

Annual Report 2008-2009

We decided to replace the 20 page report of previous years with a brief summary of life in St Peter & St Paul

This year has seen major changes. We started the year still in the vacancy, which whilst being a team issue, has had major bearing on life here in Tring. On behalf of us all, I would like to express our thanks to the Ministry Team, who ensured that all our services took place. The official arrival of Huw, as Team Rector, has seen many changes, which have provided a new stimulus to our church life. We were sad to lose Martin and Victoria in the autumn and wish them both well in their new home in Yorkshire where Martin is already hard at work helping a parish through its vacancy. The arrival of Jo in February has also brought a new aspect to parish life.

The church building remains overall in good order and information on the work carried out during the year is detailed in the Fabric Report (Appendix 1). A big vote of thanks to all those who perform the many jobs, which help to keep the building alive and welcoming to all who enter it. It is impossible to list everybody who helps but we are grateful for all the hard work you put in and hope you find the tasks rewarding and part of your thanks to God.

We continue to offer our range of services ranging from Toddler Worship, through Explorers and Adventurers to the All Age Worship and Eucharistic Services. On fifth Sundays, the service of Morning Prayer, concurrent with a Team Communion service held around the parish, attracts a number of people and provides a service for visitors to the town. It is good to see some families who come on Wednesday afternoons also starting to come to some Sunday services.

TAY continues to serve our young people and the number, walking to St Albans on Easter Monday, shows we have an enthusiastic core of people on which to build.

Music continues to play a major role both in worship and in the many musical events which are held in church throughout the year.

The congregation of St Peter and St Paul continues to play a major role in the life of the team parish, being actively involved in all the team activities and committees.

As I come to the end of my 5 term as Churchwarden, I would like to extend my personal thanks for the support, which I have received over the years. It has been a privilege to serve and I wish those who will continue the role all the best as they strive to serve this district and the team.

Ted Oram

Appendix 1

Fabric Report 2008-2009

This has been a busy year for fabric activities. Looking at the various things dealt with, these include:

Roof – We were concerned about the occasional ingress of water through the roof. We looked at putting a new roof above the old but when the current aluminium roof was lifted in order to examine the timbers underneath, they were found to be mainly sound and it was agreed that we should paint the various splits and joints with sealant. This appears to have provided a short term solution whilst the finances are tight. The roofs are to be painted with Smartwater to discourage theft of the metals.

Electrical - At this time, we are waiting for an electrician to check out the floodlights and to repair the light sensor on the floodlight in the south porch. The lamp post, outside the south door, is a cause of concern as the earth strap has corroded and we are unable to isolate it as nobody admits to supplying the power to it. The light above the lych gate has been examined and is now in working order although the metal frame needs painting.

Windows - The clerestory windows on the north side have dried out and the plastic sheeting has been removed. The vandalised window on the south side has been repaired together with a hole in the window above the kitchen unit.

The front pews, which are removed for concerts, have been becoming loose and Mike Farnes has undertaken a programme of repairs and additions of new brackets. This is a long term project and will continue during the next 12 months.

CCTV - We have installed a cctv system, which will allow the organist to see the high altar, nave altar and the west door using fixed cameras and other locations such as the conductor at concerts etc. using a wireless camera. This was financed by a donation.

Trees - We have had several of the trees pollarded and a survey taken of all of them. Resulting from this, we need to remove two which are badly diseased and we plan to plant two replacement trees, one of which will be one of the 16 around the area in memory of Lauren Chambers.

Emmie Hobbs Room - A plaque indicating that the upper room under the tower was paid for by a bequest by Emmie Hobbs has been mounted on the wall.

A big thank you to everybody who gives their valuable time to keep the church in good order.

Appendix 2

Annual Report from the Berkhamsted Deanery Synod to the Tring Team APCM Meetings of the 2008 – 2011 Triennium

9.07.08 Holy Trinity, Potten End
24.11. 08 St.Peter & St.Paul, Tring
17.03.09 St.Peter & St.Paul, Little Gaddesden

Presentations

Parish Share Review: Martin Macdonald.

This detailed a way forward to simplify the share factor, grouping parishes into 4 tiers according to their Church Membership Figure. Following discussions at PCC level the actual figures were amended. This system is to be implemented in 2010.

Tring Team Church Growth Day: Huw Bellis

Huw reported on the outcomes of our Team event in Puttenham

Giving for Action

A deanery-wide meeting was held in October with the Bishop of Bedford at St. John's, Boxmoor.

Reports

From the Tring Team by Huw Bellis in November

From the Berkhamsted Team by Michael Bowie in November.

Special Events

Dr. Morna Hooker "The Gospel of Mark" November 2008

Future Events

"Aim Lower" Church Growth day Conference in October 2009 at Sunnyside. This is to be led by John and Chris Leech on the subject of All Age Worship.

Parish news

John Kirkby – retired in September

John Russell – co-opted onto Deanery Synod

Martin Macdonald – moved to Yorkshire

Jo Wetherall – Licensed to Tring Team Feb 1st 2009

Tricia Gibson – re-licensed to include Nettleden and Gaddesdens.

Pastoral Committee

Concerns have been voiced by our Deanery and others regarding the proposed plan to restructure the St.Albans Archdeaconry from the present 8 into 5 new Deaneries This would involve the Berkhamsted Deanery joining with the parishes of Markyate Street, Flamsted, Redbourn, Harpenden and Harpenden St. John as Deanery " B"

The planned changes have now been postponed past the Jan2010 commencement date and will be re-visited at the Rural Deans' meeting in June.

Financial matters

It has been decided to re-instate the parish levy to the Deanery Synod to raise an additional £375 p.a.

The Diocese will be asked to contribute towards the cost of the Deanery conference.

There was a balance of £360 at the end of 2008. The accounts have been duly audited.

Diocesan Synod

Matters are reported to meeting. Detailed reports may be found on

www.stalbans.anglican.org Elections to the Synod are planned for May. The Deanery is represented by 3 clergy and 6 lay persons.

General Synod

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

www.cofe.anglican.org