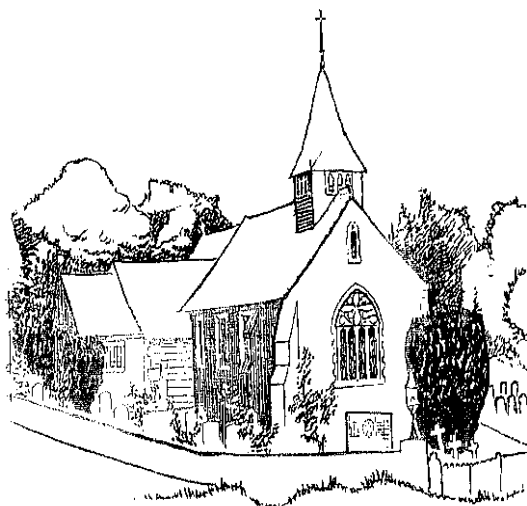


ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BUCKLAND

PART 2 AND RECTOR'S REPORT

31 DECEMBER 2010



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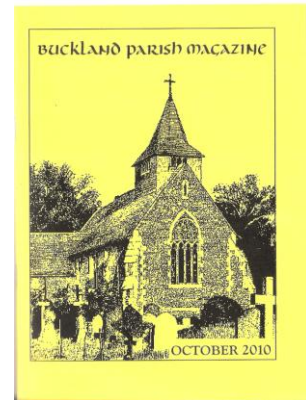
ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BUCKLAND

PART 2 REPORTS - 31 DECEMBER 2010

Parish Magazine

The Buckland parish magazine continues its role as a church magazine, but also as a magazine for the whole village. It is delivered to every household unless they have requested otherwise, and quite a few copies are also posted to others, especially ex-parishioners, outside the village.

We thank Richard Wheen for his work as editor for 11 months, and Duncan Ferns for his work as editor for September each year.



The number of advertising pages for Buckland in 2011 will revert to 12, after 16 in 2010, and all the space has been taken by local trade's people and service providers; many regulars and some new entrants. Netherne Printing Services print the magazine at a reasonable price and we look forward to continuing to work with them and providing employment for those with disabilities. Trevor Cooke had the responsibility for magazine advertising, conducted jointly with Betchworth, where he was ably assisted by Karen Munroe and David Hill, who organised the artwork and layout. We thank them for their efforts.

Richard Wheen

Websites Report

In June 2009 we launched the two church websites, www.stmarythevirgin.net and www.stmichaelsbetdchworth.net with the aid of grant funding obtained by the Betchworth & Buckland Society. The sites have attracted favourable feedback, and provide links to other community and ecclesiastical sites. Each week, the new edition of Pews News is made available online, and the schedule of services is updated monthly. The Buckland site also includes the Parish Magazine as a full PDF document, updated monthly, and with an archive going back to 2003.

We now have website statistics for the year 2010. St Mary the Virgin Buckland had 2900 unique visitors (excluding traffic from robots, worms, etc) – and 3800 hits overall, meaning that 900 of the hits were return visits. Usage has increased over the year, and in December 2010, there were an average of 11 visits per day (4000/yr annualised, hence a growing number of users month-on-month), and each visitor read an average 3-4 pages of the website. The top 5 most popular pages were:

- (1) What's on;
- (2) About us (contacts);
- (3) Monthly Service Schedule;
- (4) Special Services/Weddings; and
- (5) Resources/History.

Pews News got 24 hits (Betchworth) and 22 (Buckland) over the year (i.e. only about 1 reader per week). Buckland Parish Magazine got approximate 140 hits to different issues.

56% of the hits were from UK users, a surprising 28% from the US, and odd hits from around the world – including a disproportionate high from Bermuda, where I think the Rev Stephen Bailey may be watching over us? [I have discussed this with our website hosting company, Design Lynx in Dorking, and the fact that only 50-70% of hits are from the UK is not untypical.

A similar pattern exists for the 'Visit Dorking' and 'Visit Leatherhead' sites which they also host].

St Michaels Betchworth, by comparison, had 13% more unique visitors than Buckland (3300), and 27% more total visits (4860), indicating 1560 return visits. There were an average of 15 visits per day through December 2010 and the main hits and international pattern of visitors was similar to St Mary's Buckland.

For comparison, the bucklandsurrey.net site, for Buckland Village and including the Betchworth & Buckland Society, had 7200 unique visitors, and over 11,000 visits, with visitors reading an average of 2.6 pages per visit. The most visited pages were:

- (1) Parish Council and minutes
- (2) Village History
- (3) Deli & Gift Shop (under Community)
- (4) Betchworth & Buckland Society
- (5) Local Walks (under Community)

For church websites, these are successful figures and we should be pleased with the results. I will action more publicity on the fact that Pews News is online each week, and that the Buckland Parish Magazine archive (since 2003) is available online. If anyone would like to offer to compile an index to the Buckland Parish Magazines – this would be really helpful to make the most of the archive resource.

Duncan Ferns

Choir/ Music

There are now six permanent members of the choir and it would be good to have a few more.

Due to the vacancy of an organist/choir leader there have not been any regular weekly practices.

The choir forms the basis for the singing group for the monthly Iona services with a practice beforehand.

The Harvest Evensong and Carol Service were well received and thanks go to the members of Betchworth choir who were able to attend these services and boost our choir numbers to help make them so successful. It was also nice to see some young singers joining us for the carol service and leading the procession with solos. We hope



they will join us more often.

The Carol Service this year was on a week day but it seemed just as popular as ever. We sang a mixture of carols from different eras and traditions. One of the newer carols was A Maiden most Gentle arranged by Andrew Carter from a French melody. We also sang a favourite John Rutter and a new composition by Margaret Rizza.

A Candlemass service was held at Buckland at the end of January and members from the other church choirs in the Upper Mole Group joined together to sing. This gave an opportunity to explore some different styles of music with songs by Bernadette Farrell and a traditional African song accompanied by the Djembi drum. It was lovely to see so many choir members in and around the choir stalls.

Thanks go to Carol the Rector in taking the singing practices before each of the main festivals and the Candlemass service. Also to Carol Watson, Richard Calver, Owen Rhodes and Gavin Barrett for providing support as relief organists and to Barbara Green for playing the piano at the family services.

Gaynor Day

FUNDRAISING AND SOCIAL EVENTS

The main event this year was the May Fayre and we are very grateful to all the committee, stall holders, refreshment team and all who helped make this event such a success for the whole village. Just over £4500 was raised for the work of the church.

2010 May Fayre

For the past 40 or so years, Buckland May Fayre has been every 2 years, alternating with a Flower Festival. We realised that it was 'time again' in January 2009, but it was considered too late to have a Fayre in 2009. So, with co-ordination by Duncan Ferns, we started planning in September 2009 for the 2010 Fete. Jill Bailey organised the previous May Fayre in 2007 and has moved away, but we were blessed and saved by having Carol and Everett Leeds' valuable input from organising the Fayre for many years up to 2005.

With the aid of spreadsheets and email, I think I had an easier time than in previous years – and a great team of volunteers came forward from both regular church-goers and many others in the village. We had a May Queen organised by the Brownies, and over 20 sideshows and stalls. The opening and crowning of the May Queen – who arrived in style in a convertible Rolls Royce, was led by local



celebrity BBC Newsreader, Nicolas Owen. It was a successful day, with receipts of over £5000 and expenses of under £500; we made considerable profit toward the operational funding of St Mary's. James Day put some

great photographs of the event to music, available on the website. Thanks to everyone involved, and let's hope we can 'do it again' in 2012 – remembering that we start planning in September 2011!

Duncan Ferns

HARVEST SUPPER

Our Harvest Evensong and supper took place on the 3rd October. After Evensong 40 people came to the Buckland Reading Room for a candlelit supper and entertainment provided by Hannah, John and Sian Waters, Martin Coslett and a choir arranged specially to sing for their supper!!

Thank you also to Hannah Waters for organising a quiz for all of us. It really made us all stop and think. A big thank you goes to all the helpers for cooking, getting the reading room ready and for the ladies



who provide the famous puddings. Again because of everyone's generosity we were able to give a generous donation to the Harvest Charities.

For Heritage weekend teas were again served on Buckland green on the Sunday and the Bell tower was open for visitors. During December the tree on the green was sparkling with light and was the focal point for the village carol singing as well as enjoying a glass of mulled wine.

YOUNG PEOPLE / SUNDAY SCHOOL

John and Hannah Waters have taken the lead for Sunday School for a good number of years but they felt that it was the right time to withdraw from this role during 2010. The last session of the Sunday School, during a morning service in the Reading Room, was 7th February 2010. We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to the children and young people and their parents for their commitment and loyalty. Also our thanks go to the congregation who have welcomed and encouraged the young people in their involvement in church activities.

We are enormously grateful to John and Hannah for their devoted care of our Sunday School for many years and their contribution to this most important aspect of our parish life has been much missed.

Maddy Davy writes: *"We had fun at the Sunday School, though sometimes it was very serious. John and Hannah would choose a subject and we would talk about it. Sometimes John would write up on a white board, sometimes we would put our thoughts and feelings into pictures, sometimes they would have coloured pieces of paper with questions on to make us think about the answers. We had a collection every year and we would all have to decide who to send the money to. That was always interesting, seeing the different reasons why we would choose a certain charity. At Christmas we made Christmas cards. It was fun. Thank you Hannah and John for spending this time with us."*

During the rest of the year young children have been encouraged to join with Sunday School meeting in the Hamilton Room at 10.45 on the first Sunday of the month. This is run by Helen Burnett who attends both churches in our Benefice.

The older children in our congregations are asked regularly to participate in family services, take up the offering, and recently a team is being trained to become acolytes.

Young people in the parish also participated in the Summer Holiday Club "Pyramid Rock"

Carol, Rosey Davy, and Jane England

HOUSE GROUPS/ DISCUSSION GROUPS

The HOUSEGROUP has met monthly at Pentlands or Sandhills. We have continued, and finished, our study of the History of Christianity, mostly from the Anglican viewpoint. We have been amazed by the "rumpuses" in every century, which put into perspective the problems we now face.

Pattie Vigers



Ethical/ Topical Discussion Group

Following on from the Emmaus "Lite" course and through popular request a new group has commenced amongst congregation members and friends to discuss ethical issues. The first meeting discussed how the meetings might be organised. It has been agreed that the chair will rotate amongst those who attend, each meeting being chaired by someone different, at their house. So far two meetings have been held. The second meeting discussed Christmas, how it is currently celebrated and whether it might be appropriate to change some of the ways we celebrate it. The next scheduled meeting is in March and will look at euthanasia. The chair chooses the subject matter and researches suitable material to aid the discussion. All are welcome. Dates and details are published in the pews news.

Rosey Davy

Emmaus "Lite" Group



This is a nurture group for those enquiring further about Faith issues. This year the group has been enjoyed by some wedding couples and others of our congregations. The course gives an overview of some of the Philosophical and theological views about God, Jesus and the development of a Christian Faith. Those who have attended some sessions are gradually coming to understand different aspects of the

Christian faith as they have experienced it through worship in our churches. For some this has led this year to confirmation, Bishop Nick confirmed members of our churches at a Deanery confirmation in St. Marks and in Christchurch Brockham. It is hoped to offer this course again for any who would be interested.

Meditation Group

This has met on Monday evenings at 7.30. It is led by members in turn, usually with a brief reading, music, then 20 minutes of silence. It is a small group, the core members being one from Holmwood, three from Reigate and two Roman Catholics from Redhill.

Pattie Vigers



Home Communion

We have taken Home Communion each month for four or five residents at Old Wall Cottage. Every other month, with Carol Leeds to help and Julie Hardy to play the piano, we have taken it to about 20 residents at Broome Park. Some, who are otherwise silent, remember and mouth the words of the Service and hymns. Every other month the Rector and Julie go to Atkinson House for four or five people. We have also taken the Sacrament to those no longer able to sit through the church Service.

Pattie Vigers

LENT COURSE 2010

Christ and the Chocolaterie Designed by Hilary Brand

The 2010 lent course took place in the Buckland Reading room. We saw and discussed the film "Chocolat."

Hilary Brand writes in her introduction to the course: "Some people don't think that fiction can teach us any thing. 'but it isn't true, 'they say. What they mean is that it is not factual.'" But just because something is not factual does not mean it doesn't have truths to teach us. In fact very often it is just the reverse. 'But come on, surely you can't use a film like Chocolat as the basis for a lent course? This is Hollywood- this is nothing like real life'. Many films are great starting points for exploring big issues about God, the world and what it means to be human. The course was well supported and discussion was interesting as well as entertaining and an exercise in Tolerance.

The weekly sessions were as follows:-

- 22nd February Theme: **Giving Up** – The Prelude to Change: the origins of lent, temptations in the wilderness, temptations of the chocolaterie. .
- 1st March Theme: **Giving out** – The Power of a Gift includes the gift of encouragement, the gift of acceptance Luke 14: 1-24 , the gift of hospitality
- 8th March Theme **Getting Wise** – The Possibility of Change includes discussion on control, prejudice and discrimination, Matthew 12: 1-21
- 15th March Theme **Getting Real** – the Power of Acceptance: John 4:4-26 accepting differences, discussions on our cultural diversity and world faiths.
- 22nd March Theme **Growing Up** – the process of change, skeletons in the cupboard and what do we need to acknowledge in order to change.

Winter and Lent Lunches

In 2010 the lunches took place on the second Thursday of the month starting in September and ending in February. They are well attended with between 14 and 22 people from the villages of Buckland and Betchworth and friends who used to live in Buckland, coming to have lunch and a good chat. We charge £2.00 for a main course and dessert with coffee and tea afterwards. Because of everyone's generosity we always seem to make a profit. This money is then sent to local Charities which have been proposed by all who come to the lunch. We had a really happy Christmas lunch with 20 friends sitting down to turkey and all the trimmings. Christmas pudding and mince pies followed accompanied by a brandy butter made by Mrs. Hepburn which was out of this world!!

Our next winter lunch will be on Thursday the 7th September 2011 at 12.30 pm in the Buckland Reading Room. We look forward to seeing you. A big thank you must go to The Rev. Pattie Vigers, Mrs. Mary

Bishop, Mrs. Ros Hepburn and Nola for all their help over the past year for preparing and cooking the food and washing up. I also thank my waitresses and waiters, they know who they are!!

On every Thursday during Lent, soup and bread with coffee and tea afterwards, is served in the Reading Room at 12.30 pm. All are welcome and it is good to see so many of our winter lunch friends coming to support us. The money raised from the lunch goes towards the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call.

In 2010 The projects covered by the Bishops Lent Call included development work in Buganda, food in Burkina Faso and Calcutta, which each received £5,000 of the money raised. The two South London based projects: *Southwark Churches Care* and *Dulwich Help Line* each received £2,500 and the three Episcopal Area Zimbabwe Link Committees each received £10,000. Finally, the Cathedral's Zimbabwe Committee received £4,000.

Carol Leeds

SERVERS 2010

Throughout 2010, both Carol Leeds and Liz Vahey have continued to serve by assisting the clergy at the altar and feel it is a privilege to be able to serve God and the church in this special way.

The tasks we perform are to receive the Offertory, assist the presiding Priest in the preparation of the bread and wine, bear the chalice and offer the wine to communicants, and assist the Priest after communion.

Each year all the servers in the Diocese are invited to attend a special Festival in the Cathedral in early January. Unfortunately due to the adverse weather conditions we were unable to attend this year as we have in previous years.

If any one else is interested in becoming a server it really is quite easy and can be very rewarding. If you would be interested Pattie or Carol could advise further.



Carol Leeds and Liz Vahey

ROTAS

The Rota of those assisting at Services as Sidesmen, Readers, Intercessors and Processors is prepared quarterly. Some names have appeared for a considerable number of years and these include two families of Processors (the Pearces and Englands) where the youngest members have been helping from the time they were at Infant School to the present time as Secondary School pupils.

Members of the congregation welcomed to the list during the last couple of years include Rosey Davy, Caroline Gale and Keith Billington, and Owen Rhodes. Anyone else willing to join would be equally welcome (particularly anyone willing to get up early just one Sunday every couple of months and assist at the 8am Service!) Ring Alec Gregory 842308

Alec Gregory

CHURCH FLOWERS

At the end of 2009, after many long years of dedicated service, Sue Haynes decided to step down from her role as the head of Flower Arranging at St Mary's Buckland. A committee was formed to take over this responsibility and is headed up by Jean Cooke. The committee meet on a quarterly basis to discuss ideas for the decoration of the Church and to agree on which committee member will be responsible for the main arrangements at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Jean Cooke organises the weekly rota of loyal volunteers who all work hard to provide attractive flower arrangements at St Mary's.

The Flower fund received generous donations amounting to £102.50 from the congregation, the majority of which was for the purchase of Lilies at Easter. The Flower Fund also received £17.75, which was raised from the sale of morning coffees in Church. Expenses were kept to a minimum due to the generosity of the committee and the volunteers who provide plant material throughout the year.

The current arrangements for the flower decorations at St Mary's Buckland are in good order. The new rota is in place for 2011 and the committee have apportioned responsibility for the main events.

Jean Cooke

BELLRINGERS REPORT



The bellringers have continued to ring for all services required by the church and for weddings as requested. We are a band of seven for the six bells which are light in weight, when compared to other towers, partly because of the timber framed steeple in which they are housed. We practise once week on Friday evenings and at most practices we have regular visiting ringers who join us; there are visiting bands as well because Buckland is a popular venue. We host training sessions organised by the Surrey Association to whom we belong. 2010 was a normal year and we carried the normal annual maintenance of the bells, frame and ringing chamber. Our annual outing which we shared with the Betchworth ringers took place around Maidstone and the Medway valley during August and, with an annual dinner in January; we enjoy each other's company but acknowledge our commitment to the church and its community. It is fair to say that we could do with more ringers and would especially welcome anyone from Buckland.

David Sayce

EDUCATION OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT 2010

The committee met three times in 2010. It acts as a forum for organising 'outreach' activities. As in 2009 the Holiday Club was the dominant event of the year. Again it was very successful with 37 children and 5 teenagers attending over the 3 mornings and a barbecue at the Rectory after the last session. This and other smaller activities create an excellent forum with young families who may not have very strong links with the churches.

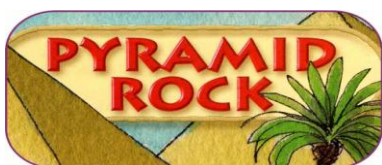
The committee promoted the same charities as last year and money was distributed under the guidance of Charles Hardy to a ratio of approx. 60% domestic and 40 % developing world.

Much of the nitty gritty of the committee is concerned with the Rector reporting her Outreach activities, particularly in the schools, and at various church activities such as the Acorns and Brockham Infants and Year 3 singing day at St Michaels and Nursery and school visits to the church.

The committee also acts as a forum for discussion of needs within both Parishes out of which has come the creation of a new discussion group for current issues.

Anne C Forrest Chairman

Pyramid Rock Holiday Club August 2010



St Michael's Church, Betchworth
and
St Mary's Church, Buckland



A fantastic creative and fun three days, the Holiday Club could not have happened without the help of many people. Thanks must go to:- the organisers, The Rector, Helen Burnett and Anne Forrest; the expert advisors Owen Rhodes on piano, Lesley Standen designing the coat for children to make, Alison Stagg for her knowledge and advice about Ancient Egyptian culture; Harriet Allsop for First Aid advice; the Coslett and Wallace families for musical support and IT help; the Cool Cats singing group; Mary Hooper and her team for organising the refreshments for the children and the helpers; all the generous people who lent or gave resources; Barbara and Bernard Hawkins for organising a wonderful barbecue; and of course the group leaders and helpers for their hard work and dedication which ensured the children had a happy and fulfilling time.

Over 40 children and young people came. They heard the story of Joseph and his amazing coat, and explored the journey of Jacob and his family and tribe from Canaan to Egypt.

Over the 3 days the children made pyramids Egyptian sweets, scenes of the Ancient River Nile, scarabs, and hieroglyphic bookmarks. The piece de resistance was the creation of a full sized multi coloured coat. The Cool Cats singing group (average age 13yrs) led the songs and dance centring on pyramids, colours,

and the story of Joseph. Accompanied by Martin Coslett, Cameron Wallace, David Coslett and Owen Rhodes these were presented to the parents, carers, visitors and helpers on the last day. There was a lovely sense of learning and thinking together about one of the great stories of our Christian heritage. Before departing to the final barbecue, the children, parents, carers and helpers lit candles to

represent the 5 groups at the club and said a prayer of blessing together.

This was the second holiday club organised by the Rev Carol Coslett providing local children with an opportunity to have fun while exploring in detail famous stories from the bible.

At the end of a rewarding, if exhausting, three days the final day closed with an enjoyable barbecue and games organised at the Rectory.



“Big Sing”

On Thursday, 24th June, pupils participated in a “BIG SING” Day in St. Michael’s led by Esther Jones RSCM, choir trainer and organist. The children arrived early morning, some walking from Brockham, others from the Betchworth and Leigh sites. The day started with warm ups, onto singing games and action songs and then learning new songs to perform later in the day. The theme was based on creation and the environment.

During their break, pupils were able to participate in a quiz around the church, see village archives in the Hamilton Room or return to the Acorn School base for some fun and games. After lunch, everyone returned for a grand performance before returning to their respective schools at the end of the day,



Rector Carol said, “It has been a great day, especially being able to see the children from all three sites meeting together to enjoy having fun singing. I am very grateful for the staff and head teachers, Jan Steel and Eric Starkie for giving permission for the day to go ahead. May this be the first of many more such opportunities to work together”.



Croydon Episcopal Link with the Anglican Diocese of Central Zimbabwe

Under the guidance of the Croydon Episcopal Area St Mary’s and St. Michael’s have continued to support the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe in it’s work to alleviate poverty and create opportunities for a better quality of life through the work of the church. In 2010 the United Benefice sent **£200** to the Diocesan work. The Diocese includes the St Patrick’s Mission which is involved in projects to develop access to education through the high school and primary school, a mission farm, and clinic, hospital development and worship at and maintenance of their church. During 2010 the economy did show a small recovery but 90% of the population are still unemployed. The political situation is very fragile and investors are not prepared to invest until the situation is stable. This leaves so many people having to create their own lives with little money, minimal resources and little government support. The work of the Croydon link is still much needed.

Welcare in East Surrey

The Benefice has continued to give generous support to Welcare during 2010. £798 was sent to support the work. The toys delivered after last Christmas were warmly received and will have been used for birthdays and parents choice this Christmas. The tins and dried goods gifts were magnificent this year, generous donations at our harvest Service and a huge collection by the



Rector from the schools. We needed 2 cars and the help of the Welcare Social Worker to carry them in.! We were told that the supplies received at Harvest from all the churches would probably just last the year, which shows how often they have clients who are unable to buy food for financial reasons. During the last year Welcare has extended their teaching work with parents to learning how to cook simple dishes with easily available and low cost materials. Their work is to enable families in difficulty to live as good a life as possible with their children.

Anne C Forrest

Fairtrade

We continue to support **Fairtrade** in our parish, which is within a Fairtrade Diocese, and we continue to serve fair-trade products for coffee and tea. This is particularly important if we are to maintain our status as a Fairtrade parish. Mrs Norma Stevens, continues as our local organiser and keeps us in touch with the up to date catalogues and events Denholm House in Nutfield. We supported fair-trade fortnight last year and at the end of our Lent Course gave gifts of fair-trade chocolate.

A very successful Tradecraft Sale in conjunction with the Harvest Produce sale was hosted in the Hamilton room on November 28th, Advent Sunday after the morning service. Over £371 was raised for Tradecraft. Some of the goods were delightful as well as practical. A well known Lay reader was seen carrying out an 18" tall, painted cat. It was supported by members of both parishes and we were able also to auction a Christmas cake to which proceeds went towards our Harvest Charitable giving.

At the end of the year we received details of the new Fairtrade Easter Egg being produced with the Easter message on the box, and members of the congregation have been able to place orders in advance.

Thanks go to Norma Stevens, Sue and Richard Perkins and Anne Forrest for helping with these events.



The Children's Society

2010 has been a different year for fund-raising for the Children's Society in Betchworth & Buckland. The loyal group of **Boxholders** have contributed **£276 – 80**. Thank you to all, I have a number of CS collection boxes just looking to go to welcoming homes, loose change dropped into the box and totalled once a year soon adds up and is always welcomed by the Children's Society. It lightens your purse or pockets and is remarkably painless!!



A major snow fall the day before this years **Christingle Service** caused very difficult travelling conditions and instead of the usual full Church, the hardy few collected **£77- 61 from 16 Candle boxes**. An excellent contribution. Thank-you.

I have now received a number of late Candle boxes, adding **£30 – 89** to the total.

Christingle Services were also held by the Primary departments of North Downs School, and by the Rainbows in Buckland, raising £274.00 & £53.30 respectively.
 With this the Children's Society will be able to continue supporting children, in difficult circumstances.
 Please contact me if you would like a BOX. Thank you, every penny helps.

Margaret Miller

Girl Guiding in Buckland and Betchworth



Guiding in Buckland has had a very busy year as it has been our Centenary.

The girls have had many events to celebrate including The Best Party Ever in Dorking for the Rainbows, a visit to Port Lympne Zoo in Kent for the Brownies and a camp at Foxlease in Hampshire for the Guides and Senior Section. The conclusion to our celebrations took place at Denbies under the heading of VISION for the Future at 20:10/20/10/2010 which was when the whole Country renewed the Guiding Promise. This was for all the units in Leith Hill Division of which Buckland Guides,

Brownies and Rainbows are members.

The three units in Buckland attended Services in St Mary's Buckland and St Michael's Betchworth. To mark the occasion for World Thinking Day, which was on the 22 February; a Special Service took place at St Michael's Church, on 21 February 2010. Other services we attended were:

Mother's Day, Father's Day, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and a Christingle Service.

The units have also been involved in many other events including St George's Day Parade in Dorking, Teas on Buckland Green, Buckland May Fayre (one of the Brownies was May Queen), Brockham Victorian Fayre and selling Christmas trees on Buckland Green, with mince pies and mulled wine on a cold day with 6 inches of snow which remained until Christmas Day.

Madeline Rietchel

Commissioner of Dorking Downs District in Leith Hill Division



Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery

The Nursery continues to thrive and numbers remain strong. We have an ongoing link with Dover's Green Children's Centre who use our building once a week for a popular 'stay and play' session.

Topics covered in the Nursery during the year have included: Weather, Under the Ground and All Around the World which gave great scope for colourful and informative displays around the walls and ceiling.

The children (and staff!) had an opportunity to visit Church Farm to see the newborn calves earlier in the year and also had an outing to Nower Wood to

help badger find a new home. There have also been local walks, including one to Brockham Green, as well as visits to the Church at Christmas and Easter.

PC Trezise visited and kindly allowed the children to sit in his police car.

We are grateful for the continued support of our parents who raise funds for the Nursery thus enabling us to regularly renew and replenish our resources. You may have noticed our new gate onto the school path which we hope will be completed soon meaning that we will be completely self-contained!

Finally, we are grateful to Carol for the time she spares to visit and to tell stories to the children and for always making us most welcome on our outings to the Church.

Alison Higgins

Chair - Nursery Management Committee



Betchworth and Buckland Toddler Group – 2010 Review

In 2010, the Betchworth and Buckland Toddler Group continued to be well supported by the local community. We were pleased also that the word had spread and some new people joined us. A total of 42 sessions took place with an average attendance of 12 children each time.



As well as art and craft materials we also purchased some new toys during the year, cash tills, kitchen and food items, play and learn floor mats and an Aquadoodle set. We also received a very kind donation of some second-hand toys. Our craft activity continued to be popular and we must say a huge thank you to Sara Black who has been the main organiser and provider of great ideas.

In November we produced a newsletter and conducted a satisfaction survey. The results of the survey showed that the Toddler group was providing a much appreciated resource in the community. The respondents agreed that it provided excellent value for money and a good selection of toys and craft activities. They also agreed that it was well structured and made available a good range of refreshments for the children and adults. We valued the feedback we received and will continue to look for ways to improve the service we offer.

The Christmas Party took place on the final Toddler group session of the year. The Toddler group was invited by Carol into the church for a short Christmas service where the children learnt about the Nativity Story. Afterwards they enjoyed lunch and party games in the Reading Room.

Finally, special thanks must go to Carol Coslett, and to Lisa Wedderburn from SureStart for their continued support and encouragement. Also thanks to Barbara for providing a musical accompaniment at circle time.

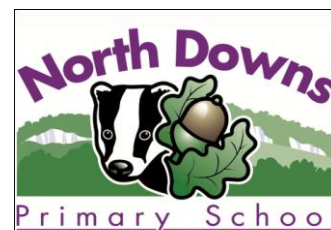
Toddler Group 2010 Facts and Figures:

Location:	The Reading Room, Old Road, Buckland
Opening hours:	Tuesday 9.45 – 12.00 noon (term-time)
Charge:	£1.50/family, increased to £2.00/family on 1 st April
Number of sessions:	42
Average attendance:	12 children
Highest attendance:	19 children
Average takings:	£18.00
Total money spent on toys, craft materials and refreshments:	£408
Toddler Group Organisers:	Mrs Naomi Preston, Mrs Sarah Straughan

Sarah Straughan

Links with the Church from North Downs Primary School

Now amalgamated as one school over three sites in the villages of Betchworth, Brockham and Leigh; North Downs Primary School has continued to develop links with the churches in the villages. We are most fortunate to have Rev Coslett on our Governing body and she is a frequent visitor to all 3 sites. During our first term Rev Coslett has led assemblies on Harvest in October and Christingle in December. All our Infants across the 3 sites collected £268.31 for the Children's Society in their 'candles' which they presented at the assemblies. They had made some 'christingles' to show the parents and sang beautifully accompanied by Julie Hardy and Paul Ellison, who very kindly joined us for the occasion. Rev Lehanney also continues to lead a regular monthly assembly for the children at Leigh with themes including 'Remembrance' and 'Presents'. North Downs maintained the Brockham School tradition of an evening carol service in Christ Church Brockham, led by lay preacher and Parent Jacqueline Dean. The school choir,



instrumentalists and readers were fantastic and began our school Christmas Celebrations. We then held a Junior Carol Service at school to include all the children in KS2 to which we invited Parents as well. This was led by Rev Coslett with input from pupils, recorder players, choir and staff.

Jan Steel
Interim Headteacher

THE BUCKLAND PAROCHIAL CHARITY

As Chair of the Buckland Parochial Charity it is with great sadness that we have to report the death of David Tomkinson, our most valued friend and Clerk to the Trustees of the charity. We have been so grateful over the past 16 years for all the work David has done to help others in this community as a result of donations from this local Charity.

We also this year have to say thank you to Doreen Dart, who has been on the committee for 20 years, but feels now it is the time to step down to make way for others who may wish to help in the community as a trustee. Doreen has been a valuable asset to the charity's work and her membership of the parish council has been a useful link for the village. At the start of 2011 we are, therefore, looking for a new Clerk and possibly another member for the committee who can offer their services. We meet twice a year formally and then as any needs arise during the course of a year.

During 2010 the Charity had a total income for the year of £3,576, the majority of which, £3,165, constituted grants from *The Henry Smith Charity*.

Outgoings totalled £4,331 – all being spent on parishioners. Two distributions were made; one at Christmas and the other in late Spring. Eleven residents received gifts of food and contributions towards their gas or electricity bills. A copy of the Charity's accounts for the year is attached.

As always, the trustees would welcome information regarding parishioners, who anyone believes are in a condition of need, hardship, or distress and might benefit from the Charity.

The names and telephone numbers of the current trustees are listed below:

Rev. Carol Coslett	842102
Mrs. Ann Adams	843378
Mr. Philip Haynes	842613
Rev. Pattie Vigers	243698
Clerk to the Trustees:	position vacant

Carol Coslett (Chairman)

Buckland One World Group Report to Buckland PPC for 2010-11

The Buckland One World Group, which began in 1979, has two main purposes: (1) to arouse interest in the relief of poverty in developing countries, and (2) to raise money for worthwhile projects in those countries.

Our core charity is Money for Madagascar. This highly efficient organisation supports some of the poorest people in the world through a series of projects that: give emergency support for natural disasters such as cyclones and widespread flooding; help to provide basic needs such as water supply for villages and school buildings; give hope to poor people by showing them how to lift themselves out of poverty and become employable or self-sufficient; provide educational work with disadvantaged people such as street children, school dropouts and prisoners.

Money for Madagascar is one of the few charities that operate in the country. Its work is appreciated more than ever at the moment, following a series of political crises that have left an unpopular dictator who seems to have little interest in relieving poverty. For example, the gap between the rich and poor has widened considerably, arbitrary arrests are frequent, and the forests have been raped so that rosewood can be exported for luxury furniture. Donors who had worked with the Malagasy Government have pulled their finances on aid programmes, but Money for Madagascar fortunately works with NGOs that are still able to deliver essential support without passing through government channels.

Every year our committee organises talks and entertainment to inform people and to raise funds for both Money for Madagascar and other small charities that are concerned with the poorest people. Over the last financial year, we have organised three events. In April 2010 we heard a fascinating and moving talk by Antoinette Ferraro on the work of the Belarusian Children's Hospice; this was very well attended and raised £588 for the hospice. In October, the Dorking U3A Singers gave a very well-received concert in Buckland Church, raising £500 for Money for Madagascar. And this January, Peter and Joan Davalle gave another of their entertaining presentations, this time on Mozart's letters, raising £352, all proceeds going to Money for Madagascar.

I would like to thank the PCC for letting us use the Church and Reading Room free of charge; and I would also like to thank our committee members whose willingness to help is second to none.

Jim Docking, Chairman

Reading Room

The Reading Room is leased to the Rector and the Churchwardens and is a valued asset for the Church and village. Following the extension and refurbishment of the building in 1988, the P.C.C. appointed a Management Committee to act on its behalf in maintaining it. Members have served on the Committee for many years but during 2010 a new secretary and Chairman had to be found from the village. The Rector agreed to be "acting chair" until a replacement could be found following Everett Leeds retirement. Advertisements were placed in the parish magazine and we were very fortunate that Veronica Burville took over as Secretary/Treasurer on 1st January 2010. (replacing Alec Gregory) Towards the end of 2010 we were also able to secure some interest in the post of Chairman and are pleased to advise that Ken Caldwell is to be appointed as the new Chairman in 2011. As Ken begins to be more involved with the role he will be a great asset to the committee in the running of the room.

The Committee make the Reading Room available for a wide range of community and social activities for modest hiring fees or, in the case of charitable groups and occasional charitable fund-raising events, at no cost. However, necessary maintenance costs and very high heating charges which we have incurred as a result of the recent cold winters have led to an operating deficit so, we anticipate making small increases to hiring charges from September so that we can get back to a position where our income will exceed expenditure and our funds will not be depleted.

We are delighted to welcome Ken as our new Chairman and are grateful to him for agreeing to serve. We also record our thanks to the other members of the Management Committee, Ann Adams, Gaynor Day, Doreen Dart (Letting Secretary) and Tilly Mitchell all of whom have served for many years and Veronica Burville our other most recent recruit.

Veronica Burville (Secretary)

Parish Administration in Rectory Study

In January last year I commenced work at the Rectory office every Thursday morning on a voluntary basis and thus began my initiation into the various aspects of church administration.

The predominant work has been the preparation of the Pews News which has to be prepared and printed each week then folded ready for the various services. However, letters do need to be written, baptismal cards prepared, monthly articles for the parish magazine to be sent via email and of course the preparation of service sheets for special services and the yearly rota. In addition photocopying has to be done, wedding packs prepared and telephone calls answered, messages taken or help given where possible. Jo William's assistance during the summer and autumn months has been invaluable. Much of her time was spent preparing invitations to the Holiday Club, the Big Sing and to the local schools, to encourage attendance at appropriate services for children and parents, preparing Posters for various events, liaising with helpers for the Holiday Club and I am sure she was involved in much more work, of which I am unaware.

This just gives an idea of what goes on, but there is much more waiting to be undertaken and I am sure the new administrative assistant, Paula Barrett who started her employment in the middle of January, will meet the challenge and enjoy the role; I wish her every success.

I have enjoyed my time at the Rectory office and am a little wiser as to the administrative responsibilities placed upon the Rector. Jo and I will no longer be part of the admin. team. I will, of course, continue as PCC Secretary for the forthcoming year.

Christine Holt

Assistant Priest's Report

The other reports show that the Rector, with her huge energy, many gifts and musical talent, keeps parish life moving.

The big problem in Betchworth has been what to decide about the organ. A professional fund-raiser has been called in to help. On the plus side, the year brought a large crop of weddings, mostly at Betchworth. A lesser problem in Buckland has been the lack of a regular organist, but we are grateful to the kind people who have come to play. The sadness in Buckland has been the serious illness of John Waters. On the plus side, Buckland now has a team of young people to serve as acolytes.

We had a joint Envisioning Exercise. We put into words our aim as a church – to grow closer to God and to bring people closer to God – which is what we have always been trying to do.

Our thanks to the Rector and her family, to the Churchwardens, and to every person who has contributed in any way to church life and welcome to those who have joined the congregations.

Pattie Vigers

Rector's Report - 31 December 2011

I want to thank all of you, the wardens, verger, fellow clergy, readers, organists, treasurers, PCC secretaries, PCC members and many others who worked in the past year so loyally and faithfully for the cause of the Gospel as members of St Mary's and St Michael's. Whatever the complexities, discouragements and trials of the national and international Church, we continue locally to seek to remain faithful to Christ, compassionate to all, and generously welcome others in the manner Christ has welcomed us.

I am reminded of the parable of the *wheat and the tares* when Jesus tells us that in the Kingdom of Heaven both wheat and weeds grow together, side by side (that is reassuring realism from Jesus), but that human efforts here and now to separate the two—to 'weed out' and 'purify' are fatally flawed by the specks in our own eyes obscuring our vision. Sometimes we are blessed with the honesty to recognise that the things we enthusiastically condemn in others have deep roots in our own fearful hearts. The parable basically teaches us to trust the Lord to sort things out. For He alone is just and knows all things. He will judge and purify in his time and way. We are called to be faithful in the task he has given us and to produce good fruit. Reassuringly this is echoed by a comment from our Archbishop Rowan Williams who reports to be coping with the impossible pressures projected onto him by simply "getting on with the next thing"!

For our own church, 2010 has witnessed us also "moving on to the next thing." Despite adjustments to new roles within our church- management people have risen to the occasion and supported. This was particularly noticeable when we said goodbye to Chris and Margaret Meade as they moved up north. They have been sorely missed, but gradually the many roles they fulfilled have been undertaken by others in the congregations. Chris Holt needs a special mention in that she has valiantly carried on as PCC secretary and has helped out with weekly parish administration. We do thank you. Carol Leeds has also carried on supporting the life of St. Mary's, working with David Sayce, our new churchwarden, and the many social opportunities she facilitates. Thank you.

Of the many things that could be highlighted in 2010 the following need special mention:

We were successful again in gaining another Annual Mission Grant Fund and this helped support the Summer Holiday Club, Pyramid Rock, the Good Friday Activities, and the Big Sing with the local schools. Grateful thanks to all who helped with these activities, to Helen Burnett and Anne Forrest, for masterminding the holiday club, and for others who have helped with our outreach mission. Work with our young people and younger families is a continuing process and it does

sometimes feel like an uphill struggle, but we must keep at it.. little by little.. to ensure the Christian story can be heard in our communities.

Two very important initiatives have also been further developed: the “Envisioning Exercise” supported by Barry Goodwin (Diocesan Parish Development Advisor) and the Review of the Organ Campaign in Betchworth, by Chris Goldie (an independent advisor).

Ultimately the report and feedback to the PCC produced a “Vision for the Future”, which highlights our need to grow as a community. As a church and benefice **“we seek to grow closer to God”** and **“to bring people closer to God”** and to that end we want our church to remain: **Open to God, Open to All, and Open for you.**

This firmly ties in with discussions around the organ campaign and the desire to build on the worship life of our churches. With an external review being undertaken since the summer, this has allowed further reflection and a strategy to be put in place to complete the campaign. Once this issue is resolved it will mean that we can move on exploring ways in which our 2 churches worship together in ways that can touch us and encourage us to lift our hearts and minds to God. Liturgical reform through the centuries has reflected the need to express the old and cherished in the contemporary life and culture of worshippers.

In general, I believe that St Michael’s and St Mary’s “does liturgy” quite well—we respect tradition, we are positive about “liturgical praying”; we value regularity and familiarity but also find stimulus from the seasonal changes through the Church year. We are reasonably dignified but I hope we are not perceived as too stuffy (at least for the family services!). Our music, both choir led and at times music group- led is warmly appreciated and provides a balance of old and new.

However, we live in a culture with a consumer mentality. This is in some ways regrettable -it both expresses and reinforces our individualism and makes us always think of 'what is in it for me?' Where earlier generations saw it as their duty to God, irrespective of 'feelings', to worship with the Lord's people on the Lord's day, a subjective contemporary mind-set is more likely to give up on, rather than persist with, worship forms that it is not personally 100% happy with.

In trying to 'work with the grain' of the consumer mentality many churches try to find forms of worship that meet people where they are, hence a variety of worship is on offer each Sunday and during the week. This will usually include traditional and experimental worship, both sacramental worship and 'worship of the Word'. A good many mission-minded churches have taken this route and found blessing and growth in it. It means plenty of work in finding human resources to support the 'menu', and it expresses an intention to try to meet people where they are.

The alternative approach, which we have tended towards at St Michael’s and St Mary’s, is to do as much as we can together. This is seen through our Parish Family (or All Age) Communion Services, particularly at Christmas and Easter. It is also reflected in encouraging the whole 'family of the church' to attend the monthly Church 'Family' Service. Using the term “All Age” to describe some services, a relatively new term used since the introduction of Common Worship, allows all people to be included regardless of whether they have families or children. It is an important step in making our worship accessible and inclusive for all people.

There are still Book of Common Prayer communion services at 8am, once a month Matins at 11am and Evensong at 5pm for those who feel that meets their needs. But, so far, we have tried to draw as many as we can to be together for the main Sunday morning act of worship. We have drawn others into our worship by inviting groups to some special services this year, like Thinking Day for the Guides and a special Christingle for the Rainbows and Brownies in Buckland, and all those baptized in the last few years to Mothering Sunday. In the coming year we shall be continuing to look at our worship with the hope of offering another alternative to our

main Trinity worship and also offer a more relaxed form of evening worship and possibly a series of themed sermons over a period of time that might be attractive to people of all ages who wish to explore further their understanding of Christianity.

The challenge comes from looking at the many hundreds coming through the door for the Candlelight service in Buckland and the Crib service in Betchworth, and saying to ourselves, "what factors, including forms of worship, might just help more of them to become rooted within the active worshipping community?" The challenge is how we help people, sometimes more on the fringes of church, to become ingrafted into the worshipping congregation? Some, it is true, have enjoyed the Emmaus Course discussion groups, and been led to confirmation, but the challenge is to draw in toddler parents that come on Tuesdays to the Reading Room, or who bring their children to the local school and nursery, or parents of those baptised to live out their public pledge to 'bring their children up within the family of the Church'. We need to continue to work at this mission challenge. There are statistical time-bombs ticking away in the English Church, and we are 'done for' if we do not struggle to stand in the shoes of the non-members and offer hospitality of spirit and life to those who have not really heard of the Good News of what God has done and is in Jesus. It is treasure we have allowed to become somewhat buried or obscured: it needs to be unwrapped, to be seen more often amongst us.

At the end of last years' report there were 3 challenges that had arisen out of the discussions around vision and stewardship. They were:

- **Enhance our worship and personal ministries**
- **Attract younger families and their children**
- **Improve facilities and continue to pay our way**

Well we are some way to fulfilling these but they are still relevant to 2011. We should be continually looking at new ways to enhance our worship and develop our personal ministries. To continue to attract younger families we have to show that we can welcome them in our worship, and if we are to improve our facilities or look at "**re-ordering**" in both churches we need to think "**outside the box**" to what would be most suitable for our worship needs in the 21st century. How do we create the desire amongst all who live in our villages and parishes to support the work of the churches?

So we are still working on and considering the following for 2011:

In Betchworth we are considering: -

- Adapting "**Re-ordering**" our space inside the church to provide better facilities for children and families. Disabled access and toilet positioning by the west door
- Improving our vestry space and providing more adequate storage for choir/clergy

Some of this will be able to be done when the organ is removed from its present position. The PCC has drawn up a statement of needs.

In Buckland we are also considering:-

- Adapting or "**Re-ordering**" how we use the space inside church especially for use during Family services: this might include being ready to remove some front pews to create space.
- improving the porch area and notice board displays (partly achieved)

In all this our desire for the future is to remain:

**Open to God,
Open to All,
and Open for You.**

Let us not forget the quip that if you want to make God laugh, just tell him your plans! But neither let us forget the pilgrim spirit and this pilgrim prayer:

*Pilgrim God, there is an exodus going on in my life: desert stretches,
a vast land of questions. Inside my head your promises tumble and turn.
No pillar of cloud by day or fire by night that I can see. My heart hurts at
leaving loved ones and so much of the security I have known. I try to give
in to the stretching and the pain. It is hard, God, and I want to be settled,
secure, safe and sure. And here I am feeling so full of pilgrim's fear and
anxiety.*

O God of the journey, lift me up, press me against your cheek.

Let your great love hold me and create a deep trust in me.

Then set me down, God of the journey; take my hand in yours,

and guide me ever so gently across the new territory of my life. Amen.

(Joyce Rupp)

Carol Coslett

MAY FAYRE 2010 !

