



**2010
Annual Report
From
Church Organisations
Church Activities
Rector's Report**

St Michael's Church, Betchworth Parochial Church Council

2010 Annual Reports from Church Organisations

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REPORT OF THE CAPTAIN OF THE BELLS

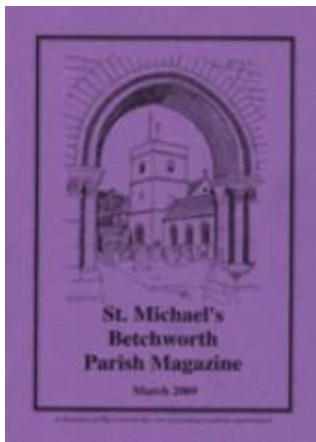
I reported last year that the size of the band was approaching the threshold below which it would be hard to maintain regular ringing. In 2010 Sarah Price moved away and two other members of the band now 'keep their hand in' by ringing on Sundays but not Tuesdays for practice. In reality the band is now too small to be sustainable.

It would be possible to join with other towers for practice but that is likely to reduce regular attendance. Newdigate and Charlwood practice on Tuesdays so joint practice nights may be possible but such action would only be a holding measure. Buckland are also short, but joining with a tower that practices on a different night risks losing regulars, while Sunday ringing would only be possible at one of the churches. Please spread the word that the tower is looking for learners. I am fully prepared to teach people in the hope that they will decide to stay. Anyone from twelve years upwards welcome: 8 pm on Tuesdays.



Martin Higgins Tower Captain

BETCHWORTH PARISH MAGAZINE



We have had a good year with the magazine, although there have been some changes in members of our team.

As well as the reported changes last year, December sadly saw the end of our association with Sarah Price who has left Betchworth. We owe her an enormous debt of gratitude for her unsung hard work heading up the distribution of the magazine. Typically before she left she tied up all loose ends and her place will be taken by John Miller. We thank John for coming on board. George Bird will do his share of the round as well.

The editorial board have in the past found the way articles come to us electronically quite labour intensive, and so we have nagged and pleaded and at last our work is reduced with emails and articles coming in headed and in the right format. Thank you all for your co-operation.

We have added some regular contributors each month. A good number of people have told us how much they now enjoy the Farm Diary in particular, and we would like to thank Martin Clipperton for his time and humour and for sharing his life with us. If you feel anything is missing – perhaps you would like cinema listings for example – please do contact us. We want to be the eyes, ears and mouth for the village and we can't do it without your input, so any ideas, events, activities or news please.

Again thank you all of you who buy the magazine, advertise in it and for all the people who voluntary give their time to produce and distribute this invaluable addition to church and village life.

Joan Bird

MUSIC AND CHOIR REPORT

The Betchworth pipe organ continues to deteriorate and displays increasingly erratic behaviour. All the advice we have is that a new mechanical pipe organ, built to the highest standard, represents the optimal solution to our organ problem. Although the cost is by any standards significant, it represents the most satisfactory long-term solution in value for money terms. The new organ when it arrives will provide a noticeable community benefit – it will enhance worship, support concerts and recitals as well as providing a teaching instrument for the next generation.



Our preferred firm of organ builders have recently installed the new pipe organ in Worcester Cathedral and are to build the new organ on the screen in Manchester Cathedral. They continue to provide high quality instruments to parish churches as well. We hope to make a contractual commitment to secure a new pipe organ of high quality from them soon.

Following receipt of a report from a professional fundraising consultant, the Organist stood down in

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summer 2010 as Chair of the Fund Raising Committee so that, as recommended, a champion from the village could be appointed to oversee the completion the financial appeal. Unfortunately, to date this has not happened. A separate report sets out progress on fund raising for the new organ.

The Betchworth Choir continues to lead the liturgical services of the Church and sing at most Weddings. The aim of the chosen Choir repertoire is to achieve quality and secure integrity. The monthly Evensong is a full Choral Evensong (increasingly rare in parish churches) and Choral Matins, which whilst predominantly based on Anglican chant versions of the Canticles, does sometimes include a choral setting of the 'Jubilate'. The repertoire of Versicles and Responses continues to grow. There is a tradition of singing an anthem at each service and the Choir repertoire has continued to expand during 2010. We continue to use traditional hymns with a selection of the best of modern hymnody (at least mostly the best).

The *Service of Nine Lessons with Carols* remains the musical highlight of the year. In 2010 it took place in severe weather conditions where any exercise of common sense should have led to a postponement. In spite of the loss of necessary rehearsal time the Choir featured a range of challenging music including carol settings by Malcolm Archer (2010), Stephen Cleobury (2010), John Rutter (2010), Mack Wilberg (2008) and Corlynn Hanney (1992). The concluding voluntary played to the gallery was the 'Sleigh Ride' by Leroy Anderson, one of the most popular Christmas pieces ever, although the associated lyrics have a reference to pumpkin pie which might suggest Thanksgiving as the occasion in mind. The Choir managed a 100% attendance and should be congratulated for that; the Congregation were more obviously deterred by the weather conditions.

It is always good to welcome back at Christmas young people who in former times sang in the Choir and see the chancel filled with a large choir. We need a larger pool of singers to sustain the normality of services, ideally at least double the current numbers and would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in joining the Choir. The commitment is not that huge and we are flexible over attendance and commitment.

Any queries on the above, please, to **Melvin Hughes**

NEW ORGAN PROGRESS



Fund raising for the New Betchworth Pipe Organ goes on, as the organ continues to slowly fail.

Melvin has been skillfully coaxing the organ along and playing in a manner to try and keep it working for as long as possible. It is a little concerning when visiting organists come, usually for weddings, and play with gusto because, although it may sound brilliant it harms the organ no end. In fact after one such 'visit' this year, the organ could not be used the following day (Sunday) and we had to

have some more patch up repairs done to make it serviceable for the following week. Thank goodness we have the piano, unfortunately the service was Choral Evensong and Evensong is not the same with a piano!

After a hectic 2009 with dog show, car boot sale, cooking utensil sales, concerts etc etc. it seems that the fund raising team started to run out of steam for 2010. After some deliberation we decided that we should employ the services of a professional fund raiser and Chris Goldie from **Compton Fundraising Consultants Limited** was duly appointed to help us try to complete our task. Chris Goldie is very experienced in fund raising for churches and in particular for pipe organs. He produced a detailed report for the PCC which was presented in September. Following that there have been 2 further presentations to congregation members and the wider community.

Chris' presentations have now been seen by almost everybody in the village and his idea of pledging to make up the shortfall seems a great idea. It just needs people to step forward and pledge. With enough people willing to do so for just £5 a week for the next 3 years, we would see the project completely finished with money to spare!

Can I please urge those of you still wishing to see a good end to the pipe organ project to pick up a pledge form and start your pledges as soon as possible.

On behalf of the The Fundraising Committee

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FAMILY SERVICES

This year we have provided music at 4 main family services, accompanied by piano. Some of the highlights of the services have been as follows:

February 21st District Thinking Day for 100 years of Guiding

Intro music; Vivaldi:Clara;violin

Hymns included "This little guiding light of mine" and "Kumbayah"

April 18th Family service and Holy Baptism

Hymns included an arrangement of "The Lord's my shepherd" by Stuart Townend

June 20th Family service

We welcomed Hilary Brand, our local Zimbabwe link.

Hymns included an African American spiritual "Over my head", and an African chant "Jesu tawa pano"

December 19th Christingle and Toy Service

Sixty people braved the snow for our annual Christingle and toy service.

Intro music; Handel March; Roland;Trumpet

Hymns included "Hope of Heaven" the Christingle song, sung by a group of young singers, and the "Calypso Carol"

The hymns were accompanied by James and Rachel on flutes, Clara on violin and Roland on trumpet.

James, Rachel and Roland played "Walking in a winter wonderland" as the congregation left.

December 24th Crib service

The last event of the year was accompanying the Crib service. We rehearsed in the Hamilton room and then braved the cold to play under cover while the nativity was performed.

All carols played on keyboard plus; Rachel, Sarah, Olivia, James; Flute, George; Oboe Alistair; Clarinet, Roland; Trumpet.

This Service was as popular as ever with over 300 people attending, the snow made a lovely back drop this year. Peter Slot took the service and his thoughtful prayers made us all stop for a while and marvel at the whole wonder of the Christmas Story.

We are very grateful to all the instrumentalists who have played in the services this year and are always looking for more.

Julie Hardy

FLOWER ARRANGERS



Flowers continue to enhance the beauty of the Church thanks to our team of loyal flower ladies. Jackie Ellison has taken on the organising of the rota, but it is thanks to the ladies on the team who generously provide the flowers and dedicate considerable time and effort arranging them, that the delightful displays can be enjoyed by both worshippers and visitors to the Church. When weddings take place, brides are encouraged to leave a pedestal arrangement in place for the following Sunday and all flowers are then tended during the week. We have only a small team, who in addition to their individual weekly duties, work closely together to fill St Michael's with flowers for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We

receive some funds from the coffee monies which helps towards the cost of these bigger displays, but otherwise we rely on the generosity within the team. Maybe we should now consider some less formal flower arrangements being put in the Church from time to time which would allow us to take advantage of the abundance of the lovely garden flowers, particularly those available to us during the summer months.

We need to be mindful that there will be a flower festival in 2012, which will draw considerably on both our creative and financial resources. Planning for this will begin this autumn. We would welcome any suggestions for raising funds and as always would be delighted for new volunteers to come forward and join the team.

Jackie Ellison

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EDUCATION AND OUTREACH REPORT

The committee met three times in 2010. It acts as a forum for organising 'outreach' activities. As in 2009 the Holiday Club was the dominant event of the year. Again it was very successful with 37 Children and 5 teenagers attending over the 3 mornings and a barbecue at The Rectory after the last session. This and other smaller activities create an excellent forum with young families who may not have very strong links with the churches.

The committee promoted the same charities as last year and money was distributed under the guidance of Charles Hardy to a ratio of approx. 60% domestic and 40 % developing world.

Much of the nitty gritty of the committee is concerned with the Rector reporting her Outreach activities, particularly in the schools, and at various church activities such as the Acorns and Brockham Infants and Year 3 singing day at St Michaels and Nursery and school visits to the church.

The committee also acts as a forum for discussion of needs within both Parishes out of which has come the creation of a new discussion group for current issues.

Charity Donations from St Michael's Betchworth from collections, fundraising, and PCC budget 2010

Domestic Charities

Welcare -	£700
Children's Society -	£500
Robes Project -	£250
Farm Crisis network -	£250
Church Urban Fund -	£170
Earl Hague Poppy Fund -	£450
Total	£2,320

Developing World

Farm Africa	£400
Kids for Kids	£300
USPG+ Anglicans in World Mission Ethiopia (Gifts for Life)	£200
Christian Aid	£345
Bible Society	£100
Zimbabwe Link	£200
Bishop's Lent Appeal	£513
Total	£2,058

A further £274 has been sent to the Children's Society. This was put through the St Michael's accounts but was actually collected by the Infant department of the North Downs School.

The total amount given to the designated charities from the St Michael's general budget, special collections and harvest fundraising is £4,378 which represents approximately 5% of the total budget.

The figure does not include the amounts sent to charity from the fabric and organ fundraising activities.

Anne Forrest

Croydon Episcopal Link with the Anglican Diocese of Central Zimbabwe –



Under the guidance of the Croydon Episcopal Area St Michael's have continued to support the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe in its work to alleviate poverty and create opportunities for a better quality of life through the work of the church. In 2010 we sent £200 to the Diocesan work. The Diocese includes the St Patrick's Mission which is involved in projects to develop access to education through the high school and primary school, a mission farm, and clinic, hospital development and worship at and maintenance of their church. During 2010 the economy did show a small recovery but 90% of the population are still unemployed. The political situation is very fragile and investors are not prepared to invest until the situation is stable. This leaves so many people having to create their own lives with little money, minimal resources and little government support. The work of the Croydon link is still much needed.

Anne Forrest

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FAIRTRADE

We continue to support **Fairtrade** in our parish, which is within a Fairtrade Diocese, and we continue to serve fair-trade products for coffee and tea. This is particularly important if we are to maintain our status as a Fairtrade parish. Mrs Norma Stevens, continues to keep us in touch with the up to date catalogues and events at Denholm House in Nutfield. We supported fair-trade fortnight last year and at the end of our Lent Course gave gifts of fair-trade chocolate.

A very successful Traidcraft Sale in conjunction with the Harvest Produce sale was hosted in the Hamilton room on November 28th, Advent Sunday after the morning service. Over £371 was raised for Traidcraft. Some of the goods were delightful as well as practical....A well known Lay reader was seen carrying out an 18" tall, painted cat. It was supported by members of both parishes and we were able also to auction a Christmas cake from which proceeds went towards our Harvest Charitable giving.

At the end of the year we received details of the new Fairtrade Easter Egg being produced with the Easter message on the box, and members of the congregation have been able to place orders in advance.

Thanks go to **Norma Stevens, Sue and Richard Perkins and Anne Forrest** for helping with these events.



WELCARE REPORT



The Parish has continued to give generous support to Welcare during 2010. £700 was sent to support the work. The toys delivered after last Christmas were warmly received and will have been used for birthdays and parents choice this Christmas. The tins and dried goods gifts were magnificent this year, generous donations at our harvest Service and a huge collection by the Rector from the schools. We needed 2 cars and the help of the Welcare Social Worker to carry them in.! We were told that the supplies received at Harvest from all the churches would probably just last the year, which shows how often they have clients who are unable to buy food for financial reasons. During the last year Welcare has extended their teaching

work with parents to learning how to cook simple dishes with easily available and low cost materials. Their work is to enable families in difficulty to live as good a life as possible with their children.

Anne Forrest

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

2010 has been a different year for fund-raising for the Children's Society in Betchworth & Buckland. The loyal group of **Boxholders have contributed £276 – 80**. Thank you to all,

I have a number of CS collection boxes just looking to go to welcoming homes, loose change dropped into the box and totalled once a year soon adds up and is always welcomed by the Children's Society. It lightens your purse or pockets and is remarkably painless!!

A major snow fall the day before this years **Christingle Service** caused



very difficult travelling conditions and instead of the usual full Church, the hardy few collected **£77- 61 from 16 Candle boxes**. An excellent contribution, Thank you.

I have now received a number of late Candle boxes, adding **£30 – 89** to the total.

Christingle Services were also held by the Primary departments of North Downs School,

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and by the Rainbows in Buckland, raising £274.00 & £53.30 respectively. With this the Children's Society will be able to continue supporting children, in difficult circumstances.

Please contact me if you would like a BOX. Thank you, every penny helps.

Margaret Miller

SUNDAY SCHOOL

As a result of the sterling work put in by our Rector numbers at Sunday School have improved and it is now quite usual to find 3 or 4 families turning up for activities on the first Sunday of each month. With more predictable attendance it has been a great help to have Carol Clarke join me as a second leader, especially since the average age can be quite young (3/4 yrs) and having a second adult to help with the activities makes for a more positive experience for parents and children.

Families involved with Sunday School have also joined us for special occasions such as Mothering Sunday and the Good Friday service and craft session which was once again a huge success bringing both regulars and newcomers into the church family for this very important day in the church calendar.

At the harvest festival many children brought gifts and afterwards helped with the distribution of boxes and flowers around the village thus making contact between the generations, once again a special window focused on the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves.

A short Sunday School was provided at the main Easter Sunday service, the children came to the Hamilton Room after the blessing of the Easter Garden and whilst the service continued inside a large number of adults and children twisted pipe cleaners, curled ribbons and ended up with a hand made , decorated cross to take back into church at the Peace .During communion children were offered apple juice and bread in the Goulburn Chapel.

The summer holiday club which is mentioned elsewhere found adults and children working together intensively in a way not repeated at other times of year , this serves to cement working relationships within the congregation and friendships between the children.

A small group camped at Greenbelt, some of the old timers plus an extra from the Bletchingley parish with whom we have made some contact in order to bring a wider group of teenagers together. The festival was a success and as always the young people were a delight to be with, thought provoking and helpful.



Helen Burnett

Joseph's coat on display with the Sunday school display board in church

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"BIG SING"

St. Michael's, Betchworth opens its doors to pupils from Brockham and Acorns Schools

On Thursday, 24th June, pupils participated in a "BIG SING" Day led by Esther Jones RSCM, choir trainer and organist. The children arrived early morning, some walking from Brockham, others from the Betchworth and Leigh sites. The day started with warm ups, onto singing games and action songs and then learning new songs to perform later in the day. The theme was based on creation and the environment.

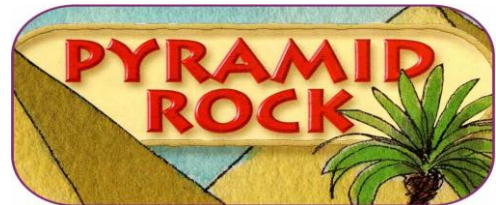
During their break, pupils were able to participate in a quiz around the church, see village archives in the Hamilton Room or return to the Acorn School base for some fun and games. After lunch, everyone returned for a grand performance before returning to their respective schools at the end of the day,

Rector Carol said, "It has been a great day, especially being able to see the children from all three sites meeting together to enjoy having fun singing. I am very grateful to the staff and head teachers, Jan Steel and Eric Starkie for giving permission for the day to go ahead. May this be the first of many more such opportunities to work together".



Holiday Club - Pyramid Rock August 2010

A fantastic creative and fun three days, the Holiday Club could not have happened without the help of many people. Thanks must go to:- the organisers, The Rector, Helen Burnett and Anne Forrest; the expert advisors Owen Rhodes on piano, Lesley Standen designing the coat for children to make, Alison Stagg for her knowledge and advice about Ancient Egyptian culture; Harriet Allsop for First Aid advice; the Coslett and Wallace families for musical support and IT help; the Cool Cats singing group; Mary Hooper and her team for organising the refreshments for the children and the helpers; all the generous people who lent or gave resources; Barbara and Bernard Hawkins for organising a wonderful barbecue; and of course the group leaders and helpers for their hard work and dedication which ensured the children had a happy and fulfilling time.



Over 40 children and young people came. They heard the story of Joseph and his amazing coat, and explored the journey of Jacob and his family and tribe from Canaan to Egypt.



Over the 3 days the children made pyramids Egyptian sweets, scenes of the Ancient river Nile, scarabs, and hieroglyphic bookmarks. The piece de resistance was the creation of a full sized multi coloured coat (on view in St Michael's Church Betchworth). The Cool Cats singing group (average age 13yrs) led the songs and dance centring on pyramids, colours, and the story of Joseph. Accompanied by Martin Coslett, Cameron Wallace, David Coslett and Owen Rhodes these were presented to the parents, carers, visitors and helpers on the last day.

There was a lovely sense of learning and thinking together about one of the great stories of our Christian heritage. Before departing to the final barbecue, the children, parents, carers and helpers lit candles to represent the 5 groups at the club and said a prayer of blessing together.

This was the second holiday club organised by the Rev Carol Coslett providing local children with an opportunity to have fun while exploring in detail famous stories from the bible.

At the end of a rewarding, if exhausting, three days the final day closed with an enjoyable barbecue and games organised at the Rectory.

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LENT COURSE 2010 CHRIST AND THE CHOCOLATERIE DESIGNED BY HILARY BRAND

The 2010 lent course took place in the Buckland Reading room. We saw and discussed the film "Chocolat."

Hilary Brand writes in her introduction to the course: "Some people don't think that fiction can teach us any thing. 'But it isn't true,' they say. What they mean is that it is not factual." But just because something is not factual does not mean it doesn't have truths to teach us. In fact very often it is just the reverse. 'But come on, surely you can't use a film like Chocolat as the basis for a lent course? This is Hollywood- this is nothing like real life'. Many films are great starting points for exploring big issues about God, the world and what it means to be human. The course was well supported and discussion was interesting as well as entertaining and an exercise in Tolerance.

The weekly sessions were as follows:-

- 22nd February Theme: **Giving Up** – The Prelude to Change :the origins of lent, temptations in the wilderness, temptations of the chocolaterie. .
- 1st March Theme: **Giving out** – The Power of a Gift includes the gift of encouragement, the gift of acceptance Luke 14: 1-24 , the gift of hospitality
- 8th March Theme: **Getting Wise** – The Possibility of Change includes discussion on control, prejudice and discrimination, Matthew 12: 1-21
- 15th March Theme: **Getting Real** – the Power of Acceptance : John 4:4-26 accepting differences, discussions on our cultural diversity and world faiths.
- 22nd March Theme: **Growing Up** – the process of change, skeletons in the cupboard and what do we need to acknowledge in order to change.

LENT LUNCHEES in 2010

Lent lunches were held in different private houses in Betchworth and Brockham during the season of lent. Over 80 people attended and a magnificent £513 was raised for the Southwark Diocesan Lent call. Many thanks are due to the hostesses. The lunches provide an opportunity for people to meet and to invite others who are interested to come along and be welcomed in a small, friendly setting.

In 2010 The projects covered by the Lent Call included development work in Buganda, food in Burkina Faso and Calcutta, which each received £5,000 of the money raised. The two South London based projects: **Southwark Churches Care** and **Dulwich Help Line** each received £2,500 and the three Episcopal Area Zimbabwe Link Committees each received £10,000. Finally, the Cathedral's Zimbabwe Committee received £4,000.

SERVICE DUTY ROTA (Romans 12.4-5)

Brenda has been a hard act to follow but I am grateful to her for all her help and advice in easing me into the job. Doing the rota has revealed to me just how many people in the congregation are faithful in contributing to our services week by week. Sidesmen, Readers, Intercessors, Administrators and Coffee Servers all so willingly give their services regularly. And when a replacement is needed at short notice someone is always available to step in.

Numbers are holding up well in all departments except Sidesmen where we are well down compared with a year ago. Sidesmen are appointed by the Churchwardens, so if anyone wants to be considered, please speak to Paul Holt.

I rely quite heavily on e-mail for rota distribution and pre-service reminders. However, owning a computer is not essential as I am happy to hard copy and/or telephone if you are not on the internet.

John Miller

Coffee Duty (Starbucks we aint!!) A few months ago I took over from Jane Forrester the ordering of coffee/tea supplies. Jane has done the job quietly and efficiently for over 20 years. Thanks Jane, and I will try to maintain the standard you have set.

There are ten of us doing coffee on a rota basis - I guess that on average we each do it once every 2/3 months. We recognise that it is a focus for social



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contact after our services, and I think it is important too, as otherwise those who are first time visitors to our church might otherwise not stay and make themselves known.

In line with our status as a Fairtrade Church, we serve only Fairtrade tea and coffee, and sugar. Most of our biscuits are not Fairtrade, but often these are donated, as is the milk week by week. I would like to thank those who so generously donate these items. We do not charge for refreshments but invite donations. People are generous and we generate cash well in excess of the cost of supplies. All surplus cash is transferred to the Festival Flowers fund and I am sure is well spent by our talented Flower Arrangers.

If anyone would like to do coffee duty, please let me know.

John Miller

HOUSE GROUPS/ DISCUSSION GROUPS



The HOUSEGROUP has met monthly at Pentlands or Sandhills. We have continued, and finished, our study of the History of Christianity, mostly from the Anglican viewpoint. We have been amazed by the “rumpuses” in every century, which put into perspective the problems we now face.

Pattie Vigers

Ethical/ topical Discussion Group

Following on from the Emmaus “Lite” course and through popular request a new group has



commenced amongst congregation members and friends to discuss ethical issues. The first meeting discussed how the meetings might be organised. It has been agreed that the chair will rotate amongst those who attend, each meeting being chaired by someone different, at their house. So far two meetings have been held. The second meeting discussed Christmas, how it is currently celebrated and whether it might be appropriate to change some of the ways we celebrate it. The next scheduled meeting is in March and will look at euthanasia. The chair chooses the subject matter and researches

suitable material to aid the discussion. All are welcome. Dates and details are published in the pews news.

Rosey Davy

Emmaus “Lite” Group

This is a nurture group for those enquiring further about Faith issues. This year the group has been enjoyed by some wedding couples and others of our congregations. The course gives an overview of some of the Philosophical and theological views about God, Jesus and the development of a Christian Faith. Those who have attended some sessions are gradually coming to understand different aspects of the Christian faith as they have experienced it through worship in our churches. For some this has led this year to confirmation, Bishop Nick confirmed members of our churches at a Deanery confirmation in St. Marks and in Christchurch Brockham. It is hoped to offer this course again for any who would be interested.

MEDITATION GROUP

This has met on Monday evenings at 7.30. It is led by members in turn, usually with a brief reading, music, then 20 minutes of silence. It is a small group, the core members being one from Holmwood, three from Reigate and two Roman Catholics from Redhill.

Pattie Vigers



HOME COMMUNIONS

We have taken Home Communion each month for four or five residents at Old Wall Cottage. Every other month, with Carol Leeds to help and Julie Hardy to play the piano, we have taken it to about 20 residents at Broome Park. Some, who are otherwise silent, remember and mouth the words of the Service and hymns. Every other month the Rector and Julie go to Atkinson House

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for four or five people. We have also taken the Sacrament to those no longer able to sit through the church Service.

Pattie Vigers

PARISH VISITING and TRANSPORT to CHURCH for BETCHWORTH

A few visits have been made on a one off or continuous basis. The visiting is promoted in the parish magazine. We are both happy to visit or make contact on the telephone.

Norma Stevens and June Letheren

Transport to church has been requested by parishioners who can no longer drive. A rota has been set up and thanks to everyone's willing co-operation drivers are usually only requested to help once every six weeks. I am very grateful for everyone's help and would welcome more volunteers.

June Letheren 01737 842084

BETCHWORTH UNITED CHARITIES

Betchworth United Charities is registered with the Charity Commission (200299) and funded by The Henry Smith Charity and a number of ancient bequests. It covers the ancient Parish of Betchworth, which includes Brockham, and is administered by eight Trustees, jointly headed by The Rector of Betchworth and the Vicar of Brockham. The aim is to provide support to the poor, the sick or disabled and the elderly. This can be either on a regular long term basis or to help those suffering temporary hardship and consists mainly of making grants of money or providing appropriate items, services or facilities. Small grants are also awarded for educational purposes.

During 2010, the Trustees met three times and approved payments to around 45 local people in June and December. In addition, the residents Old Wall Cottage were given Christmas gift vouchers and residents of Broome Park, Christmas gift vouchers and birthday cards. There was a significant increase in the number of grants to individuals for specific instances of need. These included helping to purchase mobility equipment, contributing to educational projects and supporting those suffering a variety of financial and emotional problems.

For further information about the charity or requests for funding, contact **Sally Drayson** on 01306 888727 or s.drayson@btinternet.com



ADMINISTRATORS / SERVERS 2010

Throughout 2010, at every Parish Communion Service, either one or two members of our small team of Servers continued to fulfill their task of assisting at the altar. We continue to be mindful of the privilege that we have in serving God and the church in this special way.

The tasks we perform are to receive the Offertory, assist the presiding Priest in the preparation of the bread and wine, bear the chalice and offer the wine to communicants, and assist the Priest after communion. All the servers in the team have the Bishop's or Archdeacon's approval.

Each year all the servers in the Diocese attend a special Festival in the Cathedral in early January. Brenda Judd writes:

"This year's service was on Saturday 9th January (2010) and was attended from Betchworth by Graham Williams, Norma Stevens and myself. Carol and Liz from Buckland did not attend. The snow was 4inches deep on that day in south Surrey and Graham picked Norma up from her house and I walked the length of my road and joined them for a lift to the station. The snow eased

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off in London but many at the Festival Service were wearing walking boots or "wellies" some under their cassocks and robes!

The preacher at that service was the Bishop of Woolwich and afterwards the "training" was by the Cathedral's Head Verger and was about the Cathedral Vestments and other artefacts.

At Evensong the preacher was The Dean the Very Rev Colin Slee."

If any one else is interested in becoming a server it really is quite easy and can be very rewarding. If you would be interested Pattie or Carol could advise further.

Hilary Ely and Brenda Judd

VERGER'S REPORT

2010 was a busy year for everyone at St. Michaels, with 24 weddings lined up. Everything ran smoothly most of the time. A couple of photographers got a bit out of hand but apart from that the services went well.

As well as attending weddings and funerals, I also do Ashes burials. Digging the holes can be a bit of a challenge as the soil along the estate wall can be like concrete. It also pays to check details! In not doing so, the occasion will remain in my memory to remind me every time!

I would like thank Paul Holt and John Pharo-Tomlin for their help with some of the weddings. Also thank you to all at St Michaels for making the ceremonies what they should be; something to remember for ever in the eyes of God.

Graham Williams

REPORT ON THE CHURCH CLEANING SYSTEM -CLEANING ROTA

The Rota continues to be planned every six months and then forwarded by email on to the Parish Magazine for including on a monthly basis. This is the way we advise those on the Rota when they are required to clean the church and this system seems to work quite well. Any changes or amendments are notified to the Magazine in advance of the Magazine going to press. There have been occasions where mistakes have occurred in print and when these are spotted those people affected are contacted by telephone. From March 2011 the Rota that appears in the Magazine will be changed slightly to also include the first week of the next month. This is to try and ensure that anyone who is down on the Rota for the first week of a month will be made aware of this even if they normally receive their copy of the magazine late. In this way we hope to avoid anyone missing their slot.



We now have 18 people on the Rota who give up their very valuable time to help keep our church clean and I would like to thank them on behalf of the church for their loyalty and hard work. Obviously we would welcome more people if they can spare the time, the more people we have the easier the task becomes.

I mentioned in my last report the heaviness of the coconut mat at the main entrance to handle and clean this still remains a problem. I mention this subject again as it would appear that the subject falls on deaf ears. The mat is becoming very frayed on the edges and it is not easy to clean either with the vacuum or by brushing, there must be something better on the market although I do accept that this type of matting is very good for wiping muddy feet on.

Finally we did have a problem again with cleaning the church up after the builders. It is absolutely essential that the Fabric Officer when awarding the contracts to any building company includes a requirement that the builders must leave the church in the clean state that it finds it and does use more than adequate protection materials, thereby eliminating the amount of dust and muck that has been left behind in the past. This I believe is not unreasonable. Would we allow it to happen in our own homes? I think not!

Carol Clark

St Michael's Church, Betchworth Parochial Church Council

ST. MICHAEL'S ANNUAL SPRING CLEANING 2010

This took place on Sunday 14th March (afternoon), Monday 15th March and Tuesday 16th March. 29 people (only 4 men!) came to help, 5 of them on more than one day. This was a few more than last year and we managed to finish everything by midday on Tuesday in time for some of us to go the Dolphin for lunch. Thank you to all those who helped in any way and worked so hard over the three days.

Jane Forrester

UPPER MOLE GROUP – SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2010/2011

The Group has met on three occasions – two of those meetings Brockham and Leigh have joined the Group as observers. The following group events have been discussed and/or enacted upon:-

Joint services held on 31st January at Buckland for Candlemas, 31st May at Charlwood for Trinity Sunday and 28th November at Brockham for Advent Sunday. A wide variety of styles has been experienced across the group, and services have included traditional music as well as music group and African drumming. We have also experienced 3 girls performing a liturgical dance in the aisles at Charlwood.. Trinity through Art, Music and Dance! All services were a success and as a group it was agreed to carry on holding these joint services.

A joint Lent course is due to be held in 2011 and so far Bishop David Atkinson, Bishop Richard Harries, and Bishop Nick Baines have been approached to lead these groups respectively. (as we write Bishop Nick has had to withdraw due to his appointment as Bishop of Bradford)

A Marriage Preparation Day is being planned, due to be held on 26th February 2011, to include couples from across the six churches. The Upper Mole Website now links to all the Parishes. All the magazine editors now talk to each other and cross advertising is happening. A Quiet Day or Away Day has been suggested for the future.

At each meeting there are reports from each Parish as to what is going on. Events are shared with detailed reports in the Minutes (made available to the PCCs). This enables the sharing of events, experiences and information and achievements of the different Parishes. This concludes the report for the year.

Emma Isbill
Secretary Upper Mole Group

WEBSITES

In June 2009 we launched the two church websites, www.stmarythevirgin.net and www.stmichaelsbetchworth.net with the aid of grant funding obtained by the Betchworth & Buckland Society. The sites have attracted favourable feedback, and provide links to other community and ecclesiastical sites. Each week, the new edition of Pews News is made available online, and the schedule of services is updated monthly. The Buckland site also includes the Parish Magazine as a full PDF document, updated monthly, and with an archive going back to 2003.

We now have website statistics for the year 2010. St Mary the Virgin Buckland had 2900 unique visitors (excluding traffic from robots, worms, etc) – and 3800 hits overall, meaning that 900 of the hits were return visits. Usage has increased over the year, and in December 2010, there were an average of 11 visits per day (4000/yr annualised, hence a growing number of users month-on month), and each visitor read an average 3-4 pages of the website. The top 5 most popular pages were:

- (1) 'Whats On;
- (2) About us (contacts);
- (3) Monthly Service Schedule;
- (4) Special Services/Weddings; and
- (5) Resources/History.

PewsNews got 24 hits (Betchworth) and 22 (buckland) over the year (i.e. only about 1 reader per week). Buckland Parish Magazine got approximate 140 hits to different issues.

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56% of the hits were from UK users, a surprising 28% from the US, and odd hits from around the world – including a disproportionate high from Bermuda, where I think the Rev Stephen Bailey may be watching over us? [I have discussed this with our website hosting company, Design Lynx in Dorking, and the fact that only 50-70% of hits are from the UK is not untypical. A similar pattern exists for the 'Visit Dorking' and 'Visit Leatherhead' sites which they also host].

St MichaelsBetchworth, by comparison, had 13% more unique visitors than Buckland (3300), and 27% more total visits (4860), indicating 1560 return visits. There were an average of 15 visits per day through December 2010 and the main hits and international pattern of visitors was similar to St Mary's Buckland.

For comparison, the bucklandsurrey.net site, for Buckland Village and including the Betchworth & Buckland Society, had 7200 unique visitors, and over 11,000 visits, with visitors reading an average of 2.6 pages per visit. The most visited pages were:

- (1) Parish Council and minutes
- (2) Village History
- (3) Deli & Gift Shop (under Community)
- (4) Betchworth & Buckland Society
- (5) Local Walks (under Community)

For church websites, these are successful figures and we should be pleased with the results. I will action more publicity on the fact that PewsNews is online each week, and that the Buckland Parish Magazine archive (since 2003) is available online. If anyone would like to offer to compile an index to the Buckland Parish Magazines – this would be really helpful to make the most of the archive resource.

Duncan Ferns



GUIDING IN BETCHWORTH AND BUCKLAND

Guiding in Buckland has had a very busy year as it has been our Centenary.

The girls have had many events to celebrate including The Best Party Ever in Dorking for the Rainbows, a visit to Port Lympne Zoo in Kent for the Brownies and a camp at Foxlease in Hampshire for the Guides and Senior Section. The conclusion to our celebrations took place at Denbies under the heading of VISION for the Future at 20:10/20/10/2010 which was when the whole Country renewed the Guiding Promise. This was for all the units in Leith Hill Division of which Buckland Guides, Brownies and Rainbows are members. The three units in Buckland attended Services in St Mary's Buckland and St Michael's Betchworth. To mark the occasion for World Thinking Day, which was on the 22 February; a Special Service took place at St Michael's Church, on 21 February 2010. Other services we attended were Mother's Day, Father's Day, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and a Christingle Service. The units have also been involved in many other events including St George's Day Parade in Dorking, Teas on Buckland Green, Buckland May Fayre (one of the Brownies was May Queen), Brockham Victorian Fayre and selling Christmas trees on Buckland Green, with mince pies and mulled wine on a cold day with 6 inches of snow which remained until Christmas Day.

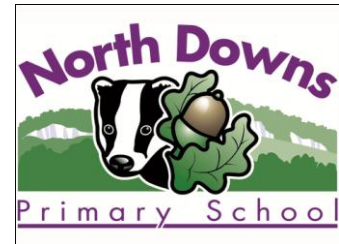


Madeline Rietchel
Commissioner of Dorking Downs District in Leith Hill Division

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NORTH DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

Now amalgamated as one school over three sites in the villages of Betchworth, Brockham and Leigh; North Downs Primary School has continued to develop links with the churches in the villages. We are most fortunate to have Rev Coslett on our Governing body and she is a frequent visitor to all 3 sites. During our first term Rev Coslett has led assemblies on Harvest in October and Christingle in December. All our Infants across the 3 sites collected £268.31 for the Children's Society in their 'candles' which they presented at the assemblies. They had made some 'christingles' to show the parents and sang beautifully accompanied by Julie Hardy and Paul Ellison, who very kindly joined us for the occasion.



Rev Lehaney also continues to lead a regular monthly assembly for the children at Leigh with themes including 'Remembrance' and 'Presents'.

North Downs maintained the Brockham School tradition of an evening carol service in Christ Church Brockham, led by lay preacher and Parent Jacqueline Dean. The school choir, instrumentalists and readers were fantastic and began our school Christmas Celebrations. We then held a Junior Carol Service at school to include all the children in KS2 to which we invited Parents as well. This was led by Rev Coslett with input from pupils, recorder players, choir and staff.

Jan Steel Interim Head teacher

BETCHWORTH and BUCKLAND TODDLER GROUP



In 2010, the Betchworth and Buckland Toddler Group continued to be well supported by the local community. We were pleased also that the word had spread and some new people joined us. A total of 42 sessions took place with an average attendance of 12 children each time.

As well as art and craft materials we also purchased some new toys during the year, cash tills, kitchen and food items, play and learn floor mats and an Aquadoodle set. We also received a very kind donation of some second-hand toys. Our craft activity continued to be popular and we must say a huge thank you to Sara Black who has been the main organiser and provider of great ideas.

In November we produced a newsletter and conducted a satisfaction survey. The results of the survey showed that the Toddler group was providing a much appreciated resource in the community. The respondents agreed that it provided excellent value for money and a good selection of toys and craft activities. They also agreed that it was well structured and made available a good range of refreshments for the children and adults. We valued the feedback we received and will continue to look for ways to improve the service we offer.

The Christmas Party took place on the final Toddler group session of the year. The Toddler group was invited by Carol into the church for a short Christmas service where the children learnt about the Nativity Story. Afterwards they enjoyed lunch and party games in the Reading Room.

Finally, special thanks must go to Carol Coslett and to Lisa Wedderburn from SureStart for their continued support and encouragement. Also thanks to Barbara for providing a musical accompaniment at circle time.

Toddler Group 2010 Facts and Figures:

Location: The Reading Room, Old Road, Buckland
Opening hours: Tuesday 9.45 – 12.00 noon (term-time)
Charge: £1.50/family, increased to £2.00/family on 1st April
Number of sessions: 42
Average attendance: 12 children
Highest attendance: 19 children
Average takings: £18.00
Total money spent on toys, craft materials and refreshments: £408
Toddler Group Organisers: Mrs Naomi Preston, Mrs Sarah Straughan



Sarah Straughan
(Secretary and Treasurer for Toddlers)

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BETCHWORTH & BUCKLAND CHILDREN'S NURSERY

The Nursery continues to thrive and numbers remain strong. We have an ongoing link with Dover's Green Children's Centre who use our building once a week for a popular 'stay and play' session.

Topics covered in the Nursery during the year have included: Weather, Under the Ground and All Around the World which gave great scope for colourful and informative displays around the walls and ceiling.

The children (and staff!) had an opportunity to visit Church Farm to see the newborn calves earlier in the year and also had an outing to Nower Wood to help badger find a new home. There have also been local walks, including one to Brockham Green, as well as visits to the Church at Christmas and Easter.

PC Trezise visited and kindly allowed the children to sit in his police car.

We are grateful for the continued support of our parents who raise funds for the Nursery thus enabling us to regularly renew and replenish our resources. You may have noticed our new gate onto the school path which we hope will be completed soon meaning that we will be completely self-contained!

Finally, we are grateful to Carol for the time she spares to visit and to tell stories to the children and for always making us most welcome on our outings to the Church.

Alison Higgins – Chair - Nursery Management Committee



HAMILTON ROOM

Hamilton Room continues to be a well run Meeting Room in the centre of Betchworth, thanks to a small dedicated band of volunteers. Our thanks go to them in assisting with the successful management of the Hamilton Room and Meg Ryan Room.

St Michael's enjoys the use of the room for PCC, various church meetings, Sunday School, and charitable events. Perhaps most important of all are the facilities for a comfort break, without which many a wedding would be an even more tense ceremony! I am constantly told the Church is hoping to arrange facilities within the church building in due course.

We continue to maintain and support the Meg Ryan Archives room for the benefit of Betchworth, and pleased we are able to fund this from our own resources, without seeking grants!

2010 was not one of our most successful years, as we had horrible weather, known to us all, at both the beginning and the end of the year, causing many cancellations and loss of revenue.

Thanks to our policy of making sure we have the money before spending it, and containing expenditure, we have had another financially successful year. We hope 2011 will give us kinder weather.

Gordon H Hill

BETCHWORTH CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair was held on Saturday 20th November in the Village Hall and saw a record attendance at this popular themed event with just over £3,000 being raised for the Fabric Fund. A donation of £300 was also made to Surrey Air Ambulance and a separate amount raised by Bob Ely on his photographic stall for the Organ Fund. This truly was a team event with stalls run by local people and also outside stalls with a whole range of attractive and unusual Christmas gifts and goodies on sale. Visitors were catered for with mulled wine and superb teas (sandwiches and cakes) on sale throughout the day. Well done to Linda Slater and her team and big thank-you to local businesses for their donations to our raffle.

David Rodin

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SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING REPORT

After a very busy Organ fund raising year in 2009 we slowed down a bit in 2010 with both the organizers and the village suffering greatly from organ fund raising fatigue.

On 24th/25th July we held our tennis tournament organized and hosted by Eiluned and Peter Slot.

Tennis played on Saturday on courts around the village with a wonderful lunch at Adrian and Sara Smarts beautiful House in Trumpet Hill followed by a very successful BBQ at Ed and Sian Winters house Parr's Corner. Then the finals on Sunday at Red House, with our usual quintessential English tea. This is probably the best loved annual Betchworth event which is now in its 31st year.



On 1st August we held our, now annual, **Car Boot sale at Sunny Banks Farm** with kind permission of Paul Brightman and co. It was a nice day, warm and sunny to start with. This year for the first time we incorporated a Classic Car display, which was very well attended even though it clashed with the huge, well established, classic car rally in Cranleigh. There was a great turnout of buyers and sellers with a wonderful array of items for sale. The bacon rolls and coffee in the morning was welcomed by all, especially the early starters, and BBQ at lunch time was excellent, Chitty's burgers really are the best. A slight drizzle about 2.30 saw people beginning to pack up and the whole field was cleared by 4. A huge thank you to all of those that turned up to man car parks, make tea/coffee cook food, set up and clear away. We couldn't do these events without you.

Three weeks later we held our **2nd Betchworth Dog Show**, this time we relocated to Gordon Ryns field in Kiln Lane. A record number of dogs and their owners turned up and took part in Obedience tests, beauty contests and a timed scurry. Great fun was had by all. This year we had an official photographer who must have taken 100's of photographs, even though his tent blew away at one point due to the strong breeze that blew up mid morning. The refreshments tent and BBQ were excellent and again manned by, mainly the same team that helped at the Car Boot Sale. A very big thank you to all of you that help make these events work. Thank you especially to Charmian Stow, Joan Bird and Jackie Ellison our Dog Show committee.



This autumn it was our bi annual **Harvest Supper**, held in the village hall on 8th October. The amount of work that goes into this event is amazing. The performers start rehearsing months before the evening and their commitment to turning up sometimes, three times a week to rehearse is staggering. I am sure that the audience think that they just stand up and perform; well I can assure you they don't! It takes lots of work to make the evening the success it always is. Then there are the ladies who prepare and cook the wonderful food, I know of one kitchen in the village that was full of ladies all day on the Friday working away to provide us with an extremely good supper. Needless to say the evening was brilliant.

On Sat 6th November a team of 26 villagers their, families and friends manned road closures and shook buckets at the Brockham Bonfire again this year. The Bonfire gives us a generous donation to the organ fund for helping out.

If there is anyone who would like to step forward and lend a hand next year for any of the events please do get in contact.

Pam Armitage

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PARISH ADMINISTRATION in Rectory Study

In January last year I commenced work at the Rectory office every Thursday morning on a voluntary basis and thus began my initiation into the various aspects of church administration. The predominant work has been the preparation of the Pews News which has to be prepared and printed each week then folded ready for the various services. However, letters do need to be written, baptismal cards prepared, monthly articles for the parish magazine to be sent via email and of course the preparation of service sheets for special services and the yearly rota. In addition photocopying has to be done, wedding packs prepared and telephone calls answered, messages taken or help given where possible.

Jo William's assistance during the summer and autumn months has been invaluable. Much of her time was spent preparing invitations to the Holiday Club, the Big Sing and to the local schools, to encourage attendance at appropriate services for children and parents, preparing Posters for various events, liaising with helpers for the Holiday Club and I am sure she was involved in much more work, of which I am unaware.

This just gives an idea of what goes on, but there is much more waiting to be undertaken and I am sure the new administrative assistant, Paula Barrett who started her employment in the middle of January, will meet the challenge and enjoy the role; I wish her every success.

I have enjoyed my time at the Rectory office and am a little wiser as to the administrative responsibilities placed upon the Rector. Jo and I will no longer be part of the admin. Team, but leave the work in the hands of Paula. I will, of course, continue as PCC Secretary for the forthcoming year.

Christine Holt

ASSISTANT PRIEST'S REPORT

The other reports show that the Rector, with her huge energy, many gifts and musical talent, keeps parish life moving.

The big problem in Betchworth has been what to decide about the organ. A professional fundraiser has been called in to help. On the plus side, the year brought a large crop of weddings, mostly at Betchworth. A lesser problem in Buckland has been the lack of a regular organist, but we are grateful to the kind people who have come to play. The sadness in Buckland has been the serious illness of John Waters. On the plus side, Buckland now has a team of young people to serve as acolytes.

We had a joint Envisioning Exercise. We put into words our aim as a church – to grow closer to God and to bring people closer to God – which is what we have always been trying to do.

Our thanks to the Rector and her family, to the Churchwardens, and to every person who has contributed in any way to church life and welcome to those who have joined the congregations.

Pattie Vigers

RECTOR'S REPORT 2010

I want to thank all of you, the wardens, vergers, fellow clergy, readers, organists, treasurers, PCC secretaries, PCC members and many others who worked in the past year so loyally and faithfully for the cause of the Gospel as members of St Mary's and St Michael's. Whatever the complexities, discouragements and trials of the national and international Church, we continue locally to seek to remain faithful to Christ, compassionate to all, and generously welcome others in the manner Christ has welcomed us.

I am reminded of the parable of the *wheat and the tares* when Jesus tells us that in the Kingdom of Heaven both wheat and weeds grow together, side by side (that is reassuring realism from Jesus), but that human efforts here and now to separate the two—to 'weed out' and 'purify' are fatally flawed by the specks in our own eyes obscuring our vision. Sometimes we are blessed with the honesty to recognise that the things we enthusiastically condemn in others have deep roots in our own fearful hearts. The parable basically teaches us to trust the Lord to sort things out. For He alone is just and knows all things. He will judge and purify in his time and way. We are called to be faithful in the task he has given us and to produce good fruit. Reassuringly this is echoed by a

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comment from our Archbishop Rowan Williams who reports to be coping with the impossible pressures projected onto him by simply "getting on with the next thing"!

For our own church, 2010 has witnessed us also "moving on to the next thing." Despite adjustments to new roles within our church- management people have risen to the occasion and supported. This was particularly noticeable when we said goodbye to Chris and Margaret Meade as they moved up north. They have been sorely missed, but gradually the many roles they fulfilled have been undertaken by others in the congregations. Chris Holt needs a special mention in that she has valiantly carried on as PCC secretary and has helped out with weekly parish administration. We do thank you. Carol Leeds has also carried on supporting the life of St. Mary's, working with David Sayce, our new churchwarden, and the many social opportunities she facilitates. Thank you.

Of the many things that could be highlighted in 2010 the following need special mention:

We were successful again in gaining another Annual Mission Grant Fund and this helped support the Summer Holiday Club, Pyramid Rock, the Good Friday Activities, and the Big Sing with the local schools. Grateful thanks to all who helped with these activities, to Helen Burnett and Anne Forrest, for masterminding the holiday club, and for others who have helped with our outreach mission. Work with our young people and younger families is a continuing process and it does sometimes feel like an uphill struggle, but we must keep at it.. little by little.. to ensure the Christian story can be heard in our communities.

Two very important initiatives have also been further developed: the "Envisioning Exercise" supported by Barry Goodwin (Diocesan Parish Development Advisor) and the Review of the Organ Campaign in Betchworth, by Chris Goldie (an independent advisor).

Ultimately the report and feedback to the PCC produced a "Vision for the Future", which highlights our need to grow as a community. As a church and benefice **"we seek to grow closer to God"** and **"to bring people closer to God"** and to that end we want our church to remain: **Open to God, Open to All, and Open for you.**

This firmly ties in with discussions around the organ campaign and the desire to build on the worship life of our churches. With an external review being undertaken since the summer, this has allowed further reflection and a strategy to be put in place to complete the campaign. Once this issue is resolved it will mean that we can move on exploring ways in which our 2 churches worship together in ways that can touch us and encourage us to lift our hearts and minds to God. Liturgical reform through the centuries has reflected the need to express the old and cherished in the contemporary life and culture of worshippers.

In general, I believe that St Michael's and St Mary's "does liturgy" quite well—we respect tradition, we are positive about "liturgical praying"; we value regularity and familiarity but also find stimulus from the seasonal changes through the Church year. We are reasonably dignified but I hope we are not perceived as too stuffy (at least for the family services!). Our music, both choir led and at times music group- led is warmly appreciated and provides a balance of old and new.

However, we live in a culture with a consumer mentality. This is in some ways regrettable -it both expresses and reinforces our individualism and makes us always think of 'what is in it for me?' Where earlier generations saw it as their duty to God, irrespective of 'feelings', to worship with the Lord's people on the Lord's day, a subjective contemporary mind-set is more likely to give up on, rather than persist with, worship forms that it is not personally 100% happy with.

In trying to 'work with the grain' of the consumer mentality many churches try to find forms of worship that meet people where they are, hence a variety of worship is on offer each Sunday and during the week. This will usually include traditional and experimental worship, both sacramental worship and 'worship of the Word'. A good many mission-minded churches have taken this route and found blessing and growth in it. It means plenty of work in finding human resources to support the 'menu', and it expresses an intention to try to meet people where they are.

The alternative approach, which we have tended towards at St Michael's and St Mary's, is to do as much as we can together. This is seen through our Parish Family (or All Age) Communion Services particularly at Christmas and Easter. It is also reflected in encouraging the whole 'family

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of the church' to attend the monthly Church 'Family' Service. Using the term "All Age" to describe some services, a relatively new term used since the introduction of Common Worship, allows all people to be included regardless of whether they have families or children. It is an important step in making our worship accessible and inclusive for all people.

There are still Book of Common Prayer communion services at 8am, once a month Matins at 11am and Evensong at 5pm for those who feel that meets their needs. But, so far, we have tried to draw as many as we can to be together for the main Sunday morning act of worship. We have drawn others into our worship by inviting groups to some special services this year, like Thinking Day for the Guides and a special Christingle for the Rainbows and Brownies in Buckland, and all those baptized in the last few years to Mothering Sunday. In the coming year we shall be continuing to look at our worship with the hope of offering another alternative to our main Trinity worship and also offer a more relaxed form of evening worship and possibly a series of themed sermons over a period of time that might be attractive to people of all ages who wish to explore further their understanding of Christianity.

The challenge comes from looking at the many hundreds coming through the door for the Candlelight service in Buckland and the Crib service in Betchworth, and saying to ourselves, "what factors, including forms of worship, might just help more of them to become rooted within the active worshipping community?" The challenge is how we help people, sometimes more on the fringes of church, to become ingrafted into the worshipping congregation? Some, it is true, have enjoyed the Emmaus Course discussion groups, and been led to confirmation, but the challenge is to draw in toddler parents that come on Tuesdays to the Reading Room, or who bring their children to the local school and nursery, or parents of those baptised to live out their public pledge to 'bring their children up within the family of the Church'. We need to continue to work at this mission challenge. There are statistical time-bombs ticking away in the English Church, and we are 'done for' if we do not struggle to stand in the shoes of the non-members and offer hospitality of spirit and life to those who have not really heard of the Good News of what God has done and is in Jesus. It is treasure we have allowed to become somewhat buried or obscured: it needs to be unwrapped, to be seen more often amongst us.

At the end of last years' report there were 3 challenges that had arisen out of the discussions around vision and stewardship. They were:

- **Enhance our worship and personal ministries**
- **Attract younger families and their children**
- **Improve facilities and continue to pay our way**

Well we are some way to fulfilling these but they are still relevant to 2011. We should be continually looking at new ways to enhance our worship and develop our personal ministries. To continue to attract younger families we have to show that we can welcome them in our worship, and if we are to improve our facilities or look at "**re-ordering**" in both churches we need to think "**outside the box**" to what would be most suitable for our worship needs in the 21st century. How do we create the desire amongst all who live in our villages and parishes to support the work of the churches?

So we are still working on and considering the following for 2011:

In Betchworth we are considering: -

- Adapting "**Re-ordering**" our space inside the church to provide better facilities for children and families. Disabled access and toilet positioning by the west door
- Improving our vestry space and providing more adequate storage for choir/clergy

Some of this will be able to be done when the organ is removed from its present position. The PCC has drawn up a statement of needs.

In Buckland we are also considering:-

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- Adapting or “**Re-ordering**” how we use the space inside church especially for use during Family services: this might include being ready to remove some front pews to create space.
- improving the porch area and notice board displays (partly achieved)

In all this our desire for the future is to remain:

Open to God, Open to All, and Open for You.

Let us not forget the quip that if you want to make God laugh, just tell him your plans! But neither let us forget the pilgrim spirit and this pilgrim prayer:

*Pilgrim God, there is an exodus going on in my life: desert stretches,
a vast land of questions. Inside my head your promises tumble and turn.
No pillar of cloud by day or fire by night that I can see. My heart hurts at
leaving loved ones and so much of the security I have known. I try to give in
to the stretching and the pain. It is hard, God, and I want to be settled,
secure, safe and sure. And here I am feeling so full of pilgrim's fear and
anxiety.*

O God of the journey, lift me up, press me against your cheek.

Let your great love hold me and create a deep trust in me.

Then set me down, God of the journey; take my hand in yours,

and guide me ever so gently across the new territory of my life. Amen.

(Joyce Rupp)

Carol Coslett

