

ST NICOLAS PARISH CHURCH CRANLEIGH

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES AND ORGANISATIONS APCM 13 APRIL 2011

Church Rooms

Once again the Church Rooms Committee Members have not been idle. Apart from routine maintenance over the last 12 months a Water Heater was fitted in the St Nicolas Room kitchen. The St Andrew's Room kitchen now has a smaller version fitted and the sink has been changed for one with a right hand drainer. 100 new chairs for the St. Nicolas Room were purchased and the old red chairs were moved to the recently refurbished shed in the Churchyard. Hopefully these will be used in the Church/ Rectory garden at busy times. A new floor has been fitted in the St Andrew's Room and although there were some initial teething problems we hope they are now a thing of the past. An additional 100 dinner plates were also purchased together with another stainless steel teapot and a couple of jugs. Hopefully we still managed to make a profit and swell the coffers of the Church.

My thanks to all the committee who work so hard to ensure things run smoothly especially Jane Mant our Treasurer and the 'Two Toms' (A & W) who do all the really hard work! Jane Jones and Colin Tilbury also deserve our thanks as they work hard to keep the Church Rooms clean and tidy. The committee would also like to thank Howard Hardy, Angela Wild and Valerie Speers for their love and support over the last few years and wish them a 'Happy Retirement'. There will always be a place for them at committee meetings if they feel like being one of us!

February 2011

CRANLEIGH MOTHERS' UNION REPORT TO 2011 APCM

We have been averaging just over 40 people at every morning meeting during the year, which led to us asking for the use of the St.Nicolas room for our meetings. Luckily this is now possible, meaning everything now fits in the same room again.

At our morning meetings we started the year with Anglicans in South Africa, and followed this up, closer to home, learning about garden birds with the help of the RSPB. We heard about three very different lives with Rev'd Christine Musser, Ruth Frett and Val Watts following each other. The Rector gave us some pointers on how to make the most of our Time Away; then back home again, Michael Miller explained Health Care in Cranleigh through the ages. In November, we had a very informative talk from the Surrey Air Ambulance which helped us appreciate the work they do and the difficulties the pilots and doctors face. Members contributed to our Home Made Christmas in December.

Our Evening meetings attract between 10 and 25 members who meet at different venues each month. The programme is very varied and tends to be more informal than in the morning.

We held our Lady Day service here in Cranleigh, although there was a Diocesan Service in the Cathedral at the same time. This decision was made with the other Branch Leaders in our Deanery; we all decided that more people would be able to come, if it was here and the numbers justified the decision, with about 60 people at the service.

Our outing was to Hollycombe – Steam in the Country. On all previous occasions when the Mothers' Union has gone to Hollycombe it has rained, so imagine our relief and surprise when we had a glorious sunny day, all topped off with a cream tea!

Our Garden meeting at the end of July was held in the Quallington's garden; thank you Jean and Tim, and we were blessed with the right weather.

We again collected Clothes for Sheffield. We did not have to deliver them to the local depot ourselves as Colin Young very kindly agreed to send a Cranleigh Freight van. I was glad of the help as we had more bags than last year and it would have taken several cars to take them to Milford. This year's collection will be from the 26th April to 11th May.

The prayer side of our work is very important, in that we are an organisation rooted and grounded in prayer. Our Prayer Group functions well with 21 people receiving the monthly lists and acting as the Emergency Prayer Chain.

Our Friday Communion Services give us a chance to be quiet together in true fellowship with Christ. On Mary Sumner Day, 9th August, the Rector led a very thought provoking Quiet Morning in his garden.

We have sadly lost several members during the year. Three have died and one has moved to live near her family. We have, though, gained members. We enrolled 12 new members and there are others who are considering membership. We now have 92 members in our Branch, making us the largest in the Diocese.

Several members attended the Diocesan Forum meetings in May and November. These are held at St.Michael's Church, Sheerwater, where anyone can come and discover much more about the work of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese and across the world. The next one is on Tuesday 17th May.

Rosemary Gooding (Cranleigh Branch Leader)

Magazine Committee Report 2010 - 2011

Another good year for the magazine committee during which we produced the second ever part-colour edition which included a selection of photos from the 2010 Flower Festival. We receive favourable comments each month which indicates that our readers enjoy the variety brought in with our rotation of editors – Peter and Edna Bond, Margie Nursey, Andy Shepherd and David Vale. If anyone else would like to join the editorial team as a guest editor then please let me know.

Thank you also to all those who submit articles for publication - please keep them coming! Articles are always considered - preferably sent electronically to the address on back cover of the magazine. We particularly thank Nigel for his input, especially his "Letter from the Rector" each month – it cannot be easy having to write it so far in advance and it always seems so appropriate.

We have again occasionally varied the front cover designs to supplement the regular one of the Church by Michael Wild. We have continued to subscribe to the Parish Pump website which provides us with a very useful source of additional material each month, including the Children's Page.

The committee gave a presentation and had a display at the Fresher's Weekend and received positive feedback both by way of additional people wanting the magazine delivered and also others offering to help as distributors.

The magazine is regularly delivered amongst our readers by a faithful team of some 40 distributors who also collect the annual subscriptions. If you would like to have a copy delivered or even assist with the monthly deliveries then please contact our Distribution Manager, Tony Thorogood on 273319.

Sue Peak in her role of Advertising Manager has secured seven new advertisers for 2011, and we are very grateful for their support. We thank them together with all the other local businesses that have been advertising with us for many years. If you use the services of any advertisers please do tell them that you saw them in our magazine.

The St Nicolas website at www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk has been regularly updated with the monthly Letter from the Rector as well as the News/Events page with details of forthcoming events and special services. The website continues to reach out to the wider audience as well as our regular visitors and at the end of last year we had received in excess of 20,000 visitors.

Finally the magazine continues to make a profit for the PCC.

David Vale

CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

In September 2010 we started a new group for the purpose of regular churchyard maintenance.

Our idea was based on a scheme for the Parish Church in the town where we lived before moving to Cranleigh. Simply, this was for a group of volunteers to meet on a regular basis to maintain the churchyard. By regular attention the churchyard could be kept looking attractive without problem areas becoming major ones.

We are pleased to report that a small number of helpers have attended the sessions. Some progress has been made in clearing invasive ivy and brambles, and removing undergrowth. Autumn leaves have been cleared from both the churchyard and the car park where a thick layer was presenting a slip hazard. The paths around the church are swept and washed regularly, although there is a continual problem with bird deposits.

We meet at 9.30 am, normally on the first Saturday of each month (but please check the weekly notices sheet), and invite anyone who is willing to help to join the group. You may come and go whenever convenient, and obviously we will need to work in areas away from the main churchyard if there is a wedding taking place. Please bring suitable gardening tools. Refreshments will be provided.

This is a good opportunity to help maintain our attractive churchyard, gain some healthy exercise, and enjoy a social occasion. We hope to continue our progress throughout 2011.

Paul & Adrienne Jarrett

Bible Society Cranleigh Action Group 2010 -2011

Once again despite the extreme weather conditions at the beginning of the year I believe the Action Group has made a positive contribution to Bible Society and at another level to our village. We are grateful for the support we have received from our friends at St Nicolas and the other churches in Cranleigh.

We are very grateful to Mrs Jane O'Leary for agreeing to audit our accounts for us at the close of last year following Tom Sutton's death ending his years of much appreciated service with us together with other societies over the many years.

In June our season started with a Wine and Strawberry evening in Fairhaven's garden. The action group entertained supporters from St Nicolas as well as those from other churches in Cranleigh to what turned into a very successful occasion.

A Craft Day held at Sue Walker's home on Saturday 6 September again was great fun and very much appreciated by those who attended.

On Bible Sunday 10 October we were fortunate to have Heather Clements from Bible Society who spoke at the 10am service. Her very interesting talk was followed by a power point presentation at the conclusion of our shared lunch in the Church Rooms.

In September we opted to try something new - to stage a colouring competition among the four primary schools in Cranleigh to mark Christmas. Our Rector and Curate Jonathan Thomas assisted greatly with making contact with the appropriate staff. Steff Shepherd came to our rescue here by producing 8 delightful original line drawings representing highlights in the Christmas narrative. Finally, in late November several 100 coloured illustrations were collected from the schools, judged, and after much deliberation and hard discussion prizes were presented at school assemblies in early December.

Early February started with a Coffee Morning held at Marie Bailey's home. This was very well attended by all the churches in Cranleigh. This started our new project for the year most successfully. Our project is to raise funds towards the "Braille Bible Printing Press in Africa".

Shrove Tuesday would not be the same without our Pancake Lunch and this again drew some 80 friends and members from all the churches as well as some visiting Cranleigh. This really started us on the way with this new project.

I would like to thank all members of the Action Group who hosted occasions and all those working busily behind the scenes at all these to ensure success in raising the profile of the Bible Society here in Cranleigh.

The Mission Committee

The Mission Committee helps to guide and direct the PCC on the Mission Focus of our church. We currently support the work of the CMS South America, USPG – Anglicans in World Mission, Mission to Seafarers, the Bible Society, Task Force Romania, Guildford YMCA and the Children's Society. In addition, our church supports Christian Aid Collection Week, through its co-ordinator, Anthony Harrow, and members of our congregation sit on the Cranleigh Christian Aid Committee. During the year we've had many excellent speakers for our Mission Sunday Services: Daniel Sinclair (Christian Aid), Rebecca Lock (USPG), Heather Clements (Bible Society), Adriana Barnes (Guildford YMCA), and David Stokes (CMS Latin America). In the case of David, he and his wife Shelley, shortly after speaking at St. Nicolas, embarked on a placement in Northern Argentina. The committee were all very much inspired by David's work and agreed to support his project specifically in our giving to CMS South America.

The church continues to support the outreach work of Holy Trinity Church, Aldershot, with both our finances and our prayers. In December their Church Army worker, Jonathan Wiggam, presented their latest work at the Mission Committee meeting, a report of which appeared in the March *Parish Magazine*.

The Mission Committee decided that more detailed information on our missions should be available for both our congregation and for visitors to the church. Subsequently there is now a Mission Folder in Baynards Chapel to supplement our World Map. This will be updated on a regular basis.

The local Bible Society Action Committee organised a very successful Christmas Colouring Competition which drew a good deal of entrants from Cranleigh's four primary and prep.schools.

The committee agreed that we should support the work of A Rocha, a Christian environmental mission, and are currently looking at ways of introducing this to the parish.

Finally, and not least, we were very pleased to welcome Jonathan Thomas to our committee. Jonathan led the Christingle Service in December which supports the work of The Children's Society.

Chris Tew

March 2011

Task Force Romania. Annual Report.

During 2010/2011 we have been continuing to help our colleagues in Romania to become as self reliant as possible. Unfortunately the Romanian economy has not escaped the problems we have all been experiencing as a result of the recession. Wages have been cut and VAT has been increased to 25%, so people are struggling. However, the work goes on. At Casa Harului, the buildings at Barsau, which many of you will remember, were to be the "cheese factory" is now accommodating men working locally. The income from this enterprise is contributing to-wards the running of the summer camps.

Whilst continuing to provide a break for so many young people, Maria is also providing breaks for autistic children and their carers or parents. This is a growing side of their work, Maria continues to study and take her exams which is helping her to be even more successful in helping the children.

The Betel Centre at Hunedoara now has a kindergarten running on a daily basis, which caters for approximately 50 children. They also have a club for disabled children, helping them with everyday tasks, which would not be easy for them otherwise.

The latest project at Betel is a new carpentry workshop. Having obtained a derelict building locally they are now seeking to refurbish it and turn it into a workshop to teach the local youngsters woodworking skills. At the same time they are planning to produce timber products for sale.

Whilst all this is planned, they are constructing a new building on top of the original building. When finished, this will provide facilities for a retail outlet and eventually a medical centre for the surrounding area. This is a very ambitious enterprise and will take a lot of work and support.

We are hoping to send a working party later in 2011 to help them make a start on fitting out the ground floor.

We have been very encouraged by the tremendous support for the shoebox appeal. We have had even more provided this year. It is so satisfying to see the reaction of the families and the children when the boxes are distributed. Our thanks to everyone who contributed and those who organised the whole trip.

At Giarmata, the two girl's homes (Deborah 1 & 2) are continuing to provide the girls with a safe, secure and a loving home.

This year they are celebrating ten years since the start of this enterprise; those girls who were the first to join them are now going out into the world, attending university and getting jobs. Some are married with children. It is really a time of celebration and joy. We congratulate them.

The orchard now has its own irrigation system; and a new greenhouse will be built soon which will compliment the Polytunnel we put up 2 years ago.

The Lupeni orphanage is still providing support for its children.

We are always very grateful for all the support that enables us to continue our work in Romania. When everyone is having a tough time making ends meet it is very encouraging to know we have so many helpers and sponsors. We are very grateful.

AJGarstone. Task Force Romania. March 2011.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please don't hesitate to contact me or one of our members in church.

End of Reports