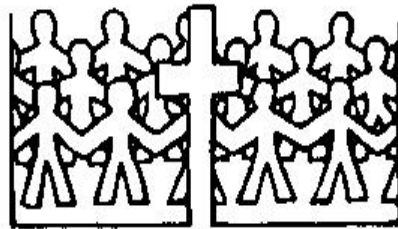


**CHRIST CHURCH WITH ST. PHILIP**

**ANNUAL GENERAL CHURCH MEETING  
SUNDAY 18 APRIL 2010**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

## **From the Clergy:**

A year ago, when the membership of the Leadership Team changed beyond all recognition - four incoming members replacing the four outgoing ones - we all anticipated that a new pattern of working would subsequently be followed. You might remember that it was intended that the formation of a Vestry Team would not only allow the Leadership Team to focus on managing the day-to-day running of the church but that it would also release the Leadership Team to spend more time thinking about, reflecting upon and praying through God's calling to us as the body of Christ in this place. This arrangement of Leadership Team plus Vestry Team is in fact now due for review.

As it has turned out, housekeeping matters have dominated the agenda over the past twelve months, with numerous halls-related issues ensuring that our conversations have largely revolved around a seemingly never ending to-do list. Our personal thanks then go to Heather, Lynn, Peter and Richard not only for bearing with this but also for their commitment, support and hard work this year.

*Charlotte has to add:* I am particularly grateful to Paul and Carol and the Leadership Team, for bearing the extra load while I was ill last year. It is much easier to get better when you feel supported by a work team—and, of course, by the whole community.

We are pleased to say that there are signs of hope that suggest that the coming year might be different. In terms of the housekeeping load, the appointment of a Halls Management Committee - a body that reports directly to the Ecumenical Church Council - should ensure that our Halls Manager, Elizabeth, has an alternative point of contact when she needs a sounding board for ideas or if she needs a decision of note to be made. In addition to this, the appointment of a new Caretaker, Adam, should make life easier all round.

Our thanks again go to Elizabeth for her unerring commitment to this church community, for frequently going beyond the call of duty to ensure that hall users are well catered for and for the many and remarkable fruits borne of her labours.

The Finance Report shows that the increase in use of the Halls means that they are pretty much self-sufficient. This is a triumph in business, community and mission outreach terms on a large scale for us, even if we know that we cannot be complacent. On a smaller scale but just as important has been the change of time for the mid-week Holy Communion. To save heating costs, this was moved from a Wednesday to a Tuesday, when Under 5's follows in the afternoon. Further thinking moved the time from 10.00 am to 12 noon, so worshippers could then be offered lunch in the Welcome Area and some go on to The Fellowship in the Halls at 2.00pm. This has proved popular with the regular mid-week congregation and provides the multi-layered welcome that was at the heart of Future Links.

As an ecumenical church we are answerable to three bodies: the Methodist District, the Diocese of Southwark and Churches Together in South London. All three have provided support in different ways this year: the District and the Diocese have given advice about and grants for the Halls; Bishop Nick came on a Visitation in July; and John Richardson from Churches Together met with Paul and Charlotte about a Review for them that should be scheduled in the coming months.

Partly because of clergy illness, spiritual and Biblical teaching apart from preaching in services has been limited: there was no Advent Quiet Day and the Prayer Group has ceased to meet for the time being. A small group enjoyed a retreat again in July at the Community of St. John Baptist at Begbroke. The Lent Course followed Paula Gooder's book A Way Through the Wilderness and this was offered at both an evening and a day-time session.

As far as reflecting upon the life and witness of the church, the Circuit Review has provided us with a springboard for an ongoing conversation. The Review itself is looking at the life of the Circuit and will not produce a critique of individual churches, but the process has proved helpful to us as it has raised questions that we should be regularly asking ourselves as a matter of course but sometimes don't when life becomes busy.

Thank you to those of you who recently completed questionnaires to help us make our presentation to the Review Team - your response has been greatly appreciated. Thank you too to Heather and Richard for all their hard work in shaping the presentation and delivering it with consummate ease. We believe that you will recognise the picture that our presentation painted of our church but, on consideration, and as a Leadership Team, we thought that the best way of discovering whether this is indeed the case was for you to see and hear it yourselves. The presentation will therefore be the centre-piece of today's meeting.

Continuing to seek God's guidance, we look forward not only to that "ongoing conversation" that we mentioned but also to working and being with you in the coming year.

With every blessing

Charlotte, Paul and Carol.

### **Ecumenical Church Council**

The purpose of the Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) is to promote the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in the parish and neighbourhood. The ECC also fulfils the function of the Methodist Church Council and the Parish Church Council and is the church's governing body. Membership of the ECC should therefore be taken seriously as it carries responsibility for financial and legal decisions made on behalf of the

church. The ECC appoints committees that have authority to act within pre-defined areas of responsibility, supports the work of all such committees and receives their reports, making decisions on any matter of principle that may arise.

During the past year the ECC has overseen the work of the various church committees, giving approval as necessary. Church finances continue to be a matter of concern - see Finance report for more details. Other church business dealt with over the year includes:-

- the requirement for the church to register with the Charities Commission, which will also allow us to apply for a refund of tax under the 'Gift Aid' scheme. In order to do this we will need to approve an updated constitution at the AGM;
- the appointment of a part-time Caretaker;
- the church's Health & Safety Policy;
- the policy for Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults; we still need a Safeguarding Officer for Vulnerable Adults;
- updating of the Church deeds and land registry following Future Links

The ECC also receives matters of interest from the wider church through the Methodist Wimbledon Circuit and London District and the Anglican Southwark Diocese.

Items brought to its attention over the year include:-

A review of all the churches in the Wimbledon circuit is taking place in Spring 2010.

Updated Circuit policies have been received

### **Leadership Team**

The new church year began with the formation of an entirely new Leadership Team, with new roles and responsibilities. We have quickly settled into these new roles with the excellent support of the newly formed Vestry Steward team who have taken on the important Sunday worship duties. Our grateful thanks go to them all. The new team meets to support the clergy and deals with the main issues arising in the life of the church. This year has been a busy one, and not without its challenges as we manage the various issues that arise in a church community of our size. Changes in the legislation on safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, the formation of a dedicated Halls Management group and our current financial position have all needed our consideration.

The halls have continued to be a busy and vibrant place, and our thanks go to Elizabeth our centre manager, who continues to do a fantastic job of bringing the next phase of Future Links to life – and bringing new people and groups into the premises for a variety of events and meetings. Thank you to all the

volunteers who make the Welcome Area exactly that; a friendly place to have a cup of tea and a chat. Our challenge going into the future is to bring a better awareness of our church and what it can offer those in the local community that come here to use our premises.

This year has also seen changes in caretaking staff, and for a while we were without a caretaker at all. We are extremely grateful to those who so kindly stepped in to assist with the day to day running of the halls during the hiatus. Without them we simply would not have coped with the sheer amount of work that needs to be done to keep our premises running. We are now lucky to have had Adam our new caretaker in post since February.

In July, the Right Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Croydon spent the day with us for his Parish Visitation. He spent the day with Charlotte, met several church members, the Leadership Team, and then spoke to the ECC in the evening. The day went very well, and it was very encouraging to spend time with him. Many fundraising events have also taken place, most notably the 'Pasta, Passion and Pistols' evening, which raised over £700 for church funds and the excellent Daffodil Day in March, which raised over £1600 for St Raphael's Hospice and certainly raised our profile in the High Street, thanks to the Malden Scout Band! Thank you to Isobel and the Fundraising team for their continued hard work.

As I write we are in the process of undergoing a Circuit Review. All of the churches in the Wimbledon Circuit were asked to consider a series of questions covering the life and worship of their church, and to respond with a brief presentation to a review board on their findings. Questionnaires were prepared and handed out to church members, and the results formed the basis of an excellent presentation from Heather. The presentation day, which took place on 20<sup>th</sup> March in the church, was a great success. It was very interesting to see the presentations from the other churches in the Circuit along with that of our own church. We are currently awaiting the response of the Review team and look forward to hearing their comments in due course.

### **Church Family Life Committee**

This committee has met three times and we have discussed various events that were due to take place, or had taken place, and all aspects of our Church life.

We reported on the Welcome Café which has extended its opening hours and is being manned by members of the church on a rota basis. We have looked into various ideas to attract more people to use the café, one idea being to offer refreshments to an inner city group perhaps visiting Nonsuch Park for example. We also talked about the possibility of using the premises for support groups, and a support group for the families of autistic children now meets

regularly. A Halls Management Committee is now in place and use of the premises will be an ongoing discussion.

The Sunday morning crèche now has good support and it is nice to see new names amongst the helpers. A house group had met regularly and completed the first course of Living the Questions. It was felt this had been of value and had some good material in it. Further discussion was needed to see how it could be rolled out to others. We have had feedback from the Jubilee Justice Group who remain very active and will write their own report.

The committee have looked at social and fund raising events that have taken place – The Summer and Christmas Fairs, both very enjoyable, and at the time of writing this we are looking forward to the forthcoming Daffodil Day. We have discussed how monies from Fun(d) raising events is used in the Church.

Other topics of discussion have focused around community events in and around Worcester Park, such as Take Part Take Pride week, and the Acorn project. “Situations vacant” have also featured on our agenda. We also minuted our appreciation to Debra for compiling and presenting last year's report for the AGM so well.

### **Resources Committee**

On the whole this has been a quieter year for the Resources Committee. Like many, we have needed to husband the church's financial resources even more carefully than usual. On-going costs have risen, and this has limited what else we have been able to do.

In the early part of the year essential work on the roofs, coping stones, and gutters, and flood protection measures at the entrance to St Philip Hall lobby had to be carried out. A new cupboard, used by the Rainbows, was built in the lobby as part of this scheme and over the summer a new cupboard was installed inside the walk-in storage space in Wesley Hall for the Guides' use. More recently further repairs been urgently needed because of leaks above the Welcome Area/Sanctuary and Lady Chapel. We must budget for further work on the coping stones, tower stonework, flashings and flat roofs, and external painting of the premises over the next year or so.

In common with other church committees, we have been considering our church's environmental stewardship using an 'eco-congregation' tool to guide our thinking. Because our premises have been so recently refurbished, many of the suggestions for our buildings are already in place. The property team have recently held working parties to lag the roof spaces over The Upper Room and The Den which were not done as part of Future Links. There has also been some amendment to the midweek use of the church, putting Under 5s and the midweek Communion Service on the same day (with lunch in the Welcome area also) so as to heat the church more efficiently. Other suggestions, like more efficient boilers, extending double glazing, use of brown

water, solar panels, would be expensive and will need to be considered during future maintenance and refurbishment.

One of the Resources Committee's responsibilities is to keep various church documents up to date and this year the deeds and land registry entries have been updated to take account of Future Links. The Health and Safety Policy has also been revised and passed on to the ECC for ratification. The work needed to complete our compliance with Electrical Safety requirements, begun last year, was carried out in the spring and the formal Certificates issued.

In September Ralph retired after many years of managing the church owned flats. We thank him very much for his work. John and Roy have now taken on this role. John is also co-ordinating a property team and planning to facilitate working parties approximately monthly, to carry out planned maintenance tasks around the buildings. We hope that in this way more people will help with jobs if and when they can – so do please look out for requests in the pew sheets or give John a ring if you feel you can help with anything.

One shared task which is on-going at the moment is improvements to our garden areas to smarten up our 'new' premises. We have had a garden contractor lay hard standing by the notice board and install brick edgings to the lawn and flower beds. Then the plan is for a working party to add top soil and level the lawn areas, and re-seed them. A fence has been installed across the end of the lawn to limit wear on the grass and facilitate the annual short closure of the side path. This can be removed when we need to use the whole area.

Under the efficient and friendly guidance of our Halls Manager, our premises are now well let as regards spaces for regular licence holders, and we do have 'occasional' and 'one-off' lets also. As many will know, regular caretaking has proved difficult to maintain, partly because we need someone part time only, but who can be available at times which suit the way our premises are used. Because of this our organisations have needed to set up and lock for themselves and we thank the willing volunteers who have helped with these duties for our other lets. We welcome our newly appointed caretaker and hope he will be happy with us.

### **Pastoral Committee**

The Pastoral Committee consists of 21 group leaders who meet twice a year to discuss any members who are unwell, need some support or would just like a telephone call or visit. Some of the group leaders visit members who are now residing in nursing homes, and I am sure this contact with our Church is much appreciated.

This year we discussed whether membership cards were still necessary and, in the opinion of the Pastoral Committee it was agreed that a printed, laminated card, given for life, was acceptable.

Over the past year we have lost several of the older members of our congregation, some of whom have moved to live closer to their families, who will be sadly missed, but I am pleased to say that we have also welcomed several new families into our Church which gives us all hope for the future.

### **Social and Fundraising group**

The social and fundraising group have continued to arrange a variety of events, raising funds as well socialising and having a good time!

Since the last AGM we have organised and run a variety of events such as the Summer and Christmas Fairs, a Quiz Night, a picnic in Pat's garden, an evening of "Pasta, Passion and Pistols" and our very own Last Night of the Proms.

The latest and most spectacular event of the year was Daffodil Day which drew people in from the wider community and raised in excess of £1,600 for the St. Raphael's Hospice. The floral displays were magnificent thanks to the work of all of the church organisations and the dedicated team of flower arrangers.

Our next fund raising event will be the Summer Fair so we look forward to seeing you all there!

### **Youth Forum**

The Youth Forum meets once every school term and consists of a leader / member (minimum) of each of our Youth Groups - that is to say, the Guide Association, the Girls' Brigade, the Boys' Brigade, the Holiday Club, the Under 5's, the Young Church and the Junior Music Group, plus representation from the clergy and the Leadership Team. Each group gives a brief summary of their current activities, and any issues directly relating to young people are raised.

Of particular concern is that although we have a large number of young people using the premises each week, very few are known to our regular church members – and vice versa. We have realised in fact that some of our young people would not even recognise the clergy. We all feel it is important for our church to be inclusive and for our children and teenagers to feel part of the wider church community, which is not as easy as it sounds, and with this in mind it has been suggested that the clergy should try to visit each group at least once a term, and that the groups will give the clergy regular programmes of events / activities.

There are huge numbers of children meeting on our premises – let's all do our best to encourage them!

## **Young Church**

Young Church continues with approximately 20 children attending on a regular basis each week. We have three departments, 'Buddies' for the 3 to 7 year olds, 'Shooting Stars' for the 7 to 11 year olds and the 'Zone' for the 11+ age group. Since September we have had a number of three year olds joining us in Buddies.

At Pentecost last year, the Zone took over the service and provided us with a very different form of worship, in which all of the Young Church contributed. Feedback from the service was excellent and the young people are looking forward to taking part in the service on Palm Sunday this year.

Last September the Young Church went on an outing to Tilgate Adventure Park, which has now become a regular event and once again was a great success with 15 children and their families attending.

We held a very successful Christmas party in December, involving all of the different age groups. Despite the large age range from 4 to 14, they all appeared to enjoy the different activities on offer.

With the help of our dedicated Young Church Leaders we continue to share fellowship and fun on a Sunday morning.

## **Cradle Roll and Crèche**

Every year all babies and children up to the age of 5 baptised in our church are entered onto the Cradle Roll. During 2009 there were 27 Baptisms, and each of these children receive a cradle roll certificate and a birthday card from the church each year until they reach the age of 5 (or join Young Church at 3 years). They also receive invitations to our Under 5's service on a Tuesday afternoon.

Every Sunday the crèche meet in Room 2. Fiona, Debra, Hilary, Lynn, Chris, Cheryl look forward to welcoming any little ones for an hour or so of play in Room 2 while parents are in church. There is also a box of toys available up on the balcony for babies and children to use while their parents participate in the service.

## **After 8 Group**

As always our year began with our Christmas Meal in January at "Zanders", North Cheam, one of our favourite restaurants. February brought "Potty Poetry", which really was potty, by Maggie Stredder (Ex Vernon girl with the big glasses).

In March "What is Your Pleasure" gave us an insight into the working life of shop assistants in the big stores of the early 20th century. The talk was given by a minor local celebrity, the authoress Tilly Armstrong. Easter was observed and there was no meeting.

In May the talk was about building a Kyrgystan House by Shirley Cornish, another local lady whose exploits and stamina took our breath away. In June we held the A.G.M.

Our Summer outing in July was to Horton Golf Club and we had a pleasant day. There was no meeting in August. In September we had a talk on Bee Keeping by Mollie Bonard. We sampled lovely honey and learned a lot but the general consensus of opinion was "Not for us to try!" June Allen, a retired nurse, talked about "Africa off camera", in October, which told us of her work in various villages and even a confine of petty criminals among whom she experienced some harrowing moments!

November's talk was about "Nonsuch Watch" by John Wilson, which gave us an interesting insight into the varied duties involved with our local historic park. In December we had Christmas celebrations in which we entertained ourselves with quizzes on poetry and general knowledge, played games and enjoyed hot mince pies, sparkling wine and nibbles. It was all very sedate but good fun.

In June we presented a cheque to Guide Dogs for the Blind, one of the charities we supported for the year, the other being Surrey Air Ambulance. One of the members from Guide Dogs came with her dog and gave us a small demonstration with her dog, which was very humbling.

We supported the Church at various fairs. Our ladies made the customary posies for Mothering Sunday. We held impromptu events to raise money for our charities, while we continued with our constitutional aims to promote friendship, enjoy each others' company and be charitable within the confines of good Christian beliefs.

In retrospect, it was another pleasant and successful year for our group and we acquired a few new members too.

### **House Groups:**

#### **Monday Evening House Group (3rd in month)**

The Monday house group met regularly during May, June and July and completed the first course of *Living the Questions*. This is a series of DVD presentations and materials to prompt discussion and debate and to explore Christianity and faith. It was felt this had been of value and had some good

material in it. Further discussion was needed to see how it could be rolled out to others.

We took a break from meeting as a house group over the summer and since Anthony and Rachel have become parents to Joshua, we haven't been able to find a time to meet yet.

### **Wednesday Evening House Group**

We are a small friendly group that meet on a monthly basis to study and share fellowship together. Currently we have around 8 members. During the past year we have continued to study from the York Courses resources, our current course is *Jesus Rediscovered* which explores Jesus in the modern world. We begin each session listening to an audio tape and then discussing suggested questions and finish with coffee. We would love to welcome anyone interested in exploring their faith, the more the merrier! Further details from Pam

### **Jubilee Justice Group (9.30-11am, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in month)**

The Jubilee Justice Group continues to work in small ways to support campaigns for justice and freedom in various parts of the world. During Fair Trade fortnight we held a coffee morning and sold Fair Trade products. Anita, Mary and Eric joined in a march in London entitled 'Put People First' following a service at Central Hall, Westminster. This highlighted a number of concerns including Climate change.

We distributed Water Aid cards and held a coffee morning and Bring-and-Buy in aid of Water Aid and the Jubilee Debt Campaign and raised £160 thanks to the support of many in the congregation.

Paul attended our September meeting and after watching a Christian aid DVD on Climate Change offered to show it one Sunday when he was conducting the service. Many cards were filled in on this occasion, which we sent to MEPs urging them to press the EU to take action on Climate Change. Also many of the congregation completed Copenhagen Pledge cards. Anita, Ian, Mary and Eric attended the Stop Climate Chaos service at Central Hall Westminster in December, and joined in the march that followed.

### **The Church Singers**

Since the 2009 AGM we have happily welcomed several new members. Heather, Isobel, Sue, Stan, Vicky and Christine have all joined during the year and Elizabeth has also joined us when her commitments at St. Dunstan's

allow. Valerie hasn't been well enough to sing with us much this year. She is missed and we think of her and wish her well.

Our fun side had a chance to shine on October 3<sup>rd</sup> when we all sang and performed at the very successful Harvest Prom Night. Several of us sang solos, some performed in trios or duets and we were also joined by Junior Music Group in patriotic sea shanties too. The next day we performed again with Junior Music Group at the Harvest Festival, with Graham Kendrick's Beauty for Brokenness (God of the Poor) being a particularly memorable collaboration with them.

With extra encouragement from Isobel and Heather, our Christmas Carol Service performance was even more ambitious than usual and well received. We entered the darkened church with lanterns and processed round the church with Heather singing the first verse of Once in Royal David's City solo and then we all joined in the carol as we walked. We then sang in harmony and with descants several well known carols including the fairly high pitched but rousing Hark the Herald Angels Sing. Heather and Isobel finished movingly with a polished rendition of Love Came Down at Christmas.

Most recently we have performed at the March 13<sup>th</sup> Daffodil Day for St. Raphael's Hospice when we sang two John Rutter pieces, Look to the Day written especially for the Cancer Research Campaign in 2007 and his (musically different) version of All Things Bright and Beautiful. This reflected the wonderful array of all different types of daffodils in displays from all groups at our church and we repeated Look to the Day at the end of a moving Remembrance Service led by Charlotte. Elizabeth's son, Lewis, conducted us very ably and we are grateful to him.

Many thanks as always to Jane who is our stalwart support on the piano, encourages us and most importantly laughs with us as we all rely heavily on God's grace to iron out our musical imperfections and help create another hub of worship through song at our church. Thanks too to Isobel for all her organising and enthusiasm and to all the Church Singers for their spirited singing with us this year.

### **The Fellowship**

We enjoyed our usual programme of talks, entertainments and outings. Our meetings include a time of worship and end with a cup of tea/coffee. We celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in October, firstly with a lunch at the Holiday Inn, Sutton; and the following week with our Anniversary service and tea, at which we were joined by members of similar groups from other churches. The collection from this service was donated to Christian Aid. Other charities we supported included the Deep Sea Fishermen's Fund, St. Raphael's Hospice and our own church.

We meet on Tuesdays, at 2.15pm in the St Philip Hall and are always delighted to welcome both new members and occasional visitors. Our programme is in the Welcome Area and also on the church website.

### **The Children's Society**

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Society this year, particularly those who hold boxes, which raised £307. Other donations from the Music Groups, Summer and Christmas concerts, together with the Christingle Service raised £400. Six Church members did the "Explore London Walk" in September and raised another £150, making a grand total of £857. Many thanks to everyone.

### **Christian Aid**

This year's House to House collection took place between 10 -16 May 2009. A total of £1516.66 was collected by the 27 volunteers. Many thanks to all of you who helped by delivering or collecting the envelopes when you were already so busy. There was a smaller number of volunteers this year so we concentrated our efforts on fewer roads. An especially big thank you goes to our recruiter Pat who made it all possible. If you would like to help with the 2010 collection, please contact me as we can always offer you a job to do!

Further money has been raised at events organised by the Jubilee Justice Group, as well as £812 which was donated to the Haiti Appeal through Christian Aid envelopes that were available in the church. Look out for future opportunities to support the work of Christian Aid throughout the coming year.

### **Action For Children (formerly NCH)**

Grateful thanks are due to all those who have helped us raise £1,193.74 over this year for Action for Children, the children's charity of the Methodist Church. In July we celebrated the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of NCH and gifts received on Action for Children Sunday amounted to £210.00. The Strawberry Summer Fair contributed £385.00 and the House-to-House Collection in September brought in £408.00. Special thanks to Viv and the Junior Music Group for donating £120.00, being half the proceeds of their Christmas drama and music production. The Home Collecting Boxes contributed £70.74. (If you would like to have a box at home for all those unwanted loose coins, please speak to Rosemarie.) Warm thanks again to all who helped us to continue to support this vital charity.

## Girls' Brigade

1<sup>st</sup> Worcester Park Girls Brigade Company, in our 76<sup>th</sup> year at Christ Church, continues to meet on Thursday evenings in the church halls.

Our numbers in the 5 to 7 years age group have fallen, but in all older sections of the company we have seen growth. We have welcomed two new adult leaders.

Our teenagers have been trialling a new badge work syllabus which integrates all the key aspects of GB ministry (spiritual, physical, educational, service) into a fun week by week programme. This has worked well and we await similar material from headquarters for our full age range, which is currently 5 to 17!

Three Brigaders have undertaken leadership training and passed their assessments with very high marks. We were proud to see them receiving their pass certificates at a dedication service at Worcester Park Baptist Church. Two seniors have been nominated for Jack Petchey awards, and Beth was successful, receiving £200 to spend on sports equipment and an outing.

We have continued this year to forge stronger links with the church, in particular contributing to youth forum, fundraising at the Christmas Fair and jumble sales, and most recently the Daffodil Day festival.

We are planning our annual display and awards evening in May and looking forward to a good summer camp with the Boys Brigade on the Isle of Wight in August.

## Girlguiding UK – Rainbows, Brownies & Guides.

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Rainbows</b>	<b>Monday 5.00 – 6.00 pm</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Rainbows</b>	<b>Tuesday 4.30 – 5.30 pm</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Brownies</b>	<b>Tuesday 6.00 – 7.30 pm</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Brownies</b>	<b>Monday 5.30 – 7.00 pm</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Guides</b>	<b>Monday 7.15 – 9.00 pm</b>

What an exciting and fun packed year we have had in the build up to celebrating the beginning of our Centenary Year. Each member was encouraged to Raise Awareness, Raise Money and Take Direct Action in supporting an array of 'Change the World' projects.

**2nd & 8th Rainbows** chose the National Deaf Children's Society, along the way they learnt sign language, how to sign the Rainbow Promise and they held a really LOUD party. They raised £42 for the NDCS.

**2nd Brownies** (Tuesday Night) chosen charities were The Railway Children's Power of Dreams & Crisis- Homeless. Taking part in the Railway Children's Power of Dreams gave the Brownies an insight into problems of children who runaway from home in the UK. Crisis – Homelessness showed girls how easy it could be to find yourself homeless, some of the activities they took part in were, making dream catchers and dream pillows , to building a shelter to live in out of a cardboard box and black bin bag and learning how to survive the night sleeping on the streets safely. Their fundraising efforts for these 2 charities included making Lord's Prayer bookmarks and selling them along with Christmas Cards. This meant that they were able to send 48 pairs of socks to Crisis - Put a Sock in It Christmas Appeal and send a cheque to Railway Children for £75.

**8th Brownies** (Monday Night) chose to support Asthma UK & Kidscape where they raised £72 by holding a cake sale. They learnt to recognise the signs of Asthma and how to prevent an attack happening and how to treat an attack if it happened, for Kidscape they were taught how to be a friend and not a bully.

**2nd Guides** learnt about the work of the British Red Cross and how they could be humanitarian Citizens.

We were proud to have 10 girls recognised for their outstanding achievements by being recipients of Jack Petchey Awards and were presented with their medallions at a spectacular Awards Ceremony. These awards meant the girls units also benefited and this meant 2nd Brownies (Tuesday) were able to have a day in London, visiting the London Aquarium followed by a ride on the London Eye, they spent an evening kayaking on Wimbledon Lake, had a Pizza Party and bought some new equipment for camp. 8th Brownies (Monday) enjoyed a day at Icando in London doing a variety of challenges and activities. 2nd Guides spent some of their money on new camp equipment and spent a fun packed weekend enjoying a variety of outdoor activities.

During the year the 2nd Rainbows (Monday Night) had fun gaining their Aim High Badge by learning about keeping their body and mind healthy. And as part of their Thinking Day activities they found out about Rainbows in other Countries and played some different games from each of these countries. For Easter 2nd & 8th Rainbows joined together for a carousel of Easter activities and crafts including making biscuits, decorating cakes and making cards.

Our camping and holiday adventures included 2nd Brownies (Tuesday Night) going to Radcliffe Centre near Croydon for an 'Under the Sea' theme where they were joined by some of 5th Brownies (St Matthias Church) for a fun packed adventure with a day trip to Brighton where they visited Sealife Centre, had a ride on Volks beach railway, ate ice cream on the Brighton Pier ending with a fish and chip supper on the beach before getting back in our mini buses for the journey home.

8th Brownies (Monday Night) were also joined by Brownies from 5th Brownies and headed off to Paxmead in Shepperton with a theme of 'Madagascar'. The girls walked along the river and had a boat trip to Chertsey & Shepperton Lock

and finished off the afternoon with a traditional ice cream treat. Over the May Bank Holiday weekend 2nd Guides had a fantastic camp at High Ashurst Activity Centre on Boxhill, where the activities included rock climbing, crate climbing and completed the weekend surviving the low and high rope courses. During the summer they had a 'Pirate' themed joint camp with 4th Worcester Park Scouts at Walton Firs Activity Centre in Cobham, for a back to basic camp, from making gadgets to put their wellies on, to cooking all their meals on open fires, they also tried their hand at crate stacking, archery and an assault course ending the week with a traditional campfire and sing song!

September marked the start of Girlguiding UK celebrating it's 100th year, where we joined over 1650 Rainbows, Brownies & Guides at Heyswood near Cobham for a Centenary Launch Party, the day was packed with excitement from the moment the girls arrived, being met off their coaches by street entertainers and Haydon the Womble, to making garlands and party crowns, to having fun on a huge bouncy slide and circus run, playing giant games. Two enormous marquees were in the middle of the field where we paraded all our unit flags into and watched some entertainment. On exiting the marquees the most incredible sight of the day greeted us... the biggest street party you have ever seen where we enjoyed a magnificent feast of foods we even had jelly and ice cream. We ended the day with the biggest pass the parcel game whilst we listened to Radio Jackie who had been on site all day. After the Rainbows and Brownies had left for the day the Guides who were camping for the weekend went to a disco in the big marquee before ending the night with the most spectacular firework display.

We were well represented again in October at the Souwest Gang show having 7 girls and 2 leaders taking part. All units joined the rest of our District at Worcester Park railway station one cold Thursday evening in December for our second centenary event of Carol Singing to raise the profile of Girlguiding UK and in the process raise funds for Make-A-Wish Foundation our chosen charity where we raised an amazing £983.73. 2nd Guides also spent a Christmas evening entertaining the residents of Griffiths Close with a night of singing Christmas Carols, playing bingo, drinking tea and eating cakes.

2nd Brownies (Tuesday) also supported Children with Leukaemia by taking part in their Children's Marathon Challenge and raised £936.40. They also made and then sold Poppy Keyrings after church one Sunday and raised £85 for Help for Heroes Appeal.

All units have also supported the Church throughout the year by running stalls at both the Summer and Church Fetes, and have all planted our daffodil bulbs ready for next March's Daffodil Festival.

## **Boys' Brigade**

Now how is it I traditionally start this report - oh yes! Another busy year in the life of the 10<sup>th</sup> ...

Numbers are really good - 25 in Anchor Boys, 18 Juniors, having moved a good number up from Anchors this year as well as transferring 3 to the 18th at W/Park Baptist and 12 in Company Section, having unfortunately lost a couple since last summer.

Our weekly programme seems to have a real buzz about it, the boys are very enthusiastic and their attendance is excellent week by week.

Since September '09 we've been grappling with a new programme syllabus in Company Section which has worked out really well with additional help coming from Sandy P, Peter K, Mark H, Sarah H and Julie G to add to Jack C and myself.

In addition we support and participate in all the local Battalion events and competitions which have included a party to celebrate the BB's 125th anniversary, 5-a-side football, fun-swim @ Spectrum Guildford and Junior Section competitions afternoon in March. Competition wise with our usual successes

Our Junior Section joined the 11th, 14th & 18<sup>th</sup> companies on holiday in Somerset, our Anchor Boys visited Sutton Fire Station, we organised our annual Summer Camp jointly with our GB and the Company Section represented us at the National T/Pin bowling competition held in Dunstable.

We continue to support the church - at the Strawberry / Summer Fair, Christmas Shoe Box appeal, Christingle Service, the recent Daffodil Day Festival and organise 2 jumble sales in a year with half the proceeds going to church funds

We made 3 successful nominations for Jack Petchey awards - Harry K took the Company Section to a Christmas Ice Skating session at Hampton Court Palace, Ollie M will be taking a group to Thorpe Park later this spring and Daniel L intends to put his monies towards new football kit and equipment.

Finally can I add my thanks to all the leaders and helpers without whom we couldn't continue the work of the BB here at XCSP. In addition to our weekly meetings on Wednesday evenings they give up their own time preparing for these activities as well as additional trips out to events and activities. Together we enjoy true times of fellowship both with the boys and when we are able to organise occasional social get-togethers.

### **Junior Music Group**

We continue to play at the monthly Family / Parade service, and also a smaller group of us once a month in the evening when there is no organist. This is quite a big commitment, and was particularly so in August, when some of us

played either morning or evening every Sunday except one (because of people's holidays), but fortunately our young musicians are a dedicated bunch, and we coped.

We also took part in the Proms concert organised by Isobel for church funds, as well as giving our usual end of term concerts which last year included a version of 'The Frog Prince' for Comic Relief, our own musical, 'Reluctant Heroes' for Tree Aid and church funds and 'Christmas Special' for Action for Children and the Children's Society.

We went on a ramble from Leatherhead to Box Hill on an absolutely beautiful spring day, but our end of session barbecue in July was rained off. We re-scheduled it as a 'welcome back' in September and had an enjoyable evening of fun, food and friendship before settling back into our regular meetings.

We held a Cake Sale after the February family Service, which raised £80 for church funds.

Having taken part in Daffodil Day, we have had to postpone our work-in-progress, 'Cap o' Rushes', which will now take place on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> May. Further details will be found on the notice sheet.

We were pleased to celebrate both the baptism and confirmation of one of our members, Rachel, and, although sorry to see her go, we congratulate Glynnis on her place at Uni. We welcome Hannah, our newest member, and are also happy to have Simon and Becky, two former members, and Margaret and Stan, two (slightly) more senior musicians, join us whenever other commitments permit.

We are an open group; all we ask is that you can play or sing and have a lively sense of humour! We practise in the church during term time on Fridays from 6.30pm to 7.15pm, so why not come along and join us? New members are always welcome.

As always, my thanks to Jane and all our young people.

### **'Champion Challenge' Holiday Club**

Last year we had almost 90 children attend the Champion Challenge Holiday Club – in fact it was 'booked-up' within 8 days of us announcing that the children's registration forms were available!

We had needed to move to the week before August Bank Holiday since the schools went back almost immediately after the weekend which meant that some of our stalwart leaders and helpers weren't able to help this year. However an influx of new helpers ensured we still had sufficient help. New helpers were reassured that they would have fun too – if the leaders are enjoying it, then so do the children ... and both children and helpers did!

The theme enabled the children to consider how they could be like a sports team; how Jesus can be our Trainer if we listen to him and try to do what he says. He can also be like our Physio helping us to be fit and well. Jesus as a Team-mate showed the importance of working together whilst the Substitute and Winner themes were continued with the idea that Jesus died for us but triumphed and is alive today. All of the children went home with a medal which they had made and a 'gold' cup as well as many other craft items.

The children were also challenged to improve their own fitness during the week having chosen a particular physical exercise to suit their ability, they had to try to improve each day – we had some boys who did 50 press ups or sit ups. There is never enough time to complete all the activities and craft in the various sessions but that is the intent – if the children are busy they haven't got time to get into mischief – however it sometimes leaves helpers frustrated that they never get things completely finished – but that's all part of the hectic whirl of fun of Holiday Club.

The daily aerobics session this year was led by two of our 'youngsters' Mollie and Grace and they did a great job. Paul and Charlotte split the responsibilities for the bible input sessions – Paul will be long remembered for feeding everyone there with enough bread from a small bowl that everyone had plenty whilst re-enacting the feeding of the 5000, whilst Charlotte's painted scrolls showed her artistic talent once again. The daily drama set at Wembley Way School captivated the children's attention thanks to the skills of Jane, Leigh, Rachel and Charlotte.

The children enjoyed the games activities – mostly outdoors but on one occasion indoors due to rain when Paul was found competing like the rest of his team including a very creditable high jump! Singing of the various songs was enthusiastic and we've heard that the songs have been sung by several of the children during subsequent family shopping trips and car journeys!

The final evening's Sausage Sizzle was very efficient, the rain just holding off, the final episode of the drama played out before parents and friends were treated to very loud singing of the songs together with a recap of the week's activities, crafts and stories. Our thanks to all the leaders and helpers.

This year the theme will be 'Showstoppers' and due to the early September return to school again the Holiday Club will be the week before the August bank Holiday, from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday 26th August – book the dates now!

### **Under 5's (Tuesday afternoons 2.00pm during term time)**

At Christmas we said both 'farewell' and 'thank you' to Christine for all that she brought and contributed to Under 5s over many, many years. Be in no doubt - Christine has more than deserved her 'retirement'!

I am now coordinating Under 5s. Needless to say, I would not be able to do this without the continued commitment and support of Maggi nor without Chris who also now gives generously of her time to help us each week. I am pleased to say that our resident storytellers-cum-craftwork aficionados, Revds Elvey and Rowles, are also still very much involved. Thank you one and all.

Under 5s is an apt name for our meeting - not only because it is geared for children under the age of five but also because most weeks we are joined by less than five children! Those who do come do so regularly, however, and, with parents/carers joining us and participating in the various activities, there is a good sense of community building amongst us.

Each week, and once gathered, we begin by worshiping God in church - lighting a candle, singing songs (with percussion) and offering simple prayers - before moving to the more contained space of Room 2 for a Bible story, a related craft activity and, of course, the obligatory drink and biscuits.

Since Christmas we have been thinking about and thanking God for all God's many gifts to us - trying our best to make as much mess as possible along the way. If you know a child under the age of 5 who might be interested in playing with glitter, puppets, rolling pins, and sticky stuff, please recommend Under 5s to them.

### **Parent and Toddler Group**

We still have managed to keep our Voluntary run Parent and Toddler group open for many years at the Church. We are always busy on all three days. We are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30 - 11.30 and the charge for entry is still £1.50 for adults ... children are free.

We held a Toy Tombola at Christmas and we will be doing another one in the summer. We have fun doing these plus raising funds for the church. One day in March all our door and coffee money was donated towards the Haiti earthquake appeal. We raised over £100. The Mums were happy to contribute towards the fund as it touched us all.

In March we entered a collage made up of beautiful daffodils that our toddlers had coloured in to stick on it. The children enjoyed themselves doing this. The collage was then displayed in the church on 13th March for the Daffodil event. As we still pay for the use of the hall, parents help by donating toys that are in good working condition.

Our Toddler group is run by friendly committee members and is a happy place to come to. We have been complimented by many parents and this is always lovely to hear. We play a vital role in the community for both parents and toddlers to get together and socialise.

