

# ST. JAMES' FINCHAMPSTEAD

Volume 3 Issue 16

## MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Autumn 2008

### St Matthew's Kimberley

#### **A Wonderful Opportunity to Sponsor a Child.**

It is exciting to report, as we approach the second anniversary of our twinning with St Matthew's Church in South Africa, that soon we will enable 15 children annually to attend St Matthew's Pre-school. It is in the grounds of St Matthew's Church but currently is financially out of reach of some of the most needy children. St Matthew's vision, under the guidance of their priest Father Reggie, is to enable some of the poorest children from the township to receive a Saturday morning education at a cost of 350 Rand per month (approx £24). Although the St James' PCC believes we should underwrite the cost of this from our usual charitable giving (up to £5,000 per year) individuals from St James' may well want to take on the responsibility of sponsoring, or part-sponsoring an individual child. Please contact the Rector for further details of this exciting project. A 'Big Launch' of this initiative will take place at our Harvest Supper this year on Saturday 11th October - a key date for your diary.



#### Inside this issue:

<u>Sunday Club</u>	2
<u>Hope 2008</u>	3
<u>Social News</u>	4
<u>Conservation</u>	5
<u>Fledgelings</u>	6
<u>Church Diary</u>	7+
<u>Music</u>	11
<u>Handbells</u>	11
<u>Mothers' Union</u>	12
<u>House Groups</u>	14
<u>Youth Group</u>	16

#### **Conservation Work:**

Thankfully English Heritage has at last given approval to our conservation proposals. This is a significant hurdle, given that the Oxford Diocese required English Heritage to approve certain aspects of the under-floor heating system. We also had to consult wall painting specialists to discover if there were wall paintings beneath the paintwork. Thankfully, from the point of view of our time scale, none have been found. Unfortunately English Heritage is stipulating a highly expensive method of removing the current paintwork from the walls. So our negotiations continue! This means that costs will rise quite significantly, and we are in the process of clarification. We still believe work will begin in January 2009, and St James' will be shut for approximately 6 months.

#### **Church Services during the Conservation.**

After considerable deliberation the PCC decided that we shall use our own Church Centre for Sunday services. Initially we proposed using the Village Hall but parking congestion, because of sports

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Rector's message continued from page 1)*

events on many Sunday mornings, will make it impracticable. Our Church Hall holds about 100 people, but because we normally exceed this number we shall hold another evening communion service at 6pm, which should reduce overcrowding in the morning. This change will be a great challenge, but we hope not to lose any of the current St James' members. Indeed we hope to continue to expand. Please pray for the church as we move into these exciting but uncharted waters.

With warmest regards Rev Richard



**for children up to 11yrs**

**W**hen? We meet **on Sunday mornings** from 10.45 – 12.10 (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month during term-time). This term our sessions will be on 14/9, 28/9, 12/10, 26/10, 9/11, 23/11, 30/11 & 14/12. New members are always welcome – just come along at 10.45 and someone will be ready to welcome you.

**W**here? Our four groups - Gems (0-2yrs), Pebbles (3yrs-Reception), Rocks (yrs 1,2 & 3) and Boulders (yrs 4, 5 & 6) meet in **St James' Church Centre**. Children and leaders then join the congregation in Church for the final part of the service.

**W**hat? Each week we focus on a story or theme from the Bible using material appropriate to the specific age groups. Stories, craft, games, drama and discussion provide an opportunity for children to find out more about the Christian faith and its relevance to them.

This term we will be looking at the life and teaching of Jesus, based on stories in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Our final session on 14<sup>th</sup> December will be a special activity week as we look forward to Christmas.

Janet Clements 0118-9328679 (Sunday Club Coordinator)

### **MISSION REPORT**

We joined forces with St.Mary & St.John again this year for Christian Aid Week. In excess of £2,700.00 was raised in collections. In addition to this St.James' raised a further £1,000.00 through a cake sale and donations from the Congregation. Quite a success. We are hoping soon to be able to put forward the sponsorship of Children to attend the School at St.Matthew's Kimberley. This we hope will be the fundraising focus of Harvest as well as offering it to the Congregation in general.

The summer is quite a quiet time for Mission, but in September we will start to become busy again.

Gill Myall – Mission Committee

## **HOPE '08 CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CROWTHORNE**

Many exciting activities were available to our youth group over 5 weeks of the summer holidays. These activities, run by Thames Valley Police and Crowthorne Parish Council, were fully booked. The usual monthly all age football sessions also took place and will continue until the autumn, the dates are displayed on the Church Centre noticeboard.

### **God's Word Every Child( 5,000 magazines given out by CTC)**

Free Hope'08 literature has been given to us for distribution to all our children and young people. Most of this has already been given out for use during the holidays. There are activity books for the younger children ranging upward to introductory bible reading notes for the secondary stage, as well as adult bible reading notes.

**Looking Forward** ~ Hope'08 will be helping with a school grounds day at our Finchampstead Church School on Saturday Sept 27<sup>th</sup> .

### **Other Dates**

Sun Sept 7<sup>th</sup> - Motor bike Rideout to West Wittering.

Mon Oct 27<sup>th</sup> - Wed Oct 29<sup>th</sup> "On Your Marks" Holiday Club (Yrs 1 - 6).  
at Crowthorne Methodist Church, 10.15 - 12.30.

Fri Dec 5<sup>th</sup> - Crowthorne Late Night shopping, Hog Roast/Candlelight Walk with Hope'08.

Further events will be posted on the Church Centre Noticeboard.

Francis Moore & Sarah Owen.

### **9.30 Family Service Feedback**

Thank you to everyone who returned one of the Feedback forms we were handing out in June – we received 42 altogether and the responses were very helpful.

Most people seemed to like the length and format of the service and there were some interesting comments on which parts of the service appealed most (or least) to adults and children. The general impression is that we should keep doing what we have been doing, and we'll do our best to maintain the freshness and variety. Over a third said that they would come more often if we held the service weekly. At the moment that's not practical, but we won't let the thought disappear. We're also going to be looking at how we can build on the success of the service to provide some of the activities and events that were suggested by the responses. We'd like to introduce a regular family service e-newsletter to keep everyone up-to-date with what's going on and we'll be looking more closely at that next year. Perhaps most encouraging of all was the number of families and individuals who reacted positively to the suggestion of forming a family service community. We shall be getting in touch after the holidays with those who volunteered to help with the service or with refreshments. Over the coming months we'll see how we can develop this idea further.

Our aim has always been to help all family members on their journeys with or towards Jesus. We're pleased that this seems to appeal to so many. We're keen to keep improving and really appreciate the support we've had so far. Please keep giving us your feedback and ... let the instruments keep on playing. Rev John

**SOCIAL AND FUND RAISING COMMITTEE NEWS:****Choir Concert**

Once again Andrew and our choir were on top form when they entertained us with some musical delights in May. The evening started with the concert in Church and was followed by a finger buffet in the Manor House. Many thanks go to Andrew and the choir members for their time and talents which helped raise around £650

for the Conservation Fund.

In spite of the weather (raining again!), our annual Family BBQ in early July was extremely well attended; Pete did a wonderful job on the BBQ cooking for around 150 hungry people whilst sheltering from the rain under the Yew Tree. Vast numbers of sausages, burgers and yummy puddings were consumed by everyone who managed to squeeze into the hall. Thank you to everybody who helped and for the generous donations of salads and puddings. Our barbecue is not a fund raising event, but a time when our "greater Church family" can spend time together, nevertheless we are pleased to say that a profit of £125 has gone into Church funds.

**St. James' Patronal Festival Celebrations**

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July "The Madding Crowd" a group of musicians/singers/actors from the Winchester area, entertained us with their programme based on the life of a village band seen through the eyes of Thomas Hardy, with singing, dancing and quotations from his writings. The evening was a great success and exceedingly well attended and much enjoyed by us all. As we were blessed with a beautiful summers evening our interval buffet and drinks were served outside on the lawn.

The sun was still shining on Sunday which made the afternoon garden party go with a swing. The various stalls and games were all popular and so was the visit to the top of the tower if the queues were anything to go by.

We were also kept particularly busy with serving cream teas and ice creams all afternoon. A big thank you to everyone who helped and supported this weekend and we are pleased to have been able to add around £1,700 to the Conservation Fund. Well done everyone, good team effort as usual.

**Dates for your diaries:**

Our Harvest Supper will be on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October and with other events being planned for the coming months, please watch the pew sheet for more information nearer the time.

**Sue Sampson**

**STOP PRESS:** Voces Cantabiles (Barney & Paul Smith and their very talented musical friends) have just agreed to give a concert in church for us on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 7.30pm. From past experience this will be an excellent event. Note your diaries now. Ticket price and more details to follow.

**CHURCH CONSERVATION:**

Our Thermometer currently stands at an amazing **£479,574** towards the Church Conservation Project. This includes pledged and anticipated Gift Aided reclamations to the end of 2009 and also the significant interest on account, but does not include the generous Grant of **£15,000** allocated to us by the Parish Council.

With this very generous grant we will have achieved the amazing sum of **£494,574** leaving only **£5,426** to go to meet our target.

So that is the really GREAT NEWS but there is a bit of a sting in the tail with some bad news.

At the time of writing, we do not know the final project costs, but due to the delay in commencement of the project and subsequent increases in both labour and materials and also the consequential increase in consultancy costs due to the evolving compliances laid upon us by English Heritage, etc, we are expecting it to be a **significant increase**.

The final cost figure for the conservation works should be known shortly, but a wild guess would put it in the region of a further £50,000.

So in spite of the very good news of the currently raised monies we may be in the need of raising a further £55,000.

**Further Activities:**

We are continuing our fund raising with a number of social and fund raising events:-  
The Social Committee have various events in planning stage so watch the adverts....

We also have further opportunities for donations or sponsorships remaining;

3x only remaining Pews (£3,000) for sponsorship (in memory of ... or in celebration of.....)10x remaining old Pews (c£200+) awaiting their new homes in 2009 time-frame.20x remaining Chairs (£450 each) for sponsorship for the north Chapel area where we are not planning for Pews.11x more Flagstones (£100 each) for the Chancel floor.

First come first served!!! **Ed & the Team.**

**Opportunities to give (other than money):**

**Harvest (Oct 5<sup>th</sup>):** Please bring along items of food for the Churches In Reading Drop In Centre (CIRDIC) – see list in porch & Church Centre. Also small tins or packets of food suitable for our 'harvest parcels' for the elderly.

**Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal:** we will be collecting filled shoeboxes by the end of November. The leaflets with suggested contents will be available soon but don't delay getting the shoeboxes. This can sometimes be the most difficult – an adult size shoebox is what is required.

**Gift Sunday (Dec 7<sup>th</sup>):** Bring new unwrapped toys and games for children & young people. PACT (Parents & Children Together) charity then makes them available to needy families.

**FLEDGELINGS BABY AND TODDLER GROUP**

We meet every term- time Tuesday 1.45 – 4pm in St James' Church Centre.

Fledgelings is a relaxed and informal playgroup for parents/carers and their charges. Each week we have exciting toys, a special baby area, story time with music and songs, and great crafts for the older ones. All the children have refreshments and the grown-ups are provided with lots of tea and sympathy! We also have several special events including during the summer our Sports Day and Teddy Bears' Picnic.

**Sports Day Fund-raising Event**

All the children had great fun participating in the races. They particularly loved the obstacle



race and the egg (potato) and spoon race with lots of rogue potatoes rolling all round the green! Every child got a sticker and a sweet when they crossed the finishing line, and during half-time all the children tucked into biscuits, strawberries and home-made cream teas (which were actually supposed to be for the grown-ups!) and of course endless drinks. It was a gloriously hot day so we were especially grateful to the Mothers' Union for looking after all our refreshment needs! All the proceeds were donated to the Mothers' Union for their chosen charity, and St Matthew's Preschool, Kimberley, South Africa. Please come and join us, we love to see new faces, and faces that haven't been for a while! For further information please call Karen Remmington on 0118 9734070.



## September

- 1<sup>st</sup>** 6pm Handbell Group [CC]
- 2<sup>nd</sup>** 10am Tuesday Working Party
- 3<sup>rd</sup>** 10am Midweek Communion
- 4<sup>th</sup>** 8pm Evening Housegroup at 216b Nine Mile Ride
- 7<sup>th</sup>** **16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
8am Holy Communion BCP  
9.30am Family Service  
11am Church Family Communion – Celebrating those ‘Moving On’ in their education.  
6pm Evensong  
7pm Youth Group resumes
- 8<sup>th</sup>** 6pm Handbell Group [CC]  
8pm Standing Committee [CC]
- 9<sup>th</sup>** 10am Tuesday Working Party  
1.45pm Fledgelings resumes [CC]
- 10<sup>th</sup>** 10am Midweek Communion
- 11<sup>th</sup>** 9.45am Morning Housegroup at 216B Nine Mile Ride  
2pm Mothers’ Union Meeting with speaker [CC]
- 13<sup>th</sup>** 2pm “Ladies’ afternoon” at Bracken Ridge\* contact Cathy Clayton for info and tickets 9730707  
**Also:** CROW (cycle, run or walk) round local churches with sponsorship shared between Berkshire Historic Churches Trust and church of choice – see notice for more information
- 14<sup>th</sup>** **17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
8am Holy Communion [CW]  
9.30am Matins  
10.45am Sunday Club resumes [CC]  
11am Parish Communion  
2pm – 5pm Heritage Open Day – church and tower open, teas, church booklets & cards for sale; handbells from 2pm – 3pm.  
7pm Youth Group [CC]
- 15<sup>th</sup>** 6pm Handbell Group
- 16<sup>th</sup>** 9am School service  
10am Tuesday Working Party  
1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]
- 17<sup>th</sup>** 10am Midweek Communion
- 18<sup>th</sup>** 8pm Evening Housegroup at 216b Nine Mile Ride
- 20<sup>th</sup>** 8.45am – 10.30am Ladies’ Breakfast [CC]
- 21<sup>st</sup>** **18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
8am Holy Communion BCP  
9.30am Family Service  
11am Parish Communion  
7pm Youth Group [CC]
- 22<sup>nd</sup>** 6pm Handbell Group [CC]  
7.45 for 8pm PCC Meeting[CC]
- 23<sup>rd</sup>** 10am Tuesday Working Party  
10am Mothers’ Union Committee  
1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]
- 24<sup>th</sup>** 10am Midweek Communion  
8pm Deanery Synod [CC]
- 25<sup>th</sup>** 9.45am Morning Housegroup at 216B Nine Mile Ride
- 26<sup>th</sup>** 10am - noon Macmillan Coffee Morning [CC]
- 27<sup>th</sup>** 10am – 3.30pm Vocations Fellowship Quiet Day [CC]
- 28<sup>th</sup>** **19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
8am Holy Communion CW  
9.30am Matins  
11am Parish Communion  
7pm Youth Group
- 29<sup>th</sup>** 6pm Handbell Group [CC]
- 30<sup>th</sup>** 10am Tuesday Working Party  
1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]

October

- 1<sup>st</sup> 10am Midweek Communion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 8pm Evening Housegroup at  
216B Nine Mile Ride
- 4<sup>th</sup> 10am – 12noon Decorating Church for  
Harvest
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Harvest**  
8am Holy Communion BCP  
9.30am Family service  
11am Church Family  
Communion followed by Bring  
& Share Harvest lunch  
6pm Evensong  
7pm Youth Group
- 6<sup>th</sup> 6pm Handbell Group [CC]  
10am MU Deanery Quiet Day [CC]
- 7<sup>th</sup> 10am Tuesday Working Party  
1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]  
7.45 for 8pm Christianity Explored  
course [CC]
- 8<sup>th</sup> 10am Midweek Communion
- 9<sup>th</sup> 9.45am Morning Housegroup  
at 216B Nine Mile Ride  
2pm Mothers' Union Meeting  
with speaker [CC]
- 11<sup>th</sup> 7.30 for 7.45pm Church Harvest  
Supper [CC] with all proceeds  
to St Matthew's Kimberley  
particularly to support the  
provision of preschool education  
for the poorest children there
- 12<sup>th</sup> **21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
8am Holy Communion CW  
9.30am Matins  
10.45am Sunday Club [CC]  
11am Parish Communion  
7pm Youth Group
- 13<sup>th</sup> 6pm Handbell Group [CC]  
8pm Standing Committee [CC]
- 14<sup>th</sup> 10am Tuesday Working Party  
1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]  
7.45 for 8pm Christianity Explored  
course [CC]
- 15<sup>th</sup> 10am Midweek Communion
- 16<sup>th</sup> 8pm Evening Housegroup at  
216B Nine Mile Ride
- 19<sup>th</sup> **22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
8am Holy Communion BCP  
9.30am Family Service  
11am Parish Communion  
7pm Youth Group
- 20<sup>th</sup> 6pm Handbell Group [CC]
- 21<sup>st</sup> 10am Tuesday Working Party  
1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]  
7.45 for 8pm Christianity Explored  
course [CC]
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am Midweek Communion
- 23<sup>rd</sup> 9.45am Morning Housegroup at  
216B Nine Mile Ride
- 24<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm A talk by Andrew Powell on  
"Stratfield Saye"
- 26<sup>th</sup> **Bible Sunday (Clocks go back!)**  
8am Holy Communion [CW]  
9.30am Matins  
10.45am Sunday Club [CC]  
11am Parish Communion  
6pm Churches in Finchampstead  
Praying Together, at Finchampstead  
Baptist Church, St James' folk to provide  
cakes for refreshments  
Sorry, no Youth Group
- 27<sup>th</sup> 6pm Handbell Group [CC]



28<sup>th</sup> 10am Tuesday Working Party  
Sorry, No Fledgelings

29<sup>th</sup> 10am Midweek Communion

31<sup>st</sup> 'Light Party'

## November

### 2<sup>nd</sup> All Saints' & All Souls' Day

8am Holy Communion BCP  
9.30am Family service  
11am Church Family  
Communion for All Saints  
6pm Choral service for  
All Souls (remembering loved  
ones who have died) followed by cof-  
fee and cake

Sorry, No Youth Group [CC]

3<sup>rd</sup> 6pm Handbell Group [CC]

4<sup>th</sup> 10am Tuesday Working Party

1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]  
7.45 for 8pm Christianity Explored  
course [CC]

5<sup>th</sup> 10am Midweek Communion

6<sup>th</sup> 8pm Evening Housegroup at 216B  
Nine Mile Ride

7<sup>th</sup> 7.30 for 7.45pm Bryn Haworth "Winter  
Blues" House Concert\*.

Tickets £15 from Carolyn Fox includes  
a meal. [CC]

### 9<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday

8am Holy Communion CW  
9.30am Remembrance  
Communion  
10.45am Sunday Club [CC]

### 10.50am Remembrance Sunday

service including 2 minutes  
silence at 11am

3pm Service at War Memorial

7pm Youth Group [CC]

10<sup>th</sup> 6pm Handbell Group [CC]

7.45 for 8pm PCC [CC]

11<sup>th</sup> 10am Tuesday Working Party

1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]

7.45 for 8pm Christianity Explored  
course [CC]

12<sup>th</sup> 10am Midweek Communion

13<sup>th</sup> 9.45am Morning Housegroup at  
216B Nine Mile Ride

2pm Mothers' Union meeting  
with speaker, [CC]

15<sup>th</sup> 8.45am Ladies' Breakfast [CC]

### 16<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent

8am Holy Communion BCP

9.30am Family Service

11am Parish Communion

7pm Youth Group [CC]

17<sup>th</sup> 6pm Handbell Group [CC]

18<sup>th</sup> 10am Tuesday Working Party

1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]

7.45 for 8pm Christianity Explored  
Course [CC]

19<sup>th</sup> 10am Midweek Communion

20<sup>th</sup> 8pm Evening Housegroup  
at 216B Nine Mile Ride



**23<sup>rd</sup> Christ the King / Anniversary of Twinning with St Matthew's Kimberley**

Some Forthcoming Dates

8am Holy Communion CW	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	<b>7.30pm Concert by Voces Cantabiles</b>
9.30am Matins		
10.45am Sunday Club [CC]	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b>	<b>10.30am Sue Ryder Coffee Morning [CC]</b>
11am Parish Communion		
7pm Youth Group [CC]	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Gift Sunday</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> 6pm Handbell Group [CC]</b>		
<b>25<sup>th</sup> 10am Tuesday Working Party</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Mothers' Union Carol Service &amp; Tea</b>
1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]		
7.45 for 8pm Christianity Explored Course [CC]	<b>16<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Fledgelings Nativity &amp; Christmas Party</b>
<b>26<sup>th</sup> 10am Midweek Communion</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Village Concert</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> 9.45am Morning Housegroup at 216B Nine Mile Ride</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Service of Nine Lessons and Carols</b>
<b>30<sup>th</sup> <u>Advent Sunday</u></b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Christingles (Noon, 2pm, 4pm and 6pm) and Midnight Mass (11.15pm)</b>
8am Holy Communion BCP		
10.45am Sunday Club [CC]		
11am Parish Communion	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Christmas Day services at 8am, 9.30am &amp; 11am</b>
6pm Advent Service of Darkness to Light followed by Refreshments in Church Centre		
7pm Youth Group [CC]		

**ST JAMES' FINCHAMPSTEAD BELLRINGERS**

A real plea from the heart this quarter! We are finding that we often do not have enough ringers to ring all 6 bells. This is such a shame. If there are any lapsed ringers out there please come and join us and if anyone would like to learn we would love to introduce you to an interesting and absorbing activity.

The Tower was open for the Patronal festival and whilst there may not have been **quite** as many visitors as 2 years ago there was certainly a steady stream of people toiling up and down the stairs to see the views and find out what goes on in a bell tower.

We practise on Wednesdays from 7.45pm – 9pm and would love to welcome more ringers – both novice and experienced. Do come along and join us. (feel free to give me a ring first if you prefer as we have had to cancel some practices)

Patricia Amos - Tower Contact 0118 973 3747

**[BCP=Book of Common Prayer CW=Common Worship, Contemporary Language CC=Church Centre CTC=Churches Together in Crowthorne \*=ticket needed-ring office for details 0118 9730133]**

## **MUSIC AT ST JAMES'**

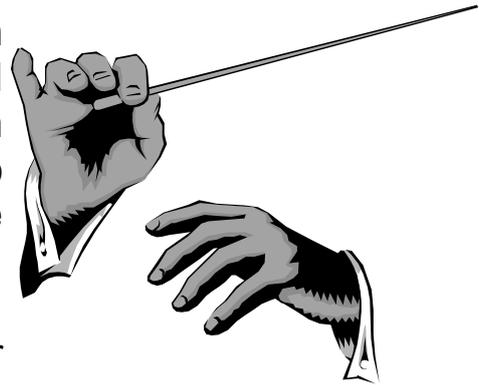
Greetings - you catch me right in the middle of August when there is a lull in our normal music activities. It is a good month in which to draw breath and plan for the autumn term and beyond. Also to take advantage of there not being so many people inhabiting the Choir Vestry and to have a little blitz on the junk which accumulates in there during the year.

### **THE CHOIR**

As I write the choir is taking a well-earned break from their duties having completed a busy year. During the last twelve months there has been a continuing growth in membership of both sections (so much so that we are rapidly outgrowing our Vestry which was never intended to accommodate so many people!) Many people have commented favourably on the sound which the choir now produces, particularly since Christmas. There is a tightness and clarity to the sound which means that they are getting used to singing with each other. The last year has also seen introduction of several items of new music, some quite challenging, which the choir has tackled with enthusiasm. This trend will continue in the autumn and although more new music will be added to the repertoire and "performed" at services you will still be able to enjoy some of the old favourites as well.

### **FAMILY SERVICE**

Oh dear ..... still no takers in response to no less than three appeals for singers and instrumentalists to take part in the music at our 9-30 Family Service. I can only assume that there could be one of two reasons for this – either everyone's happy and content with "der music boss bangin' aht the songs on the St James's joanna rahn the cawna" OR nobody bothers reading the "Music at St James" article anyway, in which case they wouldn't know we want to develop the music at our fastest growing Service at the church on the hill. Again, please contact me or Revd Richard if you are interested. Andrew Bosley Director of Music



**ST JAMES' FINCHAMPSTEAD HANDBELL TEAM**, as part of this greater Pastoral Parish, have worked extremely hard over the past months, having befriended and entertained over a thousand people of varying ages in the last six months.

Playing at Frogmore House for HRH Prince Phillip and guests was a truly amazing experience for us all, but equally rewarding is our community work. *'A picture paints a thousand words'* springs to mind as we witness the joy on the faces of those we visit with the bells.

We recently visited Pinehurst Home for the elderly in Crowthorne, Residents at Cockayne Court in Wokingham, and the Older People's Forum in Finchampstead to name but a few. Using the Church Centre gave us the opportunity of working with twenty six of the Finches Pre-School Group. Teachers, assistants, and anyone who came to visit were given percussion in-

*(Continued on page 14)*



As I write we are looking forward to our Mary Sumner Lunch on August 14<sup>th</sup> ~ always a very happy occasion. At this event we celebrate the birthday of the founder of the Mothers' Union and anticipate a good gathering of members, their families and friends.

Now we look forward to our Autumn Programme of Meetings, continuing our theme of "Time for Relationship". On September 11<sup>th</sup> we will be welcoming Heather Rees and Ed, her guide dog in training. This should be another interesting aspect of exploring relationships.

At our October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting we will welcome Reverend Canon Glyn Evans to speak on "Rural and Agricultural Affairs"

In November we will be very fortunate to have a visit from Canon David Winter, previously Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC. He is also author of many books and writes regularly in 'The Door' our Diocesan newspaper, (usually on the back page!). His talk is entitled "Living in a Media - Saturated World".

Many of our members have already started to collect items for the "Operation Christmas Child" shoeboxes. Just a quick reminder!

#### **Diary Dates:**

Tuesday Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> - 2pm Bible Study (venue to be arranged).

Thursday Sept 11<sup>th</sup> - Branch Meeting at Church Centre.

Wednesday Sept 17<sup>th</sup> - 10am Corporate Communion.

Tuesday Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> - 10am MU Committee Meeting ~ Church Centre.

Monday Oct 6<sup>th</sup> - 10 - 2.30pm Deanery Quiet Day in our Church Centre ~ led by Sue Marshall - Halls.

Tuesday Oct 7<sup>th</sup> - 2pm Bible Study.

Thursday Oct 9<sup>th</sup> - 2pm Branch Meeting.

Wednesday Oct 15<sup>th</sup> - 10am Corporate Communion.

Tuesday Nov 4<sup>th</sup> - 2pm Bible Study.

Tuesday Nov 11<sup>th</sup> - 8.15pm Open Meeting on Parenting Courses ~ The Cornerstone, All Saints Wokingham ~ please contact Sarah Owen.

Thursday Nov 13<sup>th</sup> - 2pm Branch Meeting.

Wednesday Nov 19<sup>th</sup> - 10am Corporate Communion.

#### **Future Date:**

Wednesday Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10 for 10.30 - 2pm Diocesan Winter Meeting at Benson Village Hall, speaker ~ Bishop of Bedford ~ Richard Ingram ~ Mothers' Union Central Chaplain.

Everyone is most welcome to attend our meetings & services.

Sarah Owen Branch Leader.



## HOUSEGROUPS PROGRAMME

Peter has instructed us to:  
*"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason*

*for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."* (1 Peter 3:15-16).

This directive is just as relevant to the Church today as it was to the early Christians. Influential authors, like Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens and Sam Harris, are conducting a vitriolic campaign against religion and its role within society. They argue that religion is the cause of many of the world's problems, and that it would be a much better place if we were all atheists, rather than Christians.

In the autumn, both our housegroups are going into intensive training to *"be prepared"*. We will be coached by some of the world's leading defenders of the Christian faith. The aim of this rigorous curriculum is to enable ordinary church members to recognise the many worldviews influencing our culture, and equip them to challenge the assumptions of these worldviews. This is a course you simply cannot afford to miss. The programme is given below.

In October we will take a short break from the course to allow time for assimilation. We will spend this time hearing from people who

have lived exemplary lives, including John Stott, Jackie Pullinger and Rico Tice.

### **The Morning Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 9.45 a.m.**

- 11 Sep Vol 1 'Conversations That Count' by *Michael Ramsden*
- 25 Sep Vol 2 'Truth and Reality' by *Stuart Mc Allister*
- 09 Oct 'The model – becoming like Christ' by *John Stott*
- 23 Oct 'Chasing the Dragon' by *Jackie Pullinger*
- 13 Nov Vol 3 'The Existence of God' by *Alister McGrath*
- 27 Nov Vol 4 'Establishing a Worldview' by *Ravi Zacharias*

### **The Evening Group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 8 p.m.**

- 04 Sep Vol 1 'Conversations That Count' by *Michael Ramsden*
- 18 Sep Vol 2 'Truth and Reality' by *Stuart Mc Allister*
- 02 Oct 'The Source – Jesus' by *Rico Tice*
- 16 Oct 'Chasing the Dragon' by *Jackie Pullinger*
- 06 Nov Vol 3 'The Existence of God' by *Alister McGrath*
- 20 Nov Vol 4 'Establishing a Worldview' by *Ravi Zacharias*

Most of these meetings will be held in our home at 216B Nine Mile Ride. For more information telephone us (*Tel: 0118 973 2592*), or the Church Office (*Tel: 0118 973 0133*). A friendly welcome awaits you whenever you attend. *Audrey and Francis Moore*

*(Handbells from page 11)*

struments to play whilst the children played our specially adapted coloured bells or rang our biggest bells with mallets - a truly wondrous occasion with several generations working together as one.



Finches PreSchool Group take turns to accompany the St James' Finchampstead Handbell Ringers

On July 22<sup>nd</sup> cars, mini buses and coaches arrived at the Church Centre bringing friends we had made along the way whilst visiting the care homes, day centres and sheltered housing complexes. Their afternoon began with handbell ringing, followed by Rev Richard with his puppet Joseph. Sue Edwards kindly played the piano – tunes from Broadway musicals - for a



*(Continued on page 15)*

*(Handbells continued from page 14)*

“sing-along”. Drinks and afternoon tea, made and generously provided by the handbell team, were enjoyed by all. After more handbell ringing and another “sing-along”, our friends said their fond farewells and asked, “Could they come again next week!” The Handbell Team promised to repeat this experience for them all again next year

The team will be part of the massed ringing at the Guildford Cathedral Advent Handbell Service on 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30pm to which you are all invited. **Please do come along and join us.** Meg Hostler

## *Are you interested in ...*

- Finding out more about the Christian faith or
- Hearing how other people cope with life's big issues or
- Thinking about being confirmed or refreshing your ideas of what it means to be a Christian?

If so why not come to our popular 7-session course

## CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

which looks at what Christianity is all about, using Mark's gospel as a guide.

We'll meet at St James' Church Centre:

**Tuesday evening - 8 till 9.45**

(coffee at 7.45)

**7, 14 & 21 October**

**4, 11, 18 & 25 November**

Each session includes a video introduction, a short talk and plenty of time for discussion of the issues raised. There is a comprehensive manual and we have developed lots of other material to help you make sense of key ideas. For more details contact Janet Clements on 0118 9328679 ([ianandjanetclements@star.co.uk](mailto:ianandjanetclements@star.co.uk)). Or simply come along on the 7<sup>th</sup> October.

The Pastoral team at St James' works both within the Parish and outside to help members of the community in all aspects of life. Working in close conjunction with Rev. Richard Warden, we are primarily a group of people who visit the sick, the lonely, the bereaved and those who need a person just to unload on. We have links with many organisations that are in a position to offer advice as needed. Whilst we strive to give what help we can, we are not trained as counsellors but are people who have time to listen and give comfort where necessary. Additionally we have people who are willing to assist with getting people to hospital appointments.

In the last year the St James' Finchampstead Church has appointed a Lay Eucharistic Minister who is able to bring Holy Communion to those who, for whatever reason, are unable to get to Church. We are able to visit at your home, in hospital or can arrange meetings at our Church Centre. If you would like to talk to somebody or need help please call the St. James' Finchampstead Parish Office on 0118 930133. All Calls are in strictest confidence.

Paul Arscott Chair St James' Finchampstead Pastoral Team

**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE:** REV. RICHARD WARDEN, THE RECTORY, THE VILLAGE,  
FINCHAMPSTEAD 0118 973 2102

**ASSOCIATE PRIEST:** REV. JOHN EDWARDS, GREEN HEDGES, 25 ST JOHN'S ST.  
CROWTHORNE 01344 774586

**LICENSED LAY MINISTER:** DR KEITH ATTON

**CHURCH WARDENS:** RICHARD PEAT, 14, GERRING RD, ARBORFIELD  
0118 9760402  
NICKY ALDER, 65 READING ROAD, FINCHAMPSTEAD  
0118 9734904

ALL ENQUIRIES FOR BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS, ETC SHOULD BE MADE TO:  
THE CHURCH OFFICE, THE MANOR HOUSE, CHURCH LANE, FINCHAMPSTEAD. RG40 4LU.  
**Email; [office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk](mailto:office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk)**

OFFICE HOURS; OPEN FROM 10.00AM TO 12.00 MONDAY TO FRIDAY.  
TEL / FAX NO: 0118 973 0133

## **CONTRAST**

We have all enjoyed a very lively, summer term, culminating with a barbeque in July, which was very well attended. We were delighted to welcome back the Stenbom family, who were visiting from Sweden. A great big thank you to our young people, parents, helpers and leaders who have contributed to a very successful 2007/2008 12 months.



Youth Group meets back after the summer break on Sunday 7th September. We meet most Sundays in term time, excluding Sunday 26th October and Sunday 2nd November. Our final session of the term will be on Sunday 14th December and will include a bring and share tea. Sessions begin at 7pm and finish at 8-30pm. We welcome all young people who attend secondary school, who enjoy having fun, munching tuck and discussing the big issues. Our group has a Christian ethos.

Next term we have lots of exciting topics planned for our discussion sessions, including homelessness and peer pressure. We will also be rehearsing our Christmas play, to be staged at the Village Concert, in late December.

If you would like more information, call Cathy on 0118 9730707 or email Cathy at [catherine.clayton@btinternet.com](mailto:catherine.clayton@btinternet.com)