

# ST. JAMES' FINCHAMPSTEAD

Volume 3 Issue 15

## MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Summer 2008



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An Invitation: 25 years is a long time to have been ordained, but I am fast approaching that significant anniversary since I was ordained deacon in St Paul's Cathedral by the Bishop of London, The Rt Rev Graham Leonard (who later famously left the Church of England to become a Roman Catholic over the ordination of women!) My ministry has taken me to many different places before Finchampstead, some of which I will be mentioning when I preach at a special evening service on Thursday 26th June in St James' Church at 7:30 pm. There will be some refreshments after the service, thanks to our wonderful social team, and if you would like to help me celebrate the event, as I hope you will, then please can you let the Church Office know for catering purposes.

A Bishop's Vision: Our Bishop of Oxford, The Rt Rev John Pritchard, on his visitation to all the deaneries, set before us his threefold vision of the hoped-for characteristics of Christian churches in his diocese. They should be places of *generous hospitality* where people experience a deep and warm welcome; of *gracious engagement and service* to the local community; and of *genuine passion for God*. All too often, when passion for God evaporates, then churches can be the "*bland leading the bland!*" As part of the forthcoming PCC away-day on Saturday 24th May, we shall be examining the implications of this vision for St James'. The text of his talk can be found on our church website and I commend it to you. If you have any insights of your own I should be pleased to hear them.

A Wonderful Donation: we have recently received a generous grant of £15,000 from the Finchampstead Parish Council towards specific aspects of the conservation work. We are most grateful for this support which takes us to within sight of the total - a remarkable achievement! There is quite some way to go however, and all help will be much appreciated. Recent discussions with our architect and English Heritage mean that we are well on course for the work to begin in January 2009, a most exciting prospect.

The Lambeth Conference: As you may know this conference of bishops and archbishops from the worldwide Anglican Communion

(Continued on page 2)

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

takes place every 10 years in Canterbury, (held on the campus of one of my old universities). They will soon be meeting from the 16th July to 4th August, amid some controversy but also great hope. As they prepare, let us commend them to God in our prayers using the special Lambeth Conference Prayer.

*Pour down upon us, O God, the gifts of your Holy Spirit, that those who prepare for the Lambeth Conference may be filled with wisdom and understanding. May they know at work within them that creative energy and vision which belong to our humanity, made in your image and redeemed by your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**Truly, Rev Richard**



**for children up to 11yrs**

Sunday Club takes place at St James' Church Centre from 10.45 – 11.50 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. We join the congregation in Church towards the end of the service, finishing at approx 12.10pm. New members are always welcome – just come along to the Church Centre at 10.45 and introduce yourself.

This term the focus will be on 'Our World', looking at the story of Creation in Genesis, discovering more about God our creator, and how we respond to him. As springtime gives way to summer, we hope the children will gain a new appreciation of the natural world around them and the responsibility we have to care for the environment and for one another.

Our final session this term will be on 13<sup>th</sup> July, resuming on 14<sup>th</sup> September after the summer break.

**Janet Clements** 0118-9328679 (Sunday Club Coordinator)

### **MISSION REPORT**

Christian Aid is our main focus for the next few weeks. Christian Aid week runs from 11th - 18th May this year. We at St. James' are joining St. Mary & St. John in the delivery/ collection of envelopes in their Parish. This was very successful last year and made quite a difference to the overall amount that was collected. On Sunday 18th May in the Church Centre at St. James', we held a Bring & Buy Cake Sale after the 9.30 am Family Service and also the 11.00 am Communion Service to raise additional funds. There will be Christian Aid envelopes in Church for the next few weeks as well as those that come through our doors. Please be as generous as you can to this very worthwhile cause this year.

**Gill Myall** - Mission Committee

### HOPE '08 CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CROWTHORNE

During May the team tidied up the grounds of Edgebarrow and Keephatch schools, and assisted at St John's May Fair. A second course of Keep Fit sessions was well supported.

The Alpha course for seniors has a regular attendance of thirteen and St James' will be helping provide the cream teas on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Our Youth Group at St James' are hoping to become involved in the football sessions run on the last Sunday afternoon of each month outside Broadmoor.

The next big event will be the Crowthorne Carnival July 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Hope '08 will be running a stall on the Saturday.

On Wednesday July 9<sup>th</sup> 3-5pm there is the Darby & Joan tea party at Crowthorne Parish Hall. Free tickets will be available for this event.

Please watch the Church Centre noticeboard for future events.

**Francis Moore & Sarah Owen.**

### THE HELEN TAYLOR TRUST (aka The Churchyard Trust)

Once again we had a very successful Spring Tea Party and raised £244 on the day.

We received two donations the next day which gave our funds a grand total of **£300**.

Thank you very much for your continued support and look forward to meeting you all at our Autumn Tea Party in October.

Work is in progress putting drainage pipes along the lower footpath of the churchyard to stop the flooding of the path.

Thank you once again **Don Monk**

### DO YOU KNOW?

What was Jacob clutching when he was born?

When an evil spirit came on Saul, what did he throw at David?

Send answers in a sealed envelope with your name, address and telephone number to the Church Office. First correct answers drawn on the 20<sup>th</sup> June wins a prize.

### ST JAMES' FINCHAMPSTEAD BELLRINGERS

The last quarter has been fairly uneventful. We have had a few visitors ringing with us from Arborfield and Barkham, but on the whole we are finding that since February 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.

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)

**Patricia Amos** - Tower Contact 0118 973 3747

**SOCIAL AND FUND RAISING COMMITTEE NEWS:**

By way of something different, we decided this year to organise a Barn Dance. In the past they had always been a popular and most enjoyable evening and this year was no exception as tickets sold out fast. Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, in Finchampstead Memorial Hall where we had a maximum crowd, saw us all "Do-si-do-ing" with Hugh Crabtree and his band and with a fish and chip supper the evening was a great success. From the feedback we have received it is one which we will definitely try and repeat next year. Also we are delighted to say that the evening raised £1,100 for the conservation fund. A big thank you to everyone who supported this fun and energetic

event.

The Bring and Share Maundy Thursday Supper was well supported as usual and the fellowship and food was much enjoyed by all who attended. A record number of hot cross buns were consumed after the Service on Good Friday morning!!

Our choir once again entertained us with some musical delights on the 17<sup>th</sup> May. The concert was held in Church and was followed by a finger buffet in the Manor House.

**Dates for your diaries:**

**Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup>** After the 11am service we will be holding our annual St. James' Church barbecue. Tickets will be on sale after most services nearer the time.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July - St. James' Patronal Festival Celebrations:**

The Madding Crowd will be coming to help us celebrate our Patronal Festival and will be entertaining us in the evening of Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July. (Please note the change of date). This group of musicians/singers/actors from the Winchester area, who dress in the costumes and perform church and secular music of the English village bands and choirs in the period of 1660 to 1861, have visited St James' several times over the past few years and it is always a delight to welcome them here to perform for us. The evening will include some light refreshments. Tickets and more information will be available nearer the time on the pew sheet and posters.



The Church Tower will be open on Sunday afternoon 28<sup>th</sup> July, with cream teas being served to refresh you after your climb to the top of the tower. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Sue Sampson**

**CHURCH CONSERVATION:**

Our Thermometer currently stands at an amazing **£458,179** towards the Church Conservation Project. This includes pledged and anticipated Gift Aided reclamations to the end of 2009.

We still have **£41,821** to find assuming that the redesign and updated contract keeps within our expectations.

We are delighted to have received a letter from Finchampstead Parish Council confirming a £15,000 grant to our conservation fund (not included in the sum above) with a restriction for it to be spent on specific aspects of the conservation works. We are very grateful to the Council for their contribution in support of the Parish's Grade-1 listed and historic building created originally in 1134.

**Activities:**

We are continuing our fund raising with a number of social and fund raising events:- Nicky & the Social Committee have various events planned during 2008 with the Choir concert, Madding Crowd, etc.

We also have great hopes that further donations or sponsorships will help us reach our goal and we have remaining;

3x Pews (£3,000) for sponsorship (in memory of a loved one.)

10x old Pews (c£200) awaiting their new homes,

20x Chairs (£450) for sponsorship for the north Chapel

11x Flagstones (£100) for the Chancel floor.

First come first served!!!

**Ed Sampson & the Fund Raising Team.**

Tim Vine joke (a clean comedian - quite a rarity these days – check him out on You Tube) – “I’ve been reading a book about glue. I couldn’t put it down!”

Another Tim Vine joke – As I left the office a chap jumped out in front of me, shouting ‘Remember Leonardo DiCaprio’. When I got on the bus, there he was again, yelling in my face ‘Remember Leonardo DiCaprio’. When I got home, the same face appeared at my window, again shouting ‘Remember Leonardo DiCaprio’. I’d had enough. I called the police to report the stalker. “Can you describe him?” the kind policeman asked. “Not really,” I said, “but he reminds me of Leonardo DiCaprio.”

Tim Vine again: “So I went to the doctor and he said, “You’ve got hypochondria.” I said “Not that as well.”

And again: “I was on this fairground ride ; one minute I was laughing, the next I was crying. It was an emotional roller coaster.”

**FLEDGELINGS BABY AND TODDLER GROUP**

**Fledgelings Easter Service**

We meet every term time Tuesday (and often during school holidays) 1.45 – 4pm in St James' Church Centre.

**Special events to make a note of for the summer:***Fledgelings Sports Day*

July 15<sup>th</sup> 1:45pm - 4pm. Please join us for lots of fun racing activities.

*Fledgeling' Teddy Bears' Picnic*

August 12<sup>th</sup> 12noon till 3pm. We've booked a bouncy castle and invited a fire engine and a police car. Don't forget to bring your special teddy bear!

Fledgelings is a relaxed and informal Baby and Toddler Playgroup for Parents/Carers and their charges. Every 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! If you haven't been before, or not for a while, then please do come along. For further information call **Karen Remington** on 0118 9734070.

May**25<sup>th</sup> First Sunday after Trinity**

8am Holy Communion [CW]

9.30am Matins

10.45am Sunday Club [CC]

11am Parish Communion

Sorry, no Youth Group

**26<sup>th</sup>** 6pm Handbell Group [CC]**27<sup>th</sup>** 10am Tuesday DIY Working Party [CC]

Sorry, no Fledgelings

**28<sup>th</sup>** 10am Midweek Communion**29<sup>th</sup>** Housegroup outing to visit

Reading Synagogue

**11<sup>th</sup>** 10am Midweek Communion**12<sup>th</sup>** 9.45am Morning Housegroup at 216B  
Nine Mile Ride2pm Mothers' Union meeting – speaker,  
Rev Steven Fishpool, on the charity  
'Friends Reaching Out in Uganda'. All  
welcome. [CC]**13<sup>th</sup>** 12 – 12.30pm MU Wave of Prayer in  
church**15<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity & Fathers' Day**

8am Holy Communion BCP

9.30am Family Service, followed  
by cake sale organised by some of  
our young people for the  
Conservation Fund11am Parish Communion,  
followed by a continuation of the  
cake sale for the Conservation  
Fund6pm Service of Thanksgiving  
for Marriage & Family Life  
followed by refreshments  
served by Mothers' Union  
7pm Youth GroupJune  
**1<sup>st</sup> Second Sunday after Trinity**

8am Holy Communion BCP

9.30am Family Service

11am Church Family Communion

6pm Evensong

Sorry, no Youth Group

**2<sup>nd</sup>** 6pm Handbell Group [CC]**3<sup>rd</sup>** 10am Tuesday Working Party [CC]

1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]

**4<sup>th</sup>** 10am Midweek Communion**5<sup>th</sup>** 8pm Evening House group at 216B  
Nine Mile Ride**16<sup>th</sup>** 6pm Handbell Group [CC]8pm Standing Committee  
Meeting [CC]**8<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday after Trinity**

8am Holy Communion [CW]

9.30am Matins

10.45am Sunday Club [CC]

11am Parish Communion

7pm Youth Group [CC]

**9<sup>th</sup>** 6pm Handbells [CC]**10<sup>th</sup>** 10am Tuesday Working Party [CC]

1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]

**17<sup>th</sup>** 10am Tuesday DIY Working  
Party [CC]1.45pm Fledgelings, including  
Baptism Preparation Session  
[CC]**18<sup>th</sup>** 10am Midweek Communion**19<sup>th</sup>** 8pm Evening Housegroup  
at 43 Kiln Ride

**22<sup>nd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

8am Holy Communion CW  
 9.30am Matins  
 10.45am Sunday Club [CC]  
 11am Parish Communion  
 7pm Youth Group [CC]

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

**24<sup>th</sup>** 10am Tuesday DIY Working Party [CC] **7<sup>th</sup>**  
 1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]

**25<sup>th</sup>** 10am Midweek Eucharist

**26<sup>th</sup>** 9.45am Morning Housegroup  
 at 216B Nine Mile Ride  
 7.30pm Service to celebrate 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Anniversary of Ordination for  
 Rev Richard, followed by  
 Refreshments in the Church  
 Centre

**29<sup>th</sup> Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

8am Holy Communion BCP  
 10.45am Sunday Club [CC]  
 11am Parish Communion  
 6pm Taizé service  
 7pm Youth Group [CC]

**30<sup>th</sup>** 6pm Handbells [CC]  
 8pm onwards 'Strike the Balance'  
 at the pub (Queen's Oak)

**July**

**1<sup>st</sup>** 10am Tuesday DIY Working  
 Party [CC]

1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]

**2<sup>nd</sup>** 9.30am – 11am 'Strike the  
 Balance' workshop [CC]  
 10am Midweek Communion

**3<sup>rd</sup>** 8pm Evening Housegroup at  
 216B Nine Mile Ride

**6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

8am Holy Communion BCP  
 9.30am Family Service  
 11am Church Family Communion  
 followed by **Church BBQ\***  
 6pm Evensong

7pm Youth Group [CC]

**7<sup>th</sup>** 6pm Handbell Group [CC]  
 8pm onwards 'Strike the Balance'  
 at the pub (Queen's Oak)

**8<sup>th</sup>** 10am Tuesday DIY Working  
 Party [CC]

1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]

8 – 9.30pm 'Strike the Balance'  
 Evening workshop [CC]

**9<sup>th</sup>** 10am Midweek Communion

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

2pm Mothers' Union Service  
 in church followed by a cream  
 tea in Church Centre.

**12<sup>th</sup>** 8 – 9.30am 'Strike the Balance'  
 breakfast with speaker Paul Valler  
 author of 'Get a Life' [CC]

11.30a.m - 4pm Park & Church School  
 Fete on the Memorial Park

**13<sup>th</sup> Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

8am Holy Communion CW  
 9.30am Matins

10.45am Sunday Club [CC]

11am Parish Communion

7pm Youth Group [CC]

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

**15<sup>th</sup>** 9am School Leavers' Service

10am Tuesday DIY Working Party [CC]  
 1.45pm Fledgelings [CC]

**16<sup>th</sup>** 10am Midweek Communion

**17<sup>th</sup>** 8pm Evening Housegroup at  
 Woodbridge, Longwater Lane

- 19<sup>th</sup> 8.45am Ladies' Breakfast [CC]  
 20<sup>th</sup> **Ninth Sunday after Trinity**  
 8am Holy Communion BCP  
 9.30am Family Service  
 11am Parish Communion  
 7pm Youth Group  
 21<sup>th</sup> 6pm Handbell Group [CC]  
 7.45 for 8pm PCC Meeting [CC]  
 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am Tuesday DIY Working Party [CC]  
 No Fledgelings  
 23<sup>rd</sup> 10am Midweek Communion  
 24<sup>th</sup> 9.45am Morning Housegroup  
 (phone office for venue)  
 26<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Madding Crowd Concert\* [CC]

- 27<sup>th</sup> **Celebration of St James' Day**  
**(Patronal Festival)**  
 8am Holy Communion [CW]  
 9.30pm Matins  
 Sorry, No Sunday Club until  
 September, children very  
 welcome in Church  
 11am **Patronal Festival Communion**  
**2pm – 5pm CHURCH**  
**TOWER OPEN plus stalls & teas in**  
**the Church Centre**  
 Sorry, no Youth Group until  
 after summer holidays

- 28<sup>th</sup> 6pm Handbell Group [CC]  
 28<sup>th</sup> **July to 9<sup>th</sup> August – Painting &**  
**cleaning fortnight for the**  
**Church Centre** – volunteers with  
 some time/skill to help, please  
 contact Carolyn Fox (0118 9732262)  
 29<sup>th</sup> 10am Tuesday DIY Working Party [CC]  
 Sorry, no Fledgelings until  
 after summer holidays (except



- 30<sup>th</sup> 10am Midweek Communion  
 31<sup>st</sup> 8pm Evening Housegroup at  
 43 Kiln Ride

### August

- 3<sup>rd</sup> **11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
 8am Holy Communion BCP  
 9.30am Family Service  
 11am Church Family  
 Communion  
 6pm Evensong  
 5<sup>th</sup> 10am Tuesday DIY Working Party [CC]  
 6<sup>th</sup> Sorry, No Midweek Communion through  
 August

- 10<sup>th</sup> **12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
 8am Holy Communion CW  
 9.30am Matins  
 11am All-age Parish Communion  
 11<sup>th</sup> **Deadline for material for the**  
**Sept – Nov Newsletter**  
 12<sup>th</sup> 10am Tuesday DIY Working Party [CC]  
 Fledgelings Teddy Bears'  
 Picnic Noon – 3pm [CC]  
 14<sup>th</sup> 9.45am Morning Housegroup at 216B  
 Nine Mile Ride  
 12.30 for 1pm Mothers' Union  
 Bring & Share 'Mary Sumner' Lunch.  
 Raffle in aid of the 'Away From It All'  
 holidays organised by Mothers' Union  
 for needy families. [CC]

- 17<sup>th</sup> **13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
 8am Holy Communion BCP  
 9.30am Family Service  
 11am Parish Communion



Some Forthcoming Dates :

- 18<sup>th</sup> 6pm Handbell Group [CC]
- 19<sup>th</sup> 10am Tuesday DIY Working Party [CC]
- 24<sup>th</sup> **14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
8am Holy Communion CW  
9.30am Matins  
11am All-age Parish Communion
- 25<sup>th</sup> 6pm Handbell Group [CC]
- 26<sup>th</sup> 10am Tuesday DIY Working Party [CC]
- 28<sup>th</sup> 9.45am Morning Housegroup at 216B Nine Mile Ride
- 31<sup>st</sup> **15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
8am Holy Communion BCP  
11am All-age Parish Communion  
6pm Taizé Service

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept Midweek Communion resumes
- 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 'Moving On' service  
Youth Group resumes
- 9<sup>th</sup> Sept Fledgelings resumes
- 14<sup>th</sup> Sept Sunday Club resumes
- 20<sup>th</sup> Sept Ladies' Breakfast
- 4<sup>th</sup> Oct Harvest supper
- 5<sup>th</sup> Oct Harvest Festival & Bring & Share Harvest Lunch
- 15<sup>th</sup> Oct Churchyard Trust  
Autumn Tea at the Finchampstead Sports Club from 2.30pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov All Saints' Day  
All Souls' Day service at 6pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> Nov Remembrance Sunday
- 20<sup>th</sup> Nov Ladies' Breakfast

WHAT REALLY HAPPENS AT BISHOPS' MEETINGS

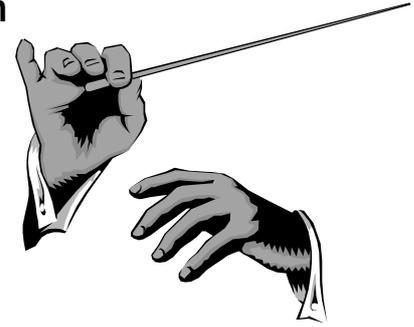


CartoonChurch.com

[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' - Random ramblings from the North Chapel**

Greetings to you all from this dark and mysterious corner of St James' church. No sooner had Christmas and Epiphany been and gone it was time to get cracking on our musical offerings for Lent and Easter. Those who ventured into church on Thursday evenings (and other times) during the run-up to Easter to investigate the unearthly noises emanating from the North Chapel needn't have worried – it was only your choir rehearsing, and what a lot of rehearsing they did to ensure the music for Easter etc was performed to the highest standard possible. I want to say that this was possible due to the total commitment of our choir, juniors and seniors. There were three items which will particularly stick in my memory; firstly the Junior Choir's singing of "As a mother cradles her child" on Mothering Sunday morning. I'm reliably informed that it reduced a number of the congregation to tears. Oh, come on ... surely it wasn't that bad !! The Senior Choir excelled themselves with their singing of "Crucifixus" by Antonio Lotti on Good Friday afternoon. This musical masterpiece, arranged for eight voice parts and quite difficult to sing, took a lot of rehearsing but all the effort and sheer hard work put in by the choir proved to be worthwhile. However, for many the crowning moment of Easter was Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" sung by the full choir at the end of the Sung Eucharist on Easter morning. The spontaneous applause afterwards caught us a bit "off-balance" but was much appreciated by those of us who wear the funny clothes and normally live "round the corner". I have to say it was great for the choir to escape from the north aisle to sing this anthem from the Chancel on this occasion. They could actually hear the organ properly and many people in the nave commented favourably on the much clearer sound produced by the choir from this location. Anyway, thanks for being such a supportive congregation – so glad you enjoyed the music !



On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April (the eve of Ascension) some of the choir joined with members of the choir of All Saints', Wokingham for the annual Confirmation service at which candidates from All Saints', Finchampstead, Owlsmoor, Hurst and Winnersh were confirmed. Musically, it was a good service with the two choirs blending well together, despite the unscheduled use of a completely unknown tune to a well-known hymn at the end of the service. Amongst those declaring their commitment to Christ was David Hollow, one of our Basses. Congratulations David and all the other candidates.

The Choir continues to grow again. Welcome to Beth Munck who has just joined our Junior Choir as a probationer. The full choir now numbers 35 regular members which is a very healthy figure. If anyone is interested in joining and would like more information, my contact details are at the end of this article. It's great to report that we have an "in-house" choir wedding to look forward to at the end of the year. One of our sopranos, Louise Worrell, will be marrying Robert Rance in St James' church on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Needless to say this

*(Continued on page 15)*

### **A PCC Meeting to remember! 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

Never in my 19 years as churchwarden have I experienced anything like it but, as I step down from that role, I can safely say that I will certainly be unlikely to forget my last PCC Meeting as churchwarden.

There we were, all gathered in the Church Centre Meeting room, working solemnly through our long agenda, when the lights began to play tricks, first a hardly noticeable flicker and then more pronounced. Then the bulbs were only just alight and we were reduced to a kind of half light from the fading daylight coming through the window.

Strangely the emergency lights outside the room were on but the fluorescent lights in the main hall were still blazing for the handbell ringers, coming to the end of their practice. No breaker had tripped, so what was causing this strange problem? Then there was Reverend Richard ordering us outside onto the grass. Why ever do that? Well, that part at least was soon explained as Julie came out with bowls of nibbles, followed by Rev Richard with a tray of glasses of bucks fizz to toast me for my last meeting as churchwarden, John standing down as PCC secretary and Richard Peat, on his news that he is to be a dad. How lovely!

Probably unlike anywhere other than England, the bowls of nibbles were put on the piano stool in our midst, our secretary sat himself down on the path, and the meeting resumed with the rest of us standing round, clutching our bucks fizz, agendas and other papers. By now the hall lights had also failed and the handbell ringers packed up and headed off home, hopefully thoroughly impressed by our dedication but probably more likely convinced that we were all surely mad.

As the daylight faded further and the bugs began to bite, we could be forgiven, I'm sure for abandoning the meeting. But, no, St James' Parochial Church Council is made of sterner stuff. We took ourselves into the North Chapel of the church and, huddling round under the emergency lights (remarkably bright), we completed our agenda.

Now that's what I call dedication to duty! I hope you are all extremely impressed!

Bravo to Rev Richard for keeping us going when the papers in front of us were barely legible. What an induction for new members Kate and Jonathan and what an incredible night to remember for me! **Carolyn Fox**

**THE CHOIR CONCERT** made a wonderful profit of £643 for the Conservation Fund.

Thank you to everyone who contributed – naturally the choir and Andrew, but also those who bought tickets, provided food, or washed up. It made for a splendid evening and it was great to see the church so full. We were treated to a wonderful variety of music from the full choir, the senior choir, the junior choir, the ladies singing 'the Water of Tyne', Robert Alder singing 'Take a pair of sparkling eyes' as well as solos from some extremely confident youngsters, Matthew Booth, Rachel Witting, Jo Myall, Abigail Shaw, Lydia Shaw and Emily Jenkins, and brought to a conclusion by the 'Hallelujah Chorus'. What talent! What a blessing! What an evening! Thank you to all.



## HOUSEGROUPS SUMMER PROGRAMME

Chapter 8 of Paul's letter to the Romans is without doubt one of the best-

known and best-loved passages of the Bible. It focuses on the work of the Holy Spirit, without which true Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, indeed impossible. It is not surprising therefore that the Morning Group has chosen to make Romans 8 its main topic for study during the summer period. We will have this great passage of Scripture expounded for us by Charles Price, senior pastor of The People's Church – one of the largest churches in Toronto – with a congregation of over 3000. He is a broadcaster on Living Truth TV (Canada and Uganda) and his Sunday messages are also broadcast in Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Charles Price has set a standard of preaching that not only challenges those of us who preach to do better, but sends a signal to us all that preaching is at the very heart of the Gospel” – so reads the citation for his honorary doctorate. He has preached in over 30 countries, has written six best selling books and is married to Hilary, with whom he has three children: Hannah, Laura and Matthew. Don't miss this opportunity to gain a new insight into this well loved chapter of the Bible.

After the great success of Steve Brady's five Bible Studies with the Morning Group, entitled *Galatians – Prison Break*, we have decided to repeat them with the Evening Group. Steve has a unique ability to combine humour and scholarship into an understandable story relevant to the culture of today. You're welcome to join us, for this enlightening exposition of Paul's letter to the Galatians.

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

June 12<sup>th</sup> – Steve Brady *Going Straight*

Gal 5: 26 – 6: 18

June 26<sup>th</sup> – Charles Price *Living with Hope*

Romans 8: 16-25

July 10<sup>th</sup> – Charles Price *Living with Security*

Romans 8: 26-32

July 24<sup>th</sup> – Charles Price *Living with Liberty*

Romans 8: 33

Aug 14<sup>th</sup> – Charles Price *Living with Victory*

Romans 8: 35

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

June 5<sup>th</sup> – Steve Brady *The Inside Track*

Gal 1 & 2

June 19<sup>th</sup> – Steve Brady *The Long Arm of the Law*

Gal 3: 1-25

July 3<sup>rd</sup> – Steve Brady *The Great Escape*

Gal 3: 26 - 4:31

July 17<sup>th</sup> – Steve Brady *The Road Less Travelled*

Gal 5: 1-25

July 31<sup>st</sup> – Steve Brady *Going Straight*

Gal 5: 26 – 6: 18

The Evening Group has decided not to meet in August.

Most of these meetings will be held in our home at 216B Nine Mile Ride, although we may need to change the venue occasionally. To check on the venue, or to ask for more details, please don't hesitate to telephone us, or the Church Office (Tel: 0118 973 0133). A friendly welcome awaits you whenever you attend. **Audrey and Francis Moore** (Tel: 0118 973 2592)

**CONTRAST** (Youth Group)

A great big thank you to all our young people and their families who took part in the Easter vigil this year. The experience was awesome for young people and leaders alike. A special thank you to those parents who prepared the delicious parish breakfast following the dawn service. Leaders commented at a recent meeting on the maturity shown by our young people this year and how well they held vigil and relaxed in the church centre during our 'wake-over.' Well done!



We started back on the 27th April, and welcomed Reverend Ali Marshall, a veteran peace campaigner, who spoke to our young people about her anti nuclear stance. Other topics we will discuss this term include Money Matters, Self Image and Relationships. There will be no sessions during half term on the 25th May and 1st June. We will be laser questing in Wokingham on the 8th June, please speak to Ginette Moffatt. Final session before the summer break will be on the 20th July, our fundraising barbecue at Bracken Ridge Heath Ride from 3pm. All our young people and leaders are invited, with their families. We start back after the summer break on the 7th September.

Any young people who attend secondary school or are about to attend are very welcome. If you enjoy having fun, meeting new people, tuck, chat, games and discussing the big issues, then do give us a try. Phone **Cathy Clayton** on 0118 9730707. or contact Cathy at [catherine.clayton@btinternet.com](mailto:catherine.clayton@btinternet.com). Our group has a Christian ethos and meets most Sundays in term time from 7pm until 8-30pm.

**THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** at the end of April saw the elections of Richard Peat and Nicky Alder as our churchwardens for the coming year; Paul Arscott, Julia Arscott, Ann Pask and Carolyn Fox as Deanery Synod representatives for the next three years till 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011; also till 2011, new to the PCC, Kate Meads and Jonathan Marshall and re-elected, Mary Dewhurst and Richard Owen. A big thank you for their past contribution to Janet Clements and Jackie Lawrence who stood down from PCC. Fortunately their skills are not lost to the church as both are continuing in their other roles, Janet as Sunday Club co-ordinator and a prominent role in the newly renamed Outreach & Discipleship Committee, and Jackie, particularly important as our Child Protection Officer.

**'CLEANING FORTNIGHT'** Our Church Centre is a marvellous asset to us and gets a great deal of use, day after day and week after week but it takes quite a bashing and is difficult to keep looking good. We still could do with more volunteers to come on the weekly cleaning rota, even on an occasional basis. (Sarah Owen will be very happy to give you more details.) To give an extra clean and hopefully some fresh paint, I've set aside two weeks at the start of the school holidays as 'cleaning fortnight' (July 28<sup>th</sup> to August 9<sup>th</sup>). If you feel you could help at all in this period, day or evening, while our regular users are on holiday, please let me know, so that the work can be planned. Please let me know your availability and what skills or equipment you could provide. **Carolyn Fox** 0118 9732262

mothers  
unionChristian care for  
families worldwide

We will be welcoming back Rev Stephen Fishpool at our Branch meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>. He will be speaking about the charity "Friends reaching out in Uganda."

June 13<sup>th</sup> is our Wave of Prayer in the Church from 12 to 12.30pm.

We will be providing refreshments after the Service of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life on Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup>.

July 10<sup>th</sup> will be our service in church, followed by a cream tea. St James' Patronal Festival weekend in July 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>. Contributions of homemade cakes etc will be most welcome for sale or for the refreshments on the Sunday, please.

We will be celebrating the anniversary of Mary Sumner's Birthday on August 14<sup>th</sup> with a Bring & Share Lunch in the Church Centre 12.30 for 1pm. As usual this will be a fund-raising event with a raffle. We look forward to welcoming friends and relations to enjoy this very pleasant annual occasion.

#### Diary Dates:

Thursday June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Branch Meeting	
Friday June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Wave of Prayer	12-12.30pm
Sunday June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Service of Thanksgiving	6pm
Wednesday. June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Corporate Communion in Church	10am
Thursday. July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mothers' Union Service	1.45 for 2pm
Wednesday. July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Mothers' Union Corporate Communion	10am
Sunday July 27 <sup>th</sup>	St James' Patronal Festival	2-5pm
	Tower open, teas etc;	
Thursday. Aug. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Sumner Lunch in the Church Centre	12.30 for 1pm

**Sarah Owen** Branch Leader

*(Music at St James' continued from page 11)*

promises to be a very "musical" wedding.

Finally, may I finish with a couple of items which may be of interest. Firstly, it has been suggested that the Choir produce another CD. The timing would depend on the Choir's commitments and the availability of a suitable recording venue. Secondly, you might like to know that the Choir will be singing Choral Evensong in St Alban's Cathedral on the Friday of Easter Week 2009 (17<sup>th</sup> April). This is not the first time the Choir has sung in a Cathedral, it was a fairly regular occurrence under one of my predecessors – we are merely reviving a custom. It is of course a great privilege for any Parish Choir to take its music to a Cathedral and to deputise during the Cathedral Choir's holiday, so St James' Choir will be working extra hard between now and then to ensure that the music we offer, both at St Alban's and here at Finchampstead, will be of the highest standard possible.

**Andrew Bosley** - Director of Music Tel: Reading (0118) 9549059

e-mail: [andrew.bosley1@ntlworld.com](mailto:andrew.bosley1@ntlworld.com)

**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

### NEWS IN BRIEF/ STOP PRESS

Did you know that **St James' Handbell Ringers** recently played for the Duke of Edinburgh and guests at Frogmore House, Windsor by special invitation? What an honour! I expect you think I mean an honour for our ringers, but I think the honour was equally for the assembled guests to hear such a relatively newly established group playing to such a high standard. They really are remarkable, as anyone passing the Church Centre Hall on a Monday evening can testify, and Meg has told me how proud she was of her group. "They were faultless," she said, "undaunted by the occasion."

They are also doing great work on behalf of St James' by taking their music out into the community, to care homes in the area and to people who can enjoy the stimulation both of listening and 'having a go' themselves. We are very proud of them and salute them and especially Meg, their leader.

