

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, CHILTON**  
**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009**

**Background**

All Saints' Chilton PCC co-operates with the Rector, the Rev Chris Stott, in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This is summed up in our Vision "Sharing life at the heart of the Community, making followers of Jesus". We are also responsible for All Saints' Church building and churchyard.

The Church is located on Church Hill, Chilton and a Church Office, shared with St Matthew's Harwell, is situated in the Church extension at Harwell. The main address for correspondence with the PCC is that of the PCC Secretary, 9 The Orchids, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0QP.

The PCC banks with Lloyds TSB in Curie Avenue, Harwell and its Independent Examiner is Alison Mignanelli of Ganymede, Wantage Road, Rowstock, Didcot OX11 0JU.

**Membership**

Members of the PCC are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

***Incumbent:***

The Rev Chris Stott

***Wardens:***

Mr Andrew Hayes

Mrs Elizabeth Morris

***Representatives on Deanery Synod:***

Mrs Naomi Gibson

Mr John Pigott

***Elected Members:***

Dr John Berry                      3 years from 2009

Mr Martin Fell                      2 years from 2009

Mr Stuart Gibson                      Treasurer  
3 years from 2008

Mrs Hazel King                      3 years from 2007

Mrs Linda Lambon                      3 years from 2007

Mr Jeff Nesbitt                      3 years from 2007

Mrs Carol Pigott                      3 years from 2009

Mrs Ruth Poole                      2 years from 2009

Mr Alex Reich                      3 years from 2009

***Co-opted Members***

Miss Avril Butler

Secretary

Miss Pam Rolls

**Committees**

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC.

***Standing Committee***

This is the only committee required by law. It meets occasionally when there are urgent or emergency decisions to be made between PCC meetings.

***Joint PCC***

The representatives of Chilton PCC to the Joint PCC (should one be required) are: Pam Rolls, Linda Lambon and the 'standing members' (the rector, the churchwardens, the secretary and the treasurer).

***Finance Committee***

Oversees the general financial dimensions of the work of All Saints' by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting and reviewing the planned giving.

***Missions Committee***

Attends to matters relating to the support (both prayer and financial) of missionaries, missions and relief agencies.

***Fabric Committee***

Takes care of the Church building and surroundings.

***Ministry Leadership Team***

Comprises the Rector, the churchwardens from both Chilton and Harwell, the church administrator and those authorised to lead services. It is guardian and champion of the Churches' Vision.

***Worship Group***

A joint Chilton and Harwell Group with responsibility for all worship issues.

Two ad hoc Working Parties have met during the year. The ***Audio and Visual Resources*** working party which continues to meet to work on improving our sound and vision equipment. The ***Community Mission Steering Group*** led by Bruce Keeble, which seeks to find ways of building up better relationships between the Church and the community.

## **Church Attendance**

There were 76 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 1 less than in 2008. Of these, 8 were not resident within the Parish. 4 names were added to the roll and 5 removed. The average Sunday attendance, counted during October, was 46 adults and 8 children. This excludes Harvest Festival when the attendance swelled to 65 adults and 20 children.

## **Review of the Year**

During 2009 we have continued to work with Harwell towards implementing the Vision guided by the Ministry Leadership Team. A meeting of the combined PCCs for Harwell and Chilton met in June, September, and November 2009 and in January 2010. The PCC feel that there is much to be gained from the combined PCCs meeting and working together in this way and combined meetings will continue to be held in 2010.

Prayer is an essential part of the life of our Church, a weekly prayer meeting is held on Saturday mornings and once a month evening prayer is held on a Wednesday evening. All are very welcome to join these times of prayer. We also have a small group of people who are part of a prayer chain. This enables emergency and continuing prayer for anyone within the church or for issues known to church members. A number of people meet regularly in weekly Prayer and Bible Study Groups. During Lent 2009 three Lent Groups met in Chilton and followed a series of commentaries by Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading with the theme "Consolation and Challenge."

An Alpha course was again held this year. It ran from September 2009 to December 2009. 7 people attended the course.

A number of outreach initiatives which aim to strengthen the church's relationship with the local community took place in 2009. Over the summer a series of watercolour painting sessions were held where people could try out their painting skills in a friendly, informal atmosphere and chat over a cup of tea or coffee. The church organised a cricket match as part of the "Chilton Active" weekend, followed by a hog roast in the village hall kindly provided by Karen and Phil at the Rose and Crown. At the end of August cream teas were served in Chilton Church and the money raised was shared equally between church funds and the local charity See-Saw. This once again proved to be a very popular event

and the church was full of people enjoying lovely homemade cakes and scones. In October a Harvest Tea was held at which the produce donated in the morning at the Harvest Festival was auctioned and the money raised from the auction went to support the work of Tear Fund. 39 adults and 4 children attended the Harvest Tea which was judged to have been a great success and it is likely to be repeated in 2010. The Chilton Evergreens Bazaar was held in November and the Chilton Wives Group held their Bring and Buy Sale in January. The Wives Group also held another very successful Quiz Night which raised in excess of £1050.00 for the local branch of the Alzheimer's Society and Hamlin Fistula UK. The Men's Group meet in the Rose and Crown once a month for general discussion and a pint or two. The group held a breakfast meeting again in the pub the Saturday before Pentecost Sunday at which Chris Knight talked about his experiences as a prison and chaplain. In the afternoon Chris and his wife Helena ran a seminar in the church on being filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Rector and the Pastoral Care Team have continued to offer help and support to bereaved families.

Children are a very important part of our church family. Discoverers, which is for children between 3 and 11 years, continues to thrive with 12 children on roll and on average 6 attending the weekly sessions. This last year the children have looked at the miracles that Jesus performed, the Easter and Christmas stories and also some stories from the Old Testament. A new group called "Check it Out" was started for the older children who attend secondary school. They have a chance to explore the Christian faith further, ask questions, discuss topics of interest and nurture their relationship with God. Our children have also continued to enjoy taking part in Activity Days, two of which take place in Harwell with the June event taking place in Chilton. Last year in June the Razzamatazz event attracted 28 children. The children enjoyed making robots and hearing about God's creation. Discoverers continue to support World Vision, a Christian organisation working to alleviate the effects of poverty, hunger and injustice in over 100 countries, by buying gifts from their giving each week. The children are very aware of those affected by the natural disasters that have occurred such as the Haiti earthquake. We are very grateful to the leaders of Discoverers and Check-it Out and to their

helpers who faithfully support both these groups.

During the past year between 7 and 10 children have regularly attended the Y-Club, an after school club meeting in Chilton School each Thursday. These children are keen and some of them are showing distinct signs of spiritual growth. One development is the willingness amongst some of the children to pray aloud during the 'prayer and candle' time at the end, and some of them have taken the initiative in quietly setting up the cloth with the candle on it. The candle is there as a focus to try to engender some quiet and reverence during the prayer time at the end of the meetings. We continue to be grateful to the 6 people who join with Pam Rolls in leading the group, most of whom work on a rota basis. They bring an enormous wealth of gifts from craft to puppetry and the ability to share their faith naturally. This term the club have been learning about the awesome miracles of Jesus through the Scripture Union resource called 'Awesome!' The Y-club leadership team thank everyone for all their prayers and encouragement.

Both children and adults were invited to a "Light Party" which was held last autumn as an alternative to Hallowe'en. This event was certainly worthwhile and was attended by 28 adults and 18 children. Those who came certainly enjoyed the event and threw themselves into a number of fun party games and activities and a short act of worship at the end. It was disappointing that there were not more Chilton families there despite good advertising and invitations being given personally. Sadly the allure of Trick and Treating was too much for quite a few. However, one non-Church mum thanked the church for organizing the party and providing an alternative to Hallowe'en. It certainly seems to be worth repeating in 2010 when 31<sup>st</sup> October is on a Sunday so it will be a good opportunity to develop the event further.

Pam Rolls continues with her training for the Ordained Local Ministry. Pam's course has also been of benefit to several other church members who have had the opportunity to accompany Pam on some of the training sessions. As part of her training Pam completed a placement at St. Peter's Didcot and in July gave a presentation, which was very well attended, at which she described what she had learnt during her time at St. Peter's. As part of Pam's training the church is required to produce a Parish Portfolio and

one element of this is a Community Audit. A questionnaire was sent to residents of both Chilton and Harwell asking them for their views on the church and its role in the life of the community. A second questionnaire was sent to all those on the electoral rolls of Chilton and Harwell churches. The results of the questionnaires have been analysed and will help the Ministry Leadership Team identify gaps in the church's current and future plans for activities and mission. A presentation on the results of the Chilton congregational questionnaire will be given at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Financial Review**

The main financial income of the Church (pledges, plate and tax recovered from pledges) rose in 2009 by 6% on that received during 2008, reversing the trend of recent year due to a successful stewardship campaign. Pledged, plated and the tax recovered have all increased. The increase in tax recovered was due to the rise in pledged giving in the previous year. Donations and fees were both down on the previous year, both of which are difficult to predict and control. The net result being a 3% increase in income.

The expenditure for the year increase by 3% over that of 2008 with stability in almost all areas with the exception of the parish share and the Secretarial expenses. These were up by 7% and 22% respectively. The parish share is our contribution to the Diocese and our main expenditure representing 65% of our expenditure and accounts for 67% of our income. This was marginally above the average increase applied by the Diocese to all Deaneries as we were slightly below our target share, which is determined by the Deanery. In 2010 this is expected to rise again by around 5%, which is the average as we have now reached our correct level of contribution. In future years we can expect a rise in line with the Diocesan trend which is moving steadily upwards at around 5% annually. This will continue for the foreseeable future as the parishes continue to meet the full cost of their clergy.

The headline for 2009 was that the General fund showed a loss of just under £2,500, Two and a half times the loss of the previous year. Under a new financial policy adopted by the PCC part of this loss will be covered by a transfer from the Church Hall fund in 2010. There will still be a resulting deficit in the

General fund, which will be covered from one of the existing funds until it can be paid back.

It is standard practice for the PCC to give 15% of its income to Charities & Missions, divided into overseas based (10%) and home based (5%). A further 2.5% is normally allocated to an Emergency Aid Fund. The latter was suspended for the year, as it was in the previous two years but once we return to a positive balance it is expected to be reinstated. The total payments to Charities & Missions for the year totalled £4,274 from the General fund. In addition to this £661 was paid out of the Charities & Mission fund which represents all the restricted gifts made through the Church during the year for specific charities.

As stated over the past few years the focus for the future is still to ensure that expenditure is balanced by regular giving and other income with a move to a mindset where particular activities of the Church are funded by a specific campaign/appeal. This year we have failed to meet this objective for the reasons stated however we are very grateful to all those that have supported this initiative. We are also most grateful to all those that support the Church through both regular and spontaneous giving.

#### Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, where possible, which equates to at least six months of running costs to cover emergency situations that might arise from time to time.

As indicated previously this was not achieved through the General fund as there was not sufficient money available but it was achieved through the use of the Church Hall fund because although this is a restricted fund it is restricted to funding furthering the work of the Church in Chilton. This represents a change in financial policy whilst delivering our objective within the given constraints.

The Carterton house fund is a designated fund and has been ring fenced for specific project. The PCC felt this was the correct treatment as the origin of the money for the fund was donations given for a particular cause and not for general use.

It is the policy of the PCC to invest our funds with the CBF Church of England.