

Secretary's Report

Rector of the Parish of Hursley Revd William Prescott 019627145551

Secretary to the Parochial Church Council
Mr Chris Bontoft 01962 775227

Church Warden Vacant

Church Warden Vacant

Number on the Electoral Roll at 31.12.10 was: 54

Members of the Parochial Church Council:

Mrs Antonia Stickland	Treasurer
Mr Chris Bontoft	Secretary
Mr Derek Blazdell	Lay Member
Mrs Kristen Tridimas	Lay Member
Mrs Jayne Smith	Lay Member
Mrs Jill Larnar	Lay Member
Mrs Sonya Hildebrandt	Lay Member

Deanery Synod Representative: Mrs Jo Bontoft

We have not had a church warden since Rita Hortin stood down after six years sterling service in the post, however the rest of the PCC have rallied round to ensure that the warden's duties have been covered.

Our numbers remain small but we are trying to maintain the church in a good condition. The south porch was repaired early this year, but during the inspection for that work another area of the roof appeared to have a problem. An inspection is due shortly, and if the report is adverse we may not have sufficient funds to repair it, and we may have to have a major fundraising project.

The brass is cleaned by a small band of volunteers, mostly by people who have other church duties. We now have a cleaner who deep cleans the church once a month. In between the deep cleans volunteers ensure that the church is kept clean and tidy and the light bulbs changed when needed.

The church is opened and closed each day by a loyal team of helpers, and the fact that it is open is very much appreciated by a steady number of visitors.

Thanks go to everyone who helps to keep the church operational – whether sidesmen, readers, intercessors, musicians (particularly our organist), the members of the music group, the Families Service team, the bellringers, those who serve communion, cleaners, gardeners – the list goes on.

Our relationship with John Keble School remains strong and we have normally been able to provide foundation governors to give them support – although there is a vacancy at the moment, and we are looking for a volunteer from within the church at the moment. William visits the school fortnightly to take an assembly, and the children have made several visits to the church for special services.

Attendance at the special Christmas and Easter services was very good, but a normal Sunday is not so good. We try to offer worship to cover all needs, and the services have been rearranged to try to ensure that all have an opportunity to attend a service.

The church is a local facility which we would hate to lose; it needs your support. Help us to build on what we have and see our church grow.

Bless everyone who helps the church keep going.

Chris Bontoft

Treasurer's Report

Although the 2010 Accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis as before, they have now been arranged to reflect the format of the Return of Parish Finance which is required to be submitted to the Diocese each year. This means that the figures for the 2009 Accounts have been restated in that format for ease of comparison.

The incoming resources for the year were about £1,000 less than for 2009. This reduction was generally across the board, but the main reason was due to much lower returns from fund raising in 2010. The resources used during the year were about £4,000 more than in 2009, principally due to the increase in Parish Share, the purchase of new notice boards for the churchyard and the re-roofing of the South Porch roof. As anticipated, the cost of gas consumed was reduced during 2010 compared with 2009 but nevertheless still amounts to about £50 each time the heating is put on.

In addition, it was necessary to pay for the quinquennial inspection which took place in 2010, although this was largely refunded by the Diocese. This inspection has revealed that some serious works will need to be undertaken to the fabric of the building.

As mentioned above, the full amount of £12,000 for the Parish Share assessed on the church for the year was paid. The Parish Share for 2011 has been calculated at £12,540. However, at this time it is not possible to estimate how much of this can be paid, particularly in view of the considerable outlay needed for major repairs to the building in 2011.

Although the amount of income from Gift Aided donations was approximately the same in 2010 as in 2009, it is anticipated that this income will be considerably reduced in 2011 due to the death of some donors and others moving away or leaving the church. Once again, we would urge everyone to review their contributions. The Parochial Church Council is also considering initiating targeted fund raising, in particular to pay for the building works required in 2011.

Antonia Stickland
Treasurer

Keble Club

Keble club meets after the 11 am family service on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. We aim to do activities to reinforce the message from the service. We meet immediately after the service in the children's corner for our activities. All ages are welcome and we adapt our activities to ensure that all the children can be included regardless of age. Parents are able to have a drink and chat while the children are engaged (after they have had their refreshments). We now have a growing group of regular children attending Keble Club. In the last year we have made, displays for the children's corner, craft activities, cards for special occasions and friends who have been unwell. We play games, storytelling with props, worksheets and much more.

We are active in the community by supporting the church/school fair with the Keble club stall, with games for the children. Our annual Christmas Funday was again a great success thanks to our many willing helpers who made the day possible, both adults and some of the older children who wanted to help. A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the Fun Day fun for everyone involved, and helped the children learn about the true meaning of Christmas. The children made a collage of the nativity scene with Mary Joseph and Jesus, this can be seen hung up in the children's corner of the church.

Jayne Smith

Hursley Mums and Tots

The Mums and Tots group is thriving and, thanks to a mini baby boom in the village, has many new members with small babies. We meet every Tuesday between 10.30 and 12.00 in the Archie Heath room in the Parish Hall. The mums can chat to each other while enjoying a hot drink and a biscuit. Their children can play, learn some social interaction, do puzzles, draw and occasionally some other craft activities. They also have a drink and a biscuit, while I read them

stories. We always finish off the session with some singing. They never tire of the same stories or songs!

The group is a great place for new mothers to meet each other and many long friendships have been forged at Mums and Tots. It is also a way for families who are new to the village and do not yet have school-age children, to meet other families. As most of the tots who come to the group end up going to John Keble School, it means that they already know some of the children who will be in their class, which is always beneficial. The mums also meet away from the group and we had a delicious Christmas meal in the King's Head in December, attended by present, past and future mothers.

New members are welcome any time. Just turn up or give me a call on 01962 775554.

Kristin Tridimas.

All Saints Music Group

All Saints Music Group accompanies the hymns at Family Services. These take place at 11am on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

Taking our lead from All Saints expert pianist Derek, we can welcome anyone on any instrument. Rita has a nifty piece of software and she'll arrange music for any level of playing.

Numbers have fluctuated somewhat this year but we've not missed playing for any family services. If you are interested in joining us, or know someone who might be, come and have a chat with one of the group members before or after an 11am service on a second or fourth Sunday.

Jill Larner

The Family Service

The Family Service at all Saints' continues to take place on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. During the past year, attendance seems to be improving with some Sundays better than others. School holidays make a substantial difference to this.

William continues to lead the service on the 2nd Sunday and the Family Service team on the 4th. We offer something for everybody, but we try to involve the young people as much as possible by asking them to read the lessons and sometimes to write and read their own prayers on the topic of the day. We often have a little drama which can be both entertaining and instructive and are enjoyed by everyone in the congregation.

The Keble continues to meet at the end of the service giving parents and friends an opportunity to meet over coffee and biscuits.

Rita Hortin

Hursley Ringers

The bellringers achieved their main objective which is to ring the bells for Sunday and other services as agreed with the Vicar and Churchwarden during 2010. The bells were silent for only one Sunday morning service when the ringers went on their traditional weekend outing – this time to Birmingham over the weekend of 9th and 10th October.

All 12 bells have been rung for 31 of the 52 Sundays during 2010. 10 bells have been rung on 7 of the Sundays, 8 bells have been rung on 5 of the Sundays. On one Sunday only 6 bells were rung. Unfortunately, our ringing log wasn't completed for the remaining 7 Sundays.

Membership stands at 29 of whom 14 rang for more than 50% of Sunday Services. Some of our members only ring occasionally but still make a great contribution to the life of the band by joining in with, and organising, social events at band, District and Guild level. This level of

membership has been consistent over the last few years (29 members in 2009, 29 members in 2008, 30 members in 2007).

Ringling church bells well is a difficult skill to master, particularly on twelve bells; so we practice every Friday evening to hone our technique. The Friday practice runs from 7pm to 9pm and is generally well supported by band members and sometimes we have ringers visiting from other towers. We also have a Tuesday evening practice for beginners where the bells are silenced. Once a month we welcome visitors from Winchester District towers to a more advanced, but still silenced, practice on Tuesday evenings. We encourage band members and visitors to contribute steepleage which helps to cover costs and build up reserves for major expense items such as new ropes or sound control (plans have been submitted to the PCC for additional soundproofing). We also transfer money to the main Hursley PCC account.

Besides Sunday services, church bells have traditionally been rung for weddings and to mark both religious and secular events. We rang for two weddings in 2010 as well as for additional services over Christmas. We also rang in the new year.

We have had mixed success in striking competitions during 2010. In May, we entered two bands in to the Winchester District Striking competition and came 1st and 2nd. However, we only managed 3rd in the Guild inter tower eight bell striking competition also held in May and 6th in the National 12 Bell Striking Contest eliminator held in March at St Martin in the Fields, London.

Tower outings are a very popular part of bell ringing culture. In February, Peter Hill organised an outing to some twelve bell towers in Croydon and East Grinstead as part of our build up to the 2010 National Competition. In April, Rosemary Hill organised an outing to some local six bell towers with the aim of giving our less experienced ringers some different bells to ring on. In August, Richard Thompson had many of us pedalling our bicycles around Selborne, Holybourne, Alton and Chawton. Ken Warner arranged our October weekend outing in Birmingham which was fortuitous as we have been drawn to ring at Birmingham in the

2011 National 12 Bell Competition. All the outings were very successful - not least because of the attention to detail by the organisers.

The band has an active website which is an electronic equivalent of a tower notice board. We try to keep a record of everything we ring and this is posted on the website.

Andrew Craddock
Tower Secretary

Deanery Synod Report

The Winchester Deanery Synod usually meets 3 times per year at a different church or hall for each meeting. The format is somewhat similar, with worship, a presentation about the host parish, receiving the minutes and handling matters arising, reports from the deanery committees (standing, finance and mission and pastoral) as well as reports from Diocesan and General Synod. The remainder of the meeting is more varied. This might be about aspects of parish life, an examination of how God's mission to the deanery might be extended or maybe a debate on a subject Diocesan Synod has asked for a view on. The last 3 topics were:

- Living in a changing church in the 21st century
- A green church and a green community
- Every child and family matters

Jo Bontoft

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