



ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

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### **Alpha Course and Confirmation Groups**

We have enjoyed another year of Outreach and Christian Mission in terms of Alpha Courses and Confirmation Groups. It has been an exciting and rewarding time leading to new church members and growth in understanding and experience of our faith. I was particularly delighted that our Diocesan Bishop David came to Confirm, Paul, Sarah, Malcolm, Denise, Debbie and Debbs. We rejoice with them in their adult commitment to Christ and His Church. I'm looking forward to more in this year ahead. If you would like to do an 10-week Alpha Course and/or join a Confirmation Preparation Group please contact me - it's fun!

Andrew Rowland

### **St Mary's Church Choir**

2007 has been another busy year for St Mary's Church choir. During Holy Week the choir, augmented with guest singers and with members of our congregation including the Vicar, performed Maunder's 'Olivet to Calvary'. In September several members visited Wimborne Minster to take part in the Diocesan Choir Festival. The choir has also sung numerous anthems from time to time at our 10:00am Parish Eucharist services. Our numbers have remained the same, with one new member joining us and one member retiring. We can always do with new members, particularly Tenors and Basses, which are in short supply. All in all, another successful year for St Mary's Choir.

Valerie Robertson

### **Churches Together in West Moors**

Since April 2007 the committee has met six times. In September John Stevens (Pinehurst Chapel) took over from Andrew as Chairman. After the Remembrance Service in November the churches organised refreshments in the URC, and this seemed to be appreciated. As before, the Carols on the Petwyn evening was combined with the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox collection from West Moors' schools, and was followed by the street festival.

This year there was no joint service for the Week of Prayer in January. Instead, each church is inviting others to join them in prayers for West Moors at some time when they usually meet. The URC held the first meeting at 2:30pm on Sunday 20 January; Pinehurst Chapel met at 8:00am on Saturday 1 March;

and St Mary's have offered Wednesday 10 September at 3:00pm. A major event for Churches Together will be a Pentecost Service in West Moors Middle School on Sunday, 11 May 2008 at 10:30am.

Janet Parker

## Deanery Synod

Three meetings of Deanery Synod were held in 2007:

1. The 128th Synod was held at Corfe Mullen on 17 April. Bishop Tim outlined the Deanery Action Plan – 'Road Show'. There is a perceived need to educate and train Christian nurture and many ways in which parishioners can respond to the call. Archdeacon Alistair Magowan stressed the focus on Mission. Bishops can help clergy to understand how to steer and enable potential community change. A Learning for Discipleship course is to be run by Jane Sharman from September on.

Homfray Vines gave a presentation on the Sudan Deanery Link, stressing the importance of the visit of Revd John Zebaruna from Yambio Diocese in June. Synod agreed to spend up to £1200 to cover costs.

2. The 129th Synod was held at St Michael's, Verwood on 5 July. The Ven Paul Taylor and Revd Jean Coates gave a presentation on Faith & Climate Change. Practical ways of helping were suggested such as: sharing transport, reducing travel, checking carbon footprint. The Diocesan 15% reduction by 2010 is the target aimed at people, parishes and the centre to demonstrate that the Church of England is carbon neutral.

A slide show of Bishop Tim's visit to the Sudan was shown.

Feedback from Diocesan Synod's June meeting included details of the Learning for Discipleship programme for lay people beginning in September. A proposal by the Diocesan Board of Finance of an increase of only 0.99% in total Share was approved. With regard to last year's surplus, a motion was also approved to offer the cash back to parishes in direct proportion to contributions paid by them. Parishes to be encouraged to debate at Deanery Synods the allocation of this money to their aims and objectives for mission for later debate.

Homfray Vines reported on the successful visit of Revd John Zebaruna from Yambio and emphasised that prayer should continue to be the root of our

relationship with Yambio. Any help we give should be based on simplicity, sustainability and skills-orientated.

3. The 130th Synod was held at St John's, Wimborne on 27 November. Revd Chris Strain reported from General Synod and covered the meetings held in London in February and in York in July.

(i) Discussion on Diocesan Pastoral Mission measure was tedious, suggesting an understanding gap between Church House, London and the grass roots.

(ii) Defined Clergy Pension scheme retained, together with parish contribution of 39%.

(iii) Easing of marriage regulations not yet approved by Parliament.

(iv) Relationship of church in the community – sexual matters, civil partnerships – lack leadership from bishops.

(v) Anglican covenant largely supported by Synod. Bishops to take forward.

(vi) Other matters considered: Parish fees, central finances, talent and calling, Trident, taking responsibility for crime, media standards, modern childhood, Liturgical Commission – Transforming Worship.

Revd Strain felt that decision making at Synod was difficult.

Peter Hinton reported on Diocesan Synod; the main item being Mature Christian Disciples, Vocations & Mission. Bishop Tim introduced the motion that Synod 'welcomes the diocesan vision and strategy based on the five marks of mission, encourages deaneries to draw up mission action plans as a result of their deanery strategic plans in light of the five marks of mission and asks the Bishops' Council to co-ordinate these action plans to ensure the diocese meets the vision'.

Members of Synod were urged to try and keep in touch with their particular Yambio link.

AOB The Rural Dean suggested an attempt should be made to indent from some of the £500,000 from reserves for pioneering ministry to fund a chaplaincy in the Deanery based at Queen Elizabeth's School but able to cover other deanery schools. Synod was asked to think about and to comment on this.

As the current Learning for Discipleship courses being run in the diocese offer no venue convenient for our deanery to attend, a local venue could be

arranged and anyone in parishes who is interested should contact the Rural Dean.

I was involved in the arrangements for the link with Yambio and the visit of Revd John to the Deanery and this Parish and am a member of the Deanery Committee for Yambio.

Sue Dowsett

### **Salisbury Diocesan Synod**

No report is available as no officers attended in the past year.

### **Electoral Roll**

At the APCM last year it was reported that the Roll had a membership of 145. During the last year, we have lost three members, one has died and two have moved from the area. On the plus side we have gained 21 new members during the year. This gives us a membership of 163 as we begin the second year of this Electoral Roll.

Jane Hadden

### **Flower Ladies**

We have had another busy year; and because several of our ladies find it difficult to reach the Sanctuary windows, Andrew agreed that we could do a pedestal arrangement. This has proved to be much easier and a complete change for us. It also means we do not have to get two arrangements looking the same; not an easy task.

Thank you to the team for their beautiful arrangements they do each week, and for the outstanding displays at festivals. We are always looking for new ladies and gentlemen to join us. Nobody works by themselves until they are confident doing an arrangement. So how about joining us, working at the festivals? Displays are fun and rewarding.

Doreen Mulford

### **Lay Pastoral Assistants**

When Andrew is available, the LPAs meet with him in the Annexe on the first Thursday of each month. After hearing about visits made, any new referrals are shared out among the group, and the meeting concludes with a short service of Eucharist. Some of the LPAs commissioned in December 2006 are now taking Communion to the housebound.

Janet Parker

## **Mothers' Union**

The Branch has continued with another successful year with varied programmes for the Afternoon and Evening Group meetings on the theme 'Faith in Action'. Our membership is now 33 in the Afternoon and 18 in the Evening Groups.

We have worked together on Soup Lunches, Cake Bakes, a Baptism Party and a Mothering Sunday service. The Afternoon Group held an enjoyable summer lunch and Christmas tea. The Evening Group held the popular BBQ, cream tea and Christmas meal.

Due to the very generous support of our members and friends we have been able to give much needed financial and practical help to Mothers' Union projects, both locally and overseas. Two stoles were beautifully made by members and sent for use by priests in the Sudan.

Membership is open to anyone who has been baptised and in accord with the aims and objectives of the Mothers' Union. New members are most welcome.

Joy Wye  
Veronica Morgan

## **Parochial Church Council**

The PCC has met nine times in the past year with mostly good attendance at each meeting. The Council has discussed and acted upon a variety of topics of interest. It has regularly received reports from the differing bodies and sub-committees where appropriate, and appreciation is herewith expressed for the members' hard work in all areas. The PCC is enthusiastic about the progression of the Church Hall Redevelopment Project, and a most deeply felt gratitude goes to Ivor Saunders for his continuing conscientiousness and dedication as Project Manager.

Leah Smith

## **Pram Service**

Another very rewarding year with the mums and children on Tuesday mornings each week. Sadly, as I wrote a while ago, the Thursday group closed down due to the remaining children starting school.

During the school holidays we have enjoyed special mornings when our older children returned for our 'Bells and Biscuits' with great fun being had by all.

On Shrove Tuesday we were joined by Veronica who made posies with the children from the church flowers which needed removing in readiness for Lent. Following the service we went into the hall and enjoyed pancakes and other goodies.

Our thanks go to the Mothers' Union for all their continued support; it is very much appreciated. We have happy memories of our Baptism Party and the other ways in which they help us. Special thanks go to Sue and Minnie for all their work and love and we are also always delighted to see Leah with her lovely music playing when she can manage to come. Finally, a big 'thank you' to Andrew for all his love and support, not forgetting Peter for his help. Another year lies ahead with, hopefully, many joys unfolding.

Lucie Johnson

### **St Mary's C of E (VC) First School**

The links between the church and first school have continued to grow in strength with the children and their families being welcomed into church on several occasions during the past year. Special services have been held for both the whole school and smaller groups such as Harvest Festival, Christingle, Mothering Monday and a lovely Service of Thanks for the Year 4 school leavers. Andrew frequently spends time in school and leads a weekly assembly on a Thursday afternoon.

The Foundation Governors, Revd Andrew, Sue Coombes and Leah Smith, are still active on the Board of Governors, including Chairing committees, and look forward to being involved with the appointment of a new Headteacher during the Summer term. We take this opportunity to wish Mrs Pike the very best in her new role and thank her most sincerely for the great things she has achieved and helped the children and staff achieve during her time at St Mary's.

Leah Smith

### **COSMICS' Sunday School**

The Sunday School has really grown in numbers during the past year. There are now a good number of children who come most weeks and who are really enjoying their time together. It is wonderful to see the children maturing in their approach to life, each other and their love for Jesus.

Unfortunately we were unlucky with the weather during the 10:00am Easter Sunday Eucharist so the traditional Easter egg hunt had to take place in the

hall. The children still enjoyed it but it didn't take long! In addition they made a beautiful 'empty cross' mobile which they enjoyed sharing with Ven. Alistair Magowan at the end of the service.

We are very grateful for the Christmas card display board at the back of church which the children have been allowed to display their work on. It is lovely and full! Also a big thank you to the parents who come into COSMICs with their children for the ongoing support and help you give all of us.

Leah Smith

### Treasurer's Report

As my first year as treasurer I am pleased to present the 2007 Accounts and can report that the financial position has again improved.

There was a small surplus from the Budgets set for the year, partly due to a one off payment received from the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance. The 2008 Budget has been increased to allow for our new curate joining us plus the inevitable increases in the utility accounts. The Planned Charity Budget set for 2008 is £3,000.00 as in previous year.

It was possible during the year to transfer £10,000.00 from the General Fund to the Central Board of Finance Church of England deposit account to attract interest. The Nationwide building society account set up in July had a closing balance of £3,500.00 and as at March 2008 the sum of £5,000.00 has been transferred to the Central Board of Finance Building Extension Fund.

The need for money was well supported during 2007. To those who gave legacies and donations, all fundraising, regular giving which assures income to keep the church solvent and the latest appeal for our church hall extension a sincere thank you.

Janet Turner

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