



The Parish Church of All Saints, Staplehurst

Annual Reports

2010/2011

Easter Vestry Meeting: 26th April 2011– Agenda

1. Election of Churchwardens
2. Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting of 19th April 2010
3. Date of Next Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: 26th April 2011 – Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 19th April 2010
3. Matters Arising
4. Presentation of the Electoral Roll and Election of Electoral Roll Officer
5. Election of Members to the PCC
6. *Annual Reports:*
 - 6.1 PCC Secretary
 - 6.2 Churchwardens' Reports
 - 6.3 Curate's Report
 - 6.4 Reader's Report
 - 6.5 Music
 - 6.6 Servers
 - 6.7 Magazine
 - 6.8 Bellringers
 - 6.9 Mothers' Union
 - 6.10 Holy Dusters and Brass Cleaners
 - 6.11 Flowers
 - 6.12 Pastoral Ministry
 - 6.13 Health, Healing and Support Group
 - 6.14 Social Responsibility
 - 6.15 Charities
 - 6.16 Supersaints
 - 6.17 Sunday Explorers
 - 6.18 'The Cru'
 - 6.19 Youth Ministry Coordinator
 - 6.20 Churches Together
 - 6.21 Friends of All Saints
 - 6.22 Social Events
 - 6.23 Worship
 - 6.24 Weald Deanery
 - 6.25 Diocesan Synod
7. Treasurer's Report and Appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Election of Sidespeople
9. Any Other Business

PCC Members: Please note that the first PCC meeting after the APCM will be on Sunday 15th May, after the 6.30 p.m. service. This will be a short meeting in church to arrange committees and elect officers. We shall give PCC members time to express views about committee membership before then.

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PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT 2010/2011

The PCC continue to work as a dedicated team in the life and work of our church here in Staplehurst.

During the year we had six PCC meetings, taking place in the comfort of the St. George's Chapel in church.

At the end of the APCM in April, our Rector, Canon Gill Calver, informed the meeting that it was to be her last one as our Rector, as she was going to retire in January 2011.

The lighting in church has been discussed at length in our meetings and donations now have reached nearly £38,000. Our churchwarden, Norman Wallis, has worked so hard on this project and is to be thanked for his work on behalf of the PCC.

Unfortunately Nick Wells, our Vice Chairman, moved from the village to a new home in the West Country. Mary Shaw took over the post of Vice-Chairman in August.

In July, Stephen Bennett was ordained Deacon at Canterbury Cathedral, which many of us attended. Also in July, Kevin Fulcher was licensed as a Reader, at the Cathedral.

A service to celebrate the War Memorial on the old airfield was celebrated in church to a very large congregation, attended by representatives from many areas of the air force, army, connected with the airfield during the war.

We had wonderful celebrations in church on the occasion of the wedding of Lusa, our curate and Mirjam, with members of both their families.

Recent meetings have discussed details of the forthcoming interregnum. One was attended by Ven. Philip Down, Archdeacon of Maidstone, who explained the process the PCC now have to go through to choose our new Rector.

Our former Director of Music, Lesley Whitwood left Staplehurst for her new home in Scotland in May. Lesley was also one of our Lay Readers and took many of the church services. She will be much missed by us all.

Sadly, this year, we said goodbye to two faithful members of our congregation. Dr. Richard Skinner, died in the early spring of last year. He was a former Vice-Chair of our PCC and a much loved doctor throughout the village. In May Mrs. Eirlys Vickery, wife of our former late Rector, Revd. Trevor Vickery, died. She was a wonderful support to her husband during his time as Rector. Also their middle son, Chris, died just a week before his mother. In his younger days, he was a member of the church choir. We extend our deepest sympathy to the families and close friends of these lovely people.

In January we all said goodbye to our Rector, Gill, and in true Staplehurst style, we gave her a wonderful "send off" with many thanks to the "best Social Committee in the Diocese". We wish Gill all the very best in the future and send her off with much love and prayers for her retirement, and many thanks for her untiring work for us all here in Staplehurst.

Finally, my thanks, as usual, to Karen, for her patience with my written notes and for typing them up month by month and for her help to us all throughout the year.

Sylvia Lade

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT 2010/2011

The past year has been a time of very mixed emotions, especially the sadness that we are feeling now that Gill has retired. Gill was an enormous help to us all and always willing to listen to our personal and spiritual problems. We will miss her so much and wish her a long and happy retirement.

Now that we find ourselves in a time of interregnum, we are greatly blessed compared with some parishes, to have so much help from Lusa, John and now we welcome Steve as our self-supporting curate following his ordination in July. Our very dedicated band of Lay Readers and Accredited Lay Ministers help the clergy with the smooth running of our Sunday services. Our church continues to grow and develop and with our variety of Sunday services giving everyone an opportunity to worship in their preferred way.

On a very happy occasion we were pleased to hold a service of Thanksgiving for the marriage of Mirjam and Lusa and to ask God's blessing on their life together.

It is always encouraging when our church is full and this has happened on more than one occasion; firstly in June when we held a Service of Remembrance for the airmen who operated out of Staplehurst Advanced Landing Ground during World War II. We were pleased to welcome several American and Canadian personnel to this service. This was followed by the unveiling of a newly built Memorial Stone situated at the end of the former runway at Chickenden Farm.

Then as usual a packed church for the Christingle Service when we welcome families from the other churches in Staplehurst. A huge thank you to our stalwart members of the Mothers' Union for making 200 Christingles.

We are greatly indebted to our wonderful Social Committee who work so hard to organise all the church breakfasts, pancake parties, buffet lunches and can also provide hot lunches, a daunting task when they have to cater for an unknown number.

As I come to the end of my second year at Churchwarden, I have received so much help from all the servers and our team of Sidespeople, who work so well together that this has made my task so mucho easier, and I am most grateful to Karen, our church administrator, who keeps me in touch, and up to speed with so many happenings. Many thanks to you all.

Pat Sherlock

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT ON THE FABRIC, FIXTURES, FITTINGS AND FURNITURE OF THE CHURCH FOR APCM 2011

Our Inspecting Architect finally presented his Report on his Quinquennial Survey on 14th September 2010; it did not reveal any major problems. The Recommendations at the end of the Report were that there should be:-

- (a) an ongoing maintenance contract – to consider straightaway – to check the roofs, gutter alignments and down pipes, sweep out the valley gutter and clear outlets twice a year; quotations are being sought for this
- and (b) general care and work to prevent future problems – within the next 5 years - to include attention to:- stonework and pointing; ironwork on windows – repainting and replacement of rusting ends; timber – oiling of timber and painting of ironwork on some doors and frames; repainting of railings and guttering and downpipes.

Some leaks have been experienced from the valley gutter over the Chancel and Chapel and it is hoped that some remedial work which has been done will have cured the problem.

The two boilers which remain in operation were serviced and performed well through the winter considering the cold spells of weather.

The lightning conductor, fire extinguishers and portable electrical appliances have all been tested and found to be in good order. The organ has been regularly tuned and any further work is still being considered.

The metal edging round the glass air lock at the West end had become faulty and has been replaced.

The Tower Clock has been serviced and the resulting report recommended that some repairs were necessary and will be carried out as soon as funding to pay for this work has been identified. Also whilst this work is being carried out the slipping handset will be dismantled and adjusted and this should solve the problem of the erratic time keeping which has been a feature of the clock in recent times.

A Faculty was granted on the 2nd July 2010 for the proposed new lighting scheme. In granting the Faculty the Commissary General wrote *“I have taken careful account of all the material provided to me, including the expressions of objection and the latest comments of the DAC. I am satisfied that these proposed works are pastorally necessary and appropriate”* Following the granting of the Faculty, applications were made to grant making bodies, some of whom responded with substantial grants; these together with donations made following an appeal letter to local people and businesses has resulted in a total in the lighting fund quite close to the amount thought to be required and competitive quotations are being sought for the installation of the scheme.

The scheme for replacing the louvres to the Bell Chamber is still being considered.

To overcome the problem of splinters from the Parish Room floor a new boarded covering is being laid.

The Churchyard continues to be well maintained with funding from the Parish Council and this year a Tree Warden is going to inspect all of the trees and make recommendation for any work which maybe required.

Norman Wallis

CURATE'S REPORT 2010/2011

The past year seems to have been a constant leap back and forth in time. Since the Rector's announcement of her retirement, a lot of my time with her was spent looking at the cycle of life and worship at All Saints, in preparation for the interregnum.

Throughout the year, we have worked at strengthening our more traditional services while, at the same time, promoting new expressions of worship for All Saints (ignite and cafe Church) I have taken pleasure in leading a film based Lent course and would like to repeat the experience in taking groups to the movies, followed by a discussion around a drink.

Our advent course on *The Creed* (led with the help of Kevin Fulcher, our Reader) gave us a good opportunity to look at familiar words and tease out possible lines of interpretations for us as twenty first century Christians.

I have enjoyed meeting and working with so many couples preparing for their weddings. I am looking forward to celebrating with all of them through the year.

On that note, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to all for your support and generosity on the occasion of my marriage to Mirjam.

The months of the interregnum will, I believe, offer us opportunities for growth and development. I hope we can make the most of it and use our gifts and passion for the furthering of God's kingdom in our shared life and in Staplehurst.

Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy

READER'S REPORT 2010/2011

When I wrote a paragraph or two for the Annual Reports in conjunction with Lesley a year ago, I was very much looking forward to successfully completing the Reader's course, and licensing by Bishop Trevor in the cathedral. Now I am very much looking back on it! Diocesan bureaucracy is calling on me for a blow by blow account of my year of ministry- this report is not going to be it, rather I would like to share with you the rewards I find in Reader Ministry at All Saints.

Leading a variety of non-Eucharistic services, from round-table discussions on the Christian life whilst nibbling biscuits and sipping coffee at Café Church, to the glories of Cranmer's poetry and prose in sung Evensong, with stopping points in between, this is the essential nature of reader ministry.

Preaching the word, unlocking and exploring the inexhaustible treasure chest that we call the Bible, this is the essential nature of reader ministry.

In Advent I had the privilege of joining with Lusa in preparing and leading discussion groups exploring the fundamentals of our understanding of the faith as expressed in the Nicene Creed. This is also the essential nature of reader ministry.

I am especially privileged in my ministry to have the support of a wonderful ministry team. First and foremost, without apologies, has been Gill. Gill it was who encouraged me throughout the course and the inevitable sticky patches, who provided counselling and support, suggested and provided ideas and reading materials, allowed me to find my feet through practical experience, and was always ready with analysis and advice. I also am deeply indebted to Lusa, John and Steve for their constant support, as well as to my local group leader, the Rev. David Jones from Coxheath and the other members of my local group.

Last year, Lesley wrote about the uncertainty that at that time seemed to hang over the Reader ministry, but those clouds have blown away. The Church of England has proclaimed this as the 'Year of Confident Discipleship', and the Reader Ministry has been firmly placed in the centre of that path.

There is an especial joy for me in unpacking the Word, first in prayer and meditation, then in preparation and composition, finally in preaching and teaching. If you feel that joy of encounter, then the Reader Ministry is where you could use your gifts in the service of God and others. The door will open.

Kevin Fulcher.

MUSIC REPORT TO APCM 2010/2011

This has been a very busy and exciting year in the musical life of the church. The church is blessed with many gifted and talented musicians enabling us to contribute to the rich and wide variety of services we offer our village community. Our musicians are versatile and we generally see them contributing in more ways than one in the musical life of the church. The Music Group, ably led by Debbie Brady (guitar and vocals), leads the monthly Family Service supported by Glyn Roberts (wind instruments), John Wright (guitar and drums), Delphine Wass (piano) and Daniel Brady (guitar). The style of worship is informal, yet inclusive and allows for a different genre of music to be used than in the more formal setting of a Eucharist service.

Our Ignite Service gives us the opportunity to praise and worship God in a slightly different style from what we have previously experienced, whilst our Taizé Service allows us to reflect and meditate using words, music and silence to bring us closer to God.

In my first year as the newly appointed Music Director and Authorised Lay Minister (ALM) in Worship, I've set the church choir some challenges in more ways than one. Firstly, in February 2010 I introduced a musical evening for couples getting married in the church. This has proved to be a popular event which we repeated in November. During the year the choir has sung at 7 weddings and 2 services of blessing. The favourite hymn this year was Jerusalem. Our repertoire during the signing of the register has ranged from Moon River, The Lord is my Shepherd (Goodhall), the theme tune to The Vicar of Dibley, a number of very familiar pieces by the composer John Rutter and our challenging, but the most beautiful piece O Magnum Mysterium by Morten Lauridsen.

For the Good Friday Service the choir sang Faure's Requiem augmented with some willing non-regular members, for which we were very grateful. The choir was privileged to participate in the Service of Remembrance and Dedication for the Airmen who operated out of Staplehurst during the 1943-1944, singing the Canadian, American and UK National Anthems.

In July, the choir sang at two celebratory services for two of its regular Bass members - Steve Bennett was ordained as a Deacon and Kevin Fulcher was licensed as a Reader.

In September the choir was invited to sing Evensong in the small village Ivychurch where we experienced a very different church community life to our own. Next on our agenda was the All Saints Church Gift Day, where we were asked us to sing some secular and non-secular music. This gave us an opportunity to use our in-house soloists to their best advantage during the afternoon, with a duet from Handel's Messiah, songs from the Tim Rice musical 'Chess', a Schubert Aria, a New Zealand lullaby and to round it all off an amusing song sung to the tune 'Immortal Invisible'. In October, the choir sang a similar, but varied repertoire of music in a concert in Marden Church in aid of the NSPCC.

November was a very busy month for the choir – in addition to the regular Sunday Services and the annual Remembrance Day Service the choir sang at an event nearly every week. It started in early in the month when the choir sang a couple of Rutter pieces at the Service of Blessing for our Curate Lusa and his wife Mirjam. With only a few weeks' notice some members of the choir found themselves in 'The Great American Songbook' alongside three stars from the West End singing some very familiar music from the shows. In the second half of the programme the choir had an opportunity to sing 'Moon River' from the film Breakfast at Tiffany's, and supported the soloists in 'It Ain't Necessarily So' from Porgy & Bess, culminating with the show tune "You'll Never Walk Alone" from the 1945 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, Carousel. We ended the month with the Advent Carol Service; a very reflective but forward looking service.

Christmas was very busy as usual; we sang Christmas Carols and enjoyed tea and a chat afterwards with residents of the three residential homes in the village. Aside from familiar Christmas pieces the choir sang O Holy Night by Adolphe Adam and The First Nowell to the tune of Pachelbel's Canon for the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols; both pieces were new to the choir.

(Music Report Cont.)

The choir would not have been able to achieve all this without the dedication, help and support of our regular organists and visiting organists, who help us out from time to time. Our grateful thanks go to Ted Hall, Bob Chapman, Steve Bennett, Adrian Pitts and Phil Horley. We also owe a debt of thanks to our pianists Delphine Wass and Mirjam Ngoy who play for the monthly Family Communion Service. We said a huge thank you and 'au revoir' to our young self-taught organist/pianist Adam Brady who went off to University in September. We look forward to working with others as they are called upon to support us for services during 2011.

Finally, I want to express my own personal thanks to the choir and to all our musicians who have worked so hard this year in continuing to build on the firm foundations of the musical life at All Saints. They really are a great bunch of people and a pleasure to work with. I look forward to 2011 when I hope we will continue to grow together and achieve much more.

Sonja Drew, Music Director

SERVERS REPORT FOR THE APCM 2010/2011

Our small friendly team of altar servers continue to work together to support our clergy during the communion services.

We prepare the altar prior to the service, ensuring the relevant books, bread; wine and water are available, help during the service and then clear up afterwards.

Normally there is a team of four for the 10.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. services – each server has a specific role, e.g. crucifer who carries the cross – but we all work as a team. For the 8.00 a.m. service only one server is required.

We would always welcome anyone who would like to join us – please contact Sheila Brooker (891 207), or talk to Lusa.

Once again I would like to thank all servers, both young and not so young, for all their valued support and also for the friendship shared.

Sheila Brooker

MAGAZINE REPORT TO THE APCM 2010/11

The magazine is still making a profit. Every month more adverts are gained.

The Chairman, Tug Tugwell, has given notice of his resignation to take effect this year.

Roy Barclay the main distributor has given notice that he will be leaving the committee in 2012. This is a very important job and hopefully a replacement will be found.

Frank and Pat Page have asked for back-up assistance with their work on the magazine. Frank discussed this with the PCC at their meeting in January 2011.

Anne Brenchley

STAPLEHURST BELLRINGERS' REPORT TO APCM APRIL 2011

Ringings at Staplehurst over the past year has continued in some strength of numbers with much achievement all round. One peal and 18 quarter peals (including two on the simulator) were rung during 2010, mainly by local ringers, with seven ringers achieving ten "firsts" between them. Many of the quarter peals were rung for special occasions: Chris Bassett's retirement, Richard Barclay's 21st birthday, Peter Mortley's 80th birthday, the graduations of Daniel Brady and Michael Bassett and the Licensing of Kevin Fulcher. Quarters were also rung in celebration of the life of several people closely connected to us or this church: Molly Wood, Richard Skinner, Rene Gilder and Lina Smith.

Meanwhile our newer ringers have all made considerable progress during 2010. We are lucky to have three keen young people in our band, aged 9, 11 and 13 respectively, so the future for the band looks bright. Well done to everyone for stretching their personal boundaries and adding to the skills and expertise of our band.

Attendance per session during the past year has averaged 12.4 ringers, which is 0.3 more than the previous year. The average figure for Sunday mornings has also increased to 11.2, but Sunday evenings' average has dropped by 1.6 to 7.8. Practice night average has increased from 15.3 to 17.9. These figures do not include ringing for the 7 weddings and two blessings, for which we were fortunate this year not to have any problems finding ringers. Attendance numbers such as these would be the envy of most country parishes!

Our annual outing this year was held on 22nd May when, on a warm sunny day, we visited 6 towers in the Darenth Valley and Kent/Surrey border.

We entered a band in the District 6-bell Striking Competition in June 2010 at Hollingbourne, where we came second to All Saints' Maidstone. We did better in the Call Change Competition at East Sutton in November when we finished as winners.

The Annual Meeting of the Maidstone District was hosted by Staplehurst in October 2010 and we certainly "put on a good show" with Daniel Brady playing the organ during evensong, Gill giving us an appreciative address, followed by a very high-class bellringers' tea. The event was well supported by our own band (we outnumbered ringers from elsewhere by more than 2-1) but they really missed a tea-time treat. The £15 profit from the tea was donated to the Kent County Bell Restoration Fund.

Whilst our striking may not always be perfect, it is clear that every ringer tries their hardest to do their best and hopefully enjoys being part of a vibrant, keen and sociable band.

Roy Barclay, Tower Secretary 6th January 2011

THE MOTHERS' UNION REPORT TO THE APCM 2010/11

The Mothers' Union in Staplehurst belongs to a worldwide group of Anglican women (and men!) dedicated to keeping alive the aims and objectives of their global organisation. Their purpose is to be specially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life.

Our magazine, 'Families First', is published six times a year; there is always a current copy in church. There are also copies of 'Families Worldwide' available.

The Mothers' Union Website is www.themothersunion.org

Sue Hollins

HOLY DUSTERS' REPORT 2010/2011

Once again, thanks must be given to our very loyal team of 'Holy Dusters'!

Unfortunately, they are getting fewer and more work is put on the shoulders of some of the 'older dusters'.

A donation of a new vacuum cleaner has been given and it is indeed a very generous and welcome gift. However, we do need more cleaners, half an hour a week is all that is needed and in some areas, half an hour a fortnight would be acceptable.

Many of our regular ladies are over 65 years, we could do with a few younger ladies or gentlemen to join our cleaning team. Please think about this work and see either of the churchwardens or myself, you will be warmly welcomed.

Sylvia Lade

BRASS CLEANERS REPORT 2010/2011

We have lost two brass cleaners in this last year, but fortunately others have filled their places. We thank Mrs. Jane Streeter and Mrs. Christine Revell for offering to join the brass cleaning team. Our thanks goes to our brass cleaner co-ordinator, Mrs. Jean Rogers, who does a wonderful job organising the monthly list for the Parish Magazine.

Sylvia Lade

FLOWER REPORT 2010/2011

As usual, a huge thank you is given to all our flower arrangers, and particularly to those in charge of various months. This is a big task to undertake and uses a lot of time to organise and carry out.

Thank you to the many people in the congregation who gave donations towards the flowers for Christmas and to those who gave towards the Harvest flowers. We try not to ask the finance committee for money for flowers and this last year we have been self-sufficient. We were delighted to have enough in the funds to make the church beautiful for Mirjam and Lusa's wedding.

Lilies in memory of loved ones were again put in Church at Easter. They are getting more expensive and so, for this Easter the cost rose to £3 each.

The Memorial Pedestal is in use on a number of occasions. There is a list in the coffee area should you wish to add your name.

Many thanks go to Golden Hill Nursery at Marden who give us a very generous discount for our flowers.

Our accounts are recorded elsewhere with the finances.

Audrey Bullock, Flower Arranging Co-ordinator.

PASTORAL MINISTRY – REPORT TO THE APCM 2010/11

Our team continue to visit the sick, the bereaved, people with family problems and those who just need a little company. Some members of the team also administer Holy Communion to the housebound.

We have monthly communion visits to the local nursing homes and members are appointed to administer when a priest is not available.

We can provide transport to hospital and also take the elderly in the parish to visit friends when they live away from a bus route.

Audrey Bullock and Karen Kember completed a course to become Local Authorised Ministers in Pastoral Ministry.

Audrey also completed a course to become a funeral Officiant and her work in this area is greatly appreciated, not only by the church, but also by all those she ministers to.

If you know of anyone who you think would appreciate a visit, please do let me know.

Many thanks to all the team for your continuing compassion and care to our village.

Karen Kember

THE HEALTH, HEALING AND SUPPORT PRAYER GROUP REPORT TO APCM – 2010/11

The group numbers are nine in number. We support, with our prayers, those who ask and those we know who are ill or having other difficulties with their lives. The group have continued to meet over the past year on the same regular basis as previous years. The group is presently formed of Ron and Barbara Dear, Jean & Des Liddicoat, Pam and Peter Mortley, Jean Clarke, Brioni Armytage and Sue Hollins. Any person who has an interest and would like to join the group or need prayer for themselves or another, please contact me. You will be most welcome.

Ron and Barbara Dear are accredited to the Healing ministry and the Laying on of hands. The Laying on of Hands with prayer is offered as part of regular worship at the Holy Communion service on the first Sunday evening of each month.

A leaflet, which outlines the work and aims of the group, is available from the writer.

We now maintain three separate prayer lists. First, the official 'Church Prayer List' which is published as a part of Church Notices each week and is monitored by the writer. The second is the 'Confidential Prayer List', which is for anyone requiring prayer who, for any reason, does not wish to be on the church list. The third is the 'Support Prayer list' and is primarily for those who have problems other than desperate illness, for example those who are in cancer remission or have financial or other personal problems. Contents and details of all lists remain within the group, or to the individual members of the group when specifically requested, and not divulged or discussed outside. Confidentiality is strictly enforced.

Please ask me, or any member of the group, for help and Prayer when you, or someone you know, is in need. You will be surprised and thankful for the amount of help and comfort the Lord provides to those who ask.

Ron Dear (891407)

January 2011

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE 2010/11

This year we continued to support Bishop Stephen's initiative in formulating a response to the issues of climate change and the environment. Steve Lenham wrote a paper on our behalf in the Parish Magazine on Freecycle which is a method of using the internet to find new homes for unwanted goods rather than throwing them away.

Jo Green has inserted in the newsheets a number of short stories of the lives of Christians suffering persecution throughout the world in order to raise awareness of this issue.

We are exploring with the Parish Council the possibility of providing land for allotments in the village.

A list of Prisoners of Conscience was made available again for people to write to individuals on that list.

Janet Powell organised a very successful Christian Aid Soup lunch.

We distributed Bishop Trevor's paper in September on social responsibility and the 'Big Society'.

We publicised the Christian Aid Climate Change lobby held in October 2010.

Kevin Fulcher preached on Christian Solidarity Worldwide's International Day of Prayer in November.

We are looking at possible ways to support local charities helping the homeless next Harvest.

We hope to join in next year with the URC in the Christian Aid Quiz.

Mary Shaw

29.01.11

CHARITY COMMITTEE REPORT 2010/2011

In 2010 the total collected for charity was £4,077.15. This is such a good amount. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously.

The film pots have made welcome extra money to each three monthly collection and so we will continue to give them out for your small change (or bigger change if you wish).

Please look on the notice board in the coffee area for the breakdown of the charity donations, or in the Treasurer's Report.

In 2011 we are supporting God's Golden Acre, building a children's home in South Africa.

Vitalise, supporting carers and people with disabilities. Crisis, helping the homeless, not just at Christmas. The Hospice in the Weald. Shaddai, rescuing street children in India. Plus our annual one off charities – Poverty and Hope, The Royal British Legion, Cruse and the Children's Society.

The first charity for 2012 is Laurence-Moon-Bardet-Biedle society, for children with this specific genetic disorder.

Money in the collection plate on Charity Sunday, plus your donations in your Orange Envelopes or in a Blue Envelope with the name of the charity and your details, are all greatly appreciated. If you Gift Aid your donations it means we can give more to charity. If you forget to bring your orange envelope on Charity Sunday it is welcome another day.

Thank you everyone.

Audrey Bullock, Chairman, Charity Committee

SUPERSAINTS 2010/2011

The Supersaints group is held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month. We leave from the Church during the 10.00am Service and walk together to the Parish Rooms as a group for Bible based stories, lessons, songs and age related activities. We return to the Church in time for the Communion where the children are encouraged to participate if they would like to.

The teachings are aimed for children aged from 5 to 8 years old.

Linda and I have enjoyed leading this group since Christmas 2009. We are still following the KidZone Blue publications and having recently been learning stories from the New Testament where Jesus made a difference in the lives of the ordinary people. The publication provides a basis for interesting and enjoyable teachings and good suggestions for Readings, songs and games to keep the children interested in the lesson. We have a register of about 10 children but it is rare that we have all these children together and unfortunately are lucky if we get more than 4 children to a lesson but are ever hopeful that our numbers will increase.

We hope that when the children in this group are ready to leave us, they will continue their studies in the Sunday Explorers group, held at the same time but in a different hall as Supersaints.

Heidi Lindsell

All Saints Staplehurst Sunday Explorers report for 2010/2011

Sunday Explorers is a group for 8 to 11 year olds that meets during the 10.00 morning service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. We return to the Church in time for communion, in order that the children feel that they are an integral part of the fellowship. Sunday explorers seeks to provide fun and teaching within a biblical framework. The group started in early 2010, and remains small. It is intended to provide continuity for those 8 year olds when they have to leave Super Saints, and also to provide a facility for any newcomers to the fellowship.

The teaching material used is 'Kid Zone' from Children's Ministry. Non Sunday events have been a party (in conjunction with Super Saints), and a cinema visit to see 'The Dawn Treader'.

John and Jill Dodman

'THE CRU' 2010/2011

We have had a number of activities and outings, including bowling and a visit to the Salmon Centre in Bermondsey, one of the leading youth clubs in the country.

We have consolidated some of our new schemes (Mind the Gap, Come fly with me and Cloud of witnesses) and we have also introduced sessions helping Cru members to approach and use the Bible with more confidence. During our diocesan year of discipleship, our aim is to explore together issues of faith through the medium of the Youth Emmaus course. Hopefully, other young people will join us in the course of our exploration.

Although we have been able to hold on to our core group, the Cru has not been able to attract many new members (only one transfer from Explorers) A challenge for the year to come will be to build up a strategy aimed at reaching out to the 11 to 15 age group and think of adequate provision for the 15 plus.

Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy

YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR REPORT TO APCM 2010/2011

There has been very little change within the provision for young people of the parish over the last year. Some groups have grown a little while others have lost members, but the facilities for all age groups remain.

Minisaints. The parent/carer toddler and baby group has had another very successful year. We continue to follow the routine of free play, refreshments, story, singing and finish with a themed craft activity. As a form of outreach from the church to the community, many of the stories and songs are biblically based. Many thanks, must, of course, go to those who have supported me week by week, especially Linda, Jill, Barbara, Debbie and all the ladies on the rota who help with the refreshments.

Supersaints and Sunday Explorers. Reports for these will be elsewhere, but a personal thank you to Heidi, Linda, Jill and John for leading these.

Explorers. This group for 8-11 year olds continues to meet on Thursdays in the Parish Rooms during term time. In September 3 of our members moved onto secondary school, but two more have recently joined, making six young people in all. We continue to follow the set scheme as well as having games, pancake evenings, parties and picnics. Many grateful thanks to Margaret and Lusa for their continued support.

CRU. A report will be found elsewhere, but again a big thank you to Lusa and now Mirjam who lead this group in their home, with only occasional input from me. Thanks too, to Anne Brenchley, for her help up until September last year.

ASC. The members who are old enough for this group have now either moved onto university or work, or prefer to continue with the CRU. The facility still remains there should any young person wish to use it.

Youth Service. These have moved to morning services when the young people help to lead the worship about once every three months.

Family Services. Thank you too all who have led these over the last twelve months. Using different talents has helped to enrich our worship. Grateful thanks too, to Debbie and the musicians for supporting these services.

As I frequently go into the primary school to do assemblies, join RE classes to tell bible stories or just support in Early Years, it is good to see several of the children who started as babies in minisaints and to know that part of All Saints is being represented there too.

Most who read this report will know that I will be retiring as Youth Ministry Coordinator at the end of April. I have been in this part time paid / part time voluntary position for almost five years, but have actually been involved with the groups and Youth Services for 25 years now. An aging mother and other family commitments are making it more difficult to strike a balance and so have led me to this decision. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to get to know so many young people, to watch them grow and find their places in God's world. A huge thank you to those of you, and especially Colin, who have supported and encouraged me over the years, and many heartfelt thanks to all the young people who have let me share your spiritual journey. I wish you a blessed future.

Marion Whatmore

'CHURCHES TOGETHER' REPORT 2010/2011

This year Churches Together in Staplehurst have continued their outreach by co-ordinating the printing and delivering of both Christmas and Easter cards. We are very grateful to the Churches for their financial support of this service and the many members of the congregations who deliver the cards.

Our joint services on a rota basis at the four churches continue on each fifth Sunday and we also continue to organise the Women's Day of Prayer and Prayer for Christian Unity services.

Distribution and collection of the Christian aid envelopes also comes under our remit and once again we are grateful for all those giving their time to the delivery and collection of these.

The Good Friday vigil on the shopping parade when we distribute hot cross buns in a napkin printed with the Easter message will continue and has proved popular both with those receiving and those giving and has proved an opportunity to spread the Christian message.

We have in the past tried to arrange combined social events so that the different congregations could meet. There has however been little support so this year we aim to invite all the different Churches to open their own events out to all of the Churches.

It is with regret that we have had to discontinue our Tuesday morning coffee mornings as the church hall was no longer available, thanks go to all those who both provided the service or supported it.

Our tea and cake stall at the carnival will continue offering a welcome sit down and cuppa!

In co-ordination with the clergy we are to launch a Prayer for Peace, details are now in each Church and we hope many people will be able to spend a few minutes each day holding this in their thoughts.

As ever our continuing aim is to work together as Christians for the village and are thankful for the support all of the clergy give us.

Margaret Ashby

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS – REPORT TO APCM 2010/2011

The Friends held a number of events throughout 2010 to raise funds to help meet our objective of supporting the PCC in maintaining and improving the fabric of the Church.

During the year, through a combination of membership subscriptions, events and bequests the Friends received over £6,000 in funds; we pledged £9,200 towards the cost of the lighting scheme and contributed c£1,000 for the general maintenance of the Church.

Last year we introduced a new event to our programme a “Blossom and Bluebell Walk” on May Bank Holiday. Sadly although Mother Nature was able to provide the blossom, the bluebells and the lambs she also provided torrential rain. Despite this we went ahead and still managed to raise over £200 from the hardy souls who supported the event. Once again the Shepherd's Market was very well supported despite the snow. We can only hope for better weather this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee, and all of the other people who have volunteered, or were press ganged to help us run our events. The Committee and I, hope that you enjoyed the events that we put on last year but we are always pleased to receive suggestions for other events we could stage and look forward to your continued support.

Jonathan Drew, Chairman

Please note that this information is provided prior to the production of our full audited accounts which will be presented at the Friend's AGM in May

SOCIAL EVENTS REPORT TO THE APCM 2010/11

After taking over as chairman in April/May 2010 the year seemed to get busy. However, it has been made that much easier to cope with because the committee and their partners are excellent and very easy to work with and I would like to thank them for all their hard work and input during the last year together with our wonderful band of helpers who do lots of work behind the scenes to make the events run smoothly – Robin Oakley, Jean Rogers, Richard and Jo Green, Sylvia Lade, Marion and Colin Whatmore, plus all the people who help serve wine, tidy up and take wine glasses home to wash in their dishwashers on a fairly regular basis.

We have continued to run those events which coincide with the Church calendar, the Pancake Party and Harvest Lunch, together with the old favourites – breakfast twice a year, carols by candlelight and the parish lunch. We also organised three special occasions in 2010 for Kevin Fulcher, Steve Bennett and notably Lusa and Mirjam's wedding blessing and I would like to thank all those people in the congregation who contributed so wonderfully with food for those events.

We have re-introduced the Donations for Dining which is ongoing. Anyone who feels that they can offer to host any type of meal should contact Alaine or Brian as these events always seem to be popular and very enjoyable.

Instead of organising Cream Teas on every Sunday afternoon throughout the summer we ran "A Summer Season of Sunday Afternoons in Church" on one afternoon in June, July and August and thanks go to the people who gave up time to participate on those afternoons, which made them a success – the craft stall holders, the choir and Norman Wallis.

Unfortunately we were only able to run one coach trip this year to Bruges and although the coach was not full we broke even and everyone enjoyed themselves.

We also had a group of 20 people go for a Sunday buffet lunch at the Spice Lounge Indian Restaurant in Coxheath, which was excellent value and enjoyed by all.

Lastly we provided drinks during the interval of the Lacey theatre production of Carol, and mulled wine and mince pies at the 9 lessons and Carols service.

It is our aim to continue to run as many events as possible in 2011 and your support is always welcome. Please keep your eyes peeled for these events which are publicised in the Parish magazine and in the Church notices, so here is to a sociable 2011.

We are, of course, always ready to consider new event ideas and if any come to mind please do not hesitate to tell one of the committee, who are (in alphabetical order!) Alaine summers, Anne Brenchley, Anni Butler, Margaret Thornton, Sarah Courthope, Tug Tugwell and Val Wallis.

Brian Summers

WORSHIP 2010/2011

The past year has seen a number of changes in the life and worship of All Saints.

This year, we have welcomed Sonja Drew as our new director of music. Her contribution has been greatly appreciated and some of the new initiatives she brought have given added value to our ministry (especially the music evening for wedding couples, held twice a year)

There was opportunity for those who lead intercessions and/or are readers to meet and perfect their skills.

The "Praise Band" (now Feed the Soul) who helped lead our Praise service since its start, felt called to focus their ministry in a direction different to that envisaged by the worship committee. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that a new format would be set up and developed in replacement of the Praise Service. ignite was thus born: a service enabling worshippers to have a fresh way of experiencing God, while offering the informality of the Praise Service. Alongside ignite, we have developed Cafe Church, an informal service that offers a platform for discussion and reflection. We would like to encourage all to come and sample the variety of worship styles on offer at All Saints (especially our evening services)

We have reflected on the pertinence of holding mid-week evening Eucharist services and high masses in light of often poor attendance. It was decided that this question would be raised, if necessary, by our next incumbent.

Although we are confident in the breadth and quality of worship at All Saints, we remain preoccupied by the challenge of a more adequate provision for children and families in our services. However, conversations within our committee and with other committees give us reasons to be hopeful as to our willingness and ability to set All Saints as a welcoming church for children and families.

Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy

WEALD DEANERY 2010/2011

It was a new beginning during this year for our Deanery as we said a farewell to Gill and hello to Rev Bill Hornsby, Vicar of Goudhurst with Kilndown as our new Area Dean. The Deanery continues to hold our open Synod meetings during the year and certainly the last one when we welcomed Heather Radcliffe to talk about her work with children in Schools was very much appreciated by those Parishes who are developing their children's work. The money day was yet again successful in agreeing our Parish share units for the coming year. There is a lot of information coming from Diocesan level now for us to share with our Synod and Parishes and the work load for Bill and myself has increased greatly. As from February 1st the diocese split in to three Archdeaconries' Maidstone, Ashford and Canterbury, and Philip Down moved to the new Ashford Archdeaconry. A new archdeacon is to be appointed for the Maidstone Archdeaconry. A review of the Parish share is at present being discussed and all Parish treasurers have been invited to a synod meeting and comments will be fed back to Diocese. Bill and I are to spend a weekend in Condette, France with all other Area Deans and Lay Chairs in April to review our roles and responsibilities.

As we come to the end of a triune I would like to thank our representatives from the parish Karen Kember and John Dodman and for Sylvia Lade who is also a Diocesan Synod representative. I had planned to retire as Lay Chair at the end of last year but was asked by Bishop Trevor to stay in post until we had appointed a new priest in Staplehurst. As hopefully the task will be well underway by the summer I have decided that the July Deanery Synod will be my last as Lay Chair. It took Brian Barnes three approaches for me to agree to stand as Lay Chair and I am grateful to him for his perseverance. It has been a great experience, a tremendous learning curve, very demanding at times and a punishing workload at difficult periods in our Deanery, but a huge privilege to work alongside four Area Deans Brian, Peter, Gill and Bill, also to build relationships with Church Wardens particularly during interregnums, of which there have been nine in my time, and to serve both Deanery and Parish as Lay Chair. Thank you for those that have given me encouragement and support during those years.

Val Wallis

DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT 2010-2011

May 2010

The Bishop of Dover, The Right Revd. Trevor Wilmott gave his first Presidential Address to members of the Diocesan Synod. At his installation service his sermon gave three very clear points, which I feel relates very much to our parish, now in its interregnum:-

1. We need to be completely committed to our communities and to the common good of the well being of every single human being.
2. We need to provide a ministry that is rooted in the teachings of Jesus that serves all people. This ministry needs to be flexible, well-resourced and sustainable.
3. And we need to achieve growth by working together in the body of Christ, working with and empowering the tenacity of faith in our local church communities. The Bishop explained the change in structures for the Diocese, with many boards merging with others and some being eliminated, to make the system more workable. A presentation by Revd. Nigel Genders (Diocesan Director of Education) on Church schools at the Heart of our Mission to the Nation, was well received, and gave much cause for discussion.

July 2010

This is a short meeting now being held in the middle of the year to give all members details of the Budget for the forthcoming year, to which all gave their approval.

November 2010

At the Diocesan Synod meeting in May, Bishop Trevor outlined proposals for new structures in the Diocese, with five groups now proposed by the Archbishop's Council for approval from Synod members. Various boards will now be joined up with one of these groups.

As the PCC heard at the meeting with the Archdeacon, there will now be three Archdeaconries namely, Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone. Archdeacon Philip will become Archdeacon of Ashford and a new Archdeacon will be appointed to Maidstone.

The now inevitable discussion on Women in the Episcopate was held, with a brief outline of the timetable for the proposed legislation.

The elections to the Deanery Synod are due this year and each deanery is allowed a certain number. We are allowed three members from our parish here and they will be elected at our APCM.

Finally, congratulations to Val Wallis, our Deanery Lay Chair, who has been elected to the Archbishop's Council. This is a big honour and a great help to our PCC as we shall, hopefully, be aware of some of the Diocesan activities as they are discussed and implemented.

Sylvia Lade (Deanery & Diocesan Rep.)

PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, STAPLEHURST

Minutes of Easter Vestry Meeting held on Monday 19th April 2010

1. Revd. Canon Gill Calver opened the meeting, welcoming all those in attendance.

Canon Gill thanked all who take leading roles in the church and spoke of how recently she had spoken to the Dean of St. John's College, Cambridge, our patron, describing the collaborative nature of our church. She enthused about our lay-led committees and working groups, and our growing team of ordained and accredited ministers.

Gill also paid tribute to Dr. Richard Skinner, who died in February. Richard was a former vice-chairman and member of the PCC, and was a much loved friend of many Staplehurst people.

Thanks were also expressed to Lesley Whitwood, who is moving to Scotland in May. Lesley has been a Lay Reader and Director of Music in All Saints for many years. Her dedication, hard work and enthusiastic leadership will be missed by all. A farewell and presentation will be recognized after the Rogation Service in May.

2. Prayers were then led by the Rector.

3. Election of Churchwardens

Norman Wallis was re-elected as Churchwarden, proposed by Pam Mortley and seconded by Peter Mortley. Pat Sherlock was re-elected as Churchwarden, proposed by Peter Mortley and seconded by Pam Mortley.

Gill thanked both wardens for all their hard work and continued support throughout the year.

4. Minutes of Eater Vestry Meeting – 20th April 2009

Proposed by Vic Holdaway and seconded by Audrey Bullock, it was agreed to accept the minutes of the meeting, which were duly signed.

5. Date of Next Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday 26th April 2011.

PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, STAPLEHURST

Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Monday 19th April 2010

1. Attendance
The meeting was attended by 60 people.
- 2 a) Apologies
These were received from:- Marion and Jack Christie, Maurice and Brioni Armytage, Margaret Friswell, Nick Wells, Andrew and Debbie Brady, David Wass, Ted Hall, Helen Wilkins, Sally-Ann and Richard Barclay and Sue Elwell.
- b) Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – 20th April 2009
Proposed by Audrey Bullock and seconded by Pam Mortley, the meeting voted to accept the minutes of the APCM 2009.
3. Matters Arising – none.
4. Presentation of Electoral Roll and Election of Electoral Roll Officer
The number on last year's list was incorrect and should have read 128 names and not 138 names.
This year numbers stand at 132 names.
John Dodman was re-elected as Electoral Roll Officer, proposed by Karen Kember and seconded by Lesley Whitwood. All approved.
5. Membership of the PCC
Anne Brenchley and Colin Whatmore were standing down from the PCC having completed their term of six years in office. Gill thanked them both for all their help and hard work over the years. Five people were nominated for PCC, Sonja Drew had completed three years and was eligible to stand for another three; other nominees were Audrey Bullock, Anne Butler, Sue Elwell and Brian Summers.
Members were asked to vote for no more than three people. Those elected were Sonja Drew (re-elected), Anne Butler and Brian Summers.
6. **Annual Reports**
Canon Gill thanked all those who had submitted reports and for their continued work in all areas.

Magazine
Peter Mortley felt that the magazine was a very good outreach for all the village. The monthly output was 860 magazines. A very willing band of 56 distributors operate in all weathers throughout the year.

Deanery Synod
Canon Gill said that she was standing down as Area Dean at the end of April. This will enable her to spend more time in the parish.

No other matters arose from the reports.
7. **Treasurer's Report**
Kevin Fulcher explained how he and his wife Ann were very fortunate to have Alex Finlow, a trainee friend of Kevin's, who helped them sort out the accounts prior to the PCC's approval. Alex Finlow is an accountant with one of the world's largest airlines, Mission Aviation Fellowship.

The deficit stands at £2,400. This would be much more, but Kevin has been chasing up several utility companies and has retrieved money which has been over-claimed. However, this can only be done once and we need to watch our expenses.

Kevin explained that we actually have no restricted funds but do have designated funds which can be re-assigned to new projects. The Bellringers' fund is separate but is still included in the church accounts.

The report was approved by all – proposed by Colin Whatmore and seconded by Audrey Bullock.

Independent Examiner

Thanks were expressed to Rory Silkin, the independent Examiner. A letter of thanks will be sent to Rory. He has agreed to act as Examiner for the next year. It was proposed by Caroline Highwood and seconded by Sheila Brooker that he should continue. All approved.

A presentation was given by the Curate, Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, explaining the reasons for giving money to the church, what is done with it, how much the weekly bill is for the church and what the money is spent on.

8. Election of Sidespeople

A list of sidespeople was read out, three names came off the list and three names went on. Proposed by Steve Bennett and seconded by Izzy Hammond.

9. Any Other Business

- a) Ron Hegarty announced that 28 people were going to Oberammagau in May. Six were from Staplehurst and others from around the Diocese.
- b) Alaine Summers said that the Parish Weekend details had not yet been organized. This is to be discussed at the first meeting of the new PCC.
- c) A change of format for the Cream Teas this year has been discussed by the Social Committee. This year it will be held in church once a month with other items of interest to be included.
- d) It is hoped to have a Gift Day this year on the Saturday of Harvest Festival weekend.
- e) The Church Fete this summer will be held at the Rectory on 17th July.
- f) Canon Gill surprised us all by announcing that this would be her last APCM. She intends to retire in January 2011 after her 64th birthday.

The next APCM is to be held on Tuesday 26th April 2011.

The meeting closed with Grace at 9.30 p.m.

At a very short meeting of the PCC after the APCM, the Secretary, Sylvia Lade and the Treasurer, Ann Fulcher were unanimously voted to stay in their respective offices.

Parish Church of All Saints, Staplehurst

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL
CHURCH COUNCIL**

And

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2010

Rector

**The Reverend Canon Gilian Calver,
Chaplain to HM the Queen. (Ret'd)**

Curates

**Reverend Lusa Nsenga Ngoy
Reverend Steven Bennett**

Reader

Mr Kevin Fulcher.

Reader Emeritus

Mr Peter Mortley.

Authorised Local Ministers

**Mrs Audrey Bullock
Mrs Sonja Drew
Mrs Karen Kember**

Children's Minister

Mrs Marion Whatmore

BANKERS

**National Westminster Bank,
Maidstone Branch,
3 High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XU**

Lloyds TSB,

**'Woodside', Cranbrook, Kent,
TN17 3DJ**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

**Mr Rory Silkin, 1 Vine House,
Staplehurst, Kent**

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Pat Sherlock Mr Norman Wallis

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ALL SAINTS, STAPLEHURST ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010/11

Administrative information

All Saints' Church is situated in the High Street, Staplehurst. It is part of the Diocese of Canterbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The New Rectory, High Street, Staplehurst, Tonbridge Kent. TN12 0BJ.

The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commission – No 1132851 and has the responsibility for promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Staplehurst, the whole mission of the Church. It also has the responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the ancient Parish Church and the Parish Rooms. The Rev Canon Gill Calver who had been the Rector of All Saints since 28th August 2002 retired in January 2011.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year, the following members served on the PCC:-

Incumbent	Rev Canon Gill Calver (retired in January 2011)
Wardens	Pat Sherlock and Norman Wallis
Secretary	Sylvia Lade
Representatives on Diocesan Synod	Sylvia Lade Val Wallis
Representatives on Deanery Synod	Val Wallis, Sylvia Lade, Karen Kember, John Dodman
Elected Members	Vice Chair – Mary Shaw Treasurer - Ann Fulcher Secretary – Sylvia Lade Annie Butler, Sheila Brooker, Sonja Drew, Jo Green, Caroline Highwood, Adam Houghton, Brian Summers, Tug Tugwell, Helen Wilkins
Ex-officio	The Revd John Walker- Self supporting associate priest The Revd Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy- Curate, Steve Bennett – self supporting curate, Kevin Fulcher, Reader.
Co-Opted Member	Marion Whatmore, Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

PCC members are elected for a period of three years at the APCM, which may be extended by another three years, if they are re-elected. They cannot stand again for election for at least a year. Nomination forms are provided at the back of church before the APCM, with an explanation of voting procedures in our weekly pew notice sheet. The Rector or Vice Chair advises newcomers as to their role and responsibilities after election.

The PCC met eight times during the year.

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between the full meetings of the PCC. Particular tasks are given to sub-committees by the PCC and in turn these committees inform the PCC of work they are doing on behalf of the church and where appropriate, bring to our full council items for discussion and decision. The committees are as follows:

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to directions given by the PCC.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Attends to matters relating to buildings and fabric, the churchyard and Parish Rooms. Liaises with the Finance Committee on expenditure in these areas.

Charities Committee

Deals with the PCC's charitable giving, both at home and overseas. Charities for the church to support each year are selected by this committee from congregational suggestions

Deanery Group

Meets to discuss and implement issues and directives for the Deanery Synod

'Growing Together' Committee

Has responsibility for the ongoing educational programme for adults and young people in the Church.

Finance Committee

Oversees the general financial position by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting and coordinating the review of planned giving (at its monthly meetings). It also represents the parish's decisions on what percentage of deanery diocesan share the parish pays each year, by sending representatives to the Annual Deanery Bidding Day, together with the Rector.

Magazine Committee

Has the responsibility for the production of the monthly Parish Magazine, together with other publicity matters and provides accounts for magazine production, distribution and advertising.

Social Events committee

Coordinates social events, some of which are fundraisers and some of which are purely social get-togethers.

Social responsibility

All matters relating to the social and community concerns of the Church.

Churches Together in Staplehurst

Meet to arrange service and other events held jointly with Staplehurst's other churches.

Worship Committee

Monitors the pattern of worship of the Church and suggests changes where appropriate.

Activities

Our activities are: - Regular public worship open to all. The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings and distribution of literature. Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other special needs groups. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas. Raising awareness of social responsibility in the local, national and international communities.

Church Attendance

There are 132 people on the Church Electoral Roll and the Usual Sunday Attendance is 113 adults and 9 children.

Review of the Year

All Saints stands on the hill at the heart of the village of Staplehurst and continues its ministry to members of church and village.

Although having a central church tradition, we also try to provide helpful acts of worship for those used to other styles. Four times a year we celebrate a High Mass and our forms of worship involve quiet evenings, Café Church, 'Ignite', Taizé services and traditional evening prayer.

We have an Authorised Lay Minister, trained as a worship leader, two Authorised Lay Ministers, trained in pastoral care, and a Funeral Officiant. We have a self-supporting curate, who will be priested in the coming year, and two Readers. Collaborative ministry is an important hall mark of our church and, as more people sense a call to a variety of ministries, we are becoming less dependent on the pyramid style of ministry, where a paid incumbent at the top, makes all the decisions.

Members of our ministry team and congregation are involved in many village clubs and associations, as well as in our school, at our residential homes, medical centre and on our Parish Council.

Our youth groups span the ages 0-18 years and are well planned by our Youth Ministry Co-ordinator, a part-time paid post but she will be retiring at the end of April 2011. There has been a real growth in numbers regularly attending our toddler group, known as 'mini saints', thanks to Marion Whatmore and her team.

Last year we baptised 26 babies and young people. There were 38 funerals and 8 weddings (20 weddings booked for 2011).

In June there was a Service of Remembrance, for the airmen who operated out of Staplehurst during the Second World War, when a newly built memorial, situated at the end of the old runway, was unveiled.

The Rev. Steve Bennett was ordained, as Deacon, in the Cathedral and will serve as a self supporting curate at All Saints. Following three years of intensive training our Reader, Kevin Fulcher, was formally licensed by Bishop Trevor in the Cathedral.

Each month through the summer we served cream teas in church, especially enjoyable when the Church Choir entertained us. All Saints was host to two concerts during the year given by well known singers from London.

A Faculty was granted in July for the proposed new lighting scheme.

An autumn course was run at the New Rectory on 'The Creed', which was well attended and we ran two Lent courses one on a Monday evening and one on a Thursday morning.

In November approximately 150 people witnessed the Service of Blessing of the marriage of our Curate Lusa and his lovely bride, Mirjam. Towards the end of the year we very reluctantly had to say a sad farewell to our Rector Gill Calver at the end of almost nine years at All Saints. The Church was full for her very emotional final service which was attended by visiting clergy and parishioners from the other churches in Staplehurst. We miss her greatly and thank her for her spiritual help and guidance over the years and hope that she enjoys a long and happy retirement.

Financial Review.

Before reporting on the accounts in detail, it is worth noting that the funds of the PCC come under three headings. General, or Unrestricted funds may be spent by the PCC on any object it sees fit within the boundaries set by its aims and objectives as a charity, which are, broadly, to provide Christian ministry in Staplehurst.

Designated Funds are sums allocated by the PCC for a particular purpose, but may be re-allocated if circumstances change, an example being the funds currently allocated by the PCC towards the lighting scheme.

Restricted Funds may only be spent on the purposes for which they were given, an example being the grant made by the Parish Council for the upkeep of the churchyard.

In 2010 total receipts on unrestricted funds were £140,609. Full details are given in the Financial Statements, but it is of particular note that the church benefitted from a number of unforeseen donations over the course of the year. In particular, a generous legacy of £5000 was received, an interest free loan of £2000 made by a parishioner in 2008 was converted into an outright gift, the Church Fete raised around £1400, and the two concerts given for the benefit of the Chapel Lane playgroup brought in a bit over £1500, these items alone totalling an additional income of approximately £10,000 which could not have been foreseen at the beginning of the year.

The church received £11,163 in restricted and designated funds, of which the restricted funds element, £4044, is the grant made by the Parish Council for the upkeep of the churchyard mentioned above.

Net income from the hire of the parish room totalled £1456 and from the magazine £854. Social and Fund Raising events contributed £4805, and PCC Fees £15,111.

£124,888 was expended on providing Christian ministry from All Saints, including the Parish Share of £62,174. This contribution to the diocese covers the salaries of the rector and curate, housing costs such as structural repairs to the Rectory, as well as providing for clergy pensions and a whole range of centralised resources. All Saints' contribution to the Parish Share is arrived at through negotiation with other parishes in the Deanery. The Parish Share is being held at its current level for 2011, but the diocese is currently consulting on a new method of calculation, based on the government's IMD (Index of Multiple Deprivation) statistics for 2012.

A full breakdown of the costs of ministry is to be found under the heading 'Note 3, Resources Expended' in the accounts.

The excess of income over expenditure in unrestricted funds was £13,154, but this must be considered in the light of the comments on additional unplanned income mentioned above.

In comparison with 2009, 2010 saw a net fall in incoming resources of around £14,000.

Most of this is accounted for by a reduction in voluntary income towards designated funds by around £12,000 and a fall in income from church activities of about £8000. On the plus side, voluntary contributions to general funds rose by about £9000

2010 also saw a substantial reduction in expenditure. General fund expenditure fell by about £8500. Considerable cost savings were effected by using an energy consultant (Torse UK, Ltd) to negotiate lower priced commercial contracts for gas and electricity on our behalf, and a general awareness of the need to economise.

Restricted and Designated Fund expenditure fell from £32,500 to £6000. This reflects the completion of the St George's Chapel project, and the fact that the lighting project has not yet been started. (Remember that these figures include the churchyard maintenance grant). A balance of around £20,000 is currently held in the accounts as a designated fund towards the costs of the lighting scheme, which includes grants and donations received in 2011, and therefore not forming part of these accounts.

To sum up, although the surplus of income over expenditure appears to be satisfactory, it must be recalled that almost that entire surplus was accounted for by unforeseen donations. The number of our planned givers continues to decline, through death or relocation. I would like to thank all those people who continue to support the work of the church through individual financial contributions.

The review of the Parish Share system is likely to result in an increase in our contributions being asked for. It is therefore incumbent on all of us to consider how best we may support the continuation of the ministry here in Staplehurst.

Although not forming part of the Accounts, the following charities were supported by the generous contributions of the congregation in 2010.

First Quarter Charity

Staplehurst Centre for Debt Advice £403.35

Second Quarter Charity

Help for Heroes £600.00

Third Quarter Charity

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People £615.87

Fourth Quarter Charity

Heart of Kent Hospice £468.17

Poverty and Hope Appeal £349.50

Royal British Legion 'Poppy Appeal' £457.73

Cruse' Bereavement Charity £39.00

Children's Society £513.38

Crisis at Christmas £188.65

Practical Action' Gift Aid Charity £402.56