



Christ  
Church  
Orpington



# Annual Report 2015-2016

# **THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

will take place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016 after lunch in the church hall

## **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 2015-16
5. Elections
  - Deanery Synod representatives
  - PCC representatives
  - Sidespeople
6. Appointments
  - Welcomers
7. Treasurer's report and appointment of Auditor
8. Reports from organisations 2015-16 (on screen) – and any questions about ministry areas
9. Report on Unity Church
10. Report from Children's Minister
10. Report from Youth Minister
11. Report from Vicar.
12. Closing Prayer.

## Secretary's Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council 2015-6

The PCC have met 7 times during the year; 6 as ordinary meetings and 1 extraordinary meeting (mainly to discuss the lighting project). Meeting months were: May 2015, June 2015, July 2015 (Extraordinary Meeting), September 2015, October 2015, November 2015 and February 2016.

Each meeting was well attended and had active and enthusiastic participation from its members.

The PCC received and discussed both written and verbal reports from the Finance Committee, the Youth and Children's ministries, Fabric & Health and Safety, Human Resources, Missions, Hall, Unity Church, Lighting Committee and several others.

Specific business included:

- The raft of annual business in May reviewing and confirming the Church's safeguarding policies for Vulnerable adults and for Children, the Equal Opportunities Policy, PCC Financial liability, Signature of the Electoral certificate and confirmation of meeting dates.
- Oversight and approval of both the budget and annual financial statements.
- Oversight and approval of various personnel matters including salary levels and new staff appointments.
- Oversight of the new Lighting proposals (the PCC are very grateful to the Lighting Committee for their hard work on the project).

As ever the PCC was and is grateful for the all the reports both written and verbal it received during the year.

After 5 years as PCC Secretary I would like to thank all the members of the PCC for their work and diligence and wish the new PCC Secretary well in the role.

I pray that in the forthcoming year all the PCC members continue to find the meetings stimulating and the PCC is able to continue to give high quality advice to the Vicar and other offices holders within Christ Church Orpington.

Bill Belsham  
PCC Secretary  
April 2016

## Hall Bookings

This year has seen a change in the running of the Hall Bookings administration with the stepping down of Liesel and myself taking over. Liesel passed on to me a very well organised and maintained system which has made the hand over a relatively smooth one. I am sure that we would all like to wish Liesel well with all that she is doing now and into the future.

As to the regular hirer bookings: these have been maintained and there has been positive feedback from the hirers as to the uptake of the various classes etc. A number of the hirers have continued to extend their sessions as much as availability will allow. The Rochester Diocese has also continued to make regular and varied bookings, taking advantage of the different facilities that can be offered here.

New hirers have included an extra Pilates class (that has already moved into the larger hall to benefit from the interest that the class has created) and a regular concert forum.

The halls continue to be regularly used by the local community for their various celebrations and remembrances.

### GIVE THANKS!

- For the opportunity that the church has to be able to provide an outreach service to the local community through the hiring of the facilities and to be a part of their festivities,
- For the fellowship that all working with the various groups and the organisation of these groups have as they work together.

### PRAY FOR:

- Jim in his work maintaining the building and managing the various repairs and improvements as they are required especially with regard to the ongoing maintenance of the lights which require the use of ladders.
- The continued correct balance of church and local groups using the premises.

Jacqui Roberts

## Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod representatives are Rev Jay Colwill, Rev Dozie Moneme, Muriel Spooner and Anne Springer.

There has only been 1 Deanery Synod meeting since the last report, which took place on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 at St Francis, Petts Wood. There was also a Synod Social hosted by the Rural Dean to say farewell to Bishop Brian in July. A Deanery Quiet Day also took place that month.

### November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 at St Francis, Petts Wood

The focus of the first part of the meeting was “Engaging with Community” and there were 2 presentations by Anna Khan of Welcare in Bromley and Sharon Baldwin CEO of the Orpington Business Improvement District.

The upgrade to the Deanery Website was proposed and approved, as was the Deanery budget and the Parish levy for 2016.

Gerry O' Brien, the outgoing General Synod representative, then gave a report on his participation in “Shared Conversations in relation to Human Sexuality” which had brought together individuals with a variety of views and backgrounds. It was seen as a very beneficial experience and had moved discussions forward in a positive way.

The next Deanery Synod meeting will be on Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a Synod Social on July 1<sup>st</sup> followed by a Deanery Quiet Day at All Saints on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### GIVE THANKS!

- For a good sense of fellowship within the Deanery.
- For the work of Bishop Brian and all the clergy.

### PRAY FOR:

- Successful community outreach and new initiatives.
- Continued good working relationships between the Parishes in the Deanery.

Anne Springer

## Church Wardens

The wardens are pleased to report on another good year at Christ Church. There is so much to be thankful for and we are grateful to God for His grace in enabling so many Ministries throughout the church to flourish. Specifically, we give thanks for:

- a team of wardens and deputies which gets on well and is made of people with different skills and experiences. Len Gardiner and Dave Humphries are delighted to have served together with Pieter Van Rooyen, Derick Theodoulou and Pat Bills throughout this year. We give thanks to God that the team works well and that we have had some great times together, notably serving on Sunday mornings. It has been a pleasure to work with such loving and willing Christian brothers and a sister;
- the many Ministries which enable Christ Church to function, teams too numerous to mention, ranging from our excellent Welcomers and Sidespeople to Fabric to Tech to the Bookstall to the Cafe, our Youth and Children's work and the Crèche, the list is very long. It has been a privilege to have sight of so many different things happening just on a Sunday morning and we thank God for the great number of people who are actively involved and volunteering their time and efforts to serve God in our fellowship. It is a wonderful sight to tour the building on Sunday morning to see how people are getting on;
- we also remain grateful for our excellent facilities at Christ Church, which enable each of these Ministries to function in comfortable and usually spacious surroundings.

Please pray that our wardens team will continue to work well together.

Please pray people will see us approachable, caring and supportive.

Please pray that our numbers at Christ Church will hold up and grow. People may have noticed the wardens taking a count at each service, trying to be as discreet as possible! Here is a flavour of the results of our counts, with some example weeks, so you can see how many people are usually either in the main service or in some other Ministry in another part of our building:

<b>Date of service</b>	<b>Service time</b>	<b>Number of adults</b>	<b>Number of under 16's</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Type of service</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2016	10.30am	151	48	199	Baptism
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2016	10.30am	141	56	197	Communion
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2016	6.30pm	14	0	14	Evening Worship
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2016	10.00am	11	0	11	Midweek communion
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2016	9.00am	15	1	16	Communion
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2016	10.30am	126	52	178	Morning Worship
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2016	6.30pm	18	1	19	Evening Worship
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2015	6.30pm	295	37	332	Carols by candlelight
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2015	10.30am	141	37	178	All Saints
17 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	10.30am	156	32	188	Café Church
26 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2015	10.30am	136	34	170	Morning Worship

Dave Humphries and Len Gardiner



# Annual Accounts 2015

## Summary version

All are welcome to attend our services. The electoral roll is updated annually and comprises 232 members, a decrease of 2 since last year. The breakdown is:

Male = 86, Female = 146;  
Resident in parish = 119, Resident outside parish = 113.

The average weekly attendance during October (when the annual count is done for the Diocese) was 146 adults aged 16 or over and 36 young people aged under 16 (2014: 166 & 41).

### **Income**

Total receipts for the General Fund were £265,186 and are detailed in the Financial Statements. The proportion of donations that are gift aided again increased in 2015 although only slightly at 86% of General Fund donations when taken together with the tax recoverable, compared with 85% in 2014. The income from the hire of the hall increased substantially in 2014 to £33,274 compared with £25,579 for the previous year, but income from the café continued the decreasing trend however at a more gentle pace at £19,109 (£20,462 in 2014). For 2015, café income exceeded expenditure slightly, but was lower than when comparing 2014 (12%).

The planned giving by envelopes and standing orders to the General Fund rose by nearly 4% to £110,187 (£143,396 with the tax recoverable; £130,071 in 2014). We are very grateful to those who give in this way as it enables the church to set a realistic budget. In Advent a special offertory was held where £5,761 was given to the General Fund. At the same time commitments to new or increased standing orders were received from several people, which should assist Church finances in 2016.

In addition, we are grateful to the estates of Mrs Audrey Saxby for a legacy of £20,000, Mr Rodney Turvey for a legacy of £5,000 and Mrs June Galer for an additional £701 after the finalisation of her estate.

### **The General Fund - Year Ended 31st December 2015**

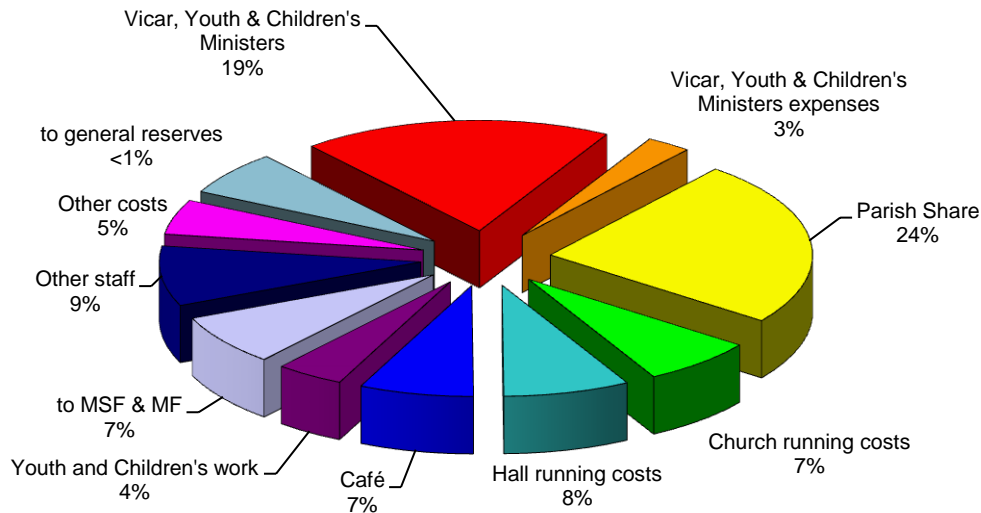
2014		2015	
£	<b><u>Income</u></b>	£	
	<b><u>Donor Income</u></b>		
99,429	Gift Aid	107,797	
26,032	Tax Receivable	33,209	
22,283	Non-Gift Aid	22,871	
9,587	Open Plate	7,333	
1,298	Small Donations Scheme	625	
<u>158,629</u>		<u>171,835</u>	8.3%
	<b><u>Other Voluntary Income</u></b>		
-	Legacies	25,701	
<u>-</u>		<u>25,701</u>	
	<b><u>Other Incoming Resources</u></b>		
509	Magazines	456	
2,892	Fees	5,345	
25,579	Hall Lettings	33,274	
20,462	Café	19,109	
187	Bookstall	161	
7,769	Children/Youth	6,853	
3,564	Evangelism/Education	-	
2,981	Miscellaneous	1,185	
<u>63,943</u>		<u>66,383</u>	
1,941	Investment Income	1,269	
<u>224,513</u>	<b><u>Total Incoming Resources</u></b>	<u>265,186</u>	18.1%

## The General Fund - Year Ended 31st December 2015

2014		2015	
£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£	
40,730	Ministry Costs *	5,346	
17,966	Youth Ministers	39,346	
12,847	Children's Minister	13,565	
3,358	Children's Administrator	3,243	
5,986	Hall Bookings Administrator	6,619	
	Support Services		
8,590	Administrator	8,765	
6,310	Caretaker	7,812	
27,000	Parish Share *	64,348	
9,630	Church	11,371	
19,754	Hall and Grounds	16,714	
18,191	Café	18,726	
235	Bookstall	163	
5,439	Evangelism/Education	2,738	
13,133	Children/Youth	7,933	
1,985	Depreciation	1,985	
3,852	Other Parish Costs	7,516	
1,096	Independent Examiner	1,124	
<hr/>		<hr/>	
196,103	<b><u>Total Expenditure</u></b>	217,314	10.8%
28,411	<b><u>NET SURPLUS/&lt;LOSS&gt;</u></b>	47,873	
<u>-27,439</u>	Transfers, CRF + MSF	<u>-30,697</u>	
972	Net movement in fund	17,176	

\* from 2015, vicar's stipend was included in the Parish Share contribution

## General Fund expenditure in 2015



The net result for the general fund for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £47,873. After transfers to the Mission Support Fund, the Church Repair Fund and the Mission Fund, and adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balance carried forward at 31<sup>st</sup> December for the General Fund was £191,321; up £17,176 on the previous year.

### Kondoa

As our links with the Diocese of Kondoa grow, the church is keen to raise funds to support the Bible school and other projects there. In 2015, in total we were able to send £11,923 to Kondoa; of this £1,578 came as part of the MSF distribution and the rest was donated by members of the church. In November a trial was started to plant drought-resistant maize seeds. 68 members of clergy from Kondoa Diocese are taking part to plant and compare the yield from three different species of seeds. The project is being funded by members' donations.

### Fund totals at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds		Total
General Fund	Church Repair Fund	Above & Beyond Fund	Specific	Missionary Support Fund	
191,321	69,016	4,020	9,527	-	273,884

<b>Missionary Expenditure - Restricted Fund</b>				
<b>2014</b>		<b>Specific</b>	<b>MSF</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
	<b><u>Support Agencies</u></b>			
1,984	CPAS	377	1,578	1,955
579	Crosslinks	414		414
2,448	LCM	380	1,578	1,958
1,699	CMS	164	1,578	1,742
182	Interserve	135		135
-	The Children's Society	240		240
100	Churches Together in Orpington		100	100
100	Street Pastors (CTiO)		100	100
556	Barnabas Fund			
1,480	Release International		1,578	1,578
1,480	Missionary Aviation Fellowship		1,578	1,578
3,587	Spinnaker	2,026	1,578	3,603
2,685	Tearfund	2,830	1,578	4,408
6,264	Unity Church, Ramsden	50		50
	Rochester Diocese for Zimbabwe, Tanzania & Estonia			
520				
9,730	Rochester Diocese for Kondoa, Tanzania	16,595	1,578	18,173
666	Orpington Foodbank	1,988		1,988
149	Macmillan	50		50
210	Church Army	163		163
	Calais refugees	75		75
	Red Nose Day	50		50
	Community Club	2,050		2,050
<u>34,419</u>		<u>27,586</u>	<u>12,824</u>	<u>40,410</u>
	<b><u>Personnel</u></b>			
2,587	Isobel Murphy (WBT)			
1,387	Jim & Katie Whitear (YWAM)	1,096	1,140	2,236
1,304	Nick & Helen Smith (AWM)	188	1,140	1,328
1,612	Viktor & Ester Petrenko	1,354	1,140	2,494
1,070	Peter & Veronique Moodie (Paris)		1,140	1,140
<u>7,960</u>		<u>2,638</u>	<u>4,560</u>	<u>7,198</u>
<u><u>42,379</u></u>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><u>30,224</u></u>	<u><u>17,384</u></u>	<u><u>47,608</u></u>

In addition, £930.94 was raised by a door-to-door collection by Christ Church members in support of Christian Aid.

We hope this summary version of the 2015 annual accounts is helpful. A full version will be available at the APCM.

## Unity Church

After Easter last year, our children's groups had the theme of seeds. One of the activities was to plant sunflower seeds in the most unpromising, rock-hard soil around the cabin where they meet. The hardest job was making a hole deep enough to plant in. To our amazement, with regular watering, we saw them grow, slowly at first, and produce beautiful sunflowers. A poster was made showing how seeds grow. At a prayer meeting in the autumn, somebody looking at the poster saw it as a picture of how Unity has been sowing seeds which have been growing slowly under the ground but then start to break through the soil and appear above the ground to become a visible plant. That is how Unity has been in the first three years since its launch in 2012. We have seen steady, unspectacular growth, but now believe that the time has come for great things to happen. The soil may seem rocky, like the soil around our cabin, but we trust God to grow His church as our sunflowers grew.

The phrase "ask and you will receive" has been very real to us this year. With a need for more space for our work amongst young people, Liz Maltman asked a company who rent porta cabins if we could have one that they no longer use. They said that they did not sell them, but then were happy to give one to us. It is bigger than the cabins we already had, and has given us the space we need for our 10-16 year old group, as well as allowing the crèche to move into their old cabin. Christ Church members were very generous in donating 9 children's bikes so that poorer families we are in contact with could have one. We received many donations of used football boots for the street kids project run by Monai, our partner church in South Africa, via a dustbin collection point at the Priory Leisure Centre.

Our congregation on Sundays continues to grow, and we are encouraged to hear many testimonies of how God has worked in our lives. We are now close to being self-sufficient in terms of worship leadership, but we appreciate some support from Christ Church in the gifts Melanie brings us as an occasional leader and help from Nick and Mike on guitar. It is a joy to be involved in the music ministry and the response from the congregation is amazing.

Our work amongst children and young people has also grown, hence the need for more space. We have now started regular bible study groups on Tuesdays after school, alternating between girls and boys. Our desire is to nurture our young people and guide them on their journey in faith. Messy Church has started growing again. Some of our young people now act as helpers, although they also like to have a go at the activities. For the past six months a small group of trained mentors from three different churches have been mentoring selected year 6 pupils at Blenheim School on the Ramsden Estate, helping children with specific difficulties flourish and building links with schools on the estate.

Our midweek adult groups, 50+ and Knit and Natter, continue to provide links with people outside the regular congregation, which provides an excellent way of encouraging people to join our Alpha groups. We are also running Alpha Plus, as a follow-up Bible study for those who have completed an Alpha course. Men Utd has seen an increase in the number of men from outside the church coming to our social events, although the number coming to the regular share and prayer evening remains small.

In May, many of us are going to attend Fusion, a conference of Regions Beyond, the group of churches we belong to. With much need in our congregation, we are trying to subsidise places for those who cannot afford to go, in the hope and expectation that it will reinvigorate our faith and service.

God is clearly at work on the Ramsden Estate, and we are excited to think about what He might do over the next year. We want to thank all our friends at Christ Church for their support. Please continue to pray for us, and please do drop in one our Sunday Service occasionally – it is a joy to see you and you can be assured of a warm welcome.

## GIVE THANKS!

- Providing all that we need to serve Him at and through Unity Church.
- A growing congregation of adults and children.
- Opportunities to serve the needs of the Ramsden Estate.

## PRAY FOR:

- More ways to build links outside our usual congregation, especially with men.
- Finance as we seek to maintain and grow our ministry in an area where money is tight, as our grants come to an end.
- Growth in numbers, mission and impact on the Ramsden estate.

Our love to you all,  
Peter and Lynn Price/Allan and Jenny Warrington



# 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. Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

I am pleased to report that Children's Ministry has been doing well, there have been a number of changes, volunteers have stepped down and through God's grace new people have stepped forward. We do however have a need for more volunteers in a number of our Ministries especially if we are to reach out more and serve our community. We currently have 58 children attending our Sunday groups and last year we had 9 children leave Explorers for Pathfinders. Many families meet on a Wednesday at Tea and Toys and a small group of them also come to Mini Movers on a Friday. We visit 4 schools through Spinnaker meeting with over 1300 children fortnightly and telling them about God's love as well as a number of events like Holiday Club, Christingle and Families Together reaching out to our community.

We are looking to improve our communication with parents and have a new Facebook Page and newly designed parent newsletters using Mailchimp. Our Year 6 Explorers (and some Year5's) as well as myself and our Explorer leaders Andy Howard & Tracy van Rooyen joined the Pathfinders on their annual Youth camp where we all learnt more about the Holy Spirit and had a great deal of fun!

Prayer requests for Children's Ministry:

- Please pray that the children continue to grow and develop their faith and we are able to show them God's love.
- Please pray that volunteers are willing to step forward share their gifts and support these ministries.
- Please pray that we are able to reach out to people living locally and build a bridge to the Church encouraging families and children to become part of our worshipping community.

It has been another very busy year at **Tea and Toys**. After losing quite a few of our regular families last September as children started school, we decided that a waiting list was no longer necessary. However, since then we have seen many new families coming along and sessions are, once again, very busy. After 16 years of faithful service, Judith Motto has left us to go back to work. She will be sorely missed and we thank her for all her hard work. We are also grateful to Janice and Francis who have also had to stand down due to health reasons. Janet Gardiner has agreed to help weekly with refreshments and Jim Callaghan with set-up and clearing away - thank you to them for their willingness to help and to Paula Lynch, Pauline Dugard and Maureen Grandini who continue to support the sessions. However, more help is always very welcome! Our main aim is to show God's love to all our families both in the stories we teach the children and in the conversations we are able to have with their parents and carers. We would greatly value your prayers as we seek to do this.

The children have great fun with the Elevate dancers at **Mini Movers** on a Friday afternoon at CCO, playing games, singing and dancing, as well as getting involved in a Bible story through movement. A small team (myself, Maureen Caroline & Anna) have been running a Mini Movers session with the dancers for pre-schoolers and their parents/carers. Please thank God for this opportunity to build relationships and pray that these families enjoy their time with us and learn more about Him. Unfortunately however as numbers are low and I am needed more within Tea & Toys we will not be running this for the summer term when the dancers go on tour.

**Crèche** continues to flourish under the leadership of Sarah Beston, providing a fantastic introduction to church for our 0-3 year olds. Our dedicated crèche team continue to faithfully care for the children, allowing them to explore through play, and story time in a nurturing environment. We have expanded the area outside and made it secure for the little ones, Jim has kindly built a partition and added an extra gate. Please pray that more families join our Church, so we can see more little ones thrive in this loving environment becoming part of our Church family and growing closer to Jesus.

This year in **Climbers and Explorers** we have been teaching the children about following Jesus, the King of God's Kingdom and how we can have a relationship with him.

The **Climbers** team led by Caroline Rous continues to provide quality teaching and fun activities for our children. This year we have introduced Climbers Prayer Bear which children get to take home and pray with for a week. They can write a prayer in Prayer Bear's Prayer book if they want to and we give them an opportunity to share this in Climbers. We have also introduced the Climbers Prayer with which we begin each session followed by an action praise song. The Climbers team continue to provide great teaching, craft, time to discuss and think and pray. We usually have 3 adults each week for an average of 10 children but there are times, especially leading up to Christmas, when we have many more, and it would be helpful to have another helper. We thank God for the children's engagement with and enthusiasm for learning about Jesus.

**Explorers** are blessed to have a fantastic team of dedicated teachers, craft leaders and helpers. We have introduced a reward scheme for attendance and showing Christian values, once children have reached a certain number of points they can choose a gift for themselves or an item for food bank. We have been highlighting the importance of prayer in our small groups and have also introduced a prayer bear and book, to encourage children to pray at home. We are sponsoring a Polar bear through WWF to also encourage the children to care for God's world around them. Please pray for the team and the children that together we can continue to grow closer to God and work to build His kingdom.

**Outburst** lead by Sharon Russo, Sue London & Pip Allen is where all the children in Climbers and Explorers join together held on the first Sunday of every month. On a termly basis this includes, craft activities, drama sketches, dance and movement, praise and worship and times for reflection and prayer. Outburst has been encouraging the children to develop a personal relationship with Jesus and showing them how the stories and lessons in the Bible are relevant in their lives today.

Over the summer we had a fabulous time at our **Polar Explorers Holiday Club** and the fun continued with our **Holiday Club Reunion** breakfast, crafts and service. The children went on mini expeditions each

day learning through the lives of the characters in the New Testament that no one is too anything to be part of God's Big Expedition. We had a fantastic time and it was wonderful to see so many families returning for Holiday Club Reunion for breakfast, crafts and a special service!

In September we held another **Little Acorns...Mighty Oaks** for volunteers working with the 0-5yr olds either in toddler groups, Crèche or Sunday schools across Orpington. As well as practical sessions on Storytelling, Worship and Engaging Dads we offered new topics on Partnering with Parents and Working with children with additional needs. This was an opportunity to share ideas and experiences.

### **Families Together – Mothering Sunday**

Last spring we had a fabulous Families Together morning for Mother's Day, it was lovely to see families enjoying breakfast and making crafts as gifts for their Mum's. We are considering the possibility of holding Family Together style services more regularly perhaps on Sunday afternoon/evening with tea, please pray for volunteers and that we are able to reach families in our local community opening hearts to receive God.

**Christingle & Families Together at Christmas**, we are really blessed to have a dedicated team of volunteers working with and supporting the children in a wonderful Christingle presentation. At Christmas the children told the congregation how Christmas is celebrated around the world through drama, dance and songs. On the morning of our rehearsal we had a lovely time with families having breakfast making crafts, assembling Christingle bags and playing games together. Children decorated picture frames and then had their photo taken in costume as part of the nativity scene. The Christingle presentation was set in heaven and then around a Climbers nativity scene as angels brought children from all over the world to celebrate Jesus' birth.

**Moving on Up** (for Year 5&6) was a great event at All Souls in Pratts bottom last summer, we had a barbecue, games, drama, worship and discussions to prepare the year 5's for their final year of Primary school and Year 6's to leave for secondary school. We hosted **Big Breakfast Goes Potty** at CCO welcoming nearly 70 children and adult helpers from across the churches in Orpington on Saturday; this was a

wonderful opportunity to teach the children that they are precious and loved by God.

**Spinnaker Schools Work** I have been visiting The Highway leading Christian assemblies and providing Christian lessons for Years 2 & 4. Caroline Rous has also been visiting Hillside and Chelsfield and more recently Warren Road providing assemblies. Here is a quote from Caroline 'I am always welcomed by the schools and the children enjoy the assemblies, listening and participating with enthusiasm. I thank God for the opportunities to bring His word to many children who would otherwise not hear it and pray that each school's welcome continues.' We also had a wonderful visit from Years 1 & 4 where the children learnt that the church is all about the people and the parable of the Two Builders.

Please continue to pray for us throughout the year ahead as your prayers are an invaluable support to our work.

Jo Gavin Children's Minister

## Youth Ministry

As a youth team, we are currently leading several active groups a week from Christ Church Orpington. I will break each of these down and give you a little taste of what we are currently up to in each group.

**Pathfinders** – On a Sunday morning we run a Bible study group for those in years 7-8. In Pathfinders the focus is on having fun and building a relationship with the young people as well as developing a foundation of Biblical knowledge and attitudes. Right now Andrena and I are delivering a program on women in the Bible and what we can learn from them. Before Christmas I ran a youth alpha course in Pathfinders. Although the numbers in Pathfinders can vary week to week we regularly expect around 10 young people.

**Juice** – On a Sunday night, after the evening service, Andrena and I lead a Bible study for young people in years 9+. Juice is more focussed on discipling young people and growing their faith. We try to make the lessons learnt in the programs as contemporary as possible. In Juice we are using similar material to the Pathfinders, on women in the Bible but the discussion often goes deeper into the topics. Currently we have around 8-12 young people attending Juice each week. We are really pleased that our young people in Juice have been able to lead a couple of evening services, a morning service and a few have got involved in serving on the tech team.

**Red** – Red is our Friday after-school youth group. We have a big focus on having fun together and allowing for young people to have a safe space to come along to; as well as this we also have a time of fellowship and discussion centred on a discussion topic. As well as discussion we have also run a dance workshop and cooking sessions. We were using a story based resource but have recently transitioned to using short video clips to get a discussion started. This has been a great way of allowing our fantastic team of volunteers to have an even bigger role in the leading of Red. Each week, we have between 15-20 young people come along to the church for the group.

**Plus Group** – Every other Friday I lead a small group of up to 5 guys aged 16+ for a time of socializing and discussion. This group was started

towards the end of last year with a couple of socials. Last term we restarted the group and have used similar material to that covered in Red; we have also used clips from the GLS to talk about creativity and its link to faith. This group is still building up to being a regular commitment for the guys and I am still working on getting them to attend regularly. This group has only been possible with the help of some new volunteers to the team which has been a real blessing as we often struggle with a small pool of volunteers.

**TNT** – In contrast to the Plus group, Andrena meets with young women associated with Christ Church. This is not a regular meeting as several of the members have moved to university; although Andrena still keeps in contact.

**FN@TB** – Running alternately with the Plus group, the youth team help out at FN@TB and currently lead the circle time on a rota basis. FN@TB is a special group for young people who have additional social needs and find the larger groups hard to be a part of. This group has grown to 12 young people who attend very consistently. There are even more young people wanting to join the group. This group is possibly the best staffed group we run with many willing and able volunteers to support the work and befriend young people. All the young people in FN@TB are invited to join the other groups in the week and we have one young person who attends all the groups and another that is starting to attend the Plus group.

**Base** – On a Saturday, every other week, we run Base. Base has changed recently to be more ‘project’ focussed. This was in response to lower numbers when joined with the older version of Red. When making some changes we cancelled the older Red group and moved Base a little earlier to allow more time. The actual session changed from ‘just’ being a drop-in group to being task focussed. In the first session back we continued the painting of the youth room and in the second we spent the session filming a drama to be used in our pre-camp evening service. We have also lead several social events like movie nights and restaurant trips. Since altering the way we run the sessions we have seen the number of young people coming to the session go up as well; we now have around 15 attending Base. We are still attempting to take a group of young

people to a Soul Survivor Saturday Celebration but getting young people motivated to commit to coming to one of these events has been tricky.

**Grounded** – Grounded is a joint project between Christ Church, OBC and Hope church. We are aiming at the 18-30s age group and meet once a month in a local coffee shop. We have used Mystic Brew; and then attempted to transition to the churches. This change was not overly popular, but us leaders are keeping positive and are planning to re-launch this month in Starbucks and returning to our original format with guest speakers, musicians, reflection and time to chill out with other Christians or interested people. Grounded, at its peak, was reaching 27 people, but during last term we were only seeing around 5. This re-launch is much anticipated!

**Youth Weekend** – We have (very) recently taken a group of 33 young people on a youth weekend to Downe campsite. This was a great time away having fun and learning about the Holy Spirit. It was great to see relationships between, and within, groups develop and get stronger. The young people participated in several devotional sessions, craft activities, high ropes and games.

**Mentoring** – Both Andrena and I are now involved in mentoring connected to Christ Church. I have recently started mentoring one young person and am going to be mentoring another in the coming month. This is a great way to meet one-to-one to follow up on learning and also to be a part of the young people's personal growth. Andrena mentors 4 young people from Christ Church. Andrena has also been asked to get involved in a mentoring project at Darrick Wood school with other youth workers from the local area. This project is still in the early stages, but she is excited to try a new project.

### **Unity Church Ramsden**

As well as working at Christ Church I have been involved over at Unity Church. As part of this I have been helping lead Pulse on a Wednesday after school. Pulse has about 12 young people that come along each week. We play a large game and also have a time of teaching and discussion. This term we are looking at some 'Big Questions' and what they mean for us. Out of Pulse, a boys group has been started with 4 of the boys. This new group is called the AAA boys group as we are



working through the AAA Pass created by LZ7 after their recent schools work in the area. This group runs every other week on a Tuesday.

### **Bishop Justus**

Both Andrena and I are involved in schools work in Bishop Justus. We both go along and lead morning worship with form groups on a Tuesday morning. This is a great way to reach out to young people in the school environment and also to give a different take on their morning worship. I currently lead a lunch-time club with Richard from GSG called Check it out. This group has been running for a while and since restarting back after the summer we have had between 5-10 young people attending. We often pick a topic and discuss it and play a game.

### **Fusion**

As part of Churches Together, Fusion, a group of youth workers, have begun to meet again. We have been meeting once a month for coffee in Orpington with a view to leading joint projects between the churches once more. Currently we are a core group of 6 with a couple on the fringes. The group have expressed a desire to provide a joint witness over Easter but there are no solid plans for this yet. However we are also discussing the possibility of working together on a proposal to go into schools to run a prayer space for a few days in the school week. This has got a positive reaction from Fusion youth workers. Coupled with our very good schools links we are all very keen on getting this started.

Ed Abernethy

## Curate's Report

In this second year of my Curacy, God has poured out his grace in so many areas of my ministry here at Christ Church and in the community.

Building upon understanding the culture of the people, I have been able to engage with the Christ Church family and the larger community by bringing God's word to them through various means like preaching, visitation, restoration of "missing" members and door to door evangelism to the wider community.

The fruit of these works have been evident as members are growing in their faith journey and God keeps adding to his church. Also, conducting services like Funerals, Baptism, wedding, attending diocesan trainings, visitation, school assemblies and preaching in other churches has brought great blessings to the families I meet and aided my Curacy training.

I am grateful to God for the fruitfulness seen in my ministry and for the variety of ministry exposure Christ Church adds to my Curacy training. I also thank God for their willingness to learn from me as I bring my previous ministry experience to the leadership. My heartfelt gratitude goes especially to my brother and colleague Rev Jay and the leadership team for their immense support to my ministry.

As we step into a new church year, I won't hesitate to covert your prayers once again. My earnest desire is to see people grow deeper in their knowledge of Christ as I minister the word of God to them. May the Lord keep building his church through us his servants and may Christ Church continually expand in her vision- devoted to Christ and dedicated to community.

Amen.

Rev Dozie Moneme

## Vicar's Report

As I prepare to enter my 13th year of ministry, here at Christ Church, it feels as if the church is entering a new season of life. Any minister who stays at a church for longer than -say- five years goes through seasons. Christ Church's first season was helping with the building of the church, so that we could enable its vision to be the 'hub of the community'. On completion of the building project, the second season was seeing the facilities staffed with loyal and hard-working fellow ministers. We have some great ministry team leaders- many who have served in particular roles for many years joyfully!! The third season for me was becoming Area Dean of Orpington. A door of opportunity opened for Unity Church Ramsden to be regenerated. (This church is going through its own growth and redevelopment as it prepares for Rev'd Ray Bell's retirement and seeks God for a successor.) A fourth season has come with the arrival of The Rev'd Dozie Moneme and the cultural vitality that he brings. With his arrival, and the good work of Andrena Palmer (and team) at Chelsfield Methodist Church, we have reached further out into our community and sought to regenerate the congregation there.

For Christ Church, our leadership team and PCC have been seeking God for a new vision and strategy for the next season of our life.

After reflection and discussion, I can't think of a better way to put it than that we are to prayerfully become "An Above and Beyond Church" (Worshipping Christ above all things. Going beyond these four walls in mission.) Thirteen years ago our vision was to draw people into community within our four walls. That has and is being achieved. Yet, there are thousands of people who don't know about Christ Church or who won't darken our doors. So, how will we reach them?

The leadership team came up with four foci for this next season of Christ Church life.

1. Being out/ visible in the community and serving it.
2. Develop a stronger follow-up process for newcomers/ those who have not attended Christian community for a period.
3. Transform our paper-based and social communication approach.
4. Use our Sunday afternoon/ evening as a significant gathering time.

Each area has a sub-group who are bringing ideas to the PCC/Leadership Team. They will suggest ideas which we can discern and then deploy. In mission and evangelism, 'having a go' and then evaluating what you have learned is very important in the discernment process of what will work today. In an ever-changing culture, we need to be quite 'fleet of foot' in our thinking and implementation. This is because our culture (and thus our strategy) is ever-changing. Yet, there are some timeless principles and practices that we want to share. We want people to meet Jesus. We want them to hear His gospel. We want to gather a crowd (small or large, out in the community or at Christ Church), in order that we can make disciples. We want to build God's Kingdom, not little 'empires'. On this last point, this may mean giving ministry away, in order to see God's Kingdom come, rather than keeping it to ourselves and seeing it become stifled.

It is a challenging time to be a Christian, and a challenging time for the church (especially overseas where persecution is on the rise). Yet, Jesus said: "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (Matt 16.18) Jesus builds His church. Yet, he invites us to co-operate with Him in the work. This coming year, it is going to be exciting to see what God can do through you, His people. It is an honour to be the vicar of Christ's Church.

In His service,

Jay Colwill