



**ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH CHURCH  
TROWBRIDGE  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2011**

**At 7.30pm at HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**

Please bring this leaflet with you to the meeting.

It contains:-

Your Agenda  
Minutes of the 2010 Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Accounts (Agenda item)  
Reports (Agenda item)

NOTE:- Items under Any Other Matters to be notified in writing to the PCC Secretary by 5 April

**ST THOMAS' CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2011**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening Prayers
2. Minutes of 2010 Meeting
3. Apologies
4. Election of Churchwardens
5. 2010 Reports from Organisations
6. Appointment of Sidepersons
7. Election of PCC Members
8. Election of 3 Diocesan Synod Representatives
9. Presentation of Accounts for 2010
10. Election of Independent Examiner for 2011
11. Reports:
  - a) Electoral Roll
  - b) PCC Proceedings in 2010
  - c) Deanery Synod
  - d) The Fabric of the Church
  - e) Presentation of Inventory and Log Book
12. Any Other Matters of Parochial or Church Concern\*\*\*  
  
Coffee
13. Vicar's Remarks
14. Close

NOTE:-\*\*\* to be notified IN WRITING to the PCC Secretary by Tuesday 5 April

**ST. THOMAS' THE APOSTLE, TROWBRIDGE,**  
**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20 April 2010**

**Present:** There were some 75+ members present representing St. Thomas and Kingfisher Churches  
Rev. Allan Coutts (Vicar) chaired the meeting

**1. Opening Prayers**

The meeting commenced with Allan welcoming everyone and stating that this was the first time we had held the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the church building instead of the hall.

He advised that thieves had tried to remove lead from the church roof but were caught on camera by a neighbour in St Thomas Road.

Allan said that APCM evenings are about thanking God for what He has done throughout the year, through good times and not so good.

Worship commenced with Andrew Sherwood leading us in Wonderful Lord by Nathan Fellingham followed by a solo sung by Andrew. We ended our time of worship with You Are The Vine by Danny Daniels.

Allan then prayed that if we abide in God, He will see that we have abundant fruit.

**2. Apologies**

These were received from Vicky Turner, Martin & Vanessa Bridgwater, Hugh & Wendy Armitage, Stuart Brown, Richard & Jane Butler, Mark & Alison Bennett, Noel & Pam Pizzey, Peter & Pam Thomas, Jim & Joan Scott, Pauline Hawkins, John Chettleburgh, Kevin Wright, Alice Bull, Mike Bullock, Steve Oldrieve, Andrew Otto, Angela Sherwood, Martin Gailey, Tineke Winfield, Eileen Whale, Chris Whittock, Clive Bates, Phil Hancock and Beth Gibbons.

A number of these apologies were due to the grounding of air traffic following the volcanic eruption in Iceland.

**3. Minutes of 2009 Meeting**

A request was made from the floor that it be noted that the minutes for 2009 meeting were taken by Derek Glover who was PCC Secretary for the last time at that meeting. The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and acceptance was proposed by Jacqui Gower and seconded by Roy Brown. All in agreement.

**4. Election of Church Wardens**

Two nomination forms had been received before the meeting and Allan announced that there is a change in the line up for 2010. Farewells and welcomes would come later. This year again, the Church Wardens will also serve Kingfisher Church.

Nominated candidates are Marjory Wade who was proposed by Hughie Armitage and seconded by Chris Turnbull-Ross and Marco van Tintelen proposed by Pauline Short-Mirzayi and seconded by David Goldstone. Both were duly elected to serve as Church Wardens.

**5. 2009 Reports from Organisations**

Allan said he hoped everyone had read all the reports in the notes and found them interesting.

It was noted that the Kingfisher report had no author and could this be remedied for future years. Name to be added to report is Alison Bennett.

Allan asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the reports. Chris Hicks advised that there were two new groups started this year but no reports written. The groups are Prophecy and Healing On The Streets (HOTS). He was advised by David Goldstone that HOTS is run by Vineyard Church and that both of the groups had not started until 2010 and our reports cover to December 2009.

Angela Grist was then invited to come to the front to introduce the new Overseas Missions Booklet. She asked the mission representatives present to stand so that all could see who they are. Organisations supported by St. Thomas are:

Sudan	Andrew Sharland
Overseas Missionary Fellowship	Martin Wakelin
Mission Aviation Fellowship	Stella Dutton
Mercy Ships	Angela Grist
Christian Solidarity Worldwide	Judy Wright
Central Asia	Pauline Short-Mirzayi
Arab World	Ed Greening
Bible Society	Gordon Russell
Tearfund	Hughie & Wendy Armitage
Compassion	Ty Butler

Work had taken place over several months to create the mission booklet and Angela invited everyone to take a copy when the meeting finished. She thanked Alice Jackman for her contribution and Gary and Julia Naylor who designed the cover.

Allan requested the reports be received with thanks for all the hard work given by all the teams involved. This was proposed by Judy Wright, seconded by Stella Leeder and agreed unanimously.

## **6. Appointment of Sidespersons**

### **Sidesmen and women**

Many thanks to John Howard who has been responsible for overseeing this area of work this year, and a big thank you to all sidesmen and women.

Recommend that those who served last year be elected on bloc, with the addition of :

Carol Agate	Jacqui Bates	Steve Hawkins	Peter Thomas
Mark Agate	Jenny Butler	Brian Slark	Pam Wort
Clive Bates	Pauline Hawkins	Angie Syms	Stephen Wort

and the removal of:

Stella Leeder                      Graham Leeder

Therefore the following people be appointed to serve for the coming year:

Carol Agate	Barbara Hakes	Marina McHugh	Angie Syms
Mark Agate	Margaret Hannis	Gary Naylor	Vanessa Smyth
Hugh Armitage	Pauline Hawkins	Julia Naylor	Peter Thomas
Wendy Armitage	Steve Hawkins	Sue Oldrieve	Brian Wade
Jenny Butler	Chris Hicks	Gordon Russell	Pam Wort
Richard Butler	John Howard	Andrew Sharland	Stephen Wort
Clive Bates	Jean Ludlow	Carol Simpson	
Jacqui Bates	Tony Ludlow	Nigel Simpson	
Stella Dutton	Peter Maskrey	Brian Slark	

The majority of the people on the list have volunteered as reserves, and additional sidesmen and women are still needed to take one of the regular slots which have now fallen vacant. At present these are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's in the month, in the evenings.

I would particularly like to express my thanks to Stella and Graham Leeder, who have now moved off the list, having served faithfully and regularly for a number of years.

As last year, if any new volunteers are identified later in the year I would propose that the PCC approve them rather than their having to wait until the next APCM

Current pattern – for information

1 <sup>st</sup>	John Howard; Reserve Team	Marina McHugh
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jenny Butler; Angie Syms	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tony Ludlow, Jean Ludlow	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Thomas, Sue Oldrieve	Stella Dutton
5 <sup>th</sup>	Gary Naylor, Julia Naylor	Margaret Hannis

David Goldstone  
Churchwarden  
April 2010

## 7. Election of PCC Members

There are four vacancies for 2010: 3 for three years and one for one year due to the resignation of one person who is now at university.

Nominations received are:

Barbara Hakes proposed by David Goldstone seconded by Jayne Gibbons; Glyn Coy proposed by Barbara Hakes seconded by Michael McHugh; Mark Bennett proposed by Graham Leeder seconded by Stella Leeder and Carol Brown proposed by Tony Ludlow seconded by Chris Turnbull Ross.

Stephen Bull asked if one of these nominees was ex-officio. Allan advised that Barbara Hakes had been co-opted to PCC last year to fulfil the role of secretary. The question was then put to the Chair as to how selection was to be made for the one year post. Allan suggested that the person listed last on the form be given that post. Carol Brown, who was the last name on the list, agreed to this. Allan then declared all four duly elected.

## 8. Presentation of Accounts for 2009

Allan invited Glyn Coy to make comment on the accounts and to answer any questions.

Glyn stated that the fall in income had not been as bad as expected. The end of year showed a deficit due to non receipt of Aldhelm Fund monies not issued. These have now been received.

Glyn received a question from the floor. As the financial demands of the vision are not yet determined, what extra finance is required for next year? Glyn stated around 10% or £15,000.

Glyn explained that the first two pages of the finance report are a legal requirement whereas the other pages show more detail for our own benefit.

Asked about the Hardship Fund, Glyn advised that this has been ring-fenced for specific causes.

The importance of establishing a plan was stated from the floor. Glyn stated that the proposed Budget is ready for the next PCC meeting and that he will continue to update the budget once timings are known regarding Holy Trinity.

Another question asked was that even though we have replaced the people who moved to Kingfisher Church does not this growth offset against the 10% deficit? Are the newcomers already giving? Glyn stated that the 10% extra required is over and above the amounts received from both old and new members of the Church.

Val Saxby asked that a change be noted on the accounts and that Toddler Group should be Toddlers/Messy Church.

Ed Greening asked where the expenditure for the Hardship Fund is? Due to the nature of the fund, details would not be shown.

Roy Brown asked who is rent being paid to by Maranatha Church as they will be using Holy Trinity building temporarily?

Allan stated that Holy Trinity PCC are still responsible for the building and will accept payments for rental until such time as St. Thomas take over around the end of November.

The Financial Accounts were proposed by Allan as Chairman and duly received.

#### **9. Election of Independent Examiner for 2010**

Glyn Coy proposed and Carol Brown seconded that Christine Cook be re-appointed as independent examiner for 2010. This was accepted unanimously.

#### **10. Reports**

A suggestion was given that in future page numbers be added to the annual report.

It was noted that Electoral Roll was misspelt.

Roy Brown stated that he is not Lay Vice-Chair but Lay Chair of Deanery Synod.

Chris Hicks commented on Fabric Report regarding land purchase and the state of the Hall as discussed throughout the year. Marjory Wade advised that the land is still under negotiation and that the Church Hall has to be kept going for the time being until we know what future plans entail. £10,000 has been budgeted for 2010 for the hall and a survey is done annually to ensure the hall's safety.

As we do not yet know the detailed plans for the next few years we are in a moment of flux.

- a) **Electoral Roll** - adoption proposed by Stephen Bull, seconded by David Goldstone – agreed unanimously.
- b) **PCC Proceedings 2009** – adoption proposed by Stella Leeder, seconded by Jim Winfield – agreed unanimously.
- c) **Deanery Synod** – adoption proposed by Jean Ludlow, seconded by David Goldstone – agreed unanimously.
- d) **The Fabric of the Church** – adoption proposed by Graham Leeder, seconded by Roy Brown – agreed unanimously.
- e) **Presentation of Inventory and Log Book** – adoption proposed by Steve Dewar, seconded by Jenny Gailey – agreed unanimously.

#### **11. Any Other Matters of Parochial or Church concern**

No other matters received.

David Goldstone advised that Marco van Tintelen is to be sworn in as Church Warden by the Diocesan Registrar at the Archdeacon's Visitation. Asked when this will take place, Marjory Wade advised, 12<sup>th</sup> May. Allan stated that until that time Marco could attend PCC meetings as an observer. Barbara Hakes pointed out to Allan that Marco is now ex-officio and can attend in his own right as Church Warden. Allan announced this to the congregation.

The meeting then adjourned for a refreshment break.

#### **12. Kingfisher Report**

Allan said that the plan had been to hand over to Alison Bennett for her report on the first year of life at Kingfisher Church but as she is on a ship somewhere on the ocean he would have to take over! He noted that the work at Kingfisher had exceeded his expectations and that as he only visits occasionally, he is able to notice the changes each time in sense of family and depth of worship.

Alice Jackman had been asked to produce a DVD of Kingfisher in action. This was shown to acclaim from the congregation prior to folks from Kingfisher being invited to speak.

Stella Leeder said it is great to be a part of something new that God is doing. She reminded us that a year ago seventeen adults had stood in St. Thomas' to be commissioned. The Team have worked hard and well together. As meetings are held at the Mead School, lots of the children are familiar with it and enjoy their time there on Sundays. Having done a head count on Sunday for Wendy there are now thirty adults. They have five home grown preachers as well as the visiting plastic collared ones. Alison and Mark are great leaders, Mark being very practical and Alison a lovely up front leader. Mark can be found at the school early on Sunday mornings setting

up. Stella stated that getting to church at 9.30am with two children and staying happily married is a great achievement!

Allan said that both Alison and Mark have church planting in their blood so a good choice was made when selecting them.

Stephen Bull asked that St. Thomas continue to pray for Mark and Alison and the leadership team and also for their relationship with the school.

The team comprises:

Mark & Alison Bennett	Leaders
Steve & Jo Hockett	Service leading and Catering
Matt Young	Worship
Ed Greening	PA & Visuals
Stephen & Alice Bull	Children's work co-ordinators
Stella & Graham Leeder)	
Martin & Margaret Wakelin)	Prayer Ministry
Laura Young	Welcome Team
Nick & Kerry Elton	Sound and visuals

Allan said that many weeks there are as many children as adults and thanked Stephen and Alice for the work they do with the children.

Graham Leeder said that the worship wouldn't be as good without support from St. T's worship group. Joy Brown stated that she had attended Kingfisher thinking she would be of help and found that she was blessed by the love and support she received there.

Allan then stated that our two congregations are walking closely side by side. We need to learn the lessons with Kingfisher for future church plants. Roy Brown suggested that we might meet at Kingfisher for the next APCM.

### 13. Vicar's Remarks

Allan paid personal tribute to David Goldstone who is standing down as Church Warden this year, stating he had been his right and left hand man. He quoted Proverbs 3:2 "Let love and faithfulness never leave you". He paraphrased this to 'friendship and loyalty', encouraging, supporting and strengthening Allan. He has been a companion to Allan on significant trips to Harrogate and to America. His loyalty stands out and has taught me about loyalty. The real test came on several occasions when David would have preferred to have done something else or done it differently. He has spoken encouragingly even though not always in agreement.

David and Jane were called to the front to receive a gift of thanks. Another presentation was made to Carol and Roy Brown. This was to thank Carol for all the years of service she had put in as Treasurer.

Allan then stated that as he pondered the amazing example of David's friendship and loyalty, this also emanated from the whole Staff Team.

A challenging email had been received regarding new personnel. Is it not a good time to assess whether our structures serve mission rather than maintenance and release individuals, strengthening rather than weakening them?

Regarding the leadership at St. Thomas, I work on the Moses model. There were seven individuals in Moses' life who had major access and input.

**Jethro** - wise older man giving timely council.

**Aaron & Hur** - contemporaries who held up his arms. When Moses tired arms fell the Amalekites were winning the battle but when Aaron and Hur held up Moses' arms, the Israelites won.

**Bezalel & Oholiab** - skilled craftsmen and technicians able to implement the vision.

**Joshua & Caleb** gung-ho, can-do young men. Firebrands, up for anything, wanting to take the land.

The Staff Team is like this, recognised leaders in recognised areas in the church sharing my leadership role and acting as an advisory and support group for me personally. Membership is by invitation not election. The criteria for membership of this group as quoted by Bill Hybels are "competence, character and chemistry". The greatest of these is chemistry! A highly skilled team can still prove ineffective without the right chemistry.

The current make up of the Staff Team corresponds neatly to Moses' model:

**Peter Maskrey** = Jethro – prayer ministry and AV

**David Goldstone & Marjory Wade** = Aaron & Hur – over the last ten years holding up my arms without flagging.

**Ian Gibbons & Martyn Whittock** = Bezalel & Oholiab –children’s work, preaching, worship. They have raised up teams by passing on their talent.

**Alison Bennett & Steve Dewar** = Joshua & Caleb, breaking new ground on the Mead and with young people.

However, all members play all roles at times. This is all about to change as I would like to invite Marco as new Church Warden to become a member of the Staff team also. David will stay on the team now becoming a Jethro and a Joshua with his involvement in HOTS and Street Pastors and formulating plans for Holy Trinity. He is also to continue administering the Hardship Fund.

Moses had a core team of seven plus seventy ‘elders’. On the advice of Jethro he chose seventy others to help with the work. These were people of good character with the spirit of Moses. This corresponds to our PCC, Cell, Worship, Junior Church, Toddler Leaders, Welcome, Prayer Ministry, Beracah, Sound and AV Teams etc.

The model of Moses is very like the example of Jesus who had an inner circle of three, Peter, James and John, then twelve, then seventy-two. Is there something eternally right about this structure? Perhaps Jesus followed Moses’ example!

What I have said about David tonight, I find in the Staff Team, in the “seventy” and in all the Church; the friendship and loyalty that abounds here. It is something special I have not encountered anywhere else I have worked. May it continue to increase and grow. AMEN

#### **14. Close**

Allan closed the meeting in prayer thanking God for Kingfisher, David, Staff Team, and all who contribute – some high profile, some unseen, but all essential for the work God has for us. Amen

Allan stated that he had not mentioned the vision today as he had spoken about it over several Sundays leading up to tonight’s meeting. If you have missed either of these talks they can be found on the website titled, ‘Don’t Miss Your Moment’ and ‘Catalysts for God’s Blessing’.

The meeting ended with the Blessing at 9.45pm

## KINGFISHER CHURCH

Believe it, or not, Kingfisher Church is almost 2 years old! You may remember that a church plant team of approximately 20 adults and 10 children was 'sent out' with a wonderful Commissioning service involving the Bishop of Ramsbury on Palm Sunday 2009, and we commenced our regular Sunday morning worship service on Easter Day that same year

The stated aim was 'to bring Friendship, hope and healing to Paxcroft Mead' by establishing a Christian presence at the school on Sundays and actively seeking ways to serve the Community. Two years on, we are encouraged by all that God is doing and how He has opened doors ahead of us.

The Sunday Service has grown to approximately double the original number, with a wider 'fringe' developing and quite large turnouts for special occasions (e.g. Christmas). Several 'de-churched' families who joined us in the early months, have now become fully integrated with the Kingfisher Family, which has been a real blessing.

The congregation consists of almost as many children as adults, so worship is planned very much with all ages in mind., and we have experimented with café style, activity based, and 'messy church' type family services. In addition, a full range of Children's Church groups are run on 3 Sundays each month.

One outstanding opportunity for community involvement has been the invitation to take a whole term of weekly mixed age afternoon sessions at the Mead School with the aim of building a sense of community and family within the school. These sessions have been well received by the school and parents and the invitation is currently being repeated for a further term. In addition Alison has been invited to take 'community assemblies' at key festivals, further building the links between Kingfisher church and families on the Mead.

2011 saw the first 'Marriage Course' being run by Kingfisher with 3 couples attending. We are prayerfully considering whether this is a ministry that can support our outreach to Paxcroft Mead, enabling relationships to be established with people outside of the church, and creating a pathway for other, more direct, evangelistic activities like Alpha.

### *The Future?*

As our vision states, our hope and anticipation is that Kingfisher church will grow as people from Paxcroft Mead come to Christ and are nurtured and developed within our Church Family.

As yet we haven't seen any 'new converts', but there are encouraging signs of God at work, and we are praying that God will guide, equip & empower us so that we are ready to play our part as He moves in people's lives.

We are encouraged by

- A growing sense of 'family' at Kingfisher
- Increased confidence in ministry for many of the team who took on new responsibilities when Kingfisher was established
- Trusted networks being established outside the immediate church congregation

All of which provide a strong platform for future growth

Alison Bennett

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT ST THOMAS'

We are incredibly blessed both with our young people themselves and the faithful army of helpers who lead them. What many of us see from the pews on a Sunday morning is only the tip of the iceberg, as the short points below illustrate.

### CRÛCHE

- Crèche runs along quite happily with anything between 2 and 6 children each week and a loyal group of volunteers who each take a turn every 4 to 6 weeks.
- All I can say is that we are there should parents wish to use the facility and that we are a friendly and welcoming bunch, happy to have a chat if parents prefer to stay in the creche room.
- Debbie Berrett and I did it a fortnight ago with 5 children and they were all delightful.

Carolyn Dyer

### PARENTS AND TODDLERS

- The Toddler sessions are happy and noisy, with a good core of regular families enabling good relationships to be built. Numbers are still high but not as extreme as previously. Please keep praying!!
- The team is very flexible and supportive of each other; sadly Jane Edmondson and Carole Simpson have moved on due to work pressures, we will miss them both greatly. Kate Martin has joined us as a helper which is wonderful.
- Great events over the last year; we enjoyed a very successful 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party for the group in June; it was fantastic to see some past families. Services are held twice a term as usual and the Christmas parties have continued to be happy and well attended.
- Future events; Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April Dad's Day with bacon sandwiches; Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April Easter egg hunt at Holy Trinity.
- At Christmas we held Crib Service at Holy Trinity and are planning an Easter Event there on 11<sup>th</sup> April. We feel God is leading us to do something there about once a term at present.
- Many thanks as always to our prayer partners, to all the extra helpers at Christmas and summer events and to Allan and the Church particularly Marjory for their continued support. We continue to pray that God will take this work on where He wants it to go.

Val, Margaret, Carrie, Jane and the Toddler Group team.

### MESSY CHURCH

- Time to be messy and creative while learning more about God and how he wants to be involved in our lives.
- We have created good links with other churches through conversations over coffee.
- We have a consistent group of children and their 'minders', parents, etc.

### LITTLE GLORIES

- Our Little Glories group (2- school age) has grown gradually through the year after again having a large number of children move up to Scramblers and Climbers in September.
- We have about 12 children on role at present and have 5 to 10 children each Sunday.
- We continue to have three leaders ( Cindy Walker, Jo Holland and Janet Wigley )one for each Sunday in the month, who work with two of our faithful band of helpers ensuring plenty of

adults for the many toilet visits!

- We have helpers from Apprentices every second Sunday including Beth Wigley, Naomi Gibbons and Josh Garg who are a great help and are very popular with the children.
- We still use the Scripture Union Bubbles material as well as having our regular news time, prayer time and lots of play not forgetting the ever popular drink and biscuit.
- It is great to watch the children grow in confidence as they become used to the group and develop friendships.

Janet Wigley

#### SCRAMBLERS AND CLIMBERS

- Scramblers and Climbers caters for children aged 4-7 years. We have about 20 children on roll and average about 12 each week.
- We aim to have four adults on each week (two leaders and two helpers). We continue to have a leadership team of five (Chris Whittock, Sue Sharland, Ruth Chettleburgh, Rachel Hunt and Rachel Humphries). We are supported by a loyal group of helpers.
- Our activities include games and crafts as ways of exploring Bible stories. We use the Scripture Union Light Programme, which explores themes from both the Old and the New Testaments.
- We continue to collect for various projects chosen by the children. At the moment we are saving up for ducks and chickens, to help farmers in developing countries.

Chris Whittock

#### EXPLORERS

- We have a great group with average attendance of 16-20 but even more on the books. We aim to have 3 leaders every week so that we can give the children a bit more attention and it is lovely to chat with them. They are really enthusiastic answering questions and it is just tricky spotting who put their hand up first. We have lots of fun with crazy games and then they are excellent at listening to stories from the Bible.
- We have been giving our collection money to Uwam for over 10 years but she has finally graduated from the Compassion programme and so we are now giving to a school in Juba – Jane Smith and a friend gave the Explorers a fantastic presentation on how life differs in Juba and the Explorers were really enthused so it will be great to have this link.
- Maria Van-Tintelen is standing down as a leader at Easter and will be greatly missed. Who else would be brave enough to get the Explorers all quietly lying on the floor listening to tranquil music - and it worked! If anyone wants to join the team then do come and visit us for a session – it is really rewarding.

Rob Pitcher, Richard Butler, Maria Van-Tintelen, Jane Smith, Harriet and Geoff Heard

#### PATHFINDERS

- We have a lovely bunch of young people, usually about 7 or 8, who are enthusiastic, reflective and seem to enjoy each other's company.
- We are all (leaders included) growing and developing spiritually and learning from each other.
- During the year we have enjoyed our dramatic ventures.
- A recent Friday night games evening was very popular and everyone wanted to do it again!

John Chettleburgh

## IMPAX

IMPAX is a youth group for 11 to 15 year-olds.

- We are part of the national Urban Saints (formerly Crusaders) organisation and meet on Wednesdays evenings in Paxcroft Mead Community Centre.
- Our regular attendance is around 12 with most from St Thomas' and Maranatha churches and around a third from non-church backgrounds.
- Regular activities include a variety of games, a tuck shop and a Bible-based discussion.

This year we:

- went to Viney Hill, did canoeing, got lost in the forest, had a bonfire and scary games in the dark;
- sang carols outside Budgens with Kingfisher;
- had a Safari supper around Paxcroft;
- went swimming in Bradford on Avon with Explorers;
- visited RAF Lyneham and saw the only flying Vulcan;

Please pray for more boys and a female leader.

Richard Butler

## APPRENTICES

- Apprentices number between 5 and 12 on a Sunday morning
- Topics we have been studying include: 70x7 (a look at Forgiveness), Bittersweet Life (a study of Ecclesiastes) and Our House (looking at the Church as God's house)
- A time of change for us as we say a sad farewell to Steve Dewar - he will be greatly missed!
- The leadership team now consist of Helen Shields, Julie LeMasurier and Marco Van Tintelen (who is looking to pull back from Apprentices due to his warden commitments)
- Highlights for the year include: a trip to Laser quest, a Scavenger Hunt around Trowbridge in teams, performances at 'St Thomas Got Talent'.
- Future needs include more male leaders, wisdom and vision for how we can make links with other youth groups in Trowbridge and the possibility of utilising Holy Trinity as a Youth resource.

Helen Shields

## MIND THE GAP

- Although feeling a bit disjointed as we are only running activities in uni holidays, we have had good attendance when we have met.
- Continued Socials.  
Involvement in toddler crib service as a way to serve.
- Mentoring began in Sept and new cohort (+a few others) to receive mentors this term.
- 2 Meetings planned for MTG cell at Easter using NOOMA DVD as discussion starter.

Carrie Farnell

## CHURCH LIFE

### ALPHA

- Another year another two courses. God remains faithful in bringing people to us who want to discover Jesus.
- In both courses it has been good to see guests and team growing week by week. The guests have come to know Jesus and the team have made more of a commitment.
- We have had the pleasure this year of seeing several guests be baptised and confirmed. Another was baptised in March at the church she now attends.
- Our worship leader came weekly with suggestions for songs. He had spent his week praying for what would be right for the subject of the night and that would enable the guests to relate to Jesus. We were all blessed.

Barbara Hakes

### A LIFE WORTH LIVING

- Another two courses this year. Both of them taking Alpha candidates further on their journey with God.
- Due to ill health at the beginning of this year, I had the privilege of passing the responsibility of the course to a previous Alpha candidate, Nigel Simpson. I believe the Lord highlighted him for this task as it will assist him in his walk which it is hoped will lead to ministry. He has proved an asset and I am thankful for his willingness to serve.
- Both courses have gone very well with everyone in attendance enjoying the friendships as they develop and being made aware of all the areas of newness in their lives since coming to Christ.

Barbara Hakes

### MARRIAGE COURSE

- Takers for the Marriage Course have slowed down from the initial rush. It seems that most of our people who wanted to do it have now done so.
- No course was run in the autumn but we are currently running one for three couples at our home. This followed an announcement in church intended to reach couples who are new to our church and may not know what it's all about.
- Kingfisher are also running a course for three couples.
- Following an approach to St. Thomas' a year or so ago, Maranatha are also due to run their own course, which will be held at St. Thomas'.
- We would like to hear from any couple who would like to attend a course in the near future, possibly next September if anyone is interested.

Carol and Roy Brown

### CELLS

- Jane Goldstone and Colin & Vicki Turner have continued to be Encouragers to support Allan in caring for the Cells and their Leaders.
- A Cell Leaders training course was run for 5 folk
- One Cell has multiplied into two, others have seen some growth.
- There have been encouraging moves from some Cells to reach out to the wider community.
- 'Cell' continues to be slightly contentious as a title – Allan has suggested individual groups use what title helps them most, but to remind us of the overall aim Cell will remain as the working title for the church groups.

Colin Turner

## BERACAH

- Once again we have had an interesting and varied programme, which included Prophetic Art and Sushi Making. Among the speakers was Rev. Peter Atwill, who gave us a 2 week short course on “How to Evangelise effectively”.
- Beracah raised money this year for “Breakthrough” and Canal Ministries. Once again we raised enough funds to sponsor Reynaldo (Ryan) in the Philippines for another year’s schooling.
- Our social mornings have been well attended with ladies of various nationalities attending.
- The Beracah Assemblies, with Jane Edmondson at the helm, have been successful. We had another assembly on 16<sup>th</sup> March
- Beracah is steadily growing in numbers with ladies of various age groups attending. We are always aware that none of this would be possible without God’s grace and help.

Margaret Hannis

## MEN’S SPORT

- Continues to provide fun, some exercise and a good start to Saturdays for those who attend.
- Generally there are about 10 – 12 men, but there can be as many as 18 who turn up. There is no membership – any man who wishes can attend – newcomers always welcome. With a core of people from our churches there are still many of our friends from the area who come regularly. See Geoff Heard, John Chettleburgh, Graham Leeder or Mark Bennett if you want to know more.
- The mornings are largely volleyball but with football featuring occasionally.
- There are some breakfasts planned at some of the bloke’s homes for the coming months – usually about once a month.
- We have had a recent coaching session to improve our play and technique, with varying degrees of success. (Old dogs and new tricks comes to mind!)

John Chettleburgh

## THURSDAY 7am PRAYER MEETING

- The underlying motivation for meeting has always been to “*hang around the Lord*”, waiting on Him for revival in our churches and the awakening of our community.
- We meet for just 45 minutes: devotional; a time of meditation and sharing; a short time to present prayer needs
- The timing of the meeting is for the benefit of those who need to go straight from it to their place of work
- Average attendance has remained fairly constant over the years but in recent months has slightly increased.
- The future? As with all our church ministries, the questions have to be asked from time to time: Is God still in this? Is the season for it over? Is He wanting to do a new thing?

Peter Maskrey

## FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP

- Word Worship Prayer
- We wait on the Lord
- Use CARE (Christian Action, Research & Education) Prayer Guide
- Needs of the Church, local national & worldwide
- Revival!

Marina McHugh

## PRAYER MINISTRY

- Our thanks to all the team members for their faithfulness on the rota and for the extra demands made upon them
- There has been no shortage of folk requesting prayer, Sunday mornings and evenings
- Our grateful thanks to God for the answers to prayer received and the reports that come back to us. We look to God for more and more of His power to be released through this ministry
- Three new members have joined in the past year
- Nearly all of the team were able to attend a refresher/training course, last November, run by *New Wine* for our region and hosted here at St Thomas'

Peter Maskrey

## MISSION AWARENESS GROUP/OVERSEAS MISSION

- **Mission Awareness:** During the last year we have focused on Mission Aviation Fellowship, Mercy Ships, Overseas Missionary Fellowship, Arab World, Central Asia and the Bible Society.
- **Guest Speakers:** Kevin Crook for MAF; Majed and Anna (Arab World); Charles and Liz Chalmers for OMF; Andy Bissex for the Bible Society; Richard Holt for Central Asia; Angela Grist for Mercy Ships.
- **Annual Missions Coffee Morning** was held on Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup> 2010 with 16 Missions taking part in raising awareness and funds.
- **Overseas visits:** Matt and Tom Bates went to Tanzania with Soapbox; Angela Grist went to China with International China Concern.

### Church/Area Representatives:

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • The Bible Society              | Gordon Russell          |
| • The Sudan                      | Andrew Sharland         |
| • Central Asia                   | Pauline Short-Mirzayi   |
| • Arab World                     | Ed Greening             |
| • Overseas Missionary Fellowship | Martin Wakelin          |
| • Christian Solidarity Worldwide | Judy Wright             |
| • Mission Aviation Fellowship    | Stella Dutton           |
| • Mercy Ships                    | Angela Grist            |
| • Tear Fund                      | Hughie & Wendy Armitage |
| • Compassion                     | Ty Butler               |

Angela Grist

## WELCOME TEAM

- As in previous years there has been a steady flow of newcomers to St Thomas', a number of whom have become regulars.
- Unfortunately Welcome Teams have fallen into abeyance due to various pressures, but it is hoped to reconvene them in the future.
- Once again many thanks to the team for all their enthusiasm and dedication. As you will appreciate, standing out in exceptionally inhospitable weather during the winter showed real commitment.

John Howard

### SIDESPEOPLE

- *Take care of God's needy people and welcome strangers into your home (Romans 12:13)*
- Along with the welcome team, the sidespeople have seen some adverse conditions from cold and snow and some hot summer days welcoming people to our church.
- It is always such a blessing to see a smiling face and receive a friendly hello at the door of St Thomas'.
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who are part of this amazing team.
- We welcome Mary to the team.
- Hopefully this year we will be able to meet up more as a team and look towards.
- Much thanks also goes to the welcome team for their faithfulness in greeting us all and visitors to our church. I believe this part of our ministry is vital to ensure people feel at home in the church.
- Thanks also to John Howard for his coordination of the team and his always encouraging words.

Marco VanTintelen

### FLOWER TEAM

- The team consists of 13 members who take it turns to purchase and arrange fresh flowers in Church every Sunday throughout the year (except during Lent).
- Barbara Rogers does the Admin. and prepares the rota.
- Stella Dutton oversees the arrangements for Easter, Harvest and Christmas.
- Jean Bowers and the Brownies arrange the troughs at these Festivals.
- New members always welcome!

Stella Dutton

### STREET PASTORS

- Street pastors have been out every Friday evening for the last two years, except for Christmas Eve this year.
- Reports from the Police and Pubs and Clubs are that Friday evenings have quietened down substantially and are safer since we began!
- Most revellers are positive about our presence and welcome us.
- Have begun to explore the possibility of going out on Saturday evenings once a month, but we need more volunteers (if interested, please contact Stewart Palmen or David Goldstone).
- Have given a number of talks to organisations and churches in West Wilts, and been blessed by potential pastors from Warminster as they prepare to get a group set-up there.

David Goldstone

### HEALING ON THE STREETS

- This is a joint Ministry with West Wilts Vineyard.
- Groups go onto the streets on Saturday Mornings every fortnight.
- To date, there have been a small number of people who are not regular members of local churches who have agreed to be prayed for, and several have asked for prayer for others.

David Goldstone

### PROPHETIC

- This is a relatively new ministry grouping in our church.
- One meeting has been held to discuss the way forward, and to agree a protocol for working, and in particular for giving words in church.
- A prophetic art group has been established, and we have been blessed by beautiful painting during the worship times.
- Many ideas are in the planning stages.

David Goldstone

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

- The Worship Team has led our sung worship at morning and evening services on Sundays and on other occasions throughout the year. God has blessed us richly as a congregation as we have sought to honour Him in our corporate praise and worship.
- The team is made up of singers, instrumentalists, sound technicians and audio visual operators. We have 6 worship leaders - Andrew Sherwood, Judy Wright, Jenny Gailey, Melanie Otto, Matt Young, and myself. We lead on a rota basis with different combinations of singers and instrumentalists. We aim to provide a balance of contemporary and traditional worship hymns and songs.
- This year we have had to say goodbye to a number of team members who have moved to other parts of the country and the world - Idris Harries (Australia) , Mark and Carol Agate (Exeter), and Joy Brown (Canada). We thank them for their faithful service and their contributions to the worship and the team.
- The Youth Worship Band, led by Melanie and Sam Otto, have blessed us through leading worship at our all age services.
- Matt Young and John Wilkes lead worship at Kingfisher, with some support from members of the St. Thomas' team on the second Sunday of each month.
- The Sound Team, led by Ian Pearson, fulfil a vital role in ensuring that the ministry of the Word and our worship is enhanced by high quality sound reproduction.
- Our team of audio visual operators provide excellent support to service leaders, preachers and the worship team, responding spontaneously to changing requirements within services.
- If anyone would like to consider joining the Worship Team, as a singer, instrumentalist, sound technician or audio visual operator please have a word with me.

Ian Gibbons

## **CHURCH MANAGEMENT**

### **PCC SECRETARY**

- A year of expectations as we awaited the outcome of Holy Trinity
- Now here we are discussing where we go from here
- We lost another member as Ben went off to university
- Alan has once again run a tight ship with grace and humility, keeping all of us on track
- With the hustle bustle of PCC meetings and Standing Committee it is good at this time of year to sit back and take stock. God has brought us a long way and proved faithful. As we look to the next year let us keep in mind that God is with us and will continue being faithful as long as we stay focused on Him.

Barbara Hakes

### **ELECTORAL ROLL**

- I took over as Electoral Roll Officer at the end of 2010. Thank you to Chris Hicks who kept the roll up until then - and for the efficient handover.
- The current Electoral Roll was started in 2007 and, therefore, only needs to be revised this year. A new roll will be prepared in 2013. Prior to this revision there were 158 names on the roll, and when this revision closed on 28 March prior to the APCM the number increased to 175. But, with over 250 people worshipping in St Thomas' and Kingfisher on a weekly basis this number is still a bit disappointing, as the Electoral Roll is not only the 'official' list of our membership, but only those on the Roll are eligible to stand for PCC or to vote at the APCM. Once on the Electoral Roll names are only removed if we are requested to do so or if the person has died. No names have been removed from the Roll in the past year.
- It is interesting to see – and a reflection of what is happening in other growing churches - that of the 175 names on the Roll only 32% live within the parish of St Thomas', 5% within our part of the Holy Trinity parish and 63% live outside the bounds of the parish.

Pat Kerbey (Electoral Roll Officer)

### **WEBSITE**

- website aims to provide information about the church both to those outside and inside, with the following regularly updated: cell notes, weekly notices, monthly news, service plans
- morning sermon recordings (not family service) are available for 'listen again' and as a podcast
- approx 75% of sermons are uploaded the same day as they are given. The rest are uploaded at a later date due to time and availability constraints
- hopefully the information is relevant and up-to-date.
- If you spot out-of-date information or wish to provide any other feedback, please email: [webmaster@stthomastrowbridge.org](mailto:webmaster@stthomastrowbridge.org) or talk to Philip Shields

Philip Shields

### **ECO-CHURCH GROUP**

- The group has met 5 times over the year. It seeks to support the church in taking positive steps to care for the environment as part of the life and mission of St Thomas's.
- Some key issues being considered include energy use, travel and recycling. We produce occasional eco-church newsletters in the monthly news.

- The group includes Andrew Sharland, Chris Hicks, Chris Humphrey, Mark Bennett, Martin Wakelin and Stuart Brown. We would like to hear of any ideas or initiatives you may have.

Andrew Sharland

### THE PARISH OFFICE

- Another busy year.
- The Weekly Notice Sheet and Monthly News show what is coming up in the life of St Thomas' church - articles for printing, about any aspect of our church family life, always welcome.
- Grateful thanks, as always, to the Print Run Team: Marina & Michael McHugh, Peter & Win Maskrey, Debbie Woolfrey, Roy Brown, and Ric Gower. New members always needed!
- The laptop has performed well for Easy Worship projection when we've had problems with the church pc.
- Many thanks to everyone who took Alpha invitations home to fold, also to all who regularly take bundles of these, along with Harvest, Easter and Christmas invitations (beautifully produced by Gary Naylor) to deliver around the Parish. This is about to become a much bigger task, with the addition of Broadmead, -more 'folders' and 'posties' welcome!
- Thanks also to all on the Coffee Rota, for their faithful service. Always room for more!

The Parish Office hours are 9.30 – 1.30, Tuesday – Friday.

Email address: [office@stthomastrowbridge.org](mailto:office@stthomastrowbridge.org)

and for Allan: [allan@stthomastrowbridge.org](mailto:allan@stthomastrowbridge.org) .

Phone messages can be left on the answering machine outside office hours: 01225 754826.

Margaret Hewitt

### VISUALS MINISTRY

- Once again our thanks to the team of ladies who ensure that words are on the screen for the Sunday worship and for other events.
- After limping along for too long without qualified technical support of this computerized operation, we are delighted that Stewart Palmen has recently taken over the vacant role of *Visuals Co-ordinator*.
- Stewart made an immediate impact in assisting Brian Wade with the *Windows 7* upgrading of the St Thomas' computers; this necessitated upgrading the *Easyworship* song software to the latest version - just now coming on stream as this is written.
- The ladies are ably supported and encouraged by Margaret in the Office, preparing the order of services and calmly coping during the disruption of the computer upgrading exercise
- Pending Stewart's arrival, and his own review, proposed additions to the system have been on hold, notably a permanent video camera installation.

Peter Maskrey

### CATA

- This forum has an invaluable role facilitating communication and partnership between the churches of our town.
- St Thomas' continues to play a full part in CATA (Christian Action in the Trowbridge Area) supplying its Deputy Convenor, Treasurer and Communications Officer!
- Thus we have been thoroughly involved, often in a lead capacity, in such heart-warming initiatives as the Good Friday service and March, Origins and Lemons, Breakthrough, Street Pastors, Daily Prayer Stations, Rise Up Women/Church and many more.

- Next year we look forward to the State of the Nation conference, the Life Exhibition and further joint worship and ministry events at Holy Trinity.

Allan Coutts

### **FABRIC REPORT**

*For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too.  
Colossians 1:27*

Our hope is that we can share the riches and glory of all that Christ has given us with everyone who uses our church premises and one way we try to do this is to providing a clean, warm and pleasant place to meet. This is our hope and what we strive to provide.

After a particularly busy year last year of doing jobs this year has been more about maintenance and consideration about the future.

#### **Hall**

We have had annual reports on the hall for some years and the one in July 2010 showed there had been some further movement in the roof and on the advice of our surveyor we are now monitoring it more frequently. The Fabric Committee and PCC are considering what action to take in the light of our future needs and in conjunction with the extra facilities we now have available at Holy Trinity. Whatever the final decision it became obvious that we would need to use the current hall for some years to come and so we have recently started on a programme of decoration and re-flooring of the kitchen and lobby and some decoration and minor alterations in the toilets this will be followed by redecorating the hall. The heaters in the hall became unreliable this winter and were replaced January 2011.

#### **Land Registration**

The Land registration Act requires that all land in England, including church land, is registered with the Land Registry. All our land is now registered. Whilst doing this it was found that the church rooms were built partly on church land (land entrusted to the incumbent) and partly on land that was acquired at the time the hall was built (land which is the responsibility of the PCC). At present the rooms are registered with the church land but it may be that they will need to be transferred to be included with the hall.

#### **PAT Testing**

The annual PAT Testing was done in September and we would like to thank Mark Bennett who undertook this now ever growing task due to the amount of electrical equipment we now use in the office and church.

#### **Decoration**

We took the opportunity whilst Allan was having work done in the Vicarage in January 2011 to have the church Office painted and a new carpet fitted. We are in the process of drawing up a new schedule of decoration for the whole church plant.

#### **Cottage**

Some work has been done on the cottage windows to seal up gaps and stop draughts. Some further work on replacing rotten woodwork is now being looked at. We also arranged for some minor repairs to the stonework at the rear of the cottage.

#### **Maintenance**

The routine jobs of having the boilers serviced, lightning conductor checked and water heaters serviced have been carried out. Faults on the church and rooms boilers were rectified. The service engineer suggested some further improvements to the church boiler which are being considered.

We would like to thank Pauline Short-Mizari, Tony Smith and Martin Wakelin who, along with the churchwardens, serve on the Fabric Committee and provide us with much good advice and practical help. We would especially like to thank Martin who undertakes many of the day to day repair jobs that arise.

As always Hughie Armitage has been available to give us help and advice especially on electrical issues and our thanks goes to him and many others who have given help and advice over the last year without you our job would not be possible.

We would also like to thank our two cleaners, Wendy Armitage and Alison Curtis, who keep our church and rooms clean and also to our two gardeners, Joy Brown and Michael Bateman who have kept our grounds tidy and attractive. Sadly, for us, Joy returned home to Canada during the year but we are pleased to say Michael is continuing with us.

We know that you all join with us in wanting to keep our church buildings in good repair and as witness to all who use them.

We have also completed a count of all items in vestry and church and are happy to report it is all complete.

Marjory Wade  
Marco Van-Tintelen  
Churchwardens

### **DEANERY SYNOD**

Being an Anglican Church, St Thomas' is part of a Deanery. This represents a local geographical group of other Church of England churches, for the purpose of decision making, planning and information exchange. The meetings are co-chaired by the Rural Dean, Rev Andrew Evans at Holt and Roy Brown (lay chair)

Your elected representatives for the Bradford Deanery Synod are Roy Brown, Chris Hicks (both who are also on the Diocesan Synod), and Brian Wade. As our Vicar, Allan can also attend; there are also two representatives from St John's, West Ashton.

During 2010-2011 this Synod met three times and each meeting dealt with topics concerning how best to enable and resource God's churches to move forward in the light of reducing number of ordained clergy and changing patterns of ministry with greater involvement of the laity.

Subjects covered included:

- Healthy Churches Grow- presentation and challenge based on a Church House report of those UK Churches that are bucking the general trend by growing (welcoming, developing disciples, displaying outward orientation to the needs in the local community)
- Kadugli Mission in Sudan - Report from the team who visited the Kadugli Diocese (linked and supported by this Deanery).
- Clergy Moves & Pastoral re-organisation – Holy Trinity ceased to be a Parish church (Dec 2010) and so re-organisation of parish boundaries was required (e.g. St Thames has been assigned the Broadmead estate)
- Christian Aid – report from new CA representative Anne Potts on the ecumenical work that combats poverty at home and abroad by supporting local partners with development aid
- Women in the Episcopate – For the legislation regarding Women Bishops to go through, the General Synod needs a resolution of the majority of Diocesan Synods to be passed. In advance of this the Deanery Synods are being consulted. This Deanery gave unanimous support to the measure which makes provision for the very small number of parishes who disagree.
- The need for more periods of silent prayer (Waiting on God) in our worship services.

- News items from Diocesan Synod meetings held at Corfe Mullen and Salisbury.

This year sees the three year term of office for all of your elected representatives being completed. There are therefore three lay positions to be filled.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Synod please feel free to speak to one of us, or pick up a copy of the free newspaper from Salisbury. 'Sarum Link' is available at the back of the church and is a good read with news of events happening throughout the Diocese.

Chris Hicks

## ACCOUNTS

### FINANCIAL REVIEW

The income in unrestricted funds was £156,333, which represents an increase of 6% on 2009. Unrestricted fund expenditure was down 3% at £148,170 leaving a surplus for year of £8,163. The reason for the drop in expenditure is mainly due to a large reduction in planned spend on fabric; the need for such spend has not gone away, it has been deferred into 2011 and beyond but there were several increases in cost that had to be absorbed in 2010 including a large increase in parish share and utility costs. Overall, the financial picture remained stable in 2010 and it was heartening to see an increase in income during such difficult economic times for charities which is down to the generosity of the Church congregation.

In restricted funds, the balance of the Hardship Fund was used to continue to help Church members in need and the overall scheme continues to be an integral and important part of Church activity. Responsibility for the Holy Trinity Church building passed across to the PCC at the end of November along with £29,363 from Holy Trinity PCC which has been put into a restricted fund. This meant that overall, the Church exited 2010 with a total cash surplus for the year of £30,718.

While the financial position currently looks strong, there will be additional financial risk in 2011 and beyond. The wider economy remains weak and like many Charities, the Church depends on the ability of its membership to continue to financially support its activities. With the Holy Trinity building, the PCC is taking on an additional fixed cost and from 2012, the Aldhelm Mission funding for the Church Leader post at Kingfisher Church will expire so this will have to be funded out of general reserves. Expenditure is also needed on the fabric of the St Thomas campus so while the 2010 financial position is healthy, the PCC will have to remain vigilant to ensure the financial status of the Church continues to match its vision.

In relation to reserves, the PCC strives to keep enough money in the general reserve to fund three months of expenditure on unrestricted costs. This equates to approximately £37,000 and at the end of 2010 the cash balance in the general reserve was £48,079.

Glyn Coy