

A Year at
St John's
2009 / 2010

April 2010

“ A Year at St John’s ”

Welcome to another ‘Year at St John’s.

We have much to thank God for this year, a year of sadness, excitement and a multitude of challenges but God has been with us every step of the way. We are thankful for the way the Church family has expressed its commitment to each other and to the future of St John's over the past few months. During the vacancy so much time, energy and care has been shown by so many people and we are truly grateful.

This booklet is full of examples of your commitment and we hope you enjoy reading it and find your self wanting to thank and praise God for all He is doing in our midst.

John and Chris

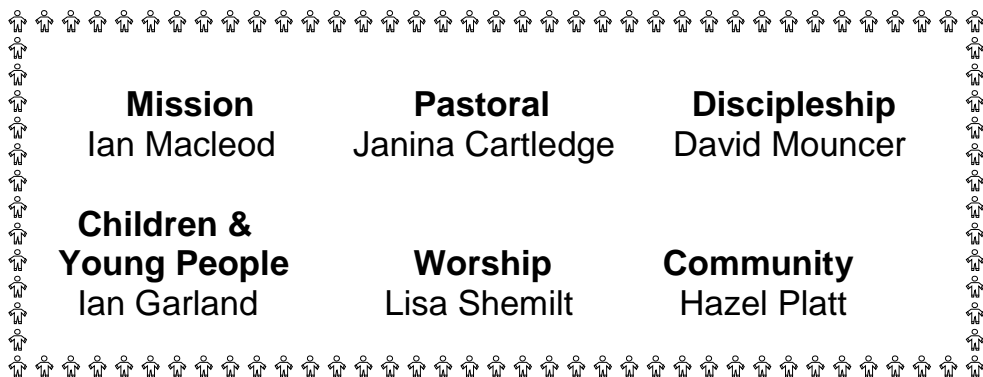
You are invited to . . .

St John’s Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Monday 26 April 2010 at 7.30pm in the Church

Please take this opportunity to join with other Church members to reflect on the past year and to elect new PCC members.

The Ministry Team



Mission

Ian Macleod

Pastoral

Janina Cartledge

Discipleship

David Mouncer

Children & Young People

Ian Garland

Worship

Lisa Shemilt

Community

Hazel Platt

Let me begin by reminding us all that we are so highly blessed as a church with a Ministry Team so willing to serve us with energy and commitment. Much of their work is unseen, yet, it would be impossible to run St John's without such a team.

The Ministry Team has been part of the Church's life now since 2000. It shares with the clergy in the task of overseeing the day-to-day life of the Church, with each member having a particular area of Church life they are responsible for overseeing. They seek to support and encourage the Leaders of groups in their Area and be responsible for new initiatives and ideas.

There have been some changes over this year to who is on the team. Ian Garland replaces Pippa Young. A huge thank you to Pippa for all her commitment to many areas of church life over many years. To Ian, who takes over the area of Children and Young People, our thanks for taking over this responsibility, and our prayers.

The reports in the booklet are organised in the Ministry Team Areas and reflect the range of activities we oversee.

David Mouncer

MISSION

This year the Men's work has been led by a team and the difference this has made is a real encouragement. It is not good to "work alone" and this practical application of Hebrews 10:24 really has made a difference. Mission is about our being ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor 5:20-21) and it is a real privilege for us to be counted as Gods co-workers. In Micah 6:8 it says "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God". What does that mean for you? As you read the reports below please do consider what part you can play because you are part of the team.

Ian Macleod ~ Ministry Team Member for Mission

Alpha

Two Alpha courses were provided during the year, the first led by Rev David Mouncer, assisted by Margaret Bown and Shirley Thakray, the second led by Margaret and John Bown, again assisted by Shirley Thakray. Shirley was also a wonderful host for both courses and her friendliness was very much appreciated. This is what one participant wrote about the course:

"I attended the Alpha course last October because I wanted to find out more about the Christian faith. I began the course with some trepidation about what would be expected from me, but these fears were completely unfounded. The atmosphere during each evening was friendly and unthreatening with participants being able to say as much or as little as they liked. The video presentations were very informative and any questions at the end were answered by the course leaders – and we had some really good cakes! I would recommend it to anyone thinking of attending". *Clare Ames*

John Bown

Baptism Preparation

Meeting with couples who bring their children for baptism is always both a great opportunity and a great challenge. Very often couples have had little contact with church for a while, or sometimes no meaningful contact at all. Some couples start coming to Church first, before talking about baptism; others ring up and simply want to know when the date will be.

The aim of the preparation is to befriend them, explain the meaning of baptism and seek to share the gospel with them. Our approach is to say that baptism is a wonderful statement about what God has done for the child but that it is only a start; for it to have all of its meaning the child needs to be brought along to church and the parents themselves need to be growing in their own understanding and experience of the faith.

A Church member visits the family immediately after they have enquired about baptism. This is followed by a baptism enquirer's course run by the clergy, where we look at what the Service involves and to think together about what God can mean for them as a family.

David Mouncer

Christian Aid

I feel that CA Week is a quiet, but important way to show our presence in the local community and I thank God for the faithful ministry of our 38 regular collectors. Our collection for this charity in 2009 raised £2,350. This was vital support for partner communities in a year when total CA giving was down by £3million. In our support for world mission, the church family at St John's have shown ourselves to have a wonderful heart of compassion. Sadly, however, the number of CA collectors is continuing to decline, mainly due to age and/or infirmity. Please join with me in praying that some new members will feel led to help us this year. If you feel you might be interested in helping in any way, please ask for more details.

Lindsay Gutteridge

Reaching Out to Our Community

Not a brilliant year if I am honest with Back to Church Sunday not receiving the same level of positive feedback as previous years and the Jesus Film distribution being put on hold due to no one being available to take part. The formation of Christians Together in Chesterfield that came out of the Hope08 initiative was a highlight and the group is now working hard to pull together the churches of Chesterfield to make a difference in the town. The prayer meeting is held every month on the evening of the 27th so if you can make any of these please put it in your diary now.

Back to Church Sunday 2010 is on September 26th when the focus will again be on the personal invitation of one church member to one friend to come and see what we do. Finally if you would like to find out more about what is involved with the Jesus Film project just let me know.

Ian Macleod

World Mission

St. John's continues to uphold our four named charities: Pathways, Mildmay, Tear Fund and The Smiles Foundation. Thank you for all your support. Christian Aid Week is an important Spring event and Operation Christmas Child is always a highlight of Christmas at St John's. Norma Sewell has recently stepped down as the OCC voice at St. John's and I would like to thank her for the work she has done. As a Fairtrade Church, we endorse the principle of trade justice - and the recent stall during Fairtrade Fortnight proved a great success.

Future priorities include:

1. Raising the profile of Mildmay over the next 12 months.
2. Support for a specific Tear Fund project over the coming year.
3. Developing stronger links with Pathways, promoting the new 'Sharing In Success' sponsorship initiative.
4. Filling and sending the Smiles container, which will ultimately provide a home for homeless people in Oradea.
5. Maintaining the current level of support for Christian Aid Week.

Highlighting Operation Christmas Child's Shoebox Appeal.

Further information is readily available from the Team: Lindsay Gutteridge, Pippa Patrick, Angela Smith and Carol Woodward, and all our charities produce excellent newsletters and updates, which we recommend to you as a foundation for prayer support.

Stephen Woodward on behalf of the World Mission Team

Men's Activities

Men's activities at St John's include Man Friday events and Men's Breakfasts. The aim is to provide the opportunity for men to get together in a relaxed environment and learn about the Lord and each other. A small planning team lead by John Bown organise the Man Friday activities and Ian MacLeod heads up a small team organising the Men's Breakfasts. The breakfasts have been filling and the speakers that follow the meal have been excellent. We tend to have been 20 and 30 people attending but we would appreciate more.

Man Friday activities have included dinners followed by a speaker, walks in the country followed by pub meals together, a barbeque for the St John's family and a night combined with the ladies group at the Chesterfield Bowl. The highlight was a concert with Bryn Howarth.

Look out for the new programme and join us if you can.

John Bown

Website

I believe that everyone in the Church has something unique to contribute. At Soul Survivor last summer I felt a strong calling to help the Church with my own specific skills - and it didn't take me long to realise that this involved computers!

Most people who use the internet will agree that it can be a brilliant source of information, but technology evolves so quickly that websites can go out of date in the blink of an eye. I wanted to redesign our website so that it can grow into an important source of information not just for people inside the church, but also for the wider community, including people who have never visited us before but are thinking about joining. After all, many people find out local information on the internet, and if you type "Churches in Walton, Chesterfield" into Google UK today, StJohnsWalton.co.uk is the first result! If you think you have anything that could make the site better, then don't hesitate - send me an e-mail! A big thank you to everyone who already has - you can find my address on the "Contact us" page.

Jonty Sewell

PASTORAL

Pastoral care is the ministry of care. This year, I feel, we have taken significant steps in achieving a wider framework of care to all congregations at St John's.

Since last year a team have now been established to provide congregational care for the 10.45 congregation. This means we now offer congregational care to each congregation at St John's.

All the teams are now well established and are carrying out some wonderful work and are achieving some very positive rewards.

The three different models of congregational care work in different ways so as to best suit the varying needs of the three different congregations. We have been particularly encouraged by the positive feedback received, and thus feel energised to continue the models currently in place.

The production of Living St John's has now been taken over by Clare Ames (Assistant Church Secretary) and continues to be well received. This publication offers an informative insight into the lives of our church members.

Janina Cartledge ~ Ministry Team Member for Pastoral Care

Newcomers Tea

This is just one of the ways in which we welcome people in to St John's. As in previous years, two events were held, one in May 2009 and one in February 2010. Both were well attended. Although some folk had been coming to church for a good while and didn't really consider themselves "newcomers", the events were seen as great opportunities to meet with other people, learn a bit more about St John's and simply share fellowship. Look out for announcements of next year's dates on the notice sheet.

Hazel Platt

Tuesday Light Lunch

On Tuesdays, after the morning service, a good number stay for a light lunch. Currently there can be between 18 and 34 people. We are very grateful to all those who prepare food and help clear away afterwards. We enjoy a varied menu, but most importantly, it provides an opportunity for sharing a meal together, for sitting round a table, having a chat and getting to know each other. We have food, fellowship and often some fun! We are having to improvise a bit while the building work is going on but look forward to easier catering when the new kitchen is completed. People of any age are welcome to join us.

Mavis Baker

DISCIPLESHIP

Let me start with a question. What is the aim of the church? Sunday by Sunday, week by week, what do we hope to achieve? I simply remind you of Jesus' last ever instructions to his followers before returning to heaven. "Go and make disciples of all nations . . ." (Matthew 28v.19). Notice, he did not say, 'church-goers' of all nations. Not even, 'nice people' or even Anglicans. He said, go and make disciples. In obedience to this command, St. John's exists to make disciples. To introduce people to Jesus Christ and then, enable them to follow him. What do we do to make this happen? Let me introduce a few of the areas covered under my remit as Ministry Team member for Discipleship.

David Mouncer ~ Ministry Team member for Discipleship

Bible Reading Notes

Although the main order for Bible Reading Notes is placed in December, I always have samples available for people to look at and an order can be placed at any time of the year. If you would like more information please contact me. A display of the different Bible Reading Notes available is normally placed on the notice board at the back of the church in October and November. The orders received are placed with Food For Thought Christian Bookshop in Clay Cross and as the different Bible Reading Notes arrive throughout the year they are distributed to those who have ordered them. There is also a box of out-of-date Bible Reading Notes available for people to borrow on the bookcase in the Church Centre.

Pauline Macleod

Read the Word

"Read the Word" is one way of introducing people to the discipline of reading a few verses of scripture each day. Reading the Bible is one of the ways through which God speaks to us, teaches and sometimes rebukes us. 30+ people are currently using this method of Bible reading and the verses can also be found on the Church website. The leaflets are available each quarter from the table at the back of the Church. You don't need to sign up – just help yourself.

Frank Baker

Homegroups

I have overseen this area of church life only in the last few months, but already I have seen the value they represent to the life of our church. Our

homegroups continue to offer a real sense of care for their members along with opportunities to study God's word together and pray for each other and the Church. The year has witnessed steady growth of numbers within homegroups. Let me take this opportunity to thank those responsible for leading our homegroups, for the all effort and time they have poured into their groups over the year.

Our usual pattern is for the groups to choose their own material to study for two of the three 'terms' in the year and to engage in common material for the other. The book of James, with its 'earthly reality check', has been studied together in the year. It has also been wonderful to see the homegroups so active in delivery of this year's Lent Course. Studying the Beatitudes and then leading the weekly sessions has been a real opportunity for God to use us all in building up the body for his glory.

David Mouncer

Prayer Circle

This 'behind the scenes' area of ministry within St John's, continues to flourish and grow. We now have 40 members, dedicated to praying for the needs of others both within the church family and further afield. It can be quite harrowing at times, but also very rewarding as we see God's answers to our prayers. It operates by email and/or phone.

If you would like to join the Prayer Circle or have any prayer requests, please contact me on 234696 or at lmgutteridge@yahoo.co.uk. As I am at work during the day, any very urgent requests are best phoned through to Joan Jarvis on 566679, so that the message can be cascaded as rapidly as possible. Please ensure that those we are asked to pray for have given their permission for their details to be circulated.

Lindsay Gutteridge

Prayer Meetings

Andy wrote last year in this report, "Getting people together to pray is a constant challenge." Still the challenge remains, but it is good to report that encouraging growth has taken place over the last year. Numbers have grown at the Wednesday morning prayer meeting. We now meet in the Waddington Lounge to accommodate larger numbers. It is a joy and a privilege to be part of these meetings. If you can spare 30 minutes on a Wednesday morning, why not join us? The interregnum has also offered us the opportunity to meet together for prayer. The three Saturday mornings of prayer have been well attended. Maybe as a church we are starting to learn the power of prayer!

David Mouncer

Women's Events

This past year has been a quieter time for Women's Events but the ladies of St John's have got together for a couple of GNT nights; one in the summer and one during winter. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Marie Old

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

I took this post up from Pippa Young in September last year and would like to thank her on behalf of St John's for overseeing this area and doing such a great job over the last three years. As we all now know, Pippa and family have felt a calling to look for a Church closer to their Matlock home and we all pray that they find this special place and receive a warm welcome. They will be dearly missed by us at St John's, but as Kevin said, it's not Goodbye it's Au Revoir.

You know St John's has great Children and Young People leadership when you come to our morning worship on Sunday. The impact on the Church when the Children and Young People leave is very noticeable; it often feels like half the Church has left. It's a great reflection on the impact that our Children and Young People have on our Church and the wider context of our Church Family.

At St John's, children's ministry is lead right from the front, as demonstrated by Lisa and David and other helpers such as Andy & Sara Brown, Philippa Lockwood and Mark Love providing a short teaching at the beginning of the service. Although the teaching is aimed at the kids, the message often hits home for all of us. Perhaps we're all kids at heart.

Crèche, Sunday Club, Praise Party Group, TIG, Big TIG, Friday Nights, Soul Survivor - there is something for all our children and teenagers. This work is, however, only possible with the week by week commitment shown by all our leaders and helpers, not just for the time spent with the Children, but also for all the preparation work that make the lessons run so well. Please don't forget to thank them all.

The new rooms will be an obvious benefit to our Children's work when they open in June. The key benefits are being able to house all of our Children and Young people on location. TIG currently use the Village Centre and BIG TIG squeeze into the Church Hall entrance. So the new rooms will allow these groups to stretch out again, breath a bit and have their own space to learn and equip themselves for God's work.

Ian Garland ~ Ministry Team Member for Children & Young People

Crèche

Over the last year crèche has continued to provide quality care for the 0-3 year olds. We have changed rooms again due to the building work for phase 2, which in itself has been challenging as we are in the Waddington Lounge with the 3-5 year olds. At first this seemed to be difficult as how to separate the room into two different groups offering different activities and sometimes distracting the older children. The room is tight for space and some toys are

not able to be accessed due to the building work, but the toys offered seem to be adequate as some of the crèche children now join quite happily with the 3-5 years which will help once they are old enough to move groups. We look forward to having more space when the building work is finished. The crèche wouldn't happen if team were not committed to providing the crèche. Thank you to Marie, Lisa, A-Kay, Victoria, Hazel and Rachel for being part of the crèche team this last year.

Angela Smith

Sunday Club

Sunday club continues to cater for children ages 3-11. The crèche and younger children have combined together in the Waddington Lounge due to building alterations. This has been difficult at times but has been made easier by numbers of children age 3-5 years old being quite low as several children "moved up" to the next group at the start of the school year. Numbers of children attending each week vary between 30-35 children although there are approximately 45 children on the registers.

Barbara Cox has "stood down" after many years of leading regularly and Charlotte and Peter Smith have moved on. Pippa and Kev Young are also to stop leading Sunday Club at Easter as they feel called to worship nearer to their home. We are thankful for all that they have given to Sunday Club over the years.

All sessions aimed to be Bible based, age appropriate and fun. Last summer we had a lovely picnic and games at Cromford Meadow the Technicolour Party on 31st October was attended by approx 40 children. We are planning "skate and chips" at the end of March.

Please pray that new leaders will come forward in order that we can continue to meet the needs of children at St John's.

Pauline Neep ~ Sunday Club Co-ordinator

TIG

It's been another year of change in leaders at TIG. Tina moved on to pastures new in September and Becki Heys stepped down in December.

Thankfully, Mark Love, Sophie Hudson and Charlotte Fletcher have all joined the leaders rota. The four main leaders are assisted with other regular helpers, meaning that each leader only has to lead once a month. This provides significant benefit to all involved in leading as they can spend a greater number of Sundays worshipping in the service. The fact that we can provide regular worship for all leaders will hopefully bring more stability in TIG leadership. The number of TIG members has increased since September, with a larger number of lads. This has changed the balance of what is

now a fairly lively group.

On Sunday mornings we provide Bible based teaching. We typically discuss specific issues relevant to modern life and link them back to Christ's teaching. The sessions are balanced with a mix of fun and games. The level of involvement from members has significantly increased with the majority of the group well involved in the discussion, openly sharing their views and experiences. We have also held several social events including a barbecue and bonfire party.

We give thanks for the joy that TIG brings to our church family and pray that the group will help members draw closer to God.

Charlotte Fletcher, Sophie Hudson, Mark Love and Martyn Glossop

Big TIG

There are many reasons to feel blessed as part of the church family at St John's, but we count amongst the biggest that there is a group of faithful and committed teenagers who regularly attend on Sunday mornings to spend time with each other, God and the bible. The enthusiasm and creativity they bring enriches us all.

BIG TIG continues to offer Sunday morning bible studies, a young person's home group and Friday club for members and friends.

Highlights of the year include a Friday night talent show and fashion parade, a photo hunt in Sheffield, studying aspects of Jesus's character, and talking relationships and sex in our crowded lounge!

Soul Survivor was a great success last summer - not even that muddy! – and the lively worship and great teaching sets us up for the year.

Thanks to the wider church family for the way you support the young people financially and through phase 2.

Please continue to support them most of all in prayer.

Rob and Steph Barron – with thanks to Sophie Hudson, Ian Garland and Chris Collard

Child Protection Report

The process of updating and expanding the Register for recording the CRB data on all leaders and those who have had checks done as part of their usual employment has continued this year.

The register is maintained and up dated by me (the CPO) and a copy is also kept by the vicar and in the church office.

The Diocese produced new Safeguarding Procedures in 2009.

Training for those people working with young people in the church is viewed as a requirement, and a number of the young people's leaders, the clergy and the church wardens attended training sessions in September 2009

which were delivered by the Diocesan Child Protection Co-ordinator. The new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) came into being in October 2010 and you may have seen references in the press to new “vetting and barring” procedures which are to be introduced. These are not likely to be as draconian as has been suggested in the press and will be gradually introduced during 2010. ISA will begin replacing the CRB checks from July 2010 for all volunteers and paid employees working in the church.

In preparation for this change the clergy, the church wardens and myself (CPC) will be attending a briefing session in May 2010 and further training for all volunteers and young people’s leaders will be offered in our area in June, by the Diocese team.

I am most grateful for the patience shown by the many young people’s leaders and other people in the church who have been involved in updating their CRBs and attending in recent months. I am hopeful that once the new ISA is fully established, that things may quieten down a little for us all.

A Copy of the Safeguarding Procedures is available in the Church office and a copy of the new flow chart is on the notice board in the Church centre.

It is important that as a church family we continue to prioritise the safeguarding of all our children and young people, and if you have any concerns or queries relating to Child protection issues please do not hesitate to contact me. My contact details are on the Church Centre notice board, in the parish address book and on the website.

Marje Shaw

WORSHIP

The worshipping life of St John's remains healthy and the contribution of many people has ensured the continued health, diversity and vibrancy of our life together.

The vacancy has brought opportunities for us to experience the ministry of visiting preachers and seen the development of some of our laity in their preaching ministries. It has been good to welcome Robin and Eileen Balch into more active roles within St Johns and as always we are grateful for all that Bernard and Sarah contribute.

There are always opportunities for people to step out of the boat and try new ways of serving, and a need to share the load. Be it helping with the children and young people's work, siding, reading, leading intercessions or assisting with the refreshments or maybe acquiring the additional skills that would enable you to help out with the P.A or to set up and manage the computer, there is a place where you could make a contribution and an opportunity for you to become more imbedded within the community.

To all those who do SO much THANK YOU!!!!

Lisa Shemilt ~ Ministry Team Member for Worship

Home Communions

Mavis and myself continue to feel privileged as we take communion to those who cannot get to Church. It takes place on a monthly basis with us working alternate months with David and Lisa.. We currently have four people to see although in the past year we were very sad to lose Sheila Turner, Enid Pickering and Dorothy Cresswell with whom we had built close friendships over the years. Communion at home appears to be appreciated by all who receive it. We hold in prayer for these people that Gods loving care and comfort will continue and ask His blessings on all who care for them.....

Heather Silvers & Mavis Clough

Music at 9.00am

The sung worship at 9.00am continues to be focussed on 3 hymns which are chosen to highlight the themes of the service.

We are blessed by and grateful for the contribution of our organists. Barbara left us to have her baby and Dennis has been single handedly holding the fort since then. We are grateful for his skill, sensitivity and commitment.

Ideally, though, we would like to find at least one other organist who could play once a month or provide holiday cover. Please don't be shy in offering your abilities- if you feel more comfortable playing the keyboard or the organ in 'piano mode' we would be happy to have you play.

The choir has become a regular feature of our 9.00am service and their contributions enrich our worship. We thank them especially for committing to singing each Sunday of Lent to add to the seasonal flavour of our worship over that time.

Lisa Shemilt

Music at 10.45am

There are quite a few people now involved in leading the sung worship at the second service on Sunday mornings. We are grateful to them all for their time and commitment.

Choir

St. John's choir was formed in April 2007, so we have been going for 3 years. We have seen a few changes in that time, but what hasn't changed is the commitment and privilege that we feel in bringing God's praises, in song, to the church family. We have had 3 new folk join us this past year, Joan Stevenson, John Kemp and Bryan Rogers. We were also thrilled when Jim Ritchie offered to play for us last September, when our pianist Barbara Davenport went off on maternity leave. We are hoping that when Barbara is ready to re-join us, Jim will continue to play the keyboard for Choir, thus introducing a new medium to the arrangements that our musical director, Mark Oldershaw brings for us to perform. We will be very sad to say goodbye to Julia Potter this July, when she moves away from Walton to Wolverhampton to start married life with Chris. Thank you Jules for all your input with us. We continue to sing at the 9.00 a.m. service once a month and occasionally at 10.45 too. This summer we shall be singing at the Carsington weekend away, at the Open Day at church and also at the Thanksgiving Service for the opening of the new building. We continue to enjoy good fellowship and friendship within the Choir with practice nights, the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, often proving to be somewhat riotous.

Carol Paton

Evening Celebrations

Our monthly Evening Celebrations continue to offer an opportunity for an alternative style of worship to our other services, with attendance ranging from 25 to 70. The Celebrations give us an opportunity to be more 'experimental' in style and to allow our musicians to have a higher profile in the leading of worship. The sermons tend to range across a number of subjects and each one is a 'stand-alone topic', not part of a series, as in the mornings.

David Mouncer

Tuesday Worship

Our midweek service takes the form of a simple liturgical service with hymns and a short sermon. It usually last around 40minutes. It has been very good to see lay members of this congregation taking a more active part in leading this service during the vacancy. From its inception, the vision has always been for it to facilitate lay leadership and it is good to see this blossoming during the vacancy.

The congregation are a warm and caring community who offer a ready welcome to visitors. The lunch that follows the service is a valued component of the community's life together and our thanks go out to those who provide the food each week.

If you are free on a Tuesday morning do come along and join us!

Lisa Shemilt

PA

It has been a productive year for the PA team – we have doubled in size!

Dan and I have been joined by Josh Mouncer and Karl Taylor.

Dan will be going off to university in September so we could do with recruiting again. Ideally, if we could have two more members of the PA team then we would each only have to man the desk one Sunday morning a month which would allow each of us to sit with our families and friends a little more often.

The building of Phase 2 has led to some actual work in relocating the system for the church centre as the new Gent's is not the ideal place! And some planning work for audio visual equipment for the new meeting rooms although there may not be funding for this straight away.

If you are interested in joining this small but dedicated team please feel free to come and sit at the back with us for a service or two to see what it is all about.

Dan, Josh, Karl & Richard

COMMUNITY

What a difference a year makes! Here we are in interregnum but still serving our community to the best of our abilities. It is a credit to the people of St John's that things continue to happen and the church continues to run smoothly.

The last six months in particular have been extremely busy in a quiet, preparing sort of way. The area of community is about to expand as we respond to the needs of those around us. The new rooms will give us the opportunity to engage with the community in all sorts of ways and we are currently undertaking a huge survey to discover what the people of our parish need. Once those needs are identified, we can determine which we are able, realistically, to meet and then take action.

I would ask that you hold all of the people involved with the groups below in your prayers and give thanks for them and the work they do in engaging with the community we live in.

Hazel Platt ~ Ministry Team Member for Community

Little Fishes

This has been another good year for Little Fishes, although the numbers of children regularly attending with their mums or carers recently dropped when 6 children started school. The sessions continue with the same format and are greatly enjoyed by everyone attending. We have a mix of stories, prayers and songs based on our theme for the session and always end with activities, toys and refreshments. The story basket is a particular highlight each month when our resident 'Teddy' lifts out objects to show to the children to introduce the theme. At our Christmas celebration we had a special nativity cake and mince pies to share and every child received a gift of a beautiful Nativity tree decoration and a card to take home. Singing, accompanied by actions, band and ribbon waving, is always enjoyable and we are very grateful to Jo Glossop and her Mum who play the keyboard for us. We extend a warm invitation to all pre-schoolers and their 'adults' to join us— if you would like further details please talk to myself, Heather Silvers, Jacqui Bean or Sue Godsell.

Please pray that our Little Fishes continue to enjoy being with us and that God will nurture the seeds of faith we plant in their lives.

Carol Woodward

Little Fishes Toddler Group

Little Fishes continues to run very happily every Thursday morning between

10.00 - 11.30am in spite of all the changes happening around us due to the building work.

Currently we have 44 children 3 years old and under, and 11 children over 3 years, coming from 50 families. We have averaged 39 children since the start of the New Year, and have a waiting list of 8 children. This really is the maximum that we can function at happily – volume and space wise!

We are well stocked with toys for all ages and each week a craft table produces all kinds of very interesting things which are eagerly taken home and the session ends with action songs which really have to be seen and observed – it's great fun.

Something new is that as a team we pray before our sessions start and we are so grateful to God for some very wonderful answers.

The team: Rita Kemp, Pauline Macleod, Carol Paton, Sue Godsell, Hilary & Martin Turner, Jean Armstrong, Shirley Thackray & Pat Williamson – plus a host of wonderful people who make the refreshments.

Rita Kemp

Walton Friends

I am afraid to say that we have not moved very far this year. All attempts to reach out into the community have been fruitless. Maybe the new extension to church for community use, when it is ready, will prove to be a useful resource and maybe some new thinking. I pray that God will guide us in this direction and ask that many of you will join me in this prayer...

Heather Silvers

Walton Parish News & Publicity

As usual, three issues of Walton Parish News were produced, tying in with Easter, Back to Church Sunday and Christmas, to let those in the Parish know what we are doing at St. John's and also to let them know about events. We are again grateful to Helen Terry for compiling the master copy, Sheila Todd for organising the folding and counting of WPN, and all those who come along to help. We also thank the people who deliver the 2,850 copies to all households in our parish. There are always more rounds than deliverers, so if you can help next time, please speak to Sheila.

Pat Calow

Singing for the Brain

'Singing for the Brain' at St. John's has now been going for 2 years. In the autumn of 2009, sadly, we said goodbye to Peter Smith who had played his

violin for us since we started. Peter has moved away and I know he was sad to leave the group. Fortunately, Adrian and Jean Mcquire offered to help us out. Adrian plays the clarinet and Jean helps me with the singing. A few months ago, Dennis Todd also offered his services, and as we had been fortunate enough to be given a very nice electric piano, Dennis came on board and now plays regularly each month for us. 'Singing for the Brain' now meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 2 - 4 p.m. We have a faithful band of helpers, who come along and do everything from setting out tables and chairs to making tea and coffee, washing up and even running out to fetch more provisions when needed. We have grown in number each month and at the last meeting we totalled 65!! Indeed, we did run out of tables, chairs, milk and cakes!! The Alzheimer's society are pleased with the way 'Singing for the Brain' has taken off. A good time is had by all. Joan Kirby, one of our ladies usually has a table with hand made cards for sale, and all monies she donates to the Alzheimer's Society. She has raised well in excess of £200.00 to date.

Carol Paton

GENERAL

Estates

Again 2009 has been a time for complying with a tight spending budget. We were able to carry out normal statutory test programme and cover upris-ing maintenance, although we had to defer some items where we could. During the year 2009 / 2010 there will need to carry out painting of the exte-rior of the Church Centre which was delayed to match the building works taking place.

Decoration of the Waddington Lounge and Toilets is now becoming neces-sary as is some patch painting in the Church itself.

Our gardens were subject to care and attention during the year with "Garden Mornings" used to tackle the heavy works required.

Looking forward, the constraints of limited budgets means that we will need to look at the use of in house labour where possible or face the unnecessary deterioration of our facilities.

Within the buildings and grounds are many opportunities for Church mem-bers to carry out tasks either individually or in groups, at organised activities or at times to suit each person's availability.

My hope is that each of us will look at what we can contribute.

Many sincere thanks are due to those persons who gave of their time in 2009 to carry out maintenance within our buildings and keep our gardens in good order.

Should you wish to volunteer to help in any way please contact David Jarvis.

David Jarvis ~ Estates Manager

Deanery Synod

We do have vacancies for another two people to represent St. John's on Deanery Synod. We would love to have someone else to join us. It is not as intimidating as it may sound!!!! There are only 4or 5 meetings each year and always fairly local, The evening will always open with prayer, followed by a speaker, the topics vary, but are very interesting. It amazes me the things I learn and begin to understand more about with each meeting. The March meeting where the speaker for the evening was our very own Rev. Andy Broom. He talked about the work he was doing in Directing the Mis-sion and Ministry. This was enlightening. We then have refreshments where we can chat to people and clergy from other churches in Chesterfield. This is followed by the business side which never takes very long.

So come on ... Join us.

Heather Silvers

Church Office

The first few months after the 2009 APCM were fairly normal in the office, with all the usual busyness and challenges and enjoyment. Then the building work started. A cause for celebration indeed, but at times it has been like working on the building site due to the noise and mess and flooding, or even in the Gent's toilet once most of the suspended ceiling tiles were removed. Working conditions have improved now that the office has moved temporarily into the Vestry / Quiet Room. Thank you to Lisa and David for readily accommodating us in there. The move went well, the phone and computer worked immediately and the only hiccup was with the large filing cabinet (the drawers got stuck). We are both looking forward to moving into the new room and have already chosen the colour we want on the walls.

Pat Calow & Clare Ames

Review of the Year - 2009

The full PCC met eight times during the year with an average attendance level of 84.4% - slightly lower than last year's level of 87.5%. Various topics were discussed at the meetings and a brief summary of the major items follows:

As the income of the church is now above £100,000 we had to register as a charity. The application process began in January 2009 and we officially became a registered charity in March 2009.

It was agreed that we go ahead with the final phase of the building project and that, if necessary, a loan would be secured to ensure that the church centre and kitchen could be refurbished at the same time.

Clare Ames was appointed as Assistant Church Secretary.

Although interviews were held for the position of Youth Worker, no-one was appointed. The aim is still to employ a youth worker and the post will be re-advertised. Sophie Hudson agreed to take on some of the role on a temporary basis during her 'gap' year before starting university.

Ian Garland was appointed Ministry Team member for Children and Young People.

In July, Andy Broom announced he was leaving St. John's. He left in October to take up the new position of Director of Mission & Ministry in the Diocese. During the vacancy, John Kelly and Chris Calow, the Church Wardens, assume the responsibilities of the incumbent. They have worked tirelessly to maintain morale within the church and to keep everybody focussed on our new buildings and worship, as well as attending meetings and preparing the Parish Profile. An extra PCC meeting was held, attended by Bishop Humphrey and David Illiffe (Deanery lay chair), to explain to the PCC the procedure that had to be followed prior to advertising for a new incumbent.

A sub-committee has been set up to look at the management of the Church Centre (including the new rooms) and make recommendations to the PCC.

Sue Garland

PCC Secretary

