

Basingstoke Team Parish

All

Saints'

Church



Annual Reports 2011

All Saints Church, Basingstoke

www.allsaintsbasingstoke.org.uk

Revd Rosalind Rutherford

45 Beaconsfield Road

Basingstoke, RG21 3DG

01256 464616

e-mail: vicar@allsaintsbasingstoke.org.uk

This booklet contains a number of reports about the life of All Saints' over the year. They were invited by Revd Rosalind Rutherford and are a mixture of "statutory" and less formal reports. Our apologies if you have written a report and it did not reach us in time to be included. We hope that you will have a chance to read the reports before the Annual Church Meeting on 27th March 2011. Please bring any questions, or queries with you.

CONTENTS

page

page

Formal

- 1. Agenda
- 2. Minutes of 2010 ACM
- 6. Electoral Roll Report
- 7. Treasurer's Report
- 9. DCC Report
- 12. Churchwarden's Report
- 14. Stewardship Report
- 17. Team Vicar's Report

Maintenance of Building and Services

- 21. Servers' Report
- 22. The Friends of All Saints'
- 23. Organist/Choir Report
- 24. Cleaners' Report
- 25. Flower Arrangers
- 26. Bell ringers Report

Outreach and Nurture

- 27. "Come Fourth" Eucharist
- 28. Magazine & Website
- 29. Safeguarding
- 30. "Stillness on Sunday"
- 30. Homegroups Report
- 31 Bridge Group
- 32 Social & Fundraising Group
- 33. Church Hall
- 33. Church Garden
- 34. Marriage Preparation
- 34. 'Open Church' Report
- 35. "Small Saints"
- 35. Baptism Preparation
- 36. St John's School Report

Reports from our affiliated uniformed organisations have been omitted from this web version in the interests of Child Protection and Safeguarding

ALL SAINTS' ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 27th March 2011 at 11.20am (approx)

The Annual Meeting will follow the 10.00am eucharist after a break of about 20 mins for setting up, coffee etc

The meeting will include an opportunity to ask about the reports in this booklet, or any other aspect of the life of All Saints'.

Agenda

- 1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence.
- 2 Minutes of 18th April 2010 Annual Church Meeting.
- 3 Matters arising.
- 4 Treasurer's Report.
- 5 Presentation of the 2010 accounts.
- 6 Electoral Roll Report
- 7 Report on the work of All Saints DCC.
- 8 Church Wardens' Report
- 9 Reports from Organisations etc
- 10 Other questions (please notify in advance)
- 11 Presentation - An accessible toilet
 - a) How can a toilet and a kitchen fit into All Saints?
 - b) How can we pay for it?
- 12 Elections and Nominations
 - Churchwardens
 - Deanery Synod Members
 - Parochial Church Council Members
 - District Church Council Members
 - Sidespeople
- 13 Thanks and the Future
- 14 Any other business
- 15 Prayer

Andy Macqueen, DCC Secretary
secretary@allsaintsbasingstoke.org.uk

All Saints' Church

in the Team Parish of Basingstoke

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING held on SUNDAY 18th APRIL 2010 after the SUNG EUCHARIST

- 1 **Welcome** from David Taylor, Vice-chairman of the DCC at 11.33, who explained that Revd Rosalind Rutherford had been delayed in Spain on return from holiday following the eruption of Eyjafjallajokull. He proposed that he chair the Meeting - all in favour.

23 recorded attendees. Apologies received from George & Brenda Turner, Brian & Eileen Spicer, Rob & Rosalind Rutherford, Gemma Ekins, Robin Muirhead, Joan Fawcett, Dennis & Dorothy Freeman, Betty Forrest, Graham & Chris Osborne

- 2 **Minutes of 2009 Annual Church Meeting**

Philippa Jones proposed that they be accepted as a true record with no amendments; seconded by John Pearce, all in favour.

- 3 **Matters Arising**

None

- 4&5 **Treasurer's Report
& Presentation of the 2009 accounts**

Previously published and received by the Meeting. Graham Osborne (Treasurer) was unable to be present, but had agreed to take any questions at the Team APCM.

Lilian Bambury proposed that the accounts be accepted and forwarded to the APCM; seconded by Eve Vincent, all in favour.

6 Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll updated received by the Meeting, standing at 112 with 3 new members and 14 removed during the year. To be forwarded to the APCM.

7 Report on the work of All Saints DCC

Previously published and received by the Meeting. No further questions

8 Churchwardens Report

Previously published and received by the Meeting. No further questions.

9 CRB & ISA update

New legislation following the creation of the Independent Safeguarding Authority will require review of existing DCC Policies. David Hubbard can answer any questions.

10 Reports from Organisations etc

Previously published and received by the Meeting. No further questions.

11 Other questions

None notified.

12 Presentations

Brief presentations were given regarding three current initiatives:

Buildings Group (*Andrew Lane*) A phased approach to the redevelopment plans is intended. Phase One, the creation of an accessible toilet and refreshment point in the North porch, is estimated at c.£25,000. Our architects are due to produce detailed drawings and it is possible to envisage the work being complete by the next Annual Meeting.

Ministry of Prayer (*Andy Macqueen*) "The church is the only society on earth which exists for the benefit of non-members". A distinctive mark of the local Church is that it prays - because we

believe that prayer makes a difference. All Saints people will be sharing in praying for our neighbours; a monthly prayer cycle booklet will be launched shortly.

Fourth Sunday Worship (*Pat Palmer*) There is a prevalent feeling that All Saints does not do much for children. We need to look at adapting our worship once a month so that children and families are more likely to feel comfortable. The service will continue to be eucharistic and the new pattern is likely to start on Sunday 23rd May. We need a catchy and distinctive name! The planning group is well aware that there is a wide range of expectations to be met.

There followed 15 minutes circulation time as members discussed the various proposals with the presenters.

13 **Elections and Nominations**

Nominations to be forwarded for election at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting are:

Churchwardens (2) Eve Vincent and Rhian Lane

Deanery Synod (0) (Graham Osborne continues for another year)

PCC (4) David Taylor Martin Boulton
Allan Palmer David Hubbard

DCC (5) Andrew Lynn Reg Clarke
Brenda Turner Andy Macqueen
Chris Ewing

Kerry Barker had also agreed to stand for the DCC. The acting Chairman suggested that the DCC could co-opt her at its first meeting.

Sideperson list: nominated en bloc:

Dorothy & Dennis Freeman	Jean Duke & Andrew Lynn
Joan Howes & Ruth Vaughan	Lilian Bambury & Sylvia Pearce
June Cude & Verina O'Carroll	Ernest & Miriam Whitehead
Sonia Bullough & Reg Clark	Diana Taylor & Phillipa Jones
Andrew Lane & Jean Underwood	

13 **Thanks and the Future**

The acting Chairman paid general thanks to all those involved in the running of All Saints. The Body of Christ (Eph. 4:16) can only function if all play their part. Particular thanks to Elizabeth George for her continuing ministry, despite being (allegedly) retired. Grateful thanks to Sonia Bullough, leaving Basingstoke in May to be nearer her family - former Churchwarden, DCC member, sidesperson, also dedicated gardener and cleaner. Thanks to Philippa Jones standing down from the DCC and intending to continue her contribution with the Social Committee.

Coming up, the big event is Pat Palmer's ordination in July for which our prayers are asked. We must thankfully acknowledge Rosalind's support through Pat's training. All Saints has several new initiatives in the pipeline; all of us have a role to play in future solutions for the future of our Church. They cannot just be imposed.

14 **Any other business**

- David Hubbard announced the 'Beating of the Bounds' taking place on 8th May.
- Acting Chairman reminded meeting of the formal Team APCM on 26th April.
- Eve Vincent expressed the thanks of the meeting to David Taylor for stepping in to chair the ACM at short notice.

15 **Meeting closed** with prayer at 12.37.

The new DCC met briefly after the ACM to appoint its Officers:

Vice-Chairman: David Taylor

Proposed: Andy Macqueen

Seconded: Rhian Lane

Treasurer: Graham Osborne

Proposed: Martin Boulton

Seconded: Andrew Lynn

Secretary: Andy Macqueen

Proposed: David Hubbard

Seconded: Chris Ewing

These appointments would be ratified at the first DCC meeting.

It was agreed that the dates for first meeting of Standing Committee and DCC would be confirmed on Rosalind's return.

Signed.....

Date

A few numbers....

Each year, we have to submit statistics to the diocese. Below is a selection of these figures which give one way of looking at the last year

Average attendance:	2010	2009
Sunday 8.00am	7	7
Sunday 10.00am	55	65
Thursday 10.00am	16	15
Stillness on Sunday	3(min) to 11 (max)	
Small Saints	4 children/ 5 adults (min) 13 children/14 adults (max)	
Baptisms	18	23
Thanksgiving	2	2
Marriages	8	15
Funerals	42 (3 in church)	41 (5 in church)

The **Electoral Roll Report** for 2010-11 will be presented at the Annual Church Meeting

All Saints' Church Treasurer's Report - 2010 Accounts

"I'm afraid biblical charity is more than merely giving away that which we could afford to do without anyway."

C S Lewis

Herewith the Treasurer's report on the 2010 Annual Accounts for All Saints Church.

"THANK YOU."

Thank you - to all those who contributed to All Saints through the Stewardship Scheme, your giving increased by over £1,400 in 2010. The major increase in this amount occurred amongst those whose giving was not covered by the Gift Aid scheme but this, I think, reflects that some in the scheme no longer pay income tax resulting in a reduction in the tax we are able to claim on their giving. Nevertheless the tax we were able to recover also increased in 2010 but by only some £639.

Thank you to all those who regularly review their Stewardship giving and, where able to, increase what they give to All Saints. Thank you to all those of you who gave "one off" gift aided donations, which although slightly down this year, reflects that, apart from the appeal for a new lawn mower, there were no large sum appeals to fund particular projects in 2010. Thanks to all those who supported our special collections, mainly for other charities or external good causes. An additional £589 was raised this year, as well as an extra £290 received in general donations towards the work of All Saints.

Thanks to all those who supported the Fund Raising events. Thanks to those who worked to keep the Hall running for outside hirers, their efforts brought in just under an extra £1,000.

A special thanks to those five All Saints families who, through their Stewardship Giving, during the course of a year contribute over £10,500 plus Gift Aid, over a third of our total stewardship giving.

Thanks to the efforts and generosity of many who make up the family of All Saints our total income for 2010 increased by over £2,600, an increase of over 4%

Thanks to that increase we were able to pay an extra £1,000 in our Parish Share (£36,000 in 2009: £37,000 in 2010) although despite that increase we still fell short of meeting our full ministerial costs. We were also able to pay the extra £1000 in the cost of heating and lighting All Saints. A number of minor savings were also made but these were offset by a similar number of increased costs. Overall our expenditure for 2010 rose by £1,846 or 3.2%.

The Repair Fund Accounts show that a number of projects were carried out in 2010 although most of these were funded by various grants and donations. Thanks to a grant from the Friends of All Saints in respect of maintenance work carried out in 2009 the Repair Fund finished the year with a surplus of £250 over expenditure together with a further increase of some £230 in Repair Fund Investments.

Thanks to all these positive outcomes your Treasurer had a very peaceful December, free from the concerns and anxieties of previous years as to whether there would be enough money available to meet the end of year payments for Parish Share, Heating Oil and the Hall Insurance for the following year. This year there was - and my thanks for that as well.

Fortunately we have been able to start 2011 in a fairly strong position although our budgeted expenditure for the year is some £2000 more than the previous years expenditure. I appreciate that the year ahead is expected to be economically difficult but I am confident that with the commitment already shown by the members of All Saints we shall be able to go forward in faith to build up the work God is calling us to do in this part of the Basingstoke Team.

When you come to review your giving during the course of the coming year can I ask that you bear in mind that from April the amount of tax that All Saints can reclaim on your Gift Aided giving will reduce from 28p in the £ to 25p in the £.

THANK YOU.

Graham Osborne

All Saints' District Church Council Report to Annual Church Meeting

"The role of the DCC is to co-operate with the Incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. PCC [Powers] Measure 1956, adapted

Your District Church Council met for five full meetings and one extraordinary meeting since the last Annual Meeting. Average attendance at meetings was twelve, out of fifteen members. The Standing Committee, comprising Vicar, Churchwardens, Assistant Curate, Secretary and Treasurer, meets in the months with no full DCC meeting.

Membership 2010-11:

The Revd Rosalind Rutherford	<i>Team Vicar</i>
The Revd Pat Palmer	<i>Assistant Curate</i>
Rhian Lane, Eve Vincent	<i>Churchwardens</i>
Graham Osborne	<i>Representative to Deanery Synod & Treasurer</i>
David Hubbard, David Taylor, Allan Palmer, Martin Boulton	<i>Representatives to Team PCC</i>
Chris Ewing, Reg Clarke	<i>Members elected to DCC</i>
Andrew Lynn, Brenda Turner, Andy Macqueen (Secretary)	
Kerry Barker	<i>Co-opted member</i>

Much of the Council's business is reflected in the other reports from groups who focus on particular areas of the Church's life and witness. A summary of each meeting is published in the Magazine, whilst agendas, minutes and other DCC documents are publicly displayed in Church.

GOVERNANCE

We considered various formal matters concerned with the proper running of the Council and its relationships within the Team Parish and Deanery. The DCC reaffirmed our commitment to our Health and Safety and Child Protection Policies; we await further guidance from the Diocese concerning the operation of the new Vetting & Barring Scheme. We noted the terms of the Ministerial Agreement between Pat and Rosalind, and the new Common Tenure provisions which regulate our clergy Terms of Service. We were pleased to note Rosalind's election to the General Synod of the Church of England and approved the submission from All Saints to the Diocesan Vacancy in See Committee.

MISSION

The DCC was briefed on the summer Open Church mornings and welcomed the number of first-time visitors. The Bridge Group that plans our mission initiatives reported to us on its activities and we welcomed the installation of smart new notice boards for the Church. We endorsed plans for the new *Come Fourth* service planned with children in mind, and for reaching out to our friends and neighbours through the launch of the All Saints Prayer Cycle. At Christmas, we were able to organise a leaflet drop into about one third of the letter boxes in our district and to sponsor a Christmas poster at the New Street bus shelter. We were gratified to receive a Bronze award in the Diocesan environmental awards scheme.

NURTURE

Fundraising and several popular social activities continue and the ARCH pastoral support scheme is receiving a periodic review. The Parish went on a well-supported steam trip on the Watercress Line to Alton. Our Sunday Supplement sessions continue, aiming to develop confidence in sharing our faith. The DCC endorsed the introduction of an alternative hymn-book – *Sing Praise*.

FINANCE

The Treasurer reports to us regularly, reviewing the Church's financial position against our agreed budget set at the beginning of the year. Unfortunately, the new Parish Share allocation arrangements within the Deanery still give cause for concern. The DCC passed the necessary resolutions for the Team Parish to become a charity in its own right, as require by the Charity Commissioners. We reluctantly received notice that Graham intends to stand down as in April 2012 after thirty years as 'temporary' Treasurer.

PROPERTY

The DCC accepted the concept drawings for the enhanced refreshment and toilet facilities and agreed to forward them to the Diocesan Advisory committee for consideration. We recognise the fund-raising is now a critical part of the programme and a small group is working to prepare a plan for this. Minor maintenance works were carried out to the fabric of our buildings and the surrounding gardens, and more will be required in the year ahead. The Quinquennial Inspection is due in 2011. The clappers of the All Saints bells were renovated, funded by donations from the ringers. We noted that rental of our Hall was an important source of income and supported improved booking information on the website. We marked the retirement of Lillian Bambury after over twenty years as Hall Manager.

The DCC plays a vital part in setting a vision for the future of All Saints. Please prayerfully consider whether you, or someone you know, might be being called to share in the shaping of that vision, and offer for election at the Annual Church Meeting.

Andy Macqueen, DCC Secretary

Churchwardens' Report

upon the fabric, goods and ornaments (including the Terrier. Inventory and Logbook) of All Saints' Church and All Saints' Church Hall 2010-2011.

Quinquennial Inspection Report Items

Items for medium term consideration, raised in the 2006 Report : Broken manhole cover outside the Church Hall – This has been completed.

In 2011 we will be surveyed for the next Quinquennial Inspection Report which will no doubt raise other issues.

Electrics

The church electrical system continues to work well on the whole. As we have said for the last 5 years, a proper switchboard instead of using the fuse board to control the lights would be ideal; however funds are not available to fulfil this need.

Sound System

This has generally been in good working order. We now have, in the Lady Chapel, the same hearing loop as the main part of the Church.

Heating

The heating in the Lady Chapel continues to be a great asset to our worship in the Church. We did find ourselves in the Hall for the Carol Service this year as the boiler needed attention. Thank goodness we have the Hall otherwise this would have been one very cold service in the Church.

Notice Boards

The two Church notice boards are now installed. We have yet to get the Church Hall notice board revamped. Work is in hand to ensure this is carried out in the coming year.

Hall

The hall continues to be a great asset to the Church funds. Lilian Bambury has retired from managing the Hall Bookings after 20 years of dedicating her time to this mission and we thank her for her work over the years. We now have a diary on the Church website for the public to see for themselves if the hall is available for hire. We offer our thanks to Allan Palmer for setting this application up on the hall website.

Church Grounds

This year a party of volunteers brought down the church shed. The area has been cleared and has made this part of the grounds a lot cleaner. The gardening party have made great strides this year in ensuring the pipe work around the Church is clear of shrubbery. Always an ongoing task.

We have missed Sonia and all the work she did for the church in keeping the Memorial Gardens in good order.

Building Project

We will be launching this year the fundraising for the money to install an accessible toilet and refreshment bar in the Church in the area where the present kitchen is sited.

A Vote of Thanks

As always the Church Wardens cannot carry out their duties without the support and help of the many who contribute their time and energy to the life of All Saints. Thank you everyone from Rhian and myself.

Eve Boulton

Stewardship Report 2010

Thank you for your contribution this year, it really does make a difference.

Positives this year:-

- All commitments pledged through the Giving in Grace Campaign, that ran mid-2009, have now had a full year to run and All Saints has seen a welcome growth in stewardship income this year (over £2,000)
- Most families in the congregation continue to give regularly as part of the planned stewardship scheme (30 by standing order, 37 by envelope)
- People continue to be transferring to standing order to make regular giving simpler and more predictable
- Gift Aid declarations have been made by the majority of eligible givers - providing valuable increased income (nearly £9,000)
- The All Saints congregation continues to demonstrate great unity and faithful commitment

Areas for reflection:-

- Ways of increasing congregation size and diversity
- Ways to generate income streams to help ensure All Saints meets its Parish Share
- Ad-hoc tax efficient giving during regular, additional and seasonal services
- Levels of giving – our planned giving ranges from less than 50p a week to over £20 a week, the positive trend has been upward this year
- Proportionate giving to help fairly share the stewardship burden; where each member of the congregation gives the same percentage of their means. Try a penny for every pound!
- Regular stewardship giving – we encourage those who have pledged to give, to maintain their giving throughout the year, perhaps switch to payment by standing order if this would help budgeting

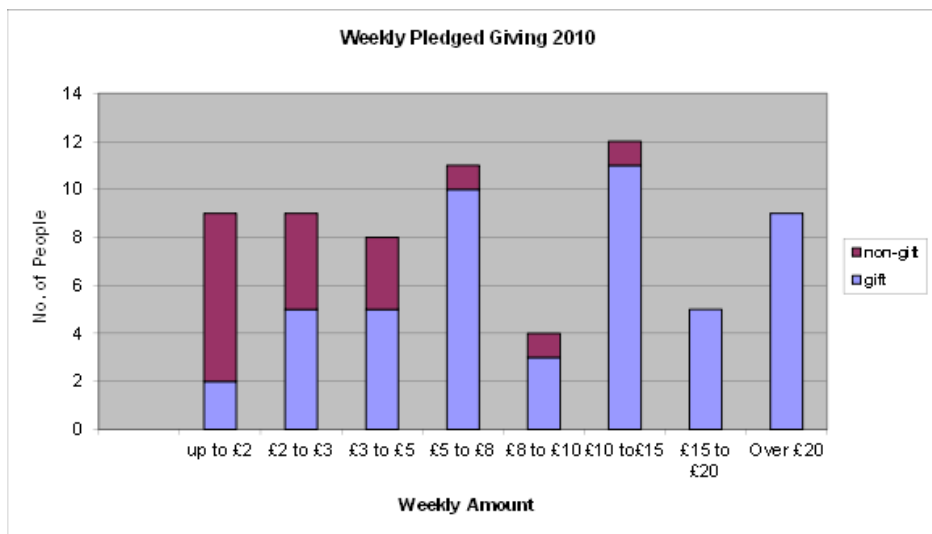
- Review – please regularly review your giving commitment and hopefully increase it where you have the means, collectively this will help All Saints meet its Parish Share

The attached charts and tables provide a more detailed look at stewardship giving. The trends are encouraging with small increases in congregation and income. If you have any questions please let us know and we will endeavour to answer them for you.

Please consider joining the Stewardship Scheme, switching to payment by standing order, completing a gift aid declaration if you are eligible for tax efficient giving and continue to review your contribution throughout the coming year.

Thank You

Kerry & Daryl Barker



All Saints Church Christian Stewardship

	Non Gift Aid	Gift Aid	Total Giving
People using weekly or monthly envelope giving	14	23	37
People giving by standing order	3	27	30
Total number of 'planned givers'	17	50	67

Three Year Trend Analysis:

	2008	2009	2010	
Q1 gift aid claim	£1,638.49	£1,892.57	£2,339.28	
Q2 gift aid claim	£1,891.62	£1,900.61	£2,192.25	
Q3 gift aid claim	£2,912.60	£2,228.86	£2,286.94	
Q4 gift aid claim	£2,052.63	£2,395.57	£2,120.65	
Total gift aid tax refunded	£8,495.34	£8,417.61	£8,939.12	
Gift Giving	£30,119.84	£29,844.25	£31,693.24	
Non Gift Giving	£2,240.94	£3,170.51	£3,119.46	
Total Stewardship income	£40,856.12	£41,432.37	£43,751.82	
All Saints Givers	Gift Aid givers	46	47	50
	Non Gift Aid givers	15	17	17
	Planned givers	61	64	67

Team Vicar's Report 2010-11

2010 is a year that began and ended with snow, ice and freezing temperatures - very noticeable in our beautiful, but never warm, church. Attendance dropped in these weeks for the very sensible reasons that a lot of roads were dangerous to walk and drive on, but as always, the community of All Saints did its best to make sure that everyone was secure and had what was needed; and the worship and services continued. I think everyone was relieved that we had a relatively new boiler, and noticed the effect of the electric heaters in the Lady Chapel. However, the pipework is also old, and a leak developed 10 days before Christmas which meant the boiler had to be turned off and we had had to hold the carol service in the church hall. Thanks are due to all those who moved furniture, books and the advent wreath from church to hall through snow, to those whose skills transformed the hall (once again) into a place of worship and to Andrew Lane who stood outside the Church in below freezing temperatures for half an hour to make sure no one came to the carol service and then left without realising where the service was being held. Thanks are also due to Andy Macqueen for persuading heating engineers to come and work in freezing temperatures in the week before Christmas in order to replace the corroded pipe so that we could use the Church for the Christmas services.

As always, maintaining the building takes time and commitment, which is offered by members of All Saints unstintingly. Working parties during the year have kept the gardens tidy and worked particularly on the shrubs around the church, making sure that they don't get in the way of drains, and we have also tried to plan "cleaning days" inside Church. However, what is noticeable is that much of the regular work of keeping the church clean and welcoming is being done by an increasingly small group of volunteers. Please think if you could help with any of the jobs which are highlighted in the separate reports as needing more volunteers, or if you can't help, whether you can think of anyone else who might if they were asked.

Although maintaining the building takes time and energy, we all know that it is our worship and our service which is at the heart of

our life together. The past year has seen the development of greater variety in our 10.00 Sunday worship, with the introduction of a monthly service (Come Fourth) planned with children and their families in mind, though we hope that it is also valued by other members of the congregation. We are also pleased that Ben has succeeded in persuading singers who are not able to sing very week, to come once a month (usually the third Sunday) to enhance the musical element of our worship. However, it has also been noticeable that the average attendance on Sunday mornings has fallen over the last few years, particularly in the last year. Numbers by themselves do not give much information: some of the fall is caused by regular members moving away, and others coming less regularly. Nor are numbers at a particular service necessarily anything to do with the health of a church or the quality of its fellowship and worship. One question we may need to look at is why those who come for one or two Sundays don't become more regular attenders. Of course, our task is to worship God and be there for others - but as can be seen from the number of reports which speak of one or two faithful volunteers and the need for more help, this is an issue which we need to take seriously.

The Sunday 8.00am Eucharist and the Thursday mid-week communion both maintain faithful congregations, and numbers have not dropped in the same way. Similarly, "Small Saints" has a regular group of families coming monthly, most of whom do not come to other services. Attendance at Small Saints varies from between 5 and 12 children, and the same number of adults. We hope that "Come Fourth" will begin to encourage some families to try Sunday mornings that week of the month. "Stillness on Sunday" also fulfils a need for those who value being still together in the presence of God. However, the occasional weeknight services do not get a high attendance, even when they are significant festivals such as Maundy Thursday.

One of the emphases of the past year has been to continue develop our welcome and what we offer to children and families. "Come Fourth" was one response to this need, and on the other Sundays we now have volunteers who will take any children old enough into the

Lady Chapel to read a story or similar during the sermon and intercessions. However, attendance is not consistent, so it is very difficult to develop anything more at the moment. I remain concerned that we do not offer anything specific for older children, whether regularly or as a "one-off".

Last year (2010) saw a drop in the number of weddings to 8, but 2011 has 19 booked at the moment. It is not possible to say which of these figures is nearer the "average", or whether numbers will continue to be unpredictable from year to year. What we are noticing, however, is that more and more couples are getting married when they have been together for some time and already have children of their own, which is posing a challenge to the sort of preparation to offer, and also means that to welcome them to our worship we need above all good provision for children.

Welcome is not confined to Sunday mornings. In the past year, a real effort was made to keep the church open on Saturday mornings for at least 2 hours every week from May to mid-October. Once again, this was only possible because of the commitment of a few. There does seem to be a real desire on the part of many who would not come to a church service, to spend time in a building whose purpose is worship and prayer. The prayer board in the Lady Chapel is valued, especially when the church is open, and the requests on it are offered in prayer during the week. The challenge for us is how to respond to this perceived need, to provide space for those who want to come to church when it is empty, but also how to leave space and time to nurture ourselves and those who are beginning to enquire about faith.

One way in which we hope to make the church more welcoming is by installing an accessible toilet in the church where the kitchen currently is. This is a plan that has been talked about, and wished for more years than I know, but there are now real plans for this. More details will be given at the ACM, but we have workable plans and have been given a grant by the Parrett trust to begin the fund-raising. As always, the responsibility for raising the funds does not lie with the DCC or a committee but with each one of us, to help raise what is needed by giving directly or indirectly by helping to find sources of money. The

DCC also took the decision to make a donation to a "Toilet Twinning" charity. In recognition that however inconvenient we find it having to go to the hall, we are not trying to survive healthily with no sanitation at all.

There are other links with the community throughout the year. Each of us is part of the community and the links we make through our work and our friends are very important to the way our faith and our church are perceived. There are formal links with some of the local school, most notably St John's where All Saints has a presence on the governing body, and where I take regular assemblies and welcome the school into church to celebrate festivals and for RE. Rucstall also make regular contact with me for support in RE lessons and some church services. At Christmas we were glad to host the carol services for Fairfields (the St John's service took place at school because of icy paths), and also CBEC and Brighton Hill Community College. Pat is now developing links with King's Furlong Junior School. I am also asked to visit QMC occasionally, and give time to BCOT as chaplain for the staff through Basingstoke Town chaplaincy.

The past year has seen several days of celebration for All Saints. On the evening of July 3rd many of us were at Winchester cathedral, rejoicing with Pat Palmer as she was ordained priest by Bishop Michael, and then the next day Pat presided at the eucharist and we were all delighted that the Rev Simon Cade, who had played a large part in her journey to this point, preached the sermon. I'm sure that we are all glad to have Pat sharing leadership of our worship as an ordained priest. Less than a week later, we were back in All Saints for another celebration - this time the marriage of our church warden, Eve, to Martin Boulton (PCC Secretary). The marriage took place within a eucharist, and the choir was in good voice while the bells rang both before and after. One sadness for us was the move of Sonia Bullough to Leicester to be nearer her family. We all recognised the wisdom of this move, but we miss Sonia and are hugely grateful for all she has done for All Saints over many years. Another person linked to All Saints whom we now see less is Colette Annesley-Gamester, but again for very good reasons as Colette began training for ordained ministry this autumn at Westcott House in Cambridge.

As I hope this report has made clear, there are many people who have all played a huge part in enabling everything described in this annual report to happen. I would like to mention two particularly - the first is the Rev Elizabeth George whose ministry is valued hugely by members of All Saints and also the many people who she meets through taking funerals and her pastoral ministry. This year I would also like to give particular thanks to Lilian Bambury who has managed the hall for many years. This is a responsible and time-consuming job but Lilian has done it with total commitment . She decided at the start of 2011 that the time had come to let someone else pick up this responsibility, but we must all give a huge thank you to Lilian for the many years she has given to this.

To single out any others by name is impossible - so many people give their time, and skills unstintingly to enable All Saints to continue to offer a place of sanctuary, of refreshment and inspiration in this town. Our task in the coming year is to seek out ways of continuing to do this in ways that respond to the needs of those who are not members - yet.

Rosalind

SERVERS REPORT

A small dedicated band of people support this essential part of the worship at All Saints. Our numbers are currently at a bare minimum, so we are definitely looking out for new people to join us.

My thanks go to John, Allan and Graham for their support, and to Jean for helping out at short notice on some occasions.

Would you like to find out more, or see if being a server would be right for you ? If so, please ask any member of the serving team.

David Taylor

Friends of All Saints' Church, Basingstoke

reg. charity no. 10076500

The Friends of All Saints Church has been established since 1999, and it exists to support the upkeep of the fabric of the church. As a registered charity it provides an ideal way for monies to be left to All Saints via legacies.

At the present time our membership totals 38 members and we are grateful for their support. New members are always welcomed, the annual membership fees and legacies are our only source of income.

The Friends have been building up their funds over this last year, and they were able to provide funds for replacing the broken parts of the hall lighting. Cleaning of the High Altar and Lady Chapel carpets was arranged, for which we were not charged as the removal of candle wax did not prove successful. It is hoped that funds will be able to support some of the costs for works that arise from the upcoming quinquennial inspection.

The Executive has arranged a series of church cleaning days in the past year, in preparation for All Saints day, Christmas and Easter, and supported garden tidying days. Once again, instead of supporting Heritage Open Day, a series of church open mornings have been organised to coincide with bell ringing peals.

This year, the Friends will hold their AGM on Sunday 19th June 2011, after the 10am service, with a shared lunch to follow. Our guest preacher at the 10am service will be Roger Marley, sometime Reader at All Saints who is now a Reader at St Peter With St Paul, Bournemouth.

A Memory Evening is planned for 8th October, Revd Elizabeth George has expressed an interest in being involved.

David Taylor, Chairman

Report by the Organist and Choirmaster

During the last year the choir has continued to lead the singing at our regular 10.00 am Eucharist on Sundays, and for an assortment of additional services on major feasts and other occasions.

We said goodbye to Shirley Bullion early in 2010; this has brought the number of core members of the choir down to just seven. The last year has also seen the introduction of a "family friendly" service on a monthly basis, demanding some music of a more contemporary nature. As a result of these changes I have given consideration to the future of the choir and choral music at All Saints, which is valued by many as part of our rich tradition.

In previous years extra voices have augmented the choir to enhance the festivities at Christmas for both the Carol Service and Midnight Mass. Based on the idea that there are some talented singers who are supporters of All Saints, a similar invitation was issued for those singers to support Pat's first Mass as celebrant back in the summer. This was a great success and, following on from this, I have introduced the concept of a Choral Sunday on a roughly once-a-month basis, usually on the third Sunday of the month. On these Sundays the choir have contributed a choral introit (usually unaccompanied) immediately before the entrance hymn, and an anthem following the communion hymn. The augmented choir also gives a more robust lead to the singing of hymns and the Mass setting, with the occasional descant added as a form of embellishment.

I have received much positive feedback on the Choral Sundays and remain hopeful that they will continue to be well supported. They have so far proved successful in three ways: (i) in providing a much-needed focus for the core members of the choir; (ii) in offering a regular opportunity for some talented singers (who, for various reasons, are unable to commit to the choir on a weekly basis), to contribute to our worship; and (iii) in maintaining the tradition of choral music at All Saints.

Christmas 2010 was, as always, a highlight of the year. The choir performed five pieces at the Carol Service, which, due to a breakdown with the church boiler, had to be held in the hall. One of these was also used for the anthem at Midnight Mass.

January 2011 saw the introduction of a new hymn book supplement, *Sing Praise*. This contains a broad selection of hymns and songs, including new words to familiar tunes, a few new tunes to familiar words, contemporary worship songs which have become popular in recent years, and some items from Taizé and Iona. The book has already proven useful in making a greater selection of material readily available, both for our “Come Fourth” services and on Sundays with a more traditional flavour.

As always I am extremely grateful to those who have given their time to support rehearsals and services throughout the last year. There has been much to be thankful for and I am greatly looking forward to the coming year.

Benjamin Constant

Cleaning

If you have noticed that the Church is not looking quite so well cared for these days, it is because Verena and I are the only two left on the cleaning rota since Sonia's departure last year.

We would be very grateful for any offers of help, even if these are only on an occasional basis. Rhian, Pauline and Eve sometimes help out in the school holidays and on the Summer Open Days and we usually manage a thorough clean when the Friends of All Saints have their working party; this all helps to lighten the load and we give them our thanks.

If you feel you can help, even if only once or twice a year, please give me a ring and make my day!

Chris Osborne

FLOWER ARRANGERS' REPORT

There were 2 major highlights in the floral calendar last year.

First, the St Michael's Flower Festival which was an important part of the Church's 500th Anniversary celebrations. Taking place in late June, the festival involved flower arrangers from many churches in the area and there were nearly 40 splendid displays for the public to admire over the 3 day weekend. The All Saints' display was sponsored by the Mothers' Union so the colours chosen were blue and gold to echo the colours of their standard. The whole experience was positive and enjoyable, old friends meeting up and a great sense of teamwork, all of us making the most of our creative skills to achieve a sense of thanksgiving and praise. The weekend was one of the hottest of 2010 but surprisingly most of the flowers survived until the end of the event.

A fortnight later, on 9th July, we were delighted to be able to arrange the Church flowers for Eve and Martin's Nuptial Mass, in shades of gold and cream - lovely warm, sunny colours which were reflected in the beautiful sunny weather that day. A small army of strong men were enlisted to take most of the flowers to the reception afterwards then eventually back to church for the congregation to enjoy on Sunday morning.

We have been very grateful to all those who have helped us on special occasions, whether by arranging flowers, bringing greenery, making decorations for pillars or window sills, sweeping up or making coffee to sustain us all - very important!

We were sad to say 'goodbye' to Sonia in May; she had looked after the Lady Chapel beautifully for many years. If anyone would like to 'adopt' that area of the Church, even now and again, it would be much appreciated.

We have continued to do flowers in memoriam or celebration when requested and are always happy to do so. Donations for flowers throughout the year have been much appreciated and mean that, at the very least, there are flowers at the High Altar each Sunday. Anyone interested in joining the flower arranging team, even occasionally, should have a word with Adrienne or Brenda.

Bell Ringers Report

Once again the last 12 months have been very busy for the ringers. The band currently stands at around 15 members, with additional supporters for practices and occasional Sundays. We have rung eight bells for all services (with one exception) this year, with method ringing becoming the norm rather than the exception. We have welcomed Angela Athawes as a member of the band, and Antonio Labagnara, who started learning towards the end of the year.

18 quarter peals were rung on the bells in 2010 and seven peals, including one of each to celebrate Martin and Eve's wedding, the peal being rung by six members of the Sunday Service band, a former member and one of our regular visitors. A proper local effort.

There has been some major maintenance on the bells this year. Over Holy Week, the clappers were removed from all nine bells, taken to White of Appleton, where they were replaced with clappers which were the correct size for each of the bells, and made easier to adjust for accurate striking. The difference has been fantastic with everyone agreeing the bells sound better and are much easier to ring well. The money was raised from tower funds and from donations from the ringers.

On a more social note, our major events this year were a New Year's outing to Hungerford and Marlborough, our annual meal during Holy Week, ringing for Evensong at Winchester Cathedral in May, a Summer outing to Pershore and Evesham, a farewell meal for Rev. James Croft, who had supported ringing at All Saints for a number of years, a Summer Barbeque, hosted by Angie and Ian Holmes, and our long weekend on Lundy, which most will have read about in the magazine. The year ended with ringing out the old year and ringing in the new.

Practices continue to be very busy and very varied in repertoire, as we draw in ringers from all round the local area. Every Monday evening still finishes in the traditional trip to "The Bounty" for post ringing

refreshment, where one of our worn out ropes now adorns the pub bell!

The officers for 2011 are;

Tower Captain: Adam Greenley
Deputy Tower Captain: Angela Athawes
Secretary: Benjamin Constant
Treasurer: Alison Smith
Steeple Keeper: Ian Holmes

Special thanks to Martin Boulton, who has stood down as an officer this year after around 13 years serving the tower - a well deserved rest!

Adam Greenley

“Come Fourth” Eucharist

In March last year the DCC decided to adapt our Sunday worship once a month to provide a service to which we could encourage families with young children to attend. It was agreed that the service should aim to be 50 minutes long, and at most 1 hour, and that it should take place on the 4th Sunday of the month.

Our first “Come Fourth” Eucharist was held on 23rd May. Although initially we alternated between the High and Nave altars, a review after the first few months thought that it worked better with the Nave Altar. One person commented that it made ‘the atmosphere more intimate’ and that with the choir closer to the congregation ‘It was easier to hear them and the quality of the sound was so much better’. The service combines a mixture of well known traditional hymns with more modern chorus based ones which are easier for children and those less familiar with church to pick up. A couple who attended recently with their young daughter for the first time commented that they had enjoyed the service, found the hymns chosen to be ‘uplifting’, and that their daughter had enjoyed having a tambourine which enabled her to join in.

Pat Palmer

All Saints' Church Magazine & Website

Looking back over the last 12 months of magazine production, some statistics for consideration. We produced two free magazines, Christmas and Mothering Sunday. Six of the editions had 36 pages and 6 had 32 pages (as well as the cover) so we have had a lot of articles each month to read.

In June the magazine price went up to 40p but based on the number of pages we produce this is very good value for money.

We have not had many advertisers to generate more money for the magazine - we have relied on and appreciated the donations we have received in order that we were able to produce colour covers. In this coming year we will have to use some black and white covers unless we receive more donations and/or advertising revenue. Maybe we could all try and see if any local business would like to use our pages to promote their services. We are always open to suggestions.

The front covers of the last twelve months have varied from promoting Fairtrade and Christian Aid to introducing the new Bishop of Basingstoke. The use of colour has certainly enhanced the magazine.

Our thanks go to Geoff for printing the magazine each month - the time he has spent doing this has been much appreciated by us all. And a big thank you to Oliver Dann for collating the issues. Many of you may know that Oliver has taken time out from this role - we have had to find volunteers each month to collate the magazine. If you would like to go on the rota to help with this task do please speak to Allan Palmer.

This year, the All Saints' website has included the practice times and peal attempt dates for those interested in our Bell ringing. The "Coming to All Saints for the first time" section, giving the new onlooker a Q & A on what to expect and/or see has been appreciated by several visitors. The Hall Availability calendar is now on-line, where you can see if a date/time is available should you wish to hire the Hall. We are endeavouring to keep the website up to date and timely. We are sure you will all agree it has come a long way in the few years since start up and it does give everyone a feel of what is happening in our part of the Parish.

Eve Boulton

Safeguarding or the CRB

At the moment the crystal ball is very cloudy. There are various rumours in the press which tell completely different stories. Some say that the whole Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) will disappear due to their unwieldy nature or to save money (depending on your political allegiance). The prophets of gloom are predicting that all CRB checks will stop or that the applicants will have to pay a large sum for their personal checks (at no cost to the government).

However what is certain is that the government has announced the "Freedom Bill", unfortunately at this time it is not clear which route this bill and final Act will follow.

However in this time of uncertainty the House of Bishops has issued "Safeguarding Guidelines Relating to Safer Recruitment". This guidance makes it clear that there will be an evolution (rather than a revolution) and that the Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks will continue. There are 4 key areas outlined.

- If you regularly work with children then you need a CRB check
- If you work occasionally with children you need a CRB check
- If you manage or work with vulnerable groups you need a CRB check
- If you are a visitor or involved in other pastoral work you need a CRB check
- If you have a leadership role or have responsibility for safeguarding you need a CRB check.

The HoFB have also produced a very useful checklist entitled "Safer Recruitment" which should alleviate some of the worries/ concerns about whether a CRB check is needed.

David Hubbard

Stillness on Sunday

Candles flicker, incense burns, meditative music plays and a small group gathers in a seemingly timeless, holy space where in the depths of silence God, the Ground Of Our Being is to be sought and encountered. Some are regulars, others just drop in occasionally, some are visitors from other churches who are seeking to encounter God and His healing touch, and yet others are visitors who have just dropped in as they pass, perhaps in search of peace or seeking God himself.

Breathe in the breath of life; the life and breath of God, let go and hand over all worries cares and regrets, know forgiveness and acceptance, know that you are welcome. Give thanks. Listen for the movement of the spirit as The Word is spoken and takes root within. Let God love you and rest a while enfolded. Allow the prayer that is the gift of the spirit arise within to move out and become a gift for the world. Allow God in his gentleness to change and shape you: fit for his purpose. Listen as He prompts and calls. 'Be still and Know...God' A huge Thank You to Andy for preparing the space, facilitating the Prayer and for the coffee and cake! And also to those who share in the community of prayer and the conversation.

Why not 'taste and see'? 7.30 pm on the second Sunday of the month.

Sandy

Homegroups Report

During the past year we have continued to run two regular homegroups - on Monday evenings (run by David Taylor) and on Thursday evenings (run by Rhian Lane), normally meeting once a month, but increasing to once a week during Lent. Also during Lent last year we had another group of people who wanted to meet only for the period of Lent. We continue to look at a variety of topics - Bible study, Christianity in a wider context, 'issues' etc. All are discussed in a lively fashion, often helped by coffee and biscuits and lubricated with laughter! Groups are open to anyone who would like to join in, just speak to one of the group leaders; you will be most welcome.

Rhian Lane

Bridge Group

The Bridge Outreach Group meets infrequently - once or twice a year to consider and co-ordinate the All Saints' outreach to the wider community. During 2010 we decided to support Basingstoke Street Pastors for our Lent appeal and we collected a good sum of money for them to support their work on the streets of the town during Friday and Saturday nights.

We continued our support for Christian Aid with collectors doing door-to-door collections during Christian Aid Week - with thanks to Dorothy Freeman and Eve Boulton for organising this; Dorothy for All Saints' and Eve for Basingstoke. Other support for Christian Aid was expressed through our response to the Haiti Earthquake Appeal.

Fairtrade Fortnight was supported with a Fairtrade stall and a Sunday Supplement and we also continue to support Fairtrade with stalls through the rest of the year and our use of Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar after the Sunday services.

The Community Fair in the summer was counted a success for its first year and ways of developing this link with our community groups have been considered.

For the coming year it has been decided to offer our support 'in kind' to Basingstoke Food4U - a new local charity which makes gifts of food parcels and cleaning materials to local people in times of hardship.

Rhian Lane

Annual Report from the Social and Fundraising Group March 2011

The total raised during 2010 was £2525.47, less costs of £208. This compares with £2500 raised in 2010.

This would not be possible without the generosity and support of those who attend our events, act as hosts, or give their time and talents. So thank you to all one and all. We said 'goodbye' to Sonia in May from the committee. She was replaced by David Hubbard. Thank you as well to Diana, Eve, Lilian and David for their ideas, hard work and creativity as committee members.

Through the early part of the year we held a series of themed, hot Sunday lunches. There were bingo sessions, quizzes and beetle drives. New for last year was the community fun day, held outside on a windy day in May. It was aimed to let the local community know that we are here. An afternoon tea event in the style of the Ritz, with a professional chef demonstrating some cookery techniques, was cancelled through lack of support. There were summer teas each weekend through August, ending the month with a BBQ. The produce stall took full advantage of the bumper crop of plums and other produce. This was followed by the Harvest lunch. The final event of 2010 was the St Nicholas Fair. The Basingstoke Tappers started the afternoon with an energetic display from the musical 'Oliver'. Unfortunately only two local primary schools could attend, so the total raised (£1,057) was a considerable achievement. In the New Year the Church hosted a concert with the Reading Phoenix choir and Sherfield School.

In conclusion, the St Nicholas Fair is the most lucrative event of the calendar by far, but it involves a huge amount of organisation, lots of helpers and is hard work for everyone on the day. The profits represent about half the annual total raised. However, it is the non-financial contribution that is really valuable. The local community in the form of the Tappers, local primary schools along with their families and friends are drawn into the Church. In contrast to the Fair, the Summer teas require much less organisation. They still

raised almost a third of the St Nicholas' Fair total, but they generally only attract existing members of the congregation.

The social committee is aware of the importance the church places on its links with the local schools and residents. It has tried to respond to this in a number of ways, particularly through the Community fun day, the St Nicholas' Fair and through hosting the choral concert with Sherfield School and the Phoenix choir. It might be useful for the committee to explore how links can be further developed in the future.

Phillipa Jones

CHURCH HALL

The Hall continues to be successful in sustaining new bookings. Thanks to Allan Palmer we have this year a diary on the Church web site showing when the hall is available for bookings. There is also a booking form for prospective hirers to contact us by email to enquire on availability. This coming year we need to think about redecorating the kitchen.

Lilian Bambury after over 20 years of managing the hall has retired from this post. We would like to take the opportunity of thanking her for all the time and effort she has put in to make the running of the hall go so smoothly.

Eve Boulton

Church Garden - Annual Report 2010 - 2011

The church garden continues to be a challenge to maintain in the time available as it needs several shrubs replacing due to their age. The enthusiasm with which several people have tackled the outside jobs on Friends' tidy up days has been a great help, but it would also be very helpful if people were to consider 'adopting' a bush to maintain and restrain. Please speak to Rhian if you would like to help in this way and you can choose your shrub!

Rhian Lane

Marriage Preparation

'It was fantastic and very worthwhile' and 'Very good day, was excellent to gain information from Rosalind, Pat and Angela' were just two of the many positive comments we received in the feedback following the first of two Marriage Preparation days to be held this year, which took place on 5th February. A second day is planned for 9th April. This is the sixth year we have been running these days for couples getting married at All Saints and we continue to be encouraged by the couples' comments. Most when asked what they found best about the day referred to the service planning aspect that is held in Church. But, the relationship building aspect of the day, held in the morning in the Conference Room at QMC was also valued. One couple said, 'We learnt a few more things about each other. - It was very inciteful' and two individual comments mentioned, 'Discussing our lives after marriage' and 'Finding out how much we know of each other'.

Pat Palmer

Open Church report

In 2010 we hoped to arrange for All Saints to be open every Saturday morning during the summer. In fact, the church was open on every Saturday morning from the beginning of May to mid-September. As usual when the church doors are open, people came in. Over 200 people visited on those Saturday mornings - for a variety of reasons. Some came to pray or light a candle; some came to look around or show their children or grand-children what the inside of a church was like; one person sang; many were drawn in because the bells were being rung; others stooped to look at the second-hand books that were for sale.

In 2011, it would be good to extend the hours that All Saints is open and for more members of the congregation to be involved.

Andrew Lane

Small Saints

WE are a small group of families, with children under the age of 5, who meet once a month for a short service followed by play and chat in the hall. Our group has grown over the last year as more families join us. New families are always welcome.

During the short service we sing familiar songs, say prayers and listen to a relevant story. Afterwards the children enjoy playing together while us parents have the chance to chat over a cup of coffee.

Thank you to all who organise Small Saints, Rev Rosalind, Rev Pat, Chris Osborne and Sylvia Moore.

Viv Martin

Baptism Preparation

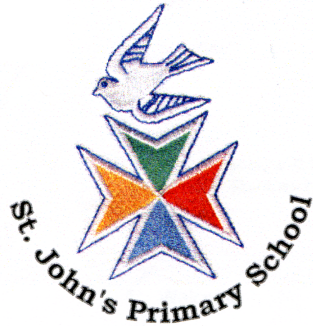
Most of the couples who approach us asking for children to be baptised have very little experience of the church, Christian faith or liturgy and Christian symbols. They are also a time in their families' lives when there is little spare time to come on a course to learn more about the faith that will affirm. Each couple will have been visited individually to talk through what baptism might mean for them, but this year we have also introduced a short session in church a few weeks before the service to explain some of the symbolism in the service, to walk through where things happen and to raise the topic of how parents can support their children's faith .

One of the aims of this is to increase - a little - the awareness of what is being offered in baptism, and the other is to make opportunities to begin to develop a relationship with the family as there will by then have been 2 or 3 contacts before the service. We do, of course, encourage families to bring children to Small Saints and "Come Fourth", and nearly all the families who do come to Small Saints are those who have asked for children to be baptised.

Rosalind

Report from St John's CofE Primary School

March 2011



"Good". A word that we use often, but in the context of education to hear it said after an OFSTED inspection it can bring a huge sense of achievement - especially if the last time the word was "Satisfactory".

But "Good" was the word that St John's heard after a recent OFSTED inspection this February, and this judgement reflects a huge amount of hard work and commitment on the part of everyone involved in the school: staff, LTAs, play leaders, office staff. It is also a tribute to the hard work and influence of the head teacher, Hayley Clayton, who started at St John's only last April, though she will be the first to say that her predecessor Catherine Redgrave, and the deputy, Jessica Devries, have also played an essential part in this outcome. Not that anyone is satisfied- the next aim is to work towards being "outstanding".

"Pupils were enthusiastic in saying how much they enjoy being at school, because the teachers make the work fun, the topics they study are interesting, and there are lots of opportunities to explore interesting ideas and activities beyond the lessons."

Each term, the school takes a particular curriculum area and concentrates on this for a week. In the autumn, "Maths Week" saw the children engaged in a maths trail around the school, discovering all

Learning, Loving and Laughing Together

sorts of ways of using maths in everyday life and a wonderful procession of "Maths Hats" in assembly on the last day. In February, the science and technology week ended with a "Great Exhibition" with models made to illustrate the greatest inventions of all time - these ranged from the invention of writing and the wheel, to the Phoenix designed to rescue the Chilean miners.

In a church school we all expect that the education offered is good, but that children are also cared for as individuals and as family members and this too is very noticeable at St John's "As a parent said, "We are very fortunate to be able to send our children to such a lovely school." There are always clubs for different sports, and these clubs are fully involved in local tournaments; children took part in the Basingstoke Primary schools concert at *The Anvil* last summer, and the staging and lighting which has been bought recently has been used for some wonderful performances, such as "Oliver" and the annual nativity play.

The school is still not fully subscribed, partly because of the age range in the catchment area, but I think that we can encourage families who are looking at primary schools for their children to visit St John's and see for themselves.

Rosalind

www.allsaintsbasingstoke.org.uk