

The Benefice of Deasedown St John with Wellow

The Parish of Wellow

Vestry Meeting

&

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday, 19th March 2006

11.00 am

REPORTS FOR 2005/6

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

During the past year two names have been removed and 8 new names have been added.

Total number on Electoral Roll is 56

Jo Vening
Electoral Roll Officer

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There have been seven meetings of the PCC during 2005/6. The main topics of discussion have been the Parish Plan, fabric (including the sound system), two sermon series and mission and outreach

Jo Vening
PCC Secretary

VICAR'S REPORT

In last year's report you may remember that I said it would be good to look back at the plans and objectives that we set at the APCM in 2005 and to see what we have achieved in the last year. Our Plans and Objectives for 2005/6 were as follows:

a. Objectives for 2005/6

- i. To introduce a new pattern of Sunday Worship that is both accessible and promotes individual spiritual growth and development.
- ii. To grow the number of regular attendees at our Sunday Morning Worship from 12 to 30.
- iii. To introduce initiatives that will actively encourage families to participate in Sunday Worship
- iv. To significantly improve our worship environment
- v. To Increase our covenanted giving.
- vi. To encourage regular tax efficient giving
- vii. To pilot a newcomers/home group
- viii. To introduce a least one initiative that will seek to draw the not yet believing members of the village into Christian Community.
- ix. To improve communication of church activities within the village

b. Plan for 2005/6

- i. Introduce a new pattern of Sunday Worship from Sunday 6th March 2005
- ii. Organise a number of social events so that the new incumbent can get to meet a large number of the Parish
- iii. Continue to build a Christian Community
- iv. Introduce a Prayer meeting on Tuesday's and Wednesday's from 12.30pm - 1pm in the church at which the vicar will be present and members of the parish are invited from w/c 6th March 2005.

- v. To significantly improve the worship environment in St Julian's
- vi. To pilot from September 2005 a newcomers/home group
- vii. To ensure that the incumbent regularly takes school assembly at the Primary School
- viii. To make a special effort to encourage members of the Parish to come to:
 - Mothering Sunday Service
 - Easter Services
 - Christmas Services
 - Harvest Service
 - Remembrance Sunday
- xi. To encourage regular tax efficient giving
- x. Improve Church Communications in the Village
- xi. Improve Communication within the Church

1. Review of 2005/6

So what have we achieved with God's blessing:

1.1. New Service Pattern from Sunday March 6th 2005.

The new All Age Worship services have had a more informal, contemporary feel to them whilst still containing elements of the familiar. We have continued to sing traditional hymns but have over the last year introduced a number of more modern songs. The organ has continued to lead and support sung worship but, thanks to the installation of the sound system, we have also experimented with recorded music supporting our worship. Our thanks go to our three organists: David Cox who regularly covers the 1st, 4th and 5th Sundays, Ian Cannock who regularly covers the 2nd Sunday and to Pauline Preddy who now regularly covers the 3rd Sunday. We have sought variety in our liturgy and thus every Sunday service has been different. We have had two sermon series with a number of visiting speakers. The first: 'A walk through the Bible with the people of God' and the second 'Searching Issues.' have proved to be most stimulating. Holy Communion has been held once a month on the third Sunday and this too has had a more informal, contemporary feel but has continued to contain elements of the familiar. It has been a delight to see members of the congregation actively taking part in the new services by leading prayers and giving the readings. It has been encouraging to see both Richard Holland and Colin Tremellen leading services as well. Coffee has been provided at the end of each service by a loyal band of helpers on the coffee rota and this has given members of the church family every opportunity to get to know each other, our thanks to you all for all you have done. Our new regular welcoming teams have made visitors to the church feel welcome and I certainly enjoy arriving each Sunday to be welcomed by a cheery face and a service sheet. Thank you welcome team for all you do each Sunday.

1.2. To grow the number of regular attendees at our Sunday Morning Worship from 12 to 30.

The introduction of the new service pattern from March 6th 2005 has seen our regular

attendees grow from 6-12 to circa 25-30 per week.

1.3 To introduce initiatives that will actively encourage families to participate in Sunday Worship

Children are now welcome at every Sunday service. On the first Sunday they stay in the service throughout and this service is specifically designed with them in mind. A new All Age Worship committee has been formed with Clover Holland, Yvonne Small, Clare Chapman and the Head Teacher of St Julian's Primary School as members. This group has met monthly with me to plan and review the monthly All Age Worship Services in which a good number of the members of St Julian's Primary School take part. Seven of these services have included at least one Baptism. The link with St Julian's Primary School has been strengthened and this service has proved to be most popular with attendance levels in excess of 50 every month. On the other Sundays activities have been provided for the children in the service organised by a responsible adult, thus giving parents an opportunity to come to church and worship without the constant pressure of supervising their own children. Apart from two families this facility has not been well used this year and we have not managed to encourage the families who attend on the first Sunday to come on the other Sundays.

1.4 To significantly improve our worship environment

We planned last year in close consultation with Alan Hardiman (Church Architect) to look at ways:

- Of improving the seating comfort of the medieval pews.
- Of providing a sound system
- Of providing toilet facilities
- Of providing kitchen facilities

The new sound system went live in September 2005 thanks to the generosity of a number of people in the village and a significant donation from the Wellow and District Horticultural Society. After some initial teething problems we now have a fully functioning digital sound system that permits soft voices to be heard throughout the church and for those with hearing impairment to hear what is being said. The system also gives us the opportunity to play back recorded music and to record sermons if we wish. The weekly St Julian's Primary School assembly that is now held in the church has greatly benefited from the addition of the sound system.

Work is still going on with regard to improving the seating comfort of the medieval pews. We believe that English Heritage may be willing to contribute funds in order to make the pews more acceptable to sit on for long periods of time.

A great deal of work and effort went into potentially citing new toilet and kitchen facilities at the west end of the church. After much deliberation it has been decided to look at ways of adding these facilities outside the current footprint of the church.

We are all greatly indebted to the Fabric Committee who have worked hard this year on these various projects.

1.5 To increase our covenanted giving and to encourage regular tax efficient giving
Budget Sunday was held on June 19th 2005. A number of people made a response to the call to review their giving. As a result an extra £800 p.a. was promised and when the tax rebate was added this amounted to the equivalent of an extra £85 per month. A number of people also set up monthly standing orders for the first time thereby allowing the PCC to budget more effectively. My thanks go to Clover Holland our treasurer and to Colin Tremellen who have quietly kept us ticking financially this year.

1.6 To pilot a newcomers/home group

Coffee 'n' Stickies was started in September 2005 to enjoy 'sticky' cakes and coffee and to discuss 'sticky' problems from the previous week's sermon. This group meets at the home of Pauline Preddy on a Thursday night from 7.30 - 9.30 pm. Numbers can fluctuate from 3-10 but those who have attended have enjoyed the chance to get to know members of the church family better in the hour's worth of coffee time and to wrestle more deeply with Sunday's searching issue.

1.7. To introduce a least one initiative that will seek to draw the not yet believing members of the village into Christian Community/ Organise a number of social events so that the new incumbent can get to meet a large number of the Parish

Two 'meet the new Vicar' parties were held one in the Village Hall and the other at St Julian's Well. Both occasions proved to be a good opportunity for me to get to meet non church goers in the village. My thanks to Jenny Matthews, Joyce Mannings and Jill Tremellen for arranging these.

1.8 To improve communication of church activities within the village

The Parish Magazine continues to be a key organ of communication within the village and the Church is delighted to be part of that. My thanks go to Jill Tremellen, Jo Vening as well as the distributors and contributors without whom the magazine would not happen.

The Church Web site has been improved and added to in the last year. On it can be found:

- Church forms and information
- Parish News
- Sermon Notes
- Service times and details

My thanks to Richard Holland for keeping the web site fresh and alive!

1.9 Introduce a Prayer meeting on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12.30pm - 1pm in the church

It has been a pleasure to come and pray with a small number of people regularly each week either on Tuesday or Wednesday. God has certainly answered our prayers over the year in some very special ways.

1.10 Improve Communication within the Church

The new monthly notice sheet started in January 2005. This provides:

- Details of forthcoming services
- Details of Events and Meetings
- Details of activities in the Ten Lamps Group
- Individuals in need of prayer

1.11 To ensure that the incumbent regularly takes school assembly at the Primary School

Links with the Primary School over the last year have grown and developed. At the Wednesday School assembly the following series have been looked at:

Spring 2005 - 'The work of Jesus'

Summer 2005 - 'The names of Jesus'

Winter 2005 - 'The twelve disciples'

Spring 2006 - 'Love is...'

From September 2005 the weekly assembly has been held in St Julian's Church and I am extremely grateful to Pauline Preddy who has come along and played the organ each week. A number of mothers and fathers now attend the assembly regularly and it is a delight to be able to welcome them.

1.12 To make a special effort to encourage members of the Parish to come to:

- Mothering Sunday Service
- Easter Services
- Christmas Services
- Harvest Service
- Remembrance Sunday

Each of our special services last year were well attended and it was good to see members of the Parish joining us at these significant times.

1.13 Ten Lamps Group

During the last year the Seven Lamps group has grown from seven villages to ten and has now become the Ten Lamps Group. It was good to see members of the church family at the Ten Lamps commissioning service in October 2005 when we formally added High Littleton, Paulton and Farrington Gurney to the Ten Lamps Group. The four Anglican and two Methodist clergy with responsibilities for the Ten Lamp Group villages meet every Tuesday from 9-10.30am to pray and plan. I have found these regular Tuesday meetings most helpful. The newly introduced third Sunday 6pm group services have also proved to be most popular with between 60-80 people regularly attending. If you have not attended one of these services could I encourage you do so. I have been involved in four 'pulpit swap' Sundays in the last year and have enjoyed leading and preaching at each of the Ten Lamp Group churches.

1.14 Bath Guildhall Alpha

We, along with 139 other churches in the Bath area, of all denominations, have supported this joint effort to reach out to those who do not yet know Christ. I was invited to give three talks on the Autumn Alpha initiative and have been invited back this term to give the same three talks. I have also enjoyed leading a small group on ten consecutive Wednesdays starting 18th January 2006.

1.15 Other Things

From May 2005 a new monthly communion service was added at Manor Close. My thanks go to Jacky, the warden for arranging this and to Pauline Preddy for playing. We have had 4 regular attendees and a number of irregular attendees.

In May of last year the PCC agreed to give away 10% of all the money it received in the form of a tithe and to set up an Outreach and Giving Committee under the leadership of Colin Tremellen. This group was tasked with recommending where our giving should be placed and with setting up a link project with another parish in the developing world. Members of this committee are: John Rose, Martyn Smith, Jill Tremellen, Sue East and Erica Smith. We look forward to hearing about the new link parish in the very near future.

On Friday 6th May it was fantastic to see in excess of 100 people attend the concert by The Cameo Orchestra in St Julian's which raised £750 for church funds. Our grateful thanks go to Richard Holland for organising the event and to Joyce Mannings for organising the food. We look forward to seeing them again this year.

Both the Harvest Supper and the Christmas Fayre were well supported and our thanks go to Libby Kerr et al for organising both of these events.

Jill Tremellen and her loyal band of cleaners have made sure that the church looks spick and span each week. We are indebted to you all as we are to those individuals who decorate the church with flowers each week. Joyce Mannings and Janet Drew have coordinated the flower rota over the last year, our thanks go to you both.

2. Objectives 2006/7

As this list demonstrates we have achieved a great deal over the last year. So what about 2006/7? During 2006/7 I feel we need to consolidate what have started in 2005/6. To that end our objectives and plans for 2006/7 will not be that different from this year.

Objectives for 2006/7

- i. To grow the number of regular attendees at our Sunday Morning Worship from 25-30 to 30-35.
- ii. To bed down our newly adopted Sunday Service pattern.
 - From Sunday May 7th 2006 to bring our service start time forward by 15 minutes from 11am to 10.45am.
 - Continue to develop our repertoire of modern songs and worship styles

- Continue to offer coffee at the end of each service
 - Continue to encourage church members to: lead, pray and read lessons.
- iii. To maintain and develop activities started in 2005:
- Coffee 'n' Stickies
 - Sermon Series with visiting speakers
 - Monthly All Age Worship Service where the pupils of St Julian's Primary School take an active part.
 - Wednesday School Assembly in Church
 - Weekly Prayer Meetings
 - Monthly Communion Service at Manor Close
- iv. To encourage families to worship more regularly
- v. To significantly improve our worship environment by
- Improving the seating comfort of the medieval pews.
 - Providing toilet facilities
 - Providing kitchen facilities
- vi. To encourage regular tax efficient giving
- Budget Sunday June 18th 2006
- vii. To continue to make a special effort to encourage members of the Parish to come to:
- Mothering Sunday Service
 - Easter Services
 - Christmas Services
 - Harvest Service
 - Remembrance Sunday

Matthew Street
Vicar

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our usual sources of income generated roughly 38% more in 2005 than had been anticipated and, in addition, approximately £7900 of income was raised through means unaccountable at the time of setting the budget.

A significant increase in income occurred as a result of the increased attendance at St. Julian's during 2005. Gift Sunday stimulated some new regular commitments but the major contribution has come from a 194% increase in Sunday collections. These will generate further income for 2006 when the tax rebate claimed on contributions under Gift Aid are made. Giving under Gift Aid continues to be an extremely valuable source of extra income and all means of generating it e.g. easy availability of Gift Aid envelopes at services, promoting regular commitment under Gift Aid, as explained on Gift Sunday, and sensitive approaches to one-off donors are an essential part of keeping our finances healthy.

The PCC made the decision during 2005 to go ahead with the installation of a sound system, meeting if necessary the cost from capital. The cost was defrayed by proceeds from the Summer Concert and donations of £3400 from which we will recover a further £430 in tax rebate during 2006. Net cost to the Church was £1720. We spent approximately £2300 less on planned items, mainly as a result of not progressing plans regarding minor repairs and children's work. Unbudgeted expenses totalling £396 included hospitality, flowers and items for service enrichment.

Our total income was £29648 and total expenditure was £24238 leaving a surplus of £5410. Our aim to spend 10% of our annual unrestricted income on outreach and mission has not been fully met this year (shortfall of £438). Apart from this outstanding expense we are well placed to introduce a planned maintenance regime on the fabric financed by the Horton-Fawkes Trust and to make long term improvements to the fabric e.g. sensitive improvements to the comfort of the pews and legal requirements regarding electrical safety.

Clover Holland
Treasurer

GOODS & ORNAMENTS

During the year there were no material changes by way of deletion or addition to the Church's ornaments and contents other than: -

1. One of the altar brass candlesticks was repaired.
2. A new altar table was gifted to the Church by Holy Trinity, Combe Down. As this is rather a large table, it is now used for refreshments and is located in the Hungerford Chapel and the table that was formerly in the Hungerford Chapel is now used as the altar at the east end of the nave and particularly for communion services.

FABRIC & GENERAL REPAIRS

During the year the following works were carried out:-

1. A major spring clean to the exterior took place including removal of moss, ivy and clearing the moat from vegetation.
2. As required under the Quinquennial Report all rainwater downpipes were checked and those connecting into the ground were dug out and cleared.
3. The missing stone head in the chancel, the result of an earlier theft, was replaced by moving one of the existing heads and filling in the outer space with blank stone. This work was carried out by Nimbus Conservation and was the subject of an insurance claim.
4. By way of a major improvement a new sound system was installed in the Church, being installed by Alive Sound Systems for £6,150 of which £4,566

was covered by donations.

5. Further to a falling away of stonework and damp penetration, a section of replacement stone cornice was fitted on the external north east corner of the Hungerford Chapel with the stonework damage made good together with repairs to the lead flashings.
6. Enquiries were made through the Church architect of Mr Hugh Harrison and with the Archdeacon with a view to carrying out improvement works to the pews but by way of an initial trial project on one or two pews. The Archdeacon had confirmed such work would be de minimis for faculty purposes but no works were carried out pending further investigations with English Heritage as to provision of a grant.

Jonathan Wyld
Church Warden

TOWER MASTER/KEEPER'S REPORT

The bellringing at St Julian's has not been as regular as might have been hoped over this last year. The reason for this is that the number of members of our tower is quite low and thus if illness, holidays or other commitments occur we have insufficient ringers to attend practice night or Sunday ringing.

We endeavour to encourage new members but being quite a specialised hobby it is not something that you can just dip into and thus requires a considerable level of dedication to advance. This does not appear to fit with many people's life style. We are particularly pleased that our newest member, Stewart Cole has conscientiously attended and has improved considerably this year. Well done Stewart. Also, this year, it has been wonderful to have Angie Stevens return to the tower after a number of years sabbatical and to have so effortlessly taken up ringing again.

Clover and Richard Holland attended a Tower Keepers' Maintenance course last April at Bishops Lydiard and gleaned a useful insight into the complications of ensuring the tower; bells and frame are safe. Generally the system is in reasonable working order.

Matters outstanding from previous years are the introduction of an emergency lighting system for the tower staircase and bell chamber and permanent lighting and power in the bell chamber. Currently quotations are being sought by the PCC for what is quite an expensive requirement.

The Ringers went on their annual Bellringing Tour on 23rd July 2005 visiting bell towers in the Wiltshire churches of Boyton, Chilmark, Tisbury and Donhead St. Mary. We stopped for lunch in a wonderful old pub called The Compass Inn at Chicks Grove, well worth a visit! A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all and our thanks to our tower secretary, Jill Tremellen for organising the event.

I think that covers most matters of note other than to thank Jill Tremellen for her duties as Tower Secretary and Clover Holland as Treasurer.

Our current membership comprises:-

Richard Holland (Tower Master)
Revd Brian Sutton (Ringing Master)
Jill Tremellen (Secretary)
Clover Holland (Treasurer)
Sue Nandi
Pam Pike
Colin Tremellen
Geoff Pike
Stewart Cole
Angie Stevens
Jos Binns

Practice Night: Friday 7.45pm to 9.00pm - New members always welcome.

Sunday Ringing: 10.15am to 11.00am.

Richard Holland
Tower Master

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The highlight of this year was the shared supper in May at Chilcompton, where Matthew and the Rev Chris North gave a very entertaining and informative talk titled; Reflections on 'the first hundred days' and visions for the future.

Plans are slowly but surely being firmed up for the part time youth worker. The estimated expenses have been revised down from last year's figure of £4000 to a new figure of £2000. These are still to be met by the parishes in the Deanery.

The Eucharist service at Coleford was held on a very pleasant September evening. At the meeting that followed both Matthew and Nigel were elected as the northern members of the Deanery Standing Committee.

Unfortunately the November meeting clashed with PCC so I cannot report on this. At the February meeting the Archdeacon gave a very informative talk on amongst other things, the workings of the Bishops Palace, it's staff, and also an update on Changing Lives.

Deanery Synod Meetings: for 2006

Wednesday 8 th February -	St Nicholas Church Radstock. Archdeacon Andy Piggott
Tuesday 9 th May -	Paulton/Farrington - Shared Supper.
Tuesday 12 th September -	Midsomer Norton - Eucharist.
Wednesday 29 th November -	Timsbury - World Mission Group speaker Jenny Humphries.

Nigel Vening
Deanery Synod Representative

