

The Parish of Harpenden, St John

MEETING PAPERS

FOR THE

MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS

AND THE

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

On Sunday 10th April 2011

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**The Parish of Harpenden, St. John
St. John's Road
Harpenden**

The Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

presented to the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

on

Sunday 10th April 2011

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, SOUTHDOWN, HARPENDEN

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

to be held on Sunday 10th April 2011 in Church at 11:00am

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parishioners held on 29th April 2010
- 3 Matters Arising
- 4 Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

to be held on Sunday 10th April 2010 in Church

- 1 Apologies for Absence
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ST JOHN'S CHURCH, SOUTHDOWN, HARPENDEN

Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on Thursday 29th April 2010 in the Church Hall

The meeting opened with prayers.

Present 49 members of the congregation were present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Jane Joseph, Brenda Cottle, Maureen Lacey, Julia Smith, Janet Saxby, Di Borthwick, Fiona & Nick Pearce, John & June Jones, Sally Creedy, John Colegate, Renee Swanwick, Anne Edwards

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Adoption of the minutes of the Easter Vestry meeting held on Thursday 30th April 2009 were proposed by David Nye, seconded by John Borthwick and carried unanimously. The minutes were then signed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

There were none.

4. Election of Churchwardens

Two nominations had been received prior to the meeting:

Matt Barter, proposed by Lesley Richardson and seconded by John Borthwick, and

Margaret Creighton, proposed by Ian Richmond and seconded by Liz Sergeant.

In the absence of any other nominations, Matt and Margaret were elected unanimously to serve as churchwardens for the coming year, 2010/2011.

Philippa congratulated Matt and Margaret on behalf of the congregation, and expressed her sincere thanks to Ian Richmond for his service as warden over the past four years. Matt also added his personal thanks to Ian, and on behalf of the Deputy Churchwardens, and the wider church congregation, for everything he has done. Matt said that Ian has proved just how reliable, dependable and committed to St John's he is over his four-year term of office, which has seen such milestones as the Centenary year celebrations and the challenges of the vacancy. Matt commended Ian for his gentle guidance, his patience and his diplomacy, which have helped ensure that St John's is the community it is today.

Ian thanked Philippa and Matt for their kind words, and expressed his gratitude to everyone for their support during his term of office. He felt privileged and honoured to have had the opportunity to come back to serve for a second term as warden. He acknowledged that, as warden, he was just one small part of a much bigger team, which included the ministerial team and everyone in the congregation. It was a team he always found very co-operative and helpful. Ian expressed his willingness to continue to serve St John's, and stated that he would always be available to offer advice at an appropriate time.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, SOUTHDOWN, HARPENDEN

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Thursday 29th April 2010 in the Church Hall

1. Apologies for absence

Members present and apologies for absence were the same as for the Meeting of Parishioners.

2. Minutes of the last APCM

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 30th April 2009 were proposed by Ian Ashton, seconded by Ken Hollows and carried unanimously. The minutes were then signed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

There were none.

4. Electoral Roll

The report of Alison Gardiner, the Electoral Roll Officer, was read by Alison. The new Roll has been completed and displayed in church since 15th April 2010.

The number on the electoral roll currently stands at 277. There is a net increase of 9 since the last APCM. One person had moved away during the year, and there had been three deaths.

Of the 277 entries:

177 are female

100 are male

175 are resident in the (ecclesiastical) parish

102 are not resident in the Parish

Philippa thanked Alison for compiling the roll and keeping it up to date throughout the year.

Adoption of the electoral roll was proposed by David Brown, seconded by Sheila Satchell and carried unanimously.

5. Churchwardens' Report

The report was circulated with the paperwork for the meeting, and had been delivered verbally to the PCC at the last meeting.

The question was asked as to whether St John's is still a training parish. Philippa replied that we are, and Charles Burch is a non-stipendiary training curate.

6. Secretary's Report

The report was circulated with the paperwork for the meeting and no queries were raised. Philippa remarked that the Group Reports are a testimony to all those people who kept things going during the vacancy. The numbers of attendees at the festivals and services were very similar to last year.

7. Treasurer's Report and PCC accounts

Anthony ran through the main points of his report and the PCC accounts, which had been circulated with the paperwork for the meeting, after being adopted at the last PCC meeting in March.

i) Trustees Report: This year, the accounts include a Trustees report, largely based on the Parish Profile, in order to comply with the Charities Commission requirements.

ii) Prior Year Adjustment: note 14 on p15.

The Finances Committee has proposed to change the accounting treatment of both the Church Hall and Linwood Road to reflect a more accurate representation of their value to the PCC. They have been shown at original cost of both buildings, minus depreciation. This has been calculated as a prior year adjustment, so the accounts are shown as if they had been reflected like this in both 2008 and 2009.

iii) Designated and Restricted Funds: p14 * footnote

This year, the funds in both the St John's Players and the Flower Guild accounts have been reclassified as non-restricted or Designated, meaning that there are no legal restrictions on the use of these funds. This is because these funds have been collected as payment for services, rather than as donations for specific purposes. It was noted that the Choir Fund remains a Restricted Fund, because these donations had been made specifically for church music. David Nye confirmed that the reclassification of these funds (St John's Players and Flower Guild) was appropriate. Anthony confirmed that it was not the intention of the PCC to use these funds in any other way, and that they would continue to be administered as separate funds by Flower Guild and St John's Players.

iv) Key points

Net result: our income and expenditure were closely matched, resulting in a loss of £1777.

The total income for 2009: £157,574.

The total expenditure for 2009: £159,351

The largest expenditure is the Parish Share (£73, 896), which was lower than last year, due to the fact we had no vicar.

Water damage repairs represented £5000.

Anthony drew our attention to the fact that as well as our annual giving of 10% to four charities, we also give to several other charities throughout the year, totalling £15,513.

David Brown enquired whether the recruitment costs (advertising) could be off set against the vacancy fund. Anthony stated that there is only provision for costs of visiting clergy, and day-to-day upkeep of the vicarage in this Fund.

John Hammond asked why the property at Linwood Rd is shown as a Curate's House. Anthony replied that it is not an investment property, as it is not something we could ever sell as it is held in trust for the Diocese. As a training parish, we may need it for future curates.

v) Outlook for next year

Anthony stated that the expenditure in 2010 will be more than in 2009, due to the full payment of the Parish Share, and the balance to be paid on the Hall roof. There is an urgent need to look at increasing our income and cutting our costs. The Finance committee will be reviewing at our expenditure, but there is a real need to generate funds. He stated that we are facing interesting and difficult times ahead. It was noted that as a church and also as a Diocese, our average % of giving per person on the Stewardship roll is very low.

This year the accounts were independently examined by Trevor Neal, as the income and expenditure in the year did not exceed £250,000. Anthony expressed his grateful thanks, on behalf of the PCC, to Trevor Neal for his time.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by David Brown and seconded by David Young, and carried unanimously.

Philippa thanked Anthony and the Finance Committee for keeping us afloat. She recognized the fact that St John's is very fortunate in having a number of professional finance people in the congregation.

8. Report from Deanery Synod

This was circulated with the meeting papers, and there were no questions. It was noted that Michael Hughes is standing down as Deanery Secretary. Elizabeth Brown has agreed to take on this role.

9. Elections

a) Deanery Synod

As **Melanie Crowley** is standing down as lay member of the Deanery Synod before her term of office expires due to her ordination, we are entitled to replace one member of the Deanery Synod. We have received one nomination:

Ian Richmond was proposed by Lesley Richardson and seconded by Peter Richardson. Philippa invited any further nominations. There were none. Ian Richmond was elected unanimously to serve on the Denary Synod.

b) Parochial Church Council

Those whose term of office expired were:

John Jones and Anthony Davis.

There are a total of three vacancies (as Margaret's place has been vacated now that she has been elected warden).

Three nominations have been received to date:

John Jones, proposed by Ian Richmond, seconded by John Borthwick

Anthony Davis, proposed by Paul Bedding, seconded by Matthew Barter

Tim Davey proposed by Celia Halsey, seconded by Paul Bedding

There were no other nominations; therefore the three nominations were presented to the meeting 'en bloc'. They were all elected unanimously to serve for three years (2010-2013).

c) Appointment of Sidesmen

The list was available for perusal. Philippa read out the new names. Adoption of all the names was proposed by Paul Bedding, seconded by Heather Nye and agreed unanimously.

d) Appointment of Independent Examiner

This year, the accounts will not need an Auditor. Under the Charities Act, the PCC can appoint an Independent Examiner. The meeting was informed that a huge debt of thanks is owed to Trevor Neal, who has been adviser to the Ward Bequest and the PCC accounts and is now standing down. Anyone willing to stand was requested to come forward.

10. Report from the Trustees of the Ted Ward Bequest

The accounts and annual financial report were circulated with the meeting papers. Anthony Davis reported that there was no movement this year. The total value of the fund at the end of the year was £299,215. The meeting was informed that the Trustees had unanimously adopted the report and the financial statement in April.

11. Group Reports

This year there are 15 reports from the various church groups, which were circulated with the meeting papers.

Philippa recorded her grateful thanks on behalf of us all, for the hard work and dedication of all those people who lead and organize, and attend these groups.

13. Any Other Business

The questions and comments all related to the church's finances.

- i. Pat Hudis expressed concern over the predicted £18,000 deficit, and felt strongly that, as a church, we need to take more responsibility for meeting the challenge of giving more. Philippa replied that it is a very real challenge, and gave credit to Stewardship and Finance committees who have been trying to develop a strategy to manage this. Philippa agreed that we can't just gloss over it, and we need to ask ourselves some tough questions both as individuals and as a church.
- ii. Moira Carrington suggested that the electoral roll could be used to target people. Margaret Creighton reported that was one of the approaches used in the last campaign, though there are many members of the congregation who are not on the Electoral roll, particularly some of the families who come to Junior Church.
- iii. John Hammond asked whether the weekly bag collection was making a difference, and Anthony replied that it was making a significant difference month on month. He estimated that over the year there may be an increase of approximately £3000.

- iv. Betty Hollows suggested that the majority of congregation may not know how much it costs to run the church. It was agreed to increase communication through the church magazine, the pew sheet, and a specific leaflet.
- v. Warren Greaves asked about the plans for the repair/replacement of the Church roof. Matt Barter replied that quotes had been obtained, some of which were in the region of £350,000 to replace the Church roof completely. We would also take opportunity to insulate the roof at this time. Matt stated that it is a huge challenge. A strategy, to decide how to raise funds and how to carry out the work, would be proposed to the PCC. The aim is to launch a fund raising plan by September this year. Matt stressed the need to ensure this plan was coordinated with the Stewardship strategy. Philippa agreed that this is a serious challenge, and that fund-raising is a priority which needs to be as painless as possible but have a maximum impact.
- vi. Nick Lockett asked whether the church hall was losing money due to the cost of recent repairs. Matt replied that the Hall hiring charges had been revised from 1st January, in line with market value. The increase is not yet evident in the accounts. Going forward, the rates will be reviewed regularly on an annual basis.
- vii. Chris Lockett suggested that we involve the whole Parish in the fund raising for the roof. Philippa agreed we should call upon the parish in the widest sense: not just the congregation but all who call upon us for baptisms, weddings and funerals.
- viii. Lauryn Awbrey suggested that the issue is a wider one than just creating a strategy for fundraising; she suggested we need to develop a vision for what we do as a church, as disciples of Christ in 21st century. How we raise money needs to be part of our mission as a church.

14. Vicar's Address

A copy of the Vicar's address is attached.

The meeting closed with the Collect of Catherine of Sienna at 9.30pm.

Vicar's Address 2010

Much of what we say at an Annual Meeting is retrospective, it can even be difficult to remember some of the details of the past year as we are so engrossed in what is happening now. And yet it is an important exercise to sit back and assess what has taken place and where we are going next.

It is important to say thank you to all who have given so much of their time, energy and love to this church, this worshipping community, this building and this wider parish.

Two vicars in 36 years. Two men whose ministry has shaped how many of the congregation we have today have grown in faith. In 1973, the year Gordon Martin was made Vicar of St John's was also the year of my birth. In 1997 the year in which Jonathon Smith was made Vicar, I took up my studies at theological college. It is relatively rare in the modern church to have kept your vicars for so long. My previous parish, such was its nature had a new vicar every 5 – 7 years. They were most definitely used to whipping them into shape.

In 2009 I finally made it to long trousers and joined the esteemed crowd whose names are painted on the board at the back of our Church. Wardens and Ministry team breathed a sigh of relief. Vacancies always present a time when team work and collaboration are needed most. And this has most certainly happened.

My heartfelt thanks go to those who took such good care during the vacancy. To our Ministry team, both lay and ordained. Your dedication to leading worship and pastoral care is a great asset across the community.

To our wardens and deputy wardens, Ian, Matt, Margaret and Lesley have been, and continue to be in their very distinctively different ways excellent wardens. They have complimented each other, worked closely together and have given unstintingly of their time and skills. Being a warden is not always the easiest and most glamorous job. The buck can often stop with them if something is left undone. All of them have busy lives, and it is not only St John's who gain from their endeavours.

To Susan, our Parish Secretary, who has held my hand on a number of occasions, and given me much valued information and advice.

Our PCC and its officers and sub committees have met with great regularity, and as well as carrying out their duties with care and diligence, there have also been the opportunities for discussions.

My thanks for all the efforts that have gone into chairing these committees bringing good suggestions and feedback to the PCC. I think it is important to reiterate the point that by electing these officers to the Parochial Church Council, you elect them to represent the wider congregation and community.

Many people quietly and efficiently help in many different aspects of the Church. My thanks to the servers, sidespeople, lesson readers, leaders of intercessions, flower arrangers, those who serve coffee, those who clean and tidy both inside and out. All of these people make coming into our Church and Hall a more pleasant and welcoming experience.

The report booklet is full of good news. Much of what goes on behind the scenes and in front can easily be taken for granted. However, the sheer amount of work and effort that goes into this worshipping community is of vital importance and without a team effort we would be much poorer both spiritually and in some cases financially. We do need to be aware of the challenges that face us in the present economic climate, and we do need to keep looking to other ways to help us reach those targets. However if we continue in good heart to work towards and beyond our financial goals trying our best, we are heading in the right direction. Stewardship is an important part of our Christian discipleship and most remain so.

For it is people; God's people that we live and serve amongst. It is our duty and our joy to serve in this community. The ministry of occasional offices, of Baptism, Weddings and Funerals is important. It is an opportunity to bring people closer to God, and to encourage them on their Christian journey.

It is at this point that we remember with love those who were members of our congregation but are now rest in the nearer presence of God.

Professor David Morley

Iola Leckie

Alan Gardner

Sheila Griffiths

Elizabeth Dodd

Cyril Pease who died this past night

All of these occasional offices act as a reminder to us all of the pastoral responsibility for the whole parish and not just the congregation. These offices take up a huge amount of time, and in many cases, energy. Yet they are a source of inspiration, dedication and sometimes perspiration! Worship is at the heart of any Christian community. Without a congregation, regardless of the building or the institution we would simply not function.

My thanks to Roger, along with the choir; for their leading of the music in worship. It is an important part of our worship and their efforts are greatly appreciated. Our Junior Church and Creche is an immensely important part of our Christian nurture. We have a responsibility to help these children and young people grow in faith.

Our greatest priority lies in bring people closer to God. We are also given so many opportunities, not just those of us who dress up in funny clothing, but each one of us.

I hope that I continue bring enthusiasm and excitement, an enthusiasm for the love and compassion offered to us in Jesus Christ, a love and compassion that we have a responsibility to share.

We look forward today to a new year of encouragement towards spiritual growth. Yet with this comes a sense of vulnerability. WE must continue to look closely at what we do, to understand the needs of this community, the needs of God's world. As we worship together, pray together, socialise together, may it always be with our faith at its heart. We can see the changes in the Church and in society. These are not problems but challenges. Challenges that we can face together, with vision and enthusiasm. We pray and seek God's guidance as we continue to worship and work together. We need to encourage one another, as a witnessing community to live our faith not only in our church but our homes and places of work.

I am of the view that much of what we do as a church is about relationships. With God and with each other. I have spent a lot of the last few months looking and listening. Hope to gain a better understanding of who and what St John's church is about. I'm certainly not declaring that I now have all the answers but it has certainly helped me understand more about the parish I am ministering to. This will continue. 2010 has started with great gusto, I hope that each little step we make as we meet and greet people in the name of

Christ will be to the strength and glory of this Church and the Kingdom of God. There will be change ahead. Looking at our liturgy is a goal for the next twelve months, enriching our worship and keeping it energised is of great value. As the wardens have already highlighted we have to make some very clear plans about our fabric. We need to look at how we view Christian education and discipleship and what we can do to make a difference. For me the last seven months have been something of a roller coaster ride. It possibly has been for you too. They have been interesting, they have been challenging, and they have also been encouraging. It has certainly been a time of transition for all of us.

But once again I say thank you, to all those who have worked so hard, named and unnamed. And to all who will work hard in the years to come. We move forward in faith, putting our trust in God.

Philippa Segrave-Pride
April 2010

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT 2010-2011

Our report is intended to provide a record of the major events that have occurred in the life of our parish in the past year and focuses most especially on the fabric of our buildings. We would firstly like to thank the deputy wardens, Ian and Lesley for their unstinting support and help throughout the year.

As is usual, maintaining and looking after our church buildings has meant a busy 12 months, undertaking general day to day repairs and refurbishment. We were very pleased earlier on in the year, when the replacement flat roofs to the church hall were finally completed satisfactorily. No major works were planned for this year, although redecoration of the main hall has been undertaken, following installation of emergency lighting and fire sounders.

The burden of statutory requirements, inspections, risk assessments et al, continue to brighten up our lives! The ever changing regulations and 'guidance' are a considerable challenge, and financial drain on our limited resources. The members of the Fabric Committee work tirelessly in this regard, and we are grateful for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

Over the past few years we have been considering how best to approach the replacement of the main and secondary church roof coverings. The need for these works was highlighted in the last Quinquennial Report, prepared in 2007 and further slipping tiles means that the time for action has now come. This will be a significant project and is likely to result in some disruption to our use of the Church building and car parks. The project has now moved forward, with the appointment of Chartered Surveyors and other consultants to draw up specifications of work and address the significant Health and Safety issues this type of work poses. As you read this, we should be in the process of reviewing tender results, along with dealing with the challenges of obtaining the relevant permissions from the local authority and church bodies.

We were blessed many years ago to be the beneficiary of a substantial bequest, which has funded a number of major capital projects within the church, and others supporting the wider aims of the Church abroad. It is envisaged that the roof replacement project will finally see the remainder of this fund exhausted, and leave us with no further substantial reserves. We would however highlight the long-term benefit that this legacy has provided to us, and would encourage you all to prayerfully consider a bequest, to ensure the longevity of the church in your Parish.

Our day to day financial situation continues to cause some concern, and a fresh approach to Parish Giving has been introduced. We thank Lesley Richardson and John Borthwick (Stewardship Chairman and Stewardship Recorder) for taking on the responsibility and challenge of their new roles and we hope for a positive response to our Parish Giving programme introduced in February.

Churchwardens are legally responsible for maintaining a safe, welcoming and reverent environment in which all can worship. The ever increasing numbers in the congregation, most especially at the 9:30 Parish Communion service, has provided us with the pleasant challenge of accommodating all age groups. We are most grateful to the members of our Junior Church and Little Gems for the active part they play in our worship. With everyone's support we hope to continue to provide the respectful and friendly environment, in which all members of St John's family are included and encouraged.

Although the number of attendees at our major services is increasing, it is still sometimes difficult to find members of the congregation to take on some share of assisting in the many facets of parish life. We appreciate that the pressures of modern life are demanding and time consuming, but sincerely hope that any who offer of their time and skills will find that a deeper involvement in church life can bring many rewarding blessings. Please do come and let us know if you would like to be more involved.

The two major social events of the year were well attended and very successful. We celebrated our Patronal Festival in the Vicarage garden (thank you Philippa) in glorious sunshine and enjoyed a splendid barbeque. The weather was not so kind for our harvest hog-roast but the heavy rainfall spoilt neither the entertainment nor the food. A new social committee has now been formed under Jane Joseph's guidance, and we thank the retiring committee members and Jo Klein especially, for all their hard work over the last few years.

We are pleased to report that Little Gems, Junior Church, Bedrock and the Youth Group continue to thrive and our gratitude goes to all who support them in any way. The time and commitment needed to organise the teaching, nurture and guidance of our young people in the Christian faith is very much appreciated.

St John's role as a training parish has continued over the year. Melanie Crowley was ordained as deacon in the Abbey in July supported by many from our congregation and Lucy Davis continues her ministerial training. We are now looking forward to the arrival of a stipendiary curate, Amanda Duncan, who will be joining us in July. Our prayers and encouragement must go to all who take up their calling to the priesthood and also to those whose teaching, counselling and guidance support them throughout.

We were privileged and delighted to support David Nye as he was installed as an Honorary Lay Canon in the Cathedral in October. This prestigious and well-earned honour was accepted by David with his usual quiet self-effacement and we would like to thank him once again for all he has given of himself to both St John's and the Diocese over the years. We again visited the Cathedral in February for an evening pilgrimage when we were guided prayerfully around a hushed Abbey, the visit culminating in a candlelit service of Compline.

A most successful Spirituality Day led by the Rev'd Sarah Burrows was held in November when we were able to share in a morning of teaching, discussion,

contemplation and prayer – a quiet, beneficial few hours away from the ‘busyness’ of our lives. A further quiet day is planned for April.

As ever, we are grateful to all in the Ministry Team, for all that they do both during services, and participating in the life of the parish. Particularly so this year, as many have been actively involved in supporting other local parishes who at present, do not have full time clergy.

The conclusion of our report gives us the opportunity to thank all who contribute to the life of St John’s in every way, the members of the PCC, group leaders, cleaners, music makers, flower arrangers, servers, gardeners and to everyone committed to sustaining and ensuring the work of this church.

We are greatly encouraged by your continuing and loving support.

Matthew Barter

Margaret Creighton

March 2011

List of PCC members 2010-2011

Vicar	Philippa Segrave-Pride
Assistant Priest	Julia White
Curate	Charles Burch
Readers	Lauryn Awbrey Anne Edwards David Halsey David Nye (also member of Diocesan Synod)
Churchwardens	Matthew Barter Margaret Creighton
Deputy Wardens	Ian Richmond (2010-2013) (also member of the Deanery Synod) Lesley Richardson (2008-2011)
Diocesan Synod (2009-2012)	Elizabeth Brown
Deanery Synod Members (2008 – 2011)	Simon Creedy Michael Hughes Mary-Jean Pritchard
Treasurer	Anthony Davis (2010-2013)
Secretary	Liz Sergeant (2009-2012)
Council Members	
Ian Ashton (2009-2012)	Paul Bedding (2009-2012)
John Borthwick (2008-2011)	Roger Carter (2008-2011)
Sally Creedy (2009-2012)	Tim Davey (2010—2013)
Helen Davies (2008-2011)	Pat Hudis (2008-2011)
John Jones (2010-2013)	Neil Middleton (2008-2011)
Nick Pearce (2009-2012)	Alan Webster (2009 - 2012)

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT 2010-2011

The objective of the PCC

The aim of the PCC is 'to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical' [PCC(Powers) Measure 1956]

The organisation of the PCC

St John's Parochial Church Council met six times in 2010-2011 in May, July, September, November, January and March. Attendance at meetings was approximately 72% of the maximum possible number of 29.

Prior to each PCC meeting, a Standing Committee (comprised of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Deputy Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary) meets to draw up the agenda of items to be discussed. The minutes of this meeting are circulated to the PCC members together with the agenda, the minutes of the last PCC meeting and any briefing documents for items under discussion, at least two weeks prior to the next meeting.

The PCC is assisted in its work by a number of sub-committees, which bring proposals for action to the meetings; namely Fabric, Social, Stewardship, and the Finance Committee. There are regular detailed updates from these committees on the agenda of the PCC meetings, together with updates from the members of the Deanery and Diocesan Synods.

PCC Business

At the May meeting in 2010, Ian Richmond and Lesley Richardson were appointed as Deputy Wardens to assist Matt Barter and Margaret Creighton. Anthony Davis was re-appointed as Treasurer, and Liz Sergeant as Secretary. It was noted that John Jones had decided to stand down as Chairman of the Fabric Committee after 12 years of service. The PCC expressed its gratitude to John for all his hard work and dedication over this time, and welcomed Paul Jessop as the new chairman.

Charles Burch led a fruitful review and discussion of Lent 2010 at St John's, and suggestions and comments were made to be taken into consideration for next year.

At the July meeting, the church inventory, which had been reviewed by Matt Barter and Ian Richmond, was adopted by the PCC.

In September, Lauryn Awbrey facilitated a very productive discussion on the topic of Pastoral Care. The PCC considered what Pastoral Care means to us, and how and why we do it. The results of the discussion have subsequently led to the creation of a Pastoral Committee.

In November, the recipients of 20% of our Outside Giving for one year were selected by vote. Six organisations were nominated, and TALC (Teaching Aids at Low Cost) and CMS (Church Mission Society – Samaritan Appeal in Africa) were selected. The PCC also support WaterAid and Mercy Ships, who receive 30% of our giving over a period of 3 years.

On the recommendation of the Fabric committee, the PCC approved the appointment of APS to project manage the replacement of the church roof, scheduled for July 2011.

In January, the PCC reviewed the results of the survey completed by members of the congregation in January as part of the Bishop of St Alban's Mission Action Planning (MAP)

initiative. The results were generally positive, but the areas for improvement will be built into St John's MAP plan going forward.

Three members of the Stewardship committee attended a very informative Stewardship workshop by Geoff Fletcher (the Diocesan Stewardship Advisor) so the PCC spent time discussing financial giving at St John's and rising issues to include in an action plan with the aim of involving the congregation further in financial giving.

The PCC budget for 2011 was presented for approval by Anthony Davis in November, and the PCC Accounts for 2010 were presented to the meeting in March 2010. Financial Updates form a regular item on the agenda.

PCC Policies

- The Health and Safety policy is reviewed annually.
- Child Protection Policy is reviewed annually in July
The leaders of the Little Gems, Junior Church, Bedrock and the Youth Group are all aware of the requirements of the Diocese re: the protection of children and young people, as are the leaders of other youth organisations using the Church Hall.
The majority of parent helpers at Junior Church etc. now have CRB clearance and there is on-going monitoring to ensure that clearance is obtained or renewed as appropriate. Approximately 50 Church members have been cleared. Claire Robinson is our Child Protection Officer.
- Paul Bedding continues to assess our use and storage of data within the church, with regard to the Data Protection Act.

Average weekly numbers

There are three Holy Communion services at St John's on a weekly basis: - Sunday at 8.00am and 9.30am, and Wednesday at 9.30am. The average weekly attendance at St John's is approximately 205 across these three services, and the average number of communicants is approximately 155.

Festivals in 2010/2011

Easter Day was on April 4th 2010, and over the four Easter Day Services (8am, 9.30a.m., noon and 6.30p.m.) there were 302 communicants out of 399 attendees. This was considerably higher than last year (252 communicants, 300 attendees).

There were three Christmas Day services this year (Midnight, 8.00 a.m. 9.30 a.m.), with a total of 282 attendees, with 233 taking communion, which was slightly less than last year, probably due to the snow. The Nativity play took place during the Parish Communion service on Sunday 19th December, and was very popular, with 205 attendees and 125 communicants. The evening Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was also very well supported, with 205 attendees (up on last year), and the Christingle service on 12th December attracted 160 attendees, again up on last year. The two Crib Services continue to be popular, showing a similar trend to the last three years, with families with younger children attending the earlier one, and families with older children attending the second. Approximately 230 people attended these two services.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
HARPENDEN ST JOHN**

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31 DECEMBER 2010



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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Harpenden St John is registered with the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales (Charity no. 1131603)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HARPENDEN ST JOHN

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2010

AIM AND PURPOSES

The Parochial Church Council of Harpenden St. John (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the priest in charge, our vicar the Reverend Philippa Segrave-Pride, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church and Church Hall.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to enable as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St John's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church and Hall.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and Prayer

All are welcome to attend our services. The church embraces a broadly liberal catholic tradition which caters for a wide spectrum of churchmanship, from evangelical to liberal, to those with a deep faith and those who are new to faith.

St John's was one of the first churches in the country to adopt a Parish Communion service, and the 9.30a.m Eucharist has remained at the centre of parish life and worship ever since. Common Worship is used at all Eucharistic services.

There is also an 8.00 a.m. Communion service each Sunday with a short address. Evensong is sung (BCP) on most Sundays. There have also been occasional Taizé and Iona services and other special services during the year.

Each Sunday there are usually between 30 and 50 children participating in Junior Church, with even more in the period before Christmas when they are preparing for the Nativity Play. The children are aged between 4 and 11. Secondary school-age children attend the Bedrock group, and children under 4 attend our crèche, Little Gems.

The Red Letter Days, including Epiphany, Ash Wednesday and St John the Baptist's Day are observed with a Parish Communion. Holy Week is observed with daily services (including stripping the altar after the Eucharist on Maundy Thursday) and there is a three hours' service on Good Friday.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family

express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. This year we celebrated between 35 and 40 baptisms and 5 weddings and held approximately 20 funerals and memorial services in our church.

Diocesan and Deanery Synods

Members of the PCC sit on the diocesan and deanery synods. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Pastoral Care

Members of the ministry team and other members of the congregation visit those in the parish who are sick or need support.

St John's church hall also hosts 'Faith & Light', a non denominational support group for people with learning difficulties, their families and carers and the Daylight Club, a social club for adults of working age with physical disabilities.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Once again the usual PCC policy of donating 10% of normal income to outside charities was implemented. In addition, we donated the collections of services over Easter, Harvest and Christmas to charity, and have raised money for charity through other events, including a number of concerts.

Our parish magazine is distributed quarterly to every household in the parish free of charge and is available at Church. The magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Ecumenical Relationships

There is only one non-Anglican church in the parish - Southdown Methodist Church - with which there are links. There are joint services once a month (occasionally Communion services), and at various other times during the year e.g. Lent, Holy Week, Advent. During August, the churches alternate in hosting an evening service.

The church is also a member of Churches Together in Harpenden.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During 2010, income at St John's was £176,193 (2009 £157,574). By far the largest contributor to income was donations to the planned giving scheme of £111,367, including the tax reclaimed. These donations were virtually unchanged from last year (2009 £111,080).

The main reasons for the increase in income are a significant legacy of £14,000 received in December and £2,600 more income from open plate collections. The latter can be attributed to the bag collection now being taken weekly rather than monthly as in prior years. In addition, the St. John's Players' production of "The King, the Crowns and the long lost smile" generated funds of £1,615.

Total expenditure was £165,015 (2009 £159,351), an increase of £5,664 from the prior year. As usual, the largest item of expenditure was the parish share of £84,992 (2009 - £73,896). Across the diocese, parish shares increased in 2010, however, at St John's, ours increased more than most (£11,000), as in 2009 we did not have a vicar until the final quarter of the year. The increase in parish share was somewhat offset by lower fabric and running costs, primarily due to the fact that unlike 2009 there were no major repairs to the church building (2009 £5,213).

The PCC donated £16,330 (2009 £15,513) to charities. Our planned missionary giving of 10% of our normal income to outside charities of £12,154 (2009 £11,776) was split between Water Aid, Mercy Ships, Teaching Aids at Low Cost and The Church Mission Society Samaritan Appeal in Africa.

Other significant expenditure in 2010 included the final instalment of costs related to the replacement of the hall roof, including the re-plastering of the corridor ceiling. These costs amounted to £7,410.

Overall, the general funds of the PCC showed a small loss of £1,471 (2009 £831).

Designated funds showed a gain of £12,758 (2009 £314) being primarily the difference between aforementioned legacy received and amounts spent from the legacy fund (£11,565) and the profits from the St. John's players production (£1,152). Restricted funds shows a small loss of £109 (2009 £1,001), being some music related expenses being paid out of the restricted choir fund.

Movements between reserves:

During the year, £7,410 was transferred from the repair reserve to the general fund, to cover the costs of the hall roof repairs and £2,000 was transferred from the legacy reserve to the organ reserve to provide for future repairs and maintenance. In addition, as was done last year, £1,331 was transferred from the designated fund for the church hall to the repair reserve to match the size of the reserve to the carrying value of the hall in the accounts as the asset is depreciated.

Also, both St. John's Players and the Flower Guild transferred excess funds in their own accounts to the PCC. These funds were paid in to the repair reserve in the case of St. John's Players (£1,000) and to the PCC's general funds in the case of the Flower Guild (£400).

Outlook for the future:

Although the Trustees of the Ward Bequest have agreed to fund the majority of the planned expenditure on the church roof, we are already aware of other significant additional future expenditures. Our role as a training parish will result in us taking on our first stipendiary curate for many years in 2011 which will result in us losing the income from rental of the curate's house from early 2011 (which in 2010 amounted to £11,100) whilst increasing our parish share by over £5,000 a year from 2012. In addition, the increase in the rate of VAT and above inflation rises in energy costs will increase our regular outgoings. A priority for 2011 and beyond must be to increase the level of parish giving and other income, whilst continuing to control our costs.

RESERVES POLICY

The PCC seeks to operate on a balanced budget basis but periodically sets aside such amounts as it deems prudent to meet anticipated abnormal expenditure. Such amounts are held in designated funds and are represented by bank balances and accounts receivable within the general assets of the PCC.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. John's the membership of the PCC consists of the priest in charge, the ministry team, churchwardens, and those elected by members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC meet six times during the year. The Standing Committee, a smaller committee made up of the Priest in Charge, the Churchwardens and Deputy Wardens, the Secretary and the Treasurer, also meet six times a year. The PCC has a number of subcommittees responsible for aspects of the running of St. John's, including the Fabric Committee, Stewardship Committee and Finance Committee which all provide regular updates to the full PCC meetings.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St. John's Church is situated on St. John's Road, Harpenden, Herts. It is part of the Diocese of St. Albans within the Church of England.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission, number 1131603.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2010 until the date this report was approved are:

Vicar

Philippa Segrave-Pride

Assistant Priest

Julia White

Assistant Curate

Charles Burch

Readers

David Nye (also Diocesan Synod)
Lauryn Awbrey
Anne Edwards
David Halsey

Churchwardens

Matthew Barter
Margaret Creighton

Deputy Wardens

Ian Richmond (also Deanery Synod)
Lesley Richardson

Secretary

Liz Sergeant

Treasurer

Anthony Davis

Council Members

Ian Ashton
Paul Bedding
John Borthwick
Roger Carter
Sally Creedy
Tim Davey (from April 2010)
Helen Davies
Pat Hudis
John Jones
Neil Middleton
Heather Nye (to April 2010)
Nick Pearce
Alan Webster

Diocesan Synod Members

Elizabeth Brown

Deanery Synod Members

Simon Creedy
Melanie Crowley (to April 2010)
Michael Hughes
Mary-Jean Pritchard

Trustees Report approved by the PCC on 24th March 2011 and signed on their behalf by



Rev Philippa Segrave-Pride
Chairman



Mr Matthew Barter
Churchwarden



Mrs Margaret Creighton
Churchwarden

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST JOHN HARPENDEN

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2010, which are set out on pages 7 to 14, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the 1993 Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (2) of the 1993 Act does not apply.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act)
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act)
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention


Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. I have taken into consideration the requirement of the Charities Act 2006 and the 2005 Statement of Recommended Practice. The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - b. to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Michael Coleby F.C.A
24 March 2011

74 Station Road
Harpenden
Hertfordshire
AL5 4TZ

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HARPENDEN ST JOHN
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2010

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	TOTAL	
	Note	General	Designated	Funds	2010	2009
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming resources from generated funds:						
Voluntary income	2	122,841	14,047	3,606	140,494	122,811
Activities for generating funds	3	23,564	1,615	150	25,329	21,416
Investment income	4	294	82	-	376	957
		<u>146,699</u>	<u>15,744</u>	<u>3,756</u>	166,199	145,184
Incoming resources from church activities	5	9,189	770	35	9,994	12,390
Total incoming resources		<u>155,888</u>	<u>16,514</u>	<u>3,791</u>	176,193	157,574
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating funds	6	1,335	-	-	1,335	1,306
Cost of church activities	7					
Missionary Giving		12,604	-	3,726	16,330	15,513
Parish Share		84,992	-	-	84,992	73,896
Fabric and Running Costs		36,932	2,517	109	39,558	42,873
Mission & Education		1,459	-	-	1,459	3,160
Staff Costs		15,676	-	-	15,676	15,186
Other Costs of church activities		4,325	1,239	65	5,629	7,387
Governance costs	8	36	-	-	36	30
Total resources expended		<u>157,359</u>	<u>3,756</u>	<u>3,900</u>	165,015	159,351
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		(1,471)	12,758	(109)	11,178	(1,777)
Transfers between funds	12	<u>7,810</u>	<u>(7,810)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		6,339	4,948	(109)	11,178	(1,777)
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		6,339	4,948	(109)	11,178	(1,777)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds b/fwd 1 January		6,227	163,734	290	170,251	172,028
Total funds c/fwd 31 December		<u>£ 12,566</u>	<u>£ 168,682</u>	<u>£ 181</u>	<u>£ 181,429</u>	<u>£ 170,251</u>

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these financial statements

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HARPENDEN ST JOHN

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2010

	Note	2010 £	2009 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	10	74,317	75,648
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	16,753	16,211
Bank and cash balances		112,473	98,310
		129,226	114,521
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors payable within one year		22,114	19,918
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		107,112	94,603
TOTAL NET ASSETS			
		£ 181,429	£ 170,251
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Unrestricted income funds:			
General		12,566	6,227
Designated	12	168,682	163,734
Total		181,248	169,961
Restricted income funds:			
	13	181	290
		£ 181,429	£ 170,251

Prepared by:



Anthony Davis
Treasurer

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 24th March 2011
and signed on its behalf by:



Rev Philipa Segrave-Pride
Chairman



Mr Matthew Barter
Churchwarden



Mrs Margaret Creighton
Churchwarden

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HARPENDEN ST JOHN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2010

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is not apportioned to individual funds.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognized when received. Tax refunds are recognized when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Interest is accrued. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 1993. Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Such assets are not valued in the financial statements. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the statement of financial activities.

Complete cost information is not available for the Church Hall, so is included in the accounts at a deemed cost (estimated from the insurance valuation in 1968 when it was built, plus the cost of the extension completed in 1984) less depreciation to date. It is being depreciated at £1,331 per year.

The Curate's house is held at cost and not depreciated. The PCC have determined that any depreciation charge would be immaterial and the carrying value is not significantly different from its residual value.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	TOTAL	
	General	Designated	Funds	2010	2009
	£	£	£	£	£
2 VOLUNTARY INCOME					
Planned Giving:					
Gift Aid donations	82,342	-	-	82,342	81,813
Tax recoverable	23,225	-	-	23,225	23,756
Other	5,800	-	-	5,800	5,511
Other Tax Efficient Giving	865	-	437	1,302	620
Income Tax Recoverable on Other Giving	244	-	123	367	175
Collections (open plate)	9,341	-	2,881	12,222	9,608
Donations, appeals etc.	1,024	47	165	1,236	828
Legacies	-	14,000	-	14,000	500
	<u>£ 122,841</u>	<u>£ 14,047</u>	<u>£ 3,606</u>	<u>£ 140,494</u>	<u>£ 122,811</u>
3 ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS					
Church Hall lettings (non-church activities)	9,463	-	-	9,463	9,015
Church Hire	1,083	-	-	1,083	480
Curate's house letting	11,100	-	-	11,100	10,705
Fundraising Events	1,742	-	150	1,892	921
St John's Players income	-	1,615	-	1,615	-
Centenary fundraising	122	-	-	122	230
Other Income	54	-	-	54	65
	<u>£ 23,564</u>	<u>£ 1,615</u>	<u>£ 150</u>	<u>£ 25,329</u>	<u>£ 21,416</u>
4 INVESTMENT INCOME					
Bank interest	294	82	-	376	957
	<u>£ 294</u>	<u>£ 82</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 376</u>	<u>£ 957</u>
5 INCOME FROM CHURCH ACTIVITIES					
Flower Guild income	-	770	-	770	1,242
Lent Book sales	25	-	-	25	200
Fees from courses and educational events	-	-	-	-	1,540
Income from Social events	1,474	-	35	1,509	610
Parish Magazine advertising	2,814	-	-	2,814	2,265
Other Funds Generated	179	-	-	179	388
Fees for Weddings & Funerals	4,697	-	-	4,697	6,145
	<u>£ 9,189</u>	<u>£ 770</u>	<u>£ 35</u>	<u>£ 9,994</u>	<u>£ 12,390</u>
6 COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS					
Costs of generating voluntary income					
Stewardship expenses	89	-	-	89	196
Cost of activities to generate funds					
Cost of fundraising events	27	-	-	27	-
Hall letting expenses	-	-	-	-	25
Letting Agency fees	1,219	-	-	1,219	1,085
	<u>£ 1,335</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 1,335</u>	<u>£ 1,306</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	TOTAL	
	General	Designated	Funds	2010	2009
	£	£	£	£	£
7 COSTS OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES					
Missionary and Charitable giving (also see note 9)					
Overseas missionary societies	2,431	-	-	2,431	-
Relief and development agencies	10,173	-	2,278	12,451	11,143
Home mission	-	-	1,298	1,298	3,754
Secular charities	-	-	150	150	616
	<u>12,604</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,726</u>	<u>16,330</u>	<u>15,513</u>
Parish share					
Stipend Contribution	26,665	-	-	26,665	6,443
Vacancy Contribution	-	-	-	-	10,336
Ministry Support Contribution	58,327	-	-	58,327	57,117
	<u>84,992</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,992</u>	<u>73,896</u>
Fabric and running costs:					
Vicarage expenses	-	-	-	-	1,798
Church running costs	6,821	-	-	6,821	6,893
Church maintenance	4,195	-	-	4,195	1,824
Church major repairs - structure	-	-	-	-	5,213
Church fixtures & fittings	-	1,861	-	1,861	-
Depreciation of fixed assets	1,331	-	-	1,331	2,879
Organ/ piano tuning & maintenance	2,039	-	-	2,039	692
Grounds upkeep	191	-	-	191	745
Hall running costs	7,074	-	-	7,074	7,484
Hall maintenance	1,813	-	-	1,813	2,095
Hall major repairs and improv'ts	7,410	-	-	7,410	7,000
Curate's house upkeep	604	-	-	604	1,085
Upkeep of services	1,177	37	109	1,323	1,097
Parish Office Costs	4,277	619	-	4,896	4,068
	<u>36,932</u>	<u>2,517</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>39,558</u>	<u>42,873</u>
Mission & Education					
Parish training and mission	96	-	-	96	354
Parish magazine	436	-	-	436	364
Education	927	-	-	927	2,442
	<u>1,459</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,459</u>	<u>3,160</u>
Staff Costs					
Recruitment (Ministry Team)	-	-	-	-	1,314
Working expenses of incumbent	2,212	-	-	2,212	579
Assistant staff expenses	1,465	-	-	1,465	1,472
Vergers fees	175	-	-	175	175
Organists' salary and fees	6,080	-	-	6,080	6,084
Parish administrator salary	5,744	-	-	5,744	5,562
	<u>15,676</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,676</u>	<u>15,186</u>
Other expenses					
St John's Players expenses	-	463	-	463	378
Flower Guild expenditure	-	776	-	776	1,057
Sundry expenses	674	-	65	739	720
Centenary costs	-	-	-	-	362
Wedding & funeral fees to Diocese	2,768	-	-	2,768	3,736
Cost of social events	883	-	-	883	1,134
	<u>4,325</u>	<u>1,239</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>5,629</u>	<u>7,387</u>
	<u>£ 155,988</u>	<u>£ 3,756</u>	<u>£ 3,900</u>	<u>£ 163,644</u>	<u>£ 158,015</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

8	GOVERNANCE COSTS	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	TOTAL	2009
		General	Designated	Funds	2010	
		£	£	£	£	
	Cost of PCC and APCM Meetings	36	-	-	36	30
		<u>£ 36</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 36</u>	<u>£ 30</u>

9 MISSIONARY AND CHARITABLE GIVING

The missionary and charitable giving is made up of the following donations

	2010	2009
	£	£
Water Aid (30% of outside giving for until 2011)	3,646	3,533
Mercy Ships (30% of outside giving until 2011)	3,646	3,533
Teaching Aids at Low Cost (20% of outside giving for 2010)	2,431	-
Church Mission Soc. Samaritan Appeal in Africa (20% of outside giving for 2010)	2,431	-
Mothers' Union East Africa Appeal (20% of outside giving for 2009)	-	2,355
Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust (20% of outside giving for 2009)	-	2,355
Passiontide Zimbabwe Appeal (collections from Easter services)	-	1,233
Crisis (collections from Christmas services)	1,298	1,042
Christian Aid Haiti Earthquake Appeal	1,003	-
Christian Aid Pakistan Flood Appeal	749	-
Bishops Harvest Appeal	637	483
Tear Fund (funds raised by concert)	339	-
Anthony Nolan Fund (funds raised by concert)	150	-
Ordinands' Training Fund (collection from Philippa Segrave-Pride's licensing)	-	356
St Albans Cathedral Music Trust (funds raised by concerts)	-	616
Light for Life	-	7
	<u>£ 16,330</u>	<u>£ 15,513</u>

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Curate's House	Hall	TOTAL	2009
	£	£	£	£
Actual/ deemed cost:				
Brought forward at 1 January	63,888	48,299	112,187	118,377
Piano fully written off during year	-	-	-	(6,190)
Carried forward 31 December	<u>63,888</u>	<u>48,299</u>	<u>112,187</u>	<u>112,187</u>
Depreciation:				
Brought forward at 1 January	-	(36,539)	(36,539)	(39,850)
Piano fully written off during year	-	-	-	6,190
Charge for year	-	(1,331)	(1,331)	(2,879)
Carried forward 31 December	<u>-</u>	<u>(37,870)</u>	<u>(37,870)</u>	<u>(36,539)</u>
Carrying value at 31 December	<u>£ 63,888</u>	<u>£ 10,429</u>	<u>£ 74,317</u>	<u>£ 75,648</u>

The Curate's House at 2 Linwood Road was independently valued on 2 March 2010 at £380,000

11 DEBTORS

	2010	2009
	£	£
Gift Aid Tax recoverable	16,314	15,831
Prepayments and other debtors	439	380
	<u>£ 16,753</u>	<u>£ 16,211</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

12 DESIGNATED FUNDS

The PCC operates seven Designated Funds:

Organ - Reserve to fund future organ repairs

Legacies - Legacies received and spent

Flower Guild float

St John's Players float

Fabric - Reserve to fund future fabric repairs

Hall - To separate the carrying value from general reserves

Curate's house - To separate carrying value from general reserves

	2010	2009
	£	£
	13,097	11,050
	26,210	16,645
	498	904
	808	656
	53,752	58,831
	10,429	11,760
	63,888	63,888
	£ 168,682	£ 163,734

The movements on the Designated Funds during the year were:

	Organ	Legacies	Flower Guild	St Johns Players
	£	£	£	£
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2010	11,050	16,645	904	656
Legacies Received	-	14,000	-	-
Donations	47	-	-	-
Flower Guild Income	-	-	770	-
Income from Play	-	-	-	1,615
Interest	-	82	-	-
Expenses	-	-	(776)	(463)
Legacies spent	-	(2,517)	-	-
	<u>11,097</u>	<u>28,210</u>	<u>898</u>	<u>1,808</u>
Transfer to General Funds	-	-	(400)	-
Transfer to Fabric and Organ reserves	2,000	(2,000)	-	(1,000)
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2010	<u>£ 13,097</u>	<u>£ 26,210</u>	<u>£ 498</u>	<u>£ 808</u>

	Fabric	Hall	Curate's House	TOTAL 2010
	£	£	£	£
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2010	58,831	11,760	63,888	163,734
Legacies Received	-	-	-	14,000
Donations	-	-	-	47
Flower Guild Income	-	-	-	770
Income from Play	-	-	-	1,615
Interest	-	-	-	82
Expenses	-	-	-	(1,239)
Legacies spent	-	-	-	(2,517)
	<u>58,831</u>	<u>11,760</u>	<u>63,888</u>	<u>176,492</u>
Transfer to General Funds	(7,410)	-	-	(7,810)
Transfer to Fabric and Organ reserves	2,331	(1,331)	-	-
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2010	<u>£ 53,752</u>	<u>£ 10,429</u>	<u>£ 63,888</u>	<u>£ 168,682</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

13 RESTRICTED FUNDS

The PCC accounts include three Restricted Funds, where the monies can only be used for the specific purpose for which they were entrusted to the PCC. These monies are not at the disposal of the PCC for any other purpose, and represent:

	2010	2009
	£	£
Choir Fund	181	290
Charity - Donations and fundraising specifically for designated charities	-	-
Gifts - Collections received for gifts	-	-
	<u>£ 181</u>	<u>£ 290</u>

The movements on the Restricted Funds during the year were:

	Choir Fund	Charity	Gifts	TOTAL
	£	£	£	2010
				£
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2010	290	-	-	290
Voluntary Income	-	3,541	65	3,606
Fundraising income	-	150	-	150
Other income	-	35	-	35
Expenditure	(109)	(3,726)	(65)	(3,900)
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2010	<u>£ 181</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 181</u>

14 CONNECTED CHARITY

The Ted Ward Bequest is a connected charity administered separately by the Vicar and Churchwardens.

15 PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES

Mr A R Carter, a member of the PCC, was paid £5,535 (2009 £5,404) for his services as Director of Music. Members of the Ministry Team who were also members of the PCC (Rev P Segrave-Pride, Rev C Burch, Rev J White and Mrs A Edwards), were reimbursed working expenses totalling £3,438 (2009 £1,853).

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2010-2011

Wheathampstead Deanery Synod, made up of elected clergy and lay members under the leadership of the Rural Dean and Lay Chairman, met three times in the last year and was privileged to have two bishops and one canon as speakers! As part of his programme of deanery visits (to 'get to know his new diocese') Bishop Alan visited various parts of our deanery during a day in March (including Rothamsted Research) and in the evening met with Synod to expand on his vision for *Going Deeper into God, Transforming Communities* and *Making New Disciples*. He also listened to our comments in relation to what goes on in the churches and communities within our deanery. It was a great opportunity to hear Bishop Alan, who also made a presentation to Michael Hughes on behalf of Synod for his service and dedication as its Secretary over the last eight years.

In July Synod heard about the diocesan budget, the parish share scheme and forthcoming changes to clergy pensions from the Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance, our own Canon David Nye. As always, David made what is a complicated – and possibly dry – subject intelligible to the non-experts amongst us, and also faced us with the challenge of increasing parish giving [in relation to estimated average incomes, here in St. Albans diocese people give 2.9% compared with a national average of 3.4% (31/42 dioceses)].

Synod welcomed the new Bishop of Hertford, Bishop Paul, to its November meeting. He spoke about modern developments in liturgy and the current state of church life in England. Bishop Paul believes there is a whole generation growing up that knows nothing of the Christian faith and, as in New Testament times, people are hearing Jesus' stories for the first time – not a tired and familiar message but new and exciting. People have a longing and desire to meet God through the worship offered in our churches week by week, and the occasional offices in particular should be used creatively. As well as discussing these important topics, Deanery Synod members also received regular reports on Diocesan Synod meetings and from General Synod. Last year Deanery Synod members took part in the election of five clergy and six lay representatives who, together with our three bishops, will represent St. Albans diocese on General Synod for the next five years. [An election by single transferable vote which was an interesting process.]

The deanery also held a supper party for the churchwardens of every parish in the deanery, allowing them to meet with their fellow wardens and discover the similarities and differences in their parishes. A similar occasion was arranged for Readers and their spouses in appreciation of their ministry around the deanery.

Finally at the annual Deanery Evensong last October the Revd Will Gibbs, vicar of Redbourn, was commissioned as Rural Dean by the Archdeacon of St Albans, succeeding the Revd John Green from Flamstead.

Elizabeth Brown
Deanery Synod Secretary and member of Diocesan Synod

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, HARPENDEN.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

FOR

THE WARD BEQUEST

**YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, HARPENDEN
THE WARD BEQUEST**

**TREASURERS REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010**

During 2010 the Trust had no expenditure.

The only income comprised investment income and the change in market value of the investments held. All stock market based investments were sold at the end of November with the proceeds invested in the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund in advance of expected expenditure during 2011.

A holding in the CBF Fixed Interest Fund was purchased and sold during the year.

Under the Charities Acts 1992 & 1993 (Substitution of Sums) Order 2009 there is no requirement to have the Accounts externally scrutinized, the gross income being below £25,000. The Trustees have decided external scrutiny is not necessary for 2010.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

As Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources for that year. In preparing these you are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to ensure that the financial statements are in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Charities Act 1993.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, HARPENDEN
THE WARD BEQUEST**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010**

	Note	General Fund 2010 £	Total Funds 2010 £	2009 £
INCOME & EXPENDITURE				
Incoming Resources				
Income from Investments	2	7,120	7,120	8,561
Net incoming/ (outgoing) Resources		7,120	7,120	8,561
Gains and Losses on the Disposal and Revaluation of Investments		14584	14584	19,880
Net movement in funds		21,704	21,704	28,441
Balance brought forward At 1 st January 2010		299,215	299,215	270,774
Balance carried forward At 31 st December 2010		320,919	320,919	299,215

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, HARPENDEN.
THE WARD BEQUEST**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2010.**

	Note	2010		2009	
		£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at Bank		2,707		2,707	
Investments	3	<u>318,212</u>		<u>296,508</u>	
		320,919		299,215	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>320,919</u>		<u>299,215</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>320,919</u>		<u>299,215</u>
Represented by:					
Unrestricted Fund			<u>320,919</u>		<u>299,215</u>

**Approved by the Trustees on
24th March 2011 and signed on its behalf by**

Rev. P. Segrave Pride
(Trustee)

Mrs M Creighton
(Trustee)

Mr M. Barter
(Trustee)

Group Reports

Baptism Group

Bedrock

Dorcas

Fellowship in the Garden

Flower Guild

GirlGuiding

Junior Church

Little Gems

Men on Wednesdays

Mothers' Union

Play and Praise

St Luke's Cell Prayer Group

Stewardship

St John's Website

Youth Group

BAPTISM GROUP 2010 - 2011

We are a group of twenty mothers who meet to welcome and socialise with the parents of children who are to be baptised. We meet on the Wednesday evening before the last Sunday in the month. The priest who will conduct the Baptism Service explains what it means to have a baby, child or adult baptised. Two or three members of the group attend each meeting, and when the priest has finished talking, we stop for refreshments. We then go on to choose the hymns and arrange the logistics for seating two, three, four or more families and friends.

The same members who attended the Wednesday meeting will be at the Baptism Service on Sunday to welcome everybody, hand out books and show people where to sit. It is nice for families to see familiar faces when they arrive in Church. The children of the helpers also come along to the service. They help to give out books and give baptism candles to the families.

There are usually about 35/40 Baptisms each year, but not so many this year, only 26. I am sure the numbers will be up next year. At the end of the service a photo is taken of each individual family and put in an album on top of the font. There are now four albums, three are full and the fourth is half full.

Moira Carrington

BEDROCK 2010-2011

Bedrock is now part of the established Sunday morning programme on offer to the children and young adults at St John's. We meet most Sundays in the vestry with our secondary school age young people, many of whom have moved up from Junior Church. We follow the scripture union "*The Grid*" programme of activities which encourages lively debate and Bible Study. We also try to discuss our response to current affairs wherever possible. This year we have a large group who have moved up from Junior Church and we are so impressed with the quality of their questions and their thoughtful responses. I am grateful to Paul Bedding and Kathy Hilton for their assistance in helping me to run the Bedrock sessions for our young people this year.

Katie Barter

DORCAS 2010-2011

This year has been one of mending and refurbishment of vestments and altar frontals.

The red chasuble has been modified to fit our present ministerial team and the beading is presently being replaced after years of wear and tear.

We are also altering the "Old Portuguese" altar frontal for the Lady Chapel. This is made of a beautiful tapestry style material and incorporates the colours for each season in the church calendar.

I am most grateful to Anne Edwards for looking after Dorcas whilst I was out of action due to illness and to all the sewing group who carried on stitching in my absence.

Our year draws to a close with the sad news of the death of Renee Grieveson who was the leader of Dorcas for over ten years. Her experience, which she gladly shared, will be sadly missed.

Helen Davies

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GARDEN March 2010 – March 2011

We have had another good year. There are casualties after the cold and snow, but nothing too disastrous. As I write, the prunus is in flower and the border on the north side of the church shows us that Spring is on the way.

We have tried to even up some of the dips and mounds in the Memorial Garden, but the uneven lawn there is a big problem. I hope the lawn mowers will find it a little improved. Thanks to that team for keeping the grass tidy and groomed. The magnolia has been cut back so the squirrels no longer have a bridge to the church roof, and a few other shrubs need trimming. The area behind the Hall is vastly improved, thanks to the Play Group.

As always, thanks to the 'Team' for their hardy support, Charles for keeping us stoked up with chocolate biscuits and Warren for the smart new Memorial Garden notice. Lots of jobs all year round, so you would be most welcome to join us: second Tuesday of the month.

Rosemary Horne

ST JOHN'S FLOWER GUILD 2010-2011

St John's is fortunate to have 28 members in the Flower Guild who work together to keep three fresh flower arrangements in church throughout the year, apart from the Advent and Lent seasons. These willing workers provide the flowers at their own cost.

Special efforts have been made for the Easter, Harvest and Christmas Festivals to beautify the church for the enjoyment of the whole congregation and we have been grateful for some donations from them and their kind words of encouragement. The Guild has endeavoured to reimburse some of the costs incurred by the arrangers. The cost of flowers, like everything else, is rising and it is increasingly difficult to source them locally at advantageous prices. Arrangers incorporate foliage and flowers from their gardens whenever possible.

We have arranged flowers for five weddings during the year, and the small profit made from this has gone towards the costs of our materials such as oasis, etc. Surprisingly we have not been asked for any funeral flowers during the past year.

The flower Guild represented St John's and sponsored two large arrangements at St Mary's Church Redbourn for their 900th Centenary celebration Flower Festival.

I would like to thank Ian Ashton for acting as our treasurer during the past year and all the members of the Guild for their participation in its administration.

June Jones

GIRLGUIDING 2010-2011

The 19th Harpenden Brownie Unit provides activities for girls aged 7 to 10 years old within the GirlGuiding UK programme structure. The Unit meets every Thursday during school term time at St John's Church Hall from 6:15 to 7:30pm. In addition to the normal weekly Brownie activities this year all members have been able to take part in a number of special events.

To celebrate the Guiding Centenary the girls all worked towards the Adventure 100 badge which included an outing to the Clock Tower in St Albans, as well as visits from the local PCSO and St Albans Model Aeroplane Club, a mother's pampering evening and a father's challenge evening. In April they had the opportunity to join with the rest of the District in the PGL weekend away where they took part in many exciting outdoor activities culminating in a camp fire on the last night. They also attended the annual St George's Day Parade in April.

We had our own Centenary party on the common in July and joined in with the District Centenary pink party in October. We decorated pumpkins to take part in the annual Pumpkin festival at Luton Hoo. The Centenary Year was completed when we took part in a Division torchlight procession and firework display on the Common in October.

The Brownies held their own Bring and Buy Sale in December where we raised money to buy Christmas presents to give to the residents of Walker's Court when we went carol singing during our last meeting of the year.

So far in 2011, we have celebrated Chinese New Year by sewing Chinese cushions, Valentine's Day by making and icing heart shaped biscuits, and Thinking Day by renewing our Brownie promise and talking about Brownies around the world.

Once again, it was a very busy year and St John's Brownies continue to thrive. As part of the Southdown and Wheathampstead District of Girlguiding we have a long waiting list, and we always welcome visitors and new volunteers!

Linda Traynor
Snowy Owl

JUNIOR CHURCH 2010-2011

Junior Church meets every Sunday in the Church Hall, except for the All Age Eucharist service. Numbers remain high, and we have a lot of children in the older age groups (8 plus). We regularly have 50 children each Sunday, and even more in the few weeks leading up to the Nativity play. Junior Church is open to all school aged children aged between 4 and 11, with pre-school children going to Little Gems and secondary school-aged children to Bedrock. We find it quite hard to manage when 50+ children turn up, especially as we have a lot of older children at present. We are looking at ways to resolve this, and are buying more teaching material suitable for older children, but lack of space continues to be a problem.

We have the same group of nine leaders as last year, who take it in turns to lead the sessions. We try to have at least three leaders and three helpers each Sunday. We have a good group of around 20 parent helpers who help as required 6-8 times a year. Margaret and Alison have both decided to scale down their commitment from September 2011, as they feel it is time for some new blood. They have both been actively involved now for many years. So we need more people who are willing to commit to being leaders, to bring new ideas and enthusiasm, as well as sharing the work out. We are very fortunate in that Mary Monk continues to help lead the group, and she ran the whole Good Friday Workshop in 2010 – it wouldn't have happened without her. 34 children, parent and teenage helpers had a very enjoyable two hours on a range of activities connected with Easter and Good Friday.

In the summer we spent five sessions finding out about Elijah, which gave us the opportunity to cover an Old Testament character in much more depth. We carried on meeting through the summer holidays, including a couple of sessions playing parachute games, which was possible with the smaller numbers.

In the autumn term we took part in the MU Wash Bags project, collecting toiletries for children in local hospitals. As always, much of the autumn term was spent rehearsing for the Nativity Play, which took place at the 9.30am service on December 19th. The play this year was called 'The Lonely Bat', and over 80 children took part in the play, narrated, or were in the orchestra. We are especially grateful to Sarah Poppleton for the fantastic costumes, and to Philippa Burch for arranging all the music, teaching all the songs and directing the orchestra, and to all our other helpers.

Children in Boulders, the oldest group, have lead the prayers in the Mothering Sunday and Harvest services this year, and we try to take some of our 'creations' into Church when appropriate to share with the rest of the congregation.

We always have a lot of fun, and you are very welcome to come and see what we do. As always, we appreciate the support and encouragement given to Junior Church by Philippa, the PCC, and thank all our helpers.

Margaret Charlston, Alison Gadd, Mary Monk, Paul Bedding, Carolyn Carman, Philippa Burch, Sarah Griggs, Kirsty Helm and Debbie Knight.

LITTLE GEMS 2010-2011

Little Gems continues to flourish, with a regular Sunday morning attendance of around 10-12. Five children have moved up to Junior Church as they started school this year, which means a slightly younger average age at present as some new little ones join us. We are considering ways to mark this transition to Junior Church in future as we see regular friends grow and move on. We are delighted that Tim Davey has joined our team of leaders, and so are the children! We've also welcomed a couple of new parent helpers which really eases the rota. Many thanks to all of them.

Spring saw us getting to grips with sorting out our toy and craft cupboard, revamping the notice board, and buying some new little tables for craft work. We're building up a photo-gallery of our activities on the notice board, showing smiling Little Gems in action, so we can get to recognise the youngest of our congregation by name. Do have a look at what we are up to!

Since January, we have embarked on a new series of material, which explores the Big Bible Story. From Genesis to Revelation, we're covering God's big promises of the Old Testament, the stories of Jesus and the letters and Journeys of St Paul. As we go, we're making and building a collection of memory markers, which all fit inside our big "Book of Books" - the children are enjoying tracing and remembering the route we are taking through the Bible week by week, and we'll end up with a lovely "Book" of memories, promises and stories. Most importantly, we pray the children will have a sense that God's Big Story hasn't ended, but continues now, through the life of even the youngest child.

Celia Halsey, Imogen Brooks and Tim Davey

MEN ON WEDNESDAYS 2010-2011

This group invites men to "Join us for a refreshing, stimulating and convivial social evening, where we explore and debate topical issues from a Christian perspective." We meet about once a month (yes, on a Wednesday!) at 8pm at 32 Wordsworth Road, first for a pudding, and then for a stimulating discussion, until no later than 10pm.

This year's programme has involved the following discussions:

- What are Governments for? (June)
- War and Peace (July)
- Usury: lending, interest and debt (October)
- Life and Death: people and technology (November)
- Wealth, Poverty and Consumerism: a simple lifestyle? (January)
- Climate Change: why should we care? (March)

All these discussions have been stimulating and given us plenty of opportunity to gain new insights both into the Bible and the topical issues we discuss. Tim Davey and I always welcome new participants....

David Halsey

MOTHERS' UNION 2010-2011

We have enjoyed another interesting and varied year as a branch. Our theme for 2010 was Relationship not Rules and our speakers have covered a wide variety of subjects and topics from Harpenden matters, the work of a teaching assistant, stimulating conversations with the elderly, a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, the life of bees, relationships at work and the Harpenden Seniors Forum. We produced posies for Mothering Sunday, and Christingles in December. We have held produce stalls at Coffee Time, selling cakes, jams pickles and chutneys alongside Wardens' honey. Together with serving at Wesley's coffee shop in the High Street, we have been able to send donations to Mothers' Union outreach projects at home and abroad. We have made coffee after Church, and taken part in offertory processions throughout the year. We have also been involved with Play and Praise on Sunday afternoons in the hall, helping with the teas.

We celebrated our 75th birthday as a branch with a dinner at Aldwickbury Park Golf Club in July, with 38 members present and were joined by Diocesan President and Vice President. As part of Wheathampstead Deanery we get together with the two other branches, St. Mary Redbourn and St. Nicholas Harpenden for events throughout the year. In March we celebrated our Lady Day service in Redbourn, and later in the month went again, to hear Alison Bailey our Marketing Co-ordinator speak on her work. In June we enjoyed a Deanery lunch at St. Nicholas, and in August we were guests at the beautiful garden of Elizabeth Brown for our Deanery Garden Party. In October we again visited St. Nicholas to meet Lydia Gladwin, a past Central Outreach and Action Co-ordinator at Mary Sumner House. In December we hosted a Deanery Advent Communion Service at St. Johns, led by our vicar, The Rev'd Philippa Segrave Pride. Our final Deanery get together was an Epiphany Carol Service at St. Mary Redbourn in January.

We are also involved in Diocesan activities. In April several of us were present at the commissioning of our new Diocesan President Susan Roberts at her church in Hoddesdon. We hosted a Diocesan prayer walk round Harpenden Common in September, led by Jenny Lane.

My committee have been most supportive over the past year, Maureen Lacey, Barbara Chalk, Ann Peters, Gudrun Ledwith, Jenny Lane, Doris Hughes and Julia Smith.

We were very sad to learn of the severe stroke suffered by one of our members Jane Ingram in August, which has left her movement impaired. She is at present undergoing intensive treatment at St. Albans City Hospital.

Next year we have a full programme of events and activities, so I hope members of the congregation will be inspired to join in the fellowship and fun we have from being part of Mothers' Union worldwide.

Brenda Cottle

PLAY & PRAISE FOR YOUNG FAMILIES 2010-2011

During 2010, Play & Praise continued at St John's on the second Sunday of the month with a time of worship, together with a time of painting, colouring, sticking, etc., and having tea together. Lucy Davis and Celia Halsey continued to bear the brunt of planning and running the worship and supporting creative art time, and that has been so good. It has been well supported by several members of the Mothers' Union. And for that we are so grateful.

However, there has not been the same attendance by families as there had been during 2009, and following discussion with Philippa it has been decided that Play & Praise will be 'put on hold' for the time being. With a review of the way baptism preparation has been done in the past, we may find that there is a better way of keeping in touch with baptism families which is what it was hoped Play & Praise would enable us to do.

Out of the families who have come, there are some who now attend St John's main services, so from that point of view we have succeeded in our task. A very big thank you to those members who have been such loyal supporters.

Anne Edwards

ST LUKE'S CELL PRAYER GROUP - 2010-11

St Luke's Cell prayer group, named after the 'beloved physician', has members drawn from St John's and Southdown Methodist churches. Our ministry and joy is to pray for those in particular need of prayer including the long-term sick, who live in the parish or are friends or relatives of people living in the parish. By interceding in this way, we help to share God's healing power with other people.

Every month each of us prays for a different group of about five people. The ages of those we pray for range from the very young to the very old, and include those on the weekly pew sheet, as well as about fifty others whom we have been asked to pray for over a longer period.

Many of us attend the monthly meeting, at which we pray together for all these people, using a short service based on Common Worship at which we remember by name all those on the current list. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at about 1.45 pm in St John's Church Hall Committee Room.

We always welcome new members (including those who are unable to come to meetings), as well as news of people in need of prayer. Please contact us if you would like to know more or if you know of people you wish us to pray for.

Michael Hughes

Rev'd Mary Monk

STEWARDSHIP 2010-2011

The Stewardship Group has had a challenging year in light of the current economic state of the country. It is never easy to ask people to commit to new or increased financial giving but the Group has continued to promote the importance of giving “according to your means” and to welcome all offers of voluntary sharing of “time and talent”.

The recently reissued Parish Directory demonstrates how many members of the Congregation share their skills within the Church community and co-ordinate small groups of additional volunteers who help to keep St Johns alive and growing. The “St Johns Got Talent” day in autumn 2009 aimed to promote visibility of these Groups and activities and assisted in increasing the number of volunteers for some of them.

On the financial side, members of the Stewardship Group attended a meeting in Holywell Lodge last autumn to revisit how this aspect could be promoted afresh. The initial fruits of this consultation can be seen in the new “Parish Giving 2011” leaflet which aims to inform and encourage people to review their financial commitment to God as part of their Christian faith. Our current figures for Parish Giving are:

Regular ‘planned givers’ who are on the Electoral Roll	141
Regular ‘planned givers’ who are not on the Electoral Roll	42

(Note. The Electoral Roll for 2010 had a membership of 275 which included 54 spouses.)

Sadly, as a Church located in a relatively affluent area our financial giving per head is substantially below that of other parishes less well off. The Stewardship Group has formally discussed this concern with the PCC and analysed the feedback given by the congregation’s elected representatives.

In the coming year, the Group will be working more closely with the PCC to interlink stewardship with the Mission Action Plan (MAP). In particular we will be aiming to create an environment where financial giving at St Johns not only pays the bills but also enables us to support those outside our community whose needs are far greater than ours. My personal thanks go to all members of the current Group for their continued support and enthusiasm.

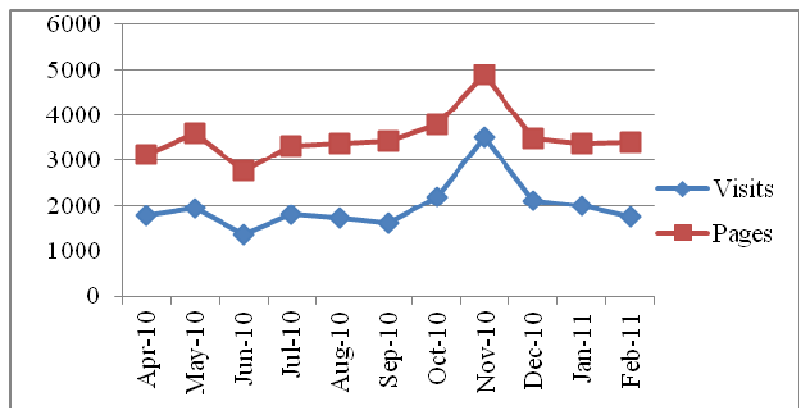
Lesley Richardson

ST JOHN'S WEBSITE 2010-2011

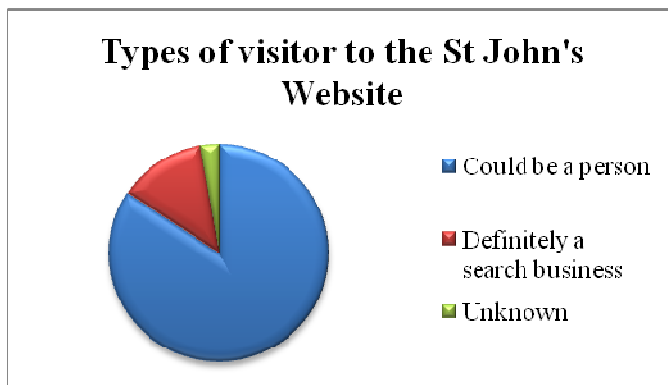
www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

The St John's website continues to be a 'shop front' for our church community. It is hard to say how exactly how many 'real' visitors we receive to the website as the traffic analysis available will not always correctly distinguish between visits from search engines such as Google and real people. However it would appear that in a typical day, the website:

- Receives 50 to 60 visits.
- 84% of them could be a real person (and in most cases probably are).
- Most visitors look at around 2 pages, with the contacts, map and sermon pages being the most commonly looked at. Dates for the Diary, "We don't bite" [a page that



attempts to reassure that it is not scary to come to St John's] and the Children's pages are also commonly accessed.



Google is our most common referrer – the key words used are often what we would expect – eg “st john's church parish magazine”, but sometimes they are unexplained: “outward reward of the cross of saint”, “st albans rowan Williams” and “catholic church in cardiff wales”.

For the future, the intention is that the web site will continue to represent us to the wider community in Harpenden and beyond. It is my intention to modernise the look and feel of the website in the coming months – this will not involve significant change to the content.

Neil Middleton

YOUTH GROUP 2010- 2011

Youth Group continues to meet once a month, usually on Sunday evenings, and we aim to organise a wide variety of fun activities to promote fellowship for young people of Secondary School age, as well as providing opportunities to explore issues of faith. I was pleased to join the leadership of the group in September, in time to welcome a large number of new members as they moved up to Year Seven.

Looking back over the diary, it is amazing just how much we have managed to pack into the year. Some sessions have been just for fun, including some very successful club nights of games and the ever popular tuck shop, for which thanks to Neil Middleton. Other meetings have been more focussed, such as our 'Justice Evening', which did however involve getting pretty soggy and, fittingly, Fair Trade tuck. Our March meeting saw pancake making thanks to some very brave parent helpers, as well as some drama and space to think a little more deeply about Lent and Easter. We have also had our share of offsite activities including a movie night, a trip to see Jesus Christ Superstar, tree planting at the new Heartwood Forest and an ice skating outing.

The group has taken its part in the wider life of the church, leading worship for the November All Age Eucharist with guidance from Charles Burch. Charles has also arranged another popular sailing weekend in May with Fellowship Afloat, which promises to be a highlight of the year for many of our members.

We are always very happy to welcome new members to the group, as well as receiving offers of help from any members of the congregation who are over eighteen!

Lucy Davis