pope

Stewardship

The Stewardship campaign involved yet another excellent presentation from Ian Lobleby and Colin Rosekilly, for which we are very grateful.

The theme remains constant; to ask each and everyone of us to review our giving within our Christian faith and wherever possible to use Gift Aid to maximise the amount the Church receives.

It is good to report that the use of Gift Aid is increasing, and that more and more people have committed to a regular giving plan.

The Reverend Lisa and the committee would like to thank all Parishioners for their continued support and generosity.

Steve Pope

St John's News

St John's News was produced 11 times in the year. It continues to contain all the key information about the parish and serves as a major communication link in the life of St John's. It is also distributed to all parents at the Church of England School.

This year more use has been made of colour and there are more pictures in SJN. This has also required more work by the team of printers in the church office and our thanks is extended to them. There is now a tighter publication schedule with contribution, printing and distribution dates set for a year.

As ever SJN is the product of its contributors and the editor expresses his gratitude to all to ensure that they send in items and information for inclusion. Do keep sending the material in (see the email address below). SJN is critically dependent on those who provide items or articles.

The Prayer Diary: A major innovation has been the inclusion of the monthly prayer diary with St John's News. This provides helpful ideas, prayers and daily prayer topics to enrich the prayer life of readers. We are extremely grateful to **Irene Simmons** for her unceasing efforts. A tremendous amount of work goes into preparing each month's prayers that are always fresh and meaningful. Thank you very much Irene.

Fitting church in is becoming more difficult for some parishioners with active lives and families. There will be advantage in moving to a 'push' form of communication to keep in touch with those who are not in Church every month or who need reminding of our activities after initially visiting. The editor is keen to expand the e-mail delivery of SJN so that such parishioners can be kept informed of St John's activities and then can return when it suits them. E-mailing SJN may also suit regular parishioners who don't wish to miss an edition. Please send your requests to:

editor@crowthorneparishchurch.org.uk

The current editor is now in his 13th year in the role. Over the years SJN has developed and grown but like all things it needs to be more innovative and develop more to meet the needs of St John's. The editor would be happy to pass that role over to someone with new ideas and enthusiasm for the role. He would be happy to discuss this with anyone who wants to know more.

Richard Ireson
Editor

Sunday School

The last year has continued to be busy at Sunday School. We now have 65 children on the register with 30-40 children joining us most weeks. To encourage regular attendance throughout the year, prizes and certificates were once again awarded at the end of the Summer Term 2010 to cover attendance over the last three school terms. We have recently reviewed this and a more regular award will now be given throughout the coming year based on different stages of attendance. The children will be able to look forward to eventually being awarded their own special bible.

We have recently reviewed the grouping of the Sunday School classes to give more support to Years 4 and 6 as there is a great difference development between a Year 4 and a Year 6 child. Years 4,5 and 6 now have three teachers, Laura Myers, Sarah Dewson and Zella Baret. Pre School, Reception and Year 1 are led by Jayne Clark, Shirley Smith and Danzi Castle with Anna Forbes this year acting as assistant due other workloads. Years 2 and 3 are led by Sharon Gibson and Clare Demblon with Lorraine Muirhead as an assistant. We are happy to welcome Clare and Lorraine as new teachers on the team. We also have Jane Kohlhofer and Clare Taylor acting as floaters to give extra assistance when needed. All the Sunday School teachers take a role in welcoming new children and families into the Sunday School. Sarah Dewson organises the main rota from which the other groups will organise their own rota for their specific group. We had to say goodbye to three of our Sunday School teachers at the end of the Summer term, Alison Sheppard, Sue Rance, and Lisa Kemball due to their other commitments. Although we still hope to see them regularly in Church they will be greatly missed and we wish them well for the future

The Leader sessions are currently being shared amongst the teachers with the occasional guest leader e.g. Ken Perrett doing the 'Godly Play'. All groups now do the same subject/story each week hence following the leader session the theme is continued when the children split out into their specific age groups.

Children from the choir join us each week for part of our sessions. Tom Shorter the musical director has been coming into Sunday School and playing the PC hymn for the children to have a practice, this has been wonderful and we have been very grateful, however Tom Shorter and David Crowe now have a job share choir role, it is difficult for them to come into Sunday School to rehearse the last hymn so a new plan is underway for the next few terms whereby the children will be singing, and using instruments and actions on different occasions. This can then be performed for the last hymn in front of the congregation.

The nativity play went well on Christmas Eve. Reverend Lisa chaired the planning. Hazel Berry very kindly made 300 stars for the stage. Hannah Perrett prepared the final script. Sarah Dewson organised the staging and was helped by David Rance and Mike Thackeray on the day. Tracey Perrett organised the pathfinders and Zella Barrett's glory club was also involved. It was a great success, and everybody had fun. Sunday School now join the congregation at all-age services e.g. Harvest, Mothering Sunday and Father's Day sitting together and singing a prepared song. This has raised the number of children at these events.

We were very fortunate to have beautiful sunshine on one Sunday in July when we all, children and teachers alike, enjoyed the Sunday School picnic. Many thanks to Anna and Richard Forbes for, once again, giving us an opportunity to share fun, food and laughter in the safety and security of their lovely garden.

We continue to hold parties at Christmas and Easter. We bring all the children together to retell the relevant stories and then continue with a wide range of craft activities for the children to choose from before sharing party food together. The atmosphere at these events continues to be very special.

We have been quite successful in using the material from 'Danielle's Place', a Christian web site and now have no need to spend extra money on the scripture Union books. Some teachers may occasionally use materials from similar websites, and ideas are regularly shared.

We hope to sustain the enthusiasm of the children and teachers to promote an atmosphere of sharing and learning together. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us, whether as a helper, teacher, regular or one-time leader.

Jayne Clark

Welcome Team

8.00a.m.

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

10a.m. and extra services as required

David Chater-Lea, Doreen Norfield, Sheila Stickland, Julia Warnes, Guy Sutherland, Penny Rickards, David Rance, Ken Perrett, Richard Pollington, Annette Pollington, Ian Lobley, Carol Cain, Mike Thackray, Carol Frost, Jill Pope, Stephan Nel, Grant Robertson, Susan Robertson, Tom Lewis, Joan Colyer, Bruce McKenzie-Boyle, Marjorie Watson, Brian Turner, Kathy Beard, Peter Wright, Adrienne Wright, Shirley Mather, Brian Hooper, Audrey Hooper, Tom Jasper, Lorraine Jasper, Karl Simpson.

Richard & Annette Pollington moved from Crowthorne in July,

Ian Lobley became Team Leader and Julie Sharpe & Philip Rutter joined that team.

During the year it was agreed that Sidesmens Teams should be known as Welcome Teams and this seemed to be accepted by everyone. Thank you to all the above for their commitment during the year.

Being a member of a Welcome Team is an important task in Church life in helping the services to run smoothly and particularly in welcoming people who are new to the Church.

On Sunday afternoon, 6th March, the Welcome Teams hosted a 'Munch and Mingle' tea and cake hour for people new to the Church in the past year or so. Fifteen adults and several children attended and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

Lisa would like to find someone to welcome people to the Sunday evening services which are now held twice a month. Please speak to her if you can help with this.

Doreen Norfield

Worship Committee

After much creative input in the initial years following my appointment, the Worship Committee has been taking a sabbatical in the last year. It will be reinstated when the need arises and suitable replacements are found for the positions vacant. This does not mean that worship itself has been in abeyance though! The established patterns and new initiatives have continued, with the exception of regular evening services, which have been reduced in number due to a lack of support. However, evening worship on special occasions has been well attended.

Rev'd Lisa Cornwell