

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH BOTLEY

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2009

THE RECTOR'S REPORT
CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT
AND
REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS
2008/09

INCUMBENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

At the end of another busy year I would like to share with you some of the highlights of the past year and some of my concerns for the future.

Some of the important events of 2008/9:

1. Baptism services were moved from the afternoon into the main morning services
2. Work was completed on Holy Cross north wall
3. A new relationship was forged between the Benefice and the YMCA which will
 - a. hopefully give us a Youth Worker in 2009
 - b. give us access to many more of the YMCA facilities
4. There were 31 Baptisms, 30 Weddings and 31 Funerals in 2008
5. The two Wedding Preparation days were attended by 27 couples and 5 couples respectively
6. CribFest was attended by hundreds of people from the local area (Thanks Jim)
7. Me being a member of the Governing Body of both Botley Cof E and Durley Cof E schools

Things to be thankful for:

1. The hard work of all the churchwardens, PCC members and other church officers
2. The increase in the number of new families attending Flutterbies (Mums & Toddlers)
3. The increase in the number of children being brought forward for Baptism and the number of couples being married.
4. The inclusion of Baptism into the main morning services
5. Improved relationships with all four schools in the Benefice

Things that are causing concern:

The great need for people to take on positions of responsibility in each of the three Churches especially

1. working with the young people
2. Sunday School teachers
3. PCC members in all three churches
4. Church officers:
 - a. Secretaries - Durley Curdridge & Botley
 - b. Church Wardens - Curdridge & Botley
 - c. Verger - Curdridge
 - d. Organist - Curdridge

Comment

Much of the work within the three parishes has continued as normal, but at a cost.

This year has seen many members of the churches struggling with illness, both physical and mental. Not only this but families in all three churches have been struggling to care for sick relatives, both here in this community and

further afield. This has impacted on the life of the church in many ways. The church is the people, not the building. "We are the body of Christ" and when part of the body is having a bad time the whole body suffers. We have witnessed this throughout the year.

I would like to encourage you to be more pro-active in our care of one another, phone calls to people who are on their own and an awareness of people who are tied in their care of relatives which means that they cannot fulfil commitments in church. Let's not criticise but, support and encourage where we can, filling the gaps, not moaning that it has all fallen apart again.

Ministry:

This year has again seen some wonderful work from our retired clergy, Eric, Jenny, Jim and Marion. I am very grateful for everything that they do throughout the three parishes; certainly I could not do this job without them. I am also grateful to our Readers, Terry, Janet and Philippa. They regularly take services in all three churches (I appreciate that Philippa's time has been rather restricted). We need also to remember the ministry of Phil Bowden. We miss his humour, as well as his commitment to the young people. Do not forget to pray for him and Yuki as he continues his training at Cuddesdon college. We have recently returned to the pre-Goodey era of having a service in each church on four Sundays a month. This can only be a good thing.

The Future:

I would like to finish on a positive note. As I am sure you know, I have been asked by the Bishop to train a new Curate, Ruth Schofield, which I have very enthusiastically accepted. This will mean a number of changes in the way things happen in the Benefice. Ruth will be joining us from July and will be ordained alongside Philippa Mills.

First of all Ruth will be a 'Self-Supporting Minister'. (Previously known as NSM) She will not be paid a stipend in the same way that Gary was, nor live in the parish, nor will she be working full time as a Curate.

Ruth will continue to live with her family in Swanmore, and work for us three days a week. She will continue with her paid employment as an engineer, commuting on occasions to Derby or London. This will mean a very different style of 'Curate's ministry' from that you may have been used to before.

She will not just be another pair of hands; she is here primarily to learn how to be a deacon and a priest. It may be that in a few years time she may go on to be stipendiary, but that is for the future.

In the mean time, I will be devoting some of my time teaching her, and you also have a responsibility to support her and to help her to learn what she needs to know. It is a great privilege to be given this opportunity and I am very much looking forward to it. She will bring fresh ideas and a new ways of looking at things, as well as being a welcome addition to the Ministry Team.

Youth Worker:

During this year I am hoping that we will be employing a Community Youth Worker in partnership with the YMCA. This person will be jointly employed by the BCD Churches and the Parish Councils of Botley and Curdridge. This again is very exciting and I am very much looking forward to sharing the

ministry with our young people with this new person. Please continue to pray that God raises up the right person for this post.

Retired Priest:

Finally, I have also asked Revd Martin Hughes, a retired priest who lives in Bishops Waltham, to become a regular part of the Ministry Team here. He enjoys worshipping with us and has already led several services across the Benefice. Please make him welcome when he comes to your church.

As last year I would like to end this report with a verse of scripture, Jesus is praying for us Christians today in all our diversity. Let us try to fulfil his prayer this year.

Romans 17:20- 21 NRSV

“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me...”

CHURCHWARDENS ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

This has been quite an eventful year as the extension to the West end of All Saints Church, Botley has been finally completed and signed off by the architect. Thanks are due to Kathleen Watson who has spent many hours overseeing the works, both structural and financial. This was indeed a mammoth task and Kathleen spent many hours “burning the midnight oil!” The extension is now fully operational and is proving to be a great asset. It now houses the Library in the Foyer, the Maffey Room is equipped for computer training classes to take place, and very importantly it is used for social meetings e.g. Café Chat which opens every Thursday morning in the Foyer throughout the year. It has always been the intention that the extension should be used as part of the churches ‘Outreach’ program. The Maffey room is a bright airy 1st floor room attractively decorated and is ideal for meeting, social functions etc to take place in. From the initial drawing to completion it was always intended that the room could be accessed by all and the first floor area is accessed by a Lift as well as the staircase. At ground floor level modern toilet / baby changing facilities can be found and are easily accessed by all. The ground floor foyer is spacious, light and warm and during Daily Worship it is proving to be a great asset where young families can sit and play whilst the Service is relayed through to them. The extension is proving itself to be a project that is making All Saints a great asset to the church and village alike. The pathway around the new building has now been re-laid using paving brick and a additional seat, donated in memory of the late Christine West has been securely installed. There are a few areas identified in the ‘Snag’ List to receive attention under the direction of Mr Tony Seaman with the full PCC backing.

Maintenance of Church Building

There are two areas of the ceiling to the Lady Chapel to receive attention During the year graffiti was painted onto the Notice Board and the Bell Tower Door. The Parish County Councils grounds man removed this very successfully and a letter of thanks was sent from the PCC
An infestation of flies in the Bell Tower was successfully dealt with and to date, there has been no further infestation.

An inspection of the graveyard has taken place to ensure that any unsafe headstones are dealt with in the appropriate manner. The old WW1 Shelter and the pruning of the bushes etc has been undertaken by a team of workers who have received 'community work orders'. Discussions have taken place with the Parish Council and the PCC concerning access for tractors from Mortimer Road into the cemetery
The old 'Choir Vestry' is slowly being cleared of unwanted items and this area is currently being used to house 100 folding chairs that were purchased by 'Botley Choral Society.'

Terrier & Inventory

Both terrier & inventory have been updated to include any additions and removals that have taken place over the past year. The main additions being the purchase of 'New Hymns & Worship songs' book together with new 'Common Praise'. The old 'Hymns Ancient & Modern have been removed together with 'Junior Praise'
Youth bibles have been purchased to be given to pupils leaving Botley School.

Health & Safety

During this year the problem of 'mouse infestation' in the Church Rooms was identified and Mr Richard Adams is dealing with this problem
Throughout this year there has been an ongoing problem with light bulb failure. It is intended that the issue of installing adequate and Reliable lighting as soon as funding becomes available. Mr Richard Adams has continued to carry out routine 'Safety Checks' required under the 'Health & Safety at Works Act'
New fire extinguishers are in place to ensure that we comply with 'Fire Regulations'.
Mrs Angela Adams has been appointed as our new 'Child Protection Officer.'
All members of the Choir have been CRB [criminal records bureau.] checked, to comply with regulations related to persons working with young people and vulnerable adults.

Heating System

The 'Hot Air' heating System is coming to the end of its predicted life Span [It is now approx 20yrs old] This means that an updated unit will be required soon. At the present moment repairs are proving to be expensive and not cost effective.

Ongoing Projects

A large piece of 'Modern Stained Glass Artwork 'which was donated to All Saints Church is in the process of being installed in the Maffey Room

Following the removal of two English Oak doors during the construction of the new West End of the church investigations are taking place to find a position that these doors can be reused. Several suggestions have been made including utilising the timber to construct a new door from the nave into the Bell Tower

NB These doors were donated by the parents of the late Miss Joyce Caddy, who was, for many years, an organist at All Saints. When the doors are relocated this information will be displayed appropriately.

The wood recovered when the Yew tree was felled to make space for the new Church Rooms has been 'planked' and it is now stored in the west shed to dry out in the required fashion. Some of the timber was used by Rev. Jim Brasier to create the striking 'Cross' that can be seen on the right hand wall of the entrance hall

REPORT OF BCD MU 2008/09

This year has seen us move from Time for Relationships into Cost of Relationship.

Our membership across the three parishes is currently 23. We hold meetings in all three parishes throughout the year, and always aim to suit the venue to the meeting. We have a committee of three officers, which has met 5 times during the year. We have shown a positive commitment to our deanery and diocesan events. We are giving active support to the benefice's marriage preparation events, the diocesan AWAY FROM IT ALL holidays and the MARRIAGE? THINK CHURCH! innovative outreach at Wedding Fairs. We have continued with the work on knitted blankets for premature babies, sponge bags for A+E patients at Queen Alexandra Hospital, and HQ led Government Policy Watch issues. Our weekly local outreach of Flutterbies' baby and toddler group, in the All Saint's church room is very well attended. This year we adopted the flower tubs outside the church room, and some of the children helped tend them on a regular basis. We are currently fortunate to receive additional regular help from non MU members at this group. We have been particularly encouraged that a number of children from the group have been baptized this year and some mums have been attending the Emmaus Christian basics course. Our age profile is reducing as children can now go to nursery from 2 ½ years, so we will be tailoring our toys and activities accordingly as the year progresses.

Our 2009 programme looks to be a stimulating mix of speakers and topics. We will be having a creative day on April 7th, a Messy Church insight on May 5th, a musical afternoon on July 6th, and an insight from "Explosion" into the Cost of Conflict, on November 3rd.

Angela Brombley (Hon. Secretary).

SUMMARY OF DEANERY SYNOD FOR APCM ALL SAINT'S BOTLEY 15TH MARCH 2009

Deanery Synod has met on 4 occasions 13th May, 10th Sept, 13th Nov 2008 and 22nd Jan 2009.

Meetings usually begin with prayer or a bible reading. We have a speaker before the business part of the evening. Topics have included "An introduction to Synodical Governance" by Peter Watkins, the work of the Wycliffe Bible translators by Elizabeth Newport and IDWAL by Revd Canon Terry Loudon. We have received regular updates on Bishop Kenneth's health.

KAIROS.

The new Kairos phase "Buildings" was launched encouraging parishes to look at ways of developing a deeper, broader and leaner church. Kairos strategic funding had been suspended during 2008. It is to be resumed January 2009 with new guidelines for applications for projects.

HACKNEY

Parishioners from Hackney were invited to the Deanery Healing service in October.

The Christmas appeal for non perishable goods, toys etc was well supported. The Deanery sent £3000 to the Hackney chapter to support the annual youth camp.

CLERGY-

Revd Bruce Deans was appointed to Shedfield and Wickham
Ruth Schofield is to be curate at BCD after being ordained early July. Philippa Mills is likewise appointed to Hook with Warsash.

AUTUMN LECTURE

The series of lectures entitled "Am I my Brother's Keeper?" started 30th Sept. Tickets were slow to go but about 70 people attended.

LENT COURSES

Revd Phil Goodey is organising the 2009 Lent course. It is produced by York Courses and is called "These Three, Faith Hope and Love. We hope there is a good response from each parish.

CALABAR LINK

Our Deanery link with the church in West Africa has been under review. It has been decided to terminate the link with Calabar and forge new links with Ghana, thus coming into line with the rest of the Portsmouth Diocese.

YOUTH

Revd Stuart Holt continues to work with youth with music and sport across the Deanery. He is planning Deanery Youth services on 29th March, 31st May and 31st Oct, the latter being a Taize style of worship.

HEALING

The annual Healing service took place in the cathedral 10th May and another service was held at Swanmore in October. The healing group is compiling a Deanery healing leaflet for distribution to all parishes.

There is a Diocesan healing day Saturday 9th May, organised by Canon Nick Fennemore in Portsmouth Cathedral.

Botley is due to host the St Luke's tide Healing Service 18th Oct 2009 at 3p.m.

Elizabeth R Townsend - Deanery Synod Representative.

BCD FAIR TRAIERS ANNUAL REPORT 2008/9

The group was set up nearly ten years ago to raise awareness within Botley, Curdridge and Durley of the issue of fair trade as an important weapon in the fight against worldwide poverty. Discussions at our AGM recognised that we have largely achieved this aim. All Saints Botley has become a Fair Trade Church in the intervening years. Over the same period Fair Trade has gained a much higher profile generally. Southampton and Portsmouth are now Fair Trade cities and goods are widely available in supermarkets. Although all three parishes report fewer sales in the last year, we hope that this is because people are now purchasing their fair trade elsewhere.

We had another very successful Christmas event last October when over £570 worth of goods was sold on the night. Orders in excess of £500 were taken in addition. We were delighted to accept an invitation to hold a stall at the All Saints Church Christmas coffee morning in November. Both these events gave us an opportunity to raise awareness of fair trade with a wider audience from the village.

We continue to sell Traidcraft goods on the first and third Sundays of the month after the morning service in Botley and goods are available in both Curdridge and Durley churches too. We would welcome more members of the group and would particularly value volunteers to assist with the stalls. We would like to thank all our supporters for their valued custom.

Our AGM will be held in September.

Elsa Montgomery
Secretary BCD Fair Traiders

REPORT ON MUSICAL ACTIVITIES 2008/2009

Membership of the Choir stands at 28 at the time of writing. We were sorry to lose Sophia Arthurs-Hartnett after a long period of loyal service to the choir, and also Mathew Armstrong-Gautier and Megan Goodey - all of whom we thank for their contribution. We have recently welcomed Molly King to the Junior Choir. We were also sorry to say farewell to Andrew Walsh, Phil Bowden and Bernard Brombley during the year. We have been fortunate in having a new Alto, Marion Holmes, join us, and we look forward to a new Soprano, Sally Passingham, joining us at Easter. There are also a few other potential members in the wings!

Our Music Group has continued to play at the Family Services as well as on a few other occasions. One new feature is to highlight some of our young players through a solo 'spot' before the Service. We have also used instruments on other occasions such as the CribFest 'Fresh Expressions' Service. Our musicians formed the basis of the orchestra which was gathered together for the very well supported Christmas Concert. I would like to thank

them all for their commitment to the musical life of All Saints, and in particular Sandra Goodey who has played for a number of Family Services to allow me to help out at Curdridge.

Botley Choral Society continues to rehearse weekly in the church, and has had an extremely good year. Membership stands at 108, and our catchment area is remarkably wide. We sang Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* in Romsey Abbey last May and then had a break before presenting a *MozartFest* in November. Coming up on 21st and 22nd March are our performances of Vivaldi's *Gloria* and *Beatus Vir* in Locks Heath and Botley with the Kaleidoscope String Quartet, which will be followed by our participation in the Winchester and County Music Festival singing Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* and Vaughan-Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*.

It has been an excellent year for our Church Choir. We have sung at many Weddings throughout the year and have enjoyed being part of so many special days. We welcomed the Kaleidoscope Palm Court Trio who gave us an excellent concert in June and we gave a Christmas Concert to a packed church the week before Christmas.

We sang Faure's Requiem liturgically again on Remembrance Sunday evening and sang carols in the Square to huge numbers just before Christmas. Our performance last Good Friday of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, with string orchestra, was well received and this year we will be performing a selection of anthems and short choral works interspersed with readings and poetry. One hugely successful new venture this year was to have our own mini Two-Choirs' Festival with Shedfield Choir. We had two rehearsals together and then sang at Botley for the Candlemas Vigil and at Shedfield the following week for a Choral Evensong. Thank you to all who supported us in what we hope will become an annual fixture.

Musically, our repertoire has continued to grow as we have introduced new anthems and settings into the Services. One anthem to mention is *Love Divine* by Howard Goodall, which we have sung at several Weddings and always elicits a response from the congregation (usually favourable!) The two new hymn books have been well received and will ensure that we are able to enjoy a good mixed diet of both traditional and more modern hymns. We have really appreciated the wonderful facilities that we now have in the Maffey Room. Rehearsals are so much more comfortable, there is much more space for robing and the music is so easily accessible in our walk-in cupboard. It isn't until you have such a good space that you realise how difficult it was to manage in the old choir vestry, which is not much more than a corridor really!

What else is there to say? Once again I would like to commend and publicly thank our wonderful group of singers and instrumentalists who lead our Services so ably and with such dedication. We are indeed lucky to be able to achieve what we do. No more will this be illustrated than in our summer Music Festival in July (5th-11th) when once again members of All Saints' Choir are putting an enormous amount of time into the planning and preparation of what is going to be a hugely exciting event.

Finally, I would also like to express my continued appreciation of you, our congregation, who continue to support the musical life of All Saints' with such enthusiasm and encouragement.

David Burgess

THE PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

Co-ordinators: Nicola Damone and Julia Hayes

Some of us have received Christian Listening training with the Acorn Christian trust. We have mentoring and supervision available from an experienced, registered counsellor. We meet fortnightly to pray together for needs in the Church and wider community.

On Sundays we use the prayer corner as our base, taking a light from the main altar candle and then returning to the altar after the session to commit the needs to God and leave them with Him.

We have found that people are generally more keen to use the listening service than ask for prayer, however, where appropriate, we do try and finish the time with a brief prayer. Our prayers and conversations are dealt with in strict confidence.

We aim to have 2 members of the team available after the 9:30am service. Over the last 6 months we have had difficulty offering this every week due to domestic and health difficulties among our members.

If people would like us to pray for them, rather than with them, their requests can be made by a note or telephone call to Julia Hayes, 01489 789349 at 96 Winchester Street, Botley, SO30 2AA.

BCD STITCHERS

The above group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month with the exception of Lent, when knitting takes place every Monday afternoon for the Princess Anne Baby Unit and the Roberts Centre in Portsmouth.

A small donation is made at each meeting and various amounts are sent to charities.

Included in the programme are various activities which feature embroidery, patchwork and craft techniques.

Anyone wishing to join us would be very welcome.

Barbara Martin

ALL SAINTS' READING GROUP – ANNUAL REPORT

There are ten people in our group. We meet in the foyer of the church on the second Wednesday of each month, 1.45p.m-3.15p.m. For the first three-quarters of an hour we discuss our chosen book (copies of which are loaned to us by the Hampshire Library Service). We then have tea and biscuits and talk about other books we have come across. The meetings are lively and hugely enjoyable.

Books read so far this year- "Headlong" by Michael Frayn, "Persuasion" by Jane Austen, "Lake Wobegon Days" by Garrison Keillor, "Salem Falls" by Jodi Picoult, "The Secret History" by Donna Tartt, "Can you keep a Secret?" by Sophie Kinsella, "Six Wives" by David Starkey, "Our Hidden Lives" by Simon Garfield, and "A Thousand Acres" by Jane Smiley.

Cath Tribble
Martin Mills
13.2.09.

BOTLEY BOOK CIRCLE

In September 2008 a second Reading group was formed which meets at All Saints on the first Monday evening of each month. This group is called the Botley Book Circle.

There are 10 members of the group who look forward to meeting to discuss the latest book that we have read. The books are loaned free of charge by the Hampshire Library Service.

Since September we have read "P.S. I Love You" by Cecilia Ahern, "Keeping Faith" by Jodi Picoult, "The Time Traveller's Wife" by Audrey Niffenegger "The Perfect Summer" by Juliet Nicholson and "The Broker" by John Grisham. Each has led to an enjoyable discussion by the group and we are looking forward to expanding our reading experiences through the coming year.

Stephanie Hall and Kate Waller.

HACKNEY LINK 2008/09

A special event this year was the visit of a small group, mainly from St. James', Lower Clapton, to the Deanery Healing Service. Revd. Rosemia Brown and the St. James' choir took part in the service and afterwards there was an opportunity to meet and talk.

The rota for the Hackney banner has been reinstated and we have been privileged to have this beautiful banner in Botley since December. It will remain with BCD until May. Hackney has an identical banner which also moves round their churches.

The rest of the link activities have continued as usual

- **Fairthorne Youth Camp.** A grant of £1000 was made to subsidise the cost of the camp, the remainder of the Deanery grant to Hackney being used for other youth work. The children were transported by minibus this year, so we were not required to provide transport from Botley station.
- **Pensioners on the Move.** This was planned for July but sadly there had been a mix-up with the booking and no coach arrived for the pensioners. Fortunately they managed to let Gill Mulley know just before cooking started. The visit was rescheduled for October and was a very successful day. Thanks were given to all the team at Durley and to the additional helpers from Botley.
- **Christmas Collection.** This went to plan. It was particularly helpful to find this year that all the gifts donated to the Botley collection were things on the list. Thank you. The gifts were taken to the Priory and St. James' where they are used to help the Hackney churches with their work with homeless and deprived people in their communities.

The Hackney Link committee meets 4 times a year on Saturday mornings. Anyone interested in the work of the committee would be very welcome to attend.

Val Dean

CAFE CHAT REPORT 2009

Cafe chat has been opened every Thursday morning (except for Christmas Day and New years Day) since September 2007. The average number of people attending is approx 25. Some come on a regular basis, some are passers by, some are lonely, some are looking for someone to listen to them, some come to change their library books and or use the internet facilities, some come to meet a friend, and or make a friend. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

There are three volunteers on duty each week, one to make the coffee, one who is a trained listener, and one to welcome people and to help make the coffee. The rota is on the notice board in the kitchen and volunteers add their name when they are free. Name badges are available.

We are trying to make sure that there is as much publicity as possible and stress that it is open to all.

New volunteers are always welcome. We are particularly looking for more listeners. To be a listener entails attending series of Acorn Listening

Courses. (for more details on this please speak to Pippa Mills)

If those having coffee wish to make a donation for their coffee/tea they are able to do so. £465 has been banked.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers (male and female) for all that you have done towards making Cafe Chat such a warm, friendly, caring, environment.

More information available from Muriel Wilson - 01489 782540

ELECTORAL ROLL

The number on the Electoral Roll, at 13 February 2009, is 178.

The Roll will not be closed until 27th February, when a copy will be displayed in the Church, so there may be additional numbers by then.

As all the Electoral Roll forms arrive first at the Office, I am grateful to Beverly Thomas for entering the new names on the Roll, instead of passing the forms to me to enter and then having the entries sent back to her.

Jim Wilson

GIFT AID

At 31 December 2008, 54 donors were using Standing Orders. This included 4 new orders from the Stewardship Campaign.

There are also 17 donors using envelopes. During the 12 months to December 2008 there were 87 'single donation' envelopes used by visitors, but a few of these were further donations from the same donor.

Jim Wilson

BOTLEY BELLTOWER REPORT 2008/09

Thank you for inviting us to report on events and activities in the Belltower. We are here every week welcoming worshippers. Sadly we are light in ringer numbers and would welcome new faces. Come along on a Thursday @ 8pm for a Test-go. Ringing will support your Keep-fit programme!

During the past 9 years the bells have rung out for weddings funerals & special occasions as well as Sunday services. A new carpet has been purchased and fitted after the building of the church extension had finished.

The tower is entering a skittle team this year at a District fun evening at Big Bowl in Fareham.

We would like to invite you all to join us on Saturday 11th July, 10am – 2pm to our Open Tower Ringing Event. The Ringing Chamber will be open to visitors to observe and again have a test-go. Organisation is underway for a BBQ to be held on the lawn at about midday.

Next Year, date to be announced, we are going to have a bit of a do celebrating the 10th year of the installation of the bells. A Quarter Peal, approximately 45 minutes of continuous perfect ringing, with a District Service held here @ All Saints followed by a High Tea.

For further information on events in the Belltower, please give us a ring or join us Thursdays @ 8pm.

Anthony & Liz Manship 01962-777264

ALL SAINTS BOTLEY FLOWER GUILD REPORT

The Guild continues to flourish and our new rota system is working fine. We have recently had an additional member join our group and a further member is anticipated.

During the year we have arranged additional flowers for weddings and continued to ensure the Church flowers are at their best at all times.

Three new troughs have been purchased for the north side of the Church planted for the summer with bedding and now the spring bulbs are beginning to show. The May children's event was a great success, making the posies with the children was fun, especially as the boys seemed to enjoy this more than the girls!! The bow ties were not a qualified success but we learned from the experience and will know better next time. This year the Flower Guild will again be actively involved in the Reception class visit.

There are three main items on the agenda for the coming year, two of which are interconnected. The Flower and Music Demonstration on 23rd April which is being staged to raise funds for the BCD placement at the Portsmouth Cathedral Flower Festival in July "The Greatest Show on Earth". The three guilds will be decorating the chapel of Healing and restoration and will involve at least 12 members. The third will be the Botley Music Festival also in July where we have been invited to be involved as and where flowers are required. Consequently, members have been advised no holidays in July please!!!

There are several weddings booked for this year and we met many of the couples during the usual meeting on the 2nd February which has resulted in additional flowers being required for some and hopefully more to come.

Financially the Guild is sound; the pedestal for the porch has yet to be purchased but is in hand also the shed where the pedestals etc. are stored is in need of replacement. Currently the locking system has been repaired but a new building is being investigated, hopefully a vandal proof type, and subject to the sum involved, the Guild will finance same. The top of the Paschal Candle pedestal is in need of attention and this will be undertaken by the Guild. Ian Coomber will be advised accordingly as he donated this pedestal to the Church.

Veronica Mason
All Saints Botley Flower Guild

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS BOTLEY

The Friends of ASB are pleased to advise that the renewal of membership this year has been very successful. We have changed the renewal date to September because there was a significant change to the Members of Trustees.

Since then we have had our annual sale of Christmas Puddings, which have been very popular.

On Valentines Day we had a quiz evening which was enjoyed (and profitable) by all who attended. Many thanks to Tom and all who helped.

Details of future events will be confirmed in a newsletter to members.

Kate Waller

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Health and Safety report will be published separately in advance of the APCM meeting.