

St. Luke's Church - Maidenhead

Parish Bulletin 2010



*Taizé Cross used as a focus for our
International Taizé services. Photo: Andrew Burdett*

Thanks are due to all who contribute to the ongoing life of St Luke's Church, Maidenhead, as we continue to seek to be 'In Faith, Out There' in our parish and community. The multitude of reports of our parish life are a testimony to the dedication and liveliness of a good number of people, with a variety of interests and concerns, but most of all, a desire to work out their faith in action. This bulletin provides a lasting record of their work, and a snapshot of church life over this last year.

Richard Holroyd

Vicar



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

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 11th APRIL 2010
At 5.00pm in the Hall**

- 1 Welcome and Prayers
- 2 Apologies for Absence
- 3 Minutes of meeting held on 19.04.09 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
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- 10 Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 11 In Faith Out There
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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners Sunday 19th April 2009

Election of Churchwardens:-

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

Nicola Buckland was thanked for her service as both a Churchwarden and Assistant Churchwarden during the past 7 years. A presentation was made to her and she thanked everyone for their help and support during her time as a Warden.

Summary of the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead held on Sunday 19th April 2009 in St. Luke's Community Hall.

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

Attendance – The Reverend Richard Holroyd was in the Chair and welcomed the 40 people present. He opened the meeting with a prayer. There were 7 apologies for absence received.

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2008 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 beginning of the year there had been 107 people on roll, however during the year 2 had died, 2 moved away and 3 new people had joined leaving the current number on roll as 106. Jill was thanked for her work and re-elected as Electoral Roll Officer.

PCC Secretary's Report – The report regarding the activities of the PCC during the past year had been published in the Parish Bulletin and the Secretary Ralph Hinchliffe had nothing to add to this report. A full copy of the report is attached to the main minute file.

PCC Treasurer's Report – The PCC Treasurer Richard Burdett presented the following report to the meeting.

General Fund - Had a deficit of £3,739 versus a budgeted deficit of 3,547. Planned Giving fell by 1% on 2007 - £3,600 of this was in the form of one of donations given in December.

£6,795 spent on Gas and Electricity an increase of £700 on prior years.

£6,455 in Church and Parish Centre lettings a rise of £400 in 2007.

The other important points were – We paid £50,000 Parish Share compared to £48,000 in 2007.

Office Costs were up by £1,100 to £5,304 – mainly as a result of a full year's use of the new printer/copier.

Designated Funds – The Events Committee raised £3,700

We transferred £700 from the General Fund to the Fabric Fund as the 4th of 20 payments to rebuild capital reserves.

Legacies totalling £5,400 received and paid into the Benefactors Fund.

We spent £15,846 on the new sound system and CCTV system for the Organ Console.

We did not buy any CBF Investment Fund Shares but kept the money on deposit instead.

Restricted Funds – Special Collections giving was £4,030, so with £5,675 of General Fund Outward Giving we gave away £9,705 (2007 £8,927). In addition £800 (not shown in PCC accounts) was raised by the Thursday Group and split equally between the Parkinson's Disease Society and the Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

CBF Investment Fund share prices fell by 26%

Summary – The financial performance in 2008 was poor, with our core Planned Giving income actually falling for the first time in several years. It therefore failed to sustain increased spending on Parish Share, fuel and other items. We were able to continue operating without having to make forced economies simple because of our good fortune in having significant General Fund Reserves. However this situation cannot continue indefinitely and unless core income can be increased 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 were still able to give away over £9,700 to Charities and those less fortunate than us.

The Treasurer then presented his budget for 2009 to the meeting. This again showed a year end deficit of £4,641 based on our current income. The meeting voted to accept the budget.

Richard Burdett was thanked by Richard Holroyd for his work as Treasurer during the year and his preparation of the accounts.

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 were presented to the meeting and accepted, a copy is attached to the minutes.

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

PCC Elections – Sue Harbour, Ralph Hinchliffe, Clare Price and Sally Somerville were all elected for three years. Janet Trinkwon and Jean Tyrwhitt-Drake were elected for one year.

Sidespersons – Nicola Buckland informed the meeting that at present we have 18 Sidespersons, 3 of which cover the 8.00am service. Margaret Burrows has stood down from the list during the past year.

Nicola Buckland proposed that all Sidespersons be re-elected, this was seconded by Enid Barber and carried unanimously.

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

Fabric Report - The Fabric Report had been published in the Parish Bulletin prior to the meeting and there was nothing to add.

Parish Life Reports – These had all been published in the Parish Bulletin prior to the meeting and there was nothing to add to the published reports. A report from the ‘Sparklers’ was read to the meeting and a copy is attached to the minutes.

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

I am able to report on another busy and eventful year here at St. Luke's

Last year I gave you an analysis of some of the church statistics about baptisms, weddings and funerals. I did this again at our discussion morning, about 'In Faith Out There' back in February, and do not intend to repeat that today. Suffice to say that there is not a lot to be gleaned from the numbers of occasional offices performed - they remain pretty constant. However, the church attendance on a 'normal Sunday' which we have to calculate is interesting. The average over the past 13 years is 127, and Ralph reports 116 for last year. My calculations were slightly different and I got 122, but whatever the case it is the case that our numbers are decreasing slightly. We know of several who have moved away, and of course some of our stalwart members have died. Nevertheless, we hold up quite well, and it is lovely to see new people becoming part of our regular congregation and getting involved in church life in various ways.

Although the numbers game is not everything - certainly not the be all and end all of what church is about - I feel it is good just to keep these figures at the back of our minds.

I have mentioned that some of our dear friends have died over the last year, we have passed the anniversary of some of those whom we continue to miss so much, especially remembering Frances Arnold who died a few days before our Annual Meeting last year. Her humour and tremendous spirit seem to live on as part of our church even though she has gone. Sadly our dear friend Richard Grobler died in the summer and we miss his benign good humour. Last October Fay Underhill died and we marked her significant contribution not just to our church life, but to the whole community of Maidenhead. Pat Spindlow had been a dear friend and lovely character, and she died also last October after many years suffering from M.S. Dorothy Spratley from Southgate House died in November and she had supported our Thursday Teas very regularly. There have been other funerals of people with a connection to St. Luke's and we mark their passing with sadness and thanksgiving for their lives.

I continue to rejoice in our ministry team, with whom I share so much of the task of ministry in this place. It is so good to have Dick as an increasingly active colleague - presiding at the Eucharist and engaging in pastoral work. Noeline and Sonya contribute in their different ways and bring their individual skills to ministry. We are lucky to have Terrie with us, giving us a broader perspective on the church and a privileged insight into issues facing the Anglican Church

worldwide. The fact that we are so different from each other is, I believe, a great strength, and you are lucky to be on the receiving end of such a talented team.

The support of churchwardens and assistants is invaluable and I have already expressed my thanks to them, and their assistants. There are so many others whom I should thank but to name you all would be difficult. We all need to recognise that tremendous amount of work which goes on behind the scenes, from our sacristy, team, our musicians, our cleaners and coffee makers, Servers, and intercessors. and so on - the list is endless. I particularly want to thank Peter Petter, who has organised the Intercessions Rota for some years and has now relinquished that task. I am grateful for his efficiency and faithfulness in doing that task. Please consider yourselves appreciated and valued in all the other tasks which you do. It is so difficult to do this individually, and some people like to just do what they do quietly, but please be assured that all that you do is appreciated. Thank you very much.

The Bulletin is testimony to the many and varied ways in which ministry is also shared with the congregation, with so many groups and activities associated with the church. Thank you to all who contributed to that booklet and all who are involved in these many activities.

A good number of people particularly enjoyed our Arts Project last summer, which was one of the highlights of the year. We had Carole Peters with us at that time, a student on placement from Cuddesdon, and she entered into the spirit of what we were doing admirably. All in all it was a great time, and resulted in some wonderful creations which were not only displayed in the church, but also in the town hall and youth and community centre. Our fame spread and we were asked to do a mini 'What is Man?' project at a conference in February.

So we look to the future together. As a ministry team we enjoyed an 'away-day' in February, to help us consolidate our sense of togetherness as a team, and look to developments in the future. Then our discussion morning at Stubbings in February helped us as a P.C.C. and congregation set the compass for a course into the future, looking to the next 3 to 5 years. The 'In Faith Out There' leaflet gives you some idea of the direction in which we hope to travel, and I hope that we can use it as a tool to help us assess how we are getting on.

So I hope you will continue to support us as we continue on this journey. We go through difficult times financially, as individuals, and as a church; we have challenges to face as we try to find our role in an ever changing parish and

society, but I think our spirit is good, and we can trust in the Spirit of God to be our guardian and our guide.

At the conclusion of his report a Vote of Thanks was proposed for Richard Holroyd, this was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

St. Luke's School – Mrs Pat Burke, Head Teacher of St. Luke's School was welcomed to the meeting and she spoke regarding the schools latest OFSTED inspection and report and also a Church inspection which was carried out in November. She outlined her plans for the future and the direction she would like the school to take.

In Faith Out There – A leaflet which has now been produced regarding 'In Faith Out There' was handed out prior to the meeting. This was produced from the collation of the notes received on 'Back to Church Sunday' and our meeting at Stubbings. The leaflet shows the list of items which are 'In Faith' and a second list is items 'Out There' although many of the items are linked together. It is hoped that the PCC will use this as a guide over the next 3 – 5 years to evolve and direct our way forward.

The meeting closed with The Grace at 6.20pm.

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

Annual Report of 2009

Background

St Luke's PCC has the responsibility for co-operating with the Incumbent, Revd Richard Holroyd, 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 Chairman

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) Until
Eileen Goford) 2011
Serena Tajima)

Elected Members: Ben Darracott)
Sue Hinchliffe) Until
Janet Trinkwon) 2010
Jean Tyrwhitt – Drake)

Roger Bevitt)
Richard Burdett) Until
Peter Goford) 2011
Carole Stevens)

Sue Harbour)
Ralph Hinchliffe) Until
Clare Price) 2012
Sally Somerville)

The following persons completed their term on the PCC and stood down at the APCM in 2009: Gill Curry, Ralph Hinchliffe and Don Luff

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 2009 had reduced to 106 for the year. Average church attendance on Sundays in 2009 was 109, including special services, this is a fall of 7 over the previous year.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met on five occasions (1 meeting cancelled due to weather conditions) with an average attendance of 69%. 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 continues to be filled on a voluntary basis by Mary Quick and Serena Tajima the PCC are grateful to them for this.

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

- One of the major changes this year is that the PCC now has to be registered with the Charity Commission and the Church has its own Charity Number which can be quoted on any correspondence.
- The repairs to the stonework requested in the last Quinquennial Report were completed to the satisfaction of the PCC
- Following an inspection of the Organ it was agreed that essential repairs would be carried out but these have been delayed due to the Diocesan Organ Advisor being away on sabbatical.
- Repairs were authorised to the South Aisle roof in order to stop the leak that has been occurring there. A full service has also been carried out on the boiler.
- The survey of the exterior of the church which was commissioned last year has been carried out and the final report is still awaited from the Architect before any further decisions can be made on how to take this forward.
- The PCC held general discussions on improving the finances of the church, the Inclusive Church and Affirming Liberalism.
- The PCC continues to monitor and review the progress of our programme 'In Faith Out There'.
- A major item of discussion this year was Children and Communion. This relates to whether or not we should allow baptised children to take communion before they are confirmed. The PCC discussed this matter at some length and the following was agreed by the meeting 'That St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead follow a policy of allowing baptised children to

receive Holy Communion' This does not mean that this will happen immediately as there are still several steps to be taken before we arrive at this stage. The passing of this proposal allows Richard to contact the Diocese to progress this matter onto the next stage.

- ◆ Both the Church's Health and Safety Policy and Child Protection Policy have been reviewed and approved for another year. Copies of both these policies are now kept in the PCC minute file at the back of church.
- ◆ Finally the PCC would like to express its thanks to all the people who contribute to the running of St. Luke's Church. Many of these people work quietly in the background doing all the little jobs that go to the smooth running and upkeep of the church. You are too many to mention by name but thank you for your contribution no matter how small.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The full PCC accounts for the year ended 31st December 2009 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. The underlying performance of the General Fund in 2009 deteriorated further and we recorded a General Fund deficit of £4,502.

The main reasons for this substantial loss were:

- a) Planned Giving finished at £47,055, a small fall from the total in 2008.
- b) The Tax refund fell by £1,000
- c) Our fuel bills totalled £7,163, an increase of £360 on the prior year
- d) Our Parish share increased by £1,000 to £51,000

On a positive note, income from Church and Parish Centre Lettings again increased (to £7,042), office costs were lower, and Fund Raising did exceptionally well, contributing £4500 (2008: £3700) to the General Fund. However these effects were still not sufficient to offset the increased expenditure. The overall deficit means that our General Fund reserves are now £15,611. This is sufficient to run a deficit budget for another year or so until we will need to consider drawing on the capital of legacies that we have received, or increasing Planned Giving or other income sources to close the gap.

General Fund

Planned Giving fell slightly, while the Gift Aid tax refund also fell by £1000 to £11,845. We are able to claim back at the existing 25% rate until April 2011 when the rate will fall to 20%, so this change will not affect 2010 but will affect 2011 and onwards.

Peripheral income from church lettings increased to £7,042, again including usage by Voices Anon for rehearsals. They are, however, going elsewhere from Easter 2010 onwards, so it will be difficult to sustain this level of income. Fee income from weddings and funerals, and floodlighting sponsorship, significantly increased from £2,175 to £2,790.

The Events committee had an outstanding year and contributed £4,500 to the General Fund, with a further £500 coming from the Concerts Committee.

The interest rate on the CBF deposit accounts was also very low, which when coupled to reduced cash balances, reduced this source of income to just £2.

Taking all these changes into account the overall income fell by about 1%

General Fund expenditure was virtually unchanged at £84,323. The main increases were in fuel bills, Clergy Expenses, Parish Share, offset by falls in office costs and Choir & Organ costs. As in previous years, St Luke's complied with the parish share payment schedule and had paid 20% of its contribution by 31st March, 50% by 30th June and completed the payment of £51,000 (2008:£50,000) by 30th November.

The overall result of these changes to General Fund income and expenditure resulted in a deficit for 2009 of £4502 (2008: deficit £3739).

Designated Funds

We received legacies in 2009 totalling £20,433 which were placed in the Benefactors' Fund, including one from the estates of Mr & Mrs Blackstone for nearly £20,000. In turn, we spent £1,364 from this fund completing the new sound system.

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 made the fifth transfer of £700 from the General Fund to the Fabric Fund as a continuation of the policy that over the next 15 years we will repay the £18,000 of the Fabric Reserve fund we used for the West Window repairs.

Restricted Funds

As in previous years we also raised and gave away a substantial amount (£4,962) in addition to normal outward charitable giving (£4,549) through a number of Special Collections.

Balance Sheet

The rise fall in the balance sheet value (not included herein), from £235,939 to £262,095 is attributable to some increase in value of the CBF Investment Fund shares and receipt of legacies, offset by the General Fund deficit.

Conclusion & Treasurer's Comments

The financial performance in 2009 was poor, with our core Planned Giving income falling again slightly, and we are becoming more reliant on the substantial

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

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2009

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	
		General £	Designated £			2009 £	2008 £
Incoming Resources							
Voluntary income	2(a)	65,978	20,497	6,483	-	92,958	78,571
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	2,365	8,753	847	-	11,965	14,828
Investment income	2(c)	2	7,007	1,031	-	8,040	11,630
Incoming resources from charitable activities	2(d)	7,274	219	(57)	-	7,436	7,006
Total Incoming Resources		75,619	36,476	8,304	-	120,399	112,035
Resources Expended							
Costs of generating voluntary income	3(a)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising trading costs	3(b)	160	3,207	-	-	3,367	8,616
Investment management costs	3(c)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3(d)	77,923	12,521	7,190	-	97,634	104,977
Governance costs	3(e)	6,240	-	-	-	6,240	6,689
Total Resources Expended		84,323	15,728	7,190	-	107,241	120,282
Net incoming (outgoing) resources before transfers		(8,704)	20,748	1,114	-	13,158	(8,247)
Transfers between funds							
Events Committee to General Fund		4,500	(4,500)	-	-	-	-
Concert Committee to General Fund		500	(500)	-	-	-	-
General Fund to Fabric Reserve Fund		(700)	700	-	-	-	-
Allocated Giving to Outward Giving		-	-	-	-	-	-
General Fund to Vicar's Discretionary Fund		(150)	150	-	-	-	-
Hick Flower Fund to General Fund		52	-	(52)	-	-	-
Keukenhof trip:							
Profit from trip fund			-	-	-	-	(43)
Profit to Events Ctte Fund			-	-	-	-	43
Fabric Reserve Fund:							
from Fabric Fund			(3,087)	-	-	(3,087)	(3,269)
to Fabric Reserve Fund			3,087	-	-	3,087	3,269
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		(4,502)	16,598	1,062	-	13,158	(8,247)
Gains and Losses on Investments:							
- unrealised		-	11,587	1,163	248	12,998	(47,779)
Net movement in funds		(4,502)	28,185	2,225	248	26,156	(56,026)
Balances brought forward at 1st January 2009		20,113	181,548	31,622	2,656	235,939	291,965
Balances carried forward at 31st December 2009		15,611	209,733	33,847	2,904	262,095	235,939

giving of a very few members of the congregation. Although other income sources increased, cost were contained or reduced in several areas, the overall effect was still a deficit.

We remain able to continue 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 Benefactors' Fund, then the PCC will have to consider ways in which expenditure can be cut.

During the year Michael Hedges retired as Planned Giving recorder, so I would like to extend my special thanks to him and his late wife, Sheila, for many year's conscientious service. His job has now been taken on by Sonya Clarke, so to her; to Assistant Treasurer, Ben Darracott; to Gift Aid Secretary, Ann Cooke; and to Stewardship Recorder, Adrian Quick I also extend my thanks. Without their excellent work and continued support, my job of Treasurer would be a great deal harder.

Richard Burdett

Churchwarden's Report.

This has been Barbara's first year and she would like to thank everyone for their encouragement and support, which has made the transition a smooth one.

Many thanks to Richard and the whole ministry team for their inspirational leadership and their ongoing support. We recognise how blessed we are in the diversity of the talents they bring to St. Luke's and the variety of worship and spiritual input they offer.

This year we have concentrated on our In Faith Out There vision and how we can develop this further within the life of the church. We have been able to welcome a number of visitors to the Church to speak about their roles caring for others in the community. The theme of caring will continue through this year as well. We have also had a number of fundraising events organised by our wonderful committee, which have enhanced our social lives and helped fill our coffers. Following the visit of Johannes we felt even more inspired to strengthen our links with St Luke's hospital Nablus and so in November we had a very well attended quiz night and raised a great deal for them. We also donated the funds raised by the Lent lunches which we will do again this year. Terrie also spoke to us recently about Archbishop Rowan Williams visit to the Holy Land, reminding us of the inspirational role that St Luke's plays in this difficult part of the world.

We continued to share our evening services with The Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green and All Saints, which has given us the opportunity to share in a variety of worship with our neighbours. These services have included a number of Taize services organised by Kevin Baughan, for which we are extremely grateful. The Choral Evensongs and special services have as always been magnificent; we recognise how lucky we are with our choir and organists and John's dedication. It would be so good to see higher attendance at these services as so much goes into the preparation and delivery of them.

This year we have begun looking at the re-ordering of church, and started in a small but busy way, by tidying and re-ordering the back corners. This was very successful in making the area more spacious and uncluttered. We made a more accessible quiet corner and after much thought and consultation we moved the crèche area to the front, in the hope that families with small children will feel more included in the service. We will continue with the consultation process regarding the full re-ordering of the church.

As ever we have goodbyes for different reasons, we were sad to say goodbye to the McConkeys they had both given so much in their time at St Luke's both practically and creatively, it is lovely when they pop back to see us. It was also good to see so many past friends at Phyllis' 80th birthday lunch. We celebrated Marjorie Knox's 100th birthday and then sadly she passed away later in the year and most recently we were saddened by the loss of Marjorie Goddard. Marjorie had been coming to St Luke's since she was a child and was our longest attending member of the congregation.

We were able to attend a meet and share for churchwardens in the deanery, this was a very helpful session, where we learnt a number of useful ideas to help us in our role. We also were able to discuss how other wardens manage their duties and we both recognised how lucky we are at St Luke's as we have such a supportive group of people carrying out tasks that elsewhere often fall to the wardens to fulfil. Some wardens don't have the good fortune to have deputies and we are so grateful to Peter and Don for their practical help and continued support.

Barbara and Shula

Fabric Committee

We exist to support the Churchwardens in their duty of care and maintenance to the church and churchyard. You will have read the Wardens' report on the fabric of our church earlier in this bulletin.

As chairman of this committee I feel you should know that the function we fulfil is only possible by the efforts and goodwill of the many volunteers who turn out on the “church care times” or see the need for remedial action and then do something to achieve it. I would like to add my thanks to all who have helped by observation, questioning or simply doing something.

The committee is resourced by monies donated in the past that are well managed in the present by our treasurer, so thanks to Richard Burdett’s care we are able to continue our task. Perhaps an example of our work may illustrate this.

The committee had made several attempts to fix the roof leak over the south-east corner. We had then obtained quotes for several possible fixes which had been discussed. We consulted our architect and a recommendation was made to the PCC. Approval was given for the Churchwardens to obtain the necessary faculty from the Diocese. Shortly after this and before the Wardens were ready for the application, the builders contacted me to ask if they could use a vacant slot in their calendar to complete the work within the next 2 weeks. This led to urgent calls to the Vicar, the architect, the diocesan DAC, Registry and Archdeacon. The Archdeacon then supported the repairs and we were granted an “Interlocutory Faculty” which, under strict conditions, allowed the work to commence. The work was completed before Christmas as was the paperwork by the Wardens.

Most of our work is achieved at a more leisurely and planned manner and again I thank the committee members and all who help us in our task.

Don Luff

PARISH LIFE REPORTS

Acolytes and Chalice Administrators

We again lost another long serving member with John Stevens deciding that was the time for him to step down. I would like to thank him for his many years of service both at the 8.00am and 10.00am service.

We welcomed to our ranks Sue Harbour who has taken both roles and is growing in confidence each time she is on duty.

All the other Crucifers and Acolytes continue to perform their duties in a quiet and efficient manner.

Peter Petter has now also stood down as a Chalice administrator leaving just Jean Tyrwhitt-Drake and Roger Bevitt. Thank you Peter for all your help in the past and to the others for their continuing service.

Anyone who wishes to join this small but important group of people please speak to Roger Clarke or myself.

Ralph Hinchliffe

Baptism Anniversary Cards

Many Baptisms are held in our church each year. Some take place during the main Sunday 10.00am service. Others at 12 noon on a Sunday or at a time convenient to the Priest and family concerned. To remind the families of this important event, an anniversary card is sent to the one baptised for the next 4 years and all are invited to the now annual party in the summer. The party is held in the Vicarage garden, weather permitting and is great fun. A number of people are involved to enable these events to take place. One keeps a record of baptisms updated, these are passed on to the person who writes the cards, who given them in turn to the Vicar to be signed. Another volunteer collects the cards and distributes them to the appropriate Baptism Contactor who do their best to deliver the cards as near to the anniversary as possible. Sounds complicated? Not a bit, it works like a dream. Well done team. This is another example of things that get done quietly but are much appreciated by the recipients.

Enid Barber

The Children's Society

Last February the Children's Society launched a landmark report: - A Good Childhood: Searching for Values in a Competitive Age. This report had been published after a two year independent enquiry into childhood in the U.K. It aimed to renew society's understanding of modern childhood and inform, improve, and inspire all our relationships with children, especially family ones.

Now a year on, as a result of this report, many new Children's Centres have opened. These provide support both for children and parents who are struggling with the demands of childhood, sometimes in very deprived areas. These centres work closely with parents through family support and parenting programmes. Depending on the area where the centre is opened; there are different challenges, but the ethos for all of them is the same that we truly look at the children as the centre of the family. These centres work with children aged 0 – 5 years, and their families, to provide services not normally available in such deprived areas. These include early education and childcare, alongside Health Visitors, promoting healthy eating and working with Job Centres. Plus to provide access to information and training for parents, this builds their self esteem and gives them confidence to find work.

This is just an example of the amazing work of the Children's Society. It shows what good use the money you help us collect is going towards.

Our collections this last year have been from Carol Singing £170, 2 Christingle Services collections £568, St. Luke's School Carol Service £61; the Church Christmas Card £125 and lastly but by no means least, the collection boxes, which so many of you have in your homes raised £547. This makes a grand total of £1,471.

Thank you for all your generosity, in what we know to be difficult economic times. If anyone who does not already have a Children's Society collecting box would like to have one –please speak to one of us.

Chris and Dave Sawyers

Churches Together in Maidenhead

Meetings have been held at member places of worship at intervals of approximately two months during the year.

The Christmas Day lunch for seniors was a happy and humbling occasion. A great team effort.

The Week of Christian Unity was held in January. Weekday lunchtime services were well attended (<80). At the Sunday service at All Saints, 170 people were addressed by the future Head of the Methodist Conference. The collection went to "Open the Book".

The Women's World Day of Prayer service was led by a group from Cameroon, and was very much enjoyed.

Lent discussion groups: different churches sent in their plans, and a spreadsheet was issued giving times and places, so that members of other churches could attend if they wished.

Fair Trade fortnight was 22 February to 7 March: St. Peter's church had a successful fair.

Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum (WAMCF) women's group meets every two months. They recently visited a synagogue.

There was an Interfaith Week: the meal was a success.

Recent CTiM meetings have been addressed by the following speakers:

November: John Bradley spoke on "Ecumenical Imperative – Why visible Unity Really Matters" – his paper having been published in September 2009.

On 29 January, Simon Bond spoke about "Stand Up: The Great Persuasion", an event organised in collaboration with BOND (British Overseas NGOs for Development) which seeks international development to reduce global poverty

On 18 March, Mike Rosevear of the Salvation Army spoke about a request from the police for there to be "Street Angels" present on local streets on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. They would wear distinctive dress. They would be there to help those in distress. Other communities have seen an improvement in behaviour assisted by this presence.

Nancy Rowe is the current President of CTiM, and Pietro of St. Edmund Campion is the IT coordinator.

CTiM receives regular communications from CTiB (Berkshire).

A hustings has been organised for 25 April 7.30 at United Reformed Church, which will be attended by the local parliamentary candidates, and chaired by Rabbi Jonathan Romain.

Peter Goford

Concerts Committee

We have facilitated the use of the church for a series of concerts by outside groups, such as Ascot Brass, Maidenhead Choral Society, and the Laurie Holloway Music Trust, and all of them seem to go well, raising money for Charity as well as the church. The choir, 'Voices Anon' has had 2 concerts which have seen the church pretty much packed, and have been very happy occasions. The Sunday Afternoon Recitals followed by Cream Tea continue to be popular and have attracted good audiences, and added greatly to the variety of our musical experience at St Luke's.

Richard Holroyd

Daylight Group (Bible Reading Fellowship)

This group continues to meet once a month to discuss the current BRF notes, although we did have to postpone a couple of our meetings due to snow and ice, but we have caught up now! The notes are, as always, very stimulating and informative, and provide the basis for discussion as we try to apply the bible to our everyday lives. The conversations often seem to take a life of their own and we cover many aspects of our faith and lives.

We still support Sight Savers and hear from the regularly: We would extend a warm welcome to anybody who would like to join us for these discussions and deepen and appreciation and understanding of the bible.

Contact Jan or Dick Cheek 01628-628484

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met in September, November, July and March. The meetings followed a pattern of hearing each time how three of the parishes in the Deanery were enacting the Bishop of Oxford's *Living Faith for the Future* initiative. It is the Right Revd. John Pritchard's belief that the future of any diocese lies in the vitality and imagination of the local parish or arena of ministry.

We heard from St. Luke's about our international Taize services and Art as a way of making connections. We heard from All Saints Dedworth and Clewer St Andrew about their Sports Ministry. A big screen has been installed. Rev. Louise offers services at the end of sports events. The aim is to show that it can be God and Sport not God or Sport. All Saints Maidenhead spoke about developing ministry in Larchfield using Open the Book and reading support. Holy Trinity Cookham has a dementia care initiative called Rendezvous. St. Michael's Bray spoke of their emergency appeal for repairs which has led to generating greater interest in, and awareness of, the church in Bray as a focus for the whole village. St. Mary's White Waltham have Project Rainbow whose aim is to build suitable facilities for the ministry to the children of St. Mary's. St. John the Baptist Cookham Dean hold Friendship Lunches one Sunday a month at a charge of £6 per head for a three course meal, the main part of which is usually a roast, including wine. There are two teams. Other initiatives from a Windsor church included care for those who sheltered on their steps providing an address for welfare purposes, clothing and meals. St. Mary's Maidenhead were concerned about ministry to Muslims in the area.

Deanery Synod brought to the attention of its members Origins and Lemons, a Riding Lights production held in Windsor Parish church, which was excellent, although poorly attended.

Your Deanery Synod representatives this year were very impressed by the variety of ways Bishop John Pritchard's words have been enacted and recommend the post to you all!!

Eileen Goford

Emmaus Groups

The Emmaus Group comprising seven members met roughly every two months on a Monday evening and have been looking at characters in the New Testament, one of the books in the Scripture Union LifeBuilder Bible Study course published by Scripture Union. Latterly we have been looking at chapters in The Highway Code for Happiness, a compact guide to how to live a Christian, spiritual and wholesome life.

We are grateful to Ann and Richard Burdett for continuing to welcome us into their home. We all enjoy the time we spend together reading, praying and considering wise words while sipping a cup of tea or coffee watching the warm glow of the fire and candle. The group provides a calm centre in our hectic lives.

Emmaus 05 has not met this year but its members have found other ways of enacting their faith through providing hospitality for the Apprentice course, serving, teaching in Sunday

Club and Sparklers and helping in St. Luke's School assemblies. I like to think that we would re-convene as and when required.

Eileen Goford

Maidenhead Care

A noteworthy year for Maidenhead Care: Not only did we celebrate our 25th Annual Commissioning Service here at St. Luke's, but also we were given the Queen's Golden Jubilee Award for Voluntary Service which was established in 2002, it being the highest honour for groups and equivalent to an MBE. This was presented to the Officers of Care by the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire at the Guildhall in Windsor.

This year Care received 3,182 requests for transport with 1,656 of these journeys being to hospitals. We still have an urgent need for additional volunteer drivers and duty officers and anyone interested in joining the team should contact either Jan Cheek on 628484 or Ann Hockham on 627496 for more information.

The Waitrose and street collections will take place on Saturday 19th June and volunteers would be welcome for 1 hour sessions. Again, please contact either Jan or Ann for details. Maidenhead care is looking for someone to organise the Crocks Stall for the Christmas Charities Fair in November – if this task appeals to you please speak to Jan or Ann for further information.

Jan Cheek and Ann Hockham

Maidenhead Child Contact Centre

The centre was started in 1993 as a result of a proposal from Maidenhead Churches together and has functioned since that time - opening between 2pm. and 4pm. on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month.

The ethos of the centre is to provide a safe and neutral place where children of broken partnerships can spend time with the parent or other family member – with whom they do not live.

The centre is located at the United Reformed Church in West Street a very convenient and exceptionally well laid out venue ensuring privacy and access for both parties without having to meet.

The centre is run by volunteers many of whom have been involved since the beginning. All volunteers have a CRB enhanced check and receive training.

Clients are referred to the centre by solicitors, social services CAF/CASS and courts. Self-referrals are also accepted by arrangement with the co-ordinator.

Prospective clients are encouraged to visit the centre before using it to ensure that they are happy with the arrangements and the situation.

We provide supported contact NOT supervised. Confidentiality is paramount.

The centre is a full member of the NACCC and is an accredited member of this umbrella organisation receiving a certificate last year.

The co-ordinator is the person who receives referrals and documents

Them. We have two co-ordinators and share this responsibility both of us are on duty at most sessions. All our policy documents have been approved by our management committee, which is comprised of local people – including a solicitor, county court judge, and minister of the C.of E.

We are funded entirely by voluntary donations either through churches or charitable trusts. Our running costs are very low.

The number of clients visiting the centre varies we have had up to 23 children at one session or as few as four.

We have a minimum of six volunteers on duty at each session – we would welcome help in recruiting Asian volunteers - we have one lady who is very willing to attend to help with interpreting when necessary in addition to being a regular volunteer. The number of Asian families using the centre has shown a marked increase over the years.

Phyllis Sigsworth

Missions and Charities

A total of £4700.00 was raised during 2009 and distributed evenly between twenty different organisations (see 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. It should be noted that for the first time in some years this figure was a reduction on the previous year which is regrettable, but understandable, given to the current economic climate.

Windsor & Maidenhead Crossroads
East Berkshire Women's Aid

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Kinara Welfare Fund
Family Friends in Windsor & Maidenhead
No. 22 Cookham Road
Windsor Youth Talk
Maidenhead Child Contact Centre
Church Urban Fund
St George's Church, Baghdad (FRRME)
Hope Africa (The Anglican Church in Southern Africa)
Recharge
St. Luke's Hospital, Nablus
Berkshire Clergy Charity
Yeldall Manor
The Princess Royal Trust Carers Service
Medecins Sans Frontieres
Guatemala Project
USPG
Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust
SACCA - Streets Ahead Children's Centre, Rwanda

Above and beyond the figure mentioned above many other organisations and situations have benefitted from special impromptu collections and various charitable events, doubtless some of these occasions will be highlighted in other parts of the bulletin or, during our Treasurer's report at the AGM.

To all who have contributed in any way a heartfelt thank you, for your financial contributions, your time, your consideration and care. Please continue to support those in need both practically and in your prayers.

Roger Clarke (Outward Giving Co-ordinator)

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.

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

Music at St Luke's

There has continued to be plenty of music at St. Luke's during the last year. At the time of writing this report, the Choir is working hard for the Devotional Concert featuring *Charles Wood's St. Mark Passion* on Good Friday, 2 April. This will be given at 7.30 pm in our Church here at St. Luke's and will be sung by our Church Choir and the Choir of St. Michael's Church, Bray, with soloists from the Royal Academy of Music and our own Rhidian Jones at the organ.

There has been much satisfaction in the Choir's singing throughout the last year, not only at every Sunday morning service but also at special Choral Evensongs and in anthems for special days in the year. The Last Hour service on Good Friday was particularly memorable. There has also been music for weddings, funerals, services of thanksgiving and of course the annual Carol Service in December which had many fine moments. The Choir now sings as a more unified group, well conscious of the importance of blend and articulation. The Choir members thoroughly deserved their Outing last June consisting of a boat trip on the Thames followed by attendance at Choral Evensong at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. The occasion was blessed by wonderful weather and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We were again grateful to Clare and Martin Price who hosted another enjoyable Choir party at their home at Christmas and we have also greatly valued the help given on special occasions by a few extra singers. The Choir again sang Christmas Carols at the Garden Centre at Dorney and at Gardner House where much appreciation was shown and donations were given towards the Choir funds. However, I have to emphasise that, in order to maintain the current standards, the Choir does need more recruits. At present, the absence of even one member can alter or upset the balance, and I would urge everyone reading this report to consider whether he or she might be able to assist here or might know somebody else who would consider joining the Choir. It is hoped that any future re-ordering of the Church will bring the Choir out from the present choir stalls to be in closer communication with the congregation.

I mentioned in my report last year that the designated position of Young Choristers' Trainer remained vacant and I am sorry to say that this is still the situation. The reason is that, despite several attempts to form of junior choir, we have still had no more children coming forward and I would again plead with parents of children aged 8 and upwards to speak to me or Richard about their child or children joining the Choir. The educational

benefit for children in singing goes beyond the music itself and most children derive much enjoyment from singing. At Church on Christmas morning, Matthew and Zoe Price were presented with their Royal School of Church Music red and dark blue ribbons respectively under the 'Voice for Life' scheme, and both were congratulated on working for and attaining the required standards for these. It has been a pleasure to teach and train them and Zoe will now hopefully proceed to her red ribbon during this coming year.

The arrangement with Eton College to provide us with an Organ Scholar each year is still working well. At the end of June we said goodbye to Nick Lee who had been our Organ Scholar for the previous year, and in September we welcomed Jem Lowther who currently occupies the position. Under the arrangement, the Organ Scholar plays for our Choir practice and Sunday morning services on two weekends a month. Jem has been awarded a music scholarship to Oxford University starting in the autumn of 2011, and before then, after leaving Eton this Summer, he will take up an Organ Scholar position at a church in America. We hope that the experience he will have gained at St. Luke's will stand him in good stead.

There are some fairly urgent repairs to our organ waiting to be carried out once the necessary faculty has been obtained. The CCTV installation has proved a success and continues to enable the organist to remain in close contact with the conductor and other activities in the Church during services.

Our Sunday afternoon recitals have continued and have been generally well attended and much enjoyed. Instrumentalists and singers all seem to like performing in our Church with its fine acoustics. Thanks are always due to the ladies of the Church who provide the very welcome cream teas after each recital. The Church has continued to attract local groups who hire it for their concerts and rehearsals, and it is good to know that the facilities we can offer are so appreciated.

It is a privilege to be in charge of music at St. Lukes, but I could not succeed in this without the strong support shown to me by Richard and our organist, Rhidian. Also I am grateful for the occasional help at the organ by Helen Petter who willingly plays for services when neither Rhidian nor the Organ Scholar is available. I admire and am thankful for the hard work and commitment of the Choir and I do appreciate very much the kind remarks about the music which are from time to time made to me by members of the congregation.

John Cotterill

Outreach and Nurture

Our summer activities began with the Baptism Party followed closely by the Parish Outing to Portsmouth. Both were a roaring success. The bouncy castle was particularly enjoyed by the children who attended the Baptism Party. The Parish Outing was fully subscribed and luckily the rain held off which added to the enjoyment of a really good day out.

Autumn was a particularly busy time. In September we had a social evening for those who give valuable service as Contactors. The evening took the form of a traditional northern Pea and Pie Supper and was well attended and very enjoyable, although warm pork pie, not to mention mushy peas, was apparently a culture shock to some.

As part of the 'In Faith, Out There' initiative a Christian basics course, 'The Apprentice' was run by Richard and Terrie. The eight sessions included refreshments and although numbers were not large those who did come engaged well with the course and some are now considering attending confirmation classes.

Open Church was part of the same initiative. A rota of attendants was arranged and the church was open on Friday afternoons between 2 and 4 o'clock, for quiet contemplation, private prayer, or simply to explore and get to know more about our church. We received some welcome publicity from the Advertiser and although numbers of visitors were not large, those who came were very interested. This ran from late summer to Christmas but it has been decided that this will be best done in the summer and so will in future run from April to October.

The October bereavement service was again very worthwhile and we later received a card from one bereaved family expressing their thanks and appreciation. Our thanks go to those who helped with the catering.

The fund raising evening for St Luke's Hospital, Nablus, was an unqualified success raising £600, due in no short measure to some inspired catering from Serena and friend.

Throughout the year our 5th Sunday services were based on the theme of 'caring'. Excellent speakers from Wexham Park Chaplaincy, Family Friends, Maidenhead Care, and Judge Elly from the family court service were both interesting and informative.

Our Lent course for 2010 is based on Bishop Stephen Cottrell's book 'The Things he said'. Four weekly sessions have happened on Tuesday afternoons, repeated on Wednesday evenings, beginning on 3rd March. Lent lunches were again on alternate

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Sundays and are ongoing as I write. Last year these raised in excess of £230 for St Luke's Hospital, Nablus, so are clearly worth your support as well as being enjoyable occasions.

As a result of Barbara Essam's election as Churchwarden, Clare Price has taken over the co-ordination of Baptism anniversary cards, and we thank Clare for volunteering for this valuable work.

Finally my thanks go to all the committee members for their hard work and to all those who helped and supported us in any way.

Noeline Page

Pastoral Care Team

We have met three times this year to work out ways of supporting some members of our congregation and community who need help. Thanks are due to those who faithfully undertake this. We have met the challenges of helping several people through their last days, as well as instigating some great celebrations of anniversaries.

The group also arranges the Sunday Half Hour services at old people's residences in the parish, and these times are greatly appreciated by those who attend.

Richard Holroyd

Prayer Letters

On our Weekly Newsletter as well as a list of people needing our prayers, you will see the name of one of the streets in our Parish. This is to encourage us to pray for all the people who live or work in our Parish one specific week at a time – which takes over two years. To this end a short letter is delivered to all the houses/shops/offices etc. in that particular road to inform them this is happening, and to ask if they have any special request for prayers. Details of our services are included. Many thanks go to all the people who offer to deliver those letters.

Enid Barber

St Luke's School

It is a pleasure to collaborate with the headteacher, Mrs Pat Burke, and support the school in whatever ways we can. This last year there have been changes in staff, with the notable appointment of a new Deputy Head, Kirsty Grierson, who is proving to be a great addition to the school

The school visits the church for termly services, and has used the church as a resource for particular parts of the curriculum.

Sally Somerville, Sue Harbour, Gill Curry and I , are still going into the school to take Friday Collective Worship. The children are extremely well behaved and enjoy taking parts in the bible stories which we can dramatise.

Jean T-D continues as clerk to the governors, and the school choir enjoys coming to entertain our Thursday Tea people occasionally.

Richard Holroyd

St Luke's Thursday Group

It is most reassuring to be able to report year on year that this group continues to flourish. The attendance of our monthly meetings averages about 22, which from a membership of just over 30 is pretty good in my books.

As in past years our programme has been drawn from many different walks of life, with some coming from members of our church, whilst others have come from such organisations as RNLI, and National Trust, and a few meetings of asking previous speakers to come back, so much have they been enjoyed.

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 15th 'More Odd Odes' with Alan Stockwell

April 16th Jumble Sale

May 20th 'Quiz Night with a difference' arranged by Roger Clarke

June 1st "Deanery Festival" at All Saints

June 27th Annual Summer Party

July 15th 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 another successful year.

Sonya R Clarke

Leader/Secretary

St Luke's Toddler group

Thursday during term time 9.30-11.15

We continue to be a successful and fun group. Our attendance does vary from week to week, but we have a committed core and many more that come now and then. At the moment the library is not running a rhyme time, which was a key competitor, so we are full! Our committee members have been busy ensuring our future, as both Anna and Julie have both had new babies this year.

We have started a babies' area, in a corner separated by two rows of chairs. This helps to ensure the babies can sit safely while the older children hurtle round on the ride-on toys. We also use this cosy corner to host the story at the end of the session and the singing. They listen to a short book and we sing some action songs and nursery rhymes.

Every week we have a different craft activity which we often try to tie into a seasonal or topical theme. This term we have made gingerbread figures. The children shaped the dough and we cooked them while they played. At the end of the session we read the 'Gingerbread man' story and the children ate or took their gingerbread home. We have also produced snowy pictures, valentine's cards and St David's day daffodils.

We still try to end each term with a party and two out of the three terms we visit the Church. Richard is always fantastic at providing us with something accessible and relevant to both the under 5s and the parents and carers. This year the children unwrapped a huge parcel together to discover the meaning of Christmas.

Our healthy snacks policy is under consideration, as it is felt that the choice causes quite a lot of unnecessary waste. We may well be returning to a simple drink and a biscuit, to save both money and waste. Our thanks go to Judith and Mary who do a fantastic job of helping every week with the drinks and snacks. We would be lost without them!

After a fairly lean year last year, we are now making some money! We have invested some of this in some new and second hand toys. We also have a nice shiny potty for the disabled toilet. We are currently looking for some reclining chairs for small babies and are investigating free cycle to save on funds.

If any one from Church would ever like to come and see what we are up to you would be most welcome. If any one fancies reading the story or helping out with the craft activity – you would be even more welcome!

Kim Nicholas

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 and it was lovely to see Gail Dorrington join and bring us back up to an equal number meaning 4 people each team. However 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.

Shula and Barbara

Social and Fund Raising

We have had a busy and successful year, starting with a Night at the Opereta, a dress up affair with members of the congregation and Richard taking the lead roles.

Our Quiz Night with Roger and Sonya was fun and Sonya takes no prisoners so that's good for a laugh. A Fish and Chip Supper helped the evening go well.

The Plant Sale went well, luckily with no rain, my thanks to all who grew or donated plants.

The Summer Fair was a fine day with a little sunshine. Thanks to Richard for his garden and to his Mum and Sister for helping. We all enjoyed the dancers thanks to Monica, St. Luke's School Choir sang for us, thank you Pat Burke for that. We had lots of help from everyone so please book the date for this year July 10th.

Harvest Lunch seemed to go down well, tickets sales started slow but picked up in the end.

The Charities Fair was really good with lots of cakes, jams and pickles for sale on a very Christmas y stall.

Grateful thanks to my team of Sally, John, Marion, Nicola, Ben, Ruth, Fran, Gerry and Hazel, I really couldn't do all these things without you, to Sally, John and Richard for the cooking team.

We have raised about £4,000 plus £740 from the Gentle Jazz afternoon thank you Richard. My thanks to everyone who helped, donated or spent you all help us to raise money for the Church

Helen Poynter.

Sunday Club

There were twenty-two children registered in Sunday Club this year although they were rarely all seen together.

We have continued to use the Light materials to good effect. We are on our second time through it and are struck by the differing responses to the material from one group to the next.

There are ten leaders on rota. Linda Thorpe came off this year and we thank her for her contribution to the spiritual growth of the young people over the many years she served. Jenny Bailey joined us officially in September. We had been glad of her help when she attended on an informal basis and are delighted she has become part of the team. We meet once a term to plan social events and the rota.

Social events this past year included the usual post Christmas party; a trip to Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat; a trip to the local pantomime followed by tea in the Parish Centre; a trip to Waddesdon Manor; a trip to the Fire Station; a trip to Bracknell Lookout; Good Friday activity morning; biscuit making for Mothering Sunday; Bonfire

Party; and Beat the Retreat at Windsor Castle. We attended the Baptism party in June. Unfortunately our half term planned trip to California Country Park was washed out. We are looking forward to Stars in the Sky and a walk in Moss Hill Woods.

We did not only think of ourselves but also participated in the Lions Club Fund Run and Swimathon to raise money for them and our charity. We helped to make 250 Christingles. We catered for the Baptism Party. We delivered Harvest Boxes.

We are very grateful to Ann Burdett who researches and organizes these events for us.

This year the Sunday Club presented an interactive nativity based on a script found by Jill Bevitt. Andrew Burdett did a brilliant job of choreographing the technical requirements. We could not have done it without him and give him our thanks.

Over the past year we have formalized and put into writing the various responsibilities of the Sunday Club leaders and coordinator. We have embarked on a new round of interviews and applications for new CRB checks under revised Diocesan guidelines.

In spite of these demands, our team remains intact.

Very many thanks to the Sunday Club team of Jenny Bailey, Jenny Bartholomew, Jill Bevitt, Ann Burdett, Ann Darracott, Sue Harbour, Rachel Harris, Kim Nicholas and Helen Poynter. Do join us.

Eileen Goford

Thursday Teas

On the second Thursday of each month tea and cakes are served in the Parish Centre between 2pm and 4pm.

We have an average attendance of about 28. It is an opportunity for anyone who wishes to attend to come and socialise. The children from St. Luke's school provided entertainment at Christmastime and two visits were made to local garden centres one in the summer and again in autumn. Residents from Vansett Nursing home are brought over in wheelchairs. The afternoon is enjoyed by our guests and a great deal of "chatter" takes place. We are always looking for helpers and as we transport those who are unable to walk drivers are always welcome.

If you know anyone who would like to attend or if you would like to help in any way please contact

Enid on 628195 or Phyllis on 778656

Timeout

We have continued to have wide ranging and interesting discussions, meeting about once every 2 months at the vicarage. Each session ends with a version of Compline called 'Prayer at Night' by Jim Cotter, which invariably draws what we have discussed together into the mystery of God. Good numbers attend and contribute well to the debate about things like : 'Where is the church?' and 'The Second Coming of Christ' as well as materialism and the consumer society.

Richard Holroyd

Worship Committee

We have met twice in the last year to plan and review our services at church. We have been monitoring the arrangements for Sunday evening worship, 'Sundays at Six', organised between the three churches: The Good Shepherd, All Saints and ourselves. We have continued to attract good congregations for the full Choral Evensongs and the Taizé services held at St Luke's. The Taizé services in particular draw people from far and wide, largely due to the fantastic effort of Kevin Baughan.

We are gradually revising the seasonal service sheets as they come up through this year. This process started with the Lent service sheet.

Richard Holroyd

