

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

will take place on Wednesday 18th April 2012 at 8pm in the church

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Apologies
2. Minutes and matters arising
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Appointment of Deputy Wardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes and matters arising
2. Electoral Roll report
3. Secretary's report on the work of the PCC
4. Annual report 2011
5. Elections
 - Deanery Synod representatives
 - PCC representatives
 - Sidespeople
6. Appointments
 - Welcomers
7. Treasurer's report and appointment of Auditor
8. Reports from organisations 2011-12 (on screen and paper)
9. Report from Youth Minister
10. Report from Children's Minister
11. Report from Vicar

Secretary's Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council 2011-12

The PCC have met 7 times during the year to April 2012: June, July, October, November, January and February. Attendance has been exceptionally good, with a total attendance of 107 out of a possible 133 attendees (19 members @ 7 meetings). As ever the discussions have been wide ranging across all matters relating to CCO and the wider Anglican Communion. Interestingly the vast majority of the votes this year have been carried unanimously indicating good consensus within the PCC, although we have had many good discussions.

I pray that in the forthcoming year all the PCC members continue to find the meetings stimulating and that the PCC is able to continue to give high quality advice and support to the vicar and other office holders with CCO.

Bill Belsham

Hall Bookings / Centre Management

There has been a further marked increase in hall bookings over the past year, by both internal and external hirers, with one marked exception: Charterhouse Pre-School is amalgamating its two sections and moving into a purpose-built child centre at the Highway school. Internally, two new youth pod groups have been set up, the Network Course run and Mini Movers has returned after a term's break. An external toddler group now meets weekly while a temporary home was found for a fitness group following a fire at their premises.

Our dedicated regular hirers have continued to find Christ Church a suitable venue, and I have fostered good relations with the leaders of these groups which include Slimming World, Stroke Link Club, Kentish Opera, two dance groups, 4Israel, Orpington Photographic Society and Rochester Diocese. Use of the Rainbow Room is mainly focused now on holiday times with bookings by the Maypole Project and occasional use by families of children with special needs. Requests from potential regular hirers for the halls are still being considered, although the capacity to offer regular times for new groups is now severely limited. The fully installed audio visual equipment in the halls has provided us with user friendly equipment to a high specification. Hirers can now pay for use of the equipment provided full instructions are given before bookings. Wifi internet access has been introduced in the Mosaic Café - a much appreciated aid during meetings. John Clare's important contribution to our caretaking team was much valued and will be sorely missed. Special thanks are due to Len and all

those who worked hard to maintain the running of the premises despite a gas leak, heating issues and snow over the past year.

Continuing intensive use of the halls has a consequential impact on maintenance effort and costs. The unreliability of both church and halls heating systems though is disappointing and not altogether due to extreme weather. It has been found necessary to increase the time spent on cleaning this year. Sue Hiett is now directly employed as church/halls cleaner and we are grateful for her service. A contract cleaner is employed for one session only and also covers Sue for leave and sickness.

GIVE THANKS!

- For the smooth running and maintenance of the halls and wider premises through difficult circumstances,
- The support and dedication of our volunteer caretakers,
- The fruitful relationship developed with regular hirers,
- The opportunities given to us to engage with the wider community.

PLEASE PRAY:

- Wisdom in balancing the use of the premises by church groups and external hirers,
- Patience and wisdom in dealing with the challenges of hall and church maintenance,
- The continuing search for caretaking support,
- Wisdom surrounding the future use of the Undercroft

Len Gardiner and Liesel Stanbridge

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Deanery Synod representatives are: Vicar, Anne Springer, Simon Gardiner and Eric Owen.

11th May 2011 at All Saints. Instead of the usual Parish Profile, the Archdeacon Ven. Dr. Paul Wright outlined the plethora of tasks he is commonly required to perform, for example working with the Bishops' policy making team on staff appointments, vacancies in the diocese, pastoral problems, attending visitations where church wardens are sworn in, being part of the major London planning team working alongside the Mayor to provide pastoral care in major incident etc. etc... The main item was a presentation by the Archdeacon on Ordination of Women Bishops. Deanery Synod then followed a question and answer session before voting on the following motion: *"That this Synod approves the proposals embodied in the draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure."* The result of votes in a secret ballot: - 12 For – 12 Against (this vote needs to be interpreted against a complex procedural problem).

6th October 2011, at St Nicholas. The Parish Profile was given by The Rev. Allison Newman, the Assistant Rector. The church, dedicated in Dec 1958, is a plant from St Giles Farnborough. Their website shows the premises, a pleasant multi-purpose hall – on Saturdays it is transformed to a church, and back to a normal parish hall on Mondays. A wide range of activities occurs. The main item was a presentation on "Vocation" – Everyone has one, from making tea to ordination. The lead speaker Rev. Mark

Griffin, Diocesan Vocations advisor said *“All Christians are called to make disciples. Finding our gifts is a prime concern. Who can help?”* Rochester provides a wide range of short courses. Rev. Newman spoke of the new scenario for Licensed Lay Ministry, a 3 year course, with selection after 1 year for longer studies. Cost £750/yr of which £250 would need to be met by the candidate.

25th January 2012 at St Martin of Tours. The newly appointed Rev. Paul Spreadbridge gave the Parish Profile. The main item was to debate a motion on approving the draft Act of synod adopting the Anglican Communion covenant. Dr Martin Davie, who has many years direct experience of drafting the Act, spoke very clearly on what is involved.

The **Preamble** declares that as churches of the Anglican Communion, we covenant together to proclaim more effectively in our different contexts the grace of God, to offer God’s love in responding to the needs of the world, to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and together with all God’s people to attain full stature.

Section 1: Our Inheritance of Faith contains 8 affirmations summarising the Christian faith as Anglicans have received it. 8 commitments express how covenanting churches will live out this common inheritance of faith in their own contexts.

Section 2: The Life We Share With Others: Our Anglican Vocation contains 5 affirmations which trace our communion to God’s gift and providence, acknowledge our failings and need for constant repentance. It defines our Anglican vocation in relation to the mission of God ‘a vocation and blessing in which each Church is joined with others in Christ to establish God’s reign.’ Based on

these affirmations covenanting churches commit themselves to mutually accountable mission and evangelism, to the Anglican Five Marks of Mission, to renewal of structures for and the ordering of mission to the ‘joyful and reverent worship of God.’

Section 3: Our Unity and Common Life contains 4 affirmations setting out our incorporation into the body of Christ, our resolve to live in a communion of churches combining ‘autonomy and accountability,’ our acceptance of the central role of bishops as teachers and guardians of the faith, the historic threefold order of ministry, and our belief in the importance of the Instruments of Communion. Based on these affirmations, covenanting churches make 7 commitments to living in a way that sustains and deepens their common life, particularly in relation to matters of controversy or conflict, always having in mind that ‘our bonds of affection and the love of Christ compel us always to uphold the highest degree of communion possible.’

Section 4: Our Covenanted life Together sets out ‘principles and procedures’ which each covenanting church affirms and commits itself to implement. These cover the adoption of the Covenant, how it will be implemented, how disputes, withdrawal from the Covenant and amendment of the covenant text will be handled.

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of signing up to the Covenant.

GIVE THANKS!

- For continuing links with schools,
- For good meetings with real progress.

PLEASE PRAY:

- For important matters ahead such as the ordination of women bishops and the Anglican Covenant,
- For strengthening relationships with neighbouring Anglican churches.

Annual Accounts 2011

Summary version

The electoral roll is updated annually and in 2011 comprised 218 members, an increase of 14 since 2010. The breakdown was:

Male = 87, Female = 131;
Resident in parish = 96, Resident outside parish = 122.

The average weekly attendance during October (when the annual count is done for the Diocese) was 160 adults aged 16 or over and 45 young people aged under 16.

Income

Total receipts for the General Fund were £229,179 and are detailed in the Financial Statements. The proportion of donations that are gift aided was similar to that in 2010 – 86% of General Fund donations when taken together with the tax recoverable, compared with 85% in 2009. The income from the hire of the hall increased significantly in 2011 to £25,253 compared with £21,728 in 2010. Income from the café fell from £18,275 to £17,714 due to less catering at special functions; a 6% surplus of income over expenditure.

The planned giving by envelopes and standing orders to the General Fund fell by 2% to £92,708 (£112,860 with the tax recoverable; £118,502 in 2010). We are very grateful to those who give in this way as it enables the church to set a realistic budget. In addition the amount promised in Advent was £6,040 a year in increased or new standing orders. People also gave £4,865 to the General Fund in a special offertory at this time.

We are grateful to the estates of Mrs June Downing and Mrs Dorothy Royston for legacies of £1000 each.

The General Fund - Year Ended 31st December 2010

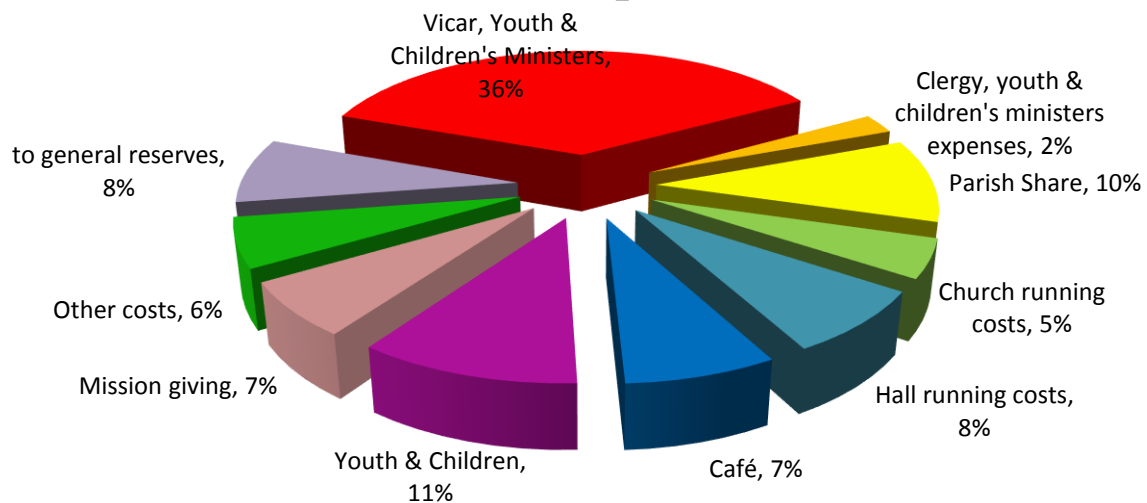
| 2010 | | 2011 | |
|---------|--|---------|-------|
| £ | <u>Income</u> | £ | |
| | <u>Donor Income</u> | | |
| 88,292 | Gift Aid | 90,721 | |
| 25,746 | Tax Receivable | 23,552 | |
| 19,970 | Non-Gift Aid | 18,281 | |
| 9,669 | Open Plate | 8,823 | |
| 143,677 | | 141,377 | -1.6% |
| | <u>Other Voluntary Income</u> | | |
| 4,669 | Legacies | 2,000 | |
| 4,669 | | 2,000 | |
| | <u>Other Incoming Resources</u> | | |
| 292 | Magazines | 565 | |
| 5,086 | Fees | 5,377 | |
| 21,728 | Hall Lettings | 25,253 | |
| 18,275 | Café | 17,714 | |
| 668 | Bookstall | 447 | |
| 11,531 | Children/Youth | 13,117 | |
| 680 | Evangelism/Education | 494 | |
| 7,186 | Oasis College | 17,580 | |
| 1,475 | Miscellaneous | 4,450 | |
| 66,921 | | 84,998 | |
| 575 | Investment Income | 804 | |
| 215,842 | <u>Total Incoming Resources</u> | 229,179 | +6.3% |

Expenditure

The General Fund - Year Ended 31st December 2011

| 2010 | | 2011 |
|---------|--|---------------|
| £ | <u>Expenditure</u> | £ |
| 38,185 | Ministry Costs | 38,989 |
| 34,232 | Youth Minister | 34,371 |
| 9,105 | Children's Minister | 9,697 |
| 2,209 | Assistant Youth Minister | 5,364 |
| 974 | Children/Youth Administrator | 2,296 |
| 2,605 | Hall Bookings Administrator | 5,470 |
| 26,800 | Parish Share | 23,200 |
| 12,961 | Church | 10,707 |
| 14,575 | Hall and Grounds | 17,611 |
| 15,805 | Café | 16,691 |
| 488 | Bookstall | 363 |
| 3,637 | Evangelism/Education | 3,769 |
| 16,517 | Children/Youth | 21,898 |
| 1,937 | Equipment | |
| 1,055 | Depreciation | 775 |
| 61 | Bank charges | |
| 2,572 | Other Parish Costs | 3,585 |
| 1,064 | Independent Examiner | 1,054 |
| 184,782 | <u>Total Expenditure</u> | 195,840 +6.0% |
| 31,060 | <u>NET SURPLUS/<LOSS></u> | 33,339 |
| -32,500 | Transfers, CRF + MSF | -23,200 |
| -1,440 | Net movement in fund | 10,139 |

General Fund expenditure in 2011



The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £33,339; of this £15,200 was transferred to the Mission Support Fund and £8,000 to the Church Repair Fund. The balance carried forward at 31st December for the General Fund was £141,435; up £10,139 on the previous year.

Missionary Giving.

A Gift Day was held in June to raise funds to expand our work in the community. At the time the PCC were looking at the possibility of employing a curate and working in the Church of Unity on the Ramsden Estate. £25,002 was raised and this has been transferred to the Mission Fund. This gives sufficient monies to commit Christ Church to the church plant on the Ramsden Estate for one year.

A group of 10 young people and 5 adults went to Uganda in July with Mission Direct. Many fundraising events were held during 2011 to fund the trip and raise money to build classrooms at Kahengye Primary School. £28,090 was sent to Mission Direct during 2011; when added to the money raised in 2010 this resulted in £9,346 being raised for the building work. The young people are to be praised for all their hard work prior to the trip and in Uganda itself.

Other donations to missionary charities and agencies in 2011 totalled £32,001 (£32,509 in 2010).

CHRIST CHURCH ORPINGTON - YEAR ENDED 31st December 2011

| Missionary Expenditure - Restricted Fund | | Specific | MSF | TOTALS |
|---|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2010 | General | | | |
| 1,819 | CPAS | 585 | 1,500 | 2,085 |
| 618 | Crosslinks | 608 | | 608 |
| 2,639 | LCM | 625 | 1,500 | 2,125 |
| 2,189 | CMS | 860 | 1,500 | 2,360 |
| 169 | Interserve | 165 | - | 165 |
| 175 | The Children's Society | 197 | - | 197 |
| <u>7,609</u> | | <u>3,040</u> | <u>4,500</u> | <u>7,540</u> |
| | <u>Support Agencies & Education</u> | | | |
| 100 | Churches Together in Orpington | - | 100 | 100 |
| 383 | Street Pastors (CTiO) | - | - | - |
| 1,833 | Barnabas Fund | 740 | 1,500 | 2,240 |
| - | HART | 791 | - | 791 |
| - | Missionary Aviation Fellowship | 517 | 800 | 1,317 |
| 2,001 | Spinnaker | 773 | 1,500 | 2,273 |
| 3,919 | Tear Fund | 1,498 | 1,500 | 2,998 |
| 4,806 | Mission Direct | 28,090 | - | 28,090 |
| 846 | Child Evangelism Fellowship of Britain | - | 800 | 800 |
| 9,193 | Church Army | 50 | - | 50 |
| <u>23,131</u> | | <u>32,459</u> | <u>6,200</u> | <u>38,659</u> |
| | <u>Personnel</u> | | | |
| 2,732 | Isobel Murphy (WBT) | 1,137 | 1,000 | 2,137 |
| 1,419 | Jim & Katie Whitear (YWAM) | 635 | 1,000 | 1,635 |
| 1,293 | Nick & Helen Smith (AWM) | 438 | 1,000 | 1,438 |
| 19,518 | Viktor & Ester Petrenko | 7,182 | 1,500 | 8,682 |
| 3,064 | Pat Blanchard | - | - | - |
| <u>28,026</u> | | <u>9,392</u> | <u>4,500</u> | <u>13,892</u> |
| <u>58,766</u> | TOTAL | <u>44,891</u> | <u>15,200</u> | <u>60,091</u> |

In addition, £1,239.02 was raised by a door-to-door collection by Christ Church members in support of Christian Aid.

We hope this summary version of the 2011 annual accounts is helpful. A full version will be available at the APCM.

Mission Support Fund 2011

£15,200 available:

Sent to mission agencies

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Spinnaker | £1,500 |
| Church Pastoral Aid Society | £1,500 |
| London City Mission | £1,500 |
| CMS (Lima) | £1,500 |
| Tearfund | £1,500 |
| Barnabas Fund | £1,500 |

Sub-total £9,000

Where possible and desirable we specified particular projects to be beneficiaries of these agencies' sums. For example Tearfund's Sagoal project in Nepal, LCM's Day Centre for the Homeless at Waterloo, two SAMS projects in Lima shanty towns. We sent the full amounts to the General Funds of the other agencies - CPAS, Barnabas, and Spinnaker.

Sent to mission partners, usually former members of our fellowship, were then each awarded 2/3 of the agency figure, except for the Petrenkos, who, with an extra £500, need additional funds for a house-build.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|---|
| Nick and Helen Smith | £1,000 | Arab World Ministries, The Gulf |
| Jim and Katie Whitear | £1,000 | Youth With A Mission, Hamburg, Germany |
| Isabel Murphy | £1,000 | Wycliffe Bible Translators, Brazil |
| Victor and Ester Petrenko | £1,500 | Riga International Bible Institute, Latvia |
| Ufuk and Emma Demirgil | £800 | Child Evangelism Fellowship, Turkey |
| Missionary Aviation Fellowship | £800 | |

Sub-total £ 6,100

Churches Together in Orpington **£100**

Grand Total £15,200

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

Café Mosaic

The Café has now been open for almost five years and is a great asset to our church and the local community together, with the wonderful Hall and facilities it is a great place for people to celebrate their Birthdays, Weddings, Christenings, Anniversaries and other functions.

The Café has continued to be successful in its mission with the word of our existence spreading around the local community. It is a great focal point for people to come for meetings with regard to their various ministries and house groups or just a chat with their friends.

We have had many compliments about the Café as it provides a welcoming atmosphere where people come for good food from our varied menu and weekly Home Made Specials or just for a drink and a chat to my team who are always sympathetic and reassuring when needs are required.

I thoroughly enjoy my days at the Café where we have fun and gain lots of pleasure in making people happy.

I would like to thank God for his guidance in assisting me in the day to day running of the Café and any functions that we hold.

I would also like to thank my happy band of faithful volunteers most of whom have been with us since we opened, who turn up week in week out to give their precious time and effort and for their assistance in making the Café such a pleasant place to visit and such a huge success.

Please pray for the continued success of the Café and all of the volunteers who have helped me in their efforts for providing such a warm and welcoming atmosphere to the community and that we continue to reach out to new people using this important church ministry.

Colin Beesley
Café Manager

Community Club

We have been blessed this last year by a God who loves us and enjoying the Tuesday Club which enables people to meet socially as well as eating a meal together.

We are thankful for the ever changing Community Service Workers. This involvement with first offenders is a valuable church ministry and we are so pleased to have Debbie Dolling with us who supervises the group.

A week before the Royal Wedding, 2 coaches were filled for a visit to the crowds. Great day out, another trip was to Burrswood, in Sussex as well as our annual day to Eastbourne.

Christmas Lunch is always enjoyed, lovely meal and drinks, presents and a visit from Highway School, singing us carols.

Three weeks without gas supply was quiet challenging, the fish and chip shop did one meal, help from Jay and Bill Whitman cooking the vegetables was good, as well as dear people in the church cooking a slow cook through the night.

Autumn was a blessing when about 35 people did a Senior Alpha coffee morning. God answered our prayers in Sue London, Chris Hemming assisting as well as many others who have given their support.

We are continuing with guest speakers sharing their views as well as the post Alpha course, 'A life worth living'.

We celebrated Pauline and Doug 70th Wedding Anniversary with songs on the piano and their chosen meal. It was great to be part of such a happy time.

GIVE THANKS!

- We would thank God to everyone who helps so much, its team work and also for the members themselves who often make it worthwhile being together.

PRAY FOR:

- For the coming year, for Jesus continuing guidance and care.

Committee Members

Greta Kitchener, Jan Lally, Ruth Pallister, Mary Kendal and Andrea and Eric Owen

Create!

Create! (Art Courses for children & young people aged 7+) has continued to have contact with children & families from the church and wider community during 2011-2012.

We have run a variety of courses this year, including the very popular 'Kids Kitchen' (cookery) and Impressionism (painting with acrylics). We continue to exhibit the children's work in the Gallery space in the church café, which makes the children feel very proud of their achievements, and gives much pleasure to members of the church and community, who can appreciate the children's artwork.

Leaders: Jo Colwill & Mel Ketchin

GIVE THANKS!

- For continued enthusiasm from children/YP in courses and for new families enquiring
- For the support of Don Bissett, who has faithfully photographed and printed the children's work for display in the café gallery.
- The opportunity to develop children & young people's confidence through encouragement to explore materials, ideas and independent thinking.
- For Anna, who has been helping and developing her teaching skills in the group, and other helpers who make the clear up so much easier!

PRAY FOR:

- For wisdom about the future of Create!, as Mel takes on a new job.
- For continued and developing relationships of encouragement and support with families.
- For opportunities to demonstrate God's love through the distinctive and authentic relationships forged in the group.
- For continued inspiration for new courses

Friday Night @ the BASE

Friday Night @ the BASE continues to run fortnightly during term time – it is a Youth Group for secondary school aged young people with additional needs – ie those who find the Saturday groups too ‘full-on’.

We currently have 8 boys attending the group (school years 7,8 and 9) who are beginning to gel well as a group and are learning the art of friendship and being part of a group of friends.

Our older group of boys moved up to the Saturday night Youth group during the summer term with mixed success. Consequently we are currently reviewing how to make this transition more successful.

We plan to bring in and start a new group of younger boys/girls once we have enough children waiting on our waiting list.

Leaders group: Mel Ketchin, Mandy Callaghan, Martin & Sarah Hayward. We have been fortunate this term to have the leaders of the older group available to help us as their boys have moved up to

the Saturday night Base.(Jo Colwill, Jackie Humphries and Jenny Seares.

Mentors: ; Sam Ketchin and Hannah Humblestone.

GIVE THANKS!

- For the confidence we have seen growing in the young people as they come to the group.
- For the opportunities we have had to show God's love to the families with whom we have contact, in very practical ways.
- For the friendships that have formed in the group.

PRAY FOR:

- For continued support for the older boys, as they make new friendships in BASE +, especially that they will be able to overcome their anxiety about meeting new people.
- For wisdom for the leaders in the younger group, as they manage tricky interpersonal issues.
- That the families we meet with, experience God's love through us.

In:spire Dance

1. Monthly Prayer/Worship times

On the second Monday of every month 8-10pm there is space to come before God to meet together in His name, to listen to his Word, to worship, to pray and to provide time and space to meet with Him. This is done through conversation, movement, music, scripture and silence, following a monthly theme (such as prayer, worship, praise, prophecy). The group includes Caroline Rous, Helen Doyle, Caroline Bailey and is led by Anna Shadbolt. Since

the Creative Arts day held last May, the group has been joined by Carole Bell from Hope Church, now involved in the Church of Unity mission plant. Members of the group are also beginning to perform pieces in church services, for example three of the dancers performed an uplifting piece 'Gaudete' at the opening of the Carols by Candlelight service. The group also enjoy socialising together and have planned a dance trip to a contemporary London dance performance. We look forward to continuing to develop this group, both in the practice of movement as a way to encounter God, and as an expression of worship and creative communication. This group is very welcoming to those who want to give it a try...no experience necessary!

GIVE THANKS!

- For the continued growth of this group,
- The space to meet with God.

PRAY FOR:

- For God's guidance and leadership in this ministry area.

2. Springs Link

Our partnership with Springs Dance Company continues as we provide a weekly community placement for the students on the Springs Apprenticeship scheme, enabling them to link with a local church serving its local community. Students visit every Thursday and on two Sundays during the Autumn and Spring terms. In the Summer Term we welcome them for a few days as part of their end of year tour. This year we have worked with two excellent teams who have served in the following areas out in our local community and within the life of our church.

Church based work has included:

- Performance, worship, teaching and leading opportunities in children's worship & teaching time: 'Outburst',
- Improvisation and performances in main worship services,
- Planning and working alongside a wide team of church leaders and volunteers.

Primary school based work has included:

- Observation and participatory sessions with Years 3 & 4 in The Highway,
- Leading a Harvest workshop and performance on 'The Parable of the Sower' with Year 3,
- Planning and delivering a series of Christian incorporating performance and lively action songs,
- Planning and delivering a 1 hour workshop on theme of Darkness and Light for 15 8-9 year olds,
- A teaching placement at The Highway and Holy Innocents unpacking Christian themes in the story of The Selfish Giant, culminating in a schools performance of The Selfish Giant by Springs Dance Company at Christ Church.

Pre-School work has included:

- Observing and training to run 'Mini-Movers' sessions,
- Planning and delivering a series of Mini-Movers sessions with two groups of differing ages and abilities.

Last May saw the first Creative Arts Day at Christ Church where the Springs Apprentices were able to serve and receive among

many other people from this church and others, as together we sought to encounter God through the creative arts. Many different disciplines within the arts were used to explore a theme from Ezekiel 37:14 'I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live'. The Springs Apprentices began their tour with this day, and found it a helpful way to embark on tour as it gave them space in a busy schedule to meet with God. They went on to run a series of school workshops and performances locally before heading off to other parts of the UK and beyond. We look forward to welcoming them in May as they start their tour again with our forthcoming Creative Arts Day.

Caroline Bailey.

Men's Ministry Report to APCM

Last year, Jay took the decision to re-vamp the Men's Ministry at Christ Church in order to promote a greater focus on outreach into the community. Financial expectations are for the events to cut even, which allows for greater investment in the vents themselves. The new team is myself, Ike Machie, and Mark Tenant, with Jay providing leadership and support. We have held 4 successful events since then, with another due to take place on Saturday. The feedback from all of the events so far has been very encouraging, and there s a palpable sense of momentum building up which we intend to capitalise on.

In the summer we held a barbeque and beer event which was really well received. A number of new friendships were made and existing friendships cemented. The games and activities went down

particularly well, which gave us the confidence to develop the concept of a regular “Retro Youth Club” night, with less emphasis on refreshments and more on the social opportunities. The first of these took place in November, and was again well received. Further such nights will be held in 2012.

The barbeque was in fact one of two events we organised during what we labelled the “Menkind Weekend” to coincide with Father’s Day. The second was a man-focussed service on Sunday morning followed by a car and bike show in the car park and grounds. Attendance was high and there was a real buzz around the event, which was featured in local press.

The other event was a breakfast and rugby event at the church. Again a good turn out with a number of new faces for the England v France quarter final of the Rugby World Cup on the big screen, with an excellent full English breakfast thrown in. Despite, the result, the feedback was again very good.

The next event is the Gary Ryan concert at the church on Saturday which, is open to all (not just men) and looks to be well received.

Apart from the “youth” club nights, we are planning events around the forthcoming Olympics. We hope to make the summer barbeque an annual event.

Things to give thanks for are the energy and commitment of the MM team, the enthusiasm of local men from all walks of life for the events so far, and opportunities such as the Rugby World Cup and the Olympics for offering relevant and enjoyable events.

Things to pray for are the continued inspiration, energy and commitment of the MM team, and for their efforts to be effective in bringing local men into the church community.

Andrew Wood

Mini-Movers

Mini-Movers runs on Thursday afternoons. Pre-schoolers enjoy singing and dancing to lively Bible based songs, and participating with interactive, movement based Bible stories. This ministry was served by Sue London, Jo Gavin and Caroline Bailey with support from Springs Dance Apprentices until last summer. Due to changed work circumstances, Sue, Jo and Caroline have passed this ministry on to Tina Hall (from Hope Church) who currently works on the Christ Church site with the Springs Apprentices to run this group. The vision is to grow this as an outreach ministry to families with young children that could be transferred to the Church of Unity site as the church mission plant begins to take root and grow there. Thus the shared leadership across Christ Church and Hope Church has been a really positive experience; not only that, the group has grown significantly.

GIVE THANKS!

- For the partnership with Hope Church with this ministry,
- For the fantastic growth.

PRAY FOR:

- The outworking of the vision to transfer this project to the Church of Unity site to reach out to families there.

Caroline Bailey.

Mission and Evangelism

During 2011 the Community Club hosted a successful senior Alpha course on Tuesday mornings for members for about 35 members of the Community Club with Sue London & Chris Hemming helping to co-ordinate this.

The previous 2 Alpha courses combined into one post Alpha group led by Eric & Andrea Owen with support from Bob Kendall.

As 2012 opens a new Alpha course is starting which is the 22nd series of Alpha courses since we started in 2001. This is being hosted by Greta & Alan and it is always exciting to see fresh people discovering the reality of knowing God.

The current course is made up of a mixture of newcomers to the church and some who have been on the Community Club Alpha and want to explore faith further.

I want to thank the Alpha group consisting of Nelson and Ruth Pallister, Sue London and Greta Kitchener who have planned and prayed for Alpha and other initiatives for evangelism. During the year Jenny has also co-ordinated a group to “brainstorm” at new initiatives in evangelism.

PRAY FOR:

- Pray for the current Alpha course as it comes to the final stages of the course,
- Pray for those who have gone on to follow on groups that their faith may deepen
- Pray for those who have been helped by the Community Club Alpha and are continuing to take part in the morning sessions at the Community Club,
- Pray for other initiatives to enable people to come into community and start seeking such as “Tea & Toys” the men’s group and Community Club.

The mission group aim to encourage mission support in Christ Church by dissemination of information and prayer topics, facilitating financial support, arranging mission deputations and encouragement of mission activity within the church.

The Mission group has been reformed this year under the leadership of Len Gardiner and he is the initial contact point for Mission queries

During 2011 deputations from mission partners have included CPAS, Baroness Cox and Mission Aviation Fellowship as well as the visit of several mission partners on a Sunday morning. £15,200 was distributed on behalf of the church to Mission Support Fund partners and special collections also raised further sums of money for specific mission partners.

The Mission Support Fund provided financial support in 2011 to Spinnaker, CPAS, London City Mission, CMS(Lima), Tear Fund,

Barnabas Fund, Missionary Aviation Fellowship, Churches Together in Orpington, Nick & Helen Smith, Jim & Katie Whitear, Isabel Murphy, Victor & Esther Petrenko, Ufuk and Emma Demirgil.

During 2011 we supported the trip of 15 young people and leaders to rebuild and refit Kahengye Primary School in Rukungiri, Southern Uganda. This was a great experience for all who went as well as enabling a real difference to be made to the lives of Ugandan children in Rukungiri.

Alan Goddard.

Pastoral Care

We do thank God for anyone involved in caring for others, for their time and willingness to look after people which in some cases can be long term.

As our fellowship increases there will be a bigger need in the future for many areas of help and if there is anyone in our church who would be able to help in caring for others, please contact the committee.

House groups do a good job supporting each other and in some ways are in a better position to help.

Our team are arranging carers for people who are not in those groups.

Janet Bower has taken the first training session for pastoral care in our church. She will be continuing this year and we are hoping many will be encouraged to do this short course.

We understand that the Welcoming evenings/ Sunday afternoons are helpful for people to know more about Christ Church and to meet and make friends.

The last few years Jay does a Remembrance afternoon which is well attended. He does a short service followed by tea and cakes and a valuable to be together with others; Pastoral care committee are privileged to be there.

We are here to help in many ways, listening, hospital visits, meals and support where we can or find another to help

One of our prayers would be to see this increase. There are many who do so much but we can look at Jesus to see His care of always putting others needs before His own.

Praying with thanks for all who are part of care at Christ Church.

For the committee who are Ruth Pallister, Pat Hemmington, Mary Kendal, Janet Bower, Jan Lally, Andrea and Eric Owen and Katrina Beesley who we welcome to our team.

Greta Kitchener

Prayer Ministry

The Christ Church Prayer Ministry team and Prayer Chain (both e-mail and telephone) have had the responsibility and privilege of praying into a wide range of requests over the past year. It is always an encouragement when we see prayers being answered and in

particular this year we give thanks that Shirley Morris has received her kidney transplant, and also that Robert Collins who used to be at Christ Church has donated one of his kidneys to another recipient. Both are going on well after their operations.

It may not be generally known that there are over 50 people on the Prayer Chain; these are people of integrity and sensitivity who take their prayer responsibilities seriously, and we count it an honour to be able to some extent to bear one another's burdens as we receive prayer requests from those in need.

19 of our young people are at varying stages of further education and some of the Prayer Chain pray for one or more of them on a regular basis.

On most Saturday mornings there is a Church Prayer Meeting at 9 am (finishing between 9.45 and 10) and we are usually to be found either in the Café Area or at the back of the Church. On the first Saturday there is a united Churches 'Together in Orpington Prayer Meeting held at a different Church in the Borough each month.

Rainbow Room

The Rainbow Room is a soft play facility for the under 3 age group who are attending the 10.30 am church service with their parents. It also functions as a safe place to play for children with additional needs and their families. There is no age limit for these small

sessions. The Facility is also used by The Maypole Project who provide fun days for disabled children and their siblings.

Bookings for play sessions are now taken by Liesel who then organises a volunteer to sit in on the session. Most play sessions last 2 hours and cost £1 per child. On average we have one to two bookings a month.

GIVE THANKS!

- For our small group of faithful volunteers who man the creche and play sessions.
- For this soft play facility,
- For the families who come to visit and for the opportunity to serve others.

PRAY FOR:

- Fun for the families and children
- For more volunteers to come forward.
- for us to be able to reach more families who would benefit from using the space.
- And for those children who have now moved on to school.
- For all those we are able to serve to know God's love through us.

Small Groups and Discipleship

During the last year, two new groups formed as a result of Alpha courses have been merged under the leadership of Eric Owen and hosted either by Eric & Andrea Owen or by Andy & Jane Wood. I

am grateful to Bob Kendall for leading the first group up to the merger. It is so encouraging to see people growing into a deeper knowledge of the Lord Jesus and finding their place as integral parts of the Body of Christ.

Following the decision of Graham & Cecilia Bartlett to worship closer to their home, the group they led in the Foxens' house has disbanded. We are looking at ways of re-starting this and possibly commencing a new group as well.

A number have joined the Church and some have been incorporated into small groups; some have moved away or been translated into glory.

Please talk to me if you would like to look at the possibility of joining a group.

GIVE THANKS!

- the new groups that have started,
- for continuing enthusiasm for group development in the church and
- for those prepared to take on leadership and pastoral care roles.

PRAY FOR:

- wisdom and sensitivity in making changes to existing group structures,
- for wisdom in knowing how best to grow new leaders

Nelson D A Pallister

Spinnaker

Work has been continuing to grow within The Highway and Chelsfield, in addition we are now visiting Hillside Primary school fortnightly for assembly. Hillside also benefited from a special Christmas assembly and workshop from the Spinnaker Orpington team.

We have been using drama and animation to bring the assemblies alive for the children, involving them in the stories. Martin has made some animation DVD's which have been well received by the children. We have had some great feedback and thanks for both assemblies and lessons. We also worked with the Springs dancers for the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. We had a drama in assembly complete with fiery furnace. Springs then performed and told the story through dance.

At The Highway, Martin and I held a special assembly to help the children celebrate their Diamond Day. On the day itself, the school was open to the public for tours during which I taught Year 3 and made Christingles. The fact that they asked me to teach on such an important day for the school, with parents and members of the community visiting shows how much they value the input from Spinnaker.

A number of fantastic volunteers from the Church helped the children to make Advent rings for each class; both volunteers and children all had a wonderful afternoon. The children then explained the significance of the Advent rings to the whole school and presented them to their class teachers.

At the Highway, I have been working with Years 2 & 3. I have increased the number of lessons. We also had visits to the Church from Reception, Year 1 & 4. During one lesson on the Bible for Year 2, I was able to show Wendy's DVD on the 5 minute Bible, I had parents telling me the next day that their children were asking to read the Bible.

Wendy reported an increase of attendance from Year 4 in Explorers; these were the children I taught in Year 3 2010/11. I hope that my input, the holiday club, the attendance of some of their friends and influence of existing church going parents has all worked together to encourage the children to come. I believe schools work can really make a difference in reaching children and bringing them and their families into Church.

GIVE THANKS!

- For the support from Christ Church,
- For the good relationship we have with our schools and the many opportunities we have been given,
- For the increasing number of children from the Highway attending Church.

PRAY FOR:

- for the Local Schools Event and further development of the work and relationships,
- For the wider Spinnaker - currently opportunity exceeds capacity. Please pray for wisdom for God to show Spinnaker where to focus its energy. Pray that God will continue to provide the resources, both in money and in people, to do all that he wants us to do,
- The other thing to pray for is that nationally RE is changing. More schools are dropping regular RE lessons in favour of

special RE days and weeks. Again, this provides us with a fantastic opportunity, but also a big challenge, because keeping up with these changes to produce good quality days and workshops for schools will take a lot of time.

Tea and Toys

In adapting to the change in Borough policy, whereby all children aged 4 are now invited to start school in September, **Tea and Toys** has sought and gained a vast horde of new clientele in the form of parents and carers with much younger children.

This year has seen a delightful increase in mums with babies and 'bumps'! The buggies each week take up a whole corner of the halls and the popular Bible story and song time requires a mid-session furniture re-shuffle and a new stock of musical instruments in order to accommodate everyone. New faces and a variety of languages and cultures are welcomed every week, some folk visit the café beforehand and some have visited church on Sundays. The care and acceptance offered at this group is frequently commented upon. The small donation we ask per family has rapidly become a sizeable sum for re-investment and the Diocese has taken an interest in Tea and Toys while planning toddler support in the area.

It has been a privilege to work closely alongside Paula Lynch, Judith Motto and Doreen Turvey every week and to receive regular support from Maureen Grandini, Steph Fargie and Jay on guitar. We also have a new and very welcome member in Pauline Dugard.

Wendy Tennant

GIVE THANKS!

- For the wonderful atmosphere that permeates this lovely group,
- For the ability to demonstrate our faith and love of Jesus through simple stories & song,
- For the gratitude frequently expressed by those who come

PRAY FOR:

- For the whole team and particularly for **Paula** as she leads this thriving group forwards,
- For good friendships to be forged between those mums and au pairs who feel isolated,
- For the lasting impression that Christ's church demonstrates care and acceptance.

Volunteer Support Group

The VSG has continued to champion the role of volunteers in our church.

We held our annual 'Thank You Tea' in May and have encouraged several training events including flower arranging workshop, small group leaders toolbox, Pastoral Care training and the spiritual gifts 'Network' course. Our volunteers are prayed for regularly by the group and during our Sunday morning services. Our display board has changed to show pictures of some of our committed volunteer leaders which we hope help people identify those who are perhaps less known to us. The Volunteer handbook has been updated and numerous copies have been shared both within the congregation

and with other churches. We have been working more closely with some of our leaders to support and develop their ministries and groups, particularly, Discipleship, Communications, Mission, Evangelism, Worship, Creative arts and Children's work. We continue to offer support to any volunteer who requests it and to any of our congregation who would like to explore becoming more involved in the life of the church community.

It has been a joy to see the development of the Men's Ministry, but we are saddened by the loss of John Clare who was an important member of both the care-taking and supplies teams and Roy King, a delightful member of our music group. Their energy and enthusiasm for serving God and the community will be greatly missed.

Jenny Warrington, Janet Bower, Sarah Gardiner & Mandy
Callaghan

GIVE THANKS!

- For the many volunteers at Christ Church who are making a difference in God's Kingdom,
- For the lives of John Clare and Roy King,
- For all the work that Martin Lindley has done with Child Protection and CRB policies and we are grateful to Don Bower who takes over this important role.

PRAY FOR:

- The continuing development of our volunteers and their leaders
- Our children's worker volunteers, during a time without a

Children's Minister

- Those areas that need more help, that God would provide the right people according to His purposes.

Worship Group – morning

The music team is functioning well in two separate groups led respectively by Melanie and Mike Bailey, and Liesel Stanbridge, with each group having its own distinctive style. We make every effort to reflect the full range of traditions and preferences of the congregation to enable all to worship God. Thanks are due to all the musicians, including those who are team members and others who are able to join us on an occasional basis.

Sometimes family, work or ministry commitments deplete the overall team and we will be looking to augment the pool of musicians available each week. As a team, we are hoping to undertake a worship training course produced by Worship Central over the next few months. We were saddened to learn of the death of Roy King, who had served in the morning group for many years; we thank God for his life and contribution to the music life of our church.

GIVE THANKS!

- For the dedication of both groups and their leaders,
- For growing sensitivity in worship,
- For the continuing support of the team to provide a variety of musical styles.

PRAY FOR:

- A closer integration of music and technology to enable the congregation to worship without distraction,
- Talented musicians willing to join each group on a permanent or rota basis,
- The worship training course, so that each musician will feel encouraged and more equipped to use their gifts.

Liesel Stanbridge, Melanie and Mike Bailey

Worship Group - Evening

The evening service continues to fulfil an important function within the worship life of the church. Over the decades the evening service has brought a number of people in the life of the church. Our youth band now competently leads these services with one or two adults in attendance. It is great to see them grow in playing and leading in worship. In 2010, we launched a Theology Café service to encourage biblical understanding. This has been continued in 2011 and continues to serve an important function. Throughout 2011, there has been teaching and learning about the fundamentals of the Christian faith.

Evening Worship is led by a variety of people, supported by a great team of musicians and preachers. It provides a good opportunity for young people to plan and lead worship. The numbers in our Evening Worship services are lower than we would hope (even when the experience in worship is very positive.) We seek God's

guidance as to how we might attract members of our wider community to this service.

Jay Colwill

GIVE THANKS!

- The interest in the Theology Café and the opportunity for learning it affords,
- An increasing sense of God's Spirit as we listen to Him in times of quiet and reflection.

PRAY FOR:

- Discernment for the future direction of our evening services in 2012.

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

As usual, the Fabric Committee has met throughout the year and as kept under review the needs of the church complex for one-off and regular repairs and maintenance. A number of projects have been completed during the year: a new enclosure has been built near the kitchen for waste bins, new hand-driers have been fitted in toilets, a camera has been fitted in the church under the balcony clock to give a central view of activities in the chancel, new mosaics have been installed in the church vestibule, the church and hall doors have been varnished and fencing has been creosoted.

Two features of 2011 have been disappointing. The first is that, while the Fabric Committee is grateful to those members of the church who have assisted on work mornings and otherwise during the year, the attendance on work mornings has been lower than expected. The Committee is considering whether an incentive such as a free breakfast might make a difference.

Secondly, although we are delighted with the new development and all the opportunities it provides for church and community activities, we are spending more time and money on maintenance and repairs than might be expected for such a new building. We have had to deal, for example, with a gas leak, replacement of sewage waste pumps, continued leaking around the Velux window above the church balcony stairs, and a breakdown of the kitchen ventilation system. We would particularly like to thank Len Gardiner, whose contribution in dealing with these and many other problems has been invaluable.

The work programme for 2012 includes updating of lightning protection, and updating of power supplies in the church, in

particular to remove the need for trailing leads. The Committee is also planning a work morning with a skip to dispose of articles left around with no obvious owner.

Finally, we want to express our thanks to our long-suffering wives, Janet and Marion, for their support and encouragement throughout the year.

Don Bower and Derek Foxen

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Having led children's work for 16 years, I can reflect that the last 3 as Christ Church's Children's Minister have been particularly special! At the point of standing down from this employed role on 1 March, I thank God for having called me and my family here 6 years ago to share in the passion and vision for children's work and input into its future direction.

You will read individual reports on 'Tea and Toys, Mini Movers, Rainbow Room SEN bookings and Spinnaker work in schools, so I will focus on other areas of activity.

After a number of volunteers received training with One Way UK last Spring, we welcomed Lorna, Max, Auntie Mabel and George to our church along with 3 singing flowers, a guitar and various props (partly funded by Mini Movers). The **Puppet Ministry** has delighted both adults and children alike with praise or worship songs, dance, silent drama and conversation scripted (and unscripted!), puppetry can effectively demonstrate a deeper spiritual concept. The puppets were introduced in our Mothering Sunday and Easter All Age Services last year and have featured in many other services, churches and events ever since.

Holiday Club 2011 provided a visual and memorable message about 'Making Jesus the King of your Heart' and saw a number of leaders transformed into medieval Lords, Ladies and Knights - even a noble Parson! Places for 150 children were booked in just over 2 weeks, over 80 adult and teen volunteers worked together to produce drama, worship, puppets, craft, teaching, games and activities. The opportunities for sharing faith with children from

our wider community were multiple and the week ended in a sunny BBQ, bouncy castles and a surprise contribution from the church drainage system!

Those unable to book a place at holiday club last year were invited to the **Doug Horley Family Praise Party** in the Autumn – a fantastic evening for all the family, plenty of adult participation and a chance for children to respond to the gospel message. Almost 300 adults and children from the community and other Orpington churches shared in this event, as such, we have booked a 'Duggie Dug Dug Mad Science Event' on 22nd September 2012.

Our **Christingle Service** in December saw our Sunday children and young people join together to display their creative skills in acting, dance, music and song, while bringing a Roman dimension to the Nativity story. Parents had pre-prepared 150 oranges with candles & sweets for children to assemble during the service and our many visiting families meant that we didn't have quite enough! A sign that at Christmastime, many venture out to church. I believe effective communication and forged relationships with community/local schools combined with the desire to hear the Christmas story at church all contributed to this influx.

A **Retreat** weekend in January this year offered good food, beautiful accommodation, space, time and quality training for some of our children's volunteers, for which we are grateful to the Diocese. The following week a combined **Big Breakfast** was held at Orpington Methodist Church where 92 children and 60 adults from 9 Orpington churches shared breakfast, activities and fellowship with the message that 'Jesus is the Bread of Life'. Food and vision help bring people together and a very close and

supportive relationship has developed between the CTiO children's leaders.

Working alongside the adult congregation helps our children feel integrated into the wider church. Our **Altogether Times** at the start of Morning Worship serve as an opportunity for children to be included and for leaders to share aspects of the children's teaching. The themes this past year are loosely tied in with the adult sermon series and have included 'Follow Me!', 'Your Mission (should you choose to accept it)', 'Ready? Steady... Go!' and after Easter we'll unearth some 'Mysteries from the Ancient Scroll!' This completes a 3 year syllabus drawn from our vast store-cupboard of resource books. We are grateful to Don Bissett for adding a donation of £160.59 received from the Church Christmas card to the £126.57 which the children raised in 2011 for their sponsor child at Compassion UK. We are also grateful to Jo Colwill, Mel Ketchin and members of our craft team who worked alongside the children during the year on some beautifully sculpted Easter scenes and Christmas banners which were displayed in the church and vestibule.

Sunday mornings are an active and flourishing area. We have witnessed many children growing in discipleship and we pray purposefully into their lives as their faith is tried and tested in difficult circumstances. Again, we see new faces and visiting families regularly, and some days a 'small group' designed to have 6-8 children can contain as many as 18! **'Outburst!'** monthly praise is led by **Sharon Russo**, **Crèche** (0-3) by **Mary Dalton**, **Climbers** (3-6) by **Jo Gavin**, **Explorers** (7-11) by **Wendy Tennant** and **Registration** by **Liesel Stanbridge**. **Janet Bower**, our Pastoral

Assistant, offers excellent support for our baptism families. All the teams contribute amazingly to the life of families within the church and children are open about the impact the morning has on them. The overall experience is of a warm welcome, friendship, inspired teaching, gifted worship, creative activities, a sharing and prayer (or soft play) time. All this safely operates within the confines of a carefully administered registration and CRB system and is led by those whose love for God is evident in their lifestyle and example.

Christ Church values children. The role of Children's Minister is a privileged one. As I pass this mantle on, I am glad to have been a 'cog in the wheel' during a time of growth and activity. We have seen the fulfilment of one vision for Children's Ministry – *to see blessing and increase in the church amongst families and children* – now we look to God (with eager anticipation) for the next!

Wendy Tennant, 29th February 2012

GIVE THANKS!

- Thanks for the vibrant openness to God which the children display in their groups,
- Thanks for the bridges this ministry has formed into the community and across churches,
- Thanks for all those who share the passion and vision for work amongst families and children.

PLEASE PRAY:

- for the ministry's ongoing leadership and direction,
- that families who come seeking healing and acceptance will quickly find it,
- for God's wisdom and discernment in areas of behaviour, health and grief.

Youth Ministry 2011/12

Heraclitus (the Greek philosopher) saw that change is the only constant . . .

Change describes an exciting year within the Youth Ministry. Firstly, let us begin with staffing. I am enormously grateful for the ministry of Chris Hemming and his leading of some of the projects this last year, including an ambitious and exciting trip to Uganda. It has been good to welcome Liesel Stanbridge to the team as Youth and Children's administrator and I thank Marie Wicket for her support and help whilst in this role. It was good to have Hannah Pickles here for a term, but unfortunate that she felt unable to complete her course; we wish her well in her future plans. It is a continuing privilege and a joy to work with Charlotte Zeal. Charlotte is a passionate and extremely capable youth minister.

The team has been supported by an equally gifted and enthusiastic team of volunteers: Jonny Askham, Brenda Bennett, Mandy Callaghan, Sara Georgiardinis, Hannah Goddard, Vernon Mapp, Steve and Judith Motto, Charlotte Thompson, Jenny and Brian Seares, Martin Solomon, Susan Ward, Sarah, Jenny and Alan Warrington and Mark Whiting. A huge thank you to you all and all you have given and done for the youth ministry at Christ Church this last year.

Secondly, 'change' has not only been a constant of the staff team but also of the ministry itself. As we continue to critically reflect on the youth ministry, we have made changes. We have moved 'drop in' (a lively group attended by around forty plus young people in the community) to a Friday. In addition, we have combined the two Saturday nights groups (Base and Base Plus) into one. This has

provided a greater focus and added vibrancy to this time. This has and will continue to provide more overlap and integration for those young people who currently attend Friday Night at the Base.

Our foundational ministry (around thirty five young people) continues to change as it develops through the work of Pathfinders, Juice and Pod groups (a new one is evolving from the work of 'drop in'). This foundational work has been augmented through Pathfinder and Juice Weekends Away, Soul Survivor and Soul Net (a youth ministers and emerging leaders retreat). With these in mind it is wonderful to see God's continuing work, an example being Jonny Askham and Charlotte Thompson helping and leading regularly in Pathfinders. It is also exciting to have Charlotte Thompson's gap year on the horizon with Smile International. In addition, the young people provided an invaluable contribution to this year's Holiday Club, through helping with the games, craft, drama, set painting and leading worship.

As we continue to try and keep up and join in with the activity of God's Spirit, we have some exciting forthcoming events; we have another Juice weekend away (a road trip to Dorset and North Devon!), twenty plus people going to Soul Survivor and a large BBQ and Band event in Priory Gardens (30th June 2012).

Please pray with me, that God will continue to act and be glorified through this vibrant ministry. May we surrender to Him our all as we serve, live and enjoy 'change' as the only constant.

David Bailey
Senior Youth Minister

Vicar's Report

In January, Jo and I had our first opportunity to go to Israel- with our bishop, archdeacon and fellow clergy. It was a good time of fellowship and very thought-provoking. As I walked the 'land of the Holy One', so I could picture what it meant for Him to be lead, heal and teach. One memorable visit was to the desert where we considered Psalm 23; and that "The Lord is our Shepherd". One difference between British shepherds and Israeli ones (I was told) was that Israeli shepherds lead their sheep, whereas British shepherds usher theirs from behind. As vicar of this parish, I am charged by the bishop to care for the 'flock'. Sometimes this requires ushering from behind, but more often than not, leading from the front. So, what have we done this year on our journey through 'dark valleys', 'green pasture' and still waters?

Review.

We have developed our ministry amongst men. I have taken an active part in this, but have seen my fellow leaders grow in confidence and ability. 'Menkind' weekends, Rugby World Cups, music concerts and more have engaged and encouraged men in their faith. I have also been involved in many responsibilities as Area Dean. We have licensed 3 new clergy, been on residential weekends, hosted a number of archdeaconry and diocesan training events and told the 'story' of Christ Church and it's life to many Anglicans in the diocese.

I have taken many funerals; over the last 12 months or so, nearly forty. This brings some revenue into the parish coffers, but much

more importantly, brings me into contact with a wide section of our community when they are most in need. It is a great privilege and responsibility. I praise God that He ignites the light of faith in the lives of grieving people when they are in a place of deep darkness. Many bless us with their presence in worship on Sunday and others frequent the cafe and Community Club.

The process of supporting a regenerated church plant in the Ramsden has taken up a large proportion of my time. I have learned new skills of diplomacy and clarity (I hope) and rejoice in new partnerships with fellow believers. Pray for this work. In addition to these particular events of the past year, Jo and I have been about 'the bread and butter' ministries of teaching, praying, creating, leading and helping.

Preview.

So, what of the direction of Christ Church for 2012 and beyond? On the small scale, my vision is to simply reach the next person for Christ through my words and actions. Then, on a larger scale- to help create a Christian community with the same desire. Then I pray that Christ Church will send people out (to their homes/ places of work, to the Ramsden and around the world) to do the same. Are we hospitable, are we compassionate, are we people of truth and integrity? If we are, then we will be attractive, because we are 'in Christ'.

Nick Spencer (who came to Christ Church a couple of years ago) wrote a book entitled 'Parochial Vision'. In it, he argues that some areas should establish a 'minister model' of church. By this, he means establishing well-resourced, outward-looking church centres

which serve a wider constituency. These ministers were common in previous centuries, and the church in England was founded upon them in Anglo-Saxon times. Minister Churches have a further advantage of being 'collegiate' churches. Our modern parish system is wonderfully suited to the static, agricultural society of the Middle Ages but singularly inappropriate for the fluid, post- industrial society in which we live today. Parish boundaries are simply arcane, administrative niceties, an unfortunate by-product being to divide and isolate incumbents, and encourage a spirit of competition rather than co-operation. Minster churches, on the other hand, pooled people in such a way as to foster fellowship and teamwork. Modern minsters could do the same, countering the parish's isolationism. (We are trying to achieve this through our collaboration in the Ramsden Estate.) The 'Minister model' also allows churches to pool resources as well as people. (Archaeologists have located on minster sites evidence of cooking, eating, reading, writing, praying, sleeping, teaching, guesthouses and workshops. We seem to do a lot of these!!) Modern minsters would pool a locality's congregations and resources in such a way as to provide the services (in all senses of the word) that, through no fault of their own, current parish churches are unable to deliver.

Finally, minsters worked in tandem with local, village congregations, which they visited and taught over the years. Residents occasionally travelled to their local minster church for feast days but otherwise lived as the local presence of that church. Modern minsters would thus dovetail their ministry with suitable local parish and cell churches, equipping and helping them to be the presence of Christ in their localities. In this way, the modern

minster system would reshape rather than replace the existing parish structure.

Demanding as this may sound, the idea is not entirely new. As long ago as 1900, one anonymous pamphleteer could write: 'Instead of the poor and sickly churches in out-of-the-way corners, we sorely want a few large Basilicas which will show up well in open spaces, capable of holding 2,000 with a strong staff of five or six clergy, each carefully selected, not to be a sort of jack of all trades, but for his particular vocation and ministry.' (Anon. *The Organisation of the Church in Large Centres of Population, with Special Reference to the Church in St Pancras, London* (1900), quoted in Lloyd, *The Church of England 1900– 1965*.)

Do we have a vision to become such a Christian community? Is our vision 'above and beyond' the local, to encapsulate the 'regional'. We may not aspire to have five or six clergy, but are we open to the new things that he might want to do in our midst?

