

## THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA, WARLEY WOODS ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY TO 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010.

### Background:

St. Hilda's church, Warley Woods, has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Rev. Paul Hinton, in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, ecumenical, evangelistic and social.

### Council membership:

Incumbent: Rev. Paul Hinton.

Churchwardens: David Dyke, Peter Harris [to 25.04.10], Pauline Jones [from 25.04.10]

Deanery Synod representatives: Peter Stokes, Rosemary Akeroyd, Gerry Nixon, Peter Munn.

Elected members:

Whole Year: Derek Latham [secretary], David Hickman [Treasurer], Jon Goodwin [vice chairman], Joyce Lewis, Julie Batham, Jean Line, Elizabeth Gibbens, Wendy Dyke.

To 25.04.10: Victoria Gibbens, Ron Palmer, Connie Jinks, Jean Downs, Sue Eaton, Paul Snookes.

From 25.04.10: Richard Haynes, Martin Hadlington, Janet Gaunt, Pat Crofts.

The PCC met on 8 occasions and the average attendance was 84%. Regular reports were received by the PCC from the Finance Committee, the Standing Committee, the Ministry Team, the Fund Raising Group and the Electoral Roll Officer.

### Electoral Roll and attendances:

At the end of 2010 the Electoral Roll stood at 116, of which 61 lived outside the parish. The average Sunday attendance, calculated in October, stood at 92 but this number increased significantly at Baptism services, Family and Parade services and at festivals. Sadly, numbers at the 8.0 a.m. Holy Communion services declined to such a low level during 2010 that the Vicar reluctantly decided, after consultation, that the service should be suspended from the end of the year. More encouragingly, the Midweek morning services continue to be well-attended by between 15 and 20 regulars.

### Finance:

The 2010 accounts have been prepared on the usual basis, details of which are shown on the Annual Accounts and Financial Statement. There was an annual operating profit of £1353.02; of this, £870.88 was unrestricted funds and the remainder was restricted funds, meaning that it had specific designations.

Again in 2010 we were able to completely fulfil our commitment to the Diocesan Common Fund, paying the full amount of £31,923.75. A considerable amount of work went into ensuring that the accounts were kept accurately, for which thanks are principally due to David Hickman. Mandy Saunders continued as Stewardship Recorder and Gerry Nixon as our representative recovering Gift Aid subscriptions. Towards the end of 2010, Gerry stepped down from this role after many years and his place was taken by Christopher Gibbens, who immediately organised a thorough overhaul of our Gift Aid list resulting in several new subscribers. The value of this is illustrated by the fact that we received a total of £9455.15 from the Gift Aid refund without which we would have recorded a substantial financial loss for the year.

Thanks are due to all these people for their efforts and also to Ron Palmer who continued to assist David Hickman with the Open Plate contributions each week. Once again, a team of people, organised by Peter Stokes, collected for Christian Aid Week around the parish. The Sponsored Ramble in July, together with other events, enabled us to send £1455 to Acorns Children's Hospice during the year, while individual members of the congregation also made valuable contributions to charities in a variety of ways.

During 2010 the Fund Raising Group amassed grants of approximately £10,000 which enabled us to install a new heating system in the Church Hall, after which the building was completely redecorated by a team of volunteers organised by David Dyke.

At the APCM in 2009, Paul Hinton challenged us to raise £2010 for our five Mission Partners and this challenge was accomplished, thanks largely to a successful Gift Day following Bishop David's visit on St. Hilda's Day.

The church also benefited again from several generous bequests from members of our parish and congregation who passed away.

### Summary of matters of interest from PCC meetings:

A brief account of each PCC meeting is given by the Secretary in the monthly magazine. Significant issues discussed in 2010 included:

- The Transforming Church initiative
- The installation of a new sound system for the church
- Church Hall refurbishment
- The Lee Abbey weekend
- Activities for St. Hilda's church 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Readership training for Rosemary Akeroyd
- New guidelines for the hire of the Church Hall
- Items from the Deanery Synod
- Church website development
- Financial priorities for the next three years
- Choice of Charity to support in 2011

### Church Life:

1. 2010 was the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the present St. Hilda's church and a number of special services and events were held to mark this milestone. These included:

- Visits by retired Bishop Tom Butler on 27<sup>th</sup> June and by Bishop David Urquhart on 19<sup>th</sup> November
- Visits by previous incumbents/curates/readers, including Michael and Rosemarie Dunk, Charles and Mary Stallard, Michael Garland, Barbara Fletcher and Adrian Leahy
- A visit by the Riding Lights theatre group on 31<sup>st</sup> March
- An afternoon of musical activities in the church to coincide with the Summer fete in July
- A Pet Service in July
- A 'Trip down Memory Lane' concert and tea party in August
- A Celtic evening service and music workshop with Ritualitas
- A 'Harvest of Talents' celebration of church members' artistic talents in October
- A concert by the New English Orchestra and Singers in November

A number of commemorative mugs were also sold as mementoes of the special year.

2. The interior of the church has again been enhanced by the weekly display of flowers organised by Wendy Dyke and her team. The church is kept clean and tidy by a small group of volunteers, including Connie Jinks and Gerry Poole. Joyce Lewis and Derek Latham ensured the smooth running of the church's administration. The Parish News continued to be published monthly, thanks to Wendy Dyke, Peter Stokes and Alan Gibbens; thanks are to be accorded to the distributors of the magazine and also to those who sponsored the coloured cover. The church's website, administered by Peter Stokes, continued to be a major source of publicity for the church and contains a wealth of information. It received a comprehensive makeover in 2010 and has had many accolades from those who visit it. Our sincere thanks are due to Peter for the time and effort that he gives to this invaluable aid.

3. The Readers - Martin Hadlington, Connie Jinks and Fran Ellis - made an invaluable contribution to Sunday and midweek services by their leading and preaching and Peter Stokes is also to be thanked for his contribution to the midweek services. During 2010 Martin Hadlington retired from his Readership role but still helped with the administration of the chalice at communion when required. In September, Rosemary Akeroyd began her training for Readership and our prayers are with her as she moves along this road. The church is also very grateful for the assistance of Rev. John Wilkinson who preached and celebrated at various services during the year and to the expanded team of intercessors who continue to lead prayers regularly. The choir, ably led by Betty Williams and David Ellis, continued to enhance our worship; highlights included the Devotional Service on Passion Sunday, one or two special Choral Evensongs, the Advent Carol Service and the Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve. Compline was again sung on Friday evenings during Lent. Unfortunately, dwindling choir numbers meant that regular choral evensongs ceased during 2010. Evensong services are still held, however, with sung hymns but without harmonised psalms and canticles. The monthly Prayer and Praise evening service continues to be popular.

The orchestra continued to play at the monthly Family and Parade service but is still suffering from dwindling numbers and it, like the choir, would value new members!

4. Under Ones, a weekly support group for mothers and babies under one year old, was organised by Jackie Lawrence and her team of dedicated helpers. The numbers attending remained strong and the group was supported by various health practitioners and other visitors.

5. The number of Baptisms remains significant and May Shingleton is to be thanked for the administrative duties attached to these. In addition, six members of the congregation were confirmed at Holy Trinity church in 2010; they were Kurt and Karen Studley, Michaela Holmes, Melanie and Rebekah Mittoo and Marie Powell.

6. The buildings and grounds of the church have been maintained throughout by a dedicated team of people; they have given of their time and expertise to keep everything in good order and have saved the church a great deal of money in the process. Our sincere thanks go to them all. During 2010 further work took place as part of the Hall refurbishment project. The kitchen was completely refitted, a new heating system installed and interior redecoration carried out.

7. The Prayer Group continued to meet fortnightly in the Choir Vestry to pray for the needs of the parish and wider community, to reflect on God's word and to grow in fellowship with each other. The regularly organised the monthly Prayer and Praise evening services on Sundays, while the Prayer Ministry team offered prayer ministry twice each month after communion.

8. Special services during the year included a Pet Service, "Back to church Sunday" and the annual Commemoration Service, all of which were very well attended. Special mention should be made to the 'Harvest of Creative Gifts' in October where the church was open to the community for three days. Children from the local primary schools attended on Friday and scores of residents were able to view the creative work of more than a dozen local artists and crafts people. Special thanks go to David and George Lewis for erecting the stands and to Jon Goodwin who co-ordinated the event which finished with a memorable Harvest Festival service.

9. There were also occasional shared meals after Sunday morning worship which continue to be popular.

#### Social and Special Events:

1. The Social Committee, under the leadership of Jon Goodwin and David Hickman, ran a series of events during the year in addition to those already mentioned in the section on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the church. The Parish Outing to Llandudno took place on May Day Bank Holiday; there were two Quiz Nights; a Country and Western evening in June; the Summer Fete; the Harvest Supper and Skittles evening; and the annual Model Railway Exhibition.

2. The annual Fireworks Evening was again held in Autumn under the guidance of Richard Haynes, Jon and Matthew Goodwin and Joseph Hinton but an earlier date [October 31<sup>st</sup>] caught many people unawares and this, plus the clash with Hallowe'en, meant that the attendance was lower than in previous years. It should perhaps be noted now that this year [2011] the event will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> November, later than usual.

3. Derek Latham continued to organise the monthly Parish Ramble, David Ellis and Roger Saunders the Table Tennis club. The monthly Sociable Social evening continued its rounds of the local real ale hostelrys with its attendance going from strength to strength.

4. A small but committed group have regularly provided refreshments after the morning services, while catering at other special events has been largely organised by Pauline Jones and her team of helpers; our thanks are accorded to them for all their hard work.

5. For the first time, St. Hilda's had a stall at the 'Picnic in the Park' event in Warley Woods. This gave the church the opportunity to advertise the Hall, to give people chance to paint a votive candle-holder under the guidance of Michaela Hinton and to offer a range of prayer cards to those wanting help with prayer.

### Children and Young People:

The Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy remains in force.

The Children's Corner remains a well-used facility and is much appreciated by all, especially those who attend Baptism Services. Thanks are due to those who have maintained the facility throughout the year.

The Sunday School continues to offer young people a varied programme of activities relating to Biblical teaching, including Godly Play. The children also led special services in church. Our thanks go particularly to Elaine and Lydia Carrington, Melanie Snape, Jackie Lawrence, Caroline Bevan, Sally Cottrell, Pauline Davies, Val Blount and also to David Ellis who organised the music.

### Schools Ministry:

The Schools Ministry Team of Paul Hinton, Pauline Jones, Wendy Dyke, Barbara James, Mary Hallman, Mandy Saunders, John and Renate Wilkinson, Sue Eaton, Joan Finch, Marion Robinson, Elaine Carrington, David and Fran Ellis have had a busy year!

A visit to Abbey Road School in April by Betty Williams and David Ellis resulted during the year in three new choristers [Bethany Leek, Annie and Eve Casey] joining the choir and their parents worshipping with us.

Mandy Saunders introduced Godly Play to Abbey Junior Year 5; she has also been acting as a Reading Volunteer at the school, together with Mary Hallman and Marion Robinson, while David Ellis has regularly played for assemblies and song practice at the school and at the Year 3 Christmas Concert.

Following a request from The Orchard School, Mandy Saunders and Fran Ellis paid a visit to give advice on assemblies and RE lessons. Subsequently, Mandy and Paul Hinton contributed to a lesson on Christian weddings and Matt Goodwin is preparing a CD backing track on Bible story songs. Alastair Jones has also been a volunteer helper at St. Hubert's RC Primary School throughout the year.

In May, 90 pupils and their teachers from Abbey Junior paid a visit to our church for an interactive guided tour; they also performed several songs during the musical event in church at the same time as the Summer Fete [under the leadership of their teacher Eleanor Rushbury] and Class 4H also made an anniversary banner and artwork which was displayed at the Harvest of Talents festival in October. This class, together with one from St. Hubert's RC School attended the exhibition and, among other things, contributed to the making of an arrangement of wooden crosses under the guidance of Paul Carrington which was then hung in the Church Hall. Poems written by the children were also included in the Sunday Harvest worship.

Our thanks are due to all these people who have contributed so readily in such valuable work with children as we continue to build bridges with the schools in the parish.

### Other Groups:

CAMEO, the weekly meeting for the over-60's, continued to thrive and have a most varied and enjoyable programme during 2010. Carol Hadlington and a dedicated team have organised this throughout the year and our thanks are due to them for their efforts.

The Church Hall was also well-patronised by other groups, including Mothers and Toddlers, Playgroup, the Friday Club, KUMON and several uniformed organisations. A new Drama Group was successfully introduced by Lauren Parkes. After some 30 years of service, Val Blount's Playgroup finished at the end of 2010. Our special thanks should be accorded to her and her helpers for their dedication over such a long period of time; around 200 members of the community showed their appreciation of Val's work when a special Farewell Party [postponed from December] was held in January 2011.

Sadly, several members of our congregation departed this life in 2010, including Alan Keeling [who actually died at the end of 2009 but whose funeral took place in early 2010], Stan Williams, and Frank Thompson, who was a former Scout Leader. We thank God for the ways in which they enriched our lives and for the contributions they made to the life of St. Hilda's; we shall miss them.

### Conclusion:

2010 was a very special year for St. Hilda's. We were able to celebrate it in the knowledge that our presence in the parish and local community is still strong and vibrant. The various new initiatives that are now beginning to take root should, it is hoped, ensure that the next 70 years will be as fruitful as the last 70, if not more so.

Derek Latham. PCC Secretary. 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2011.

