



**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL
CHURCH MEETING
25 March 2012**

**AGENDA
AND
REPORTS
2011**

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AGENDAS 25 March 2012**Vestry Meeting Agenda**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Minutes of last year's Vestry Meeting (see page 4)
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Closing Prayer

Annual Parochial Council Meeting Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of Last Year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (see page 4)
4. Matters Arising
5. Reports (see below)
6. Elections and Appointments:
 - 6.1 Election of PCC
 - 6.2 Appointment of sidespersons
 - 6.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts
(Note: Mrs Elizabeth McBride is willing to continue/stand)
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of Next Meeting – Proposed 17 March 2013
9. Closing Prayers

Parochial Church Council Meeting Agenda

To elect the following officers:

1. Vice Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Electoral Roll Officer
5. Members of the PCC Standing Committee
Note: The PCC must appoint a Standing Committee of at least five people. The Incumbent and churchwardens are members ex-officio. The PCC must appoint at least another two PCC members, one of whom will normally be the Treasurer. The Standing Committee has the authority to carry out PCC business between PCC meetings, but it is accountable to the PCC.

ST JAMES CHURCH, SOUTHAM
MINUTES OF VESTRY MEETING &
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
20 MARCH 2011

Vestry Meeting for the purpose of electing two Churchwardens

- 1) Rev John Armstrong opened with prayer.
- 2) Two nominations, duly proposed and seconded, had been received for the following: Pat Adams & Michael Kitchen-Hurle.
There being no other nominations the above were duly elected for the following year.
- 3) Rev. John Armstrong prayed for them on behalf of the whole church.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Members Present 33

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from: Jan Ford, John and Mary Home, Derrick and Rose Evans, Jenny Thorne, Tony Brown, David Houghton and John Cherry.

2) Minutes of last APCM

These were proposed as being a correct record by Hilary Crosby and Vicki Armstrong subject to three spelling errors re: Jill Parker, Rachael Powell & Maurice Crutchlow and signed by the chairman.

3) Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

4) Reports

Rev. John Armstrong apologised that the booklet of reports had been delayed and that the membership had not had the time to peruse them. In the circumstances it was agreed that they be "accepted and noted." However, all were encouraged to read them as they gave a very good snapshot of church life.

5) Deanery Synod Representatives

St James, under the diocesan rules, is allowed three representatives to Deanery Synod. However, all such have to be re-instated by a formal vote this year. The current representatives are willing to stand, these are: Margo Grant, Janet Pratt & Bryan Pratt. There being no other offers the above were elected.

6) Appointment of the Independent Examiner of the Accounts

Elizabeth McBride is willing to continue in this role and therefore, there being no other offer, was re-elected to the post.

7) Election of PCC Members

There existed two vacancies for the PCC and two nominations had been received, duly proposed and seconded for David Baxter and Brett Justice and therefore they were duly elected. It was noted that Ceri Hewitt had stood down due to family pressures.

(At this point a question was raised by Malcolm Monkhouse on the ratio of ex-officio members of the PCC to elected members. It was pointed out that the latter was a majority).

8) Re-election of sidespersons *en-bloc*

These were approved and re-elected being proposed by Rev. John Armstrong and seconded by Bryan Pratt.

9) Any Other Business

- a) Ruth Tresidder mentioned the length of baptismal services and quantity of candidates which could render the service as impersonal. This was noted by Rev. John Armstrong.
- b) It was noted that there would now be an increased follow up of these families by the leaders of "Jolly J's" (Jenny Baxter and Laura Seago):
- c) Bryan apologised for the fact that he had been the cause of more work for Rev. John Armstrong over his sickness.
- d) Pat Adams gave a vote of thanks to John and Vicki Armstrong for their hard work.
- e) Mike Kitchen-Hurle gave a vote of thanks to John Tresidder for all his hard work on Fabric and thanks were expressed to David Baxter who is going to take this forward under John Tresidder's eagle eye!
- f) Rev. John Armstrong thanked Bryan and Janet Pratt who were both relinquishing their roles as treasurer and secretary respectively; he then went on to say that there were things to be thankful for in the "Jolly J's" and "He*Brews" because on the financial front it had not been a good year.

10) Date of Next Meeting

This was agreed as Sunday 25 March 2012.

The meeting closed.

REPORTS

Church Management

**Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended
31 December 2011**

Priest-in-Charge

Rev. John Armstrong
The Rectory
4 Park Lane
Southam CV47 0JA

Parish Administrator

Mrs M Mumford
The Parish Office
77D Coventry Street
Southam
CV47 0EA

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
6 High Street
Southam
CV47 0HA

Independent Examiner

Mrs Elizabeth McBride ICMA
1 Park Lane
Harbury
CV33 9HX

Annual Report for 2011 cont.

The PCC co-operates with the Rev. John Armstrong in promoting, within the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission in the Southam Deanery in the Diocese of Coventry. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the annual parochial church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC has no connected charities.

The PCC employs one part-time member of staff.

No member of the PCC, or any connected person, has benefited financially from the PCC. Expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC have been reimbursed.

PCC Membership as at the 2011 APCM was as follows:

John Armstrong *	Incumbent
Pat Adams *	Warden
Mike Kitchen-Hurle *	Warden (Resigned September 2011)
Stephen Adams	Reader
Margo Grant	Deanery Synod
Janet Pratt	Deanery Synod
Bryan Pratt *	Deanery Synod and Vice Chairman
Barry Parker *	Elected - Secretary
Ruth Tresidder *	Elected - Treasurer
David Baxter *	Elected at 2011 APCM
Jenny Baxter	Elected
Jen Burgess	Elected
Hilary Crosby	Elected
Brett Justice	Elected at 2011 APCM
Mike Kitchen-Hurle	Co-Opted (Appointed September 2011)
Rachael Powell	Elected (Resigned September 2011)
Jill Parker	Elected
Ralph Trollope	Elected
	Total 17

*Standing Committee members Bryan Pratt appointed October 2011

In addition to the above, during 2011 Ceri Hewitt was a member and John Tresidder a co-opted member of the PCC, both standing down in March 2011.

The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the fabric of the church and of the churchyard.

There were 128 members on the 2011 Church Electoral Roll of whom 13 are not resident within the parish (2012:128 with 13 not resident within the parish).

The average Sunday attendance was 82, but numbers increased at the various festivals and for baptism and thanksgiving services.

The statement of the financial activities for the year is set out in this Annual Report together with the Treasurer's Report, see pages 13 - 18. With regard to 2011, £25,250 was paid towards the Parish Share of £38,987, a shortfall of £13,737. The PCC has been mindful that we at St James have not been able to meet our Parish Share for a number of years and, for 2011, with the guidance and assistance of our treasurer, Ruth Tresidder, has maintained strict control over church expenditure in order to maximise the amount of parish share paid. In view of the financial situation the PCC agreed that a stewardship campaign should be held, looking not only at what is given financially, but also what is given in time and talents. In view of John Armstrong's sabbatical the PCC agreed to hold the campaign in March 2012.

The full PCC met on 14 occasions during 2011 with an attendance rate of 77%. Additional to this, the Council also made some decisions by email. Copies of the minutes are displayed on the noticeboard at the back of church after each meeting. Included in the 14 were two extraordinary meetings. These were held on 20 March 2011, to approve the accounts for 2010, and on 16 April 2011, to consider the relocation of the church office. Also included in the 14 was an away half-day held on 28 May 2011 to consider the St James Vision, Stewardship and the structure of the PCC.

The PCC is supported in its duties by a Standing Committee, to enable urgent decisions which have been properly delegated to be taken between PCC meetings, and a Fabric Committee to look after the church buildings, etc. The minutes of their meetings were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

As a result of discussions at the away half-day each PCC meeting, which opens and closes in prayer, now has a standard agenda comprising:

Correspondence

Standing Reports: Standing Committee, Finance, Fabric, Young Families at St James (Jolly J's), Combined Churches, Deanery Synod and the Pastoral Group

Wardens' Report

PCC Structure

Corporate Prayer, Teaching and Training

Any other Business

One of the key decisions taken during the year with the most visible impact was the agreement to relocate the church office from the Rectory to new premises at 74D Coventry Street. Encouraged by the Diocese that the office should not be in the rectory and in anticipation of the sabbatical, the PCC agreed to lease new premises. Formal occupation took place on 1 July 2011. Our thanks go to John and Ruth Tresidder for all their hard work in readying the premises for

occupation. The PPC agreed that the advantages in the move outweighed the relatively small additional annual running cost of the new office.

During the year the PCC also spent a great deal of its time considering the Church Vision as presented to the last APCM. To that end we have agreed to establish and consolidate core subgroups for all church ministry, develop our social, outreach and fundraising opportunities into the community and develop our pastoral framework for the church. This work is ongoing.

The PCC is fully aware of the risk factors involved in the running of church affairs and continues to ensure that all our properties are adequately insured, including public liability.

Mrs Elizabeth McBride, has again kindly agreed to examine the Accounts and the PCC is very grateful to her for the time she has spent on this.

As you would expect, a lot of the detail of what is discussed at the PCC meetings is covered in the following reports. In addition detailed reports of other groups and activities associated with St James are set out in this Annual Report.

The members of the Parochial Church Council approved this report and the Rev. John Armstrong has signed it on their behalf.

Barry Parker - Church Secretary

Rector's Report

On two occasions during the past year we have been reminded of just how much goes on in the everyday life of our church – not just because it is made up of a fair number of people of all ages, many of whose lives are complex in themselves, but also because our God “neither slumbers nor sleeps” (Psalm 121)!

The most recent reminder has come when preparing reports for the annual meeting, and the earlier in a series of meetings with key members of the church when, in making plans in preparation for our sabbatical we had to think through all the events we thought would definitely be taking place whilst we were away as well as saying, “If this happens, then this is what you will need to do ...”

Being freed from church duties for three months for the first time was a privilege as well as something which is supposed to happen every seven years to stop vicars burning out! We knew that St. James Church would be in good hands because we could not only trust the Lord but also trust you. God is continuing to build his church and he has been putting in place men and women with skills and gifts who want to work together for God's kingdom. Our PCC Secretary, Treasurer and Churchwarden work tirelessly on our behalf (well, they do get tired, but you know what I mean!). We have an excellent PCC and, as you will discover when reading through these reports, we are developing groups with leaders who are responsible for vital areas of church life, from families to (church) fabric.

Even though a good part of the sabbatical did not turn out to be the refreshment and rest it might have been, we were blessed by you with the freedom to deal with urgent family matters and we thank you for this and for all you have done.

In a church there is a place for everyone and there is something for everyone to do. It took some time to come up with the material in our "Welcome Pack" which you can find at the back of church and one of the sections of this pack is entitled "Getting Involved". Reading that will give you an idea of what there is to do! It's important for all of us to know how we can function as part of the community of the church, and to be part of ensuring that we together do what God wants us to do.

In March 2012 Stephen Adams and John are speaking on the subject of "Stewardship", wanting to explore with you how we can best be part of "the body of Christ" and ensuring that "the body" is well maintained and going where it's supposed to be going! We need to be efficient, engaged and equipped, and this means thinking about time, talents and money. We have big and pressing challenges in the areas of human and financial resources but we are moving in the right direction, aiming to move from "red" to "black" so we are properly equipped to "worship God, make new disciples and transform our community".

Please accept our thanks to all of you who faithfully and reliably serve in a variety of ways in the family of the church, whether in the context of Sunday or weekday services or in the many and various branches of church life during the week. Thanks are due to any who are actively training others on the job so they can be equipped; after all, church is an organism rather than an organisation!

Many thanks to our splendid team who contribute their skills week after week to all times and types of worship, to our excellent preachers and worship leaders. A special thanks to two individuals whom I shall name (at risk of not mentioning others!). One is Ralph Trollope, who has laid down his responsibilities as Gift Aid Officer after many years: thank you for your devoted service, Ralph. The other is John Tresidder, who, though he still seems as busy as ever, has wisely and gradually been handing over the job of secretary to the Fabric Committee to David Baxter. John's thorough record-keeping is exemplary and as we thank John and Ralph we also pray for David and for Ruth (as she takes on Gift Aid) that they too will be blessed in their work and service.

The new Church Office opened on 1 July 2011 and Vicki and I would like to repeat our thanks to you for responding to this challenge. Many thanks to Margaret Mumford for her continuing work as Administrator, for her good nature and organisation. Many thanks also to the new band of volunteers who ensure that the office at No. 74D is staffed every weekday morning! We already hold PCC meetings there and Jill Parker's crafty group is meeting there on a weekday afternoon. What about the rest of the week? Here's another opportunity for some creative stewardship of a resource

Thanks to all officers and members of the PCC, of all the committees and particularly to our Churchwardens, Pat and, until the end of August, Mike, for all your faithful hard work. Vicki and I would like to express our appreciation of the

teamwork of all who ensured the continuation of the ministry of St. James in our absence.

God bless and equip you! John (and Vicki) Armstrong

Lay Vice-Chair's Report

The what!? It is all right – St James Church has not sunk to new lows of depravity!

He or she is the person that stands in for the vicar as the chairperson when he or she is not available or does not wish to take the chair.

With John taking his sabbatical from 1 September to 30 November the PCC business had to go on as usual otherwise John would have needed another sabbatical to get over the business that needed dealing with when he returned!

The PCC met three times during the sabbatical and over the period discussed in excess of 80 items to a greater or lesser extent. The discussion was lively and inclusive with decisions being made thoughtfully but as speedily as the subject under discussion demanded.

Not all items are completed on the night of the initial discussion and the process of completion will take some time. One such was: The Pastoral Group brought their report to the PCC which has and will demand further discussion as the Group begin to tease out the best ways forward in that particular, and sometimes troubled, area. The Home Group Leaders and a leader from "Jolly J's" were a great help in laying the foundations of that report.

I cannot finish this report without thanking all the members of the PCC: They supported me and over this relatively short period developed a real sense of team – they even laughed at some of my attempts at humour! Seriously, we had fun as well as working hard and I wouldn't have missed the opportunity for anything because we all knew that we were jointly working for God in our small way.

Bryan Pratt – Lay Vice-Chair

Churchwarden's Report

As we reflect on the past year and the life and ministry of St. James' Church we have much to be thankful for. We continue to enjoy the support and commitment of many able and loyal members. We thank God for His faithfulness to us as a fellowship of His people here in Southam.

Fabric: As a Church we are indebted to the hard work of the Fabric Committee who are constantly working to maintain the structure of our building with the minimum of outlay. We are very fortunate that we have many skilled and willing workers in that group. During the past year they have worked on many different tasks. Some regular and on-going, some unexpected, inconvenient and challenging – for example battling with wind and heavy rain on the roof in the

small hours to keep the building watertight after the lead had been removed! Thank you all for your commitment and hard work. We couldn't do without you.

Finance: Our treasurer Ruth Tresidder has worked efficiently and tirelessly throughout the year to minimise our outlay and to maximise the amount of money we give to the diocese in the form of the Parish Share. However, in spite of Ruth's excellent 'Housekeeping', there is still a shortfall £13,000.

Ministry: John continues to lead the Church supported faithfully by his wife Vicki. Stephen continues to serve as a Reader along with an increasing number of gifted members who are willing and able to take services. We are grateful to the Lord for the commitment of these people.

During the autumn (1 September – 30 November) John and Vicki took a much-needed Sabbatical. During the Sabbatical it was wonderful to see the way in which different Church members worked together in order to maintain the life and vitality of St. James. Teamwork at it's best. Thank you all! Another very positive by-product of the Sabbatical was the opening of St. James Church Office on Coventry Street. (Particular thanks go to the Tresidders, Parkers and other members who worked so hard to make this a reality.) On the days our Church administrator is not working the office is manned by very willing and able volunteers. The office is also proving ideal for PCC and other meetings. God is so good.

'More', the Church youth group run by John and Vicki continues to include both 'Churched' and 'Un-Churched' young people who enjoy having fun and praying together whilst growing in their understanding of the Bible.

Access into the local schools continues to go well, via assemblies, supporting aspects of Christianity in lessons and also lunchtime meetings at Southam College.

The Prayer Stall is very much part of the monthly Farmers Market and relationships with the other stall-holders are good.

The Granny Wagon continues to serve hot drinks to young folk on a Friday evening. This too is very much appreciated, both by the youth and their parents.

Jolly J's is well established now as a weekly meeting place for Mums, Carers and their little ones. Jenny and Laura have created a very relaxed atmosphere for everyone to enjoy.

Messy Church, headed by Jo, has continued to provide a fantastic opportunity to introduce Jesus to families who wouldn't normally go to Church.

Special Thanks: Sadly, it was necessary for Mike Kitchen-Hurle to resign from his role as Church Warden. It has been great working alongside Mike for the past 2½ years and I have missed him; his hard work, dedication and sense of humour. Thank you Mike for all you have done for St. James' Church.

Future: As we move forward into another year in the life of the church each one of us has a part to play. Let us be encouraged by the words of the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:58 to 'Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.'

Pat Adams - Churchwarden

Treasurer's Report

We must be thankful that our unrestricted giving to St James in 2011 increased by £4,500 on the previous year. We have always been generous whenever specific appeals have been made for particular projects but we do not always take on board the everyday costs of our parish.

We managed to pay £4,250 more towards our 2011 Parish Share (than we paid in 2010) as well as move the church office into 74D Coventry Street.

I appreciate there is a shortfall of £13,737 in paying our parish share but the PCC felt that it was important to provide a church presence in the town especially during John Armstrong's sabbatical when we would have had no access to the Rectory. I wish to say a big thank you to all those who donated funds towards the set up costs of the office. It is hoped that the office can be maintained as it ensures we have a presence in the town irrespective of whether there is an incumbent in post or not.

Our income last year, including statutory fees (for weddings and funerals), amounted to £1,026 per week whereas, to pay our parish share and other outgoings in full we needed an income of £1,286 per week.

I would like to thank all those people who support the church on a regular basis – their contributions amounted to £806 per week.

We have reduced Margaret, our Administrator's hours, from 2½ days to 3 mornings and this saving is partly offsetting the cost of renting 74D Coventry Street. The office is being manned 2 mornings a week by volunteers. I wish to thank all those people who ensure the office is open 5 mornings a week.

Unfortunately some of our costs are inevitable, insurance costs us £116 per week, and our gas, electricity and water charges are around £65 per week.

I hope our Stewardship campaign being held throughout March will help us generate more funds on a regular basis. Without the commitment of our church members we will not be able to continue God's work in Southam in an efficient and loving manner in the future.

Ruth Tresidder
Treasurer

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2011

	Note	Actual 2011			Actual 2010		
		Un-restricted	Restricted	Total	Un-restricted	Restricted	Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES							
From Donors:							
Under Gift Aid Schemes	1a	27,019	950	27,969	25,060		25,060
Gift Aid recovered	1b	7,105	14	7,119	7,935	741	8,676
Non Gift Aided Income	1c	7,800		7,800	6,067		6,067
Fund raising & special	1d	3,874	4,963	8,837	4,342	7,430	11,772
Churchyard	1e					3,518	3,518
Bank Interest received		0		0	0		0
Sale of Assets		0		0	0		0
Insurance claims	1f	1,994		1,994	0		0
TOTAL DONATED INCOME		47,792	5,927	53,719	43,404	11,689	55,093
Fees							
Clergy	2a		2,717	2,717		2,649	2,649
Lay	2b		3,213	3,213		1,959	1,959
PCC	2c	5,594	28	5,622	5,464		5,464
Total regulated fees		5,594	5,958	11,552	5,464	4,608	10,072
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		53,386	11,885	65,271	48,868	16,297	65,165
EXPENSES							
Diocesan costs:							
Parish Share:							
Current year	3a	25,250		25,250	21,000		21,000
		25,250		25,250	21,000		21,000
Clergy & Service costs:							
Clergy expenses	4a	1,092		1,092	873		873
Altar supplies	4b	272		272	233		233
Music	4c	685		685	600		600
Other	4d	105		105	-7		-7
		2,154		2,154	1,699		1,699

EXPENSES Cont.	Note	Actual 2011			Actual 2010		
		Un-restricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Un-restricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Administration:							
Administrator	5a	4,803		4,803	5,437		5,437
Office supplies	5b	2,264		2,264	2,234		2,234
Other	5c	626		626	482		482
Telephone	5d	632		632	387		387
Church Office	5e	2,539	1,090	3,629	0		0
		10,864	1,090	11,954	8540		8,540
Maintenance:							
Utilities	6a	3,409		3,409	3,195		3,195
Insurance	6b	6,021		6,021	6,599		6,599
General repairs	6c	3,622	207	3,829	6,678	361	7,039
Major repairs		0		0	0		0
Churchyard	6d	1,050		1,050		4,790	4,790
		14,102	207	14,309	16,472	5,151	21,623
Ministry support:							
Special appeals	7a	239	2,156	2,395	33	6,368	6,401
Children, Youth & Training	7b	549	1,807	2,356	785		785
		788	3,963	4,751	818	6368	7,186
Fees re weddings & funerals							
Diocese	8a		2,717	2,717		2,649	2,649
Lay	8b		3,213	3,213		1,967	1,967
			5,930	5,930		4,616	4,616
TOTAL EXPENSES		53,158	11,190	64,348	48,529	16,135	6,466

SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	228	695	923	339	162	501
Transfers from General Fund to Churchyard & Flower Funds	-366					
Add: Reserves b/fwd. at 1 January 2010	3,926			3,587		
Total Reserves 31 December 2011	3,788			3,926		

RESTRICTED FUNDS MOVEMENTS

Fund Description	Balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance
	01 Jan 11				31 Dec 11
	£	£	£	£	£
Audio Visual	1,949	16	123		1,842
Building maintenance	317	1,207	207		1,317
Churchyard maintenance	-311			311	0
John Milner Organ Fund	537	64			601
Wedding Fees in Advance	335	2,578	2,550		363
Bees Abroad	228	30	258		0
Children ex Infant Welfare Trust	9,267		598		8,669
Flower Fund		11		55	66
Granny Wagon	272	3			275
He*Brews	975	1,129	680		1,424
International	980	649	1,321		308
J. John booklets		65	50		15
Kenya Appeal		454	454		0
Leamington Christian Mission		53			53
"Messy Church"	463	1,155	478		1,140
Re-location Church Office		1,090	1,090		0
Youth	103				103
	<u>15,115</u>	<u>8,504</u>	<u>7,809</u>	<u>366</u>	<u>16,176</u>

Liabilities - Agency collections

	£
Weddings Fees in Advance (for Diocese, Organist, Bells, Verger, Clerk etc)	319
Southam Primary School Christingle collection	115
Children's Society boxes	1,199
	<u>1,633</u>

Liquid funds as at 31 December 2011

	£
Bank	21,578
Petty Cash	19
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>21,597</u>
Less Restricted Funds held on behalf of others as per above	16,176
Less Liabilities - Agency collections	<u>1,633</u>
St James Funds as at 31 December 2011 see Receipts and Payments Account	<u>3,788</u>

NOTES RELATING TO 2011 ACCOUNTS*Breakdown of totals Income and Expenditure Account***Income**

- 1a All tax reclaimable giving from Standing Orders paid into bank account, weekly numbered envelopes and yellow envelopes.
- 1b Tax reclaimed from above (unrestricted) and from Special Appeals (restricted) up to 5 April 2011.
- 1c Planned giving that does not qualify for tax relief and loose plate collections.
- 1d Unrestricted includes proceeds from new year party and Christmas Fayre, one off donations, income received for incidental charges at weddings and funerals, Book of Remembrance. Restricted giving for use outside of St James including Bees Abroad, Leamington Christian Mission, International, Kenya, He*Brews, Granny Wagon, "Messy Church", John Milner Organ Fund and a legacy from the estate of NJ Hodgson dec'd for £1,000 towards the upkeep of the fabric of the church.
- 1e Southam Town Council now include the churchyard in their grass cutting contract and pay for emptying the skip rather than giving St James a grant towards maintenance; the PCC are extremely grateful to the Town Council.
- 1f Insurance claims following attempted theft of lead from north aisle roof and vandalism to kitchen roof and noticeboard.
- 2a Clergy fees from Weddings, Funerals, monuments etc.
- 2b Fees from Weddings and Funerals to Clerk, Verger, Organist and Bell ringers
- 2c Restricted fees are the increase in Wedding Fees in Advance held in our account for weddings in 2012. Some of this income rolls over from one financial year to another.

Expenditure

- 3a Our contribution to Coventry Diocese. Shortfall in 2011 of £13,737.
- 4a Clergy expenses and cost of Rector's telephone since the Church Office has moved out of The Rectory.
- 4b Candles, Communion Wine, Wafers etc.
- 4c Music licences, Fees for Organist at services.
- 4d Visiting speakers.
- 5a Salary and Tax for Administrator. Administrator's hours reduced from 18 hours to 12 hours a week from August 2011. Office manned 8 hours a week by volunteers.
- 5b Rental, maintenance and ink for photocopier, stationery, additional entries in Book of Remembrance.
- 5c Bank charges, Fund raising expenses, Gift to Examiner of 2010 accounts.
- 5d Cost of Office telephone – six months - The Rectory, six months - 74D Coventry Street.
- 5e Includes set up costs of Office at 74D Coventry Street, rental of premises and utilities. Restricted expenditure used towards set up costs.
- 6a Gas supply, Electricity supply and Water rates.
- 6b Insurance of buildings, contents and public liability. Excess increased from £50 to £100 per claim to reduce cost of insurance.
- 6c Routine maintenance including clock, fire extinguishers, electrical work.
- 6d Removal horse chestnut tree, skip emptying (prior to April 2011), soil removal.

NOTES RELATING TO 2011 ACCOUNTS Continued:

- 7a Unrestricted includes Christmas posters and donations to Southam Christmas Lights Association and visit by Church Army Captain to Deanery Schools. Restricted includes expenditure on audio visual equipment, International, Bees Abroad and Kenya appeal.
- 7b Unrestricted includes Teaching material, Craft and Activity materials and prizes for Groups, Impact Group at Southam College. Restricted includes "Messy Church", He*Brews and Jolly J's.
- 8a Clergy Fees from Weddings, Funerals, Monuments etc. assigned to Diocese (Restricted).
- 8b Lay Fees from Weddings and Funerals (Restricted)

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St James, Southam

I report on the accounts of St James' Church, Southam for the year ended 31 December 2011.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees, that is, the members of St James, Southam PCC, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act

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.



Elizabeth McBride 1 Park Lane, Harbury, Leamington Spa

Date: 21st February 2012

Gift Aid Report

Ralph Trollope has been Gift Aid Secretary for nearly 30 years and towards the end of 2011 Ralph decided he wished to retire from the post. I should like to thank Ralph for all his hard work over the years.

I was appointed Gift Aid Secretary at the PCC meeting on 30 November; I will endeavour to continue the good work undertaken by Ralph.

2011 began by 24 people paying by Standing Order directly into the church bank account. During the year 5 people changed their giving to this method. A total of £16,067.92 was received in this way.

A total of twelve people began the year paying by "Blue envelopes", during the year one family changed to paying by Standing Order. Regular giving by this method amounted to £5,623.00.

During the year 76 people gave through "Yellow envelopes" and this raised £5,328.06 for the church. Eleven of these people gave on a regular basis by this method.

Before the end of 2011 £7,119.61 was recovered from HMRC for gift aid for the period 6 April 2010 to 5 April 2011. It is hoped that we can receive the money from HMRC on a quarterly basis so that by the end of 2012 only the last quarter of the year (September – December) will be outstanding. This is very much reliant on the speed that HMRC process the paperwork.

I should like to thank everyone who contributes to the work of the church by Gift Aid, although ancillary relief finished in April 2011 (when we continued to receive an additional 3p for every £1 donated) we still receive 25p for every pound given to St James.

If you are a taxpayer and putting cash into the collection please remember to complete a yellow envelope so that we can increase our income with the help of the tax man.

Hopefully by the time of the Church Annual Meeting we will have received some positive responses from the Stewardship campaign that will increase Gift Aid in the future.

Please do contact me if you need any further information on Gift Aid.

Ruth Tresidder ☎ 813524

Fabric Committee Report

In the last year the fabric committee has been active in a number of matters, both planned and in reaction to events.

Church Office

2011 saw the establishment of a separate office for the church, located at 74D Coventry Road. This satisfies the requirement to move the office out of the Rectory and also provides St James with an increased presence in town as well as a valuable asset as it is useful for meetings and other such uses.

Thanks must be extended to all those who spent many hours planning the office move, arranging the lease and supply of utilities and in organizing the move to the new office.

Theft, Vandalism and Damage

There have been several incidents of vandalism and malicious damage to church property throughout the year including damage to notice boards and the roof (see below):

North Aisle Roof

An attempt was made in August to steal some of the lead from the roof of the North Aisle. This has caused damage to some of the lead as well as the guttering and some water also entered the Church as it was raining heavily on the night of the attempt. The Committee would like to thank all of those involved for responding in the middle of the (very wet) night to minimise the damage caused. Thanks should also go to the anonymous person who raised the alarm.

A temporary repair has been made to the roof and the guttering etc. has been repaired/replaced. A permanent repair is still required and the possibility of using a less valuable and/or more easily secured material is being explored.

A claim was made on the Church's insurance policy to cover the works conducted.

Subsequent damage

It later came to light that during the attempted theft, the lead which had been stripped and dropped from the roof has damaged a gulley which carries water away from the wall of the church. Ingress of water has resulted and a separate claim will need to be made to the insurers to have this rectified.

Church Lighting and Flood Lighting

The Fabric Committee have been active, and are continuing to be so, in investigating alternative lighting for the interior of the church, particularly to replace the high level lights in the Nave which are old, inefficient and difficult/dangerous to change bulbs.

Similarly the Fabric Committee are investigating the possibility, cost and implications of floodlighting the exterior of the church, at the request of the PCC. The objective is to provide a source of income from allowing people to 'sponsor'

a night's lighting of the Church. The addition of security lighting is also being investigated.

Timber Casing in the Belfry

The timber casing that housed the drop weights for the old clock mechanism has been removed as the final part of the works to automate the clock.

Trees

Following wind damage to a large horse chestnut tree (near the Bier House), an inspection alerted the Fabric Committee to the fact that the tree was diseased and unsafe. The tree was safely and successfully removed with all of the relevant permission.

Southern Entrance

The Southam Civic Ideas Forum has funding to replace the old cast iron gates at the South entrance to the churchyard (top of steps on Warwick Road). They have progressed designs, gone to public consultation and gained planning consent. They subsequently have made an application for a Faculty to carry out this work. This application has stalled because of objections from the Victorian Society.

Ongoing Maintenance

North Doors

The North Doors have been planed at the bottom and re-hung to prevent them from catching on the stone.

Blocking Drain

The drain from the toilet continues to be a maintenance issue, frequently blocking due to the age and roughness of the pipes and the lack of fall between the church and the manhole. To assist in maintaining the free running of the drain we would ask that all users of the Church cooperate in being careful as to what is discarded in the drain/toilet.

Roof Repairs

Some repairs have been made to the roof above the vestry and tea room and toilet to help maintain water tightness.

Chancel Repair Liability

Finally thanks are extended to Mary Williams and John Tresidder for their efforts in researching the churches situation with regards to chancel repair liability. This involved some painstaking research through various archives and getting to grips with some quite complex legal requirements. The fabric committee were subsequently able to recommend that the PCC acknowledge that it knows of no chancel repair liability.

Committee members. Chairman - Terence Hill, Secretary – David Baxter, John Tresidder, Ralph Trollope, Mary Williams, David Hower and John Gwillam. Ex officio – Rev John Armstrong, Michael Kitchen-Hurle and Pat Adams.

David Baxter – Secretary Fabric Committee

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Southam Parish Council

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

25 March 2012

Report from the Electoral Roll Officer

1 member left

1 member died

2 members added to the roll

The Electoral Roll now stands at 128 members

Margo Grant – Electoral Roll Officer

Leading, Service Support & Worship

Music Group

We have a very dedicated and faithful group of musicians who have all worked very hard this year. Our repertoire has increased and hopefully our ability to lead worship.

A special thanks to Hilary and Janet who shouldered the responsibility of making sure musical worship happened during our sabbatical.

Please continue to pray for us and if you have a musical talent, do let us know!

Vicki Armstrong – Co-coordinator

Audio Visual

Improvements have been made to the church sound and vision systems over the last year to reduce the noise and hum of the audio circuits to a very low level. This makes the system much more stable and gives a very clean sound. The sound equipment now runs off its own electrical phase thanks to John Tresidder and this reduces the risk of electrical interference affecting the sound system.

The sound and vision system is used over 200 times a year and there are inevitably breakages due to the heavy usage rate. A large number of repairs have been done and there are still more pieces of equipment that need to be repaired and maintained. More memory has been added to the desktop computer to increase the responsiveness of the computer and we can now play movie files. The operating system was updated to include security patches from Microsoft and keep the antivirus up to date.

A radio mic was re-tuned to a new frequency as one of the frequencies it was using disappeared when the digital switch over happened at the start of 2012.

Thank you to everyone who has helped.

Rade and Isaac Ognjanović

Tower Report

During the last year the ringers have again rung regularly for services, and have maintained the regular Tuesday evening practice session.

This year we rang for five Weddings and hosted five bands of visiting ringers from various parts of the country. Two full peals were rung and four Quarter peals.

We did not have an early spring outing this year due to the majority of ringers having other commitments so it was agreed that we would have a joint summer outing with our friends from Somerset. This was arranged by Spike and Jenny and was around south Oxfordshire and Wiltshire ending with a meal at Oldbourne near Swindon.

The year ended with the usual Christmas Meal at the Bowling Green in Southam organized by Iain and Loriane, This was attended by about thirty ringers including some of our friends from other local Towers.

We have been unable to recruit any new ringers this year which does give us quite some concern, because most of our ringers are now retired and our youngest ringer is thirty eight years old.

To be able to learn the art of Church Bell ringing is very rewarding and very good exercise for both the body and mind. If anyone is interested in learning to ring please do come along on a Tuesday evening between 7.30pm and 9.00pm or speak to someone in the belfry on a Sunday. Ideally any candidate should be at least 14 years of age.

Terence Hill

Children and Youth Work

Pre-School and Children's Groups

To follow.

"More" Youth Group

"More" meets regularly during term-time on a fortnightly basis. All young people aged between 11–18 are welcome. We have around ten regular attendees.

During the sabbatical Jo and Rade Ognjanović and Pat and Stephen Adams hosted and led "More", also taking the young people to "1st Sunday", a youth celebration in Leamington (we expect you can guess when that is held!). Many thanks to them all for their time, energy and experience.

We have recently begun a new series on Paul and welcomed three new members. Not all are committed Christians or attend any church.

Every meeting is both fun and challenging, as we endeavour to encourage increasing faith in the lives of these extremely important people.

Please continue to pray for us. John and Vicki Armstrong

Granny Wagon

We're delighted to report that the Friday night Hot Chocolate team (aka the Granny Waggon) is still turning up on a weekly basis and now heading towards our seventh anniversary! We have remained at the Park Lane recreation ground, our original venue, for the past year, in the area between the church yard and what was the toddlers' play area. The advantage is that we're close to the road, the street light and somewhere to hang our own lantern!

Despite a lack of customers during the Christmas season, attendance has climbed again over the past few weeks to around twenty. The refreshments are always received politely and often with some surprise, from newcomers. It is noticeable that the polystyrene cups are more often than not deposited in the bin!

We're very fortunate in having several committed teams, and generally our turns come round about once a month, with a system of passing on the equipment to the next team.

Our thanks to Gerry Barrett, Elaine Barnden, Hilary Crosbie, Annie & Roger Lane, Brett & Maria Justice, Caroline Johnson and Gary White.

Many thanks to all of you who support Granny Waggon with edible contributions, prayers and turns on the rota.

Chris Cooke and Jan Ford

Messy Church

Messy Church in Southam (Deanery) was set up with the intention of being/becoming a fresh expression of church in 2009. It has formed part of my primary placement for my training towards Ordained Pioneer Ministry since September 2010.

Our activities include crafts, food, games, songs, Bible teaching and learning about Jesus, all in a relaxed, fun way. It hopes to provide families with some quality time together. Messy Church meets monthly on alternating Saturday mornings and Tuesdays after school in the Craven Lane Hall (aka Welfare Hut).

Messy Church has a committed team of volunteers derived mostly, but certainly not exclusively, from members of St James Church. We have said goodbye (temporary I hope) to Jenny Thorne as she has returned to teaching this year and to John and Cynthia Cherry also. There is also an excellent prayer support team in operation. My thanks go to all of you for all your hard work, commitment and prayer.

The families attending Messy Church live in Southam and in several of the surrounding villages, especially Napton. Many are also involved to varying degrees in other churches. Messy Church has made contact with 19 unchurched families in total (i.e. those that don't attend any other church).

During the year we decided to change the way that Messy Church is described and advertised from 'for families with primary school children' to 'all-age - families welcome.' This was to overcome the potential for some families to feel excluded and solved the issue about what to do with families whose children have grown beyond primary school age. Messy Church is attended by a few secondary school children with their families and many preschool children also.

Messy Church received a grant from the Diocesan Mission Fund this year for purchasing necessary equipment. This has meant that we have been able to return/replace borrowed items and to improve the way Messy Church runs and the welcome we are able to offer. This grant has been allocated for specific items that are still in the process of being purchased.

The Craven Lane Hall committee have informed me that they have received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in the order of £200,000. This means they will be able to completely renovate the hut which will greatly benefit the whole of the community. It also means that Messy Church will need to use another venue while the work is being carried out – probably September time 2012.

Thank you to everyone who supports Messy Church financially.

Jo Ognjanović (Messy Church Team Leader)

Jolly J's

Jolly J's is a coffee and play session for parents/ carers with pre-school children and babies. It takes place in church on Monday mornings between 10 o'clock and 11 o'clock in term-time. It was set up and is run by Jenny Baxter and Laura Seago with the support of a number of helpers. It began on 9 May 2011, and so has been running for just over two terms. The aim of the group is to provide an informal café-type atmosphere for mums/dads/carers to meet and chat over coffee while the children play.

The initial start-up cost was about £500. A Nespresso coffee machine was purchased with coffee capsules, enabling us to provide real coffee shop style coffee. Other purchases included: a CD player, a set of white mugs, baby

beakers, plastic beakers, rugs, cushions, a baby mat, storage jars and boxes. In addition to the start-up costs furniture for a doll's house (donated by one of the mums) was purchased. A number of new and nearly new toys were also donated. Start-up costs were funded by the restricted account for children under five.

Initially there was a charge for tea/coffee plus cake of £1.50 with free squash and biscuits. Volunteers kindly provided homemade cakes each week. However, cakes were not always what people wanted, and so homemade biscuits/cup cakes are now provided each week, with mums also volunteering to make them. The charge has now been revised and it is currently £1 for tea/coffee plus biscuits and squash. The accounts are updated each week. The petty cash total on 12 January 2012 is £119.27. The total income up to this date is £173.50 and expenditure £54.23. Money is spent on the ongoing running costs of the group, e.g. milk, squash, Christmas party food, particularly coffee capsules which need to be ordered in bulk. The Christmas party was a great success and each child was given a book. The books were paid for with money from the restricted account for children.

Numbers at the group vary each week, ranging from two to eleven adults and three to 15 children. More recently, numbers have been steadier, with on average five to ten adults and eight to 13 children each week. Different people come each week and people have been coming back, and so overall there is a good number of people using the group. There is now a link with Southam Children's Centre and Jolly J's is listed in their termly programme. Jolly J's is also using the toy library at the Children's Centre so that a wider range of toys is available for the children.

The support of everyone at church has been wonderful and Jolly J's is certainly growing. We would like to thank everyone who has made cakes and has come to help each week. To continue the success of Jolly J's we need to build up the team of helpers and to continue to advertise in Southam so that more people are aware of Jolly J's. We also intend to ask for feedback from the group to see if there is anything we could do differently to improve the group.

Jenny Baxter and Laura Seago

Impact Youth Group

Impact Youth Group continues to meet weekly on Friday lunchtimes in Southam College. The group currently has six to eight regular members who are mostly non-Christians and not part of any church or church youth group. The group members are mostly girls in years nine and ten (age 14-15) who represent several of the villages in Southam Deanery. There are two boys who attend occasionally. The Impact group has formed part of my primary placement for my training towards Ordained Pioneer Ministry.

Impact is a recognised group within the school, playing an important part in its diversity and community cohesion and contributes to its provision for spiritual development of pupils; helping the school to meet its Ofsted requirements. I have an excellent relationship with the school.

Our topics for discussion this year have included questions about other faiths, worship and idols, marriage and sex, death and gossip. I take the agenda for Impact from the questions the girls are asking and help them to see what the Bible has to say to address these issues particularly in the light of today's society. Some members have found this quite challenging!

We continue to share our lunch together, pray together and have fun together. The group has provided a safe place and support for a few girls who have been going through difficult times at home and school.

Two girls are also members of MORE Youth Group including one who no longer attends Impact because she has moved to another school.

Jo Ognjanović

He*Brews

During the first six months of 2011 He*Brews continued to operate out of the Coffee Cup Café every Thursday evening between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. The numbers of youngsters dropping in for a drink and chat varied but, unfortunately, remained quite small. It was also particularly noticeable that the numbers of youngsters 'hanging around' the lych gate fell away over this period. With the lighter evenings and warmer weather it was quite clear that sitting in a very warm café was not appealing....

As we said in our report last year, despite the youth work that is going on we, in Southam, are still in the early days of developing relationships with the youngsters. It is only by creating those relationships and 'earning the right to be heard' can we fully understand how we can begin to challenge lifestyle and, hopefully, start to make a difference.

As a result of the continuing poor attendance a decision to not re-open He*Brews after the summer holidays was taken by the He*Brews team of volunteers. Dave Wise was informed and is still very supportive of youth outreach and the offer of the use of his café is still there.

We are also mindful of other youth outreach initiatives by a number of agencies across Southam, in particular accommodation at the Graham Adams Centre previously used by Warwickshire County Council's for its youth club, which has closed due to the local authority spending cuts. We will continue to monitor opportunities as they arise and consider how best He*Brews can make a contribution.

Thanks go to the team of volunteers: Maria and Brett Justice, Janet and Bryan Pratt, Hilary Crosby, Jan Ford, Ceri and Richard Hewitt, Caroline Johnson, Gina Lambert, Ally Mears and Gary White.

Jill and Barry Parker

Homegroups

The Monday Evening Homegroup

We meet weekly on Mondays in term time excluding any bank holidays. We have ten in the group, of which several are willing to lead the studies that we do. All of our meetings include a mixture of worship, study and prayer.

Over this year we have used study books on James, 2 Timothy and Titus and are continuing with Spiritual Warfare by Jack Kuhatschek. These books are Scripture Union or CWR Study Guides with readings and discussion sections.

We have also included some quiet evenings where each of us bring a prayer, a reading or a song to share. Sometimes we join the Southam Churches for the Lent or Christmas studies.

Within our group we support other groups in the church by being part of the Friday Coffee Morning and Cross of Nails Prayers, The Granny Wagon, Messy Church and the Sideman Rota.

We homegroup ladies do tend go to Streams in the Desert for the women on the Mondays in the year that they are on in Leamington, and are part of the Mothers Union.

The men support the Curry Club and the Christmas Lights stall.

Further details from Inez Prasch on 813495

The Tuesday Evening Homegroup

Our group meets on alternate Tuesday's, usually in our home but there are no 'hard and fast' rules and it's not unknown for the venue to change at the last minute depending what works best for everyone. The group varies in size as we have several parents with young families in the group and life can be unpredictable at times. It's always a joy to spend time together chatting, unwinding and learning together how to live more effective lives for Jesus.

After completing a series of studies on the life of David – shepherd boy to King, we have been working through the Ten Commandments and their application for 21st Century living. As an aid to our discussions we have been listening to the series of talks on the Ten Commandments by the evangelist J. John. Each presentation is very funny but also very practical. We have all been challenged in different ways.

We generally start each homegroup with a time of worship and singing and always include time for praying for each other and any needs known to us. The members are very supportive and caring towards each other, praying and giving practical help when necessary.

During the year we have had several social events too – mainly focussing around food! We always aim to invite non-homegroup members to these gatherings and try to be very inclusive.

It is a real privilege to lead this homegroup and it's always good to meet together.

We thank God for His work in the lives of each member as we see their faith developing and growing and in turn wanting to share the 'Good News of Jesus' with others.

New members are always welcome. Do you want to learn more about Jesus? Would you like some help in understanding the Bible? Would you like to belong to a homegroup? Please come and chat to us if you are interested.

Further details from Stephen and Pat Adams on 813753

The Wednesday Evening Homegroup

We have continued to meet alternate weeks during the last year, changing by popular demand back to Wednesday evenings. We completed the DVD series 'Discipleship Explored' which we all found helpful and stimulating, and we continue to aim to discuss relevant issues as we study the Bible, pray and support one another.

The group worked together to lead the All-Age Service on 16 October, with the theme of God supplying our needs. We looked at the feeding of the 5,000, and John and Mary Home gave a whistle stop tour of the work they are involved in in Kenya.

With John and Vicki away for their three month sabbatical, many of our members were involved (along with lots of others, of course) in leading services, preaching, staffing the office and many other activities.

As a group we aim to care for each other, support and pray for one another as well as for needs that we know of in the community around us. John and Mary Home also had a visit to Kenya towards the end of this year and we were all involved in supporting and praying for them both in the preparation and during the trip itself when they were able to keep in touch by email.

As we said in our last report, we would encourage all members of St. James to join a small group. It's a safe place where we find we're able to be ourselves and grow in our faith by sharing, talking, studying the Bible and praying together. We always look forward to welcoming new members, whether you are experienced or new to homegroups.

Ceri and Richard Hewitt are standing down as leaders of our group due to Richard's work commitments and in the interim we are taking turns leading.

Further details from Jill Parker on 811254

The Thursday Afternoon Homegroup

On the 1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons of every month nine or ten of us meet for Bible Study, tea and chat at the home of one of our group members. During the past year we have welcomed three new members but sadly one of our long standing members is no longer able to come. Two group members have died and the widow of one who is in a home is visited by one of the group from time to time.

We began 2011 looking at a five session course entitled 'Rich Inheritance' which prompted quite a bit of useful discussion. This was followed by a series on Women in the Bible when we looked at their lives and how they fitted into God's story and what we could learn from them for our lives today.

Most of the group members led at least one session and at the end of the year agreed that it had been an interesting series. Some of the time is spent catching up on news from group members and praying for one another. We have also welcomed Vicki to the group, and Jo to tell us about her training and future plans as she knew them then.

If you would like to join us you would be very welcome.

Please get in touch with Jen Burgess on 810454.

Pastoral

Corporate Prayer

This is something that is very much in the embryo stage but there one or two things that we have done during the year.

In August, when so many people are away a small group of Church produced a weekly Prayer Sheet that was available for people to take away and to pray for the Church during the week.

During John and Vicki's Sabbatical and Mary and John Home's time in Kenya we put some items for prayer in the Church Bulletin each week so that we could remember them and pray for their needs.

There are one or two other thoughts being mulled over.

On Friday mornings a small group of ladies meet at 9.0am to pray for the Church. Please join us if you would like to.

Contact Jen Burgess on 810454 for details.

Church Liaison

Deanery Synod

St. James Representatives: Margo Grant, Bryan Pratt, Janet Pratt and John Armstrong

The Bridges Group celebrated the second anniversary of its formation, joining Napton, Stockton and Lower Shuckburgh with Priors Marston, Priors Hardwick and Wormleighton. The Rev. Michael Greig made a presentation to Synod, describing progress and challenges in the multi-parish benefice. Amongst activities mentioned was the **Marriage Preparation Course** which is kindly made open to all parishes of the Deanery; this will need new leaders and helpers in coming years.

Area Dean - The Rev. John Armstrong tendered his resignation as Area Dean as from Easter 2011, in order better to be able to address the financial situation at Southam. The clergy have continued to work together and await the licensing of the Rev. Craig Grocock as successor.

Deanery Programme -A new rolling programme of work in the Deanery has been prepared to follow the Diocesan Vision, commencing September 2011 with the first of three meetings on "Worshipping God"; four will follow on "Making New Disciples" and then four on "Transforming Communities"; all of these Thursday deanery meetings will be open to everyone in the deanery. As the greater part of synod meetings will be taken up with these topics, it has been agreed that the "business" elements will be, to the greater extent, dealt with by the Standing Committee, with decisions reported to the main meetings and discussion only held of matters considered by all to be of direct importance. The Rev. Bob Clucas made a thought-provoking, engaging and humorous presentation entitled "Need-Orientated Worship – Church for the Un-Churched," and the Rev. Canon David Stone spoke in December on his role as Precentor at Coventry Cathedral, on the subject of worship and music, under the title "Music to God's ears – developing a breadth of music for worship".

General Synod - The Rev. Ruth Walker had recently been elected as a representative and reports to Deanery Synod on meetings of General Synod and has given suggestions as to how we might engage with General Synod, too.

The Deanery Festival – "Out of the Blue" was held on 17– 19 June 2011 at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre. Prior to the weekend, Graham Nunn, a Church Army Officer and Children's Missioner and his assistant visited eight schools in the Deanery, in preparation for the children's Praise Party, which drew around 300 people. An evening with Adrian and Bridget Plass was well attended on the Friday as were the concerts on the Saturday. Schools performed as did the Pilgrim Puppets. There was a full range of stalls, games and side shows. Around 250 attended a celebration Communion service on Sunday 19 led by Bishop John. The event raised over £9,000 towards the restoration work on St. Nicholas, Radford Semele.

Finance – Despite demographic research showing that Southam Deanery is *supposed* to be one of the richest deaneries in the Diocese, a number of churches continue to struggle with making ends meet. The Friends of Southam Deanery account had paid the arrears for 2010 amounting to £3,295 (for parishes other than Southam); this had been contributed to by parishes with a surplus within the deanery in order to support those with a deficit. More parishes are now paying by standing order.

A new basis for allocation of Deanery Share begins in 2012, which takes into account the number of stipendiary clergy in the deanery, plus an amount to be used for mission within the diocese. Part of this fund would be used to support deaneries currently unable to meet the cost of their own clergy. It has been agreed in our own deanery that we do not wish to rely on subsidies for ever.

Southam Deanery currently has an equivalent of 5.93 paid clergy across its 18 parishes. (One works 0.6 of a week and another one third of a week, hence the point 93!) However we are presently being subsidised by other deaneries to the tune of 1.22 clergy or £62,626.00. Failure to meet deanery share in full will eventually have the consequence of the loss of a member of clergy. Considering our financial history at St. James, Southam, this needs to be taken seriously as our own shortfall amounts to a large proportion of that of the deanery.

Women Bishops – Following consultation within Southam Deanery it was clear that the Deanery was overwhelmingly in favour of the Measure. Alison Abbot reported from Diocesan Synod (towards the end of 2011) that much time was taken up with the debate on the ordination of women to the episcopate. Voting on the motion “That this Synod approve the proposals embodied in the draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure and in draft Amending Canon No. 30” was as follows:

House of Bishops	– two for
House of Clergy	– 35 for, two against and two abstentions
House of Laity	– 34 for, four against and one abstention.

A motion was also passed as follows: “This Synod desires that all faithful Anglicans remain and thrive together in the Church of England; supports efforts being made by the Diocese to achieve reconciliation, and therefore calls upon the House of Bishops to ensure that sufficient provision is made within the Code of Practice for those who cannot in conscience agree with the measure”

All members of St. James are encouraged to come to deanery meetings and events, as well as to ecumenical work in Southam. We are all part of the local and the wider church!

Many thanks to Bryan, Janet and Margo for their valuable deanery input during the year.

John Armstrong

Deanery Mission Support Team Report

Towards the end of 2010 Southam Deanery Mission Support Team (SDMT) felt that they should revisit the aims and objectives of the SDMT. These were discussed, agreed and carried forward as below.

AIMS and OBJECTIVES: To enable and assist the Church in the Southam Deanery to:-

1. engage in evangelism appropriate to particular contexts,
2. make new Christians and disciples, and
3. nurture and develop Christian faith

The main focus during 2011 was to support the Out of the Blue Deanery Festival.

Also this year, the Rev. Craig Grocock was asked to implement changes to the format of Deanery Synod meetings to encourage more cross Deanery participation and communication. Craig shared his vision of having an open meeting for the first hour with an invited speaker to help facilitate the Diocesan Mission Statement and the SDMT supported him in putting together a three year programme inviting various speakers on the topics of Worshipping God, Making New Disciples and Transforming Communities. The programme commenced in September 2011 and will end in 2014 with a Deanery-wide Mission.

Another new venture was started by SDMT member Vikki Bisker, who set up a Facebook group called RE-MAP (Resourcing & Equipping Mission Across Parishes). There are so many people across our local parishes that have great ideas, events and resources that can equip, encourage and inspire others to not only spread the Good News, but to also continue discipling others.

RE-MAP is one way that we will be able to share these resources in an easily accessible, user-friendly manner across a wider network whilst also encouraging discussions and connecting people across parishes.

We share a passion to see lives changed and communities transformed, so let's 'encourage one another and build each other up' so that more people come to know the Living God (1 Thessalonians 5 v11).

RE-MAP is a closed group which means membership is by request and therefore monitored. If you want to be part of this exciting initiative please contact me for further details.

Jill Parker - St James SDMT Representative.

Combined Churches

The four Southam churches – Our Lady & St Wulstan RC Church, Wood Street Congregational Church, Southam Community Church and St James Parish Church – meet quarterly, usually represented by Father Bernard Garrett, Roy Buchanan, Pete Walley, Rev. John Armstrong, Shirley Rush (the secretary), Jan Ford and Jen Burgess. As mentioned in last year's report, more lay members would be welcome to bring new ideas.

Each church has its own extensive programme during the year and occasional combined events provide additional fellowship with other Christians within our community.

The first joint event of the year was appropriately during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Roman Catholic congregation invited members of the other three churches to join them to celebrate their feast day at the Mass of St. Wulstan in January with refreshments following the service. A good number of members of St. James Church and the Congregational Church attended.

The Congregational Church offered their lounge once again as a venue for the Lent Course. We followed this year's York Course, entitled "Rich Inheritance – Jesus' Legacy of Love" and comprising four sessions, each on a Monday evening. This course was intentionally about outreach for churches – to come together to learn, then to go out to share – and it was well-attended.

The Good Friday Walk of Witness (instigated some thirty years ago by the Community Church and later adopted by the Combined Churches) was a reminder to the town of the significance of Easter, and attracted a number of passers-by – including some youngsters – to join the short service in the library grounds. Refreshments were provided at the end at the Congregational Church.

After some debate, it was decided that the Combined Christmas card, including details of all the Christmas services, would not be sent out this year. For several years this had been printed and delivered by the District Express to most Southam households and been well received. Unfortunately the eldership of the Community Church questioned the purpose, cost and effectiveness of the card and decided not to participate. As a "united front" would not have been presented if only three churches were named, the card was cancelled for this year.

The Combined Churches nativity scene, made by Cyril Goodwin and painted by Julie Hum and Brenda Goodwin about ten years ago, was erected in the Library Grounds for the Christmas season (this year by folk at St James), more or less coinciding with the Christmas lights switch on. It was noted that some repainting is needed before its next outing!

The Advent talks, hosted by the Catholic Church, were an opportunity to enjoy a reflective half hour in friendly company.

Although the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible was discussed, no ideas were forthcoming for a combined event to mark the occasion.

The committee is always keen to receive suggestions for further combined events and will be pleased to hear from you!

Jan Ford and John Armstrong

St James School

Southam St. James Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School is situated in Tollgate Road. Although the school has undergone some challenges in recent years we are delighted that stability has not only returned under the

strong leadership of Mrs Wankling, Headteacher, and her staff, but children's performance has noticeably improved in many areas. An OFSTED inspection is likely to take place soon – probably with very little notice – but we are confident that there will be much for the inspectors to praise.

One of our responsibilities as members of St. James Church is to pray for the children, staff and parents of St. James Primary School. Another way in which we can support the school – apart from by having children and sending them there! - is by standing as members of the governing body of the school. As it has a Church foundation we are responsible for providing approximately half of the membership of its 16-strong governing body. At the beginning of the year this included three parent governors, one local authority governor, three staff governors (including the Headteacher) and nine foundation governors, of whom two who, at the time of their appointment, should be eligible for election or appointment as parent governors.

How are the foundation governors appointed? At least seven are appointed by the Coventry Diocesan Board of Education in consultation with the PCC of St. James Church, Southam; at least one further foundation governor is similarly appointed in consultation with the PCC of All Saints, Ladbroke. Should this remain unfilled, it may be filled in consultation with the PCC of St. James Southam. With the office of Priest-in-Charge or Rector of St. James, Southam comes a foundation governor post.

Vacancies on the governing body inevitable arise from time to time – there are two at the moment. We need people who can commit themselves to working as part of an excellent team – people with expertise and people with a willingness to learn, but most of all, people with a heart for the children and a desire that they should have the best. I should like to thank all those who are, or have been, governors; their commitment, stamina and care is exemplary! Amongst those who have served with me as Foundation Governors to date have been: Vicki Armstrong, Dave Howell, Liz Bowen, Ralph Trollope, Richard Seago and David Baxter.

Many thanks to Richard and Ralph who have since left the governing body, Ralph after serving for many years in all sorts of ways.

Because our school is a Church school, it is bound to “preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level”. As a Christian school it aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. Especially as there is remarkable pressure about nowadays to sideline the Christian faith, please do pray for us – and indeed why not come along and visit the school or ask if there is anything you can do to contribute to its life?

John Armstrong

Mission

Mothers' Union

2011 was a good year for Mothers' Union for many reasons but mainly, we are pleased to report we enrolled three new members. It is particularly pleasing to welcome new members as it gives an indication that Mothers' Union is still a lively growing organisation that has much to offer.

We met as usual on the second Thursday of each month, averaging twenty-one of our membership in attendance at each meeting. We started the year as usual enjoying a new-year lunch at the White Hart in Ufton. Twice during the year we were lucky enough to welcome Brenda Moss as our guest speaker. She gave a most interesting talk on Hymns and Hymn writers in February and in November she spoke of Preparing for Advent. In March a friend of Margo Grant, Amy Barber, shared many of her thoughts on various topics including grandchildren, poetry writing, knitting and crochet.

Chris Cooke gave a Lent talk in April and in May we held our Deanery Festival. The outing this year in June was to Bridge Nursery where tea and cakes were sampled. Our customary strawberry tea was again held in July and the AGM in September when the Rev. Roy Brown, chaplain to Mothers' Union, conducted a service in church prior to the business meeting. At the October meeting we held a discussion on caring for each other in the community. A frank exchange of views ensued and hopefully some of our suggestions will come to fruition. The programme for the year ended in December with a carol service led by Chris Cooke, who conducted a service surmounting a few difficulties, a non-functioning sound system being the main handicap as no music could be played. Well done Chris!

Sadly we mourned the loss of three of our members during the year, Joan Smith, Sheila Paul and Iain Grant. Joan and Sheila were members for a very long time and greatly missed. As was Iain, our treasurer. Annie Lane stepped into the breach during Iain's illness. She was elected proper as Treasurer at the September AGM. Margo Grant again volunteered her services as leader. Members were represented at many Diocesan events, e.g. Lady Day service, carol service at Bilton, etc.

We were active in running a stall at the Christmas Fayre that raised in excess of £70. Mothers' Union hosted a Lent lunch. Later in the year some travelled to Edinburgh for the National AGM. Members still engage in Prison Visiting, Granny Wagon, Friday morning coffee activities, and many more. The Branch helped swell the £180,000 raised nationally for 'make a mother's day', an ethical gift appeal that supports Mothers' Union projects in the UK, Ireland and globally. Four gifts were purchased for the 'Angel Free' project. This project provides gifts for children of prisoners at HMP Rye Hill. Members generously make donations and often this is the only way fathers can send a gift to their children.

We hope to continue supporting all these projects again in the future. Our aim is to keep expanding membership and hold more evening meetings to involve those who are not able to attend in an afternoon to join in. Chris Cooke or Margo Grant have details. You do not have to be a mother to join and

gentlemen are welcomed. If you wish to just support a project we will be pleased to hear from you.

Averil Brown - Mothers' Union Secretary

International

Every Friday at 10.30 the church is open for coffee and cake followed by mid-day cross of nail prayers at 12.00. during this hour and a half we have many people dropping in for a chat and a laugh, sometimes we have visitors looking around the church or those who require a little peace and a prayer, it is so good that the church is open and that a willing team keep these mornings going.

We not only supply a service to the community but raise money for overseas projects that need our support, last year we raised a thousand pounds, we donated to Mary and John Holmes work in Kenya, we gave to Ministry Aviation Fellowship that fly people around in remote areas, we gave to a bombed church in Nigeria at Damaturu, to the Bethlehem School that has now extended and need two more teachers, and to Mothers Union Relief fund. In all we have had a very good year and thanks to all who help and support us, please drop in for coffee on a Friday!

Chris Cooke

Bees Abroad in Keyna

We would like to thank the congregation at St James and St Michael & All Angels Ufton for the support not only with financial gifts but also for their prayers over the past year. It has been a real encouragement and confirmation of the work we have been able to do with health, strength and many blessings.

Bees Abroad project leaders in the UK support their projects at long range throughout the year and try to make at least one in country visit personally to check on the progress and financial position of their groups. This year we were in the position to spend nearly five weeks in Kenya for training, support and future planning of the various groups. The projects we support are in the semi-arid areas and had experienced three years of drought which has now ended as we experienced unusually heavy rain which had the adverse effect on non-tarmac roads. One of our project visits had to be cancelled and other times we needed to keep a close eye on approaching storms that could even in a 4x4 prevent us from returning after field work out on the farms.

We had been aware that the drought in East Africa had a knock on effect on Bee keeping and honey production. In an effort to address their poverty, the residents are often involved in environmentally destructive activities such as cutting down trees to create space for cultivation of food crops and then burn the trees for charcoal for sale by the women giving an immediate income for the families and overgrazing of livestock in arid conditions locally necessitating men and being away for long periods moving the livestock long distances from home to find grazing for the animals.

This time in Kenya we wanted to encourage the groups with their beekeeping particularly the women and demonstrate that they could undertake sustainable

activities as well as gaining control over their income. We planned to develop their confidence in adding value to their honey and beeswax so creating desperately needed employment and income all the year round. The project members had been given training previously in harvesting techniques for honey and beeswax but then these products were sold immediately when harvested providing income only for a short time and without greater value and maybe not at the best price.

With the backing of Grace Asiko, Officer in charge at the National Beekeeping Station in Nairobi we formulated a programme to train members of our beekeeping projects in adding additional value to their hive harvest. Using the wealth of skills at the station not only in the making of the products using honey and beeswax but also their in-country knowledge of suitable available ingredients and containers and where these could be sourced. We were able to arrange for Winnie, the station trainer, to undertake training courses at the location of the projects allowing all members to attend and participate. The funding for this initiative was kindly donated by Nick & Julia Bion who have previously supported the work of Bees Abroad in Kenya.

Acknowledgement must be given to Volunteer David Njuguna, our Bees Abroad in-country Trainer, who has vast beekeeping knowledge and skills. He made many visits to all the groups during the year and his encouragement and instruction have been greatly appreciated. He also undertook all the practical arrangements and organisation for the added value training courses. He was also able to locate beeswax in sufficient quantities for the groups to make the cosmetics and candles.

Also with David's help we looked at other avenues to help these people to become more aware of in-country resources. Equity Bank in Kenya provides banking services to individuals and to small and medium business enterprises and is a fast growing indigenous microfinance institution Website: www.equitybank.co.ke. Here in the UK, BBC News December 13, 2011- Kenyan hopes to open up banking to the poor Supports customers dealing with all categories of farming to carry out various farming activities including purchase of farm inputs and equipment with access to discounted business improvement trainings and to advisory services. Other in-country resources to be used by our groups are the social services and Kenyan ministry agriculture extension officers

We now work closely with Desert Edge (www.biotrade.co.ke) which is based in Nanuki under the direction of Susie Wren. It was a privilege to spend some days looking at their facilities which include a laboratory for increasing the value of indigenous plant material and products also their honey house and then out on field visits to some of their beekeeping groups in the area of Lakepia and Samburu. Our two organisations have much in common in the desire to assist rural people benefit from beekeeping and adding value to hive products. We have in place plans to work together in the future sharing knowledge expertise and management in beekeeping businesses.

The Africa Inland Mission Church/Cheptebo Rural Development Centre(CRDC) www.cheptebordcentre.org was started in 1986 when the church recognised the spiritual as well as the physical needs of the people and a holistic approach was adopted. It is Christ centred as well as a learning place where the

community gets knowledge on the best farming practices. It is a 50 acre demonstration farm specialising in production in semi-arid areas. Farm activities include irrigated and dry land crop production, a livestock unit (dairy cattle and dairy goats) and a tree nursery). Cheptebo teaches farmers how to grow traditional and new crops on their land, but they also grow and sell tree seedlings and manage several livestock projects that help families own their own improved goats or cows. The centre is also used as a retreat centre for many churches schools and organisations.

We were privileged to join them as they celebrated 25 years since Bill Rettie arrived in Cheptebo to help fulfil a vision in an area considered to have a low potential. It is now recognised by the Kenyan government and the Ministry of Agriculture as a centre of excellence.

This is an ideal location to support the development of beekeeping which is seen as not only an economic activity that can reduce the high level of poverty in the Kerio Valley, but also an environmental conservation measure by introducing tree planting as part of the projects. Plans are now well in hand to develop training apiary with catcher boxes (small bait hives to attract swarms) already hung in a suitable place and baited to attract swarms. Discussion also took place to supply 4 KTB hives.

During our time at the centre Dave Bonner, who was with us, presented the farm manager Walter Rono and his staff with seven sets of used protective bee suits. These had been generously donated by the National Bee keeping Unit in the UK and will be extremely useful as a resource when the training apiary is up and running. Walter has recently attended a course on beekeeping at the National beekeeping station in Nairobi.

We ran a two day course on adding value to hive products attended by 30 people from the centre and locality. There is a shop located in the grounds so the aim is to have products available for sale in the future.

The Sinyati Women's group project is typical of the work of Bees Abroad in that because of its remoteness it would not receive help easily from other organisations. We are prepared to help a group like this who respond so positively from training and encouragement that they have moved forward so much since our last visit with the interim training they have received from David's visits and participating in the added value training courses.

The recent heavy rains made for difficult conditions on the mud/stone tracks and took two hours from our accommodation to reach their village so it was an encouragement to find the group has continued to make progress. They had made Sinyati a-maizing bee suit from maize sacks for sale and had already started making and successfully selling body cream following the value addition training- the beginnings of a prosperous small enterprise. They are very keen to share their skills by encouraging more women in the community to do beekeeping showing them that beekeeping can be women friendly by having KTB hives and protective clothing at affordable prices enabling them to harvest their own honey without involving help from the men.

The one low spot during this past year was the raid by the notorious Pokot tribe who put the fear in everyone by spraying the village with bullets and then

without resistance stole their 40 milking goats. We spent time sheltering under the trees and demonstrated other products they could make and consider other plans for the future. We discussed how beekeeping was a safer option for income generation than goats as the warriors would not be interested in stealing their hives.

This group is always very colourful in that they wear their traditional red costumes at our meetings and on this visit we were both humbled to receive beautifully handmade Maasai clothing which we really do treasure.

Following further exceptionally overnight rain it was not possible to make the journey to the group next day so the programme was rearranged and one final day was spent visiting the groups fields where they had planted beans which they bought from a small amount of aid sent out from St James following the loss of their goats. They have used this money not only for themselves but also for their community to fulfil their policy of giving 10% of their income to those in need.

We also needed to identify and make plans for a new training/group site. The current hives are situated very close to the dirt road and people were being stung as they passed by when practical beekeeping was undertaken.

We were very impressed with the way this group worked not only for themselves but also for their community and encouraged them to apply for an award from the Seed Initiative.

The SEED Initiative (www.seedinit.org) is a global partnership for action on sustainable development and the green economy. SEED supports innovative around the globe which integrate social and environmental benefits into their business model. The goal of SEED is to support the ability of such entrepreneurs to scale up or replicate their activities. This furthers their contribution to their local economies and communities while promoting sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems and reducing poverty, marginalisation and exclusion. Sinyati women's group did very well being one of 82 short listed projects.

The International Campaigner Award is for campaigners outside the UK working to achieve social or environmental justice in their home countries and was won by Caroline Lentupuru from the Sinyati project (<http://www.smk.org.uk/international-award-2011>).

Caroline is campaigning in villages and schools in her local area to ensure that young girls aged between twelve and 16 are not forced to undergo female genital mutilation and into early marriage which also leads to them dropping out of school. She wants young girls to be able to continue with their education and become more self-reliant, which in turn will lead to her minority indigenous community becoming educated and free from poverty.

Between November 23 and December 5 2011 Caroline came to the UK to receive her award, attend skills building training and other meetings in London. She had the opportunity to meet two MPs influential regarding overseas development and was able to discuss and stress the importance of UK aid being more effective

when provided to smaller efficient grass route organisation in developing countries.

We arrived back from Kenya on December 3 and were thrilled to be able to arrange for Caroline to extend her stay and visit us for a couple of days here in Warwickshire. She wished to personally thanks the congregation at St James for their support to her people.

Our time in Kenya was so worthwhile.

Praise God – John and Mary Home

Farmers' Market Prayer Stall

In May 2012 we shall celebrate our fourth anniversary as honorary farmers!

Convinced of God's call for us as a church to be "out there" in the community rather than expecting the community to come to us, we set up stall in the grounds of Southam library on the morning of Saturday 12 April 2008 to coincide with the Farmers' Market, offering to pray in the name of Jesus for anyone, whether for healing or any other need.

Not only did we engage in conversation with numbers of people but on that very same day we were also invited by the stall-holders on the Farmers' Market to come and join them the following month! Ever since then a small group of us has been part of the market on almost every occasion, in sunshine and rain, banners declaring we are from St. James and that we offer prayer for healing.

The farmers very much appreciate us being there; they know we pray for them and tell us that it really does make a difference when we have to leave – or if we have been unable to come. We – and they – have also seen with our own eyes some amazing answers to prayer including a string of physical healings. Now that we are an established part of the market we find that people seek us out and come and ask for prayer for themselves or for others – or come back and tell us what has happened. It's also a great opportunity to chat to people who pass by – and we even end up as relief stallholders should the need arise!

This of course is only one example of what we as Christians *can* do, but a few of us *are* doing it and the work is bearing fruit. We could do with expanding the team. Would you like to consider joining us? No previous experience necessary, on the job training provided; it's an opportunity to make a difference with God.

We ask: Stressed? Worried? Lost? Bereaved? Lonely? Sick? Afraid? May we pray for you?

We are also asking: Will you come and join in?

John (and Vicki) Armstrong

Christmas Fayre

We held the Christmas Fayre in church on Saturday 3 December, the first one since 2008.

Stalls included: Books – new and second hand, Bottle tombola, Bric-a-brac, Cakes, Children's games, Hamper raffle, Handicrafts and gifts, Jigsaws and videos, and very yummy Refreshments.

When we opened at 10.00am there were very few buyers around but gradually numbers increased and the morning turned out a great success raising £1,246.65 towards church funds.

The 2012 Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 1 December – please make a note of the date in your diary.

Food for thought – is there any support for a Summer Fete in 2012? Please let me know.

Ruth Tresidder ☎ 813524

Other

Men's Curry Club

The group continues to be a great opportunity for male members of the congregation, those who are new to the church and other friends from within the community to get to know each other.

This group, together with the men's breakfast, provides space, outside the 'church environment' to get to know other men, enjoy each other's company and provide fellowship. We continue to meet every 2nd Thursday in the month in 'The Balti Hut' at 8pm, averaging around ten attendees.

A special word of thanks goes to Richard Hewitt who has been organising the event since its inception some two years ago but who has now stood down due to work commitments and passed the baton to Nick Powell. Many thanks, Nick.

All men are very welcome to join us for an evening of good company, lively conversation and a great curry and as we look forward to the new year we pray that this group will continue to flourish.

If you would like further information please contact Nick Powell on 815965

Men's Breakfast

I have only been involved with the Men's Breakfasts for the last five years or so, but according to a letter that John Rice passed on to me when he moved to Hereford, the first meeting took place on the 26 February 2000 at the Stoneythorpe Hotel and the talk was given by a good friend of mine, Steve Clarke who was then Associate Director of CORD.

Since then we have had a few venue changes. When the Stoneythorpe became too expensive we moved to EFE's on the High Street in March 2009 which, whilst not having the same comforts as the Stoneythorpe at least meant that we did not have to move to a different room to hear our guest speaker. However in the September they asked us to move to the later time of 9.00am, which did not suit at all, so back we went to the Stoneythorpe, only to find that after just one event it had been sold and could no longer accommodate us!

Undaunted we found a new location – the Village Hall in Ufton - not as convenient as Southam admittedly, but it was warm and bright and could easily accommodate us in style. Another friend, Nigel Briggs said he would come along and do the cooking for us to see if the new arrangement would prove a "runner" and it certainly did – so much so that even though other commitments meant that Nigel had to move on after a while, we are delighted that Roger Lane is now firmly in place as our own, first-class chef! In addition since we now run the show ourselves any profit we make can be given to worthwhile causes.

We try to make the topics as varied and interesting as possible and in 2011 we heard speakers from Practical Action, Barry and Jill Parker's He*Brews Coffee Project and youth work, Traidcraft, Siloam Christian Ministries, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Myton Hospice, our own John Home on Bees Abroad, and finally in

November Rev.. Alistair Kirk who talked not only about his work as Chaplain at Warwick University, but also his new role as Diocesan Inter-Faith Adviser.

Attendances varied between 11 and 21 during the year, but even with those fluctuating numbers we were still able to donate £178 to St Michael & All Angels in Ufton, thereby helping to ensure the church will be able to continue for at least one more year and a further £117 was sent to 5 local charities.

We meet at 8.30am, usually on the last Saturday in each month and aim to get everyone away by 9.45am and already the 2012 programme is well advanced. If you haven't availed yourself of the opportunity to enjoy good company, an interesting speaker, a "Full English" and all for just £5 then why not get in touch with me on 01926 612986 or ian@account-able.co.uk?

Ian Crowther