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## CROWTHORNE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Notice is hereby given of the ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHONERS to be held on Sunday, April 29th 2012 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 2011
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 29th 2012 in the Parish Church Hall.**

### AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 2011 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 29th)

1. Minutes of the PCC meeting of the 28th March 2012
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)  
Laszlo Gyenes (Churchwarden)  
Beccy Al-Jadir (Hon Treasurer)  
Jenny McKeever (Hon Secretary)

### Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held after 10.00am service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011

#### **Opening prayers**

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Carol Frost, Colin Rosekilly, Peter & Yvonne Hattersley, Sheila Clapham, Julia & Mike Warnes, Shelagh Tweed, Peter & Adrienne Wright, Carol Cain, Ross & Yvette Stembridge, Tony & Kath Coutts, Catharine Pandya, Hilary Burton, Anna Forbes, Beccy Al Jadir, Martin Whitsed.

#### **Minutes**

Approval of the minutes of the Parishioners meeting held on Sunday April 25th 2010 were proposed by Mike Thackray and seconded by Jill Pope.

#### **Election of Churchwardens**

Karl Simpson has agreed to stand for election as the second Churchwarden, he was nominated for the role by Laszlo Gyenes. Jean Butler seconded the nomination. All voted in favour of Karl's appointment.

Laszlo Gyenes has agreed to continue as Churchwarden. Rosemary Simpson nominated him and Jenny McKeever seconded the nomination. All voted in favour of Laszlo remaining as a Churchwarden.

### Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup> 2011

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

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

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

There were no matters arising.

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

Lisa Cornwell gave an illustrated presentation of the present state of our Parish Vision. She reminded us about our own Parish Vision bookmark and about the Diocesan Living Faith bookmark and encouraged people to pick up a bookmark if they would like another. This year we are on the Red stripe on the Diocesan Living Faith – Making Disciples.

The following priorities were highlighted for the current year:

1. This year sees the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible. We held two lecture nights in February, the first covering the History of the Bible was given by Gillian Gyenes and the second, an update on the use of the Bible today, was given by a speaker from the Bible Society. Many parishioners took part in the Wellington College continual reading of the King James Version. The Diocese is putting on plays of stories from the Bible in Oxford. Diocesan leaflets are available on "How to read the Bible". An Old Testament course is planned in the Parish for the Autumn and the Bible Society have made available a "Listen to the New Testament in 40 days" programme for Lent.
2. Living Faith: Making Disciples is a priority this year and consists of two strands. Firstly nurturing existing church members to grow in faith and secondly making new disciples through Outreach. There is to be a "Living Jesus" course after Easter and a PCC Away Day, open to all of the congregation, in the Autumn on the theme "Making Disciples".
3. Promoting and discerning vocations both lay and ordained: The "time and talents" survey identified individual gifts for use within the Church. Lisa will be happy to provide a form to anyone who would like to complete it. 15<sup>th</sup> May is Vocation Sunday.
4. Churches together: St John's is now a stakeholder in Hope Zone, one of our 7 Missions. Volunteers help at the Drop in Centre every Wednesday from 3-8p.m., a permanent home is to be erected on the Morgan Rec. Maureen Raybould is a key helper and Karl Simpson is our representative on the HopeZone management committee.
5. The Outreach Committee is stuck in a lay-by at present and needs to be resurrected. In many ways we are fortunate that people come to us so we have been concentrating on making them feel welcome. We are looking ahead to the Olympic Games and to ways of using these events to lift our profile in the community.
6. Eco-friendly Church: Our new roof should cut our carbon footprint somewhat. We need an Eco-Warrior to replace Guy Lean. Maggie Wade interjected a plea to turn off the lights before leaving the church.

Final Comment: Lisa urged us all to get involved in making the Parish Vision happen.

#### **4. Update on Renovation Projects**

Encouraged by Lewis Simmons to use the microphone so that those with hearing aids could link into the loop, Laszlo Gyenes gave an illustrated update on the Renovation Projects.

1. Roof
2. Heating
3. Organ
4. Audio-Visual System

Items 3 and 4 will be dealt with at some future date in the years to come.

1. The roof was completed on time and within budget. A big thank you to everyone for their donations. The cost was £175,722 in total. The roofers estimate was spot on. The professional costs were slightly above budget.
2. What is wrong with the heating? The recent tinkering with the system, the thermostat and the flue have provided a noticeable improvement to the temperature in the church. However the present boiler system will only last another couple of years. In the old days the

caretaker/verger would be able to keep the solid fuel boiler stoked throughout the week to keep the temperature at a minimum level. The present system needs several hours to bring it up to a standard heat. Laszlo and the Fabric Committee have looked at various options. There are the rapid response versions where a condensing boiler with fans gives instant heat or gas fired external flue convector heaters, and there is the conventional slow version which we have at present. We could replace only the boiler but keep the radiators.

A gas-fired convection system would require 7 heaters in the church. They would be switched on an hour before needed. Each heater needs an external flue which is relatively small. There would be a cost to completely removing the old system of about £30,000. The running cost and the capital cost of the rapid response system is lower than the conventional system but the noise level is a serious deterrent.

The cost of replacing the present boiler and system with a similar system would be around £44,000 + VAT.

The C Dunphy church system would keep the church temperature at a minimum 10° C but would cost more to run. The committee hope to reach a decision on which system to select in the next few months.

There was a warm round of applause after the presentation. Tracy Perrett said that we owed a huge thank you to the Fabric Committee who had put a lot of effort into researching the different heating systems. This was agreed.

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

Ian Lobley gave an overview of the Report and Accounts.

Starting with the Financial Review in Section 6 of the Report and Accounts he noted that the unrestricted fund of £123,499 was an increase of only 1% on the previous year but this was understandable in a year when the concentration was on donations towards capital expenditure. The May Fair revenue was good but unfortunately the profit was reduced by £2,000 due to the reduction in sponsored support and free gifts. The interest received was halved on the previous year partly due to the drop in interest rates but mainly due to spending the capital investments. There has been improved revenue from Wellington College via payments for use of the wedding register.

The underlying costs rose by only 1% in the year - representing excellent cost control. The Parish share increased by 1.5%. Mission and other donations increased by 9%. The deficit shown in the accounts of £2,954 should be approx. £4,000 due to a change in gift aid. This is purely an accounting discrepancy and not a reduction in cash held.

The new roof has been fully paid for and the renovation fund now stands at £4-5K. Ian expressed his disappointment that we had only seen a very small increase in planned giving. The Stewardship campaign to increase planned giving by £8k pa remained a valid target in order to turn the current deficit of £4K into a small surplus of £4K next year. He and Colin Rosekilly are not going away any time soon, but will still be around to encourage us to increase our contributions.

Richard Ireson asked if Ian could tell us roughly what the underlying trend is. Ian explained that there was a small deficit of £4K therefore the revenue needs to grow by £8K to cover this deficit and to have a modest surplus in hand of £4K. We have some reserves but we need to change direction from a small deficit to a small surplus.

The Chairman thanked Ian for his presentation. Gillian Gyenes said that we owed a huge debt of gratitude to Beccy Al Jadir for all her work. Lisa thanked Beccy for her report and the meeting

broke into a spontaneous round of applause. Richard Ireson moved that the secretary should write to Beccy to express the gratitude of the parish to her for her hard work. This was agreed by all.

Jill Pope proposed that the report be accepted, this was seconded by Ken Perrett and agreed by all.

## **6. Report on Electoral roll**

Tracy Perrett, the Electoral Roll Officer, presented her report as follows: At last year's ACPM it was reported that the Church Electoral Roll figure stood at 255.

In the twelve months since then, 15 new names have been added and 13 removed. Accordingly the Church Electoral Roll figure now stands at 257.

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 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 asked if there were any questions on her report. There were none.
- ❑ *Churchwardens report.* Thank you to Laszlo who has done a sterling solo job as churchwarden throughout the year. There was a round of applause for Laszlo.
- ❑ *Adult Learning.* Lisa suggested that the title of this section should change as there are junior learning groups as well. Thank you to Gillian Gyenes who prepared the report and who with Lisa runs the adult Emmaus course. Ken has taken over assisting with the junior Emmaus course. Lisa also thanked all those who lead the house groups and to Maureen Raybould who has taken over from Carol Frost in organising these groups.
- ❑ *Befrienders/Baptismal support.* Thank you to Christine Rees and to all the befrienders.
- ❑ *Choir.* Thank you to Tom Shorter for his informative report and to Tom and David for directing the choir and playing the organ. It is good to see the choir expanding.
- ❑ *Cleaning.* Thank you to everyone on the church cleaning rota. More helpers are needed so if anyone can give a hand please add your name to the list.
- ❑ *Churches together.* Thank you again to Christine for another comprehensive report. Thank you too to the representatives and to the Hope Zone volunteers.
- ❑ *Flowers.* Thank you to Carol Cain and the flower arrangers for the wonderful visual impression which the flowers displays add to the Church.

- ❑ *Church Office.* Lisa expressed her gratitude to Ken Perrett for stepping in to take over from Liz Baker when she was unable to continue to run the office. Thank you to all the volunteers who never have an idle moment.
- ❑ *Churchyard.* Thank you to David Bainbridge and the churchyard team for their super work in the churchyard and congratulations on receiving a Crowthorne Community Award.
- ❑ *Deanery Synod.* Thank you to Jenny McKeever for the report and to the Deanery reps. Deanery Synod is an important cog in the wider world of the Church.
- ❑ *Fabric.* Thank you to Mike Thackray and to the Fabric Committee for the major and minor requirements needing attention in the last year down to the dripping taps not mentioned in the report.
- ❑ *May Fair.* Thank you to Mike for his report and to the committee for all their ideas and efforts gearing up for the next May Fair.
- ❑ *Mini-Advent Fair.* Thank you to Gillian and to the contributors to the Mini-Advent Fair.
- ❑ *FairTrade.* Thank you to Anne Pelham for her report and for her efforts on the stall and organising the volunteers. The Real Easter Eggs are a great success.
- ❑ *Library.* The library is a new addition and it has flourished over the last year. Thank you to Jan Lawson for her report and for keeping the Library on our radar.
- ❑ *Lunchtime Talkabout.* Lisa would like to see this group resurrected. If anyone wants to step in and take it over please let her know.
- ❑ *Missions/Children's Society.* Thank you to Hazel and to the Missions Committee. Hazel reported that the Lent lunch raised £766.99. Lisa emphasised that general giving must be maintained to sustain donations. A big thank you to Pam Hills who took over the Children's Society. Lisa was impressed with the amount raised.
- ❑ *Mothers and Toddlers.* This also includes dads, carers and grandparents. Many thanks to Karen Billyard. Ken and Tracy Perrett are now helping by setting up the hall on a Tuesday evening. Some toddlers are being lured away by the local nurseries with offers of 5 days for the price of 3!
- ❑ *Mothers Union.* A big thank you to Carol Frost for taking over the Mother Union leadership this year. A special thank you to the MU for the Mothering Sunday posies and simnel cake.
- ❑ *Outreach.* This committee needs to be resurrected.
- ❑ *Pastoral Committee* Thank you to Christine Rees for her comprehensive report. Pastoral work is an important part of church Life and if anyone knows of somebody needing support please let Lisa or David Butler know.
- ❑ *Pathfinders.* Thank you to Tracy and to all the Pathfinder leaders. The prayers for Mothering Sunday were outstanding.
- ❑ *Prayer Groups.* Julian: Thank you to Maggie Wade.  
                   Mother's Union: Thank you to Carol Frost  
                   Parish: Parish prayers now take place at 6.00p.m. on a Tuesday. They could do with more people taking part. They follow Irene's Prayer Diary so those not able to be present can join in.



Healing of the Sick: Thank you to Gillian Gyenes. This prayer time is of value to the Church and to the community.

- ❑ *Servers* Thank you to Chris Williams. We need more adults to sign up as servers.
- ❑ *Social committee.* Thank you to Jill Pope and the committee for the social events and for all the extra-curricular activities linked to fund-raising etc. this year.
- ❑ *Stewardship.* Thank you to Steve Pope for his report. There was a small response resulting in a net increase of £40 per month. If everyone increased their planned giving by £5 per month this would move us out of the continual deficit situation.
- ❑ *St John's News.* Lisa's thank you to Richard Ireson, was endorsed by a murmur of support from the meeting. His 13 years as editor of SJN is worthy of a medal.
- ❑ *Sunday School.* Thank you to Jayne Clark and to all the teachers for their energy and enthusiasm. Lisa clarified the fourth paragraph of the report explaining that the PC hymn meant post communion and not politically correct! Hannah's script was not actually used for the Christmas Eve play this time. Jean Matthews interjected to compliment Ken Perrett on his talk on Mothering Sunday.
- ❑ *Welcome Team.* Thank you to Doreen and to the Welcome Teams.
- ❑ *Worship Committee* This committee is in the pending tray. There was a lot of activity to begin with but now there are several vacancies which need filling.

### Questions

There were no questions.

### 8. Elections

There are 7 vacancies on the PCC for terms of 3 years.

There are 7 names on the list for these 7 vacancies on the PCC.

<u>New nominations</u> FOR 3 YEARS	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
1 Karl Simpson	Laszlo Gyenes	Jean Butler
2 David Rance (Re-election)	Jenny McKeever	Jill Pope
3 Sarah Dewson	Diane Gray	Mike Thackray
4 Christine Rees	Mary Harwood	Jenny McKeever
5 Ross Stembridge	Ken Perrett	Pam Hills
6 Chris Stephens	Mike Thackray	Jenny McKeever

7 Tim Wheatley	Tracy Perrett	Lorraine Jasper
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As there were only 7 nominations for the vacancies they were all appointed without a vote.

### **Deanery Synod**

All Lay members of the Deanery Synod must be re-elected this year for a term of three years. Our parish can send 5 representatives to the Deanery Synod.

The following have agreed to stand for election:

Gillian Gyenes

Richard Ireson

Diana Gray

Jenny McKeever

Tracy Perrett

Doreen Norfield proposed that they be elected 'on bloc' and Laszlo Gyenes seconded the proposal which was passed by all.

### **9. Appointments**

Hon. Secretary, Mrs Jenny McKeever was proposed as secretary by Mary Harwood seconded by Hazel Berry and agreed by all and was so appointed.

Hon. Treasurer, Beccy Al-Jadir was proposed by Jill Pope, seconded by Lewis Simmons and all agreed and was so appointed.

Hon Independent Examiner; Hazel Berry proposed Laura Myers and this was seconded by Gillian Gyenes and agreed by all and was so appointed.

There is one amendment to the Welcome Team as listed in the Parish report as follows; Ross Stembridge will take Karl Simpson's place on Peter Wright's team at 10.00a.m

The Welcome Teams as listed , for the 8.a.m. and with the above amendment for the 10.am services were proposed by Jill Pope and seconded by Louise Lobley and agreed by all and so were reappointed on bloc.

### **10. Notices**

Sheila Clapham asked that the meeting be reminded that cakes will be needed for the May Fair.

The meeting was brought to a close with prayers and The Grace led by Lisa.

The next APCM will be held on Sunday, 29th April 2012, (after the 10.00a.m. service, time to be confirmed.)

## **Vicar's Report**

At beginning of last year, the PCC discerned priorities based upon: our parish vision, the "Making disciples" strand of the Diocesan "Living Faith" vision, and thirdly, the national recognition given to the 400 year anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible.

We drew out six priorities for 2011 as follows:

### **1) Emphasis on the bible (400 yr anniversary KJV)**

February lecture nights were delivered by Gillian Gyenes on the History of Bible and a Bible Society guest speaker provided more modern day and global perspective. The Living Faith "How to read the bible" leaflets were distributed and an Old Testament course was successfully delivered in the autumn. Church members also participated in the continuous reading of the KJV bible at Wellington College.

### **2) Diocesan Living Faith priority "Making Disciples"**

This had a dual focus:

- i) Existing church members growing in Christian maturity
- ii) Making new disciples through outreach

Towards the first end, post Easter small study groups were held on the book "Living Jesus" by Bishop John Prichard, in addition to the other usual opportunities for Christian nurture such as the Emmaus course and preaching. Last summer 3 adults and 10 juniors were confirmed at an "away match" at St Michael's, Sandhurst, by the new bishop of Reading, Rt Rev'd Andrew Proud.

We continued to make the most of existing Outreach opportunities such as the May Fair, late night Christmas shopping and the Crowthorne Orchestra Christmas concert and to plan ahead for new outreach initiatives this year, granted the themes of the Olympics and the Queens Jubilee. In the autumn, there was a PCC away day on "Making Disciples", facilitated by Michael Beasley, the Diocesan Director of mission. This was a stimulating and encouraging day, affirming what we are already doing well and broadening our horizons as to other ways in which we might engage with those on the fringe of church.

### **3) Promoting & discerning vocations - lay and ordained/ growing leaders**

We observed vocations Sunday on 15<sup>th</sup> May with a sermon on the subject and Lewis made a stand for vocations literature to be available in the foyer. Upholding the ministry of all believers, there have been reminders about "Time & talents" list and once settled, newcomers are encouraged to take a more active role in the life of the church. After operating under capacity for a couple of years, an effective recruitment drive for PCC got the numbers up to full compliment again.

The other development has been in the area of assistant curates. Given that St John's no longer owns a property to house a stipendary curate, the likelihood of us becoming a training parish again was slim. However, we now have the benefit of not one but two curates. The Rev'd Jane Manley joined us last August as a fully fledged priest, in order to round off her curacy with a different parish experience after serving three years in Bracknell. All being well, David Ramsbottom, whose wife Julie is Rector of Finchampstead and California parish, will be joining us this summer on a part time basis. David will be ordained deacon at the end of June.

"Promoting and discerning vocations" is being continued as priority for 2012.

### **4) Cooperate with CTC on the Hopezone project**

St John's has become a stakeholder in the Hopezone and adopted it as one of the seven "missions" we support financially. Karl Simpson serves on the management committee and Maureen Raybould as a volunteer coordinator. We have a small number of volunteers who help out on the Wednesday

afternoons/ evenings but it would be good to recruit more. This February Rev'd Martin Ceaser came to update us and arouse further interest.

### **5) Outreach Committee to be resurrected**

Outreach Committee fully operational again and were in attendance at the PCC "Making disciples" away day. There has been a time of consolidation and initial planning for outreach Olympic and Queen's Jubilee events.

### **6) Promote an eco-friendly church**

This priority entails to following objectives:

- Work towards a lower carbon footprint building
- Encourage individual responsibility towards sustaining the environment

Chris Stephens became our new environmental rep. after Guy Lean moved away. A deanery email support network had been talked of but sadly, appears not to have come into fruition. The Fabric Committee undertook extensive research into green options for heating replacement but it was not viable. The new heating system will, at least, still be more efficient and thus eco-friendly than the current system. This priority is carried over into 2012, with a need especially to promote individual responsibility.

As well as focusing on the "quality" of our mission and maintenance as a church, it is encouraging that our church family has grown in quantity in recent months with a steady influx of newcomers. As a church we strive to be welcoming and inclusive. Taking a Sunday off recently, to be on the "other side of the fence" as a godmother and feeling a little at sea, I took pride in the knowledge that at St John's I would have been scooped up, shown to my seat and chatted to afterwards. Of course, the responsibility of welcome and integrating newcomers is one for us all; not just the welcome teams and Pastoral Visiting Group and it would be great if we can all keep working at this.

Worship continues to be broad, embracing, as appropriate, high and low culture. We value the choir and the GLorEE club for their contribution to services and special events. As ever, I am grateful for the dedication of so many church members who keep the ship of the church afloat and sailing in the right direction, as we will see from the rest of this report.

The full priorities identified for 2012 will be outlined at the APCM. Once, again the PCC have kept an eye on national events and the diocesan focus.

*Rev'd Lisa Cornwell*

## **Churchwardens' Report**

My four years as Churchwarden ends in April of this year. We are wishing Karl Simpson well for serving our Church community for the coming three years. We are looking for another Churchwarden to support Karl in his duties and hope that someone will be nominated at the APCM.

Four years ago the PCC set an ambitious goal for the repair and renovation of our Church fabric within a few years; replace the roof, renew the heating system, purchase up-to-date audio-visual system and refurbish the organ. To this end, a Repair and Renovation Fund was set up and 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 new roof in 2010.

In the same year, the PCC instructed the Fabric Committee (FC) to look into a partial or complete replacement of the existing heating system. After lengthy consultation with heating contractors and with the diocesan heating engineer, the FC deliberated in favour of a completely new heating installation, consisting of the one for one replacement of the cast iron radiators with triple panel convector radiators, the replacement of the two old boilers with modern condensing ones and a new easy-to-operate system to control the heating in the Church building. Once again, strong financial backing from our parishioners

enabled us to set the date for the replacement of the old heating system for August of this year at an estimated cost of £45,000 +VAT.

Another concern being addressed is the lack of space in our Churchyard for further interments of ashes. In 2009, 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. Ken Perrett has taken charge of this project and has invited landscape gardeners and stone masons to prepare plans for a Garden of Remembrance located over a small designated area near the hedge at the North West side of the Churchyard. Ashes would be strewed here by lifting out a plug of turf and soil, 6" in diameter, inserting the ashes and covering over with the soil and grass.

With the help of David Bainbridge and his team, who keep our Churchyard in an immaculate state, we found the last suitable plot by the Lady Chapel for interment of ashes. I have just received a Faculty for preparing this area for 22 interments, which will give us time to make sound preparations for the Garden of Remembrance in the next 12-18 months.

Finally, we have also fallen victim of the current epidemic of lead thefts. The flat roof of the Church Hall has been stripped twice within one year. The lead has been replaced by substitute material of no scrap value to would be thieves. As you will see, there is plenty to keep us busy. I do appreciate the support that I have received and look forward to these projects being brought to completion.

*Laszlo Gyenes*

## **Adult Learning**

In Summer 2011, we ran a small groups course using Bishop John Pritchard's book 'Living Jesus', focusing on the different aspects of Jesus and his relevance for our lives.

In the Autumn, there was a course entitled 'An Introduction to the Old Testament'. This was over 6 weeks and was well attended. We all felt it was an area about which we could and should know more. We began with an Introduction to the Old Testament, followed by sessions on the 'Torah', 'Worship', 'Priests and Sacrifice', 'Kings and Prophets' and 'Writings'. This generated a good deal of discussion and the teaching and learning styles were varied and effective. The course was written by Sheila Lloyd who was the Diocesan LLM Adviser and we thank her for guiding us through such a huge subject succinctly and with clarity.

In January, we were grateful to Brian Berry for leading 2 evenings on the Enneagram. He writes: "The Enneagram is a powerful and dynamic personality system that describes nine distinct and fundamentally different patterns of thinking, feeling and acting. It teaches us that the personality we developed as children to cope with the outer world has become an automatic biased perspective by the time we are adults. These automatic patterns of reactivity skew our perception, producing a habitual focus of attention and distracting us from authentic spiritual experience." The participants responded to the course with great enthusiasm.

Our new Confirmation/ discussion groups began in February, 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 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 held at St. John's at 6.00pm on Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup> conducted by Bishop John Bone.

In Lent, there is the opportunity to join the Churches Together Study Groups which this year are called 'Lentwise – a Study of St. John's Gospel' by Paula Gooder These end with an Agape in Holy Week for all participants.

Looking forward to the summer, we are planning to offer a small group course on Prayer, using "Source", a 5 session course produced by Robert Warren and Kate Bruce. 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***

Fourteen baptisms took place at the 10.00am service in 2011. Two ten year olds were baptised in January and we have a further ten which have already been arranged for this year. This includes three children in the same family. These will all take place on the second Sunday of the month at the 10.00am service.

The baptism preparation evenings are held on the first Wednesday evening of the month. We are grateful to Simon Butterworth for providing us with a television so that we can show a DVD rather than the video tape we have been using. Parents are pleased to choose a hymn for the service.

Once again, I would like to thank those members of the congregation who have befriended families. Some people are rather reluctant to do this but it is good to have someone living near the family to call on them. Also, these families can be kept up to date by giving them St. Johns News and letting them know about family services like Mothering Sunday. One befriender even brings the baby to Minus Fives!

*Christine Rees*

## ***Book Club***

St John's has had a book club since September 2010, we have read and discussed three books each year. We enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles at our informal discussions which are held either in the church hall or at someone's house.

In June the book was Blood Brothers by Fr. Elias Chacour.

Everyone agreed that it was a very moving book. It gives an account of the current Israeli Palestinian conflict from an angle that was totally new for many of us. The author is an ordained Palestinian Christian whose family had lived in the same Galilean village for generations. The book blends his personal story with historical research revealing a little known side of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We agreed that the book was well written and fairly easy to read. We would recommend that people read it.

Then in November we got together to discuss Killing Time by Noel Fellowes.

The book provoked a very lively and interesting discussion. The first part of the book dealt with Noel's conviction and incarceration in the 1970's for a murder he had not committed. The second part of the book dealt with his release from custody, Christian conversion and healing powers. Some of us were uncomfortable with the healing powers part of the book. I think most of us found it a worthwhile read.

The latest book that the club read and discussed was "Chasing Francis" a novel by Ian Morgan Cron. It is a novel about an American pastor who goes on a pilgrimage following the footsteps of St Francis. In the book there is a lot of information about St. Francis who lived in a time which has a lot of parallels to our own including tension between Christians and Muslims. It is a blend of fiction and non-fiction. We felt that the book was not always comfortable as a novel. In parts the novel got in the way of what the author wanted to say. We all enjoyed reading the book and found it easy to read.

Our next read is "Simply Jesus" by Bishop Tom Wright. We will meet in May to discuss the book. Any one is very welcome to join us.

St John the Baptist Church – Parish Report 2012

The books are in our church library for anyone to read in their own time.

*Anne Pelham*

## **Choir**

### **Choir membership – is on the up!**

This year we have continued to be blessed with two choir directors in the form of: David Crowe and Tom Shorter. And, it is hoped that the choir has enjoyed the challenge of working with two different approaches to leading rehearsals and services! Choir membership is up again this year, which is very good news indeed.

**Notable additions** to the ranks of singers include: Sylvie Pedersen (Soprano), Maggie Woodage (Alto) and Graeme Muirhead (Tenor). We have also seen new younger arrivals too, in the form of Lia and Summer, who breathe new life into our singing. Although Sophie Rance is now at University, we are very pleased to welcome her back during the holidays! And, as ever, our back-bone of regular long-standing singers is essential in keeping us going through the year!

### **Our regular Choristers:**

Sopranos: Anna, Berenice, Julie, Lia, Lucy, Nadine, Polly, Sophie, Sophie, Sylvie, Sue, Summer

Altos: Jill, Maggie, Maggie, Liz

Tenors: Graeme, Jim

Basses: Bob, Colin, Peter

### **Achievements – Singing in Choir can be Fun!**

In October, members of St John's choir, along with singers from All Saints, Wokingham, put on a concert in aid of the heating fund. And, it was a great success, not least because we raised almost £500 for the heating fund! Special thanks go to David Crowe for his hard work putting this performance together.

### **Thanks to...**

Lisa and Jane, for guiding us through the church year. Once again, Jill, our librarian, has kept us on course by ensuring that we have music to sing from week-after-week. Peter has kindly printed out weekly music lists, without which we wouldn't know what was coming next! And, Jim has continued to issue the choir's sign-out sheets, without which, we wouldn't know who was coming to what! Also, I'd like to thank Irene Simmons, for her continuing support and help in playing for occasional services. Here's to 2013!

### **The Future**

We look forward to introducing a new congregational mass setting in September. And, the choir is looking forward to its first collaboration with the GLorEE club this coming Harvest – watch this space!

*Tom Shorter*

## **Church Cleaners**

Thanks to every one of the volunteers who give up their time to maintain the appearance of our church.

There are currently 40 volunteers on the church cleaning rota. This continues to cause concern as it is slightly down on the number of volunteers we had last year despite repeated appeals for helpers. There are some weeks when parts of the church are not being cleaned.

More volunteers continue to be 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 annual 'Spring Clean' took place at the end of March. A large team turned out to give the church, hall and kitchen a very thorough clean. Many thanks to everyone concerned.

*Vanessa Burrell*

## **Churches Together in Crowthorne**

During the year the Hope Zone Drop In Centre became an independent charity with St John's Church acting as one of the stakeholders. Karl Simpson is our representative trustee of the charity. The charity now takes care of its own finances. The setting up of dedicated premises is on-going. After some delay it is anticipated that an application for planning permission to site a portakabin on the Morgan Rec will be submitted later this year. Louise Truscott has been appointed as official manager. The drop-in centre, currently operating from the Baptist Church, is widely used with a regular group of 30 - 40 youngsters. More volunteers are needed to help on a Wednesday afternoon and early evening.

JAC (Just Around the Corner) has continued to visit Crowthorne to work with disadvantaged young people. The local police are very impressed with the drop in anti-social behaviour among this age group. CTC made a donation of £500 towards the work of JAC which was doubled by the "Local Giving" website.

Donations were also made to the Chidamoyo Trust in Zimbabwe, our nominated charity, and to Corrymeela for their work towards peace and reconciliation. Our funds come from the CTC coffee mornings held at the Methodist Church on Tuesdays and at the Baptist Church on Thursdays. Many thanks to Shirley Hopkins and to Joan Ford and their teams of helpers.

The Summer activities were very well attended last year and are being repeated again this summer every Friday during the school holidays. If you are able to help in any way please let Christine, Jenny or Lisa know.

This year the pig roast on the late night Christmas shopping opening was replaced by bar-b-qued burgers and sausages which were well received. There was an exceptionally good turn-out for the carol singing outside the Co-Op on the Saturday before Christmas. Please join the "Walk of Witness" on Good Friday which this year starts from St John's Church after a short service.

Good Neighbours will be celebrating 40 years of service to the community in April. Congratulations to all the volunteers who have helped as drivers or manned the office desk over the years and special thanks to Sue Hester who currently organises the service.

Christian Aid Week will run from 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May. Look out for details of the evening service to be held at the beginning of the week. Offers of help as collectors will be gratefully received by Jim and Janet Sargent.

There is plenty of help available for the Darby & Joan Tea party to be held during the Crowthorne carnival in July but a co-ordinator is urgently needed to ensure that the event takes place. Can you help?

Mike Withers, CTC Chairman, has given notice that he will resign at the AGM in September. He has pointed out that the post has not been held by an Anglican for many years so if you would like to take on this interesting role, please have a word with Lisa, Christine or Jenny.

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

*Jenny McKeever*

## **Church Flowers**

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

With regard to our team of 21 Flower Arrangers we have had an unusual year in that no one has left or joined our team! This is great news as we are a happy bunch 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 several 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 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 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. Nicola Godfrey left us during the year and we thank her for her service.

We have been assisting Peter Beaven with his survey of the Churchyard on behalf of the Berkshire Family History Society. He has almost completed the work and is preparing a comprehensive CD which includes memorials in the Church, at the Lych Gate.

During the year we have further improved the IT. The Butterworth family have given us a fantastic large flat screen TV and Karl Simpson gave us a replacement laptop. We can now show DVDs and internet-based material on the TV, so no longer need the video player, cumbersome TV and stand that lived in the office. These are being removed to give us a bit more space.

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 2011 and through this winter has been excellent and at present the team has the churchyard reasonably under control. This might change in May and through the summer when the grass and weeds are at their most active.

Peter Beaven of the Berkshire Family History Society continues to unearth new information on graves and records and must be close to completion of this project. 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. Thanks also to David Butler for his help with his power saw. 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**

The parish lay representatives to the Sonning Deanery Synod who were elected at the last APCM for a period of three years are Gillian Gyenes, Richard Ireson, Diana Gray, Tracy Perrett and Jenny McKeever.

The May 2011 Synod promoted the "More than Gold" outreach initiative to encourage parishes to make the best use of every opportunity to engage with the general public arising from the forthcoming Olympic Games.

Two Synods were convened in June. The first meeting debated the application by Ranelagh School for academy status which was introduced by Richard Ireson, as a Governor of the school. Although there were many reservations on the Government's education policy the meeting voted to approve the application which was completed and received Government approval with effect from September 2011.

The second June Synod debated the acceptance of a code of practice being prepared by the House of Bishops to accommodate those Anglicans who would have difficulties of faith arising on the appointment of women bishops. There were some heartfelt points raised on both sides of this debate which was carried by the Deanery.

The September Synod was dominated by a debate on the Parish Share which was occasioned by the decision by two parishes to restrict payment of their shares. John Edwards of Finchampstead and California parishes provided a clear presentation on the share system. It was decided that this should be discussed by the PCCs at parish level and brought back to the Synod at the November meeting.

The November Synod rejected the proposal to adopt the Anglican Covenant which was developed to provide a structure for dealing with conflicting views between churches in the Anglican Communion. It was felt that this would be unworkable. The general feedback from the parishes on the Parish Share was that the Diocese should be more transparent in its calculations and should reconsider how to allocate the Deanery Share.

The January 2012 Synod was a quiet affair compared to those held in 2011. The Area Dean is to have more help with Hazel Berry appointed as Deanery Coordinator and John Edwards as Assistant Area Dean. The Diocese has taken on board the concerns of the Deaneries and is reviewing the way the Deanery and Parish shares are allocated, however there will not be enough time to change the present arrangements before 2014.

The March Synod is to discuss a Deanery Mission Plan and has asked for contributions from parishes on their current mission/vision plans.

*Jenny McKeever*

## **Fabric Committee**

Main fabric Issue was the investigation into the complete replacement and renewal of the existing heating to the main interior of the church and vestry areas.

#### Challenges

- Repairing the boiler flue that was seeping fumes
- Pre-tender information gathering for the project to cover all and every type of fuel or heating currently available and viable
- Approving the contractor to carry out the project
- Raising funds and awareness to complete the works
- Overcoming possible Listed Building issues
- Faculty application to the Diocese
- Lead thefts to the Hall roof flashings

#### Successes

- Appointment of CBS Ltd to work with us to deliver a new heating system
- Re-vamping of the Entrance Foyer flooring
- Re-varnishing of the Hall flooring

#### Future

- Implementation of proposed new Heating system
- Planning the works on the Audio Visual Systems within the building
  - Separate committee created to investigate this – led by Ken Perrett
- Planning the best way forwards with regards to the upkeep and future maintenance of the Organ
  - Separate committee created to investigate this – chaired by Colin Nicholls

**Mike Thackray**

## **Fairs**

### **May Fair**

#### ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - MAY FAIR 2011

<b>Topic Area</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>Recruitment of key players for roles on committee</b>	Chair	Mike Thackray
	Treasurer	Dave Rance
	Program	Brian
	Local area Advertising	Catherine Cleverley
	Purchasing & Stall Support	Sarah Dewson
	High St Raffle Sales	Diana Gray
	Stall Holders	Diana Gray
	Site Logistics	Dave Rance
	Set-up & take down manager	Mike/Martin

### Challenges

- Committee still needs confirmed support to effect all it's roles from all participants
- Program creation and distribution very time consuming
- High street raffle team Co-ordinator badly needed to support over worked committee
- 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
- Fortunate that forest fire didn't start earlier and ruin this year's event!
- Brian to step down for 2012 event
- Sheila Clapham due to make 2012 event her last May Fair. Incredible thanks due to her for long standing commitment to the event

### Successes

- Committee used to their roles and were able to delegate out to congregation if needed
- Excellent community involvement once more
- 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 Turner and Sheila Stickland to create, sell and distribute the program
- Superb commitment from Dave, Brian 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 and unnecessary meetings are reduced
- Post event party in the church hall with a 'bring and share' format, invited and thanked anyone that took part in the event and was a good end to the year's work.

***Mike Thackray***

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

This year was the third 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***

You all know that we hold a fair trade stall on average twice a month after the 8am and 10 am Sunday Services. You may not know that the toilet tissue and kitchen paper towels we use at church are also fair trade goods and are part of Traidcraft's recycled tissue range. By buying these products we are helping local communities' build a more sustainable future.

For a second year we are selling THE REAL EASTER EGG. It is an egg made with fair trade milk chocolate and it mentions the Christian Easter story on the box. The Traidcraft Exchange benefits from a

donation on each egg sold. There will only be limited availability in major supermarkets, so please do buy your eggs from our stall.

We have had to cut back on the amount of goods we buy, as we are not selling as much as we have previously. We can only continue with the stall if you continue to support us. For those of you who have not tried our goods you may be surprised by the quality. This last year, since April 2011 we have bought over £600.00 worth of goods.

Thank you to all of you who give your time to look after the stall and those of you who buy the goods - "it's all about living generously" (quotation from the current Living Faith vision leaflet).

*Anne Pelham*

## **GLorEE**

The crib service marked the first birthday of our group and rounded up quite an active, eventful and somewhat successful year.

I am pleased to report we have been very warmly received – which is just as well as there is an abundance of enthusiasm within the group to continue!

We have performed not only within the church at special services and Mothers Union events, but also at the May Fair and Holme Grange Craft Village events. Most of these occasions we are expecting to sing at again this year, and in addition we will be singing at our first Christening and the Flower Festival!

The main focus of this group has always been – and will continue to be – a rather unique way of spreading The Word. By using 'pop' music we aim to get people thinking about God and their Christianity.

Our group is wonderfully diverse and this has resulted in a special 'personality' in how songs are adapted and performed. However we are by no means 'complete' and are always eager to welcome newcomers – whether they want to give it a try, dip in and out, or commit short or long term. . . I would urge anyone who is interested to please get involved.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us thus far and allowed us to share our singing with St Johns and the broader community.

Lastly – but by no means least of all – I have to thank each and everyone in our group – they have all worked very hard over the last year. Without them none of this would have been possible!

*Zellah Barrett*

## **Library**

It has been a good year and the Library has been regularly used by many people. There have been many donations of "new" books for us. Many of them suitable for modern tastes.

The Free tray of books is there for anyone to take and keep, and it is pleasing to see the books and pamphlets go off to new homes.

The CD addition to the Library is under-used. Hazel worked hard on converting these from cassettes, and it would be nice to see people use them .

*Jan Lawson*

## ***Minus Fives***

Attendance for the first half of the year continued to be slow, so it was decided to action the results of the questionnaire and shake things up a bit.

The group was re-branded "Minus Fives" over the summer of 2011 with a strong marketing campaign throughout the village advertising the new approach and timings. The timing of the session moved to 9.30 with snack time at 10am and the service was moved to the end of the session, rather than the beginning. From September despite losing several regular children to nursery and school we have consistently attracted nearly twenty children each week and welcomed several new families who are now regulars. This is a 40% increase on 2010. The key highlights have been:

- Attracting mums straight from school drop off
- Giving children snacks at a sensible time
- Extending craft/play time
- Help with clearing away

Christmas was a busy time with Christmas craft including crackers, crowns, cards, paper chains and decorations for the tree. Popular activities since have included calendars, musical instruments, valentines cards and biscuits. Crafts planned for mother's day and Easter include windmills chicks in baskets and pressed flowers all funded from the £1 voluntary contribution.

Our three pianists Sue, Marjorie and Jacqui continue to manage the rota between them and Jean provides refreshments, funded by the ten o'clock service, which are increasingly popular because of the new time.

Money from morning coffee has also enabled us to purchase two ride-ons and some musical instruments, which are now a popular regular feature during singing.

It has worked well having Jane there when Lisa is away to provide continuity. The story time rota operates termly, however we will need to encourage more mums to join in as turnover is high and I will add Jane to the singing rota next term now that she is familiar with a lot of our regular tunes, which will mean that the singing will be mostly alternating between Lisa and Jane in future and I will be in more of a support role.

I have made it clear that we will need to start succession planning as I will start part time work in January 2013 and only be available to help out once per month until the end of July when I will start full time after the summer.

*Karen Billyard.*

## ***Missions Committee***

The Missions Committee has the responsibility of co-ordinating our direct support for the seven Christian missions, which we support on a regular basis. These missions and their representatives for the past year have been, Church Mission Society (CMS) – Claire Taylor, The Leprosy Mission - Wendy Allerton; Missions to Seafarers - Brian Hooper; The Corrymeela Community – Diana Gray; Church Army - Gini Cope; the Bible Society - Jenny Sanders and Hopezone – Maureen Raybould. In 2011, St. John's donated £1,568.03 representing 12½ % of planned giving to each of the 7 missions. The Missions to Seafarers received an additional £65 from a retiring collection.

Sheila Clapham looks after activities for The Helen and Douglas Houses in Oxford which in 2011 received the collections from the Crib Service and Midnight Mass - £819.65.

Molly Papworth keeps us up-to-date with activities at the Dayspring Elementary School at Jinja, Uganda.

While it does not receive a direct donation from the Church, Pam Hills represented the Children's Society on our committee. Pam stepped down during the year and we thank her for her work on behalf of the Society. Tracy Perrett replaced Pam on the committee. The Christingle Service this year raised £518.13 and Tracy sold over £550 worth of Children's Society Christmas cards.

We have Missions preachers at the 10am and sometimes the 8am services on a rolling programme from all the Missions we support. The speakers in the past year have been Gill Twissell - Missions to Seafarers, Nick Russell - Church Army, Bill Hewis - the Leprosy Mission, Martin Ceaser - Hopezone and Russell Spencer from the Children's Society who spoke at the Christingle Service. Our CMS Mission Partner, Ruth Sayers visited us and told us of her work in Jordan. In addition, Sam Milligan came to talk about the JAC (Just around the corner) project and Janet Smith told us about Dayspring School. On Christ the King Sunday, Gill Withers talked to us about the work of the hospital she and Mike support in Chidamoyo, Zimbabwe and the bucket collection on that day raised £420. We also had our usual Missions display with a very successful quiz.

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

We had a Christmas Giving Tree, which raised £275.66 towards the cost of a Two-wheeled tractor for the Dayspring School so that they can cultivate the ground around the school and produce crops to feed the children.

Because Easter was particularly late last year we have had two Lent Lunches in the period of this report. On March 27<sup>th</sup> 2011 we had a lunch in aid of St George's Baghdad at which we raised £766.99 and on 3<sup>rd</sup> March this year we had a lunch to continue to raise money for the two-wheeled tractor for Dayspring Elementary School in Jinja. The lunch raised £742 which with the money from the Christmas Giving Tree is over £1,000. In order to raise the balance of the money towards the tractor (£1,500) Molly is doing a sponsored journey to York and back using her older Person's Bus Pass. She already has sponsorship of over £500 with more to come, so that it may be possible to add a plough and possibly even a trailer for the tractor as well.

The committee are a hard working and very supportive 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 here at St John's in a number of ways:

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

The Children's Society is a Christian charity committed to helping vulnerable and disadvantaged young people, including safeguarding children in care and young runaways. They give a voice to disabled children, help young refugees to rebuild their lives and provide relief for young carers. Through their campaigns and research, they seek to influence policy and perceptions to improve child protection so that young people have a better chance in life.

Money raised at St John's for the Children's Society in the past twelve months is as follows:

Box collections	£189.75
Christingle service	£288.13 (including £32.30 Gift Aid)
Donations	£ 49.50
Christmas card sales profit	<u>£190.00</u> (estimated – to be confirmed)
Total	<b><u>£717.38</u></b>

It should be noted that the annual gathering of collection boxes did not take place in October 2011 as planned but is being carried out in March 2012, and that the community boxes are also due for emptying in the near future. Therefore details of these amounts collected will be included in next year's annual report.

Many thanks to all who give so generously in supporting the Children's Society and its invaluable work.

*Tracy Perrett*

## **Mothers' Union**

Crowthorne Mothers' Union continues to meet twice a month, on the first Tuesday evening at 8pm and on the second Wednesday at 2.15pm. This past year we have had a wide selection of meetings and speakers, and we have been able to use some of our own members to lead events. We are so very fortunate to have so many 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 26th our Lady Day service will be held at St Paul's Church in Wokingham. St Paul's is a lovely church, and we are looking forward to having the service there.

Our Diocesan Summer Meeting will be held at St James' Parish Centre on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

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 Minus Fives (Mother and Toddler service), the Sunday creche, 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 £200 this year for our overseas fund, £100 for our Emergency Relief Fund and £285 for AFIA, our holiday scheme for disadvantaged families.

Our Branch outing last June to All Saints Church in Ascot was very popular and enjoyed by all who came along, also later in June we enjoyed sharing Afternoon Tea in the church hall. 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*  
Branch Leader, Crowthorne

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

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

We pray for families around the world.

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

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

## **Outreach**

**Members of the Group** are: Rev'd Jane Manley (Chair), Jill Pope, Lewis Simmons, Rosemary Simpson, Ross Stembridge, Chris Stephens (Secretary), Tim Wheatley.



The Outreach Group has met five times during the past year and the following topics have been discussed:

**Back to Church Sunday/Harvest**

Invitations were available for people to invite friends/neighbours to join the Harvest Festival celebrations.

**Hope Zone**

Volunteers help at the Wednesday afternoon drop-in centre at the Baptist Church. The re-location to new premises at the Morgan Rec. are underway. More volunteers are needed for this project.

**Light Night Shopping – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011**

St John's was well represented at this Outreach venture by the Choir who sang carols and other members of the congregation.

**More than Gold/Olympic Celebrations**

The group have looked at various options to celebrate the Olympics. It is hoped that a Wine tasting/Quiz evening can be arranged in the foreseeable future. However this is a very busy year for the parish and as yet no date has been set.

**The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations**

A street party is being organised for Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June to be held in the Church grounds.

**Munch and Mingle**

A tea party to enable newcomers to get to know members of the congregation was arranged for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February. However, owing to heavy snow, the event had to be cancelled. Newcomers will now be invited to the Patronal BBQ on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

*Rev'd Jane Manley*

## **Pastoral Group**

We continue to act as the support group for those already in a caring role in the various committees, organisations and groups at St. Johns. We meet every other month at the home of Maggie Wade having representatives from Baptism Befrienders, the choir, Minus 5's, Mothers Union, Pastoral Visiting, Pathfinders and Sunday School

In September, Mothers and Toddlers was renamed Minus 5's. This group was started over 40 years ago by Rev. Michael Campling and was at that time called the Pram Service. The group now meets from 9.30 until 11.30. This has proved very popular as it does mean that mothers and carers have time to give children their lunch if they are going to a group in the afternoon. We are very grateful to Karen Billyard who organises the group and provides some attractive craft work and Jean Butler who organises the refreshments. The people attending the 10.00am Communion on Wednesday really appreciate having coffee in the hall at 10.30am. This means that Minus 5's is in full flow now and somewhat noisier than when everyone was arriving. We did offer coffee in the crèche area but it is obvious that people much prefer to be in the hall. It is lovely to see the number of people attending this service now and we have had a good number of people attending Minus 5's.

The Pastoral Visiting group also meets every other month and the Welcome table works well. It has been good to see a number of new people and young families coming to the 10.00am service on Sunday. We have a selection of cards which can be sent from the church and we know that people really appreciate these.

*Christine Rees*

## ***Pathfinders***

In the past twelve months, the Pathfinders have continued to meet, share, learn and grow together. Our meetings are always different, interesting and usually include some sort of food! The Pathfinder leaders are constantly searching for new ways to make the sessions exciting, to bring the gospel message alive and to make it relevant for the youngsters.

Our regular Sunday morning sessions start from 09:30 with bring and share breakfast for those who fancy it. The real work gets underway at 10:00 when we discuss current events and issues of justice, and how our faith in God affects how we view these things and our involvement in them. Issues that have been considered in the past year include, amongst other things, Christian Aid's Trace the Tax campaign, Samaritan's Purse Shoebox appeal, Fair Trade, and Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory.

The Pathfinders have also contributed to the worship at St John's through their participation in Harvest Festival, the Crib Service, Fathers' Day and Mothering Sunday services. They also played a major part in the Tea and Favourite Hymns service in September providing cakes, serving teas, washing up and joining in the singing. This year, as well as leading the CTC Christmas service at Pinehurst, the Pathfinders made-up 30 tree presents for the residents. In addition, a number of the Pathfinders are part of the acolyte team, whilst others sing either in the Choir or in the GLorEE Group.

In June last year we held a special Youth event at St John's, in collaboration with St Michael's, St Sebastian's and St James'. This Sunday afternoon event that included, art, music, worship and prayer, offered the "chance for young people to hang out with friends and worship God in the way they want to!" Whilst attendance was not as good as we had hoped, the experience of working with other local Youth leaders and seeing youngsters from all four churches together was a positive one. This is something that we hope to repeat in the future.

The same month also saw a number of us attend the Big Church Day Out at Wiston House in West Sussex. Once again music and worship form the basis of this event which attracts more than 15,000 people each year. Other social events have included the annual Bonfire Party at the Vicarage (many thanks to Lisa and Mike) and the Pathfinders Christmas Party.

We were very sorry that Mike Thackray had to step down from the leadership team in September due to his many other commitments. We are all incredibly grateful to Mike for all he has done for the Pathfinders over the past few years.

As always we are very keen to get more people involved in the work that we do with Pathfinders here at St John's. Any involvement - whether it be supporting occasional social activities, weekly meetings or taking a more active role - would be welcomed by the current leadership team. So please do contact one of us - David Rance, Claire Rutter or Tracy Perrett - if you would like to find out more.

*Tracy Perrett*

## ***Prayer Groups***

### **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 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**

Firstly, thank you to all our servers for their dedicated service. I believe they contribute to our worship and feel privileged to be an active part of it.

Every year, at about this time, part of the preparation for those wishing to be confirmed includes a class about Holy Communion, its meaning and our part in it. This provides the opportunity to recruit new youngsters and gives them the chance to continue service. Over the space of a year some drop out, some prefer to maintain other commitments such as Pathfinders but some faithfully continue as servers starting as Acolytes and later fulfilling the Server or Crucifer role.

Of course this does not have to be the sole source of recruitment, everybody is welcome to join us. If a regular 10 o'clock spot on a Sunday doesn't suit there are other needs at our said services at 8 o'clock or our occasional weekday celebrations. Please feel free to speak to myself or Lisa if this might be a role for you.

*Chris Williams*

## **Social Committee**

Our first event for the year was the Patronal Festival BBQ and once more we were favoured with fabulous weather.

The Harvest supper at the end of September provided another opportunity for our now well established "GLorEE singers" to entertain, and we certainly appreciated their contribution to an enjoyable evening.

The "Pudding evening in November was indeed a novel suggestion and great fun; many thanks to Sheila Clapham for the initial idea and to Richard Ireson and Kay Martin for developing it.

The Family Fun afternoon in January was as much an opportunity for Outreach as a Social event. Several families, together with Jane, our Curate, and Lisa all joined with the committee for games and refreshment.

In February, Kingsley & Jennifer Perrera prepared a Sri Lankan Curry supper for us and fulfilled a promise made to Lisa over 5 years ago. It was a tremendous success, raising £170 for the R&R fund.

Apart from those events organised specifically, we provided refreshments for the Orchestral concert in December and for our own Carol Service.

Our aim is to provide a wide and varied Social programme. Any suggestions for future events are most welcome.

Thank-you to all participants and helpers.

*Jill Pope*

## **Stewardship**

This year it was felt that, instead of the traditional presentation from the pulpit about the finances of our Church and the need to keep pace with increasing demands on our giving, we would set out the facts in

the March edition of St John's News. The bare facts are that WE NEED TO INCREASE OUR GIVING BY 10% DURING 2012. So, if you have not had a chance to read this article, copies of St John's News are available and it can also be viewed on our web site. [www.crowthorneparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.crowthorneparishchurch.org.uk). If you have not already reviewed your giving please give this matter your careful consideration. Thank you and all in our church family for your generous financial support that is essential in enabling our mission here in Crowthorne and the wider world.

*Steve Pope*

## **St John's News**

St John's News has completed another year of serving the parish and providing the monthly information about all the important things at St John's. It is a team effort, Richard Ireson edits the main news, Irene Simmons provides the Prayer Diary and Ken Perrett leads the office team who print it.

Finally it is the product of the many contributors around the Parish who provide the contents. Our thanks to you all. This year we have been more sparing with the use of colour in SJN and, given its high cost, will only use it for special pictures normally on one page only. We continue to offer to send it by email; do let the editor know if you wish to be added to the list.

*Richard Ireson*  
Editor

## **Sunday School**

The last year has continued to be busy at Sunday School. We now have 74 children on the register with 30-40 children joining us most weeks. Over the last term the children have loved adding a sticker to mark themselves off on the register every week.

Years 4, 5 and 6 still have three teachers, Laura Myers, Sarah Dewson and Zella Barrett. Pre School, Reception and Year 1 are led by Jayne Clark and Danzi Castle with Lorraine Muirhead this year acting as assistant. Years 2 and 3 are led by Sharon Gibson, Clare Demblon and new teacher Mel Saville. Mel brings some great ideas and experience, we are so happy to welcome her on board – her input to the Nativity at Christmas was great. 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 two of our Sunday School teachers; Shirley Smith and Anna Forbes. Shirley and Anna have taught at Sunday School for many, many years and will be missed very much, although luckily we still get to see them in church.

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 still 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 Burrell has been coming into Sunday School occasionally and preparing the children with actions and instruments ready for the last hymn so Sunday School can put on a performance in front of the congregation- this has been wonderful and we have been very grateful.

The nativity play went well on Christmas Eve. Nearly all of the Sunday School teachers were involved with Reverend Lisa and Jane Manley. 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**

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

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

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

David Chater-Lea, Doreen Norfield, Sheila Stickland, Julia Warnes, Guy Sutherland, Penny Rickards, David Rance, Ken Perrett, Ian Loble, Carol Frost, Carol Cain, Jill Pope, Mike Thackray, Julie Sharpe, Philip Rutter, Keith Wilkinson, 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, Ross Stembridge.

Tony Coutts died last September and is sadly missed by all who knew him. Kath has agreed to continue on the 8 a.m. team rota.

Julia Warnes has decided to stand down this year after many years as a team member. Ross Stembridge is returning to South Africa with Yvette and we wish them well. Thank you to Julia and Ross for their time as team members.

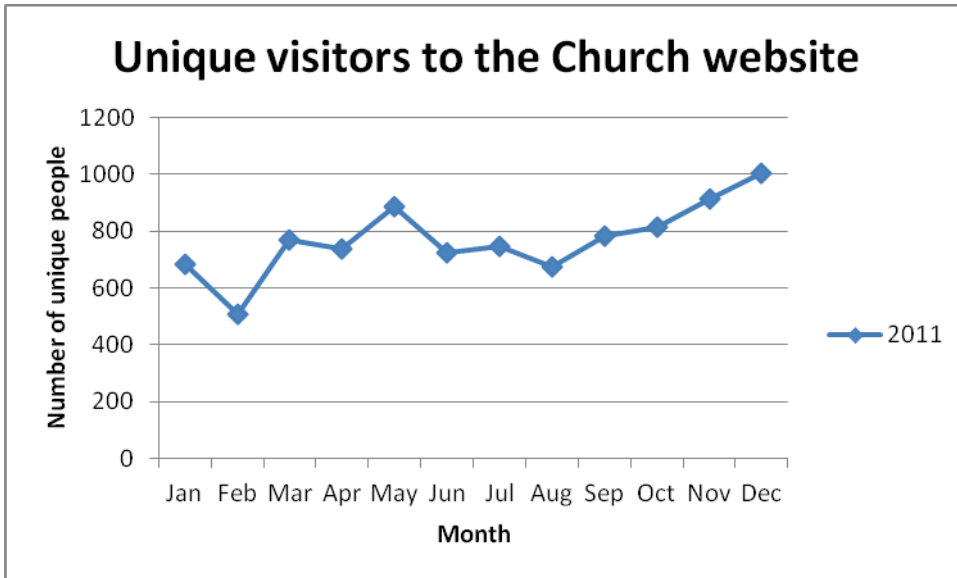
Thank you to all Welcome Team members for their commitment during the year. The Welcome Teams continue to play an important part in Church life in helping to make the services run smoothly and particularly in welcoming people who are new to the Church.

*Doreen Norfield*

## **Website**

The Church website is [www.crowthorneparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.crowthorneparishchurch.org.uk). This contains a wealth of information, including the latest St Johns News, the weekly news sheet, and recent sermons. The front page is kept up to date with all the forthcoming events, while the individual pages provide more detail of the various Church activities. There is a link on the front page to the Anglican offices of Morning and Evening Prayer.

During the past year, visitors to the website have steadily increased from around 600 different people per month to around 1000. We have had enquiries from all over the world, particularly in respect of relatives who might be buried in our Churchyard.



There is also link to our website on “A Church near you” ([www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) ).

The website is hosted by the Diocese, but requires a fair amount of maintenance and tuning. Thank you to Brian Turner for his valuable expert assistance throughout the past year.

*Ken Perrett*