

# Tring Team Parish

## Annual Report 2009

### Annual Report from the Berkhamsted Deanery Synod

Three meetings were held :-  
15.06.09 at St. Mary's, Northchurch  
30.09.09 at All Saints, Long Marston  
16.03.10 at Sunnyside

#### Administrative matters

David Abbott chaired his last meeting as Rural Dean on 30.09.09. A presentation was made to him at the meeting at Sunnyside.

David Bowie of Berkhamsted has succeeded him as Rural Dean, but is currently on sabbatical.

Hilary Armstrong has taken over as secretary from Kath Jones.

Richard Hackworth remains as treasurer.

Alan Conway was re-elected as the representative on the Diocesan Board of Finance.

Re-organisation plans for Deanery groupings have been deferred.

#### Presentations

"Interactive Christian Extension Studies" – Mike Butterworth. A modular course of study affiliated to Trinity College, Bristol.

"Healthy Churches". The subject was introduced by David Abbott and discussion followed.

"The Role of the Deanery" – Ted Oram.

#### Conferences / Special events

"Aim Lower" – John and Chris Leech. AAW conference at Sunnyside, 10.10.09

St. John's Gospel enacted by Mena Stamper in the Centenary Hall, Berkhamsted, 3.11.09

#### Financial

Total receipts	£2,374.54
Total payments	£1,694.15
Balance as at 31.12.09	£1,041.96

#### Diocesan Synod

Matters are reported to Deanery meetings. Detailed reports may be found on

[www.stalbans.anglican.org](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org)

#### General Synod

Likewise matters are reported to meetings and detailed reports can be found at

[www.cofe.anglican.org](http://www.cofe.anglican.org)

### TRING TEAM PARISH HALL

The refurbishment of the hall is starting to take shape. In February the kitchen was gutted and brought up to standard. The toilets, storage and work upstairs is planned for the summer, along with fire safety modifications. We will probably have to have a new heating boiler put in which will be more efficient and cheaper to run. We have received money from a bequest and we are trying to get grants from external bodies to help with the costs.

## **St CROSS WILSTONE**

### **ANNUAL FABRIC REPORT 2009-2010**

The Church fabric remains in quite good condition. Roof tiles, high level and low level guttering needs to be kept an eye on and the drain surrounds kept clear.

The decking, has been high-pressure cleaned (Thanks to Simon Wetherall) and varnished and gritted during the year. They should be good for at least one more year. A permanent solution should be kept in mind.

The outside vestry doors should be replaced this year. The principal requirement is that they should be reasonably robust and to be capable of being opened (with a suitable key) from outside

The heating costs have given rise to some concern and we have reduced the time that the heating is on in order to bring this down. It has continued to perform satisfactorily and (when the heating is on) this is normally a warm and comfortable Church.

Organ and Fire extinguishers have been inspected in their normal schedule. We will need a full electrical inspection before the next quinquennial. Bulbs and fittings on the tree lights have been replaced as necessary. The internal lights are having their incandescent bulbs replaced with low wattage ones as they fail.

Thanks are due to Ken Martin for mowing and doing sterling work in the churchyard, All those involved in cleaning the church, particularly Alison Cockerill and to Mary Minter for organising (and often doing) the flower arrangements.

## **ST. MARY'S CHURCH, PUTTENHAM**

### **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT, 2009/10.**

St. Mary's: After 6 months of negotiations between the EIG, Architects and roof contractors, the lead to the South aisle roof was finally replaced in June, 2009. In September, thieves struck again and removed it once more. As we were now covered by the Smartwarter system, we had high hopes of regaining our lead and the thieves apprehended – but this was not to be. Thankfully, the EIG paid out its maximum amount for lead theft in the sum of £5000. Our project now is to try for an alternative replacement material to prevent a further potential theft. The preferred material, as advised by the D.A.C. is “Terne Coated Stainless Steel”, and they have today advised us that we will need Dacorum Council planning permission for the change of material, as well as that of the English Heritage. It sounds as if the tarpaulins will be in place for a few months longer, and further expense.

During the year, we requested a visit by the D.A.C. to advise on possible refurbishment of the tiled floor which is becoming not only unsightly, but also an accident hazard in places. The damage is largely due to under-floor damp (a natural hazard in an old building), but the DAC damp expert threw up further problems in that the damp was seeping into the pillars as well as the floor and parts of the walls.

Once the roof issue has been resolved, the dampness will be our next serious concern.

General items requiring work as noted in the Quinquennial Report are, luckily, only small and will be carried out on a jobbing basis. The Puttenham Trust have kindly agreed to pay for the lime-washing of the exterior North wall to reduce corrosion of the stone.

Cecilia Hall: Work is in progress to upgrade on Health & Safety and Disability Access matters. Extra emergency lighting has been installed and the existing emergency lighting upgraded. A ramp has been incorporated into the paving for emergency egress from the Hall to the front of the building, and we are currently working with our builders for a more elaborate ramp from the rear emergency door (this is due to the extra height of the drop to ground level).

### **St John the Baptist Church, Aldbury**

#### **Churchwardens Report to the 2010 Annual Meetings**

A concern has been to keep on top of churchyard maintenance and Jo has shown strength in organising and leading working parties. We had an annual review of the churchyard trees, conducted by Colin Chambers with assistance from Jo's husband - Simon. Recommendations required by this report underpin our insurance coverage for any liabilities arising from accidental damage caused by our trees, for example as a consequence of a storm.

We have also made considerable progress in the upkeep of the church, as ever supported by the Friends of Aldbury Church. We have reviewed our experience with the sound amplification system, in conjunction with the supplier and implemented their recommendations, yielding considerable enhancement of sound quality and coverage. We also explored alternative options for our heating system maintenance and placed the new contract with Milgas of Kings Langley. They quickly established flaws in the wiring of the control system and we now have much more effective programming options.

In respect of the churchyard, we are addressing the question of appropriate gravestone design and grave adornments, as required by Diocesan practices. This requires considerable sensitivity, especially in particularly tragic circumstances where idiosyncratic expressions of grief emerge. Jo's leadership in this will be most beneficial.

The anticipated incidence of burials in the graveyard requires us to look to future needs, but we are able to avoid medium-term problems by clearance of the south-west corner, which has been used for an ever-expanding spoil heap. The Parish Council is helping with financing this significant task by increasing our grant for the past year.

Early in the year, we identified the need for the Church to acquire a set of chasubles, as the existing vestments are the personal possessions of Janet Ridgway and we should not depend on clergy having their own. Gill has taken the lead of a working party which has arrived at a design and selected fabrics, in conjunction with Jo. These are kindly being produced voluntarily by one of our parishioners having appropriate experience and skills.

Some time ago, at Huw's initiative, a proposal was developed to relocate the font, the project financing being by means of a legacy. The proposal had considerable publicity through the Aldbury Outlook and by means of an exhibition in the Leeds Chapel to explain the rationale. Time has passed while the formal Faculty processes are being conducted, so the project has yet to be initiated.

Ron Kennett, Gill Lerigo

## **ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S TRING**

### Churchwardens fabric report

Both the Church and the churchyard are lovingly kept in good order thanks to a loyal band of volunteers who give their time, for which we are grateful. This saves us a lot of money.

We are waiting to have our quinquennial inspection in the very near future. This is because we have had to find a new architect, as our previous one has retired and the diocese can only allow approved architects to inspect a grade I listed building.

At the beginning of the year we had an area on the north Clerestory level that had lost parts of the stone around the window recess. This was due to a hopper head becoming blocked and water penetrating the wall. Once the wall had dried out, scaffolding was put up and the loose stone removed and planed back. There have been no further problems. While the scaffolding was up, damage to a stained glass window was repaired.

Smartwater has been applied to areas of the lead and other valuable items. It has also been used on the Parish Hall.

A cctv system has been put in so the organist can see parts of the church that are normally out of his site. This was paid for by a donation.

We have had to have a new water heater in the kitchen area and the vestry. The heating system struggled this last winter and was unable to reach a comfortable temperature. There are ongoing investigations to try to improve it.

We have had investigations to check whether we have asbestos in the church and the hall. It is a requirement that we show any evidence of this to contractors.

Some of the pews get damaged when they are removed for concerts. We have had necessary remedial work done which is always ongoing!

We are developing the area around the Lady Chapel altar as a place dedicated to prayer. We have removed the altar rail and the space is used for open seating at small services, and a carpet is down for the children to sit on when the displays in the altar are used as part of worship. At present we have the Easter Garden in there, and at Christmas we had the crib set.

The churchyard is designated a living churchyard, with surveys being done and a plan of the upkeep being developed in the near future.

A silver birch and a chestnut have both been removed due to bad fungus attack and two trees have been planted in memory of Lauren Chambers and Michael Smethurst.

## **ALL SAINTS, LONG MARSTON**

### Fabric report

The church has seen a new heating system put in that is effective and a huge improvement to what was there previously. The jobs waiting to be looked at are attending to the flashing around the chimney and slow flow taps. The church continues to potter on and thanks go to those that assist, in particular Carole Harrison since the move from Long Marston of the Munday family and the absence of a church warden.