

Parish of Saffron Walden with Wendens Ambo, Littlebury, Ashdon and Hadstock,

Saffron Walden District Annual Church Meeting 10th April 2011 at 11.40am



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If you would like your own copy of this report contact Anna Martin
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The report, without the CMS link report is available on the church website.

1 Introduction

This document was created in preparation for the 2011 Annual Church Meeting and the meeting for the election of Churchwardens that immediately precedes it. The document contains all of the papers for the meeting that were submitted to the Secretary before 31st March. It is hoped that it will provide a record of the church's activities over the year. By providing these reports for inspection before the meeting it is hoped to keep the meeting brief and to allow more time for any questions and discussion than might otherwise have been possible.

Anyone is welcome to attend the DCC, although only those on the Parish roll may vote. We hope you will come along and learn more about the way that we work and what we do. You might want to consider registering on the District Electoral roll if you have not done so, or even standing for election to the DCC, so that our decisions can involve as many as possible of our congregation. Your feedback is welcomed and we look forward to hearing from you.

Anna Martin, Secretary, DCC

2 Churchwardens' Agenda

Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

Sunday 10th April 2011 directly following the 10 a.m. service.

1. Confirmation of the Notice convening the Meeting.
2. Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on 21st March 2010
3. Election of two Churchwardens.
4. Election of two Deputy Churchwardens.

3 Churchwarden's 2010 Minutes

Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

Sunday 21st March 2010 at 11.30 a.m.

The Saffron Walden Annual District Meeting of Parishioners for the election of Churchwardens took place in St Mary's Church on Sunday 21st March 2010.

The Rector, the Revd. David Tomlinson presided.

1. The Secretary confirmed that the proper Notice convening the Meeting had been displayed.
2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th March 2009 were taken as read and confirmed.
3. Election of Churchwardens.
4. The following had been nominated: -

- a. Mr. Peter Taylor Proposed by Mrs Linda King Seconded by Mrs Gillian Lovegrove
 - b. Mrs Bron Ferland Proposed by Mr Peter Taylor Seconded by Mrs Linda King
5. There being no other nominations these were approved and the Chairman declared Mr Taylor and Mrs Ferland elected.
6. Election of Deputy Churchwardens.
The following had been nominated: -
 - a. Mr. John Parsons Proposed by Mrs Diana Hoy Seconded by Ms Lesley Green
 - b. Mr William Rose Proposed by Mr Peter Taylor Seconded by Mrs Bron Ferland
7. There being no other nominations these were approved and the Chairman declared Messrs Parsons and Rose elected.
8. The Rector thanked the Churchwardens and the Deputy Churchwardens for their work over the past year.

Presiding Officer The Rev'd David Tomlinson, Team Rector
March 2010

4 DCC AGM Agenda 2011

Agenda: Annual District Church Meeting

Sunday 10th April 2011 following the above meeting

- 1 Confirmation of the Notice convening the Meeting.
- 2 Minutes of the Annual District Church Meeting held on 21st March 2010
- 3 Matters arising.
- 4 Apologies for Absence.
- 5 District Church Electoral Roll Officer's Report.
- 6 Secretary's Report on the proceedings of the DCC.
- 7 Treasurer's Report on the Financial Affairs of the DCC.
- 8 Election of Independent Examiners
- 9 Election of 1 representative on the Parochial Church Council (1 year)
- 10 Election of 7 Lay members to the District Church Council (3 years)
- 11 Election of 6 Deanery Synod representatives
- 12 Election of Sidesmen (see list)
- 13 Reports:
 1. Goods & Ornaments of the Parish Church.
 2. Deanery Synod.
 3. Property Committee.
 4. Youth Committee
 5. Worship Committee (to include Church Music report)
 6. Social Committee
 7. Education Committee

8. Finance Committee
 9. Communications Committee
 10. Parish Rooms Committee
 11. St Mary's Tinies
 12. Women's Own
 13. Men's work
 14. Prayer Committee
 15. Jimmy's Shelter
 16. CMS Link
 17. Mothers' Union
 18. Transition Project
 19. [inserted after agenda was first published] Report on Vulnerable adults
 20. Reports from Swards End
 21. Report from Little Walden
14. Any Other Business.

5 DCC AGM Minutes 2010

Annual District Church Meeting Sunday 21st March 2010 at 11.40pm

Present: Current DCC members: Chairman, David Tomlinson, Secretary Anna Martin, Jennifer Cottam, Elizabeth Cunliffe, Arthur Davey, Michael Dix, Bronwen Ferland, Andy Finn, Lawrence Godderham, Anne Howson, Linda King, Jenny Kirkaldy, Gillian Lovegrove, Roy Maddams, Andrew Malcolm. Robin O'Neill, Helen O'Neill, John Parsons, Steve Hasler, Judith Hasler, Noel Starr, Peter Taylor, Denis Tindley, Jenny Tomlinson, Angela Want

Others: Andrew Baxter, Kate Beare, Sue Birchall, Jim Butler, Graham Cottam, Anne Firkin, Deborah Flicos, Karen Game, Timothy Game, Mary Gardner, Gerald Gardner, Sheilah Girgis-Hanna, Lesley Green, Eunice Harris, Joe Hordern, Eddie Howson, Kathleen Huey, Martin Hugall, Tony Kirkaldy, Rosanne Kirkpatrick, Michael Lovegrove, John Reid, Marjory Reid, Anne Richings, Pam Russell, Veronica Silvester, Susan Smith, Gordon Smith, Margaret Taylor, Claire Tomlinson, Diana Tyler, Peter Tyler, Hamish Walker, Susan Walker, Mike Watts, Charles White, Clifford Want,

The Saffron Walden District Church Meeting was held in the St Mary's Church Saffron Walden on Sunday 21st March 2010 at 11.30a.m. following the Morning service. The Rector, the Reverend David Tomlinson, presided.

1. Notice of Meeting

The Secretary confirmed that the proper notice convening the meeting had been displayed in accordance with the regulations.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Saffron Walden Annual District Church Meeting held on 2nd April 2009 which had been circulated were accepted unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

There were none.

4. Apologies for Absence (DCC Members only)

Apologies had been received from Rev'd. Paula Griffiths, Judith Felgate, Michael Felgate, Roy Helmore, Diana Hoy David Nash and William Rose.

5. Electoral Roll Officer's Report

The Roll Officer, Elizabeth Cunliffe, gave the figures as follows:

Saffron Walden	288		
Sewards End	39		
Little Walden	11		
Non-residents	<u>44</u>	Total	382

Judith Hasler was thanked for her help during the year.

6. Secretary's Report on the Proceedings of the DCC

Copies of the Secretary's report were distributed before the meeting. The Secretary gave a brief report thanking the DCC members for their friendliness and willingness to participate in church work. The full report can be read on the St Mary's website and is available for inspection in the Parish Office.

7. Treasurer's Report on the Financial Affairs of the DCC

Copies of the Church Accounts, which are subsidiary to the Parish Accounts, were distributed to the meeting, along with explanatory Notes, by the Treasurer Michael Dix. They had been found satisfactory by independent Examiners Peters, Elworthy and Moore.

A major factor in the achievement of a surplus in 2009 had been the very generous response to the stewardship campaign to raise money for a youth worker that Spring. The church had financed a youth worker since September 2009 and would have to finance a full year's salary in 2010. The youth worker had been of benefit to all the community.

On a proposal by the Treasurer, seconded by Arthur Davey, the Accounts were adopted unanimously by the meeting, subject to formal confirmation by the Independent Examiners in their Report on the Parish Accounts (of which these form part).

The Treasurer gave thanks to the Lord for meeting the needs of the church. He also thanked the team, particularly those who had helped to computerize the accounts, particularly Jennifer Cottam and Judith Hasler. The Rector expressed the thanks of the meeting to the Treasurer for his work over the year.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiners

It was agreed that the Accountants Peters, Elworthy and Moore be appointed as Independent Examiners for the ensuing year.

9. Election of One Representative on the Parochial Church Council

It was agreed that Noël Starr continue in this role for a further year.

10. Election of Six Lay Members of the DCC for three years

Jack Golding wished to stand down and six members were retiring in rotation: Philip Tarris stood down and Roy Helmore would not stand again but would continue in his role as a Diocesan Synod Representative.

The other four were eligible and willing to continue: Anthony Whitney Armon-Jones, proposed by Lawrence Gooderham and seconded by Robin O'Neill, Jennifer Cottam, proposed by Judith Hasler and seconded by Peter Taylor, Elizabeth Cunliffe, proposed by Lawrence Gooderham and seconded by Robin O'Neill, and Gillian Lovegrove, proposed by Margaret Helmore and seconded by Anna Martin

Three new nominees were proposed: Andrew Baxter, proposed by Anna Martin and seconded by Elizabeth Cunliffe, Martin Hugall, proposed by Philip Tarris and seconded by Jennifer Cottam and Denis K. Tindley, proposed by Peter Taylor and seconded by William Rose. There was one further vacancy, carried over from last year. All seven were elected for the period 2010-2013.

11. Election of Sidesmen

A list of 38 names was presented to the meeting by Roy Maddams and elected en bloc. Roy Maddams explained that he was grateful that many had responded to a recruitment drive.

12. Reports

Brief versions of the following reports were given by the persons named below (unless a verbal report is specified.) Full copies of the reports can be consulted in the St Mary's, St. John's and St. James's two weeks before the 2011 AGM and will be available for perusal at that AGM. Copies are also available at the Parish Office.

- (1) Goods and Ornaments of the Parish Church** Peter Taylor gave a verbal report that the small cross on top of the ciborium lid had been mended but has broken again. The crucifer's cross has become bent. Both need attention
- (2) Deanery Synod** (Robin O'Neill)
- (3) Property Committee** (Bronwen Ferland)
- (4) Youth Committee** (Steve Hasler) **(Including Youth Worker's report:** Andy Finn)
- (5) Worship Committee** (David Tomlinson) **(including Church Music report:** Andrew Malcolm)
- (6) Social Committee** (Gillian Lovegrove)
- (7) Education Committee** (a verbal report by Peter Taylor) The Education Committee had not met but Peter education in the church has continued, including a study group meeting from September. Questions asked led to an "ask the clergy" evening.
- (8) Finance Committee** (Arthur Davey)
- (9) Communications Committee** (Anna Martin for Paula Griffiths)
- (10) Parish Rooms Committee** (Anna Martin gave a verbal report for Mike Felgate) The Parish rooms continued to be used well. **(11)**
- St Mary's Tinies** (formerly the pram service.) (Margaret Taylor)
- (12) Women's Own**
Margaret Taylor gave a report from the Women's Own and thanked Judith Felgate for her work.
- (13) Men's work (including Men's Breakfasts)** (Mike Watts)

- (14) Prayer Committee (Margaret Taylor)
- (15) Jimmy's Charity (Kathleen Huey)
- (16) Mission Committee (Jenny Kirkaldy)
- (17) Report from Swards End (Steve Hasler)
- (18) Report from Little Walden (Kate Beare for Dave Nash)

13) Chairman's Report

The Rector, David Tomlinson, gave the Chairman's report.

14) The meeting closed with prayer

6 Electoral Roll Officer's Report

The total number on the Saffron Walden District Roll – including the non-residents is now **394** – which is up a bit on last year's total of **382**.

From the Saffron Walden Roll there have been some losses – those moving away or dying - amongst whom have been some longstanding and loyal members of the church. But we have also gained new members – 15 in Saffron Walden itself (3 returning); one also in Swards End and 15 in Little Walden – contributing to a total which is now more representative of Little Walden's regular congregation.

The current totals are as follows: -

Saffron Walden:	291
Swards End:	36
Little Walden:	26
Non-residents:	41

TOTAL	394
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Don't forget that, if you would like to feel more involved in your church and are not already on the Roll, you can fill in an Electoral Roll application form at any time and return it to the Parish Office or to me.

Elizabeth Cunliffe, Electoral Roll Officer.

(Contact details at back of Parish News)

7 DCC Secretary's Report

The secretary would like to thank all the DCC members for all their contributions to our church life over the past year. Particularly those whose current three year terms of office come to an end: Michael Dix, Jenny Kirkaldy, Hamish Walker and Fiona Muncey. One of the posts elected last year should have been for one year only: Andrew Baxter has agreed to



represent that post and his (short) term is now coming to an end.

There is a vacancy arising from Bron Ferland's post becomes vacant by virtue of the fact that she has become a Church Warden and there was one further existing vacancy, making seven DCC vacancies in all.

There are also Deanery synod elections: we would like to thank those who are currently serving: Roy and Margaret Helmore, Michael Dix, Robin and Helen O'Neill and Elizabeth Cunliffe. People in these posts automatically also get a seat on the DCC. Nominations are sought for all these posts for a new three year term of office.

The DCC met seven times since the last AGM: June 9th, a DCC awayday on July 10th, 8th September, 1st Dec, a meeting on 12th January to consider the budget, and an extra meeting on 26th Feb to discuss the constitution and on 16th March. The members of the DCC are listed in the appended Financial documents.

Michael Dix remained as Treasurer, Anna Martin as Secretary and Noël Starr as the DCC representative on the PCC but there have been several personnel changes over the year: Debbie Sandom was appointed Rector's Secretary and that post was later merged with the role of Parish Administrator, formerly filled on a voluntary basis by Judith Hasler, who has moved to take on a new role as Team Facilitator. The Parish Administrator's role is now a paid one, in line with that of other modern churches, this has been a major consideration in setting a budget for the coming year. David Cook and Gordon Smith kindly acted as temporary Directors of Music whilst a new Director was sought: Oliver King has now been Director of Music since September and the music in the church has thrived under his guidance. Stephen Penton was recently appointed as Assistant Organist. The committee approved a proposal to allow Denis Tindley to administer communion. Rev'd Jenny Tomlinson has taken on a new role as Parish Development Advisor in the Colchester Episcopal Area from January 2011 and Rev'd Paula Griffiths has had placements in the village churches around the parish.

Graham Cottam joined the Core group this year, which, consists of David Tomlinson (Chair) Jenny Tomlinson, Anne Howson, Peter Taylor, Bron Ferland, Robin O'Neill, and Judith Hasler, and although they have not submitted a report they have been hard at work facilitated long term strategic planning and we are grateful to them.

David Tomlinson, Judith Hasler, Roy Helmore, Hamish Walker and Debbie Sandom have been a great help and encouragement with advising and helping the secretary on occasion, and the DCC members have been kind and patient. I am very grateful to them all.

The meeting of 13th January which focussed on the budget. The Stewardship Campaign in February and March 2011 sought to cover a budgeted deficit of £25,000. It has so far raised £29,466 – an overwhelming response for which the Rector said he was deeply grateful to everyone. He commended the DCC for its faith in voting for such a budget. He thanked the campaign team, Peter Taylor, Bron Ferland, David Birchall, Denis Tindley and Arthur Davey. There were 147 responses in all, including 24 new committed givers.

We heard much, over the year, about the exciting developments in the Transition project, Pre-school and building projects, as you can read in their reports. The Worship report outlines many of the inspiring services that took place. The Summer Fair, organized by Bron Ferland, and the Bethlehem Winter Fair, organized by Bill Rose, both with the help of countless others, were both memorable events (see picture p.7)

A new team ministry structure is being proposed for the District, papers detailing the proposed changes are available from the Parish Office. The DCC held a special open meeting on Saturday 26th February to discuss proposals for re-organization of the parishes in the team ministry. Following the formation of a clergy team ministry in 2009 with a team rector and three team vicars, we have been consulting on the best legal structure for the parishes involved to reflect and support that ministry. The aim of the change is to use the available resources to carry out our mission and ministry in this area in the most effective way.

In technical terms, the proposals involve the termination of the Saffron Walden and District team ministry and the dissolution of the Parish of Saffron Walden with Wendens Ambo, Littlebury, Ashdon and Hadstock. New separate parishes will be created in Saffron Walden, Wendens Ambo, Littlebury, Ashdon and Hadstock. These, together with the existing parishes of Debden, Wimbish, Great Chesterford and Little Chesterford will together form a new benefice and team ministry to be known as the Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry. The documents lay out details relating to selection of clergy, clergy houses and the establishment of a team council.

David Tomlinson, Judith Hasler, the clergy and churchwardens have worked closely with Diocesan staff to help draw up these proposals for formal consultation with all interested parties. The DCC unanimously agreed to the proposals and this response was sent to back to the Diocese along with a couple of minor queries for clarification. The proposals are available to view on the church website and the minutes of the meeting, including the papers involved, are available from the parish office or from myself. The next step will be for the Bishop to approve the proposals, having taken account of the local feedback, before submitting them to the Church Commissioners for the stage in the consultation and approval process.

Preparing this report makes one appreciate the constancy and skill of the Parish Magazine team who produce that publication every month. The following reports will give a broad overview of the sort of things that we discuss and organize in our three churches, partly through the DCC. Much of the planning and work is done by our team of hard working clergy but DCC members do a lot of work to help and support them and as usual there is a lot of unseen work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that worship, groups, prayer, food and buildings continue to benefit the community each week. The work of various committees and individuals involved in organizing these is much appreciated by all. There are getting on for 400 people on the combined district electoral rolls of the three churches: running these churches and ministering to so many different people in so many different ways involves lots of people giving time,

patience and energy to building up our community and each of us are happily dependent on many others in different ways to help us function smoothly.

The minutes and papers discussed at all the DCC meetings can be obtained from the Parish Office and in the bound copies at the back of the church or contact Anna Martin 01799 501927 annaarmstrongmartin@live.co.uk

Anna Martin, DCC Secretary



**DEBBIE SANDOM,
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR AND RECTOR'S SECRETARY**



JUDITH HASLER TEAM FACILIATOR

8 Treasurer's Report

The treasurer will give an oral report to the meeting.

9 Goods & Ornaments

Report on the Fabric of the Church, and its Goods and Chattels – March 2011

Currently we are part way through a programme of repair and redecoration which will see the completion of all outstanding items from the 2007 Quinquennial Report. You will all be aware that the North Aisle has been redecorated. Workmen are currently effecting repairs to various sections of stonework on the exterior of the church and repairing a number of the steps in the staircase leading to the Muniments room. Some thirteen floor slabs in a poor state of repair are to be replaced, as are some of the chancel tiles. In June the South Aisle will be screened off for repair and redecoration and at this time the Muniments Room itself will be redecorated. When this work is completed we are confident that the fabric of the church will be in better condition than at present.

We have now checked through all the items listed on the inventory. Last year two items were found to be in need of repair: the silver processional cross and the small cross on the lid of a ciborium. Both items have been repaired.

All items of value stored at St Mary's, St John's and St James have been checked and are where they should be.

We have added to the inventory the new carpet and beanbags in the Children's Corner, and also a new altar copy of the BCP.

We appear to have “lost” two of the old cane-bottomed chairs, and several of them are in a poor state of repair.

Beyond this, we are happy to report that all items listed on the inventory are present and correct.

Bron Ferland and Pete Taylor, Churchwardens

10 Deanery Synod

Meetings of the Deanery Synod over the past year have been largely concerned with the issue of increasing church attendance numbers and encouraging growth. A Deanery Growth Task Force has been considering this. Preliminary figures from those parishes which have provided them, suggest that the decline in the early years of the millennium has been halted and there is some modest growth.

Parishes have given presentations on action they are taking on this issue. This has often started by trying in a village to involve the church more in village life, raising its profile, and finding ways of getting people to enter the door of the church, perhaps for special services or sometimes for activities which largely social. These have included meetings of various kinds for men, activities for children and young people, and in Elsenham, for example, a series of events celebrating the 900th anniversary of St Mary’s church.

On 23rd March 2011, the Deanery Synod discussed the draft Measure providing for the consecration of women as bishops which is to come to the General Synod later in the year. Before the General Synod considers this legislation it must first be subject to a vote in every diocese, in their Diocesan Synod. It will only go forward to a vote in the General Synod if a majority of dioceses have voted in favour. In our diocese, deaneries have been asked to give their views before the Diocesan Synod considers and votes on the matter on 4th June. The views of deanery synods are not binding on the representatives they send to the Diocesan Synod, but it was felt right that an opportunity should be given to sound opinion in every deanery.

The draft Measure provides for the consecration of women as bishops and the continuation of the ordination of women as priests, together with provision for continuing to provide care for those parishes which on theological grounds feel unable to receive the ministry of women. These arrangements follow closely the safeguards contained in the present provisions for the ordination of women dating from 1993, but the Measure provides that they will take the form of a Code of Practice rather than being part of the legislation itself. In the discussion on 23rd March, more was heard from those opposed to the Measure than from those who approved of it. Some critics were opposed on grounds of principle to women’s ministry, others said that the bishops could not be trusted to provide properly for objecting parishes if there was nothing stronger than a Code of Practice to make them do so. But in separate votes by the clergy and lay members of the Deanery Synod, both groups voted strongly in favour of the new Measure.

Robin O’Neill

11 Property Committee

Bron Ferland (Chair) Michael Felgate, John Parsons, Lawrence Gooderham, Robin O'Neill, Diana Hoy, Lesley Green (as Lettings Officer) Peter Taylor (attends if needed) Elizabeth Cunliffe

The Property Committee has met four times during the past year. During that time we have taken delivery of the new carpet and beanbags for the Children's Corner, the Sound System has been tweaked, an additional speaker installed and at the same time attenuators were added to the two front East facing speakers to help avoid feedback from "loud" performers!

The boiler has been serviced, the gutters cleaned out and routine maintenance carried out in the Verger's Cottage and the Curate's House.

We have this year been concerned with three major pieces of work: organising a new heating system for the Parish Rooms, putting into effect the work arising from the last Quinquennial Inspection and carrying out the redecoration of the North and South Aisles.

The Parish Room heating system has to be replaced because of the problems with the current arrangements. Having examined quotations for this work, a new, more efficient system is to be installed, probably over the summer period.

The Quinquennial repairs and the redecoration work are being carried out together, in two phases. The first, covering the redecoration of the North Aisle, has recently been completed. The second phase which will include the repairing of the steps to the Muniments Room, the redecoration of the Muniments Room, the redecoration of the South Aisle, together with repairs to various sections of stonework around the church will be carried out during June and July. We look forward to this work being completed.

I am, as always, enormously grateful for the help and support given by every member of this committee, all of whom give both practical and sound advice.

Bron Ferland

12 Children and Youth Committee

Members: Steve Hasler (Chair) Andy Finn, Robert Flitney (Deputy: Tracey Nicholls) Francoise Davis, Debbie Flicos, Margaret Jacobs and Helen O'Neill

2010 was Andy Finn's first full year with us as our Youth Worker and was marked by an increase in attendance in most youth groups, more focus on Christian teaching and discussion in Aftershock (11-18 years of age) and the re-start of a number of groups (e.g. On Track at St Mary's School). H2H, the all age worship run by Aftershock members has gone from strength to strength across 2010 with more youth and adults attending. Additionally, Andy has worked in the team of church youth leaders drawn

from the churches across Saffron Walden to help design and establish new groups for the 7-11 age range (XSite) and youngsters aged over 11 (Fuse) and to continue to lead the Christian Union at the County High School. Regrettably, the decision was taken during the year to close Shockwaves (7 -11 years) due to the lack of attendance, replacing it in 2011 with events at various times in the Church calendar, e.g. Easter and Christmas.

Sunday Club now joins the main service in time for the Peace. This is working well and benefits adults and children alike as we are joining in time to prepare for communion. We hope that this will also help the older members in their transition from Sunday Club to main church services. There have been some changes in staffing over the last year although we are still understaffed and would benefit from two more adults. Between 6 and 16 children attend, aged between 3 and 16. Ideally we would like to run three classes but practically, from the point of both children and available adults, two classes is a good compromise. We hope that we will be able to make this leap sometime in the future.

The uniformed organisations, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, affiliated to St Mary's continue to meet in the Parish rooms and to attend some services across the year. Attendance remains high and participation is enthusiastic.

A considerable level of training was provided in 2010 for Children and Youth leaders. This included Scripture Union training for all leaders, attendance at an additional course for Sunday Club leaders, First Aid Training for Andy, Child Protection Training for all leaders, helpers and clergy and Andy completed the Bishop's Certificate in Youth Work run by the Diocese. At the end of 2010, DCC approved Andy's request to study for an M.A. in Theology in Youth Work.

In April, we achieved accreditation under the "Love Your Youth Worker" Charter which prompts support for Andy from the full congregation, DCC, the Rector and his mentors. Our application was judged to be one of the best received by the accreditation assessors and a review at the end of 2010 indicated that we have followed through on all of our actions.

A Prayer Group for the Children and Youth groups and activities was started in October 2010 and we are thankful to Mike Watts for his sensitive leadership of the group. One of the areas of focus for prayer has been for additional volunteers as the attendance at various of our groups increases.

Our work with Children and Youth in the Saffron Walden District has moved on considerably during 2010 and the full range of our activities was celebrated at the first, annual Children and Youth service in July at which each group played a part and many of the young people participated.

Finally, I should like to record my thanks to all the group leaders and all who help them for their time, talents and energy in this important part of our ministry.

Steve Hasler

Chair, Children and Youth Committee



YOUNG PEOPLE AT SOUL SURVIVOR

13 Worship Committee

Members: David Tomlinson (Chair) Oliver King, Peter Taylor, Bron Ferland, Noël Starr, Michael Felgate, Jenny Kirkaldy, Linda King, Gordon Smith

The business of the **Worship Committee** in its three meetings this year has largely been concerned with review and preview of the church's special services but also with deeper discussion of our weekly worship pattern and liturgy; the latter tends to be ongoing from meeting to meeting! Services of note which the committee felt had been very successful included the Passover meal, the three-hour service and the choir's devotional offering on Good Friday, the Easter Day services (especially Andrew Malcolm's last Evensong), Paula Griffiths' ordination, the first celebration of the Eucharist by Anne Howson and Paula, the Advent and Christmas carol services, and the Lighting of the Christmas Tree. New or fairly new services which have been discussed include the team "Songs of Praise", the Holocaust service, and the Deanery service; the introduction of the Watch of Prayer on Maundy Thursday, the change of arrangements for Sunday Club, and the Junior Choir's Eucharist will be reviewed at our May meeting. A booklet of notes for servers has been produced and should help to standardize procedure. Ongoing discussion and research have included trying to find a suitable source of introductions to readings, establishing a pattern for Sunday evening services, and the placing of the final hymn, blessing, choir recession, and dismissal at the Sunday morning Eucharist; no final decision has been reached on any of these. Suggestions which were discussed but not actioned included making a list of offertory groups, placing a few choir members in the congregation on Sunday mornings to aid the congregational singing, and abolishing the announcing of hymns. The use of new "Glorias" was received well, as was the idea of a programme of readings and music for Remembrance, although the timing and format of this still remain to be decided; in general, the contribution of the church's musicians regularly received thanks and praise.

Gordon Smith

14 Church Music

Director of Music: To May 2010 David Cook, May to September, Gordon Smith, (Acting Director of Music), From September 2011 Oliver King.

Assistant Organist: From March 2011 Stephen Penton.

SMMA Committee members: Lesley Green (Chair,) Bron Ferland (Secretary) Christine Lawrence (Treasurer) Gill Gibson (Social officer) Anna Martin (Junior Choir Social Co-ordinator) Graham Cottam, Noël Starr, Simon Potter, Anne Richings to July 2010.

From January 2011: Vicky Barrett.



The first part of this report is written by Lesley Green, Chairman of the St Mary's Music Association, as it covers the period from the last AGM until the arrival of our new Director of Music in September.

This time last year we were busily preparing for Easter and our farewell to Andrew Malcolm. I think everything went extremely well and he seemed overwhelmed by the number of former choristers and band players who joined us for the Fauré Requiem and the Easter Sunday services. David Cook then held the baton for the summer. We had a wonderful weekend with the choir from Hamburg, a concert and a service. The Lunchtime Concerts and Organ Recitals were again a great success with some lovely music being offered to us. Many thanks to David Cook who organized an Organ Recital given by Jean-Baptiste Dupont. It was a first for us to attract an organist all the way from Toulouse.

Unfortunately personal problems made life increasingly difficult for David Cook, who really needed to be near home in London, so he left us in May and Gordon Smith stepped up to lead the music until September. We are very grateful to Gordon for all he did for us during this time. The SMMA Festal Evensong was a lovely event with Bishop Derek giving us a wonderful sermon about harmony, both the musical and the personal kind! It was a great joy to us that one of our members, Philip Tarris, was ordained deacon in July – I think the first of our choristers to do so, certainly the first since the reformation of the choir in 1985. It was also a great joy for us to be involved with the Ordination to the Priesthood of Anne Howson and Paula Griffiths. Now over to Oli!
Lesley Green

In October I wrote a paper outlining where I saw the music heading at St Mary's. This is a document that will be updated every year. I will say more about this next year.

The Junior Choir is currently modest in numbers but we have some excellent young singers coming up through the ranks. I now feel that they are starting to develop their own musical identity and I am keen to make sure that this continues to go from strength to strength. To this end we are actively recruiting for the Junior Choir and are running a recruitment morning on the 2nd April. I would like to add my sincere thanks to Anna Martin and all those involved in the ongoing recruitment process. Next academic year will also see the establishment of a new choir aimed at 6 – 8 year olds, I am very much looking forward to seeing how this will pan out. Since September the Junior Choir have sung for a centenary service in Little Walden, they have sung solos in the Christmas Carol service (in Spanish!) and they regularly sing parts of the Sunday morning service. I feel that their confidence is growing and I was thrilled that they were recently able to lead the music at a morning Eucharist service. Education is

extremely important in choral training and I would also like to thank Susan Smith for continuing to mastermind and develop the ribbon training.

I am pleased to report that the Choral Scholarship Scheme is now starting to get going and I am very grateful to Noël Starr for his ideas and help on this. I would also like to thank the anonymous donor who is sponsoring this project. I shall report more on this next year.

Both the Junior and Senior choirs work incredibly hard, not to mention tirelessly, throughout the year, and I am incredibly grateful for their ongoing commitment and positive attitude. I have thrown a great deal of new repertoire at them since last September and I am heartily encouraged by their tireless attitude and commitment towards the strong musical tradition of this church.

St Mary's Brass is working well and has had a good year so far. In December they played at the Christmas Fair, the Christmas Carol Service and outside Tescos. This summer, the band will play at the summer fair and also give an afternoon of music at the Saffron Walden bandstand at the end of the carnival week in July.

I would like to warmly thank David and the clergy team, Lesley Green, the choir and band along with the wider community of the church for making me feel so welcome.

There are many exciting plans for the imminent future; a 'Come and Sing Messiah' in aid of Christian Aid, a tour to Hamburg, concerts and recitals, and I am confident that music at St Mary's will continue to go from strength to strength.

Oliver King, Director of Music



15 Social Committee

For the past year our committee has been Gill Lovegrove (Chair) , Ruby Parsons, Juliette Welch, Anne Rhodes, Sue Birchall, Mary Seymour. Margaret Barnes has recently joined our Committee. Liz Tarris resigned last summer and we would like to thank her for all the hard work she has given to all our events.

We held three Lent Lunches last year and with the added donations from the coffee and hot cross buns provided on Good Friday 2 April 2010 we were able to donate £233.40 to the Bishop's Lent Appeal.

On the 3 April 2010 we held an Easter Eve buffet after the Easter Eve Service. No charge was made for this and about 40 people attended, what was a very sociable evening.

On the 9 May 2010 the committee provided afternoon tea for the Friends of St Mary's prior to their AGM. On the 25 May 2010 the committee provided refreshments for the Archdeacon's visitation. The summer fair was held on the 5 June 2010 and the committee provided tea, coffee and cakes to a steady stream of people during the morning.

A Bring and Share Lunch was held on the 27 June 2010 to celebrate the Ordination as Priest for Anne Howson. It was a very happy occasion and enjoyed by all. On the 19 September 2010 we held our Harvest Festival Family Lunch. This was well attended. £276.40 was donated to Jimmy's Night Shelter. We held another Bring and Share Lunch on the 26 September 2010 to celebrate the Ordination as Priest for Paula Griffiths. Once again it was well attended and a happy occasion.

On the 16 October 2010 we held our annual Quiz Night with a Fish and Chip Supper. 102 people attended and enjoyed the power point presentation of questions set by our excellent quiz master Steve Hasler ably assisted by his daughter Katie. We held three advent Lunches starting on the 10 December 2010. We were able to donate £ 216.00 for Jimmy's Night Shelter.

The Nativity was our theme for the Christmas Fare on 11 December 2010. The Parish Rooms became The Inn at Bethlehem with the live nativity scene in the stable in the side hall. We had a constant flow of people buying refreshments from 9am until we stopped serving at 1.30pm.

On the 26 February 2011 the committee held "A Bit of a Do" in aid of CMS link with the Dobbings. The Parish Rooms were turned into a French Bistro and sixty people sat down to a three course dinner with musical interludes played by Eddie Howson. An enjoyable evening was had by all and the net proceeds plus the raffle amounted to £590.

I would like to thank all who have supported our various events throughout the year, and given so generously towards the various appeals.

Gill Lovegrove

16 Education Committee

The Committee are: Peter Taylor, (Chair) Elizabeth Cunliffe, Anne Howson, Denis Tindley, Bron Ferland

Education Committee

The Education Committee has as its remit the provision of opportunities for members of the congregation to further their spiritual lives particularly through small home

groups. It also has a concern to provide ways in which people outside of the church can engage with Christian truths.

The home study groups have been using Lent and Advent themes as well as studies in John's Gospel and a short series on the Psalms. There are now two groups meeting during the day in addition to three evening groups. As well as a time of study together the groups provide support and encouragement for participants in their Christian journey. A series is being planned on the book of Jonah to run alongside a sermon series.

Members of the committee have been involved with the activities marking the 400th anniversary of the King James translation of the Bible.

Peter Taylor

17 Finance Committee

Arthur Davey (Chair) David Tomlinson, Peter Taylor (Churchwarden) Bron Ferland (Churchwarden) Michael Dix (Treasurer) David Birchall, Lawrence Gooderham, Robin O'Neill and Jennifer Cottam

The Financial Committee report will follow once the Auditors have returned the Financial documentation

18 Communications Committee

Members: Paula Griffiths (Chair) Judith Felgate, Christine Flitney, Judith Hasler, Martin Hugall, Gill Lovegrove, Lisa Webber (Secretary)

Communications Committee, 2010-2011

Since the 2010 AGM the Communications Committee has met 5 times. Judith Felgate, Christine Flitney, Martin Hugall, Gill Lovegrove and Lisa Webber (Secretary) have been members throughout the year. Judith Hasler stepped down in November, and Debbie Sandom replaced her in January.

Much of our work is collaborative: other groups and committees, and individuals help with many projects. We thank them all. I would also like to thank the Committee members for their constant enthusiasm and goodwill: they are a pleasure to work with. This year's projects have included:

1. Encouraging summer Welcomers in the church: thanks to them all, and to Sheila Girgis and Christine Coughlan for organising rotas.
2. Partially reorganising the back of the church, to ease preparation for services, with support of the churchwardens and sidesmen.

3. Ensuring that displays inside the church remain eye-catching, relevant and of good quality –thanks to Judith Felgate.
4. Producing new leaflets with coloured photographs about the church's work – thanks to Jim Butler for photographs and layout.
5. Producing the foreign language guides in a format which visitors can take away – thanks to Anne Newman for typing and proofreading!
6. Producing leaflets for use at funerals and in ministry to the bereaved.
7. Notice board – discussing with the Friends the best locations for new external notice boards: proposals were put to the DCC in December and we now await a response from a possible provider.
8. Christmas Fair – supporting the tireless efforts of Bill Rose and others in developing the First Nativity theme.
9. Bible 2011 – planning and publicising the programme of events, together with Peter Taylor and the Education Committee.
10. Maintaining and developing the church's Website and regular press liaison – thanks to Martin and Christine. Hits on the website continue to increase, and press coverage of our activities is frequent.
11. Preparing for the *Everybody Welcome* course which is being held throughout the Team this summer.

Paula Griffiths Chair, Communications Committee March 2011

19 Parish Rooms

Members: Judith Felgate, Michael Felgate, Fiona Muncey, Robert Flitney and Phil Strong.

This committee falls within the remit of the Property Committee and there is no separate report this year.

20 St Mary's Tinies

"Tinies" continues to be popular with parents and pre-school children. Normally attendance varies between a dozen and two dozen adults plus considerably more children, but we recently hit an all-time high with 35 adults and at least 40 children!

Our main highlight was last May when we featured in "Walden 24", a film (now on DVD) showing a day in the life of the town. Our 2-minute slot gave a good glimpse into a Tinies' service and also an interview with Paula, explaining what Tinies was all about.

I should like to thank Paula for all the careful liaising she did with the Saffron Walden Initiatives Group who made the film. We felt privileged to represent the church in this way.

Anne now has email contact with most of the families, which has improved communications no end. The "prayer box" which she introduced last year continues to be used regularly by the mums.

Friendships have been growing between the mums, particularly in this past year, and it's great to see their support for each other, as well as the trust which has developed between the families and the clergy and church members on the team.

My grateful thanks go to all the Tinies' team, both clergy and lay, for their devoted commitment through another year.

Margaret Taylor

21 Women's Own

We continue to give thanks to God for another year of real blessing as the ladies from St Mary's and the Parish have met together on Saturday mornings to enjoy breakfast, fellowship and a time for themselves. On all of these mornings there has been a real message, sometimes very challenging, for each one to respond to.

On the seven occasions we met there have been an average of 48 ladies.

These are the titles for the occasions when we met:

April "Three Monologues and a Dialogue" – Home Team

May "The Church of Tomorrow" – Andy Finn

September "Spotlight on Zimbabwe" – Claire Freeth (also with "Laura's Linens")

October "The Accidental Christian" – Tracey Nicholls

November "What will our King be like" – Revd Paula Griffiths

February "Images of Jesus" – Home Team Drama

March "Lenten Thoughts" – Revd Jeremy Collingwood

We are now into our seventh year, and we can look back and see how there has been much spiritual growth amongst the ladies who have attended.

Because of the many activities at St Mary's during April we will not be meeting this month, or having our usual Quiet Day.

As a team we are very encouraged by the support given to this work, and look to God to guide us and provide for us in the coming year.

Thank you all for your prayer support for this work.

On behalf of Margaret Taylor, Linda King and Sue Birchall

Judith Felgate

22 Men's work

The men's work team have continued to lay on a number of different types of events to encourage men to have fellowship together, move on in their faith and offer opportunities for those not yet Christians to hear about the Gospel. After a break in 2010 we have resumed running our men's breakfasts this year. Our first breakfast attracted 45 guests when we heard Tim Seymour speak about his Christian journey and its effect on his life and work. A further 3 breakfasts are planned for the rest of the year. We have just started our 5th spring men's evening course. This year we are looking at the Passion of Christ as portrayed in Matthew's gospel. The men's walks have continued every other month throughout the year; attendance has been good with 11 men joining us for our last walk.

Michael Watts

23 Prayer Committee

Report on Prayer Committee for AGM 2011

Our focus this year has been on individual rather than corporate prayer.

At Easter and Lent we made prayer stations by the south door. The Easter one, designed mainly by Anne Rose and Linda King, was particularly well used.

We also had our usual "prayer table" at the summer and Christmas fairs, with prayer cards which people took away free of charge.

We revised the wording of the leaflet, "Teach us to pray", to make it more user-friendly.

We have been asked to compile a monthly Parish Prayer Cycle for use in private intercession for our church and community. This is a rather formidable undertaking (ie. knowing where to start and finish!) but we are hoping to have it completed by the summer.

Our highlight was the Week of Individually Guided Prayer (27th – 31st March) when 45 "pilgrims" from around the parish met individually each day with a "guide" who was trained in spiritual direction.

At the time of writing we are halfway through the week, and already it seems that both pilgrims and guides are feeling well and truly blest.

We thank God for this unique opportunity, and would also like to record our grateful thanks to Jane Keiller from Ridley Hall, who headed up the whole event, and the wonderful team of supervisors and guides from whose wisdom and discernment we have gained so much.

Margaret Taylor

24 Jimmy's Shelter

Our little group have met twice since the last report, on 29th September 2010 and the 2nd March 2011

We continue with our regular collections and deliveries on the first Sunday of the month. This was and continues to be modified. The refurbishment of the shelter meant loss of storage space and although the shelter has now moved across to a temporary area of the Zion Church basement there is still limited storage.

The **Underwear fund** has enabled me to buy £684.36 of new underwear for Jimmy's from Henry, in the market, during this last year. He retired at the end of February and we will miss him. His prices were unbeatable.

We took a large selection of food from St Mary's **Harvest** Offering after September 19th 2010 service. On 3rd October we had more harvest offerings from St Mary's School and from Swards End's and even a hamper from Stanley Wilson Lodge. We raised another £480.20 (£350 gift aided) at Christmas.

Our Homelessness Sunday and the events associated with it raised a total of £1441.50. The events included a visit from Henry Brown the new CEO. We were pleased to have him and his family at Sunday service and to hear his talk with a power point presentation at lunch.

I would like to remind everyone that I need specific Gift Aid instructions for Jimmy's for any money gifts that are given. Your Gift Aid arrangements with St Mary's can't be used in this context.

I want to say thank you very much to Judith, Joe, Petronella, Farida and Tim for all their work and support and we continue to enjoy Judith's wonderful notice boards.

It is planned that building work on the main centre starts very soon and if all goes well the new Jimmy's centre will open in January 2012

Kathleen A Huey

25 CMS Link

[The paper copy of this document contains a Church Missionary Society Link section written by Jenny Kirkaldy. If you would like to obtain a paper copy of this document ask in the office.

26 Mothers' Union

Our membership in Saffron Walden totalled 25, but as a number are frail and housebound the average attendance at our monthly meetings was 14. We had interesting speakers on Thursday afternoons including Sheilah Girgis on St Francis of Assisi and Islam, the Revd Paula Griffiths' view of Mothers Union, Rufus Barnes on Jerusalem and the Revd Frances Drake on M.U. Worldwide.

In March we met at the home of Yvonne and Michael Dix for our Wave of prayer for Chelmsford and its linked Dioceses in Africa and Eastern Asia. This was combined with a coffee morning and bring and buy stall in aid of the overseas fund. We were especially grateful to Michael and his daughter for allowing the event to continue even though Yvonne was ill in hospital. There was further fund-raising for Overseas at a Summer Garden Party at 3, The Wayback.

We are very fortunate in having the support of our M.U. Deanery Chaplain, the Revd Canon Chris Bishop, who led services at Berden in Holy Week and Advent, as well as joining us for our Christmas party at Audley Court.

Our Rector led and gave the address at our Deanery Festival Service in May, when members from the village branches and elsewhere, as well as ladies from other churches in the town, joined us. We enjoyed sharing fellowship with the Methodists on quite a regular basis, including attending their Daffodil Rally and Christmas Service.

Overall, our membership is elderly and sadly declining. In Saffron Walden, Una Dinning, Dorothy Kidman and Ada Bardsley celebrated 90th birthdays, bringing the total of nonagenarians to 7. In the villages, membership in Ashdon and Hadstock, Berden and Wendens Ambo, and Littlebury was 7, 10 and 2 respectively.

As we have moved into 2011, we have been saddened by the death of Diana Ellis, a devoted Mothers' Union member for over 50 years.

On a happier note, Saffron Walden has been delighted to welcome two new members, Christine Coughlan and Janet Damary, within the last year. At the Tinies Christmas Party, which we as Mothers' Union provide, we gave out copies of the lively M.U magazine Families First to the young Mums, in the hope of awakening their interest. A discussion group, concerned with family issues has been established at the home of Eunice Harris. We would just like more to join us!

We remain a caring fellowship, supporting family life locally, nationally and internationally. Through our giving we have supported the A.F.I.A. holiday scheme,

the Contact Centres for divided families and the Prison Projects in Chelmsford and Bulwood Hall, as well as work with literacy and A.I.D.S. Overseas and much more.

Gwynneth Nicholas and Wendy Linney

27 Transition Project

See separate sheets

28 Report on Vulnerable adults

As the responsible person for the protection of vulnerable adults I present my report. We have representatives responsible for the protection of vulnerable adults in each of the villages of the Parish---George Moser, Great Chesterford; Dr. Alison Tills, Little Chesterford; Nina Manser, Debden; Christine Marshall, Wimbish; Tim Boyden, Hadstock; Rita Willey, Swards End.

I have signed *confidential declarations* from all those who on behalf of the church have close dealings with people who are potentially vulnerable. There was one refusal to sign a declaration.

All the representatives and the clergy have met and seen a powerpoint presentation about Safeguarding adults.

POLICY ON THE SAFEGUARDING OF ADULTS IN THE CHURCH (NEEDS TO BE REVIEWED YEARLY.)

We should note that on February 11 2011 the Coalition Government published the findings of its Review into the Vetting and Barring Scheme. It was recommended that there should be a large reduction of the number of positions requiring checks to just those working most closely and regularly with children and vulnerable adults;

The Coalition Government has confirmed that until all the appropriate legislation has been introduced and the new arrangements are established, the existing responsibilities of employers and the ISA (Independent Safeguarding Authority) will remain.

These include:

A person who is barred from working with children or vulnerable adults will be breaking the law if they work or volunteer, or try to work or volunteer with those groups.

**An organisation which knowingly employs someone who is barred to work with those groups will also be breaking the law.*

**my highlight mark (kah)*

K.A.Huey. March 2011

29 St Mary's Church Building Task Group

Following a review of the current use of the church buildings, preliminary meetings with the Archdeacon and Diocesan Advisory Committee / English Heritage members were held in March and June 2010, and the outcome reviewed in detail by the DCC and priorities agreed in principle in July 2010. Many positive aspects regarding our facilities were confirmed: we enjoy an inspiring place of worship, generally in good repair, central to the town and a key part of a rich local heritage and we benefit from valued space in Parish Rooms. However, several priority areas of need were identified and working drafts of a Statement of Significance and a Statement of Needs were adopted by the DCC in September 2010.

These documents formed the basis for initial consultation with the congregation:

- 43 replies received, providing an overall positive response and offering a variety of practical suggestions for how to address the needs
- general endorsement of the priority given to administration and vestry spaces
- general agreement with the low priority of churchyard / parking needs
- recurring theme of a need for improved secure storage space in all the church buildings, and a need to improve heating in church
- several calls for refurbishing / extending Parish Room space
- acknowledgement of the possible benefit from improving the facilities for welcome and hospitality, tempered by caution against making changes that would require significantly more (paid) staff or would create a café / hotel atmosphere in what is primarily a place of worship
- contrasting views on the need for change to the worship space (some strongly in favour of reconfiguring space, others strongly against any such change).

We recognise that meeting all these needs will be a challenging and complex task that may require both adapting the existing buildings (nearer term project) and / or new build (longer term aspiration). We are keen to create a single coherent plan, phased as necessary, to address both the current and anticipated needs, rather than seek to resolve the issues in a more piecemeal fashion. Of course we wish to get the process right from the outset, enabling us to proceed at a measured pace and with sensitivity as we seek to reconcile divergent views.

In February 2011, the Colchester Area Mission and Pastoral Committee awarded St Mary's a grant of £1500 for a feasibility study (an additional sum may be available later in the year should it be required and should funds remain).

In March 2011, the DCC endorsed the revised draft Statements and agreed Team membership to lead the next project phase (selection of a feasibility study architect).

- Membership: Graham Cottam, Mike Felgate, Bron Ferland, Paula Griffiths, Steve Hasler, Diana Hoy, Denis Tindley, and the Treasurer and the Rector (ex officio)
- The Team will work closely with the Archdeacon / DAC members / conservation bodies

The DCC also endorsed the priorities for the recognised needs:

- o Parish Administration – **high**; clergy vestry – **medium**; worship space [welcome and flexibility] – **medium**; choir vestry – **medium**; parking / churchyard – **low** (not to be addressed per se in the first instance).

The Team will bring financial needs to DCC before incurring any costs (next report June 2011).

30 St Mary's Church Preschool Ltd.

This has been an exciting year. The latest Ofsted inspection rated the Preschool as 'outstanding' in all departments. This reflects the considerable hard work and dedication of Faye and her staff team.

This year the number of sessions have increased to cover some afternoons and to give groups of younger children a good experience. Each session in the day is fully subscribed by the third term. Numbers are managed to allow for new children becoming eligible for a place as the year progresses.

The Pre-school has benefited from grant money under ECAT (Every Child a Talker). The money is provided to encourage language development and can be used for a wide range of resources.

Staff professional development has continued to progress. Helen Nash has been awarded Early Years Professional Status following her intensive course earlier in the year. Congratulations are also offered to staff members on their excellent achievement. Lisa Wightman and Amanda Spickett have been awarded funding for CACHE level 3 courses. The setting is also giving work experience to a volunteer who is undertaking CACHE Level 3 training.

Earlier in the year grant money became available to consider a complete refurbishment of the demountable classrooms. However on completion of surveys it became apparent that the buildings were not fit for purpose and so a much larger more ambitious project was planned. We were encouraged by Essex Early Years to apply for a grant for a new build to be shared between an after school club and the preschool with St Mary's School owning and having the overall management of the building. The change of government and spending review put a complete hold on the project just after contracts had been signed. The outlook did not look good but after some considerable delay Essex County Council decided to underwrite all capital projects. The building should be finished in May 2011. There is much excitement amongst the children and staff.

Grateful thanks to all the management board particularly to Judith Hasler for managing the finances.

31 Report from St James Swards End

During 2010 our services have continued to be well attended and our worship has resounded again to wonderfully loud and harmonious singing. Our congregation remains strong and St James has ensured that our services and other activities (e.g. Harvest Supper, Open Air Service) are visible to the village and a part of village life.

Two special events for children took place in 2010, Easter Eggstravaganza which 18 children attended on Good Friday and on Saturday 18th December, 9 children participated in Creative Christmas.

There has been a lot of work on the church fabric in 2010 and the main project was the installation of the west window, which is a magnificent addition to the church. The discovery of woodworm in July will require 5 annual smoke treatments, the first of which will be in 2011. Finally, the electrical inspection required by our insurers was carried out during the year and will lead to remedial work in 2011.

Despite the high cost of the various repairs the finances of St James remain healthy. Following a request to consider our contribution to the Parish Share, St James implemented an increase of 10% in 2010 and agreed a further 40% increase in 2011.



32 Report from St John's Little Walden

The past year has seen a healthy increase in attendance at the twice monthly services at St John's. The addition of two new families to the congregation has not only raised the number of regular worshippers to between 25 to 30 people but has also improved the demographic of the congregation! This and the more than doubling of the number of people on the electoral role shows that St John's is a healthy, growing place of worship.

Two new initiatives at St John's are the after the service coffee and cakes (where the catering team have excelled themselves) and the introduction of young people's activities based on the readings of the week. These have included the production of paper candles, flowers, bookmarks and a library of books of the bible. Many thanks must go to Tracey Nicholls, Kate Beare and Helen Nash for organising these initiatives.

The highlights of the year have undoubtedly been the centenary events to celebrate the giving of the church by the Gibson family and its consecration as a place of worship. Events included a flower festival and a special centenary service where we

were blessed to welcome both present and past clergy including Canon John Sibson, the Reverend Richard Finch, the Reverend David Twinley and the Reverend Lee Batson. This service included the unveiling of plaques in commemoration to the service given to the church by Rene Start and Joan Groom, two past Church Prowardens and congregation stalwarts and was concluded by a special lunch.

A regular bible study group has been established in Little Walden. Studies we have undertaken have included Esther and the Holy week. Attendees have included both villagers and residents of Saffron Walden and thanks are extended to Helen Nash for leading the group.

An outreach programme has been pursued in Little Walden and has included a wonderful all age nativity play, with live (and bleating) sheep held in a blizzard at the barn at Stonebridge Farm. A 'Carols in the Crown' session was held on Christmas Eve with notable piano accompaniment from Kate Beare and Eddie Howson. Further outreach events are planned including one on Mothering Sunday.

This year has seen the retirement of Linda Doble from the post of Hon. Treasurer of St. John's. She has left the post with the church finances in a healthy state with sufficient funds available to cover work required on the fabric of the church which will allow the church to undertake remedial work identified by the last quinquennial report. We welcome Ann Naylor as Linda's successor in this role.

From the above list of past clergy it can be seen that we have indeed been blessed by the quality of ministry we have received as a congregation. Our most recent incumbent, the Reverend Anne Howson is a worthy addition to this list and we are truly grateful to her, as well as our rector, David Tomlinson for their continued guidance and encouragement on our spiritual journey.

David Nash Prowarden, St. John's

33 Chairman's report

The Chairman, Rev'd David Tomlinson, will give an oral report at the meeting.



