

In Faith
Out There

St Luke's Church, Maidenhead

PARISH BULLETIN 2011



The Reverend Richard Holroyd surrounded by part of the 2010 arts project "Living Faith, Now in Colour"

Photograph: Andrew Burdett

Despite the very different circumstances this year, we yet again have a bulletin, which demonstrates what a vibrant and dedicated group of people we have at St Luke's. The wide range of reports collected here is testimony to the many people who give of their time in such a wide variety of ways. St Luke's truly is the sum of many parts. We are aware that interregnums can be times when the church life seems to slow down as everyone waits to see what the future holds, St Luke's has not done that, and it is due to the fact that so much of St Luke's is led by the people within it. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Richard Holroyd, who through the years he was with us encouraged everyone to feel they could play their part in whatever way they could. This bulletin provides a snapshot of all that has happened this year and demonstrates the lasting legacy he left us with.

Barbara Essam and Shula Tajima
Churchwardens

e-mail: admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the
Election of Churchwardens**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 10th APRIL 2011
AT 5.00pm in the Hall**

Agenda

1. Welcome and Prayers
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of meeting held on 11.04.10 and Matters Arising
4. Electoral Roll Officer's Report and Election
5. Secretary's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Election of Assistant Churchwardens
8. Election of PCC Members
9. Election of Sidespersons
10. Appointment of independent Examiner
11. Interregnum
12. Fabric Report
13. Parish Life Reports
14. Report of Incumbent
15. Any Other Business
16. Date of Next Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners on 11th April 2010

Election of Churchwardens:-

Barbara Essam of 29 Belmont Road, Maidenhead and Shula Tajima of 8 Evenlode, Maidenhead were nominated and elected as Churchwardens.

Summary of the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Luke's Church, Maidenhead held on Sunday 11th April 2010 in St Luke's Community Hall.

A full written copy of the minutes is held by the Secretary and is available to view on request

Attendance – The Reverend Richard Holroyd was in the Chair and welcomed the 31 people present. He opened the meeting with a prayer. There were 6 apologies for absence received. The minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2009 were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Electoral Roll – The Electoral Roll Officer Jill Bevitt informed the meeting that at the start of the year there were 106 people on the roll. During the year 5 were added and 3 left giving a current total at present of 108. Jill was thanked for her work and re-elected as Electoral Roll Officer.

PCC Secretary's Report – The Secretary's report had been published in the Parish Bulletin and a copy is attached to the main minute book. There was nothing to add to the report. Richard Holroyd thanked the Secretary Ralph Hinchliffe for his work during the year.

PCC Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer Richard Burdett commenced his report by going through the full Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council and explaining them to the meeting. A copy of these is attached to the main minutes. He then gave the following report to the meeting.

The PCC Accounts – What Happened in 2009

General Fund

A deficit of £4,502.00 versus a budgeted deficit of £4,641.00, Planned Giving fell slightly but the tax refund fell more by £1,031.00 to £11,845.00

£7,163.00 was spent on gas and electricity, an increase of £370.00 on the previous year. £7,042.00 from Church and Parish Centre lettings – up from £6,455.00 in 2008 but the loss of Voices Anon letting in 2010 will be hard to replace.

Other Important Points

We paid £51,000.00 Parish Share versus £50,000.00 in 2008, the smallest %

increase for years. Office costs down by £449 to £5,740.00 mainly due to the reduced Honorarium for one helper due to a reduced time commitment.

Interest rates are very low resulting in virtually no investment income from CBF deposit fund.

Designated Funds

The Events Committee raised £4,500.00

Transferred £700 from the General Fund to the Fabric Fund as the 5th of 20 payments to rebuilding capital reserves. Legacies totalling £20,433.00 received and placed in the Benefactors Fund. We spent a further £1,364 completing the new sound system. We did not buy any further CBF Investment Fund Shares but kept the money on deposit instead.

Restricted Funds

Special Collections figure giving was £4,962.00 so with £4,549.00 of General Fund Outward Giving we gave away £9,511.00 (2008: £9,705.00)

Summary

The financial performance in 2009 was very poor with our core Planned Giving income falling again slightly and we are becoming more reliant on the substantial giving of a very few members of the congregation. Although other income sources increased and costs were contained or reduced in several areas the overall effect was still a deficit.

We remain able to keep operating without having to make forced economies simply because of our good fortune in having significant General Fund Reserves. However as reported in 2008 this situation cannot continue indefinitely and unless core income can be increased, or we choose to start spending our capital probably starting with the Benefactors Fund, then the PCC will have to consider ways in which expenditure can be cut.

On a more positive note we should be proud of the fact that we are able to give away over £9,500.00 to charities and those less fortunate than ourselves.

The treasurer informed the meeting that from 2011 the Gift Aid amount will be reduced from 28% - 25%.

The Treasurer then answered question from the meeting.

He then presented his 2010 provisional budget to the meeting. A copy is attached to the minutes.

The Treasurer Richard Burdett was thanked for all his work during the year on behalf of the meeting by Richard Holroyd.

Sonya Clarke proposed that a Vote of Thanks be recorded for Richard Burdett. This was seconded by Jill Bevitt and carried unanimously.

A full copy of the certified accounts was presented to the meeting and a copy is attached to the minute book.

Assistant Wardens – Peter Goford and Don Luff were proposed and elected

PCC Elections – Don Luff was elected for three years and Jean Tyrwhitt – Drake for two years.

Sidespersons – We currently have 19 Sidespersons with Gail Dorrington joining them in the last year.

It was proposed by Helen Poynter that all the sidespersons be elected and this was seconded by Enid Barber and carried unanimously.

Appointment of Independent Examiner – Robert M Clutterham FCMA was appointed as our independent examiner.

In Faith Out There Last year was spent getting together 'In Faith Out There' as a strategy for our church for the next 3 – 5 years.

A document was produced showing what we hoped to achieve Terrie Robinson now wants to reform the leaflet by putting it into a better and more user friendly format.

Richard Holroyd went through the current document and listed some of the items that we had already made progress on and other we were hoping to start. These were discussed by the meeting.

Fabric Report – A written Annual Fabric report from the Churchwardens was presented to the meeting. A copy of the report is attached to the main minute book.

Parish Life Reports – These has been produced in the Parish Bulletin which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Enid Barber added to the CTiM report that the Street Angels who are voluntary group are now on the street assisting young people who have consumed too much alcohol and are feeling unwell.

John Cotterill added to his report a request that if possible more recruits could be found for the choir especially young people as he would like to start a Junior Choir.

Incumbent's Report The Reverend Richard Holroyd gave the following report to the meeting:-

Parish life has been as busy as ever over the last year. It is always sad to mark the passing of those who have been part of our church life, but we have shared in sadness and thanksgiving for several lives over the past year. These have been the 2 Marjorie's: Marjorie Knox with whom we had some wonderful celebrations, notably her 100th birthday, and who has a remarkable long life, and Marjorie Goddard, who was a part of St Luke's Church virtually all of her life and gave so much to the Mother's Union and Feed the Children. We have marked the passing of Derek Wilkins and Brian Pearce. We feel with the others who have suffered bereavement recently, especially Jan and Dick Cheek with Jan's mother Kath, and our organist Rhidian, whose father Euwan has died.

We have also had the hatchings and matchings as well, to celebrate and enjoy.

Our worship has been enhanced by several special services, and the Fifth Sunday theme of 'Caring' has been very enriching. It has been a pleasure to welcome visiting speakers for these services. Our Sundays At Six Programme continues with All Saints and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green. Often the services attract only a small numbers, with the exception of the wonderful Taizé Services, facilitated by Kevin Baughan, and the full Choral evensongs.

In particular I recognize the dedication and effort made by our music team, especially John Cotterill, who brings great foresight, organization and skill to all he does. The devotional performance on Good Friday was a credit to him and his work over recent years: a performance of a very high standard, offered in a spirit of real devotion and dedication, and as a result a most moving experience. It was good to collaborate with St Michael's, Bray, choir for this.

There is more collaboration going on than you might realize between our churches. As we are blessed with such a good team here I am occasionally free to help at other churches, especially at All Saints, where Jeremy is on his own. When you don't see me here it does not necessarily mean that I am having a lie in.

The church has hosted a number of excellent concerts in our Sunday afternoon series, and special ones with, for example, the Montgomery Holloway Music Trust, and Ascot Brass.

We have had a quiet day at Stoke Poges, and particularly benefited from the Lent Course using Bishop Stephen's book, in addition to the other discussion groups and learning opportunities. The small group called 'The Apprentice' was successful in its own terms as a way of helping relative newcomers to find a sense of belonging and identity in the church, and is a pointer to a way ahead.

Particularly notable this year has been the splendid amount of money raised by the round of social events and the summer fair.

There has been good work with the school with our team still regularly leading collective worship on a Friday morning and a very good collaboration with the head teacher.

As a church we are certainly active. We are also maximizing the potential of our plant, with good income from concerts and a timetable of lettings for the Parish Centre. I am grateful to Sonya for taking on the bookings for the Parish Centre.

For the future we are beginning to explore the development of the interior of the church to make it more flexible and appropriate for the liturgy we offer week by week, as well as for the greater community use.

There are natural concerns about the numbers attending church, as we lose so many of our regulars. We need to work on how to hang on to the many people who come to church occasionally, or for a while, but who sometimes don't stick. Also as we have heard, our regular income is not healthy, although this is again suffering because of losing some of our faithful givers. It may need some thinking 'outside the box' to address these issues.

On a personal note, I am sustained by an annual retreat and by times spent at Burnham Abbey taking Mass and sometimes staying for a quiet day. Also I enjoy visiting a Spiritual Director every six weeks or so to talk through how things are going with me personally. I enjoy the assistance of Mary Quick on a regular basis, and Serena occasionally, on administrative tasks.

I am grateful for all the support I get from you, and for the many ways in which a large number of people contribute to our church life. It is only by sharing the load that we can sustain our life together and to all who do so much I say a big 'Thank You'.

In our ministerial team I feel privileged to share with Dick, Terrie, Noeline and Sonya, and am most grateful for all they do. Fortunately we are all different and through our differing styles and approach I think we reach most of the people most of the time in one way or another.

I hope that in this coming year at St Luke's we can continue to grow and deepen in our life of faith and in the ministry which we share together.

Any Other Business –Phyllis Sigsworth proposed that a Vote of Thanks be given to Richard Holroyd for all his work and dedication to the parish of St

Luke's Church, Maidenhead. This was seconded by Ralph Hinchliffe and carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting closed with the Grace at 6.25pm.

Parochial Church Council of St Luke's Parish Church, Maidenhead - Annual Report of 2010

Background

St Luke's PCC has the responsibility for co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It has maintenance responsibilities for the church and parish centre buildings, all these being situated in Norfolk Road, Maidenhead.

The address for correspondence is The Vicarage, 26 Norfolk Road, Maidenhead. Berks, SL6 7AX.

Membership of the PCC

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or 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: | Revd. Richard Holroyd | | |
| Associate Priests: | Revd. Richard Cheek | | |
| | Revd. Terrie Robinson | | |
| Readers: | Sonya Clarke | | |
| | Noeline Page | | |
| Churchwardens: | Barbara Essam | Vice Chairman | |
| | Shula Tajima | | |
| Representatives on the Deanery Synod: | Enid Barber |) | |
| | Eileen Goford |) | Until 2011 |
| | Serena Tajima |) | |
| Elected Members: | Roger Bevitt |) | |
| | Richard Burdett |) | Until 2011 |
| | Peter Goford |) | |
| | Carole Stevens |) | |

| | | |
|------------------|---|------------|
| Sue Harbour |) | |
| Ralph Hinchliffe |) | Until 2012 |
| Clare Price |) | |
| Sally Somerville |) | |
| Don Luff |) | Until 2013 |

The following persons completed their term on the PCC and stood down at the APCM in 2010: Ben Darracott, Sue Hinchliffe, Janet Trinkwon, Jean Tyrwhitt – Drake

PCC Organisation

The PCC operates through various committees. These report to full meetings of the PCC. These committees, together with their working sub-groups consist of the following:

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law and has limited powers to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings. It seeks to promote the effective working of the PCC and co-ordinate the activities of the other committees, whose chairpersons are all included in its membership.

Events Committee:

Co-ordinates a programme of social, fund-raising and cultural events.

Fabric Committee:

Plans and executes cleaning, maintenance and development of the Church and Parish Centre.

Finance Committee:

Oversees financial situation and plans stewardship renewal.

Outreach & Nurture Committee:

Facilitates nurture in all age groups in believing and belonging.
Co-ordinates and develops pastoral work and outreach in the church and parish.

Worship Committee:

Develops and plans worship opportunities.

Church Membership

The numbers on the church electoral roll in April 2010 had increased to 108 for the year. Average church attendance on Sundays in 2010 was 110, including special services, this is a rise of 1 over the previous year.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met on seven occasions with an average attendance of 70%. This is in addition to the other committees on which PCC members serve and attend various meetings throughout the year.

The PCC has considered and responded to a number of items for both Diocese/Deanery.

The position of Parish Administrator continued to be filled on a voluntary basis by Mary Quick and Serena Tajima for part of the year and the PCC are grateful to them for this. Sue Brett was employed in September to fill the poSt

The major items that the PCC dealt with this year included:

- An item that came up early in the year was the forming of a Steering Group to deal with the re-ordering of the church and this group has continued to meet and report throughout the year.
- When Mary Quick informed us of her intention to move away from the area the PCC had to decide how best to replace her and it was agreed that a Parish Administrator would be employed for 6 hours per week.
- Following the matter being raised at both the APCM and at a PCC meeting the Treasurer looked at the Benefactors Fund and it was agreed to move money from this into CBF Investment Fund Shares and to pay the dividends received into the General Fund to assist with the running of the church.
- Church security was discussed especially regarding people sleeping in the porch. It was agreed that following Police advice that unfortunately we would have to start locking the porch gates once more in the evening.
- The PCC reviewed both the Child Protection Policy and Health and Safety Policy for the church.
- The Quinquennial Inspection of the Church has been carried out by our Architects and although it stated that the church was in a good state of repair and no major work was required, a number of items do require work to be carried out. The PCC will be progressing this work through the Fabric Committee over the next few years as this work has to be completed before the next quinquennial inspection.
- The December meeting of the PCC was attended by The Venerable Norman Russell – Archdeacon of Berkshire and the Reverend Jeremy Hyde – Area Dean. The Archdeacon outlined to the meeting the process for employing a new Priest for St Luke’s Church and the work required of the PCC. At this

meeting Barbara Essam and Shula Tajima were elected as our Parish Representatives.

Since the meeting the Parish Profile has been completed and the advertisements placed and the recruitment process is continuing and it is hoped it will be completed by the end of February.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The full PCC accounts for the year ended 31st December 2010 are too large to fit in this Parish Bulletin, but they will be presented to the Annual Parish Meeting in April. Parishioners who would like to study them prior to the meeting may obtain a copy from Ralph Hinchliffe or me. However, a copy of the Statement of Financial Activities (not yet independently examined) is included herein.

General Fund

2010 finished with a General Fund deficit of £2,892, which although disappointing was substantially better than the £6,051 deficit anticipated in the 2010 budget and £1,610 better than the £4,502 deficit of 2009.

The reasons for the 2010 deficit included:-

- a) Fuel bills of £9089, up from the £7163 of 2009.
- b) Increased office costs as the result of employing a paid administrator
- c) Our Parish share increased by £1,000 to £52,000

On a positive note Planned Giving (including, as in previous years, the one-off donations received in November/December) totalled £49,475, up by 5% on the 2010 figure of £47,055. Fund Raising generated £4,800 although the Concert Committee was only able to transfer £100 to the General Fund, since the fund also paid for the professional soloists at the Good Friday St Mark's Passion service. Church and Parish Centre Lettings were also higher at £7337.

Interest rates remained at historically very low levels, which when coupled with the small amount of General Fund reserves that we can hold on deposit to meet the cash flow requirements, resulted in only £7 of interest allocated to the General Fund.

The deficit leaves General Fund Accumulated Reserves of £12,718, which is still tolerable.

Designated Funds

We received a generous legacy from the estate of Marjorie Goddard - £22,000 being received in October with the balance of £7589.76 (not recorded in the

2010 accounts) being received in January 2011. This money was placed in the Benefactors' Fund. The PCC decided to use some of the Benefactors' Fund to purchase a further £55,000 of CBF Investment Fund shares and to take the income from this holding (worth around £57,000 at year-end) as General Fund income, so the latter fund received £862 from the 4th quarter dividends.

We again did not purchase any further CBF Investment Fund shares using half the income of Fabric Reserve Fund and instead retained the money on deposit. We received a refund of £1260 from the Listed Places of Worship scheme refunding VAT that had been paid on the stonework repairs carried out in 2009.

We made the sixth transfer of £700 from the General Fund to the Fabric Fund. This is a continuation of the policy that we will over the next 15 years repay the £18,000 of capital we withdrew from the Fabric Reserve fund in 2004 to pay for the West Window repairs.

Restricted Funds

As in previous years we also raised and gave away a substantial amount (£4,560) in addition to normal outward charitable giving (£4,500) through a number of Special Collections.

Balance Sheet

The rise fall in the balance sheet value, from £262,095 to £301,067 is attributable to the receipt of the legacy from Marjorie Goddard and the 7% increase in value of the CBF Investment Fund shares over the year, partially offset by the General Fund deficit.

Conclusion & Treasurer's Comments

The financial performance in 2010 was again disappointing, even though core Planned Giving income rose by 5%. However the decision to use income from the Benefactors' Fund to help support the General Fund should improve matters in 2011, as long as we are also able to sustain Planned Giving and other income, and restrain some other costs, notably heating and lighting. We will also be hit by the removal of transitional relief for Gift Aid receipts that we receive after 6th April 2011, which will reduce the amount of tax we can claim back from 28p to 25p for every £1.00 received.

We remain able to continue operating without having to make forced economies because of our policy of holding reserves.

Parochial Church Council of St Luke's Parish Church, Maidenhead

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st December 2010**

| | Note | Unrestricted Funds General £ | Designated £ | Restricted Funds £ | Endowment Funds £ | 2010 £ | 2009 £ |
|---|------|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Incoming Resources | | | | | | | |
| Voluntary income | 2(a) | 69,647 | 27,087 | 6,044 | - | 102,778 | 92,958 |
| Activities for generating funds | 2(b) | 2,687 | 18,069 | 1,290 | - | 22,046 | 11,965 |
| Investment income | 2(c) | 7 | 7,458 | 867 | - | 8,332 | 8,040 |
| Incoming resources from charitable activities | 2(d) | 7,776 | 267 | (60) | - | 7,983 | 7,436 |
| Total Incoming Resources | | 80,117 | 52,881 | 8,141 | - | 141,139 | 120,399 |
| Resources Expended | | | | | | | |
| Costs of generating voluntary income | 3(a) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Fundraising trading costs | 3(b) | 115 | 13,319 | 55 | - | 13,489 | 3,367 |
| Investment management costs | 3(c) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Charitable activities | 3(d) | 80,799 | 5,120 | 6,635 | - | 92,554 | 97,634 |
| Governance costs | 3(e) | 6,888 | - | - | - | 6,888 | 6,240 |
| Total Resources Expended | | 87,802 | 18,439 | 6,690 | - | 112,931 | 107,241 |
| Net incoming (outgoing) resources before transfers | | (7,685) | 34,442 | 1,451 | - | 28,208 | 13,158 |
| Transfers between funds | | | | | | | |
| Events Committee to General Fund | | 4,800 | (4,800) | - | - | - | - |
| Concert Committee to General Fund | | 100 | (100) | - | - | - | - |
| Concert Benefactors' Fund to General Fund | | 862 | (862) | - | - | - | - |
| General Fund to Fabric Reserve Fund | | (700) | 700 | - | - | - | - |
| Allocated Giving to Outward Giving | | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| General Fund to Vicar's Discretionary Fund | | (326) | 326 | - | - | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|--------|-------|---------|---------|
| Hick Flower Fund to General Fund | 56 | - | (56) | - | - | - |
| Yorkshire parish holiday: | | | | | | |
| Profit from trip fund | | (565) | - | - | (565) | - |
| Profit to Events Ctte Fund | | 565 | - | - | 565 | - |
| Fabric Reserve Fund: | | | | | | |
| from Fabric Fund | | (3,091) | - | - | (3,091) | (3,087) |
| to Fabric Reserve Fund | | 3,091 | - | - | 3,091 | 3,087 |
| Net incoming/(outgoing) resources | (2,893) | 29,706 | 1,395 | - | 28,208 | 13,158 |
| Gains and Losses on Investments: | | | | | | |
| - unrealised | - | 9,576 | 980 | 208 | 10,764 | 12,998 |
| Net movement in funds | (2,893) | 39,282 | 2,375 | 208 | 38,972 | 26,156 |
| Balances brought forward at 1st January 2010 | 15,611 | 209,733 | 33,847 | 2,904 | 262,095 | 235,939 |
| Balances carried forward at 31st December 2010 | 12,718 | 249,015 | 36,222 | 3,112 | 301,067 | 262,095 |

During the year Adrian Quick moved away from the area and so I would like to extend my thanks to him for his work as Stewardship Recorder. I also continue to give thanks for Sonya Clarke for her work counting and banking the Planned Giving, Ben Darracott for his work as Assistant Treasurer, and Ann Cooke, for completing the Gift Aid tax reclaim. Without their sterling efforts and continued support, my job of Treasurer would be a great deal harder.

Richard Burdett

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Well what a year we have had! We are both glad that this time last year we did not know what was ahead. However with the wonderful support of so many people, each challenge that has come along we have been able to deal with.

We are grateful to our whole ministry team who have been inspirational in their energy since Richard left. We would though like to express our gratitude for all Richard did during his time with us, which meant that when he decided to seek new challenges he left us in a good state, with a wonderful network of people able to carry on his good work. His departure was sad but it is also exciting for us and him to be challenged by new possibilities. As ever we have been blessed by the talents displayed by Dick, Terrie, Sonya and Noeline, who continue to provide a wide range of worship and learning opportunities to develop and deepen our faith.

During the interregnum we have been fortunate to have the regular preaching and presiding of our Area Dean Jeremy Hyde, who has been a great source of support and advice throughout this time, and we were also pleased to welcome our Archdeacon Norman Russell one Sunday, as well as to a PCC meeting. Likewise he has been most helpful to us both, despite his very busy schedule whilst the diocese has been without a bishop. We are also grateful for the help our friend Maurice Skinner has given with services and it has been a pleasure to welcome him back to St Luke's.

We have as usual had a mix of special services, from Bereavement to Taizé; we have also continued to share our Sunday evening services with The Church of the Good Shepherd and All Saints. Sadly due to the inclement weather we had to cancel our Carol Service, which was such a shame, as we know it would have been a moment of calm and reflection at a busy time.

Fortunately Richard's final year fell when he had arranged another summer Arts project, 'Living Faith-Now in Colour,' this time based on the colours and themes of the Oxford Diocese's 'Living Faith for the Future'. The project involved many people of all ages from the parish and wider community and culminated in a wonderful "son et lumière" production and the floodlighting of

the church in different colours throughout. Barbara was pleased to be able to share details of the project with fellow wardens during a deanery wardens networking meeting about how different churches had responded to the theme of “Sustaining the Sacred Centre”. The other wardens were most impressed by the beautiful altar cloth created as part of the project and which we were able to use again during the Advent season.

Once the summer was over it was quickly time to say goodbye to Richard, which the whole congregation did in true St Luke’s style. His final service was very moving for all concerned, but it was a joy to see so many faces from the past, who had all come to say goodbye. Richard really loved the diverse gifts he was given and despite the sadness of his departure it was a jolly lunch. Thanks as always to our wonderful caterers. St Luke’s then decamped down to Bristol to see Richard safely installed in his new parish. It was a joy to see how genuinely welcome Richard was and how much his new congregations were looking forward to having him.

We are as always most grateful to our social and fundraising committees for arranging so many enjoyable and rewarding events and are very aware of the hard work that goes on behind the scenes both before and during these occasions. Thanks are also due to Ann Burdett who has organised some wonderful and varied social outings for all ages, including theatre trips, the lovely sunny day at Wintershall watching the inspiring open-air production of the Life of Christ and the visit to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. As always the Parish Outing arranged by Sonya was also enjoyed by a coach load of St Luke’s family and friends.

Last year we started thinking about re-ordering in a small way and this year we have begun to build on that. Following a special service where we were able to hear a variety of views we have continued to explore possibilities. Many thanks have to go to Kevin Baughan who has demonstrated wonderful energy for leading this project forward.

During the year we have said goodbye to some good friends who have moved away, including Michael Hedges and Adrian and Mary Quick, and we had a very sad and sudden goodbye towards the end of 2010, when following a fall John Sheppard died. John had been such an active part of St Luke’s and his death came as a huge shock. Sonya led a beautiful service celebrating his life, which we hope brought comfort to his family. We continue to hold Ruth, Andrew, David and Max in our prayers.

We are very grateful for bequests and donations left to St Luke’s this year, including from Marjorie Goddard and in memory of Frances Arnold and

Wendy Watson. Such gifts will help us to remember these faithful and well-loved members of the St Luke's family.

At the time of writing we are hopefully coming towards the end of our search for a new vicar. From writing the parish profile through to going through the required selection process we have felt supported and certainly aided. The parish profile truly was the sum of many parts, as so many contributed to the final document, and it was pleasing that not only were we complimented on it by our Archdeacon but it resulted in such a positive response to the advertisement for the vacancy. Many churches may grind to a bit of a halt in an interregnum but we are very proud of St Luke's where everyone has made sure that our spiritual and social life has not only carried on but has developed and grown, and we have been able to welcome new members of the congregation who have stayed with us despite the vacancy. Nevertheless we hope by the time of our APCM that we will know the identity of our new vicar and be preparing to welcome whoever has been called to lead and guide us over the coming years.

We are aware especially this year of the thanks due to so many who have helped us in so many ways. In particular many thanks to those members of the PCC who have come to the end of their term of office and to Peter Goford, who has decided to step down as assistant churchwarden. He has fulfilled this role for twelve years and we, along with the other churchwardens he has supported, are so grateful for his practical, calm and reliable assistance. Don and Peter both help us a great deal and make our role so much easier.

Barbara Essam and Shula Tajima

Warden's Report on the Fabric of the Church

We can report again this year that the fabric of the church is in good order. We have had some work done, though not as much as last year.

The major event with regard to the fabric was the quinquennial inspection by our architect. This was done on 23rd September 2010 and Don and Roger were in attendance. The result was that the architect was pleased with the state of the church and only made a couple of recommendations for action to be taken. We will ensure that we address the recommendations. Anyone who would like to read the report please speak to Don Luff.

A missing tile on the north roof was discovered during our autumn Church care time and this was replaced on the day. Sadly on our Church care time in January, it was discovered that thieves had stripped the lead flashing from the parish centre roof. This had allowed rain penetration and the ceiling will have

to be redecorated. Thanks to Richard Burdett we have a GRP replacement flashing, which will have no attraction for metal thieves.

Last month longstanding repairs to the organ were done. The leathers were replaced on the external ribbed motors and the associated purse rail on the great division. This meant that the organ was out of commission for one Sunday. However we had our lovely piano to fall back on.

Sue and Ralph Hinchliffe have been dealing with the replacement of the server's albs and following a meeting with the majority of the servers a decision was reached on colour and style and these will soon be purchased.

The problem of the drainage in the Churchyard continues and we await the interpretation of a percolation test by our architect so that correct remedial action can be taken.

This year has seen further development around the re-ordering and this will naturally affect the fabric, already we are seeing areas of improvement as a light is being shone on them. Some interesting ideas are coming from the congregation and we would like to thank Kevin along with the other members of the re-ordering group for moving this along.

We are both aware from visiting other churches how lucky we are at St Luke's in the fabric of the church. This is certainly to do with the sterling work of the fabric committee and the small group of volunteers who help at Church care time and also those who help with regular cleaning of the church. We have a building, which is regularly admired; at our recent visiting day for the candidates hoping to be our new vicar, all of them commented on how well cared for the building was. We would like to thank all those people who give of their time to ensure we have a church that has a pleasant environment in which to praise God.

Barbara Essam and Shula Tajima

Fabric Committee

The committee has continued to monitor the condition of the Church building and churchyard. Minor maintenance and small improvements have been carried out during the Church Care times held on Saturday mornings organised by Roger Bevitt. There are still outstanding tasks to be completed as we have too few volunteers turning out to help. Could you offer some time once or twice in the coming year?

The major event for the committee was the quinquennial inspection by our architect. This was done on 23rd September last with Don and Roger in attendance. The result was that the architect was pleased with the state of the

church and only a couple of recommendations for action were made. Please ask Don Luff if you would like to read the report.

During the autumn Church care time we discovered a missing tile on the North roof over the Choir practice area and this was replaced on the day. Sadly on the last Church care time in January we found thieves had stripped the lead flashing from the Parish Centre roof. This had allowed rain penetration and the ceiling will have to be repaired/repainted. Thanks to Richard Burdett we have a GRP replacement flashing which will have no attraction for metal thieves.

At several meetings the state of the servers' albs has been discussed and agreement by the PCC means that Sue and Ralph Hinchliffe are looking for new albs.

The problem of the poor drainage in the Churchyard continues and we await the interpretation of a percolation test by our architect so that correct remedial action can be taken.

I would like to thank all who have given their time to the upkeep of our church over the past year.

Don Luff

PARISH LIFE REPORTS

Worship Committee

This committee has met twice during the year the last time being in October prior to Richard's departure. It continues to monitor and plan the services for our church.

The 'Sunday's at Six' services organized The Church of the Good Shepherd, All Saints and ourselves continue and are now being arranged on a termly basis. Choral Evensong and Taizé Services continue to be popular.

The revision of the seasonal service sheets has now been completed.

Richard was thanked by the committee for his spiritual leadership and all that he had given to the worship of St Luke's Church.

Ralph Hinchliffe

Acolytes and Chalice Administrators

This small but very important group of people continues to perform their duties in an efficient manner for which I am very grateful.

We welcomed this year to our ranks Eileen Goford and hope that she will continue to be with us for some time to come.

I would like to thank the other Crucifers who have managed to cope admirably during that last few months no matter what has been thrown at them on a Sunday morning.

If anyone would like to join this group and assist at our services please speak to either Ben Darracott or me.

Ralph Hinchliffe

Sidespeople

First impressions are so important when people enter church and the kind of welcome visitors, as well as new or regular members of the congregation receive, is an essential part of their positive experience of worship at St Luke's. We are therefore most grateful to our regular and reliable team of sidespeople, who also help to make sure the services run smoothly. They make the duty warden's task so much easier and are most helpful in pointing out any problems or people who may need support. We are similarly grateful for the occasions when cover is needed at short notice or help required for extra services such as at Christmas and Easter time.

We are always happy to welcome new members to the team as the more sidespeople we have the less onerous all round. We would like to encourage some younger members of the congregation to join the sidespeople rota especially for the Magic Carpet services. Please have a word with either of us if you are interested even if you feel unable to commit very regularly.

Barbara Essam and Shula Tajima

Monthly Prayer Time

On the first Wednesday of each month there is an occasion to share in quiet time bringing the thoughts of our hearts before God in prayer. Our Prayer Time is from 3.00pm and lasts for about half an hour. If you would like to come along but find that the day and time are restrictive, then please contact me to see if an alternative day and time can be arranged. Our time before God in prayer is important, and no more so than now as the world seems to be in such turmoil.

All are very welcome to come along and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of being in the presence of our Lord. If you would like prayers to be included, then please feel free to contact me on 632626. Alternatively, prayer requests can be placed on the Prayer Board in church or handed in at the Vicarage for inclusion on the weekly news sheet.

With ever more pressures to contend with in life, this time of prayer and reflection gives the opportunity to slow down and take time to 'be', and a time to 'be' knowing that God our Father is ever present with us.

Sonya R Clarke Leader

Prayer Letters

You may wonder if prayer letters are letters containing prayers. Not so. Week by week we pray for the people who live and/or work in one of the streets of our parish. About a week beforehand a short letter is delivered to each home in a specified road informing the residents that we shall be praying for them and also asking if they have requests for prayers. A tear off slip is included for a reply as well as details of church services. Any replies go straight to the Vicarage. The slips will go on the Prayer board in church where they will be included in the midweek services on the last Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning of the month.

All this is made possible by the wonderful volunteers who go 'letter box popping' in all weathers. Many thanks go to them for this important outreach in the community.

Enid Barber

Daylight group: Bible Reading Fellowship

This group has continued to meet regularly with a few concessions to the hostile weather conditions earlier on this year.

We enjoy each other's company, catching up with all that we are doing, and discussing what is happening over an introductory cup of tea or coffee and biscuit. This informal opening to our meeting ensures that we are concerned with day to day life and so keeps our subsequent biblical studies relevant to our lives, as well as putting us at our ease with each other.

Our meetings open with prayer, during which each member lights a small candle, any absent members, and people who are in especial need of prayer are also remembered in this way. These candles remain alight throughout the meeting until they are extinguished after the closing prayers.

The discussions prompted by the BRF notes range widely in their content and this group discussion often throws up points that are missed when the notes are read on ones own.

We continue to support "Sight Savers", and hear from them regularly. This charity exists to relieve and prevent blindness, and they express their thanks to

the people of St Luke's for the donations. Adopting this charity is a way of giving thanks for our own sight and the insights we have from the Bible.

We are always ready to welcome anyone who would like to join us for these meetings. Don Luff obtains the "Bible Reading Fellowship Notes" for us at a group discount, and is able to supply them to anyone who wants them, either to use alone, or to join with us (contact Jan or Dick Cheek 01628-628484).

Emmaus Groups

Only one Emmaus group met over the past year. We met at Ann and Richard Burdett's, roughly every two months, on a Monday evening. We talked about Spirituality and Relationships, two topics from the book *The Highway Code to Happiness*. We are now following a course of study, *Monday Matters*, which although now out of print, is still relevant in its aim to bring one's belief into how one lives one's life. We are keeping a diary of what we do and what we think about what we do. *Monday Matters* was a Lent Group course twenty years ago.

We were pleased to welcome James and Louisa to our group and we now number nine: Ann and Richard, James and Laura, Shula and Serena, Bridget, Anne and Eileen. We very much value the time we spend together considering scripture and sharing where we are on our spiritual journey. We thank Ann and Richard for the warmth of their hospitality.

We keep contact details of the Emmaus 05 group on the weekly news-sheet because we would like to start meeting again when we have a few more members. In the meantime we keep one another in our prayers.

Eileen Goford

Time Out Group

Time out meets approximately every other month and is a relaxed opportunity to explore different topics in a Christian centred way. We often waver away from the topic but the central topic remains how the different issues we discuss impact on our faith journey. This year we have discussed a very varied range of topics. The real joy is in the varied opinions around the room that demonstrates what a diverse group we are. We had always met in the vicarage and had been kept on some kind of track with the gentle guidance of Richard, however with his departure we all agreed we did not want the group to stop. Since then we have met at Claire Price's and we are all grateful to her for her hospitality. We continue to follow a form of evening prayer from Stephen Cotter to round off

the evening, allowing all our invigorating discussions to lead us to a reflective place.

Shula Tajima

Churches Together in Maidenhead - www.ct-maidenhead.org.uk
Different Christian denominations meet to discuss common interests and to arrange joint activities. Meetings are every two months and move from church to church. The current president is Nancy Rowe of St Edmund Campion.

The Good Friday Walk of Witness had good weather and a good attendance.

All churches helped distribute the Christmas card to all houses in Maidenhead. Many thanks to volunteers who helped in this valuable outreach.

Christmas Day lunch was provided for 95 people at URC, a tremendous effort which was very successful. "A humbling event". For some this was their Christmas. Volunteers are again sought for this year.

The Week of Christian Unity was 18-25th January, and the theme was "All Things in Common", prepared from an ecumenical group in Jerusalem. URC kindly hosted the weekday meetings, attended by an average of 20. About 80 people were at St Edmund Campion for the Sunday service.

Street Angels is a national movement to find and train volunteers to help people in distress on the streets on Friday and Saturday nights. Churches Together has coordinated this for Maidenhead, and the trained team went on duty on 11th February. Our prayers and funds are requested.

Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum (WAMCF) helps arrange events to bring different faiths together. There were football and cricket matches, and women put together a patchwork book: each page was contributed by someone inspired by a particular woman. October 31 was Diversity Day at the Town Hall with exhibits, food and entertainment. There was also a Diversity Dinner and an appeal for funds to help a particular village in Pakistan through existing contacts.

During Christian Awareness week (8-12 November) youth leaders went into secondary schools raising Christian awareness, with musical accompaniment from a group LZ7. On Friday there was a very successful concert at the Magnet.

Maidenhead Synagogue already runs a homeless lunch on Tuesdays. WAMCF has begun to provide an evening meal on Thursdays, attended by about 15 homeless, elderly and disadvantaged, funded by donations.

The Big Society was presented at the Town Hall on 4th December, giving charities a chance to see where they might fit in with the government initiative.

Olympics 2011: “More than Gold” coordinates Christian activities to meet visitors. A champion from each church is sought to meet with others to arrange events and contacts to coincide with Olympic events. Refreshments or entertainment alongside access ways, accommodation or making contacts are suggested.

Lent courses: churches are invited to convey their courses to Churches Together to allow other denominations to join.

Churches Together seeks a President elect to take over in October.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met four times over the past year in four different churches. They have continued the tradition of asking three parishes at each session to talk about what they are doing to progress the aims of the Deanery which include spreading the Good Word.

One presentation which made a lasting impression on me was Louise Brown’s of Dedworth who has decided that if sport on Sunday keeps people away from church then church should go to sport. Big screens have been set up so people can watch sport being played. When we met at her church, we saw young dancers perform. She gave us Pimms and nibbles. Her church is providing counselling services to the young. It was at this Deanery Synod meeting that we learned of the tragic death of Anthony Welling who was much loved and is missed by all who relied on him.

Deanery Synod scored something of a triumph when it hosted an open meeting on a Saturday afternoon at St Peter’s where Theresa May spoke about the Big Society and what it meant and how the churches could fit in. It was remarkable that when she started to speak her mobile phone went off and she apologized, saying that she had to take the call. She left the front and came back saying that it had been the switchboard at Number 10. Later on her phone rang again. She merely turned it off saying that it was her husband!! She thanked the churches for their contribution to society and looked forward to even closer working together. After her presentation, non-members left and we split into groups to talk about what we felt the issues were and what we could do. The consensus was that churches had always done what the Big Society was all about and that what was needed was a designated person in Council and clear pathways identified for where people could go to access help. Fear was expressed that volunteers might not have the expertise of trained personnel and vulnerable groups might suffer.

It was at Deanery Synod meeting at Stubbings that we were given the opportunity to say goodbye to our own Richard. It was plain to see that he was much loved and will be much missed by the many and various committees he served on. His move was a surprise to all.

This year Deanery Synod reps were invited to vote for members to Diocesan Synod. I was struck by the broad range of talents and attitudes of the candidates. It was difficult to choose but vote I did.

This was my last year as your representative on Deanery Synod. I thank you for electing me and have enjoyed my three years finding out how the wheels of church governance turn.

Eileen Goford

Maidenhead Care

Maidenhead Care continues to serve the people of Maidenhead by providing transport to the many hospitals in the area, also London and Oxford; to the local G.P surgeries, dental and chiropodist practices, hairdressers, shops and the town center and for some clients shopping with them. Many of our volunteers visit clients on a regular basis and friendships are forged.

Maidenhead care started as a good neighbour scheme some 27 years ago under the auspices of CTIM and this is the way we try to work now.

We had an average 387 requests per month in the past year, with 110 drivers on the books, most of whom do one job per week, but there is also a small nucleus which is willing to do more. All our volunteers will go the extra mile for our clients, but we always need additional volunteers to add to our happy band.

We are very grateful to Nortel, who for many years have provided our free telephone line, but now they are unable to do this we have a mobile phone which travels around with the computer.

Our Duty Officers use the mobile phone to receive requests from clients and find suitable volunteers to fulfil them, recording each job on the laptop. If anyone feels they can help in this way, maybe once a month, we would like to hear from you.

Jan Cheek and Ann Hockham

Maidenhead Child Contact Centre

The Maidenhead Child Contact Centre is located at the United Reform Church, West Street and is open between 2pm and 4pm on the second and fourth

Saturdays every month. It is staffed by trained volunteers lead by a co-coordinator (Kath England). A number of members of St Luke's Church give up their Saturday afternoons to allow this valuable support to be given to families separated and in dispute over access of non-resident parents to their children.

The management committee is very appreciative of the continued support given both financially and practically from St Luke's.

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer or would like to learn more of what we do please contact Phyllis on 778656.

Phyllis Sigsworth

Children's Society

In the spotlight this last year for the Children's Society, has been their ongoing work with young refugees and asylum seekers. They believe that no child should spend their childhood hungry, homeless or living in fear. Regardless of their legal status, we have a duty to protect and support refugees and asylum seeking children as much as any other children in the United Kingdom. 80% of 1,000 children detained for the purposes of immigration are under 11 years of age.

The Children's Society and Bail for Immigration Detainees (B.I.D) have joined together, and, through 'Outcry' funded by 'The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund'; are campaigning against this detention.

It is damaging, expensive and unnecessary. The campaigners have pressed for a change in government policy. So it is good to hear that the Coalition Government has vowed to 'end the detention of children for immigration purposes'. They have not yet put this into practice but are having a review into how and when it will end.

With your help in donating to the Children's Society, they are able to fund drop – in sessions for destitute children, young people and their families.

The magnificent total of £1,500 was raised by you throughout the year, £680 from the boxes which so many of you have at home, to put your loose change in. Two Christingle Services and Two Carol Singing evening raised over £820.

Thank you for all for your generosity in supporting the Children's Society, and if there is anyone who does not have a collecting box, and would like one, please speak to one of us.

Chris and Dave Sawyers

Missions and Charities

At the end of 2010 a total of £4500.00 was distributed evenly between the organisations listed below. This sum was raised by a traditional allocation of 5% from our given income, boosted by twelve monthly collections at the 10.00 am Sunday service. Regrettably, this figure was lower than that for 2009 which in turn, had decreased from 2008, however, given the ongoing economic situation; it is probably to be expected. On a happier note, a further amount of £4560.00 was given to various other charities and undertakings during the year, as can be seen from the Treasurer's report. Overall therefore I do not feel that we should beat ourselves up about our efforts. The sums raised are always given ungrudgingly and most importantly I know, underpinned with love and prayer.

Windsor & Maidenhead
Crossroads

East Berkshire Women's Aid

Kinara Welfare Fund

Family Friends in Windsor &
Maidenhead

No. 22 Cookham Road

Windsor Youth Talk

Maidenhead Child Contact Centre

St George's Church, Baghdad

St Luke's Hospital, Nablus

Berkshire Clergy Charity

Yeldall Manor

The Princess Royal Trust Carers
Service

Médecins Sans Frontières

Mercy Ships

Bible Society

Help for Heroes

The Camphill Family

Send a Cow

The Diocesan HIV/AIDS Peer
Education Centre, Tuang

CAFOD

A heartfelt thank you to all who have contributed in any way, by financial contribution, or by giving of your valuable time. Thank you for your continued support, consideration and care. Please continue to remember those in need both practically and in your prayers.

Roger Clarke (Outward Giving Co-ordinator)

Music At St Luke's

The main musical event of the past year was undoubtedly the Devotional Concert on Good Friday, 2 April, which featured Charles Wood's St Mark's Passion. This was sung by the combined Choirs of St Luke's Church and St Michael's Church, Bray with soloists from the Royal Academy of Music and

Rhidian Jones at the organ. The Choirs responded well to the challenge and produced a moving and effective account of this lovely work and it was good to have a large congregation on this occasion.

I hope there may be other opportunities to combine our Choir with other church choirs in the area for special events.

Our Choir has continued to hold its own during the year, though they do miss Richard's help in the tenor section for anthems and badly need to recruit more singers generally. We have been most grateful to some extra singers who come and help for special services such as Choral Evensongs, weddings, funerals and occasionally for anthems, but we do need urgently to find more regular, committed recruits to join the Choir. As I said in my report last year, the absence of even one member can alter or upset the balance and even cause the cancellation of an intended anthem. We have even recently considered whether a change from Friday evenings to another night in the week for choir practice might attract more recruits, but have found that this is not an option because it would result in the loss of one or more of our present singers who could not manage another evening.

So I renew my plea for anyone who feels he or she might be able to assist here or might know somebody else who would consider joining the Choir. It is vitally important that we maintain the strong musical tradition of our Church.

On the same theme, the designated position of Young Choristers' Trainer still remains vacant because we have had no more children coming forward. It is essential that we should form a Junior Choir as soon as possible so that its members may be trained with a view to moving into the main Choir as they mature. Please would parents of children aged 8 and upwards speak to me about this possibility. As I have said before, the educational benefit for children in singing in a choir goes beyond the music itself and most children derive much enjoyment from singing. As soon as we have enough interest and enthusiasm for this project, we can then set about appointing a Young Choristers' Trainer.

The arrangement with Eton College to provide us with an Organ Scholar each year is still working splendidly. At the end of June we said goodbye to Jem Lowther who had been with us for the previous year and we wish him well when he takes up his Organ Scholarship at Oxford University in the autumn. In the meantime, he has been enjoying life as an Organ Scholar in America. In September we welcomed Tom Etheridge as our new Organ Scholar and he has proved that he has an exceptional talent. We have all been impressed by the way he has progressed in playing for services and choir practices and it has

been a privilege and a delight to have him with us. We are very grateful to Eton College for their support of this arrangement and I do hope it continues to flourish when their new Director of Music succeeds Ralph Allwood in September.

Unfortunately, due to the heavy snow and ice in December, our annual Carol Service had to be cancelled as did some other local events at that time. This was a brave but entirely correct decision in all the circumstances by the Churchwardens. However, the Choir had rehearsed hard for the occasion and I hope to produce the same music in next December's Carol Service. Some members of the Choir were able to sing carols as usual at the Garden Centre at Dorney and at Gardner House where on both occasions donations were made towards the Choir funds. These visits are very much appreciated by those to whom we sing and are always very satisfying.

Occasional Sunday afternoon recitals continued during the year and, in the fine acoustics of our Church, were much enjoyed by audience and performers alike. As always, thanks are due to the ladies of the Church who provide the very welcome cream teas after each recital. Other local groups have continued to hire the Church for their concerts and rehearsals and seem to appreciate the facilities we can offer.

Everyone has found since Richard left that there is more for everyone to do, and this applies as much to the music department as to others. Richard and I breathed the same musical air, which is why our partnership was so successful. Of course I miss him and his support and encouragement, but I remain positive in outlook and eagerly await a new Vicar with whom I can work for the continuance and growth of the music in our lovely Church. As always I am entirely grateful for the strong support shown to me by our organist, Rhidian, and the Organ Scholars and also for the occasional help at the organ by Helen Petter when neither of them is available.

I am grateful for the hard work put in by the Choir and for the encouragement they give to me and to each other. On a fine Sunday afternoon in August, Mary and Graham Pennington generously hosted a most enjoyable party for the Choir in their lovely garden, and we all greatly appreciated this congenial get-together and a delicious tea.

Finally, my thanks go to the Churchwardens for their support and suggestions and to members of the congregation who offer kind remarks of appreciation from time to time. Let us move forward under the new regime and continue the wonderful tradition which we have.

John Cotterill

Outreach and Nurture

This has been another busy year which began in May with the Parish week-end which this year was based in Leeds, and incorporated visits to Chatsworth House, Castle Howard, and York. Those who weren't there missed a treat. Our thanks go to Ann Burdett for organising this.

The Baptism Party in June is an event looked forward to by both parents and children. This year it was such a success that some people didn't want to go home and stayed very late.

July saw a coach-load of people depart for a day in Bath. The weather was fine if rather windy and the only casualty was a pop-up gazebo which suffered a bent leg when the wind blew it over during our picnic tea. Many thanks to Sonya who worked hard to make this a very successful day.

Young and old joined together in August for the Summer Arts Project and produced a new altar cloth and a display based around the colours and themes of the Oxford Diocese Living Faith for the Future initiative.

Throughout the summer the church was open for two hours on Friday afternoons for private prayer or quiet contemplation. Two volunteers working on a rota basis were present to welcome visitors. Although numbers were small it was felt to be worthwhile. However it has been decided to move the open hours to Saturday morning to see if this attracts more visitors. A new rota is being prepared.

The service for those who have been bereaved was held in October and was much appreciated by those who attended. Many thanks to those ladies who provided the tea afterwards.

In November the Confirmation Service which was due to be held in St Luke's was moved to Easthampstead since they had the larger number of candidates. However a goodly number from our congregation shared cars and travelled to support our candidate, Zoë Price, on this important occasion.

There was also a successful visit to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Our party was very fortunate to have their tour conducted by a member of the family who runs the foundry, and thus benefited from hearing many entertaining anecdotes. Our thanks again go to Ann Burdett for organising this.

The carol singing evenings in December did particularly well raising over £150 which went to Children in Need.

February 13th saw a special service to celebrate all aspects of the love which binds us together as a church family. As part of this, couples married at St

Luke's during the last six years were invited to return, and a buffet lunch followed the service. This was much enjoyed by those who were able to attend and one couple took the opportunity to discuss the baptism of their twin girls. We look forward to that celebration later in the year. Our thanks go to the team who provided the lunch.

As I write this, arrangements for the Lent lunches and the Lent study course are still being discussed but it is envisaged that the lunches will be on alternate Sundays beginning on March 13th. Last year the lunches raised £194 for St Luke's Hospital in Nablus.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their hard work throughout the year, and all those who have supported our efforts in any way.

Noeline Page

Pastoral Care Team

As Richard Holroyd, who was convener of this Team, has now moved to Bristol, I have on this occasion agreed to give a brief summary on behalf of the Pastoral Care Team.

The team has met twice during the last year with a view of how to support some members of our congregation and community who are in need of help.

One member of the team has agreed to update the Pastoral Roll, and then to continue to keep it up to date, thus ensuring our records are as accurate as is possible.

The team also arrange, and take the Sunday Half Hour Services at Neve, Southgate and Jakes House's, and make the necessary arrangements for the monthly Thursday Teas and Monthly Lunch outings.

Thanks are due to those who faithfully and quietly undertake all of this and of which is so much appreciated by the recipients.

Sonya R Clarke *Team Member*

St Luke's Thursday Group

It is still reassuring to be able to report year on year that this group continues to flourish. The attendance of our monthly meetings this year has averaged about 18, from a membership of 39. Membership is slightly up on last year but average attendance slightly down but that doesn't mean to say that the meetings have not been of the same high quality and content.

As in past years our programme has been drawn from many different walks of life, with some coming from members of our church, and/or family members of church, but we have also included outside organisations such as Maidenhead Heritage Group.

We continue to raise money for charity by Carol Singing and holding two jumble sales each year and a raffle at each meeting. Our charities are chosen at the AGM. For the rest of this year we can still look forward to the following:

- April 14th ‘Aspects of a Magistrate with Brian Darracott
- April 15th Jumble Sale
- May 19th ‘Mountains, Moorlands & Lakes’ with Roger Clarke
- June tbc “Deanery Festival” at St Peter’s
- July tbc Annual Summer Party
- July 21st Annual General Meeting

I hope that as many as possible will support the above meetings which in turn helps to support our charity. Should you wish to have further information about St Luke’s Thursday Group, then please do contact me on 632626

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all of our members for so loyally supporting the group, but especially the Committee who work quietly in the background. May we look forward to yet another successful year.

Sonya R Clarke Leader/Secretary

Thursday Teas

On the second Thursday of each month the Parish centre is open 2.00 – 4.00pm for tea, homemade scones, cakes and a friendly chat. Sometimes we are entertained by the children of St Luke’s School, and at least once a year visit a Garden Centre of something similar. We welcome both church and non - church people, residents from nearby sheltered homes and others who live alone and look forward to some company – in fact anyone who feels like popping in. For those who need it transport is provided in private cars by members of the congregation.

The team who organize the teas are a loyal and cheerful bunch and would like to hear from others who would like to join them on a regular or occasional basis. There is always the possibility that one or more of the team may not be available. So if you, or anyone you know would enjoy baking a cake, could

offer a lift or give a couple of hours one Thursday afternoon, do please contact Phyllis or Enid.

Enid Barber

Baptism Anniversary Cards

We do our best to keep in touch with the families who have had their children baptized at St Luke's. For four years we deliver an anniversary card as well as details of any special services or activities throughout the year. The cards and other information will be taken by the person allocated as a contactor for that particular family. Hopefully a personal relationship will develop; at least it is good to be able to recognize each other both in and outside church. Thank you to all the people who make this commitment; it is not too onerous and can be pleasant.

Personally I think keeping in touch is important AND enjoyable, even though it may be only a few times a year.

We usually have a wonderful anniversary party in the Vicarage garden each summer.

If you would like to become involved as a contactor please have a word with Clare Price or Barbara Essam who will be delighted to hear from you.

End Barber

Sunday Club

There are nine members of the Sunday Club team. We meet once a term to decide our program and rota. We still follow the Lights programme. This last time Terrie attended our meeting and we have dedicated ourselves to making the Magic Carpet service more child-orientated with the expectation that more young families will attend. We also hope to resurrect our banner albeit by designing and making a new one. Before Richard left he ensured that all members of the team were duly CRB checked.

There are 22 children on the register. Two members of the Sunday Club recently graduated to Sparklers: Daniel Harris and Mathew Summers. We will miss their mature contributions to our Sunday meetings but are sure that the Sparklers will appreciate their thoughts and regular attendance. We wish them well as they move on to the next stage in their journey.

Apart from the usual activities you have heard about over the years: fireworks, baptism party, post Christmas party, pantomimes and teas afterwards, walks, visits to Odds Farm and National Trust properties, swimming in the Lions Club Swimathon, making posies for Mothering Sunday and Christingles for

Christmas Eve services, in addition this year the Sunday Club participated in the debate about the re-ordering of the church. They took the task seriously and came up with an idea that the re-ordering group has taken on board. The Sunday Club would like to enter the church at the end of their sessions through a special door. There is now a proposal that they will meet in the Parish Centre instead of the Hall. They will design the door through which they will enter the church. The re-ordering group is considering it. This is our current project.

I am grateful to the members of the Sunday Club team who continue to dedicate their time and experience to give the Sunday Club such a rich experience. I continue to be amazed by the energy and wisdom of the young people in our care.

St Luke's School

The St Luke's Team of Gill Curry, Sue Harbour and Sally Somerville continue to take Collective Worship on a weekly basis.

The pupils sang carols for the Thursday tea-timers before Christmas and also performed at our Summer Fair. They use the Church as a resource for parts of the curriculum, and attend for services on a termly basis. The carol service was particularly well attended and it was good to see so many parents supporting their children.

I am still the Clerk to the Governors and we are now in the process of appointing a new head teacher following the resignation of Mrs. Pat Burke. It is hoped that the new post-holder will be able to start by September at the latest.

Jean T-D.

Sparklers

During 2010 the Sparklers enjoyed studying Bible-based art in a fascinating series of discussions. We looked at different artistic perceptions of Christ, and thought about what our own vision of Jesus would be.

As Christmas neared, we had a highly successful trip to London. There, Johanna showed us around the National Gallery, giving us the opportunity to see the artworks we'd looked at on A3 print-outs at the size, scale, and definition at which they were intended to be viewed. My personal favourite was Gerrit van Honthorst's 'Christ Before The High Priest', due to the attention to detail in the effect of the candlelight on the subjects' faces.

We were so inspired by our visit that we based our Christmas presentation on 'Christianity Through Art'. We used unsuspecting congregation members to imitate situations from the Bible, and I (dressed as a Renaissance master)

appeared to paint the scene. It was down to the reliably sporting attitude of St Luke's that the play went so well!

For 2011, we've left the 'Jesus in Art' theme behind, but we're planning another London trip and will continue to report back on our weekly activities during the Sunday 10.00am service.

Andrew Burdett

Social and Fund Raising Committee

Our efforts have been very well supported by church members and as a result we have achieved more than the target set for us at the beginning of the year. Our most successful ventures are those at which a meal is offered, so that at times we do feel like 'The Catering Committee'.

The January social was a lively and indeed, loud, evening of Brazilian Music and dancing. We had the Quiz Night and the Plant Sale in May. The latter was not a great success as there was a dearth of plants and the appalling weather resulted in a poor turnout and very miserable and wet committee members.

The Committee helped with The Gentle Jazz afternoon under the direction of the wonderful Phyllis. This event was responsible for a very healthy addition to funds.

The Summer Fair on a glorious July day, was a happy and successful occasion.

At the end of August some committee members and other willing helpers attended the Littlewick Show and spent the day selling raffle tickets. The proceeds are generously donated to St. Luke's by The Littlewick Green Society. The Harvest Lunch, thanks to Waitrose chickens, was not a difficult meal to prepare. There was, of course, one extra event in which we were much involved, this was the farewell to Richard. Once again the generosity of the members of the church created a wonderful spread.

Our success at the Charities Fair relies on the giving of produce by many members of the church – we are famed for marmalade, for the red pepper jelly and latterly our cakes have sold well.

Our overall total in excess of £4000 says much for the solid support of all church members and the unfailing hard work of the Committee, who lug tables, chop onions and grate lemon rind with a will!

Sally Somerville