

**ST. JAMES' CHURCH ALDERHOLT
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR 2010**

Duties of the Parochial Church Council

The PCC is responsible, together with the Incumbent, for reviewing and moving forward the ministry of St. James'. It shares with the Incumbent responsibility for deciding the forms of worship to be used in Church. It is responsible for collecting and administering all monies connected with the Church. It arranges for the care and maintenance of the Churchyard and the Church Hall (largely through the Church Hall Amenities Team). In fulfilling its role the PCC should be a forum in which all considered viewpoints can be expressed and listened to courteously. At all times it needs to hold before it the challenge of the Gospel and to rely prayerfully on God.

Membership of the PCC in the year 2010 following the Annual Parish Meeting on 20th April

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Revd Philip Martin, Incumbent | Chairman | Tony Fiske | Elected Member |
| Revd David Dennis | Asst Priest | Peter Gowers | Elected Member |
| Jean Mortimer | Churchwarden | Mary Love | Elected Member |
| Rosemary Schofield | Churchwarden | Angie Larkins | Elected Member |
| | and Deanery Synod | Simon Morgan | Elected Member |
| Peter Hinton | Deanery Synod | Justin Tivey | Elected Member |
| Ken Palmer | Deanery Synod | Lewis Pearson | Co-opted Member |
| Nigel Cooke | Treasurer | | from September |

Assisting the Vicar with Parish work were: Revd David Dennis, Assistant Priest, and Lay Pastoral Assistants: George Crouch, Linda Dennis, Valerie Bell, Michele Gosling, Stella Palmer and Brenda Powell.

Parish Administrator, Mrs. Katharine Puttick, is employed for two mornings each week. She is Secretary to the PCC and takes the Minutes at their meetings. The PCC met six times during 2010.

Statistics – 2010

Members on the Church Electoral Roll - 151

Approximate attendance on an ordinary Sunday: adults 70 – 75. Children under 16: 6 – 10.

Baptisms: 16 Marriages: 8 Funeral Services: at Church 5 at Crematorium 3

Confirmation: a total of 7 Candidates (youngsters and adults) prepared for and were confirmed at joyful services in Salisbury Cathedral.

On five Sundays in April and May attendance was recorded for Diocesan Parish Share estimation.

Specific attendance figures are submitted annually on a 'Statistics for Mission' form which is used for future planning within the Diocese. Accurate and full entries in the Register are vital for completing these forms.

Sunday Services:

Holy Communion: 8.00am every Sunday

10.30am – Parish Communion. Jim's Pilgrims (children from the age of 3) and their Leaders come into Church part way through the 10.30 service on three Sundays each month.

First Sunday of the month:

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am First Sunday Worship is planned with a theme. Occasionally there is a drama presentation.

Our music group plays for this service.

6.00pm Evensong – also planned with a theme.

Several quiet and reflective services with prayers for 'Wholeness and Healing' were held.

Weekday Services:

Morning Prayer is said in Church daily at 7.15am (with a simple celebration of Holy Communion on Friday) and at 9.00am on Saturday. Evening Prayer is said on Thursdays at 5.15pm.

Holy Communion is celebrated each Thursday at 9.30am in the Village Hall Committee Room.

A Pram Service in Church was held once a month for 'Little Jims' – a friendly and supportive group for tiny ones with their parents and carers who met once a week in the Church Hall. Suggestions for changing the timing and venue have been considered.

Music, a vital part of our services, festivals and special occasions, continued to thrive thanks to the dedicated work of our organist, Stephen Rothwell, together with the adult choir and young people who form the Music Group. Taking part in the Diocesan Choral Festival and concerts given in our Church by visiting choral and music groups has added an extra dimension.

Sharing Worship with Crendell Methodist Church and the Tabernacle were happy occasions arranged in partnership with the small group known as 'Alderholt Family of Churches'. Relations with the Congregational Church continue to be friendly.

We continue to enjoy close contact with St. James' First School, Sunbeams and Kingswood Nursery who visit the Church regularly.

The **Baptism** Support Group maintains contact with those whose children have been baptized in our Church. Members also attend baptism services.

A different kind of gathering in Church took place during election time in May – an Open Forum gave everyone the opportunity to listen to and meet all our parliamentary candidates.

Mid-Week morning, afternoon and evening groups continue to flourish. The friendly welcome to someone's home adds to the fellowship and encourages study and discussion on all manner of topics. The groups combined to organize an excellent 'Easter Feast' in the Church Hall.

In **Lent** some fifty people began the formidable task of reading the Bible, in chronological order, using a modern translation – 'Cover to Cover'. Many aim to finish by Easter 2011 and meet regularly to encourage, question and learn from one another.

The **Bereavement Support** Group continues to offer help and friendship, within a quiet and caring home environment, to anyone facing difficulty following bereavement.

The **Vestry Group**, those lively, fun-loving young people, continued to wear out their Leaders and surprise and delight us all with their talents for drama, art and film, underpinned with serious thought. The Group enjoyed a week-end at the residential Westbrook Centre on the Isle of Wight. Film taken there was shown at a further Crazy Race Night in the Village Hall. The £900 raised was shared between a Cancer Care Centre and youth work resources. All thanks are due to the Leaders for the care, interest and example they give to our young people as they help them grow in the Christian faith.

Charitable giving is constantly maintained to The Children's Society, U.S.P.G., The Church Army, The Bible Society, the Sudan and regular donations of food and practical gifts are collected each week for the Poitiers Project which helps to support families in need in our region.

In between group activities, services, and festivals, the day-to-day running of our Church continued. Housekeeping by our weekly cleaners, polishers and flower arrangers is very much appreciated and often remarked upon by visitors. Maintenance tasks, carefully and unobtrusively done, included remedial work to sections of the chancel roof, thanks to John Hensel. The service and prayers in June for the 161st Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church building included the newly laid York Stone paving at the entrance porch, kindly gifted by a memorial donation.

On the same morning the new car park was 'officially' opened and prayers of thanks and blessing given for all who had so generously provided the land, covered the cost and carried out the work.

The regular mowing, strimming and weeding by our volunteer churchyard gardeners and the care they take to nurture the wild flowers, as well as the wildlife, was rewarded with another Highly Commended certificate from the judges in the Dorset Wildlife Trust Living Churchyard competition.

A weekend Retreat for a small group to Hilfield Friary was a welcome quiet time to refresh mind, body and spirit.

2010 was a year for very special occasions; Vigil and Dawn Mass for Easter and the lighting of the Pascal Fire and Pascal Candle, with breakfast together afterwards; Superheroes Easter Workshops enjoyed by some 100 children at St. James' First School, planned and organised by our dedicated Jim's Pilgrims leaders, with valuable help from members of our congregation; joyful Confirmation services in Salisbury Cathedral in April for four of our young people Matthew, Georgina, Adele and Emily and again in October for Sandra, Luke and Danni; Ascension Day sunrise Eucharist celebrated on the summit of Kingbarrow at 6.30am followed by traditional 'English breakfast' in the Church Hall; again the climb to Kingbarrow for an open-air service on Pentecost Sunday walking from Crendell Chapel and back there for a delicious tea. The Archdeacon's Visitation – the annual service when Churchwardens are 'sworn in' – was held at St. James' and gave us the opportunity to meet our newly appointed Archdeacon, the Ven. Stephen Waine. A visit by the Bishop of Sherborne, Dr. Graham Kings, included a tour of the village, Worship Time at St. James' First School and an informal lunch with local business representatives at The Churchill Arms.

'**Outside**' events included football matches, cricket, walks, cycle rides, barbecues, also Beer & Hymns and Beer and Carols evenings at the Social Club on the Recreation Ground.

2010 was a good year for sales of asparagus, rhubarb, strawberries and raspberries and many thanks are due to the various people who continued the well known 'roadside ministry' and regularly checked the angle of the sun umbrella!

Celebrating God's Gifts was the theme for our Patronal Festival week-end and Fête on 24th and 25th July. The organizations that give so much to Alderholt joined in the occasion, with the added celebration of marking the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Church Hall. Many of the original volunteers on the building team enjoyed reminiscing and partying. Tim Palmer, High Sheriff for Dorset, presented a gift to John Cox, the leader of the Hall building team.

All thanks are due to the present committee who manage the Church Hall and keep it in excellent condition. Their well-supported and popular Skittles Evenings raise funds towards maintenance. Keeping the facilities in the Church Hall up-to-date make it the ideal venue for occasional films, meetings, coffee and conversation after services, fund raising lunches, Jim's Pilgrims activities, and the 'power house' for printing the Parish News.

In November a series of '**Heart to Heart**' conversations, presented in interview style with invited guests, gave us an insight into their lives, work and personal Christian journeys.

The Rainbows, a Beaver Scout Group successfully launched in April, and a **Cub Scout Pack** which began in the autumn all hold their meetings at, and enjoy using, the Church Hall.

In September our **Parish Community Worker**, Lewis Pearson, moved to Alderholt with his wife Jo and their young son Matthew. We celebrated with the Bishop of Sherborne leading Lewis' service of 'Welcome and Commissioning' followed by an excellent barbecue and refreshments. Thankfully the months of planning and making decisions had worked out well. An exciting time was ahead. By November the Forest Edge Coffee Shop at the Reading Room was up and running and proving to be a friendly community asset. With e-mail and podcasts, school work and social contact, Lewis is already well known.

And then in October there were some surprises in store for our Vicar. The service of Parish Communion for All Saints' Eve also marked the 25th anniversary of his ordination as Priest and twenty years' ministry as our Vicar in Alderholt. Our packed Church included friends from his former parishes and it was a great pleasure to present him with gifts and to show our appreciation of his long ministry amongst us. The party afterwards included some spectacular fireworks. There are excellent photographs on the web site with Pippa, Mary and Frankie.

All the activities and events could not happen without the support and help so readily offered by so many people and sincere thanks are due to them as we give thanks to God for 2010 and look forward with confidence to 2011.

Financial Review

The attached accounts set out the financial position of the PCC at 31 December 2010 and details the income and expenditure for the year ended on that date. The accounts are divided into various funds. Explanatory notes are appended describing what the funds are and how each of them may be used.

General Funds. The year 2010 saw movements, both up and down, within the various constituent items of income. Details are set out on page 9 of the accounts. Overall income was only slightly down at £62,829 (2009 - £63,968). The largest single item of our annual expenditure is Parish Share (our contribution to the Diocese and Church generally), this fell to £41,911 (2009 - £43,479). All other expenses taken together amounted to £19,591 (2009 - £18,382).

Overall the accounts show a surplus on General Fund of £1,292 for the year. This surplus is increased by £2,000 donated from the Parish News and reduced by £4,105 contributed to our Parish Community Worker project.

The church now has general funds amounting to £63,450. Of this sum £33,000 remains committed to the funding of the Parish Community Worker post and project referred to earlier in this report.

Funding

The Church continues to be funded wholly by voluntary donations. We receive no grants or subsidy of any sort from Government beyond the tax supplement paid in respect of voluntary contributions that are paid under Gift Aid.

Risk

Risks can be financial, reputational, statutory and operational. The PCC manages risks that it has identified to which it might be exposed and which might have a significant impact upon its work, or the PCC's ability to perform its duties, through a combination of good practice and insurance as deemed appropriate.

Investment Policy

When the PCC has surplus funds available it invests those funds that it considers will not be immediately required over the next few months in the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund. A proportion of those monies that the PCC believes will not be required for a period in excess of three years are invested in the CBF Church of England Equity Investment Fund and Fixed Interest Securities Fund.

Signed on behalf of the PCC

Rev'd. P. J. Martin
Incumbent