

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

will take place on Wednesday 17th April 2013 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 2012-13
5. Elections
 - Deanery Synod representatives
 - PCC representatives
 - Sidespeople
6. Appointments
 - Welcomers
7. Treasurer's report and appointment of Auditor
8. Reports from organisations 2012-13 (on screen and paper)
9. Report from Children's Minister
10. Report from Vicar

Secretary's Report on the proceedings of the PCC

The PCC have met 6 times during the year to April 2013: May, July, September, October, November and February. Attendance has remained good. 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.

Several long standing PCC members are standing down at this APCM and we will miss their loyal service and good counsel.

The PCC in 2013/4 will therefore include new members who will bring their talents and enthusiasm to our meetings.

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 and Centre Management

It's been a busy year for hall bookings with a relatively high turn-over of regular hirers. Groups who have continued to find a home at Christ Church include Kentish Opera, Stroke Link Club, Orpington Photographic Society, 4Israel, Rochester Diocese, Miles dance classes and Slimming World (the latter two groups have both extended their times). We also opened as a polling station for the London Assembly elections in May 2012. The leader of Toddler Sense decided to go back to teaching and so stopped her bookings with us, while one of the dance groups has also closed. We have welcomed some new hire groups over the last 12 months including 'Tiny Tots' (a soft-play group for babies and toddlers) and the Theatre Skills Academy (currently running sessions in drama and dance). New or occasional church activities have included an Alpha Course, Diamond Jubilee celebrations, Growing Leaders, the Network Course, monthly prayer soaking sessions, the Lent course and training in the areas of Healing and Bible Reading.

We expected income to dip this year following the loss of Charterhouse Pre-School, but in fact this continued to be strong because of the extension of existing hire groups' times, the opening up of the Undercroft to external hire and a quick turn-around in finding new regular groups. A meeting held in February 2013 for leaders of church groups highlighted issues that will now be followed up in the coming months and was a useful forum for communication and discussion.

I am indebted to Alan Kitchener and Peter King who have carried out caretaking duties with such diligence and patience. In particular, my thanks go to Peter who has just stepped down from this voluntary post, for all his hard work and willingness to serve the church in this way. We continue to look for others who can support us in a

caretaking capacity and welcome the growing number from our local community who appreciate using our facilities. I would also like to thank the Hall Management Group which oversees the use of our halls and provides advice on many different aspects of hall bookings and facilities management. Also, to Len Gardiner for his work on ongoing maintenance as well as on larger facilities challenges which makes such a difference to the smooth running of activities here at church.

The Undercroft has been refurbished by the fitting of a new carpet tiles and redecoration. This has significantly improved the acoustics. Storage space in a convenient position, released by the discontinued pre school, is now occupied by new chairs and tables.

Maintenance costs continue to be a concern with major failures/ breakage to heating plant and partitions. This should be set against the intensive use of the premises throughout the week.

GIVE THANKS!

- the support and dedication of our volunteer caretakers and Facilities Manager,
- relationships built up quickly with new regular hirers,
- the refurbishment of the Undercroft which has opened up new possibilities,
- the opportunities given to us to engage with the local community.

PRAY FOR:

- patience and wisdom in dealing with the challenges of hall and church maintenance,
- the continuing search for caretaking support,
- wisdom surrounding the continuing development of the Undercroft as a hire venue.

Liesel Stanbridge and Len Gardiner

Deanery Synod

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

16 June 2012 at Christ Church Chislehurst – Quiet Day

This day was conducted by Bishop Brian who took as his theme the early Christians, known as the Desert Mothers, (Ammas) and their prayer life in the desert. It was a very helpful encouraging time. The event was open to all deanery members, and the feedback from the day was very positive. Jay shared current thinking that we might hold a similar event in the summer of 2013, in place of a third synod meeting in that particular season.

10 October 2012 at St Francis, Petts Wood Father Robert Lane painted the customary picture of ministry in the parish of St. Francis. After hearing of the encouragements with the church's life, we welcomed Bishop James and listened to his presentation. The main event of the evening was a PowerPoint presentation by Bishop James entitled "Towards 2020". This was a wide ranging review of the Diocese, the challenges it faces, and the emerging purpose and direction it. Subjects covered included:

Connectedness and Leadership

Deployment for Mission

Diocesan teams

Moving Forward

In other words, the Diocese means business. This report can be made available to church members who wish to read it.

6th February 2013 at St Paul's Crofton. The Vicar, Rev. Bimbi Abayomi-Cole gave the Parish Profile. This was followed by an open session where each parish was asked to consider in effect their strengths and Weaknesses. The meeting was open to non-synod members, who provided useful additional views. The findings are now under review by deanery officers.

General Status. The Church of England considerations on the possible appointment of Women Bishops, and also the considerations to produce an Anglican Covenant are both in the doldrums at present and no significant discussion therefore on these matters occurred.

Area Dean. Jay has been appointed to be involved in a wider role in a number of deaneries outside our own, and his duties as Area Dean are expected to be taken by another.

GIVE THANKS!

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

PRAY FOR:

- the response to the Bishop's Challenges,
- more effective use of resources available in the Deanery.

Annual Accounts 2012

Summary version

The electoral roll is updated annually and in 2012 comprised 223 members, an increase of 5 since 2011. The breakdown was:

Male = 87, Female = 136;
Resident in parish = 101, Resident outside parish = 122.

The average weekly attendance during October (when the annual count is done for the Diocese) was 168 adults aged 16 or over and 58 young people aged under 16 (2011: 160 & 45).

Income

Total receipts for the General Fund were £255,491 and are detailed in the Financial Statements. The proportion of donations that are gift aided was lower than that in 2011 – 82% of General Fund donations when taken together with the tax recoverable, compared with 86% in 2011. The income from the hire of the hall was similar to that in 2011 at £25,953. Income from the café rose significantly from £17,714 to £23,880 due to more catering at special functions; an 8% surplus of income over expenditure.

The planned giving by envelopes and standing orders to the General Fund rose 10% to £101,860 (£124,270 with the tax recoverable; £112,860 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 £6,385 a year in increased or new standing orders. People also gave £15,320 to the General Fund in a special offertory at this time.

The General Fund - Year Ended 31st December 2012

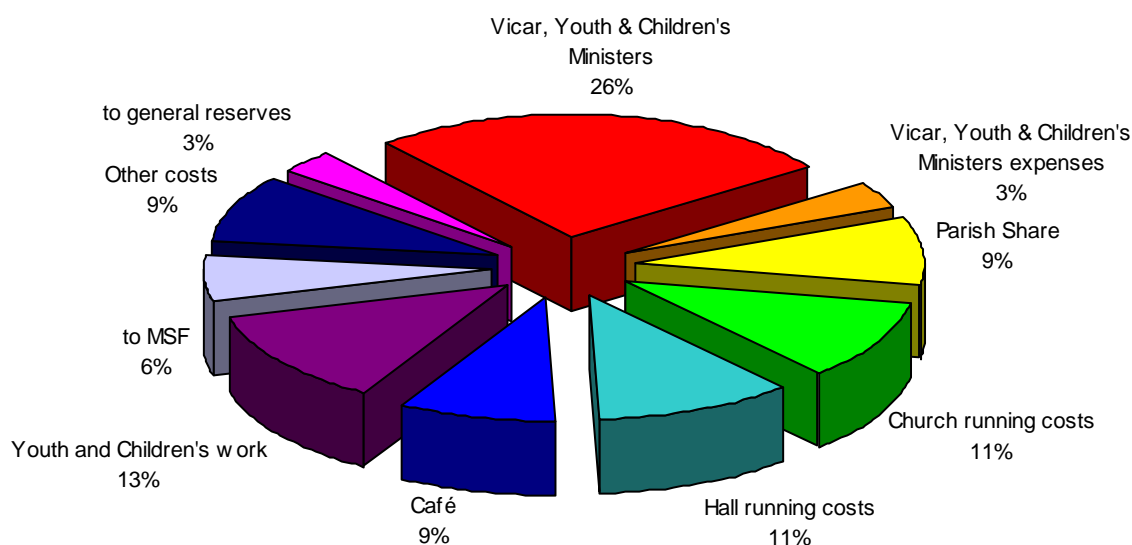
2011		2012	
£	<u>Income</u>	£	
	<u>Donor Income</u>		
90,721	Gift Aid	103,889	
23,552	Tax Receivable	25,963	
18,281	Non-Gift Aid	28,102	
8,823	Open Plate	9,045	
<u>141,377</u>		<u>166,999</u>	+18.1%
	<u>Other Voluntary Income</u>		
2,000	Legacies	-	
<u>2,000</u>		<u>-</u>	
	<u>Other Incoming Resources</u>		
565	Magazines	447	
5,377	Fees	4,166	
25,253	Hall Lettings	25,953	
17,714	Café	23,880	
447	Bookstall	482	
13,117	Children/Youth	12,083	
494	Evangelism/Education	3,595	
17,580	Oasis College	11,960	
4,451	Miscellaneous	4,917	
<u>84,998</u>		<u>87,483</u>	
804	Investment Income	1,009	
<u>229,179</u>	<u>Total Incoming Resources</u>	<u>255,491</u>	+11.5%

Expenditure

The General Fund - Year Ended 31st December 2012

2011		2012	
£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£	
38,989	Ministry Costs	42,629	
34,371	Youth Minister	23,882	
9,697	Children's Minister	10,146	
5,364	Assistant Youth Minister	838	
2,296	Children/Youth Administrator	3,185	
5,470	Hall Bookings Administrator	5,767	
23,200	Parish Share	22,600	
10,707	Church	10,856	
17,611	Hall and Grounds	19,833	
16,691	Café	22,169	
363	Bookstall	429	
3,769	Evangelism/Education	5,256	
21,898	Children/Youth	28,179	
	Equipment	1,211	
775	Depreciation	775	
3,585	Other Parish Costs	8,297	
1,054	Independent Examiner	892	
195,840	<u>Total Expenditure</u>	206,944	+5.7%
33,339	<u>NET SURPLUS/<LOSS></u>	48,547	
-23,200	Transfers, CRF + MSF	-40,435	
10,139	Net movement in fund	8,122	

General Fund expenditure in 2012



The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £48,547; of this £15,200 was transferred to the Mission Support Fund, £25,000 to the Church Repair Fund and £235 to the Mission Fund. The balance carried forward at 31st December for the General Fund was £149,547; up £8,112 on the previous year.

Above and Beyond.

A Gift Day was held in June, on the church's anniversary, to start an 'Above and Beyond Fund'. The money would be used to support Unity Church Ramsden, pioneer curates serving as local missionaries in Orpington and a "Winds of the Spirit Fund" to support evangelism and mission through giving small 'seed corn grants'. £11,373.92 was raised.

Missionary Giving

Donations to missionary charities and agencies in 2012 totalled £44,774 (£60,091 in 2011 – a year when £28,090 was sent to Mission Direct when a group of 10 young people and 5 adults went to Uganda to build classrooms at Kahengye Primary School).

CHRIST CHURCH ORPINGTON - YEAR ENDED 31st December 2012

Missionary Expenditure - Restricted Fund		Specific	MSF	TOTALS
2011				
	<u>General</u>			
2,085	CPAS	448	1,500	1,948
608	Crosslinks	667		667
2,125	LCM	1,049	1,500	2,549
2,360	CMS	414	1,500	1,914
165	Interserve	162	-	162
197	The Children's Society	159	-	159
<u>7,540</u>		<u>2,899</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>7,399</u>
	<u>Support Agencies & Education</u>			
100	Churches Together in Orpington	-	100	100
-	Street Pastors (CTiO)	427	100	527
2,240	Barnabas Fund	255	1,500	1,755
791	HART	-	-	-
1,317	Missionary Aviation Fellowship	-	1,500	1,500
2,273	Spinnaker	2,361	1,500	3,861
-	Unity Church, Ramsden	15,000		15,000
-	Rochester Diocese for Zimbabwe	378		378
-	Cancer Research	286		286
-	St Barnabas Church, St Paul's Cray	200		200
-	Watoto Child Ministries	159		159
2,998	Tear Fund	485	1,500	1,985
28,090	Mission Direct	-	-	-
800	Child Evangelism Fellowship of Britain	-	590	590
50	Church Army	648	-	648
<u>38,659</u>		<u>20,199</u>	<u>6,790</u>	<u>26,989</u>
	<u>Personnel</u>			
2,137	Isobel Murphy (WBT)	1,215	1,000	2,215
1,635	Jim & Katie Whitear (YWAM)	549	1,000	1,549
1,438	Nick & Helen Smith (AWM)	411	1,000	1,411
8,682	Viktor & Ester Petrenko	3,711	1,500	5,211
<u>13,892</u>		<u>5,886</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>10,386</u>
<u>60,091</u>	TOTAL	<u>28,984</u>	<u>15,790</u>	<u>44,774</u>

In addition, £1,119 was raised by a door-to-door collection by Christ Church members in support of Christian Aid.

We hope this summary version of the 2012 annual accounts is helpful. A full version will be available at the APCM.

Mission Support Fund 2012

£15,790 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
Missionary Aviation Fellowship	£1,500

Sub-total £10,500

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, MAF 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	£590	Child Evangelism Fellowship, Turkey

Sub-total £ 5,090

Churches Together in Orpington	£100
Street Pastors	£100
Grand Total	£15,790

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

Café Mosaic

The Café has now been open for almost six 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.

The Café 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. This year we also had the opportunity to take on two special needs children to help them gain some work experience to assist them in finding work when they leave school.

GIVE THANKS!

- for God for his guidance in assisting me in the day to day running of the Café and any functions that we hold,
- for my 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.

PRAY FOR:

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

Colin Beesley, Café Manager

Community Club

We have been encouraged each week as we continue with the Christian coffee mornings. Every other Tuesday we have a personal study from a 'Life Worth Living' by Nicky Gumbal, which opens up questions to share and consider. Sue London and Eric Owen assist us in this. The other Tuesdays we have invited speakers from the church or community, and we have had some very interesting subjects, very varied but worth listening to. About 20-25 members attend and we have coffee and biscuits and enjoy some favourite hymns.

We have said goodbye to 6 members who have gone to Nursing Homes as more care was needed. We had 9 people who passed away last year; we remember them so well and miss them.

Our Outings are always a treat. Last year we had the usual trip to Eastbourne and a very remembered journey to the Bluebell Railway, which included a silver service Christmas dinner. The day out for the Boat Trip at Maidstone was cancelled due to the flooding last year but we ended up in Aylesford Priory for a very peaceful day and we were blessed with good weather on all trips.

We still have new members coming to the club. We average about 80 people each Tuesday for dinner. It is filling a need as we all love to meet friends as well as enjoy a meal.

The weeks of the Olympics we had fun playing a mixture of games such as golf, skittles and ball games as well as a wheelchair race. All went well and some medals were won.

Highway School came back to use the church for their Nativity Service and invited the club to watch. Everyone enjoyed seeing the little children acting and singing. After this treat over 100 people had a nice Christmas meal, wine included, kindly given by Harry and Joan Aldridge who are members.

The Probation Service was taken over by Serco this year and are aiming to be our new provider. Unfortunately, Debbie Dolling, who was our probation officer for over 20 years decided to take voluntary redundancy. It was not an easy decision for her to make as she loved her job and was always professional. As I write this report we are relying much on goodwill, love and care from volunteers as Serco and the London Probation Trust work together. We hope as a club that we can continue to benefit first time offenders as well as meet the need of our community.

GIVE THANKS!

- for so many answered prayers,
- for volunteers that help
- for the transport which is organised by Bill and Ann Whitman each week
- for committee members Jan Lally, Ruth Pallister, Andrea and Eric Owen, Mary Kendall.

PRAY FOR:

- God's peace and guidance as to our future.

Greta Kitchener.

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 just one group running, with 8 boys and 4 girls attending – predominantly from local mainstream schools.

It has been great to have some girls join the group, as this has rarely happened in all the time we have been running and has added an interesting dimension to the dynamics!

Leaders: Jo Colwill; Jackie Humphries; Mel Ketchin, Mandy Callghan; Carlin Doyle and Jenny Mapp.

Mentors: Anna Myers and Tom Bassett

GIVE THANKS!

- for the confidence we have seen growing in both the young people and volunteers, 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:

- 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,
- that each person may find the freedom in the group to become more of who God intends them to be.

Inspire Dance Ministry 2012/13

We hold monthly meetings to dance, worship and pray together. We performed at the Women's retreat weekend and the Carols by Candlelight service.

We continue our partnership with Springs Dance Company, as we provide a community placement for their apprenticeship scheme students, and they support various projects and activities in Orpington.

We enjoyed another week of ministry in May 2012 with Elevate Dance Company (made up of the apprentices at the end of their

training). They took workshops and performed for local schools as well as contributing to our Creative Arts Day and Sunday worship.

Since last September we have changed the running and content of their placement to involve linking with Unity and Hope Churches as part of our partnership together. Listed below are the various areas they serve in, with the name of the person who heads up that aspect of the work:

- Monthly support at Outburst (children's praise, worship and teaching) at Christ Church: Sharon Russo,
- Monthly support at Celebration Services at Unity Church: Liz Maltman,
- Weekly running of Mini-Movers (Bible based music, movement and story) at Charterhouse Preschool: Caroline Rous,
- Weekly running of Movers and Groovers: an afterschool kid's dance club for vulnerable families at The Goodmead Centre: Tina Hall and Anna Shadbolt,
- Termly worship through dance in church services: Caroline Bailey,
- School teaching placements at The Highway Primary School and Bishop Justus: organised directly by the schools and Springs Dance Company.

This term the apprentices are also sharing in worship with Orpington Baptist Church as they seek to develop creative worship ministries.

We look forward to them joining us again in May as part of their tour.

GIVE THANKS!

- the growth of this project to reach more people across Orpington,
- all the people above who give their time to train, equip, direct and enable the apprentices to minister here,
- the apprentices' energy, enthusiasm and creativity.

PRAY FOR:

- God's guidance as we look ahead to the next academic year and the running of this placement.

Caroline Bailey

Men's Ministry.

The Christ Church Men's Ministry continues to serve an important function within the life of the church. Thus far, it has served as an invitational environment where men from the church can come, relax and have fun! Coupled with this, it provides an evangelistic opportunity to bring friends or family along to a high quality church-based event, where we will talk openly about God.

This year, we have built upon the concerts, retro youth club nights and summer barbeque.

We have hosted a large Summer BBQ with local real ales. Jay Colwill has hosted a French Wine Tasting Evening with a Christian message woven through it. Vernon Mapp has ably co-ordinated Mens Curry Nights. This coming year, we hope to regularise our meetings and be more intentional in providing a place for men to explore the Christian faith and grow as disciples of Christ.

GIVE THANKS!

- good interest in the events that have hosted.

PRAY FOR:

- God's guidance for the next phase of men's outreach and discipleship.

Jay Colwill, Stephen Getting, Ike Machie, Vernon Mapp, Andy Wood.

Mission and Evangelism

- During 2012 the Community Club completed a successful senior Alpha course on Tuesday mornings for members for about 35 members of the Community Club with Sue London helping to coordinate this.
- A new Alpha course started in January 2012.
- As 2013 opens a new Alpha course is starting targeted at "Tea and Toys" mums. This is being led by Judith Motto and a number of mums have signed up.
- A couple of house groups have also used the Alpha course in 2012 to refresh their understanding of the basics of their faith.

GIVE THANKS!

- for 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.

PRAY FOR:

- the current Alpha course as Judith leads it and guests with a variety of knowledge and faith explore and discover Christianity,
- those who have gone on to follow on groups that their faith may deepen,
- those who have been helped by the Community Club Alpha and are continuing to take part in the morning sessions at the Community Club,
- other initiatives to enable people to come into community and start seeking such as “Tea & Toys” the men’s group, Community Club and Welcome sessions.

The mission group under Len Gardiner aims 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.

During 2012 deputations from mission partners have included London City Mission, Nick & Helen Smith, Ufuk and Emma Demirgil, Tim Hyde from CMS lighthouse project, Spinnaker, 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 2012 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.

We are thankfully recognise the long service of Joy Holt and Carol Thaire who retired over the last year from the Committee.

Details about groups we support and links to further information can be found on the church website.

Alan Goddard and Len Gardiner

Pastoral Care

Christ Church Pastoral Care Committee have had the privilege of being with people who have needed support over the last year and there are many who help someone without belonging to a team or committee and we do thank God for each person.

We are having many new people coming to Christ Church and it is great to welcome them. We enjoyed a Welcomer's afternoon on a Sunday afternoon in the summer which was well attended.

Helpers with transport have grown, covering Sunday services, hospital and doctors' visits and the community club. There is a deeper need for older people to need more care; many people are lonely and really appreciate a phone call, card or a visit. So if there is anyone who might be able to help, please do contact us.

We know the church misses dear people who have died: Jean Hall, June Galer, Margaret Campbell and Bruce Branscombe – they were all such a lovely part of Christ Church and we are thankful for having known them.

The personal 'Thanksgiving service for the life of a loved one' which Jay conducts on Remembrance Sunday afternoon is well attended.

Many come to hear Jay as well as be with other and we know it really fills a need at such a sad time.

GIVE THANKS!

- to the Lord Jesus for the committee (Jan Lally, Ruth Pallister, Janet Bower, Mary Kendall, Katrina Beesley, Pat Hemington, Eric Owen, Greta Kitchener),
- for all the people who help in so many ways.

PRAY FOR:

- time to follow-up on new people after they are completed Welcome Cards and want to know more about Christ Church,
- us as we consider whether to alter the Welcomer's Evenings/Afternoons and that we will be willing to change,
- seeing each other's gifts from God and encouraging using them.

Greta Kitchener.

Prayer Ministry

We were very sorry to lose Lynn and Peter Price this year, as they left Christ Church to support Unity Church, but delighted to welcome to the Prayer Ministry Team Gail Haythorne and Audrey Saxby.

There have been numerous prayer requests sent to the Prayer Chain (e-mail and phone), representing over 50 individuals and ranging from relatively minor temporary needs to serious long-term. One such has been on our prayer list for a couple of years and finally, after several disappointments, she had a successful kidney transplant just over a year ago and has recently expressed her thanks to the Lord and to those who have prayed and continue to pray for her.

There are 21 of our young people who are at different stages of further education at College and University and these are 'adopted' by some of the Prayer Team for regular prayer.

A small group meets for prayer most Saturday mornings (9am at the church for about 45 minutes) – others are most welcome to join us.

Over the past few months some of us have watched videos produced by Holy Trinity Brompton concerning healing, which is at present an area under consideration.

GIVE THANKS!

- to the Lord for blessing us with a dedicated team of pray-ers who treat all requests with the strictest confidence and loving hearts.

PRAY FOR:

- those in need that they may have the courage to ask for prayer,
- the prayer ministers that we might have continuing spiritual freshness, sensitivity and a compassionate heart.

Joan Remnant

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 is also designed to function 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 by individuals have stopped over the last few months since the boy who used the room regularly with his family and friends, started at primary school. This has coincided with changing circumstances for many of the church volunteers which made it difficult to provide help during holiday times. It was decided at a recent Hall Management Group meeting not to advertise the Rainbow Room among external organisations and so thought needs to be given to the future of this facility in addition to its use as the Crèche.

GIVE THANKS!

- our small group of faithful volunteers who have helped with play sessions over the years,
- the families who have used the soft play facility.

PRAY FOR:

- those children who have now moved on to school,
- wisdom in the future direction of the Rainbow Room.

Liesel Stanbridge

Small groups and discipleship

We have 13 regular home groups meeting either weekly or fortnightly in people's homes.

Each group operates independently but the leaders meet together three times a year for mutual support and encouragement. The groups themselves continue to be a much appreciated source of fellowship, spiritual and practical support and scriptural teaching. Some of the groups have experienced remarkable answers to prayer. We are putting increasing emphasis on pastoral care within the groups as well as Bible teaching.

GIVE THANKS!

- thank you Lord for the enjoyment and spiritual growth that people experience in the groups,
- thank you for the answers to prayer,
- thank you for the willingness of the group leaders – teaching and pastoral - to give willingly of their time for the benefit of the group.

PRAY FOR:

- some of the groups have quite an elderly membership. Please pray for strength and wisdom to know if we need to re-structure to make better provision,
- pray for wisdom to know if there is a better way for groups to support each other,
- pray for the development of leadership.

Nelson Pallister

Spinnaker Schools Work

We have been visiting local schools with Spinnaker. A special thank you to Maureen Grandini for her continued support in RE lessons and to Barry Remnant who showed Year 3 how to make wonderful Advent Rings at Christmas!

Assemblies have been great fun with lots of drama, feedback from the schools have been very positive, please see some comments from the teachers:

“The children look forward to the Spinnaker Assemblies because they know they will be interactive and fun.” “The work is well prepared and delivered in a fun way engaging children at all levels.’ Beryl Jarvis RE Co-ordinator - The Highway.

“The children know they are in for a fun but informative time when they see it’s a Spinnaker Assembly” Ruth Kerslake Acting Head Teacher – Hillside.

GIVE THANKS!

- for the relationship we have with the schools and the opportunities we have to share our faith.

PRAY FOR:

- for the teachers and the children, seeds of faith that are planted are able to grow and develop,
- for year 6 as they get ready to go to Secondary school.

Jo Gavin

Volunteer Support Group

We held our annual 'Thank You Tea' in May and the spiritual gifts 'Network' course in March. Our volunteers are prayed for regularly by the group and during our Sunday morning services. We have offered support to any volunteer who requests it and to any of our congregation who would wish to explore becoming more involved in the life of the church community.

However, after three years of supporting volunteers the VSG has decided that it is time that the group should formally close. We feel that the purpose of the group to raise awareness of volunteering has been effective and the time has now come to lay the group down.

Volunteer groups will continue to be prayed for in our Sunday morning services.

The support of the group leaders will now be through Jenny as Training and Development Pastor, who has co-ordinated a wide range of training for our volunteers throughout the year and will be happy to talk to any new volunteers about their role and training needs.

The Network Course will continue to be offered by Jenny & Janet to help people find their God-given place at Christ Church.

'For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven'. We feel the time for the VSG has ended and we have thus advised the PCC that the group will formally disband at the end of March 2013.

Thank you for all your support over the last three years.

GIVE THANKS!

- the many volunteers at Christ Church who are making a difference in God's Kingdom,
- the support of the PCC and wider church

PRAY FOR:

- all our volunteers and their leaders, that they may be fruitful and fulfilled,
- a continuing culture of thankfulness and encouragement of all at Christ Church.

Jenny Warrington, Janet Bower, Sarah Gardiner & Mandy Callaghan

Worship Group – morning

Our thanks to all those currently involved in providing music for the morning service, in particular for their dedication and commitment, and for their willingness to offer their own ideas and be open to musical creativity.

We were sad to say goodbye to Peter Price who has now joined Unity Church and regularly plays in the music group there, and we thank him for his consistent service and the way he led the group when needed.

We welcome Nick Marchant to Liesel's group; he has been learning repertoire with us at our practices and will soon join us on a Sunday morning. Alison Sleath has also been able to join us on occasion and hopefully her involvement will continue to grow.

Melanie's group has been enriched by welcoming David and Caroline Bailey; this entailed some readjustments in personnel between the groups but these changes have gone through smoothly.

We have almost completed the Worship Central course and have found it a valuable resource to explore issues around providing a music ministry.

The regeneration of Unity Church is being supported by Melanie, Caroline, Jenny and Liesel as we offer our services as musicians and service leaders.

I am indebted to Mike Bailey who has enriched Liesel's group as a guitarist following Peter's departure; he has also encouraged and offered training to Nick so that he will become a regular member of the group.

Thanks also to Jenny and Caroline who have often stepped in to provide cover when needed; thank you for your willingness to serve in this way.

GIVE THANKS!

- for the dedication of both groups and their leaders,
- for new group members,
- 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,

- the continued musical and spiritual development of each group in their new formations,
- wisdom as we continue our support for Unity Church.

Liesel Stanbridge, Melanie and Mike Bailey

Worship Group - Evening

A clear vision for the Evening Worship service always seems to be just over the horizon. Perhaps this year it is coming more clearly into view.

The Evening Worship is led by a committed core of worship leaders and a varied group of preachers. It has provided a good opportunity for young people to plan and lead worship. This year, the worship planning and leading has reverted back to Jenny, Liesel, Caroline and Jay. We look forward to being able to welcome young people into our planning in future months, but currently are sharing responsibilities between ourselves.

The focus of our teaching has been varied too. We have completed a biblical theology course, entitled Word for Life, we have considered 'active waiting' in the books of Ruth and Malachi, and we have studied the 7 churches in Revelation.

Our current feeling is that the evening service will be located in the small hall which offers an intimate environment for the 30+ who attend (apart from our monthly Holy Communion services).

GIVE THANKS!

- for sustained commitment of worship leaders, preachers and attendees,

- for an increasing sense of God's Spirit as we listen to Him in times of quiet and reflection.

PRAY FOR:

- new worshippers to continue to join us for this important act of worship.

Jay Colwill

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT 2013

It has been another busy year in the life of our church. We joined with Hope Church to support and build the Church of Unity on the Ramsden Estate, both with people and finance. It is encouraging to see the congregation growing with local people.

After many years, here at Christ Church the Pre-School moved to use the facilities at the Highway School. This move gave us the opportunity to re-vamp the undercroft with a new floor and freshly decorated walls, giving us an ideal space for our own use and hiring externally. We would like to give thanks to Liesel for the splendid job she does on our hall lettings.

The Fabric Committee continues to meet throughout the year to ensure the Church and Halls are maintained and best value is sought for repairs and maintenance.

This year's work morning saw a slightly increased number of volunteers, who repaired the leak in the Chapel Roof, fence panels, some brickwork, cleared rubbish from under the Church and completed some painting. All this work saved the Church money in employing tradesmen. The committee are also looking into the upgrade of the lightning protection together with replacement power and lighting for the Church and making our heating system more reliable. We would like to express our thanks to those who helped at a moments notice to ensure we had light and power when the Church system failed, enabling services to continue in the Church. We would also like to thank Len Gardiner for his continued stewardship of our facilities.

Finally a huge thank you to the army of volunteers who help in so many ways, this list is endless, supporting us and making our job easier and enjoyable.

Can you please pray that we might find people to take on the role of caretakers, an important role with face to face contact with external hirers.

May God bless all, who bless us in their time at this Church.

Derek Foxen and Andy Lynch

Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry Vision

The vision for Children's Ministry is **Sowing seeds, growing together and changing lives.** We have the wonderful opportunity of helping children to know Jesus and to grow together in faith. We can change and enrich their lives by encouraging them to have a loving relationship with God. God gives us the seeds to sow, and therefore we are able to do so generously. We can take the Church with us wherever we go. We may not always see the results of the seeds that we plant but we can trust in God to make them grow (1Corinthians 3: 8-9).

Crèche

Crèche led by Louise Callow in the Rainbow room at Christ Church continues to be a tremendous start for 0-3 year olds and is growing in numbers. The Crèche team continue to faithfully care for the little ones and like seeds with nurture, those little ones gain confidence and grow into physically active, chatty toddlers. Thank you to Mary Dalton who stepped down this year from her role as Creche Co-ordinator for her seven years dedicated service.

Teaching

This year we have had some great themes – 'The Ancient Scrolls', 'The Mountain' & 'At the Crossroads with Jesus'. New teaching material has been introduced from Urban Saints providing some fantastic ideas and fun ways for the children (3-11 yrs) to learn more about God and grow closer to Him. The teaching has been introduced weekly by a team of Leaders during Altogether Time. I have had lots of comments that as well as the children the adults have enjoyed this time too!

One aim is to make this material accessible to the Children's Ministry Team on-line on the Children's Ministry Website alongside the rotas. Thank you to James Dunkerley for his on-going work in this area.

Climbers

Climbers have been having a fun time learning, playing games and getting crafty. The team, led by Caroline Rous, have been doing an excellent job in nurturing and looking after the children from 3-7 years old. Paula Lynch and Steph Fargie continue to teach and inspire the children, engaging them with drama, model figures and once, forgotten swimwear! Thank you to the craft team who find creative and memorable ways for the children to remember the teaching. Welcome to Caroline Bailey & Christelle Synman who recently joined the team.

Explorers

Explorers have been having a great time! Since joining the team I have witnessed wonderful teaching. Sara Georgiadis has been putting together some fabulous drama's with the children, they are so keen to get involved. We have also had some fantastic balloon popping and bubble blowing time with Jackie Humphries. Andy Howard has recently joined and is proving very popular with the children. Thank you to the Craft team who have been sharing God's message in a creative way (fairy cakes were used to share God's message – yum) and to our team of brilliant helpers whose commitment and support ensure that all this is possible.

Outburst

Outburst led by Sharon Russo has been providing a great opportunity once a month for the Climbers and Explorers to come together to praise and worship God. Thank you to all the table leaders who do a great job, building relationships and friendships, talking and listening

to the children as they explore their faith. Sue London has been a wonderful asset to the team helping the children to grow closer to God in a creative way. They have had the help of Elevate Dancers who tell stories from the Bible through movement and dance. Welcome to Pippa Allen & Dave Fargie who have recently joined the team.

Tea & Toys

Tea and Toys has enjoyed another very busy (and noisy!) year led by Paula Lynch. Numbers continue to grow and recently reached an all time high of 118 parents/carers and children! Paula is very grateful for her faithful band of helpers who have been so supportive and give up their time each week. As well as wonderful Bible storytelling by Paula the children and parents have enjoyed seeing the puppets, at Christmas we had George (Martin Solomon) as one of the Wise Men! Jay has been doing a fantastic job playing the guitar.

Parents Alpha

Judith Motto is leading a parent's alpha course on a Friday morning, helping the Mum's to explore their faith in an open and positive way.

Mini Movers

Caroline Rous has been working with Elevate Dancers visiting Charterhouse Pre-school weekly for two Mini Movers session. The children have great fun with the dancers, playing games, singing and dancing, as well as getting involved in a Bible story through movement.

Christingle

The Christingle theme was Jesus Light of the World and the focus was on how we as Christians can shine our light into the World today. The children were great, they told of the mission of the

Watoto Organisation and danced to 'Oh How Great' by the Watoto choir. They were joined by The Highway Choir and together they sang 'This Little Light of Mine'. The collection raised £318 for Watoto and the Children's Society.

Holiday Club

Last year we had an amazing time at Holiday Club with an Olympic theme of On Your Marks, a big thank you to everyone for making this so special! This year we are going all out for a Showstopping Holiday club. The programme for this year is very creative and based around a theatre, it looks at key Bible stories focusing on God's great plan for salvation.

Big Breakfast Buffet

This year's Big Breakfast Buffet was a great success! The theme was all about the power of prayer based on the Daniel and his adventures. The CTiO team had great fun dressing up as characters from the story for a photo shoot and the children enjoyed spotting whose who? We had pastries, fruit and yoghurt, craft, songs storytelling and challenges and all over breakfast!

Doug Horley – Crazy Science

We have been thoroughly blessed with 3 fantastic praise parties led by Doug Horley and his team over the years, including wild animals, street dancers, puppets and multi-media effects. But science has never looked as crazy as it did at Christ Church on Saturday 22nd September. Thanks to Wendy Tenant and everyone who made the event possible and the many churches who shared in the evening.

Puppet Ministry

The puppet team have been working very hard this year with some fabulous presentations during Holiday Club, the main Sunday service

and in Tea and Toys. At Christmas Selina McKinven sang 'Breath of Heaven' beautifully while Sara & Sophie Askham operated the puppets during the service. Thank you to everyone in the team for all your efforts – puppets can reach people and children in a very special way and are very powerful when used to share the gospel.

GIVE THANKS!

- for the children's groups and our wonderful volunteers who are doing an amazing job, loving, supporting and nurturing the children as they grow in faith,
- for the support and encouragement received from the Church.

PRAY FOR:

- the wisdom and the things we need to build Your Kingdom,
- us to grow the Children's Ministry so that we can reach out to more children in the community,
- growth in the seeds of faith that are planted so that they flourish. Let the children know they are loved and blessed by you Lord.

Joanne Gavin Children's Minister

Youth Ministry 2012/2013

2012 was another year of change for the Youth Ministry at Christ Church. David Bailey stepped down from being the Youth Minister and took up a post at Oasis College, along with Liesel Stanbridge who was our Youth Administrator for a year. This left a hole in the youth ministry that needed filling, so that we were able to reach out to our young people as best we could.

In September 2012, we welcomed Charlotte Thompson as our youth administrator and George Luxford as our part-time youth worker to the Youth team but unfortunately in October George Luxford felt like he couldn't manage doing the job here at Christ Church and train to be a Primary School teacher as well, and so left Christ Church.

Since October, I have continued to head up the youth work with the very able support and help of Charlotte Thompson and numerous volunteers: Brenda Bennet, Jenny Seares, Chris Hemming, Mark Whiting, Michael Tennant, Alan Goddard, Allan Warrington, Susan Ward, Hannah Goddard, Brian Seares, Mark Tennant and Judith Motto. I thank each and every one of them for their on-going support and care for the young people at Christ Church as we wouldn't be able to function without them. I also thank God for providing Christ Church with such an enthusiastic and loving group of volunteers.

This year in Pathfinders and Juice we have been looking at Freedom in Christ which has seemed to have been a good resource with the added bonus of some "cheesy" DVD's which always provide a good

laugh in a session! Pathfinders had a great weekend away at Carroty Wood in Royal Tunbridge Wells back in January where we battled through the snow and managed to get the majority of the weekend in! We had an amazing time, and God worked through us all to build upon existing relationships. We are looking forward to taking a small group of Juice members away down to Dorset, to go paintballing and swimming, but also spend some quality time together, building upon relationships there too.

Our ministry continues to grow in the work with Drop-in, we have just invited the new Year 6's to join drop-in and so far they are settling in well and enjoying their time with us. Drop-in is a great opportunity to reach out to young people outside the church family and build relationships and model Jesus through various activities we do.

We have seen a growth in our youth group on a Saturday night. Last year we merged and made Saturday night Base one group. The existing young people are continually inviting their friends along and with an exciting programme for the Spring and Summer term it looks like this group will continue to grow.

Finally, two P.O.D groups are still up and running which are great places to meet with various young people, spend some time looking into God's word, but also having social times, such as, watching films together.

Looking briefly ahead, we have some exciting events coming up, such as a the Juice Weekend Away in March, Soul Action Weekend in May, and the end of year BBQ in July.

Charlotte Thompson and I went on a Youth Leaders Retreat to Centre Parcs in Nottingham where we spent a large amount of time listening to talks and praying. On the final morning of this retreat, the speaker spoke about deepening relationships with young people and my prayer for the youth ministry is that as youth workers we need to go deep into a relationship with young people and God. Our call is to raise up a generation that is deep and intimate with God. Young people long for security in relationships and knowledge and a thread of hope emerges when we thirst for God and are desperate for his living water.

So as we continue to seek God's plans for the youth ministry at Christ Church, I ask that you join with me in prayer for the youth ministry as we seek God's Spirit, that God may be glorified and put at the centre of all we do with the young people at Christ Church.

Charlotte Zeal
Student Youth Worker

Vicar's Report

In 2012, we presented a new vision for Christ Church. It is that we might become an “Above and Beyond” church. In other words, that we might ‘worship Christ above all things’ and ‘go beyond these four walls in mission’. This vision has shaped my ministry over the last 12 months and the ways that I have tried to lead the church.

Review.

Teaching. I still see as one of my primary functions to set the direction of the teaching of the church. With the vision in mind, our sermon series: ‘Good to Go’ (Mark’s Gospel) ‘Champions and Kings’ (1 Samuel) ‘Walk the Talk’ (James) and ‘Life outside the Box’ (Matthew) have been designed to prioritise Christ and His mission. I am deeply grateful to those who share the preaching ministry with me and have been delighted to see their progress and development.

Strategic Leadership. Mindful that I cannot and should not try to do everything, this year, has been about restructuring. The PCC had a day away where we recognised that 180 people ministered in 52 ministry areas! How could we oversee and encourage such activity? With the Human Resources Committee of the PCC, we have been developing a team structure that shares the load more effectively.

Relational Evangelism. I continue to want to connect with our community one-to-one. I do this pastorally, but also through an on-going concern to support men in our community. They remain under-represented in our church, but there are signs that we are ‘bucking the trend’ and not seeing too great a decline in male

attendance in church worship and activities. It is particularly important that we inspire men in their 20's, 30's, 40's and 50's.

Area Dean. I have served two and half years as Area Dean in Orpington. In the last year, we have been able to develop the fellowship between churches and clergy. This has led me to set a vision for the deanery that means we can collaborate in ministry more closely.

Ramsden. I have rejoiced to see Unity Church Ramsden find its feet under the excellent leadership of Ray Bell. He has really moved the church to a missional footing. We continue to pray that it will grow to maturity and self-sufficiency in finance and worship leading. It is moving towards this at an encouraging rate. Pray with me that more may sense the call to serve there.

Preview.

So, what of the direction of Christ Church for 2013 and beyond?

I believe that the leadership at Christ Church has continued to mature over this past year. Key personnel have joined me in taking responsibility for church life. Taking the church forward in mission will continue to require a team effort. I believe that God is calling us to continually reach our local community (which is constantly changing) as well as have a regional influence for God. Our support of church planting in the Ramsden has become a model which others in the diocese are following. There may be further opportunities in the future, but I am mindful of not over-stretching both people and finances.

Assistant Missioner for Rochester Diocese.

In the last few months, I have been asked to take up the post of Assistant Missioner in supporting Deanery Mission and Ministry Action Plans. I have 8 deaneries which I oversee. In order to do this job, I plan to step down from the role of Area Dean to concentrate my 'non-parochial' time in these areas. Leaders from Christ Church have already assisted me in developing the missional effectiveness of deaneries. I'm sure that others may do the same. This is another way in which we go 'beyond these four walls in mission'.

God Grows the Gathered Church.

It is really encouraging to see the way in which our Sunday congregation is growing. However, even though the average Sunday attendance is growing and the membership of the electoral roll is in good health, neither represents the large community of belonging that we have at Christ Church. Are there inhibitors to our Sunday growth which means there is some kind of 'glass ceiling' which discourages attendance (parking, seating, service style)? Or is it simply the cultural shift to people attending church less often per month? If it is the former, how then do we encourage the people of God to make corporate worship more of a priority? This is one challenge that we face but there are many more. Another is the perennial need for succession planning in key roles. We have fantastic people volunteering, but the process of needing new volunteers to lead is a never-ending one. (I don't let it get me down- it's just 'life'.) However, we need to be constantly vigilant in this area too.

In all these things, I am constantly mindful of God's grace and provision. "Only God can" is a phrase that comes to mind when I pray and gives thanks for His goodness. As He has blessed Christ Church this past year, may we know His blessing in the coming year.

Jay Colwill