

# The SPSJ Reporter

The 2011 Annual Report of St Peter's and St James' Churches

## The View from the Vicarage

Where you stand affects what you see, so what follows is inevitably a personal reflection of the parish in 2010, viewed, as it were, from my desk. My reflection is that it has been in many ways a tough year, tiring both physically and emotionally, and a challenging year in terms of spiritual focus and unity of purpose. Having said that, though, I don't want those things, true though they are, to take our attention from the good things, of which there are plenty.

Above all we recall the things which are foundational to both our individual and our corporate Christian lives. The amazing grace of God by which we are chosen, called and adopted; the mercies which are new every morning; the hope which God has placed into our hearts; the comfort of the Holy Spirit which renews us. And of course we enjoy these blessings in a country and a culture which, although it may be moving away from some of its depth of Christian heritage, is still one which allows us freedom of worship.

### Key Events to Celebrate

Having laid the spiritual foundation on which we are built, I want now to pick out some events or themes from 2010 to celebrate. The cold weather of February brought into focus the needs of the homeless of the city, and the Winter Shelter took root in St Peter's Church House for nine weeks. I applauded the spirit in which this was "adopted" by the church; and we rejoice in the fact that through the shelter 15 men were taken off the streets and into long-term accommodation.

Summer saw two vastly contrasting projects. The HOTS training, and the inter-church teamwork that lay behind it, was a delight from start to finish, and I honestly believe it also brought joy to the heart of God. (and it has been great to see fruit being borne in 2011 from this work). Then at midsummer I and others of the church acted as hosts for a touching and heart-rending event at Churchill Gardens, as we helped bereaved families remember their beloved

children. Parents gathered who had been bereaved from as long ago as thirty years, and as recently as five weeks. An achingly holy privilege.

Summer saw the Gleghorn family off to Nottingham as Tim began his training for ordained ministry. They are missed, but we can be glad of the fact that the Lord continues to raise up from these congregations men and women with a call to the full-time Christian ministry, either in the church or in missionary work. This has been a long tradition in these churches, and it gives me heart to know that God is still at work in this way.

The Autumn's highlight was for me the Away Day - long-awaited, carefully planned, well-attended, warm-hearted. Dunfield House proved a good choice of venue, and the varied programme gave some good opportunities for all - and who will forget the drama sketches in church the next day?

### Hard Time Too

But as I said earlier, there have been hard times and disappointments too. We ended 2010 to all intents and purposes no closer to the actual physical re-building of St Peter's, despite all the careful and prayerful work of so many people. Nor were we any closer in December than we had been in January to discerning the right future for St Barnabas church.

Alongside these challenges the second half of the year brought a painful period of disagreements about some aspects of our youth work, and this came at the same period as we recognised that sadly there was currently no opportunity for a Sunday School at St Peter's as (yet again) key families have moved away. Sad facts to record.

### Future Hope

I end this review with a statement which I heard recently. *"For the Christian optimism is naïve ... but pessimism is atheistic"*. Our hope is not based on the *visible* things around us, but on the nature of God - His faithfulness, His mercy, His saving grace - these are unchanging, and are our grounds for hope.

Paul Towner



Sometimes life can be a bit of a balancing act?

## Community Coffee

*an opportunity and a blessing*

**St James' - 1<sup>st</sup> Sat of the month**  
**St Barnabas - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat of the month**

Community Coffee at St James now regularly has 50-60 people, while Community Coffee at St Barnabas has 40+ members attending regularly. They have grown into warm, vibrant groups of people who care for each other, celebrate each other's little triumphs and share each other's woes.

St Barnabas' community includes a group of people from the Nursing Home opposite with opportunities for sharing and reminiscing.

### Everyone is Special

We try to show in our actions that what we say is true: that everyone is special, everyone is important, everyone matters. Coffee, tea and home-made birthday cakes are incidental: the real refreshment is the personal welcome people receive, taking time to listen to how their lives have been in the past month, their worries and their fears, taking special care with those on the fringes.

### Please Join us and Help Out

Come and join in, to share in the blessing. Also we would appreciate new helpers, if you would like to be involved.

This could not run without the help of so many people - you know who are - THANK YOU!

Jim & Julie Milne

# Healing Ministry of our Churches

## Prayer Chain

There has been much to encourage us during this last year; God has been faithful in answering many prayers. We have seen God bring peace and wonderful healing in many situations and our faith has been strengthened, as we have been drawn closer to Him and to each other through intercessory prayer. We remember that Jesus himself intercedes for us before the throne of God. I feel that God has been teaching us, in our weakness, to trust in His wisdom and power in all situations. He has deepened our faith and we have been privileged to witness and testify to His great love. Three of our members have moved away in this past year, but I am pleased to say that they have all requested to remain part of the team. It is encouraging to know that they are still close to us in our prayers.

We celebrated what God has done through the chain with a lunch together a couple of months ago, and plan to celebrate together again in September.

*Barbara Stephens*

## Healing Prayer at St Peter's

The 'Prayers for Healing Service' each Friday afternoon in the Lady Chapel at St Peter's. This has now closed down and 'transferred' into High Town through HOTS (Healing on the Streets). HOTS is building on the faithful vision and prayer of many over the years at St Peter's; we are Feeding Life in the City (FLIC) as we pray for the people of the city.

There are fifty one people from sixteen churches drawn from across the county who have been trained (the training courses were held at St Paul's in September and October) and are working in teams of eight offering healing prayer between 12 midday and 2:00pm on Saturdays from the base outside The Old House. Over seventy five people have received prayer since that first Saturday in January.

Testimonies of God's kindness, love and healing are evidence of his kindness, love and healing power through HOTS to those outside the church and church members who stop for prayer. The *HEALING* banner now flies over the city proclaiming the presence of God, who is forever the healer. We have seen some remarkable healings and the presence of God is tangible!

*Jonathan Rendall*

## Prayer Ministry

The past year has given opportunity over the weeks to pray for members drawn from all our congregations after the services. This quiet ministry of prayer has clearly been much appreciated by those for whom we have had the privilege to pray. Prayer may be at the communion rail, in the body of the church or in one of the chapels.

The Prayer Ministry Team continue to meet on a monthly basis for worship, for training, for study and for their own ministry opportunities. In 2009 we started the course, 'In His Name' written by Rev Alison Morgan and Rev John Woolmer; we were still working through this in 2010.

## Focus on Healing Weekend

At the 'Focus on Healing' weekend in July 2010, our speaker was John Woolmer. Amidst the challenges he brought to us, as Team and Church, was to expect God to heal: he is the God who is forever the healer. He told numerous stories of healings he had witnessed in his 40 years of ministry both in the UK and overseas to encourage us in this ministry.

We stand amazed and delighted at the love and grace of God as we listen and pray for others in the churches. He has met with many over the year; we have seen lives touched by the grace and mercy of the Father, lives changed and given new direction, lives and living renewed and strengthened; finally of healing and wholeness, which are his gifts, received and we give him the glory and praise.

*Jonathan Rendall*

## JOHNSON'S HOSPITAL

The Trustees for the charity are drawn from the church congregation. They are Gordon Atkin, Naomi Bell, Margaret Butcher and Tim Jones. with Paul Towner as Chairman. The charity is responsible for four studio flats in St James Road, and are at present fully occupied.

The trustees meet on a regular basis to ensure the safety, comfort and well-being of each resident

In the past year as well as usual repairs, the front of the building has been re-painted and four new wooden gates fitted.

The Parish Office continues to use the room at the back of the building.

## Worship Team 2010

Re-reading what I had written three years ago, I find it hard to improve on what I wrote then!

*Those who lead and preach and lead music are the "public" face of the multi-layered leadership pattern in our churches and of course what they do (or don't do!) is open for all to see. If they do their job well, however, they point beyond themselves, and help us all see something of the glory of God, and enter into His majesty. What they do matters!*

*So I want to take this opportunity to honour the faithful work that our Worship Team do, week by week, throughout the year. Yes, they have the privilege of taking a key role in worship, but it is a calling that is also costly, in terms of spiritual vulnerability and warfare. It is important therefore that we appreciate what they do, and support them in their work.*

## Team Enriched

Our team of volunteers was enriched in 2010 by the ministry of Wallace Brown and Christine Waudby at St Peter's, where their gifts (and Mary's) have been warmly welcomed, and where they have added to our corporate strength through the ministerial experience that they bring.

## New Worship Leaders

The autumn also saw the excitement - yes, that is the right word! - of bringing through a new group of lay leaders and preachers, through a locally-grown and resourced training course. To have several of our members being willing to step forward and offer their gifts in this way is a blessing to the whole church - and I know these individuals will themselves be blessed as they take on these roles.

We are so fortunate in these churches with the rich variety of gifts, insights, skills, abilities and experiences that help shape and enrich our worship services week by week. I trust we never start to take for granted the resource we have or the work that is done, week after week, by all the Worship Team and Musicians.

*Paul Towner*



*The Living Joy Fellowship at the local Rest Home*

## Leadership Team 2010

The Core Team, this seemed the best title we could devise at the time when it was formed in October 2009, has been, to my mind, living up well to the high aspirations that were declared two years ago. Perhaps it would be helpful to re-state what we said we would be searching for:-

*The core values for this new group, which are predicated in the spiritual maturity of the individual members:*

- An ability to gather round Paul and the clergy team in support and critical engagement;
- To hold an overview of all that is going on and to keep it 'real' and grounded;
- To enable things to happen;
- To keep focussed on agreed central values and direction.

### Taking a Critical Look

One of the central tasks of the team in 2010 has been to continue to hold in focus the three priorities carried through from the work done at the APCM. So the team have sought, month by month, to take a critical look at these three areas of our church life, and to assess what progress, if any, had been made, and to take counsel together about the way ahead. Perhaps a reminder of those three is appropriate here. They are discipleship; St Peter's congregation and the church building and evangelism.

**The first** of these has been addressed, we believe, through our preaching series in the Gospels, and the related House Group studies. **The second** has taken the form of continued work to take the FLIC project forward - both the re-ordering of the building and the associated work into the life of the city - and the on-going week-by-week worshipping life of the St Peter's 10.30 congregation.

**The third**, evangelism, has been addressed in part through our Christmas publicity, in part through the contacts at the away-day and our monthly coffee events. But also we continue to give thanks for the work of the prayer chain in reaching in the hearts of many in the community; and we look forward to the work of HOTS, reaching into the city centre from a base, both practical and spiritual, in St Peter's. Of course in all three areas there is much more to be done - so we journey into 2011 aware of many challenges ahead.

**Finally**, I would like to express my gratitude to those who have served in the past year - I have valued the existence and engagement of the team.

Paul Towner

## Homegroups

The home groups continue to flourish and are a great way for people from different congregations, and churches to meet, pray and study together

The purpose of the groups is:

- To enrich people's spiritual lives
- To enable them to be better disciples (to be "salt and light" in their every day lives)
- To provide a safe environment, where people can feel supported, share the difficult times
- To be a place where individual gifts and ministries can flourish
- To have a social action, or outreach component
- To be a place of friendship

### Nine Groups in All

There are currently 9 home groups, with a combined membership of 88, although this number does fluctuate. All the groups meet in people's homes mostly on a fortnightly basis, and mostly in the evenings. However there are two afternoon groups and two groups which meet weekly.

The groups all involve, prayer, study and time for socialising, making new friends and supporting each other.

The groups are very diverse, both in the membership, and in the "flavour" of the group. For example some groups are comfortable with visual media, whilst others prefer a book to study. Some enjoy the "life builder" style bible studies, others prefer a more open base for discussion.

To reflect this diversity, the groups, for the last two terms have used a variety of resources, based either on Luke's or Matthew's gospel (*as per the morning sermon series*), discipleship (*identified by the core team as a key theme for SPSJ*) or other aspects of the Christian faith, such as prayer, and worship. Look out for the next series for all groups based on 'This Risen Existence' by Paula Gooder.

The Homegroup leaders/coordinators meet at the end of every term, to reflect on the past few months and plan ahead. These meetings are a great encouragement and allow for some sharing and exchange of ideas, as well as catching up on how everyone is doing.

If anyone would like more information about the home groups, or to join a group, please contact Sue Vaughan or Geoff Loynes.

Sue Vaughan

## Coffee Plus

We are a team of 5 -7 helpers and we meet with roughly 25 carers and children weekly. Since taking over leadership of the group in April 2010, we now have many new toys, equipment and decorations which enhance the environment and the atmosphere in the Hall.

We have a good relationship with the afternoon group, which means we can share all of our resources and the setting up/putting away responsibilities.

A craft activity is provided each week, which is popular with all the children. Several mums have become more involved in the group, helping to lead story / song time, the craft table and tidying away.

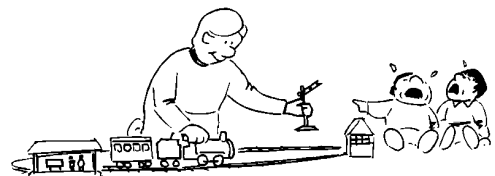
We offer fresh fruit and homemade cake, which is donated each week voluntarily by a few team members.

Thanks to the generosity of the team, the cost per family for the morning remains at 50 pence. This goes towards end of term parties and gifts for the children and carers, and some of the craft equipment.

The group runs from 10:30 – midday. However, some families and helpers like to stay until 1pm and share a simple lunch of homemade soup or jacket potatoes. There is no charge for this, but some mums make a voluntary donation.

Coffee Plus was nominated for the Queen's Award for Service to the Community and, although we weren't shortlisted, we are grateful that some folks thought well enough of the group to put us forward in this way.

Kirstie Coppock



The Vicar loved helping out at the Tots Club

### Electoral Role

The minutes from the last Annual Meeting stated that there were 157 people on the electoral roll. The Electoral Roll is due for a complete revision in 2013.

Carolyn Hattersley

# The Parochial Church Council Review of the Year

The PCC is the legal body constituted to take responsibility for the overall life of the church in the parish, and in this regard it has been important that the PCC has been fully engaged in both regular review of progress, and in forward-looking development and planning. Throughout 2010 the Council has worked with the Core Team in ensuring that all aspects of the church's work are reviewed and debated.

Within this overall brief stands finance, and the PCC received regular financial updates throughout the year, and this enabled the Council to take important budget decisions. Thanks to the on-going generosity of the church members, the Council was able to fulfil all its obligations, and to continue to devote financial resources to mission, both in this country and abroad.

Due to changes in charity law, the PCC was required in 2009 to register with the Charity Commission, and for all PCC members to be registered as Trustees. This process was begun in Sept 2009, and registration was completed in January 2010.

Working within the Anglican communion, and within the city Christian family of churches, the Council received regular input about Deanery and Diocesan matters, and about the wider church in the City.

The PCC also received regular reports about the three Church schools with which we are connected (St James', St Thomas Cantilupe and

Bishop's); the Council is represented through Foundation Governors serving each school.

It would be inappropriate to seek to cover in this summary everything dealt with by the Council during the year, but it is worth recording here some significant aspects of the work and ministry of these churches in 2010.

The appointment of Andy Butterfill as Treasurer has brought some much needed stability to this area of church life, and the PCC are very grateful for the work he has done in this role. The Council received regular updates on the FLIC project, and also tried to take forward a process to clarify our future engagement with the buildings and potential of St Barnabas Church.

Two significant areas of policy were addressed during 2010, those relating to Vulnerable Adults and to Youth. After due consideration the Council decided that, because of the location of St Peter's, and because of our increasing engagement with the homeless and vulnerable members of our society, we needed to gain appropriate skills and experience, and so a training evening for all PCC members has been arranged in 2011, with the Diocese's Vulnerable Adults training team. In reviewing its youth work, the PCC clarified the necessary safeguards for both decision-making and practical youth and children's work, and adopted a Youth Strategy to help deliver these principles throughout our churches.

*Paul Towner  
PCC Chairman 2010*

## St Peter's Church House

Since the last report was written a lot of work has taken place in the building. The Ladies toilet, the staircase and the disabled toilet were decorated. A new extractor fan was fitted in the Gents toilet. A new washing machine and tumble dryer was installed in the disabled toilet, a new baby changing facility was built. One of the cubicles in the Gents toilet was converted into a shower unit.

To provide Coffee Plus with more room for their equipment the coffee room kitchen was converted into a store room and a sink unit was installed in the coffee room with drink making facilities. The main kitchen is having repairs to the sink unit and a new Microwave has been purchased. The emergency exit lights are now working properly and a new outside light purchased. The outside security light now works properly. We are about to replace the boiler in the kitchen. We have recently appointed a new cleaner.

There are several groups/organisations currently using Church House, they are: Open Door (twice a week), Close House, Tuesday Cafe, Coffee Plus, Young Mum's to be, and Score. Every Sunday lunch time a group of volunteers provide food and drink for the homeless. We are also providing a night shelter for the homeless each night until the weather improves and it gets warmer. The Sunday services have been held in Church House since the weather became cold, because of the lack of heating in the Church itself. The maintenance of Church House is on going to keep the property in good repair.

*Charles Davies*

## Team Rwanda

For two weeks in February a team from both churches made a return trip to Rwanda and our link parish at Rugendabari. Those on the team were Don and Ruth Langford, Fiona Rawlinson, Andy Butterfill and Sharon Elson.

The aims of this group were to establish contact with the new Pastor at Rugendabari, Pastor Manasseh and his congregation. We were able to go up to the parish on two occasions, the first to meet the new pastor and the leaders of the church and on the second visit to attend a Sunday service.

### A Delight to Serve

It was a great delight for us to experience the warm welcome from the congregation particularly as they realised that we represent the Christians from Hereford, England who had helped restore their water supply and had regularly sent them gifts at Christmas of books, educational posters and calendars.

### Two Stoles Presented

Sharon was able to present two stoles that had been made by the late Reverend Olive Dale who had been an NSM minister in our own two churches some years ago. These will be passed on to each new pastor who comes to work for the church, reminding them of our commitment to their parish. We were also able to present to them a photo album showing the people, the buildings and the activities of our two churches so they could pray more intelligently for us.

We were able to visit the new brick built school and were pleased to see all our educational posters up on the walls helping to give brightness and life to the classrooms. Whilst there I was able to present them with 30 football bibs, in red and green colours with the title of Rugendabari United on the front. As you might guess this went down very well with the children.

### We Can Help

Over all we were pleasantly surprised at the progress made in so many areas of endeavour since we last visited the parish. There still remain many difficulties for them to deal with some of which we may be able to help with during the next few years.

Team Rwanda will be putting on a Rwanda evening soon so please come along and hear how we got on when a date is fixed.

*Don Langford*

Our aim in ACCESS is to see young people grow in faith to become mature lifelong disciples of Christ. We meet each Sunday evening in Andy & Kirsty Clark's home. We also have a few socials each term, the highlight for this term is a trip to 'PlayPlanet'.

### Steady Growth

Over the last year we have seen steady growth at ACCESS both numerically and also in spiritual maturity. In the summer we went for a very successful weekend away at the Gains Christian Youth Centre where our next intake from D2B joined us. We have been excited this term to see one person come to faith and a number of friends invited along. Currently we are running the CY course (Christianity Explored for youth).

*Andy Clark*

## Hereford City Youth Missioner

The last year has seen some growth in the CU's at Bishops and at the 6th Form college. The most encouraging thing has been the enthusiasm and commitment of the young people and to see them developing skills.

This year we piloted a new leadership and discipleship training event for young people called 'Equipped', in partnership with the Gains Christian Youth Centre. We are planning to run this again but on a national scale.

The GRASP youth event continues to bring together Christian young people from a wide geographic area and to encourage them to keep going in their faith. We are continuing to look for ways of encouraging and discipling young people and equipping them to reach out to their friends with the gospel.

*Andy Clark*



Everyone wanted to share the peace with Donna Dare

## St James' School

The school is currently operating under the constant inspection by the LEA (local education authority) since falling into the "special measures" category last year: at the same time the school received an "outstanding" SIAS report carried out by the diocese which evaluates the schools "spiritual and religious" growth and strengths.

Under the guidance of Mrs Kathy Weston the school is successfully working through a programme of improvements known as RAP (Raising Attainment Plan), which concentrates on areas for improving quality of teaching/learning, better assessment, tracking pupil progress, improving written feedback and marking. The school has successfully made satisfactory progress towards the aimed lifting of special measures, however this is no "overnight" process. Mrs Weston and her staff continue to work using their experience and professionalism to achieve the highest standards for St. James' school which they are certain to attain.

*David Clark PCC School Governor.*

### St James' Sunday School

During the past year we have worked with a smaller group of youngsters who have excited us and kept us on our toes. Scramblers are led by Jenny Litchfield, Sian Turner and Holly Taylor and the Explorers work with Graham Taylor and Jenny Brooks.

Thanks too to all those who cheerfully give up time in church to help us with hands, prayer and humour – we couldn't cope without you!

We were sad to lose Lauren Hodder this year, but have welcomed several other friends, including Maisy Lind, working for her Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

We are seeking to strengthen ties with the primary schools, initially by leading assemblies to make sure that faces from church are familiar.

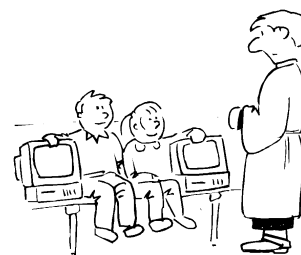
*Jenny Brooks*

### Children's and Young People's Subcommittee

When this committee was first set up we took a while to find our role in reviewing proposals for children's and youth projects, but the last year has proved to be both challenging and stimulating.

We have worked on the best process to appraise and review our youth provision and then found ourselves assessing the offer of a rolling annual programme of children's events at festival times, the suggestion of a group for dads and toddlers – Men behaving badly – offers, anyone? – and finally steering a course between competing and strongly argued suggestions for additional youth provision within our current offering. This latter is finally being formulated – altogether an interesting year!

*Jenny Brooks*



It wasn't quite what Paul expected when he asked the children to bring a friend to church.

## Bishop's School

Our engagement with BHBS comes at a variety of levels. Many of the pupils live in this parish, and/or have been to one of "our" primary schools. Several, of course, attend these churches and participate in d2b and Access; therefore parents and grandparents get involved with the life of BHBS through those links too.

There is also a formal involvement through the role of Governors in the support and management of the school, and I have served throughout 2010 on the staffing and admissions committees, and as a link Governor with the Maths (!) department.

### Restructure Admission Policy

One of the on-going matters that the admissions committee faces, and which surfaced again this year, is the vexed question of how to define a "church place" in the admissions criteria. Is it the parents or the child's church attendance that matters? Or their personal Christian faith story? and if the latter, how on earth could you "measure" that, and judge one application against another? So carried over into 2011 will be the need to re-structure our admissions criteria, so that those with a genuine link into the Christian community *can* apply for, and be granted, a church place in this Christian school. Your prayers would be appreciated.

*Paul Towner, Foundation Governor*

## Diocesan Synod

Diocesan Synod usually meets three times a year, two evening sessions, and one full day, when the thoughts of local congregations, via P.C.C. and Deanery Synods can be voiced.

At the next Synod (5th March) the main item for discussion was the possible appointment of Women as Bishops. No final vote was taken then, as this was a preliminary consideration of the matter.

Synod members have also taken more responsibility for Diocesan finances and budgets. There is no longer a separate Board of Finance. Some members are nominated to an executive who govern the monthly running costs of the Diocese.

Other items before us have been a Diocesan policy on the care of vulnerable adults, Clergy terms of service (Common tenure, a major change of working conditions), Clergy stipends and their Pension provision, (which is now a major charge on Diocesan costs and will continue to rise), the setting of the quota formula for the coming financial year to be applied throughout the Diocese, Stewardship (both in the matter of finances, and also talents) and General Synod elections.

*Roger Lind*

## St Giles Chapel

We have a small, but faithful congregation at our weekly (Friday) services in St Giles' Chapel and Brierley Court Community Room.

This Christmas (2010), Dr Thomas Roderick of Hereford Municipal Charities, suggested we invite trustees and residents of St Giles' alms houses to join us in our service. This was very well attended, followed by refreshments in Brierley Court.

Roger Lind attended the wonderful Municipal Charities Christmas lunch held at How Caple Grange. In January we were saddened by the death of Mrs Mary Cartwright, a resident of Brierley Court. She had been a faithful member of St James' Church and of St Giles for many years.

As always our thanks go to Anne and Gwen for tea in Brierley Court; to Hal for playing (with Glen as his deputy); and the continuing support of the Pastoral Team of Paul, Peter, Roger and Tanya.

*Margaret Butcher*

## Deanery Synod

Usually meets four times a year. Paul Towner as Rural Dean continues to act as chairman. The Deanery has recently been expanded to include all the rural parishes close to Hereford City.

At present we are wrestling with proposals to formulate a policy for the future Ministry in the Rural Benefices, as there are now three Clergy vacancies and a fourth due in the autumn.

Passed down from Diocesan Synod will be the Deanery response to the need for action on the matter of vulnerable adults and following Diocesan Synod discussions, our Deanery views on the matter of Women Bishops.

Other items considered have been a change in Clergy deployment in the South Wye group, the implementation of the 2015 initiative encouraging greater Lay participation in the running of services; the continuing shortfall in quota payments from some Benefices, receiving news from each other on our Church activities; and the use of the funding for Mission made available to the Deanery

Presentations were received on Environmental matters, Social awareness (Homeless and Drugs) and Healing on the Streets (HOTS) to inform and help with the forming of opinions.

*Roger Lind.*

## Missionary & Evangelism Committee

The Wickham family in Uganda and our church links with Rwanda have been the main focus of our work this year. There were tentative discussions about providing some copies of *The Children's Bible*, now translated into Kinyrwandan, for use in Rugendabali, but this whole project seems to have stalled.

In May we put on a story-telling event to raise funds for the Wickham family. In the spring the Wickhams announced their return to UK – this turned out to be a protracted homecoming: Keeley returned with Annie to take up a teaching post in London from September; Andrew and the other 4 children just scraped home in time for Christmas, owing to the ongoing difficulties in getting visas for their 2 adopted children – this situation has now been settled.

Don Langford worked on his plans to take a party to Rwanda in the spring of 2011 – now realized.

In July the Prayer Ministry Team arranged an outreach evening connected with their healing training

weekend – led by John Woolmer. Evangelism was on our agenda all year, but no firm plans are yet in place

In the summer 4 of our young people announced their plans to spend time on overseas mission, and we have sought ways to help support them, including gifts from the PCC at Christmas, and the proceeds of the Church Family Christmas card.

The PCC also agreed to support Lauren Randall with a regular monthly gift from January 2011.

When the Wickham family announced their return to UK, we started to consider how we could encourage the Church's interest in mission overseas. In the Lord's providence, we were offered a link-up with Geoff and Christine Holder, which will come into effect in 2011.

For Harvest, the churches supported Missionary Aviation Fellowship, with a speaker in St. James', and a video at St. Peter's. Come to Church Sunday – we agreed to make a special effort in autumn 2011. Suffering Church Sunday in November – intercessors at each service were asked to include this in their prayers.

*Anita Newton*



*Revd Turnbull's evangelism team enter the Red Lion*

## Treasurer's Report

The PCC accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 are being prepared by the Auditor and the final version will be available for the Annual Meeting in April.

Last year (As in previous years also) the Church depended upon the Gift Day to cover its expenses, and there is a need to increase our regular income. However, the Church did manage to support several of our young people working abroad, and other activities such as the Away Day. A total of £1,064 from the cash collections at special services was given to various causes including The Mayor's Charities, Missionary Aviation Fellowship and the Royal Air Force Association

My first year as PCC Treasurer has been a challenge and a learning experience, but also very enjoyable. The accounts have been kept using Microsoft Access. This gives greater flexibility and control than using commercially available accounting software. The data is kept on a computer used exclusively for this task. Back-up of the data is made frequently, and long-term back-up is kept separate from the computer (in St Peter's vestry). Banking money and paying bills needs to continue if the treasurer is away, and I am looking for a deputy to take on this task. A system of handling and recording cash from collections has been set up and is working well. Thanks is due to the people in St Peter's and St James who do this work.

The Finance Committee meets at least four times per year. Meetings are well attended and members work hard to ensure that the PCC finances are managed properly.

The Parish Administrator and PCC Treasurer work closely together, and I would like to express my thanks to Helen Durant for all her help over the past year.

*Andy Butterfill*

### SPSJ Mother's Union

At our AGM we decided to hold bi-monthly meetings. In September, Jonathan Coore gave us an interesting talk about the Good Samaritan in Hereford; we also attended the Diocesan Festival in Ludlow. In October the annual Deanery Meeting was held in St Nicholas' Church Hall. In December we held our DIY Christmas Party with readings, carol singing and food—a good time was had by all.

Although we are a very small group, we enjoy our fellowship together.

*Joan Weaver*

## St Peter's Churchwarden's Report

Once again 2009-2010 has been dominated by the problems of FLIC. Despite the efforts of the FLIC Committee, Tony Hodder and Wendy Coomeby we are still no nearer to raising the money for the reordering of St Peter's. More recently the criteria for allocating monies to projects has been linked to whether the projects are in designated areas of deprivation. It seems that St Peter's is not in a sufficiently deprived area for some of the allocating bodies. This has been very difficult for the congregation and the FLIC team. New approaches to the problem of raising the money needed for the reordering are now being considered.

During the year a lead pipe was removed from the west wing of the church by thieves. We have replaced this with a plastic pipe to protect the stone wall of the church. Although we have tried to get quotes for a replacement lead pipe it has proved difficult to find any company capable or willing to undertake this.

This year all internal contents of the church were re-marked with special identifying liquid to allow the police to identify our property in the event of a burglary.

Inside the church we have started to remove some of the wooden pews at the back. This was undertaken after consultation with the FLIC committee, the PCC, the Vicar and the Archdeacon. This has been undertaken in anticipation of the reordering and will give us extra room at the back of the church for other church activities.

A new metal door was put in place at the back of the church between the back alleyway and Church house. The old metal door had rotted away and we were able to get a replacement made by Nik Chukarov, a metal worker, who undertook this for free, charging us just the cost of the metal.

### Lack of Heating Still a Problem

We still have a problem of lack of heating and therefore during the cold winter months we are having to have our services of worship in Church house. However during the warmer months we have tried to open up the church to visitors and the people of the city to whom we have a responsibility to present the Gospel.

I would wish to strongly encourage the congregation of St Peter's not to allow the problems with the reordering to put us off using our church in as many ways as we can to present the Good News we have to give to the people of Hereford city.

### We Have a Gospel to Proclaim

May I quote from an Abbot to his community of Monks: "So I thought about our poverty of numbers and quality also, the lack of resources and our uncertain future. And I discovered that our situation is almost ideal for living the Gospel, not in theory or in an asceticism, but quite simply in living from day to day. Thus I came to have a quiet confidence in God."

Yes things are difficult for St Peter's and its congregation but this is perhaps the ideal situation to show the people of the city centre how even in such adversity we have a Gospel life that sustains us and will bring us through in the end.

*Don Langford*

## Winter Night Shelter

Once again, we opened the doors of St Peter's Church House on the coldest nights of a particularly cold winter. In conjunction with Herefordshire council's homelessness team and Hereford Open Door, a total of 52 individuals who would otherwise have been sleeping rough enjoyed warmth, generous donations of food and good company.

Many have gone on to be housed and news is filtering through that some have found jobs and other help in order to move on with their lives. Primicare provided GP and nursing services and the Homelessness Team gave intensive support and advice.

The shelter opened two weeks earlier than planned with not enough funds for its planned 13 week run but God in his mercy and grace enabled funds to be released for His work. We are grateful for the financial support of the Diocese of Hereford, Herefordshire Council, Hereford City Council, Hereford Municipal Charity, The Eveson Charitable Trust and a staggering number of private donors. We finished in March on budget.

Huge thanks must go to the staff and volunteers who gave up their time at unsociable hours to provide a safe and welcoming environment for our guests. We know that they appreciated it because we asked them. It is a humbling privilege to work with such people.

Open Door continues to provide breakfast on a Monday and Thursday in Church House. We have recently enhanced this with the offering of shower and laundry facilities, housing advice and healthcare.

*Jonathan Coore*

# The Extra Bits

Items missed off the original report plus our contact details

## SPSJ Website

The SPSJ website went fully on-line in May 2010. The number of visitors has steadily increased over the months with the greatest number of visitors in any one day amounting to 117 (*8 Feb 2011*) with February 2011 averaging 79 daily visitors accessing around four pages each visit.

Over the year the website has grown in size and now consists of 36 permanent pages and around 26 posts. Innovations include the 'What's On?' section and Church Diary (thanks to Naomi Bell for setting this up and managing the diary); downloadable sermons; photos and accounts of church events and a complete record of 'Clergy Corners' and 'Paul's Ponderings' as well as the usual service details, who's who, contact information, etc. The churches also boasts a dedicated Facebook page under the guidance of Jeremy Wilding.

Thanks must go to Jonathan Massey for designing and constructing the website so professionally (and free of charge) and for Helen Durant, Carolyn Hattersley, and Matthew Jones for editing and monitoring the content.

*Peter Massey*

## Open Door

Whilst clearly not an official "church" activity, Open Door is closely associated with St Peter's through Jonathan's chairmanship, through the place where it meets, and through the connections with the winter shelter each year.

It is a measure of the service that Open Door offers that it provides a safe and secure meeting place for many people for whom the rest of the week is in isolation - so that although few clients are technically homeless, many are without a "home"!

## St Thomas Cantelupe School

Our church links are primarily provided through the work of Jill Butterfill, who is Chair of Governors, and through Jonathan Coore who, whilst being a Governor, is also in effect school chaplain.

Good governance is defined by OFSTED as providing "challenge and support" to the school leadership, and this is what we seek to do.

Recently we have strengthened the team through Sharon Elson becoming a governor at the school.

*Jonathan Coore*

## Sunday Lunches at St Peter's

Each week we feed and minister to between 35 and 45 people, and we see their gratitude for what they receive as God's love in action.

The long-term nature of this project has meant that the team has been able to build up quite a relationship with the majority of our clients, and they in turn treat what we are doing with respect. **For many it is a lifeline.**

Over 30 people are involved in providing food and money, and in servicing this take-away, and we are thankful to them for their commitment and support.

*Jane Cornish and Barbara Payne*

## St Peter's and St James' CONTACT DETAILS

### PARISH OFFICE

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### UPDATE Coordinator

(UPDATE is our monthly news and information sheet)

**Diana Thomas: [dianathomas@btinternet.com](mailto:dianathomas@btinternet.com)**

Contributions to Diana by the 20th of each month.

**For additional copies of this report and much more visit**

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Website items to: [pwmassey@btinternet.com](mailto:pwmassey@btinternet.com)