

The Parish of Burchetts Green



*St Mary the Virgin, Hurley
St John the Evangelist, Littlewick Green
St James the Less, Stubbings*

Reports for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

*Sunday 29 March 2009
in the Soltau Centre, Stubbings at 4.30pm*

*Actively listening to God
we will build on our rich and diverse worship traditions,
harnessing our varied talents and resources
to reach out to the wider community
as a relevant focus of spiritual growth and Christ's love.*

1 Secretary's Report

The Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Burchetts Green

a) Introduction

As the Parish is still in a period of Interregnum, this report is the product of the Wardens and Parochial Church Council under Rule 27 of the Church Accounting Regulations, August 1997 of the Parish of Burchetts Green. The Parish was formed in May 2002 from the uniting of the joint benefices of St Mary the Virgin, Hurley, St James the Less, Stubbings and the Parish of St John the Evangelist, Littlewick Green. The PCC cooperates with the Rector in promoting the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

b) Membership

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Associate Minister | The Revd Dilys Woodmore |
| Churchwardens | Mrs Rosalind Bentley (Lay Chair) Mrs Jenny Robinson |
| Deanery Synod | Mr Tom Dobinson Mrs Teresa Kennard (LLM) Mrs Hilary Davis (LLM) Ms Tina Molyneux Mr Brian Wells |
| Elected Members | Mrs Fiona Fieldhouse Mr Chris Gutch Mrs Emma Hodgetts Mrs Elaine Mordaunt Mrs Hazel O'Connor (Secretary) Mr Paul Sugden Mrs Sarah Sugden (Treasurer) Mr David Todd Mr Peter Watsham |

c) Meetings

The PCC met nine times from April 2008 to February 2009. As usual a broad range of issues and activities were discussed at the meetings but the early part of the year was dominated by the finalisation of the Parish Profile and the advertising for a new Vicar. Two sets of interviews were held in May and October before the appointment of Revd. Keith Nicholls was made, and he joins the Parish in April. The Committee very much appreciated all the help from the Ministry team, Area Dean, local visiting Priests and Rosalind Bentley during this long period of Interregnum.

Other items on the agendas included:

- Maintenance and upkeep at all three churches involving inside and outside works which included a new kitchen in the Soltau Centre, and at Littlewick a new roadway, electrics and, at present ongoing, the replacement of ceiling panels in the Sanctuary;
- Numerous fundraising activities which are very much appreciated, but necessary to supplement the income of the parish, the most successful this year being the Auction of Promises held at Hurley;
- Parish visiting - an important part of pastoral care in our community;
- Charitable giving, with three specific organisations - Local (Thames Hospice Care); National (Church Urban Fund); and International (USPG) chosen for ongoing annual support;
- Forthcoming farewells to Hilary Davis (LLM and Parish Administrator) who is retiring, and Revd Canon Gregory Cameron who has been elected Bishop of St Asaph.

2 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
are available from the office or can be read at the back of church

3 Finance Report is available from the office or can be read at the back of church

4 Report from St. Mary's Church Council

Members: D.Burfitt, E.Freebody, C.Gutch, P.Iles,
C.Reynolds, L.Wilding, A.Williams
The Church Council met on 4 occasions. Carol Reynolds kindly acted as Secretary.

Fabric:

New Lectern A new lectern was installed to replace the lectern that was originally part of the Vicar's Stall and the lectern on loan from St. James, Stubbings. The lectern was made by Martin Westrop of Littlewick Green, who also made the steps to the pulpit and the new Paschal Candle Stand, is a very fine addition to the church.

New Sanctuary Kneelers, beautifully designed by Phyllis Smith and made by a team under her direction, were installed during the year. A wooden backing, made by Peter Freebody and paid for from the Cream Tea fund, was also fitted. This is to prevent chalk from the altar step rubbing on to the kneelers.

Lanterns A set of windproof candle lanterns were acquired during the year, which proved useful for lighting the way from the car park to the Church during Christmas services. The lanterns were paid for from the Cream Tea Fund.

Churchyard Maintenance

Pruning Yew Trees The yew trees on either side of the South Door of the Church have been pruned to improve the view of the South Door. The height was also reduced.

The Churchyard is in reasonable order thanks to the working parties on the first Saturday of every month, lead by Lionel

Wilding. More volunteers would be welcome, but grateful thanks are due to all those who participate.

Social Events

Cream teas were organised by Merle Bramwell on behalf of the parish. A total of £1400 was raised which was an excellent result, particularly in view of some very poor weather and increased competition from Hurley Lock. Funds raised from this activity now go into general parish funds and it is hoped that helpers will be drawn from throughout the parish (tel. 820025).

Harvest Supper in the Priory Room, organised by Pat Iles, Elaine Mordaunt, John Addiscott, Merle Bramwell and many others was a sell-out and a very happy occasion.

Jazz on a Summer's Evening raised £964 for Parish Funds. This was the last occasion that the event could be held at La Pergola by courtesy of Sir Brian and Lady Smith. We are enormously grateful for their generosity and forbearance in hosting this event over so many years. Alas they have now sold their lovely house and gardens, so the 2009 event will need to find a new home.

Organisation

Churchwarden (or rather lack of one). We have continued to function reasonably efficiently in spite of not having a Churchwarden in Hurley, but are delighted that Carol Reynolds and Ann Powell are now standing for election as Churchwardens. Many thanks to all those who have kept this part of the Parish afloat. Their help will of course still very much be needed as we must make sure that the burden born by the Churchwardens is not excessive.

Flowers Jenny Bosley continues as our 'Flower Lady' and the standards remain as high as ever. A big thanks to Jenny and her team of helpers.

Cleaning Grateful thanks to Venetia Worthington and Ann Miller, who have kept the Church and Priory Room clean and tidy for many years. After wide consultation and mindful of the seniority of many of those carrying out this work, it was

decided to engage a professional cleaner and this new arrangement started in February 2009. The cost of this is funded by Hurley Church Estates. Ann Miller has kindly agreed to continue to look after the Vestry. Thank you also to Tony and Joan Williams for looking after the linen (and to Carol who keeps this going when they are away) and to Peter Jackson who keeps the brass polished.

Coffee Thank you to Pat Iles for organising the rota of those who serve coffee and tea after church and to everyone who performs this valuable task.

Other contributions Finally a big thank you to all those who act as sidespersons, lesson readers, intercessors, sacristans and chalice bearers. We are particularly grateful to our organist Linda Roberts who is a treasured part of all our services.

Chris Gutch

5 Hurley Church Estates

| | Income | Expenditure |
|---|---------|-------------|
| Opening Balance at 01.08 | £63,008 | |
| Income Received | £26,864 | |
| Expenditure on Estate Property | | £13,874 |
| Payments to/on behalf of Burchetts Green PCC | | £5,216* |
| Excess of Income over Expenditure | £ 7,774 | |
| Closing Balance at 31.12.08 | £70,782 | |

- Includes Insurance and utilities (£2,580), Heating oil (£744), General repairs (£887), Churchyard (£1,005).
- The formal objects of the Charity are: “For defraying the cost of repairs, insurance, cleaning, warming and other expenses of Hurley Church”.

6 Report from St John the Evangelist Littlewick Green

This year began peacefully.

Lent started at Littlewick with the first Sunday in Lent. This seemed to come early followed, in mid Lent by a Mothering Sunday Children's' service

Lent finished with the usual Maundy Thursday service for the parish.

We all celebrated dawn on Easter Sunday. Candles lit at dawn in a fire produced by Tina's Dad. Communion led by Dilys Woodmore followed by breakfast cooked by Tina's Dad at 9.15am following that we had a Parish Communion with a Easter Egg Hunt around the Church for all.

In June we hosted Parish Communion followed by a bring and share lunch which was under canvas The weather held on the day but the borrowed tent got very wet over night. This was also the Annual Cricket Clubs President's Match.

Some went from one to another.

In June the roadway around Littlewick Church was resurfaced thanks to White Waltham Parish Council and a loan from Paul Spencer

The Littlewick Show Tea Tent (August Bank Holiday Monday) provided much needed funds for the parish of Burchetts Green, well organised thanks to Kate Rowland and Jean Tinkler phoning around for cakes etc..ably supported by many cake makers, tea makers & servers on the day. £ 1200 was made that day. Another record, and we still ran out of cakes.

In September the roof fell in over the Sanctuary. Many experts came to see it. The scaffolding went up and we waited to see what these experts said needed doing

In October harvest was celebrated with a delicious roast cooked by Lynne Penfold and puddings by various members of the community. The Harvest Festival provided a time to celebrate the fruits of the earth. The children and families are always supportive of this event The local nursery schools each put up a display. The foods we collected went to Yeldhall Manor (A Charity which rehabilitates young drug users).

In November we had a quiz night. The builders and the architect came and discovered the roof problem was worse than they had first thought. More work was needed on more panels.

In December just before Christmas it was decided that more scaffolding was needed. Now in March the work is completed. To aid the maintenance and out reach to the community friends of Littlewick church was reformed.

This year many fund raising events took place- teas, quizzes, sales, lunches,

Who will forget the Parish BBQ at the Tinklers. Photos were taken! Thanks to the people of Littlewick for their generous donations. Christingle was its usual success. The Christmas Coffee morning is went well

Christmas was very active. Carol singing around the Green. Thanks Sylvia for the huge supplies of food. The usual round of Christmas services. Were you a Joseph or Mary?

Mary and Joseph went visiting. Did you have them to stay?

I would like to thank many people for their support In particular., The Ministry team, Churchwardens, Sarah Sugden The PCC and on a more local level Tim Bowler for helping move and clear furniture together cleaning the gutters, light bulb changing, for organising the servers, readers, intercessors, sorting music and sides men/women, Margaret Maillardet for acting as Sacristan, Kate Rowland for notices, tidying up and helping with the altar, Hilary Lewis for checking the church each morning. Yvonne Tomlins organising the flowers and the flower rota, Sylvia Jarvis for the church cleaning rota, Mary Gilbert for the coffee rota Paul Spencer for looking after the church generally putting the dustbins out, clearing trees when they fall. Mary Gilbert for sorting the church coffee rota. The church choir for their singing and Nigel, Michael and David for their musical playing at our services. Tina, Viv and Emma for helping with the Children's' services. Billy and her churchyard maintenance team. All those who make coffee, clean the church, arrange flowers and generally help to make the church run smoothly. Jenny Robinson _Church Warden

7 Report from Stubbings Local Council

At Stubbings this year we have made very significant progress on improving our facilities. In the autumn the long-awaited screen and projector, largely funded by the Littlewick Green Sunday School Trust, to whom we are very grateful, was installed in the church. When not in use, the screen is totally invisible, but at the push of a button it descends from the chancel arch. The accompanying projector is high in the rafters, and unobtrusive. The new technology has greatly improved facilities for the Family Service and has many further applications in the way of bringing visual images into church worship. A team of people have volunteered to be trained in the use of this new equipment:

if you would like to be included please let someone know. In the Soltau centre much work has taken place. The kitchen has been revamped, with one small further improvement to come. This was paid for by funds from the Stubbings 200 Club. We gratefully acknowledge the hard work done over many years now by the organiser, Tony Ruffell, and we thank all those who pay their subscription regularly. (There is still time to sign up for the rest of this year, if you would like to be involved!) In the spring and summer most of the centre was painted. The main hall was completed one Saturday morning by four senior members of the church and subsequently the disabled toilet by two Pebbles Mums. Since then we have been blessed by the services of a group of people who are carrying out their community service orders under the careful and supportive supervision of the Reading Probation Service. We are enormously grateful to them for all the painting here and the gardening here and at Littlewick Green. We are pleased to support them as they work to get their lives back on track and look forward to their continuing help across the whole parish in the future. Their greatest achievement to date, along with reinforcements from Slough, has been the painting of the vicarage from top to bottom and the transformation of the garden. Our new Vicar, Revd Keith Nicholls, was thrilled with

all that had been done and has told his wife, Pam, 'to prepare to be delighted!' Finally, the Soltau centre has new, comfortable chairs. An appeal to 'Buy a Chair' was launched last year. This resulted in an amazing total of £1550, enough to buy 46 chairs and a trolley to hang 36 of them on. (If you do not know how to hang the chairs correctly on the trolley, do please ask for a demonstration.) A huge thank you to everyone who made a donation.

As always we are immensely grateful for all the people who keep the Stubbings show on the road - those who lovingly clean the church and Soltau centre, the flower arrangers, the posy and Christingle makers, the gardeners, those who mend things, change bulbs and generally care for our church, the sidesmen, readers, servers, chalice assistants, intercessors, fund-raisers and caterers. I would also like to thank personally Vanessa Evans, who gives a lot of time to keeping the money flowing through the office on track, and Paul Heelas for our spectacular website. (www.burchettsgreenparish.org) We thank you all very much indeed for helping us to 'be the church' not only in this place, but also in the wider context of Burchetts Green Parish.

Rosalind Bentley Church Warden.

8 Baptism Ministry

During 2008 there were 26 baptisms across the parish. In addition to the revd Dilys Woodmore, we appreciated the help of revds John Copping, Maurice Skinner, and Roy Taylor in this ministry, during the interregnum. Baptisms were supported by our team of baptism visitors, who share a ministry of welcome to new Christians and their relatives, through visiting before the service, assisting on the day, and making follow-up contact.

A social get-together and meeting, including refreshments, was held on Wednesday 16th July at 8.00pm, in the Soltau Centre, Stubbings, for Baptism visitors to spend some time

together and review their ministry. The evening ended with a service of Compline.

Later in the year, on the afternoon of Sunday 16th September, the recently baptized and their relatives gathered in the Soltau Centre for a short service led by the Reverend Dilys Woodmore. This was followed by tea prepared and served by the baptism visitors and enjoyed by all – a group of about 50 adults and children.

T. Kennard

9 Sunday School

Sunday School takes place on the second Sunday of the month. Each session is planned around a Bible story and involves a series of songs, games prayers and craft activities to remind us how much God loves us and cares for us.

10 Hurley Care

Hurley Care has continued through the year to respond to requests for help with transport, visits to neighbours, temporary support, shopping and many other acts of neighbourly kindness, co-ordinated with great skill by Lyn Garnham, who has valuable support from Phyllis Smith, Margaret Jackson and Linda Furneaux.

Transport is where help is needed most and we are very grateful to the many very faithful drivers who give us their time. We would welcome any new offers of help to drive people to hospital appointments. There is often considerable anxiety attached to such appointments and to have a friendly person accompanying you and hugely reducing the public transport travelling time helps enormously. Sometimes public transport is not available and hospital transport can turn the simplest journey into a whole day trip.

Visiting, practical help and links with other helping agencies have also continued and many people in the village quietly and constantly support their neighbours, perhaps turning to Hurley

Care when more input is needed and there are good links with Parish Visiting Team.

Finance is ably managed by Margaret Jackson and our outgoings are small. We have valuable donations from people throughout the year and this year we had a most welcome and generous donation from the Hurley Regatta Committee and the Village Association and were able to subsidise a Christmas Dinner for those we support at the Dew Drop where the management kindly gave us a very special arrangement.

I end with sincere and grateful thanks to the many people who are involved with Hurley Care; the committee, the visitors, the drivers, the donors and all who give their valuable support. Thank you.

Fiona Fieldhouse.

11 Parish Visiting

Parish Visiting has always been a valuable part of parish life and has been conducted throughout the parish by the Ministry team and a team of parishioners who act both as representatives of the Church and as friends and neighbours.

Under the guidance of Revd Dilys Woodward, a parish wide visiting team was formed and guidelines for Parish Visiting from the Diocese of Oxford and its Spiritual Care for Older People Forum have been agreed and adopted. In January 2007 the Parish Visiting Team began an initiative to raise awareness of the availability of Parish Visiting and a member of the team is available to visit anyone who needs or would like contact with the Church for fellowship, support, a friendly chat or Holy Communion at home. It is intended that parishioners will be confident that the Visiting Team, Ministers and laity, is supportive and effective in this important part of pastoral Care in the Parish of Burchetts Green and that parish visiting will grow accordingly. Fiona Fieldhouse Co-ordinator.

12 Parish Walks

We aim to provide fellowship and healthy exercise at least once a month for all who might be interested. During 2008 there were excursions in the Chilterns and on the south side of the Royal Borough in Windsor Great Park and Runnymede, though most of our walks are within or around our own parish. The highlight of the year was probably the evening in the Valley Gardens, when the azaleas and rhododendrons provided a glorious display.

Join us in 2009 and you will probably visit somewhere where you have never ventured before - and that's just the pubs!

13 Ministry Team Report:

Associate Priest Revd. Dilys Woodmore

LLM's Hilary Davis and Teresa Kennard

Over the past 15 months the Parish of Burchetts Green has been managing an interregnum.

The ministry team has worked extremely hard to maintain the regular pattern of services which would not have been possible without the help from our Area Dean the Revd. Jeremy Hyde together with Deanery and retired clergy. We are most grateful for their contribution and for the willingness with which help was offered.

Apart from the rotas for Sunday services, there have also been midweek services, healing services and our usual baptisms, weddings (including wedding preparation) and funerals. This has placed a considerable burden of responsibility on me as the priest in the parish but again help has been forthcoming when the workload had to be shared out. I would like to thank Hilary for her administrative help in contacting clergy and drawing up rotas, service sheets etc. and always working to a tight deadline. She has remained her cheerful and helpful self even when the office was swamped with emails, phone messages and paperwork.

Extra to Sunday services was the preparation of the 6 Confirmation candidates for their very special day last

November. The Confirmation service was held in St. Luke's Church in Maidenhead by the Bishop of Reading. It was an uplifting and enjoyable occasion and I was privileged to support all our candidates on the next step of their faith journey.

Baptism visiting by the team of visitors continued to be organised by Teresa Kennard who also took on the task of making the Baptism bookings for which I am grateful.

Both Maurice Skinner and Hilary have shared the funeral ministry and again that has been a huge help and I want to thank them both. Maurice has also taken services on Sundays and festivals in addition to covering any healing services and midweek ones when I was unavailable.

The major festivals in the church calendar have taken a lot of time to organise and plan.

Christmas and two Easter festivals were all covered and were wonderful occasions of worship and ministry not only to our church family but also to the wider community who attend these services. The uniformed groups and Burchetts Green School have all enjoyed services in church. I would like to thank Sue Wilkins for her commitment to maintaining the church link with BG school.

Our ordinand Tina Molyneux has contributed to the life of our parish by preaching in our services as well as continuing to lead 'Time Out' with Peter Watsham. I thank them both for all the preparation and planning that goes into the Thursday evening informal discussion services; - not to mention the musical skills of the music group that play on a variety of occasions throughout the parish. Jackie Trick has helped out on the preaching rota and now that she is licensed by the Bishop we look forward to hearing her preach in the months ahead.

We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic group of lay people who have taken responsibility for Pebbles and helped with 'All Age worship' services. Together with our committed Sunday school leaders they have provided much-needed assistance for Hilary who has overseen the family services. We shall miss her

input in this area when she retires but she has been nurturing a group of people in the skills that she has so ably demonstrated in her ministry.

All in all I feel we have not only survived the last few months but grown in confidence and further developed our own individual gifts of our calling. I thank all the congregations for their support to the Ministry Team and feel we can hand on to Keith a thriving church ready for the next phase of life together in Christ. Thankyou all.

Every blessing, Dilys

14 Stubbings 200 Club

The Stubbings 200 Club was supported by 113 members last year and we raised a total of £1349 for capital projects at St James' Church. The total raised over the past seven years now exceeds £10,000. During the year, the PCC decided to use some £7000 of the balance to upgrade the kitchen in the Soltau Centre. The new units and re-arrangement of the facilities have transformed the catering facilities and the results have been much appreciated.

At the time of writing, most of last year's members have already signed up for 2009 but, so far, we have failed to attract any new members and, sadly, we have lost some of last year's so I am doubtful that we can reach our target of raising £1500 this year.

I should like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has participated so enthusiastically in the Club and given me such encouragement.

Tony Ruffell

15 Healing Ministry

During the past year we have maintained the pattern of providing this very special ministry. The services are held on a monthly basis on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. in Hurley church. In the past year we have gathered on eight

occasions. Special festivals in the church calendar have taken precedence in some months and we have a break in August.

Maurice Skinner has kindly shared responsibility for some of these services when I have been unavailable.

We have a group of people from across the parish who read, serve, administer the chalice and offer the prayers for healing with the laying on of hands. The regular congregation who attend find this time of receiving God's grace to be an oasis of peace. In our busy lives, time to draw apart and be with God is a time of renewal and blessing. We have been able to welcome occasional new attenders who come with their own private needs. This service can be the 'beating heart' of our individual lives as well as that of the church both gathered and dispersed. Suitable reflective music and a 'thought for the day' give a focus for our thoughts and prayers.

For people to be aware that this ministry is offered is important because we are there for when people need extra support. At this point in time when our world is suffering uncertainty we are ready to provide that stability and comfort in the name of Jesus Christ to those in any kind of need.

In the coming year we hope to continue with this ministry.

Dilys Woodmore. Associate Priest

16 Stubbings Gardening Group

"The Gnomes" have met most Tuesday mornings to undertake a variety of tasks to keep the Stubbings Churchyard tidy and attractive. Much of the work in 2008 was in the maintenance category but we have also completed the layering of the hawthorn hedge adjacent to the hall and of the privet hedge between the woodland area and the Henley Road, to improve their appearance and functionality.

We have continued to fill in the many spaces in the holly hedges and will keep up the necessary work to improve their density. We have now reduced the height of all the hedges so that they can be pruned without the need for ladders and platforms. A group of offenders has started doing occasional

work for us as part of a community service project and we are most grateful for this assistance.

It has been necessary to remove two more trees which had expired. A parishioner has paid for the lopping of another tree which was becoming dangerous and we are very grateful for this generosity.

We have been very pleased that many people enjoyed wandering through the Woodland Walk and admiring the carpet of snowdrops, daffodils and primroses. We continue to transplant bulbs each year to improve their flowering and to expand the area which is colourful in springtime.

We are very concerned that our small group of volunteers is getting older and less able to do all the jobs that are needed. We would welcome some additional help and some younger "Gnomes", so if anyone can spare a few hours on a Tuesday morning, even if it is not every week, we'd be very pleased to hear from you.

Andrew Findlay/Tony Ruffell

17 Young at Heart

Young at Heart lunch club's attendance has remained steady this last year to just over 50 members.

A welcome new addition to the team is Joanna Butterwick who takes a turn in planning and cooking. The regular team remain loyal and work very hard with all the onsite cooking and trimmings as well as coffee, tea, serving and laying tables. Raffles and birthday cards are all part of the fun making each session a delight to attend.

Lunch is always an enjoyable occasion with lots of chattering, old and new friends all enjoying each other company.

The Christmas party was attended by 76 members and friends providing a good start to the festive season.

We are looking forward to another successful year.

Margaret Burton.

18 Pebbles

Pebbles is a short informal service for babies and toddlers at Stubbings on Tuesday mornings and Hurley on Thursday mornings.

Pebbles at Stubbings has been running for almost 5 years. A group of around 10 adults and 12 children (rising to 20 on occasion) meet every week. We start and finish with a worship song, listen to a Bible story, and pray together. The atmosphere is fun and relaxed and the children seem to really enjoy coming. The service is followed by refreshments and play. The children and adults have formed a strong friendship bond, and many of them also attend the Family Services in church or attend Sunday School. During the interregnum a small group have continued to run Pebbles, though time pressures have meant that there has been limited innovation either to the format or the variety of songs offered. The children and adults look forward very much to the contribution of the new vicar to their worship.

Angela Pearce

Pebbles at Hurley

Following the success of Pebbles in Stubbings, Theresa Scott was keen to support a proposal from Hurley resident Susannah Corley that a similar weekly 'service' should be provided in Hurley. She initiated this in November 2007 and tasked Susannah with promoting attendance. She asked Peter Watsham to help and then to take over the leading of worship after her departure.

The format is similar to that adopted at Stubbings – around 20 minutes of worship (action song, story, prayers, another song and notices) followed by play time with coffee, tea, biscuits and cake for special occasions. Attendance at Pebbles is now around a dozen parents plus children each week.

We have a team of ladies in the village who serve the teas and coffees including Joan Dille, Pat Iles, Gwen Pearce, Phyllis

Smith and Fiona Fieldhouse. The mums are so grateful to be looked after and it's lovely to bring three different generations together. There was a big celebration at the first anniversary in November 2008. A 'bring and share' lunch was enjoyed and a bubble machine proved very popular with the little ones. We also had a Christmas celebration where we sang carols, enjoyed sweet treats and the children each received a book about Jesus. We welcome new faces at Pebbles. If you know someone who might like to come along, we meet on Thursdays at 10.30am in the Priory Room next to the church in Hurley.
Susannah Corley

19 Parish Craft Goup

Our members met in the Soltau Centre throughout the year on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. We are really pleased to see new friends with a warm welcome plus a cuppa and biscuits.

We have again supported the charity "Feed the Children" by knitting stripy jumpers and 6" squares which one member sews to form colourful blankets. Another member has crocheted 55 blankets.

In October we worked hard to make gifts to sell at the Parish Christmas Bazaar, followed by a mammoth effort to fill Shoeboxes for "Operation Christmas Child". Local organiser Maggie McPherson visited us and told us about the plight of under-privileged children in Africa and Eastern Europe. In January she returned with stories and photos of her distribution trip to Serbia.

We have already started collecting small toiletries, toys and educational items as well as knitting hats, gloves and scarves for the next Christmas appeal.

Linda Ruffell

20 Time Out

Over the last year, we have enjoyed a diverse diet ranging from studying the Psalms to exploring prayer (labyrinths, prayer stations and meditation), to examining justice(issues concerning poverty, environment, HIV, climate change and debt). We recently had three open sessions where people brought favourite readings or music exploring God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). Our discussions and thoughts during lent have been very well attended and received, regarding the issues around the film ‘Chocolat’ ... ‘To give up or not to, that is the question!’

The numbers of those attending has varied widely between 14 but more latterly 24. We continue to have some people coming very regularly and others dipping in for a few weeks here and there where they can. We are very happy to welcome everyone whenever and however they wish to come.

Each year we review how we are doing and gain feedback to respond to what people want from ‘Time Out’. This year the consensus was not to change the time or frequency but to try to build more time in for reflection. Many useful comments were given to us, which we will continue to respond to as we plan future sessions.

Time Out went to Hurley for Sunday worship on 24th August and provided music for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter services.

21 Electoral Roll

The figures reported last year 190

During the year march 2008 – March 2009 there have been:-

4 deaths

1 move out of the area

9 new members added to the roll

Total recorded for this year 194

Andrea Burn

22 Parish Office

As you know, I am due to retire at the end of April so we will be welcoming a new administrator.

But there are volunteers who also work in the office that we should not over look. Vanessa Evans who deals so professionally with any money passing through, and keeping everyone updated with invoices and reminders, she also calculates the Returns to the Dioceses of Clergy Fees. Paul Heelas who keeps our, now brilliant, website up and running and is continually updating and improving its content, and Kate Rowland who very quietly sends out the Godparent letters for all the Baptisms in the Parish, not to mention the Ministers and Churchwardens who have kept me from going too far astray.

I would like to thank everyone who has made this job possible and fulfilling. I pray the new administrator will be blessed with such help and enjoy working for you as I have done.

Love and prayers

Hilary Davis.

23 Burchetts Green CE Infant School

Burchetts Green CE Infant School is the parish's only school. It has a maximum capacity for 53 children aged between 4 and 7. During this time of interregnum, links between the church and school have been maintained in several ways:

- Weekly collective worship assemblies led by the Foundation Governor. We have been using materials from 'God's Storyteller', a set of stories for the whole year designed for use in primary schools. Developed by Revd Edward Carter, one story lasts one term and uses props to aid the children's imagination. Each story corresponds to teachings from the bible as well as highlighting moral values that can be discussed.
- Each child receives two bibles during their time at Burchetts Green, one they are given as they enter

reception, which is used as a reference during relevant lessons, and one when they leave the school, which is a children's bible suitable for this age group. The parish funds a set of these bibles each year.

- Visits are made to all three churches when the children attend special services such as Harvest Festival, Christingle, Mothers Day Service and the annual leavers service. Year 1 pupils also walk to St James the Less in Stubbings, during the summer term, for a tour and talk. Last year this was given by the Church Warden.
- The annual Christmas play is held at the Soltau Centre.
- Pieces of pupils art work are often displayed in the churches.

Sue Wilkins

24 Posada

For the third year running, during Advent, some of the Parish's Mary and Joseph nativity figures visited our homes. They moved on each night as if on their journey to Bethlehem. In some homes they just had a quiet night in and in others they joined in with the children's activities or even attended Time Out. Finally Mary and Joseph made it to their appropriate nativity scene in one of our Churches in time for the Crib Service and to await the birth of Jesus. Wherever they visited they were made very welcome, and their presence helped engender a greater understanding of the meaning of Christmas. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Elaine Mordaunt

25 Friends of Littlewick Church

Introduction and Report: Jenny stated that there were three reasons to have a local committee:

1. The Rev. Keith Nicholls our future vicar, believes local committees are an important feature in a parish.

2. Help is needed in many areas connected with the upkeep and running of St. John's and in the future some services may be led by lay members.

3. Our church needs to be active in the community and fund-raising is also necessary.

She thanked the people who already help run the St. John's mentioning especially: Tim Bowler, Margaret Maillardet and Kate Rowland. She also thanked Emma Hodgetts who helps with the Parish Magazine and in developing services in Burchetts Green Parish.

Jenny requested a further churchwarden for Littlewick, or a deputy churchwarden. (St.Mary's Hurley will have two churchwardens in future, as will St. James'). Jenny would also like a new representative for the Diocesan Meetings.

She reported that the churchyard is now being cared for by Community Service workers who are doing a good job, but help is needed to clear leaves, lopped branches etcetera. She wondered if a Clear-up Day similar to the village Clear-up Day could be organized.

The fallen plaster in the church is an on-going problem(November 08) since more cracks have been found above the Choir. A letter from the church architect is required for the PCC to clear further work. St.John's will also have to raise funds for the work.

Jenny asked for ideas on ways to use St. John's during the week. Redroofs have used it for filming; floral arranging lessons were suggested. Concerts and a fashion show have been held there in the past.

She said the Committee will need a constitution/mission statement and various sub-committees were also necessary; pointing out that groups of people already do a very good job both with the church cleaning and flowers, with particular reference to remembrance flowers each November and wedding arrangements.

Committees:

Mission Statement: David Gilbert & Kate Rowland

Social and Fund-raising: Co-ordinator Sally Grey, Gail Fuller, Emma Hodgetts, Margaret Maillardet , Jackie Ripley and Lynn Penfold

Churchyard: Co-ordinate Derek Woolford, Alec Rowland, Paul Ripley, Tim Hodgetts, Sally's husband, David Penfold.

Building Maintenance: Co-ordinator Sylvia Jarvis, Tim Bowler, John Brosse and Michelle Fuller.

Flowers: Co-ordinator Yvonne Tomlin, Gal Fuller and Lynn Penfold

Services: Co-ordinator Vivian Molyneux, Emma Hodgetts and Janet Brosse.

Next meeting: Same venue 17th March, 7pm to 8pm. Jenny thanked Mary & David.

www.burchettsgreenparish.org