

# Mission Action Plans

## Summaries from Parishes

February 2010

### **BOURN**

#### **Barton**

- Took part in 'Back to Church Sunday'
- Produced Barton 900 display
- Produced and distributed a 'Praying for our village' card in association with Barton Baptist Church.
- Had all the children from the Church School 'Experience Harvest'.

#### **Bourn**

#### **Boxworth**

#### **Caldecote w Childerley**

#### **Cambourne**

The construction of a church for Cambourne February-November 2009

#### **Caxton**

#### **Comberton St Mary**

- Building work underway on children's barn
- Servery/kitchen plans within the church finalised
- 'Engage' discussion group for parents now up and running
- PCC working non new structures to allow more people to join in the church's life and organisation

#### **Coton**

- Started offering the opportunity for coffee and chat after more services
- Distributed the 'Praying for our village' card
- Took part in 'Back to Church Sunday'.

#### **Croxtan**

#### **Dry Drayton**

- Took part in 'Back to Church Sunday'
- Met together with the Methodist Church to begin working on a joint Mission Action Plan.

#### **Elsworth**

## **Eltisley**

## **Graveley**

### **Great Eversden**

The Tower rebuilt, and the rest of building Surveyed, to ensure the survival of the fabric, and Church of St Mary's for future generations.

Art Works and support from the Royal Academy, local artists and neighbouring Parishes, secured for the opening exhibition to be planned for Easter 2010. To introduce new life and art work into St Mary's: As a celebration of creation and as a mission opportunity.

The Monday Evening Prayer Service is a permanent and welcomed Fixture which increases our regular life of Prayer.

## **Hardwick**

### **Harlton**

Additional weekday Evening Prayer Service introduced to provide opportunity to farmers and those who work in Sunday trades to join us.

Hosting and serving Illumin8 Café, in our Village Hall monthly, provides a Fresh Expression of Church for Younger People in the village and surrounding area

The new organ built, commissioned and used fully.

An appeal for funds for organ scholarships to be awarded to young people living within the vicinity of Harlton, Cambridgeshire.

### **Haslingfield**

New Toilets in the tower, opened in June, provide a more, comfortable building and welcoming place to be.

MACS Charity and the community of the village of Magomero, are our Mission partner and Parish in Malawi

Y Zone is our new Monthly Alternate Appropriate Worship and fellowship opportunity for Young Teenagers.

A regular monthly Choir Sunday now enriches our regular Sunday Worship.

## **Kingston**

## **Knapwell**

### **Little Eversden**

New Bells and bell ringers bring the Church alive...to tell the Village we are alive and kicking.

The new Monthly Family Service and the new pattern of weekly services established and increases the opportunity, the quality and the Welcome to Worship in our small Village: and many new people now regularly join us!

## **Longstowe**

## **Papworth Everard**

## **Toft**

- North Porch extension with toilet facilities now open

- Tuesday evening discussion and study group has begun
- Concert in aid of our overseas links planned for December

## **Toseland**

## **Yelling**

# **CAMBRIDGE NORTH**

## **Holy Sepulchre**

## **Holy Cross**

Our facilities for the disabled are complete.

We have obtained several small grants to help continue our youth work.

Discussions to raise finance for a long-term Youth Worker have started.

## **The Ascension**

**In 2009 we have built a new website!**

**[www.churchatcastle.org](http://www.churchatcastle.org)**

We are a family of community-serving churches – we offer our church buildings as a resource for the whole community – as places both of worship and prayer for everyone, and for community activities and gatherings.

- Three Anglican churches making up the Parish of the Ascension; St. Augustine of Canterbury in Richmond Road, St Giles' and St. Peter's, both in Castle Street
- An ecumenical partnership of the United Reformed Church and Church of England at St. Luke's, Victoria Road
- Castle Street Methodist Church

All are based around Castle Hill and serve the residents of Castle Ward – and beyond (north of the river as far as Gilbert Road, West Road, Histon Road and Madingley Road beyond the M11.

We aim to be an inclusive community, proclaiming Christ's gospel of love.

We welcome, without exception, all who want to explore the possibility of faith in their lives.

**In its first eight months our website has had 8167 hits!**

Watch our website in 2010 for new, innovative and fun ways in which we will be engaging with our parishioners in the largest parish in the Diocese.

## **St Andrew the Less**

**AIM:** Run a weekend of evangelistic events with Rico Tice in March 2009

## **CANDLELIT BANQUET**

An evangelistic guest event held in March 2009 as part of our 'Life' Mission

## **SOFT-PLAY CAFÉ**

Coffee and pastries with soft-play for under fives and an evangelistic talk.

**AIM:** Engage the church in implementing the Cambridge component of the national 'Passion for LIFE' mission in March 2010

## **A PASSION FOR LIFE MARCH 2010**

Tim Keller, author of the NY Times bestseller 'The Reason for God', speaking in Cambridge:

SAT 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
SUN 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

GREAT ST MARY'S  
THE CORN EXCHANGE

## **St Clement**

### **St Mary the Great with St Michael**

#### **ENVIRONMENT:**

Environment Group set up, policy agreed.

#### **MICHAELHOUSE**

New chaplain appointed with revised job description, café turnover increased 50%, more community and charity room bookings.

#### **CHAPLAINCY TO UNIVERSITY STAFF**

New chaplain appointed with revised constitution, working closely with the Human Resources Department of University.

#### **PCC COMMITTEES**

New Pastoral Policy Committee set up. Restructuring of parish ministry under way.

#### **DEVELOPMENT**

Appeal launched, plans devised.

#### **MUSIC PROJECT**

Academy of Great St Mary's with choir and orchestral programme launched.

## **St Matthew**

Our Mission Action Plan: to be a growing church, united in worship and prayer, where all are encouraged to use their gifts to reach and to serve the community.

In November 2008, 100 people joined us as a 'church graft' from St Andrew the Great church, Cambridge. These are some of the benefits since then!

New 5.30pm service: Informal contemporary services with young adults in mind but open to all, followed at 7pm by gatherings for 14-18s and internationals.

Hope Explored: A short course which aims to be a relaxed way to explore the Christian faith. Includes a meal, a short talk and open discussion.

Roots: a mid-week meal with Bible and prayer groups for those in their 20s and 30s.

New staff: a full-time vicar, Frank Price, instead of someone sharing his time between projects;

a full-time youth worker, Andy Liggins;

Ian Somasundram, to focus on evangelism and encouraging those in their 20s and 30s;

Rose Thomas-Carr, now employed by the church as community worker; and Helen Wilson (administrator)

Young Adults are beginning to reach others and encourage the teenagers.

Extra Volunteers have 'primed the pump' for outreach to the community.

Additional giving

More children have helped attract local families.

## **Chesterton St Andrew**

- We have developed an annual programme of outreach and Christian nurture, beginning with 'Back to Church Sunday' through Alpha, Lent courses for all, short introductory courses on the Bible and prayer.

- We have initiated a ‘label Sunday’ to help people get to know one another and have albums of photos (with names) that people can consult.
- We are developing a pattern of daily prayer for people to join in at different levels and in different ways.
- We turned part of the church into a ‘river of life’ and invited the local community to come and enjoy it.

### **Chesterton St George**

### **Chesterton The Good Shepherd**

## **CAMBRIDGE SOUTH**

### **Holy Trinity**

Our mission is to be a place where people

Come to Christ

Learn to Love and Love to Learn

This mission statement incorporates evangelism, discipleship and fellowship

At present our attention is focussed on:

- Reaching out to the unchurched of all ages, especially the student community
- Establishing children’s and youth ministry
- Improving the facilities of the Church

### **St Barnabas**

Sept 2009: Re-launched our evening service, with focus on reaching 20’s and 30’s, complete with pre- and post- service café

Oct 2009: Launched our Building for Ministry Giving Campaign (target, £1.3 million) to re-order our church premises:

### **St Benedict**

Our objectives and response

1. To practice our contemplative charism by strengthening lay involvement in daily prayer – Good progress made here. Numbers have increased for the Daily Eucharist and Evening Prayer and these are now well resourced by clergy and lay people in a way which gives confidence to visitors. We increasingly believe that this commitment is at the heart of our mission, and that regular twice daily prayer is the particular service we are called to on behalf of the wider community

2. To promote St Bene’t’s as a unique historic site and place of continuing Christian worship

Small but significant improvements to signage within church and visitors’ information. The external church notice board needs attention and the architect is to design a new one when wording has been agreed. Changes to lighting have yet to be considered.

3. To review our communications and to improve the flow of information to our dispersed community -

We have redesigned the web site, improved the ‘look’ of our parish paper, and made adjustments to our term card. There is still work to be done in this area.

4. To review our welcome and outreach to visitors, newcomers and the business community. We have not yet produced the ‘welcome pack’ we hoped for, but we have produced a simple card of welcome as a first stage. We have conducted a thorough review of our business links

and an updated prayer list of businesses and institutions in the parish. The crucial importance of welcome and hospitality was outlined by the Vicar at the APCM.

### **St Botolph**

Display Boards in position in Church  
Organ estimates under consideration

### **St Edward**

St Edwards understands its mission as threefold:

- 1 Reaching out to spiritual seekers beyond the ‘conventional’ church
- 2 Engaging with the hidden spirituality in secular and academic life
- 3 Deepening the spiritual life of the gathered church

The first of these aims is being met by our fortnightly *Holistic Spirituality Group*, which draws in Christians, members of other faiths, and a number of ‘new age’ practitioners and therapists, to share experiences in our common spiritual quest and to look at forgotten or neglected aspects of Christian Faith, especially its mystical tradition. Also key to this is our regular weekly *Christian Meditation*, a group encounter with silence which both deepens our corporate spiritual life and also attracts those who may find creeds and sermons problematic. Part of this same outreach is the *Gothic Eucharist* connecting with a particular sub-culture, often shunned, but who are particularly open to the church’s sacramental tradition and its engagement with the problems of suffering and evil.

The second aspect of our mission is met by our monthly ‘*Odyssey Service*’ who aim is to ‘link soul-life with the big issues of the Day’. This service has been very successful in drawing new people into the life of the church, with our speaker dealing with peace and justice issues, environmental crisis, body image and self-worth, the search for truth the imaginative arts, links between religion and psychology. Our experience is that there is a real demand for thought provoking, challenging and weighty teaching which challenges both the doubter and the believer. Also part of this aspect of our mission is our *Wednesday teaching Sessions* and our *Beta Course* which explore various aspects of arts, science and psychology in light of Christian Faith.

Our third aim of deepening the spiritual life of the gathered church is bound up with the other two but also met in our *Meditative Eucharist* which gives time for silence and also by a sermon series on saints and mystics whose teaching and example we feel are especially relevant to contemporary life and to St Edwards’ own mission, these have included Julian of Norwich, Abbess Hilda of Whitby, Coleridge, Blake, FD Maurice and Dom. Bede Griffiths.

### **St James**

Our Objectives

1. To encourage new people, and especially those with children, to become part of the St James Community
  - Our Progress
    - we have a new notice-board
    - we have developed our links with the uniformed groups, who attend the All-Age service once a month
    - we offer children’s workshop mornings before Easter and Christmas
    - we run a mid-week bible club in the local Primary School
2. Keep and involve the children we have within the church as they grow and mature
  - we prepares and admitted 8 children for Holy Communion

- 8 young people and one adult were confirmed
  - we are running a monthly kids club for 7-10 year olds and for the teenagers.
3. Achieve a better understanding of people in our parish and bring in new forms of worship or introduce new elements into our worship that they would be able to relate to.
- we participate in the St Community Forum
  - regular contact with the school through assemblies and mid-week club
  - changes to All Age Worship to involve the young people more and to make it easier to follow the service
4. Strengthen our faith and build up our spiritual life
- Lent Groups
  - Advent Book reading initiative

### **St Mark**

St Mark's, Newnham...nurtures thoughtful discipleship...offers hospitality...conducts mission through drama...develops its members talents.

- ✓ We have created a welcoming vestry
- ✓ We have expanded our car park
- ✓ We are mounting a drama season this autumn

### **St Martin**

St Martin's and St Thomas's Cambridge adopted their MAP in August and it was launched at special services in September. It has been well received by the congregations including the young people.

We had given ourselves three years to get the Sunday sermon on the web but one of the lads did it in a week!

The planned new meeting for conversation for international women had its first leaders meeting in October and 10 people showed an interest in leadership and supporting. This was very encouraging and bodes well.

The improvements to the kitchen were dedicated on 4<sup>th</sup> October and will be a great asset to our social life and hospitality.

### **St Mary the Less**

Lay Pastoral Team established January 2009

Planning permission received, and DAC support for extension to parish room fund. Raising begun...over a third of the way!

- To sustain and develop our Christian fellowship as a City Centre Church
- To extend our outreach within the local community
- To emphasise the important architectural and archaeological features of the Church and its surroundings including the distinctive wild garden

### **St Paul**

### **St Philip**

A Fresh Expression begun – monthly – Monday evenings at 6pm  
 'Alongsiders' – café community for any who are on their own

Reviewed: Lunch Club and Coffee Morning – looking to be more creative in expressing faith and spirituality.

Buildings (Development) – continuing the long process of raising money and assessing plans.

### **Cherry Hinton St Andrew**

Welcome Pack Designed, completed and being handed out to those who are new. Already 24 handed out, with positive outcomes.

Visual Map completed and displayed in the church of all the involvement we have with the hundreds of children in the parish.

Building and Churchyard have rolling maintenance schemes, and a cost analysis has been carried out for the church centre, with a view to its development as a community centre.

### **Cherry Hinton St John the Evangelist**

St John the Evangelist is a parish church located south of Cambridge city centre and is just over 100 years old. A large part of our membership are fairly local, and we are blessed by having a wide age profile. This is reflected in our Mission Action Plan.

Mission Action Plan targets are in the areas of:

- Prayer, scripture and Christian education
- Accessibility and communication
- Youth work
- Presence in the community

Achievements so far include:

- Dedicated area for prayer and reflection created
- Welcoming area for children and young families established
- Youth group re-launched Autumn 2009
- Regular gatherings for the elderly taking place

### **Grantchester**

#### **1. ATTRACT ATTENTION FROM PASSERS-BY:**

Buy banner to hang outside the Church:

‘Family Service this Sunday: 10.30

Mothering Sunday: This Sunday: 10.30

Easter Services this Week-End

Sunday Half-hour this week: 6.30

Harvest Festival this Sunday: 10.30

Grantchester Remembers: this Sunday: 10.30

Christmas Services’

#### **2. KEEP THE CHURCH OPEN EVERY DAY:**

Continue to keep the Church unlocked in daylight house everyday

#### **3. INCREASE THE CHURCH’S ITEMS OF INTEREST AND SPIRITUAL HELP:**

Buy a map of the world and stick pins in to show where visitors have come from under the heading: ‘GRANTCHESTER: A CHURCH FOR THE WORLD’. Invite signatures in Visitor’s Book. Make side-chapel into an area for private prayer. Put up a board for Intercession Requests and us in Sunday services. Stock leaflets, ‘Have you lost a loved one?’, ‘Do you feel lonely?’, ‘Are you worried about family, friends, your health, your livelihood?’.

#### **4. SHOW THE VILLAGE THE HUMAN FACE OF THE CHURCH:**

*Priest and Westcott Ordinand* to knock on every door in the village, introduce themselves, and invite to church.

5. FRESHEN THE SERVICES BY BUYIN NEW HYMNBOOKS AND SINGING NEW HYMNS:

An order has been place for the latest Kevin Mayhew collection of *Hymns, Old and New*. Our new organist, a former organ scholar at Girton, is rebuilding the choir and setting up an occasional children's choir.

6. INTERESTING VISITORS KEEP CONGREGATIONS INTERESTED:

Continue the practice of inviting relevant visiting speakers. This year we have had Sister Gila Margolis, a Roman Catholic Jew, who founded the Little Sisters of Joy to build bridges between faiths. She not only spoke but sang in Hebrew. On Racial Justice Sunday, the Priest interviewed Dr Salah Al-Bander, from a Muslim home in Sudan, where he was imprisoned for political dissent and is now an International expert on Human Rights. On Remembrance Sunday Matthew Baker, ex-Trinity, Cambridge, a former army officer in Northern Ireland during the troubles spoke of his work in Afghanistan up until August 2008 with the Princess Diana Anti-land mine Trust. Services have also been taken by Bishop Peter Walker, Bishop Simon Barrington-Ward, Archdeacon John Beer, Canon Martin Seeley (Principal, Westcott House), James Buxton (Chaplain of Corpus Christi College), Margarita Roberts, Dr Rachel Nicholls. Two Westcott Ordinands in placement, Anne Howson and Trin Laing have brought an extra sparkle, especially to Family Services. Interesting Visitors from a variety of ages, genders and experiences will be sought.

7. MAINTAIN FAMILY SERVICES AND GODLY PLAY

Numbers have continued to grow for Family Services, especially when they were brought together with a Baptism. A Harvest Festival and Baptism brought 200 to Church in October. This is worth developing.

### **Trumpington**

In January 2009, Trumpington Parish Church identified the following Mission Objectives:

1. Encourage young families into church.
  - relaunch Junior Church and establish a Junior Choir
2. Outreach to the local community
  - re-establishing the role of the church in community life
3. Become more active in supporting people and communities less fortunate than ourselves
4. Build up church attendance at all services, encouraging the congregation to 'try' other services other than their usual

A Good Friday children's event with Newnham and Grantchester began the process of working in partnership to look to reach out to children and younger families. The church also organised social events geared towards engaging with the local community.

In September 2009, the Revd Andy Chrich began as the new Vicar of the parish.

The Church has recently held two successful All-Age Communion events at the beginning of October and November which have attracted families and children into church. It is planned to continue with these monthly All-Age Services. As part of the Ely 900 Celebrations we ran a children's club for three sessions in Fawcett County Primary School. The children were very enthusiastic about the club so in response to their demand we now run a fortnightly club after school on Tuesdays. 16 children attended the first session of the new club.

Junior Choir is now up and running and the children will sing publicly for the first time at the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. We have an enthusiastic group of 18 children which is very encouraging.

It is hoped to develop a regular Sunday Junior Church once the Old Bakehouse in the grounds of the Old Vicarage have been converted to create a meeting room and office next door to the

Church. This very helpful extra space should make it easier to run a good lively Junior Church programme.

Over the last year, attendance at Sunday Worship has gradually increased, and average attendances are around 15% up on the same time last year.

The church has made good use of Social Activities to reach out to the community and the Harvest Open Day and Harvest Supper were particularly popular.

There is still much to be done but encouraging progress is being made towards meeting the Mission Objectives. We intend to revisit our Mission Action Plan in the New Year.

## **FORDHAM AND QUY**

### **Ashley**

- ✚ Weekend Festival to build links with the village. This was a wonderful event involving a flower festival, childrens art competition and exhibition, a Summer concert and a Songs of Praise. Many local people came and enjoyed visiting the Church and getting involved.
- ✚ Outreach to local young families. We held a Teddy Bears picnic this Summer – over 30 people came and enjoyed a treasure hunt, parachute games, puppet show, action songs and stories – and a picnic with our teddies. It was a happy and relaxed occasion and has already led to more contact with these families and two children coming for a Thanksgiving service.
- ✚ Nurturing Christians. We held an Emmaus based course in the Spring and two members of the congregation attended and were later confirmed in their faith by Bishop David.
- ✚ Promote the church for prayer: the Church is now open every day and a prayer corner established, and prayer cards etc available. A walk around guide is in its final draft.

### **Bottisham**

‘Messy Mondays’ toddler’s messy play group well established in Church every week.  
RE:NEW ‘Sunday Club’ attracting 80+ every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Bottisham Primary School.  
Family Service restyled to be more child friendly and led by joint clergy/lay team.  
Morning Prayer Service introduced once a month to replace Hoy Communion.  
‘Bottisham Meeting Point’ meeting every Wednesday morning in Queens Court.  
Initiated project for removing pews from north aisle and replacing with chairs.

### **Brinkley**

We have provided a large clear notice board outside the church gate advertising the times of services.

### **Burrough Green**

We have opened the church during daylight hours  
Provided a children’s corner with toys and books.  
Improved the notice board  
Provided literature to facilitate prayer

### **Burwell with Reach**

Youth Work - First Youth Alpha and Youth Festival

St Mary's Neighbours - over this past year we have helped by providing meals, doing gardening, walking a dog, sitting with someone to give the carer a break, driving someone to visit their husband on a weekly basis & putting out the rubbish!

Re-ordering of building – Statements of Significance and Need accepted by the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

Overseas outreach – Continuing support for our CMS partners during a difficult year for them; increased support for the Samaritan's Purse shoebox appeal and another successful youth programme with our friends from Germany and Hungary.

### **Carlton**

We have continued to offer Family Worship with great refreshments afterwards 5 times a year.

We have enjoyed a wonderful Choral Evensong.

We have replaced the old altar cloth and linen.

### **Cheveley**

Welcome

*The Church* – Now open every day throughout daylight hours. Church and village information is displayed. There is a specific prayer corner for quiet prayer and contemplation. A 'walk around' church guide and visitors welcome cards are provided.

*Services* – A member of the congregation is always available to welcome people to services and refreshments are served afterwards.

*Communication* – Our new partnership website is up and running [www.cheveleygroup.org](http://www.cheveleygroup.org) – giving full details of all services and social events.

The annual partnership yearbook is delivered to every household and the partnership magazine, available monthly by subscription, is full of information both secular and religious.

Pastoral Care

A new pastoral care group has been formed within the partnership and authorized by the PCCs. The group has established its policies, received training in bereavement, working with vulnerable adults and listening skills.

Members of the group visit the bereaved and the sick, at home or in hospital and meet regularly for supervision.

It is hoped that other people may be encouraged to join the group in due course.

Outreach

Pre School Children + Parents/Carers

The Ark for pre-schoolers and carers restarted in January 2009. Each session has a theme with story, songs, crafts and activities. The stories are often told in the manner of Godly Play or through using drama and movement.

This term we have focussed on harvest and the story of the Lost Sheep. The children enjoyed going round the church to gather the fruit and vegetables and being the lost sheep by hiding around the church.

The children have opportunities to play with our faith based toys including Noah's Ark, large rainbow, Bible animals, wooden Jerusalem and Bethlehem and felt colours of the church year.

The service ends with an opportunity for the children to draw or say their own prayers, followed by a drink and a biscuit.

Primary School Children+ Parents

With the delay in the appointment of the Deanery Youth and children's worker and a shortage of volunteer help, it was decided not to start the after school club this September.

We hope that it will be resourced next year. Meanwhile our Priest has doubled her time commitment to primary school activities and school services in the church (with parents) are being doubled too.

### **Chippenham**

One of our pressing and identified needs is to provide improved facilities (wc, kitchen, even running water!) in our beautiful church, celebrating its 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. Nationally important individuals have contacts with Chippenham, including Erskine May, who lies in our churchyard, writer of the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for the Houses of Parliament and other parliaments using the Westminster Model of Government. The “Rules” are about to be republished in the 24<sup>th</sup> Edition since the original in the 1880’s. Admiral Russell, Lord Orford, who lived in Chippenham Park, and who was the “Nelson” of his century and victor at the Battle of La Hogue, both invited and welcomed William and Mary to the throne of the United Kingdom.

Our Biannual “Music in the Park” fund raiser (10k- desperately needed), in Chippenham Park, the home of our Patron, both draws together the whole community and the local area, and melds the church community into a formidable force in the village.

Our mission for the church is to continue its excellent musical tradition, which enhances regular worship and draws in 450 people each Christmas; but to also make the building comfortable and usable by and for the whole community.

### **Dullingham**

We have improved the notices on the board.

Put literature in the church to facilitate prayer

Started to plan the After School Club

### **Fen Ditton**

#### **Fordham**

The church has identified the need for increasing and deepening links with our outstanding church primary school. Already church members serve as Foundation Governors, and volunteer at the school in a variety of capacities. Our Nature Pals, environmental group meeting twice a month after school, provides links with parents and children, as well as answering a need in the village for after school clubs. Recently the whole school formed up on the playground for an assembly when the whole school community made a “smiley face” for God.

Our links with children and young people include a rejuvenated Sunday School, a growing Junior Choir, and a newly formed Youth Group, Sundays@6 (more on our Isleham page).

We have also just begun a new monthly ‘baby and toddler’ service, which is encouraging the pre-school in the village and many of our Baptism families into church; and in their faith.

Much of the mission of this church is based on our continued engagement with the village community and we continue to think of, and pray for, new initiatives to grow the church in terms of both people and in terms of growing our own faith. We have revitalised the Parish Magazine which now goes, free of charge, to every household – every group and organisation contributes and it is a real service to the village. We have also formed good relationships with the Congregationalist church in the village and we now work together for Christian Aid and we share more worship together – it has been and continues to be a blessing.

*Our beautiful church stands at the heart of the community –  
we strive to engage the heart of the community in the church.*

## **Fulbourn**

We have established our church website which is constantly updated. This makes it much easier for visitors to find out about us.

We have installed a new sound system, much more welcoming for all.

We now have Bibles in every pew and new easier to navigate service booklets for most of our services.

We have begun a new 'School of Theology' meeting on Sunday evenings in our church shop, to help people who want to learn more about the Christian faith.

We now have our first ALM, trained in evangelism and mission.

Children are now welcome to receive communion in our churches and several enjoy doing so.

We have established links with our local village toddler group and volunteers from the church now help to run the group providing fantastic links with local families.

We have reordered our South Transept to provide greater space for our new Worship Group and more milling space for people to get to know each other after the service.

We have employed two new Pastoral Assistants to care for others.

## **Great Wilbraham**

Our informal monthly Sunday afternoon service in the local school – 'Xpression' is continuing to grow and bring in many new families.

Children are now welcome to receive communion in our church and several enjoy doing so.

We have a new LLM and a member of our congregation preparing for ordination.

We have raised enough money to repair our church roof and it is now looking amazing! No more drops of rain on the congregation during services!

We are in the process of drawing up plans to reorder our kitchen and toilet facilities to make the church a more welcoming place for future generations.

We have installed a new, sixth bell, in our bell tower which has attracted more bell ringers to the church and the Reception class at our local church were thrilled to be on Anglia News the day the bell was installed.

Our local church school have always been regular visitors at the church but now they are coming twice as often.

## **Horningsea**

### **Isleham**

Our new Youth Group Sundays@6 is based here in Isleham. And this month we are holding our first 'Mini Rave in the Nave in the Styx' – 3 live bands, balloons, bungee run, disco and BBQ! We pray for 200 young people to fill the church.

This venture was made possible by the continued development of our stunning building.

Completed this autumn, the new paved area at the back of the church around the font, with the inclusion of many ancient gravestones uncovered during the restoration work here, has enhanced the building and begun the process of making it user-friendly AND available for use by the community. For our Buildings group, with an increasingly clear vision for the future, it's a never ending task, but we are determined to see the church as a springboard to mission and service rather than a millstone which weighs us down. Our future projects include, re-decoration, new screen door, kitchen and wc and heating (there is none at present!) our overall vision remains to have a building which is both fit for service and comfortable – and which gives us all heart for worship and lifts our spirits. The new floor has certainly begun this process. Our links with the school are developing strongly and many church members serve as governors, and the school visits the church termly for worship. This

ancient and beautiful church proves to be a real delight to the many who visit and to those who come for the occasional offices, the 500 or so who worship at festivals and we hope and pray that by its beauty and stature its witness to Christ and its beacon of prayer are brought nearer to God.

### **Kennett**

Our small but faithful congregation took the brave step to meet for worship just once a month on Sundays, thus making each service a 'bumper' service, rather than 'burdensome' (for an 82 year old churchwarden, and similarly aged congregation) weekly service. Already vastly increased numbers at these special services have given us new impetus to worship and serve. The church. Realising the crucial nature of regular prayer, decided to meet weekly on Monday afternoon, and our strong links with the community school, have meant that we now meet for worship at the end of the school day, and in holiday times, in the home of one of our parishioners. A Fresh Expression for a tiny village on the boundary of Diocese, County & Parish.

### **Kirtling**

Installation of toilet and flower vestry to area at base of Church Tower.  
Disability Audit carried out – actions to be taken in due course, progressively  
Establishment of arts event (*successful concert held with the Fairhaven Singers*)  
Church walk-around guide leaflets (*initial leaflets produced and available*)  
Faith and Prayer Literature now available in free-standing glazed oak cabinet.  
West end of church showing doors from the church to Flower Vestry and Toilet facilities beyond.

### **Little Wilbraham**

We have had several successful concerts in the church, which have encouraged locals who don't come to church to step inside the doors.  
We have increased the scale of our Church Fete to become a major village event involving the whole community.  
Children are now welcome to receive communion in our church.

### **Lode with Longmeadow**

Coffee Morning in Social Club every Wednesday.  
Family Communion Service introduced once a month.

### **Quy**

Coffee Morning meets in Village Hall every Tuesday morning  
Introduced a Morning Prayer Service once a month in place of communion.  
Family Service restyled to be more child friendly and led by joint clergy/lay team.

### **Six Mile Bottom**

#### **Snailwell**

In seeking to co-operate with God's mission here, our doors are ever open to all.  
Our porch, has on occasion, become the home for the night for some who pass through.  
The new path and the new door to be installed (very soon we hope!) in memory of three long time residents, worshippers and contributors to our village will enhance our building, making it even more attractive to those who visit and those who worship regularly.  
The challenge of the small, rural church is met in our service of others;

our outreach in events, both old and new, (Snail racing was seen here first!) seeking to bring the whole community together. The challenge of the Gospel to go out and make disciples is at the heart of our worship and we also take seriously the call to deepen our own discipleship, through prayer, study, discussion and sacrament.

### **Soham**

- 1 Review of work with children and young people
  - *The Junior church is to be restarted after a gap – a new leader has been found.*
  - *Our provision for the very young has been reviewed and plans drawn up to meet their needs. Resources have been identified.*
- 2 Review our services to the elderly – especially in helping them get to church.
  - *A transport scheme has been set up with leaflets to be distributed in the library, surgery etc.*
- 3 Improve our welcome to new worshippers and other visitors.
  - *We have devised a new Visitors' pack for distribution on Sundays and are working with the primary school on a new Visitors' guide for young people.*

### **Stetchworth**

We have improved communication with the village by:

Erecting a new bigger notice board, lowering the fence to make the church more visible.

We have made the church more welcoming by:

Putting up a welcome board with pictures of PCC and news of events on it.

Providing a new smart curtain for the entrance. Providing literature for visitors to facilitate prayer.

### **Swaffham Bulbeck**

Introduced the 'Good News Service' on the first Sunday of every month.

Introduced the 'RE:NEW' outreach service on the fourth Sunday of each month in the primary school.

### **Swaffham Prior**

Strengthened links with Primary School by inviting school choir to sing at Christmas Carol Service, inviting school displays in Church and arranging for the monthly Family Service drama to be put on in school assembly.

Introduced the monthly Family Communion Service.

Agreed to install a toilet/kitchenette in conjunction with the Churches Conservation Trust in St. Cyriac's to serve both St. Mary's and St. Cyriac's.

### **Teversham**

#### **Westley Waterless**

We have kept the services going despite limited support.

Started to plan Children's Altar area.

### **Wicken**

To produce a fresh interpretation of St Laurence's for visitors

- *We launched our new interpretation scheme at our August Flower Festival. New displays have been placed around the building to explain the history and the function of the building and its contents. A superb new display table was commissioned.*

To carry out an audit of church-goers' views

- *This is still a work in progress as the key person identified in the MAP left during the year.*

### **Wood Ditton**

1. Porch – new glazed outer doors installed, creating usable space  
Increased number of Baptisms at Woodditton
2. Successful Ceilidh held to try to attract people new to church  
Annual Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal continues
3. Wider Advertising of Mid-Week Praise
4. Disability Audit completed – action to be discussed  
Temporary toilet installed – feasibility or permanent WC being explored.

## **NORTH STOWE**

### **Bar Hill**

#### **Conington**

Community Picnic held with games and music at Red Hill  
Church Pantomime ('Robin of Red Hill') in production

#### **Cottenham**

A Pastoral Visiting Team has been established.

The PCC now meets every month, and alternates between a business meeting and a meeting to pray for the needs of the Parish. The whole congregation are invited to the meetings of prayer.

For a trial period we have made our monthly All Age Service non-Eucharistic, and are seeking feedback from the congregation.

#### **Fen Drayton**

New Harvest Festival Service for Pre-School and revision of Harvest Festival Service times with Harvest Tea following on from Main Festival Service  
New ideas for Christmas events to reach a wider community

#### **Girton**

1. Girton Festival of History
  - i. Took place on the first weekend of July.
  - ii. Individuals and organisations from different parts of the village took part.
  - iii. Several hundred visitors came to the Church during the weekend.
2. New Doors for the Church
  - i. Installed in July.
  - ii. A great improvement to the access and welcome for the Church.
3. Greater involvement with Youth in the Village
  - i. Represented on a new steering committee for the Girton Youth Worker Project.
  - ii. More work is needed in this area.
4. A new pattern of evening services
  - i. Experimental changes took place in the first half of the year.

- ii. Some success, but no great increase in numbers.
- iii. Further exploration of this area is ongoing.

### **Histon**

Vulnerable Elderly Visiting Team launched in Summer 2009 (for non-church, housebound elderly)

Launched the St Andrew's Centre (STAC) project in October 2009 aiming to raise £1.6 million. (£200,000 pledged personally by PCC members has kick started the appeal)

Vicar, staff and PCC members have attended CPAS Growing Leaders training event with aim of delivering the course from September 2010, to develop lay leadership.

### **Impington**

PCC is studying the potential for launching a Fresh Expression for older people making use of resources from Church Army and others and visiting an existing project.

Replacement of church noticeboard as a key mission objective is progressing with negotiations with council conservation officer for a sensible result.

Developed scheme for offering lifts to church for less mobile members of congregation (Summer 2009).

### **Landbeach**

### **Lolworth**

Church model competition sponsored in Village Show

New Christmas Social Evening for Young People and Families

New Family Worship being planned

### **Longstanton**

"To bring light of Christ to the people of Longstanton."

We are in the process of (possibly) linking the parishes of Over, Willingham and Longstanton and this will, inevitably, involve a process of adapting to new structures.

We wish to develop our ministry to families via:

Mini-Jaffas

JAFFA Club

Messy Church

Under the leadership of our Parish Evangelist, Susan Meah.

We wish to make progress in our plans to provide an extension to the church which will give us toilet facilities, kitchen and space for small groups. Even a modest extension will cost in excess of £250,000 so this is a challenge of faith which we are undertaking.

### **Madingley**

### **Milton**

### **Oakington**

*New Church Hall*

God sent us £327,000 for this project ... For use of church and village.

*Alpha:* 4 attended the 'Life worth Living' course in Kent. 6 members attended the Alpha International Conference prior to the evening Alpha in the church on 16 September 2009. 30 to 40 on the current Alpha Course.

*King's Club:* Now expanded to 3 groups, Infants, Juniors and Lower Secondary. A Personal relationship with Jesus is the aim, baptism the declaration of that aim.

*Kids Aflame:* A new children centred, family oriented service at 10.15am on the second Sunday of each month.

*Little Steps:* A monthly pre-school group that introduces Christian songs, stories and other fun based activities to non church going families.

*Soiree and Concert:* Social outreaches to the whole village very well attended.

*Healing Service:* Monthly Healing Service – powerful evenings in God's presence: many letters of testimony. Physical, Mental and emotional healings.

*Overseas Missions:* Weekly Prayer meeting in house. £86,000 sent in the last year to Uganda for the school, salaries and missionary family. £7,000 shared between Tanzania to build a vicarage and train Ordinands. Vietnam to support the missionary in H.C.M. City. Chad to support missionary work. WEC Literature sent worldwide.

## **Over**

"To bring light of Christ to the people of Over."

We are in the process of (possibly) linking the parishes of Over, Willingham and Longstanton and this will, inevitably, involve a process of adapting to new structures.

We wish to develop our 'Sunday Jaffa' programme for children aged 3-10. When everyone attends we have a great time – unfortunately, attendance tends to be rather spasmodic with some families.

We have also relaunched our mid-week 'Mini-Jaffa' group and numbers have been encouraging. We now need to consider ways of engaging parents more in the Christian story. We wish to make more contact with men. Our recent 'Lyfe for Men' meeting went well and we now need to look at ways of building on this.

## **Rampton**

To build relationships within the congregation, and to better welcome newcomers, we now serve coffee after our 'Church Lite' (family) services twice a month.

The PCC has begun a pattern of alternating a business meeting on month with a meeting to pray for the needs of the parish the next month.

## **Swavesey**

'Sunday Sanctuary' Service shared with Bethel Baptist Church, Swavesey

Joining with other village groups in running 'Compass Café' at Bethel Baptist Church

Development of Lady Chapel to increase versatility as a worship/meeting space

Develop focus on families through Baby And Toddler Service (BATS), Activity Mornings and Sunday School leader training

Survey of parishioners to inform Church Development Plan

## **Waterbeach**

### **Willingham**

Seeking a minister for the Parish

Supporting an Alpha Course as part of a Churches Together Initiative

Developing translations of the church visitor guide in languages including French, German, Spanish and Italian

# GRANTA

## Babraham

### Balsham

#### OUR MISSION ACTION PLAN

- To set up a Benefice Choir to sing at the Benefice Services
- To re-establish House Groups in the four parishes
- To improve the Welcome given to new inhabitants of each village
- To hold an Epiphany Christingle Service in aid of the Childrens' Society

#### PROGRESS

The Choir has been formed and has sung at two services in the Benefice, at the Harvest Festival Service at Weston Colville and at West Wrattling.

We are currently in an Interregnum and we hope that when our new priest comes, hopefully sometime in 2010, he or she will be instrumental in establishing some House Groups.

Some of the Church Wardens have already started to concentrate on welcoming new residents, but this is very much a work in progress.

The Epiphany Christingle Service we hope will take place in January 2011 when we have a new incumbent. As there is already a Christingle Service planned in one of the parishes in Advent 2009 it was felt that this should stand, and that to have another one in January 2010 would be too soon.

### Bartlow

Making Church more accessible by standardising service times: DONE. All morning services now at 10 am!

Rethinking Family Services: all children in the village have been contacted

Making Church and Vestry look more cared for: Vestry cleared and cleaned. Old documents transcribed and put on village website. Pictures re-framed.

Updating church information leaflet: in progress.

### Castle Camps

This is the second of our altar frontals to have been restored by an ecumenical group of local ladies (picture attached to Progress report).

### Duxford

#### Great and Little Abington

##### *Restarting of the Sunday School*

Roots, (the new name for the Sunday School,) has restarted with a bigger team of leaders. Already some newcomers are joining in. There were 21 children at the Harvest Festival.

##### *The Band at the Family Service*

The once monthly Family Service is again enhanced by a band.

##### *Wheels and Squeals*

ON 20 November, the monthly service for pre-school children and their parents or carers is set to begin.

##### *Improving communications*

Communications have been improved with the new monthly article called 'News from the pews' which is printed in the magazine and distributed to every house in the village.

### *Songs of Praise in a Tepee*

More than a hundred villagers from the three parishes of Hildersham, Great and Little Abington joined together on Sunday 21 July in a large Tepee in Hildersham to take part in a special Songs of Praise to celebrate 900 years of Ely Diocese. Rt Revd Dr David Thomson, introduced a hymn he had written based on Psalm 139. There were two choirs, a band and a great variety of musical tradition.

### *Building Ecumenical Relationships*

The ecumenical venture with the three active denominations in the villages took place on 25 October – Bible Sunday. Forty people came along to a presentation on a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands. There was an expression of unity as everyone joined in the Lord's Prayer and a buzz of conversation as people enjoyed refreshments afterwards.

### *The Ongoing Work of the Church*

We continue to seek permission to repair the Sir William Halton monument. A Concert by the English Singers is planned on the 28 November. There is an outdoor nativity planned in December. The work of Mothers' Union goes on. The team of lay people who arrange flowers, clean the churches, keep the buildings in order and who pray continue to sustain the life of the church.

## **Great Shelford**

### **OUR MISSION ACTION PLAN**

- To provide a more hospitable and creative space to accommodate present and new initiatives
- To create a more inviting and practical entrance to the building
- To develop forms of worship more suited to outreach and new uses for the church building

### **PROGRESS**

A design for a community room in the churchyard has been agreed and is now in the planning process. Promises of substantial financial support have been received to help fund it.

Discussion has begun about the refurbishment and weather-proofing of the porch, but progress has been limited because the architect is too busy!

Taize-style worship (eucharistic and non-eucharistic) has been introduced, and a Julian group established for meditative prayer.

## **Harston**

## **Hauxton**

## **Hildersham**

### *Re-energising the relationship with families – Children's Community Art Project*

The newly formed family worship team planned a summer activity. All the village children were invited to join in to make a piece of art. Clay was rolled and cut into the shape of three fish. At a later outdoor family service in August these pieces formed a jigsaw to help tell the story of the feeding of the five thousand. The pieces were painted with glaze and re-fired. The final picture was produced. Now this triquetra is a teaching aid helping everyone to gain greater insight into the Trinity as we delight in something beautiful offered by the children.

### *Making worship accessible – Songs of Praise in a Tepee – Sunday 12 July 2009.*

More than a hundred villagers from the three parishes of Hildersham, Great and Little Abington joined together on Sunday 12 July in a large Tepee in Hildersham to take part in a special Songs of Praise service to celebrate 900 years of Ely Diocese. The theme, Song for a

Journey, was explored in different ways by those who chose hymns. Rt Revd Dr David Thomson, Bishop of Huntingdon, introduced a hymn he had written based on Psalm 139. There were two choirs, a band and a great variety of musical tradition.

*New Worship books have been purchased*

A special Evensong to celebrate the feast day of St Etheldreda (17 October), took place on Sunday 18 October. St Etheldreda is depicted in the wall-paintings and windows at Holy Trinity.

*Re-starting morning prayers*

A Wednesday morning at Hildersham. Showing care to those who visit the church. A warm welcome is offered to visitors. The whole of Abington Primary School visited Holy Trinity on 10 July.

*Creating prayer cards for visitors*

In response to an invitation people composed, found, or produced prayers, photographs or paintings to create prayer designs for bookmarks. These will be available for any visitors from December.

*Supporting the ongoing work*

In addition, The Archdeacon of Cambridge, presided at Holy Communion before the Balsham/Hildersham Ride. The Bible Study continues to flourish. The choir has enlivened the festival services and the special events.

## **Hinxton**

Village Fete and Silent Auction very successful

Pantomime for our three parishes organised for 2 January 2010.

Work completed on north slop Nave roof. Next on the list – rewiring and lighting.

## **Horseheath**

As part of our plan to encourage use of our church building for community functions a local craftsman has fitted this kitchen in the tower.

## **Ickleton**

## **Linton**

## **Little Shelford**

At All Saints Little Shelford, the PCC agreed to establish a Mission Action Committee in January 2009. It began in March and undertook a church-wide consultation in May about how we can best reach out to the un-churched in our area. The Mission Action Committee drew together feedback from our consultation and drafted a Mission Action Plan that reflects the priorities and concerns of the church as a whole. We identified four main strands to mission. These reflect what we currently do and point to areas for development going forward.

Strand 1	Regular services and children's work
Strand 2	Supporting relationship building and one-to-one outreach
Strand 3	Serving the community
Strand 4	Special services and events + Christianity Explored
Goal	The Advance of God's Kingdom

Everything supported by Prayer

The draft Mission Action Plan, built around these four strands, was discussed at our Fellow Workers Morning in September. The intention throughout has been to encourage as wide

participation as possible in the mission activity of the church and to release as much creative mission energy as possible. Members of the church have been encouraged to come forward with new ideas in each strand. The staff members and the Mission Action Committee are actively seeking to develop each strand of our mission activity in various ways over the coming year.

### **Newton**

New monthly children's service started; with a children's choir led by the new MU branch leader.

Each edition of the village magazine (delivered free to every house) now features a letter from one of the Ministry Team on a current topic.

Fortnightly Saturday coffee morning held in the village hall; to help plug the gap left in the community by the closure of the post office.

### **Pampisford**

Started a Sunday school, just once a month in the Village Hall across the road.

After the service the rest of the congregation join the children to see what they have been doing & to share in refreshments.

### **Sawston**

#### **Shudy Camps**

For many years this was a board-up hole in wall. Filled with rubble. Now it is our new Prayer Window. The church is opened every day and people are encouraged to drop in for quiet times.

### **Stapleford**

#### **West Wickham**

##### **OUR MISSION ACTION PLAN**

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##### **PROGRESS**

The Choir has been formed and has sung at two services in the Benefice, at the Harvest Festival Service at Weston Colville and at West Wrattling.

We are currently in an Interregnum and we hope that when our new priest comes, hopefully sometime in 2010, he or she will be instrumental in establishing some House Groups.

Some of the Church Wardens have already started to concentrate on welcoming new residents, but this is very much a work in progress.

The Epiphany Christingle Service we hope will take place in January 2011 when we have a new incumbent. As there is already a Christingle Service planned in one of the parishes in Advent 2009 it was felt that this should stand, and that to have another one in January 2010 would be too soon.

#### **West Wrattling**

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#### **Whittlesford**

A Warmer Church for Everyone!

We have finally made a decision on which sort of new heating system we need to change our cold 'small flat' congregation into a warm 'large, sharp' one! Now fund-raising and seeking the appropriate faculty...

#### **Weston Colville**

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## **SHINGAY**

#### **Abington Pigotts**

There is a new church gardening club

#### **Arrington**

#### **Barrington**

#### **Bassingbourn**

## **Croydon with Clopton**

### **Fowlmere**

### **Foxton**

We have completed Phase 1 i.e. making the belfry suitable for children to use as a crèche  
Fund raising to enable us to start on Phase 2.

### **Guilden Morden**

### **Litlington**

Has been hosting a Book Café, usually on Saturday mornings. Ely 900 was the inspiration  
for this new initiative. Really good coffee served.

### **Melbourn**

### **Meldreth**

### **Orwell**

### **Shepreth**

### **Steeple Morden**

Had a Bible Reading Marathon in the summer, with lots of people helping to read. This also  
helped raise funds for a large restoration project.

### **Tadlow**

### **Thriplow**

### **Wendy w Shingay**

### **Whaddon**

### **Wimpole**

## **HUNTINGDON**

### **Abbots Ripton**

At St Andrew's Church, there are Sunday services to suit all tastes each month; informal  
family worship, well supported by families in the village, Holy Communion and sung Matins.  
St Andrew's Church of England Primary School recently celebrated its Harvest Festival at  
the church, donating gifts to King's Ripton Court, a Salvation Army refuge for young  
homeless people in Huntingdon.

There are now twice termly end of school prayer times for parents and children.

Wood Walton Church (redundant) and its church yard have been lovingly reclaimed from the  
brambles and ivy by the Friends of St Andrew's Church, Wood Walton. Occasional services,  
most recently Harvest festival on a glorious autumn day, are well supported by villagers and

many who have grown to love this building on their daily commute to London.

*Jesus said* "The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree." Mt 13:31-32a

## **Alconbury**

### *1 church worshipping*

- ✓ Single 10am Sunday service achieved
- ✓ Joint Worship team had regular meetings
- ✓ Other teams active in children's work, communication, prayer.
- ✓ Services not advertised as 'Methodist' and C of E'
- ✓ All Age Services continue to flourish and grow

### *Community Engagement*

- ✓ Brownies and others taking fuller part, eg in Mothering Sunday service
- ✓ Big cross design feature given to school for new foyer

### *Community outreach*

- ✓ 'Time Inspired' production a runaway success
- ✓ Prayer cycle for roads in the village now in use
- ✓ Back to Church Sunday established, great answers to prayer, now annual
- ✓ Christmas carol service successfully revamped
- ✓ Holiday Club Apr 2009, > 50 children

### *1 church building for the 21st century*

- ✓ Project 21 launched
- ✓ Anachronistic chancel furniture removed
- ✓ Chancel used as worship space – Maundy Thursday, Easter Day etc
- ✓ Plans for reordering commissioned, drawn, agreed and submitted to DAC. Currently under review

## **Barham**

## **Brampton**

*Objective No 3* Established a Pastoral Care Scheme. First formal Annual Meeting held on Sunday 25 October 2009.

## **Brington**

Unfortunately the Community production of **Foreshadowings** has had to be deferred until 2010 because of sudden death of producer's husband.

In the meantime the Harvest Supper was the opportunity for everyone in village to come and eat for free. 60 people accepted and the Harvest Auction which followed raised in excess of £500 which was given to the East Anglia Children's Hospice

## **Buckworth**

## **Bythorn**

## **Covington**

## **Easton**

## **Ellington**

## **Fenstanton**

### *Pastoral Care*

- Form new House groups
- Maintain people contact
- Develop existing Visiting group

### *Community Links*

- Maintain Welcome
- Encourage events and services
- More publicity

## **Godmanchester**

- Community outreach leaflet produced
- Liturgical banners created
- Moving towards Fairtrade status by serving and selling Fairtrade products.
- Church 'taxi service' re-vitalised and expanded.
- New home group set up.

## **Grafham**

### **Great Catworth**

*Objective 1:* Content and attendance of lay lead Worship4All services improving. Occasional post service lunches have been appreciated. The Back to Church Sunday service was particularly successful. We treated our Harvest Festival as another Back to Church service: attendance increased and the following supper and auction attracted strong support

*Objective 2:* Village lunches. Two lunch teams now recruited and in operation. This programme is a popular exercise in outreach.

*Objective 3:* Pastoral Care. A number of people have undertaken to look after every part of the village. So far they are monitoring comings ( delivering a welcome letter with useful village information ) and goings; identifying needs ; keeping the P.I.C informed. It is hoped that this programme may be developed further

*Objective 4:* Efforts have been made to keep the congregation informed of progress via word of mouth, the notice board in church and the group parish magazine " Village Matters " .

"Ely 900" : The PCC have undertaken a number of works in the church to make it more user-friendly and flexible, such as the removal of some pews, improved lighting and heating, installation of an audio system with hearing aid loop. To celebrate the Centenary therefore they invited the local amateur dramatic society to stage a production in the church The Revue " St Leonard Strikes Back " resulted, with enormous success. Over 150 people from a population of 360 spent a happy evening in the church and it is hoped that the potential of the building for community events is established.

### **Great Gidding**

The local post office eventually closed in mid July although the general shop remains open at present. Informal arrangements are in place to transport those who need it.

The Friends of St Michael's is a very active group and this is acknowledged in the annual Friends Weekend which this year included the Harvest Festival on Saturday Evening followed by Harvest Supper at the pub and an Art Exhibition in the Church on Sunday ending with a short service of Compline. A couple who are not churchgoers are keen to repeat the event in 2010.

During the summer a number of concerts were held in the church which included Georgian Sacred Music, Music for Organ and Trumpet and Jazz from the American Songbook. During the year another young family joined the regular congregation and whilst few in number there is an enthusiasm among the Mums to organise and hold Toddler Services. The PCC are very supportive of this initiative and have agreed to provide screening, localised heating and resources

### **Great Stukeley**

Great and Little Stukeley in the Huntingdon Team are looking at holding more functions in the Village Halls and holding open days for Patronal Festivals.

### **Hamerton**

#### **Hartford**

1. To develop our work with children and young people.

We have recently started a second (older) youth group and our young people planned and led a morning service which the congregation loved.

2. To develop the profile of the church in the wider community through advertising in various ways.

We have prepared welcome packs for those new to the community. Large banners advertising events are currently being made. 1000 postcards of the church have been printed for various uses.

3. To further develop the prayer life of the church.

We have begun monthly creative prayer times and have invited Jane Keiller to help us develop our prayer life.

### **Hemingford Abbots**

The installation of new heating was completed in November 2009 which has already made a difference to church attendance during the last winter and provided for a comfortable space to use during the week.

Our first priority was to establish a 'Prayer Corner' in the Lady Chapel with aids to pray for those frequent visitors to the church. This is becoming well established and the introduction of votive candles and added point of engagement for those from other traditions for whom lighting candles in prayer is a helpful engagement with God.

**Coffee Mornings** The acquisition of café tables and chairs has enabled us to create a meeting place by provided 'real' fair-trade coffee on one morning each week. This was begun in September when we were also able to host the Macmillan coffee morning when the usual venue became unavailable. So far this has attracted young mothers and their children as well as older members of the community.

The new space in front of the chancel created by moving some of the furnishings during the installation of the heating has provided a space which can be used for 'events'. The first of these was held on October 18<sup>th</sup>, a concert with the New Cambridge Singers in support of the aims of the Friends of St Margaret's

### **Hemingford Grey**

#### *Refurbishment of Parish Centre*

This project has attracted a significant grant so that the initial idea of creating a coffee shop will lead to alterations and extension to provide a coffee shop and venue for *Fresh*

#### *Expressions of church*

#### *Repair and refurbishment of St James Church*

This major project is reaching completion of its exterior phase to weather-proof the building and provide new drainage. Preparation for internal works has begun.

#### *Welcome of Disciples on the Way of Faith*

Two rites for the welcome of new adult Christians has been the fruit of sowing seeds of the gospel over years and through some new initiatives, for example 'Pints of View' which meets in The Cock on Sunday evenings.

### **Hilton**

#### **Houghton w Wyton**

##### *Parish Centre Progress*

Our plan was to build a small extension on the side of the Church. However, just as we were about to start building, the URC offered us the opportunity to buy their Chapel Retreat Centre, a large two storied building sited opposite the Church. This exciting purchase will give us more space as it already has toilet and kitchen facilities and will enable us to develop the needs, not only of our congregation, but also those within the village community.

##### *God's Gang*

Our Sunday School continues to grow. We now have children aged from 2 to 14 years old, presently meeting in the village School. We have an enthusiastic core of older children whom we hope will form the basis of a Youth Group. Our purchase of the Chapel Centre will enable us to have a designated God's Gang/Youth area within the building. Already exciting equipping and decoration is being planned for this new venture. A new God's Gang Music Group has been formed and it is hoped that they will participate in varied Church Services.

##### *Parish Needs*

We had a very positive result from our Church Family with new volunteers coming forward to use their talents as their gift to God. These varied from administration, cake-making, church cleaning, computer skills, musicians, singers, servers and sidespeople.

#### **Huntingdon All Saints**

All Saints' Huntingdon and St Mary's are involved in a dedicated Discernment Process facilitated by the Grubb Institute to give us a clearer overview of the town and greater understanding of the role of our Churches in this place.

#### **Huntingdon St Barnabas**

1. Developing links with the uniformed organisations that meet in the church.  
We have met with the leaders of the Beavers and Cubs and have been invited to host a Carol service in church.
2. Developing links with the St Barnabas Learning Centre  
The relationship continues to strengthen – I was involved in raising £5,000 at a local grant funding event.
3. Putting on creative meditative services such as Celtic and Taize worship  
We have successfully put on two services open to the whole team which folk have found very helpful

#### **Huntingdon St Mary**

All Saints' Huntingdon and St Mary's are involved in a dedicated Discernment Process facilitated by the Grubb Institute to give us a clearer overview of the town and greater understanding of the role of our Churches in this place.

## **Keyston**

## **Kimbolton**

### **King's Ripton**

At St Peter's Church, King's Ripton, there is one Sunday service each month, either morning prayer or a special service such as Harvest Festival or Remembrance. In addition, the church is now open on Tuesdays for morning prayer. Parishioners can pop in to pray or have a chat and a cup of coffee and there are plans to establish a book exchange in the new year. The church works alongside Abbots Ripton, with many parishioners attending worship at both churches. There is also a joint Bible study group which meets fortnightly.

After a period of neglect, new life had been breathed into this old building. The churchyard has been lovingly restored and is being maintained, and a programme of adaptations inside is under way to enable it to be more useful to the wider community. At the back of the church pews have been removed and flag stones laid. This enabled the church to host a highly successful harvest supper this year and other social events such as ballroom dancing and children's parties.

Plans to adapt the front of the church will create a more flexible space for less formal worship and concerts. More importantly, the ongoing process of fund-raising and renovation seeks to ensure that this church continues as a worship space for future generations of villagers.

*Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven." Matt.5:14, 16.*

### **Leighton Bromswold**

Music and Verse Evening held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July was usual great success. It is still hoped that this event might be extended in the future.

The Leighton Village Festival in September was organised by the church and the Village Social Committee and held in a marquee on the playing field. Events included a jazz concert, evening entertainment with barbecue, Back to Church Sunday Service and Picnic in the Park. Donations received enabled £226 to be sent to East Anglia Air Ambulance

### **Little Stukeley**

Great and Little Stukeley in the Huntingdon Team are looking at holding more functions in the Village Halls and holding open days for Patronal Festivals.

### **Molesworth**

History of Molesworth Church is available. Ongoing efforts to promote church and other village links included Rogation Sunday Lunch at the pub and the Fun Day which accompanied the re-opening of the Village Hall following refurbishment.

Organising a joint Harvest Festival, Supper and Auction with Old Weston was agreed a great success and will be repeated in 2010.

### **Old Weston**

Planning group made up of regular church members and others organised a World War II Fun Day at the beginning of July. The event (including a flypast by the Red Arrows) was

held in and around the Village Hall with many people dressed appropriately for the era. A great day thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Organising a joint Harvest Festival, Supper and Auction with Molesworth was agreed a great success and will be repeated in 2010.

### **Spaldwick**

### **Stow Longa**

### **Tilbrook**

### **Upton and Copmanford**

### **Winwick**

## **ST IVES**

### **Bluntisham**

Storykeepers drama club introduced into Earith Primary School

Open the Book introduced into Bluntisham Primary and Earith Primary Schools

Alpha reintroduced

Fresh Expression in Earith in process of being formed.

Music Makers still in process

But in addition, we have begun Messy Church as a joint venture between Colne and Bluntisham

### **Broughton**

### **Bury**

### **Colne**

Alpha reintroduced

Open the Book introduced into Bluntisham Primary and Earith Primary Schools

Men's breakfast has taken place. There is another one planned.

Music Makers introduced – pre school children and carers

### **Holywell**

Fresh Expression introduced twice a month

Open the Book introduced into Holywell CofE School

Alpha introduced

Music Makers still in process of being introduced

### **Old Hurst**

#### *Worship*

Objective: To keep St Peter's moving forward and relevant to the community

Action: Personal letter to Parish from Rector informal follow by the PCC

Timescale: Immediate and forward

#### *Communion and Confirmation*

Objective: To continue to encourage both adults and children to come to confirmation. To begin to think about a policy for developing Communion before confirmation

Action: Both adults and children are regularly invited to take part in instruction for Confirmation

Timescale: Confirmation ongoing. Children's communion before confirmation continued discussion.

#### *Worship Patterns*

Objective: To begin to encourage and develop different forms of worship along the lines currently being explored with particular attention to further revision to Evensong

Action: Ongoing discussion relating to service relevance to reflect specific needs of a very small parish.

Timescale: ongoing

#### *Benefice Groups and courses*

Objective: Communal support and education

Action: Discussion groups and meetings

Timescale: Ongoing.

### **Pidley**

Training / Groups set up for Occasional Offices:-

Baptism                  Marriage                  Bereavement          Prayer

Dedication of the Benefice Library.

Fresh Expressions of worship.

Special themed Quarterly Evensongs.

### **Ramsey**

1. We are holding an annual Alpha Course and are following up by having cell groups with a pastoral leader. At present we have eight groups.

2. We have started a monthly lunch for senior citizens called Becket Seniors.

3. We have a group visiting the North Kigezi Diocese in Uganda in August next year to strengthen links and provide support.

### **Ramsey St Mary**

### **St Ives**

### **Somersham**

Training / Groups set up for Occasional Offices:-

Baptism                  Marriage                  Bereavement          Prayer

Fresh Expressions:-

"4 : 30 Live " every month.

An activity centred theme event for fellowship, families, and the community of any age.

Children and young people:-

Community group 12 to 16 meet for activities once a week.

Special events: - Christmas Nativity; Good Friday activity morning, visits by uniformed organisations.

Little saints event once a quarter. Upwood

### **Warboys**

### **Wistow**

### **Woodhurst**

Training / Groups set up for Occasional Offices:-

Baptism      Marriage      Bereavement      Prayer

Mission and Outreach:-

First Saturday of the month. - Open Church with coffee, tea, paperback book swap and engagement with the wider community.

Coffee      Community      Books

## **ST NEOTS**

### **Abbotsley**

Outreach to mission

Raised awareness through prayer in services

Participation in services dedicated to mission in group of parishes

Participation in services at primary school involving children of the parish

Visit of Father Chad Gandiya from USPG now Bishop of Harare, Zimbabwe.

### **Buckden**

*Buckden's Living Stones*

Work progressing well on the church extension comprising toilets, kitchen and meeting rooms, most of which is being built by members of the congregation – the whole church community has been involved.

*Stepping Stones*

The new monthly service is a place for young families to grow in faith

[www.A1church.org](http://www.A1church.org)

Resources 'for the journey' online and in church - prayer and care for those on journeys up and down the A1 who stop to rest in the village, and for those just on the journey of life and faith.

*Saturday coffee*

Coffee and cakes in church every Saturday morning is a great place to enjoy fellowship with friends old and new, and encourage local people and visitors to pop into church.

Parish: St Mary's, Buckden (Deanery of St Neots)

God is at work in Buckden! To find out what else is going on,

visit [www.stmarysbuckden.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbuckden.org.uk)

### **Diddington**

Completion September 2009 of the 24/7 Project bringing new facilities into St Laurence for community use. Cost £38,000- funded by grants and local fundraising. Concerts and local history exhibitions are now being planned for 2010.

Dedication of the new facilities led by Bishop David September 2009.

Canon Alan Hargrave and Bishop David in a "Question and Answer Session" at Diddington Church September 29<sup>th</sup> 2009 as part of the Benefice Mission Week.

### **Everton**

Recent innovations: Services for Toddlers and Young Families and Parish newsletter.

### **Eynesbury**

Church Web Site Set Up

New Joint Magazine with St Neots Church

Party and service with St Neots Church for "Getting to know you" to establish closer links in work and mission together.

“Friends of St Mary” set up – developing contacts with the wider parish.

### **Gamlingay**

*Chat groups:* Open discussions on topical issues. Meetings are held in a local pub and at private houses.

*Communication:* Improve awareness of the Church in the village. Production of a leaflet covering the church’s activities and services.

*Community:* Get actively involved with the youth of the village. Provide more facilities for the elderly.

### **Great Gransden**

Encourage people attending All Age Worship Services to take a more active role in the daily life of the Church. Arranged a Church yard day and Church spring clean. Young family came forward to regularly cut the grass. Young mums came forward to help with Fairtrade stall.

Bring together a group of younger people with young children to share ideas. Arranged talk by Heather Dowman about the work done with children and young families in Warboys.

Encourage young people to attend. Assess feasibility of arranging Christian discussion meetings. Work ongoing – possibility of something across the group of parishes.

### **Great Paxton**

Work on the ‘Living Water Project’ due to be completed November 2009 – bringing new facilities into the Saxon Church and so making the church more available for community use. Cost £86,000, raised from grants and fundraising.

Termly Eucharist Service being held at the Church of England Primary School with all classes joining in and helping to lead the worship.

Bishop David visits the school as part of the Benefice Mission Week.

Village groups use the church more – such as Brownies and key stage year groups for project work.

Holy Trinity – a Saxon Church reaching out to the future.

### **Great Staughton**

*Theme of Hospitality*

Meeting group established; Welcome leaflet in use; Sponsors for Baptisms and Weddings in action; Good Friday Walk; ‘Time and Talents’ Service of Thanksgiving on St Andrew’s Day; Treasure Hunt in Church; Picnic for Tots.

### **Hail Weston**

*Theme of Hospitality*

Church Sponsors visiting and sending anniversary cards to the newly Baptised and Married.

Welcome leaflets have been improved. Church history printed and available in church.

800 year anniversary Church Festival weekend – 8 floral displays depicting 8 significant events (1 for each century) and 1 to celebrate Ely 900.

Harvest Supper and Service held in Village Hall.

### **Little Gransden**

Our aim was to invite all in the village into the church. Events held were:

Leaflet drop arranged for the family service held 1 March and welsh cakes served afterwards.

Invites issued for Mothering Sunday

Back to Church Sunday attracted some additional congregation

Heather Dowman talk arranged on 'Welcoming visitors to church'

All Age services held monthly.

Continued provision of Sunday School

### **Little Paxton**

\*St James Cares – the new pastoral care support group set up Easter 2009. 10 members offering pastoral care to the village of Little Paxton

\*Harvest Mission “ Back to The Future” took place 27<sup>th</sup> Sept- 4<sup>th</sup> October with Bishop David – including visits to local schools.

\*Plans prepared for re-ordering of Little Paxton Church “ CHUFT” – Church For Tomorrow. Launch to village community 25<sup>th</sup> October 2009. Work planned to start Spring 2011. Major fundraising campaign begins to raise £300,000. Preliminary repair work to drainage completed in October 2009

\* Christmas Tree Festival planned for December 2009 in church involving whole community.

\* Bishop David’s visit to the local school furthered our progress towards setting up regular children’s work complementing our existing Advent and Easter workshops.

### **Offord D’Arcy**

*Welcome to All Saints*

A new illustrated church guidebooklet has been produced, along with notelets and cards to raise the profile of the church in the local community, and for the first time, church keys are available at the Village shop so that visitors and local residents can have access to the church during the week.

We also have a new website (see below) and are in the process of putting up two new notice boards to advertise church and community events.

*Family Service – the kettle’s on...*

For the first time ever hot and hold drinks and biscuits are being served after the monthly family service - lots of people have stayed and chatted and got to know each other better. The family service has been moved to 9.30am so that it is in line with other services during the month, and to make it easier for families to attend church and still have the rest of the day as a family – and to help create more overlap between the family service congregation and other services.

There are also plans afoot for a new ‘lower threshold’ communion service.

*Growing together in faith*

Two of the Girl Guides and some of the Guide leaders and other adults have been preparing for confirmation over the last year, and we are excited about hosting the first confirmation service in the church in living memory!

Parish: All Saints, Offord (Deanery of St Neots)

God is at work in Offord! To find out what else is going on,

visit <http://sites.google.com/site/allsaintsofford>

### **St Neots**

We are about to begin preparing children to receive communion from age 7 at church and in St Mary’s VA Primary School

We are beginning a ministry to the new Love’s Farm estate through work with the new Round House School, monthly fellowship meetings and in community involvement

We took part in Back to Church Sunday

We have held our first joint service with St Mary's Eynesbury and are looking at other ways of joining together in work and witness

## **Southoe**

### **Waresley**

*Encourage people to attend – particularly children and those in the 30 to 40 age group:*

Persistence with a monthly Family/All Age Service is finally beginning to pay off. At the September service we had eight children attend instead of the usual two. And with the children come both parents and grandparents.

*Financial Stability:*

The PCC appointed a new treasurer – how fortunate we are to find someone to continue the efficiency of our last treasurer and someone with fresh ideas and contacts. Gift Aid Envelopes were reintroduced this year with a positive result.

*Strengthen Life on the Community:*

A number of special services were organised this year in the attempt to appeal to a wider audience. All were well attended. With the completion of the Bell Project a team of bell ringers was formed. Joining the team are six newcomers to the art none of which are regular Churchgoers.

## **YAXLEY**

### **Alwalton**

Our Mission Action Plan focussed mainly on work with children and the church.

In October we held an open morning for parents to come to the Whizz Kids and Pathfinder groups to see the sorts of things their children do in the groups.

After the service, the congregation went over to the village hall to join the children for refreshments.

At the end of services when children have been in their groups and they come back to the church building, some of them report back on what they have been doing.

In December, we will hold a Christingle service in the local primary School, to develop links with the school.

### **Chesterton**

Project: The connection of mains water supply and installation of internal kitchen and toilet facilities. Project Name "Michaels"

Sub Committee of PCC appointed

12 March 2009 – Site visit of DAC

27 May 2009 – Architect appointed to draw up plans

22 September 2009 – Pre-faculty consultation with English Heritage for Churches form completed

2 October 2009 – Plans to be discussed at DAC meeting.

Project – ongoing.

### **Elton W Stibbington and Water Newton**

In the united benefice of Elton, Stibbington and Water Newton, we have held church services with the school and local community – Mothering Sunday and May Day, parents are invited to school communions and everyone to the end of term service.

Over the summer holiday period we held joint services with Alwalton and Chesterton.

We have not yet followed up on inviting families who had children baptised over the last twelve months, this is still outstanding at present.

### **Farcet**

### **Fletton**

- Work achieved on making the church building more secure – commissioning of metal porch gates, and replacement and protection of north aisle windows. Steps taken to improve and make the churchyard environs safer – through improving visibility at ground level, using the building more, commissioning replacement noticeboard, and exploring provision of enhanced lighting.
- Strong and ongoing link formed with St Theresa's in Peterborough to gather donations from the congregation of supplies required by them for use in their work with the needy of the city.

### **Folksworth**

We have been very pleased with the progress of MAP in our parishes.

'Family Folkus' (Café Style service in the School) has continued to develop – we are looking forward to an autumn children's workshop day which has over 50 children booked on it.

We had a Good Friday walk of witness and open air service in Stilton.

In June we held an out door service in Folksworth for the Ely 900 celebrations, with a Tea. All village organizations were invited.

We have experimented with a Café Style service at Stilton. This was very successful and will be repeated.

These events and activities match well the pattern proposed on our MAP.

### **Glatton**

Contact with families at Easter Special

Young members from Sawtry and Glatton attended Yaxley Deanery BBQ

Extract from Parish magazine:

Dear Readers,

Our magazine this month is a special one concentrating on the Parish of Glatton and its Church of St Nicholas.

The Parochial Church Council decided that a copy of Church News should go into every house in the village, so don't be surprised if you have received it!

There is lots going on in the village:

- A special Family Service in Church on 7 June at 10.30am
- Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust on 14 June at 2.00pm
- Church Fete at Glatton Hall on 27 June at 2.00pm
- Glatton Open Gardens on July 18 from 2.00-5.00pm

Your Rector and friend

Malcolm Griffiths.

### **Haddon**

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All village organizations were invited.

We have experimented with a Café Style service at Stilton. This was very successful and will be repeated.

These events and activities match well the pattern proposed on our MAP.

## **Hampton**

### **Holme with Conington**

Welcome pack for new parishioners well advanced, co-ordinator agreed, and volunteers identified to distribute packs to both villages

Light Party for Primary age children being held on October 31<sup>st</sup>

Primary school involvement in Sunday services commenced and lunch time “Christian Explorers Club” at primary school led by church members due to start in November at the suggestion of the Head Teacher

Advent home group expected to be established

Meeting scheduled for Saturday 14 November to draft a revised Mission Action Plan for 2010.

### **Morborne**

We have been very pleased with the progress of MAP in our parishes.

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We had a Good Friday walk of witness and open air service in Stilton.

In June we held an out door service in Folksworth for the Ely 900 celebrations, with a Tea.

All village organizations were invited.

We have experimented with a Café Style service at Stilton. This was very successful and will be repeated.

These events and activities match well the pattern proposed on our MAP.

## **Orton Goldhay**

### **1. Follow up Baptism & Thanksgiving Services:**

We now have two church parents who are ‘looking after’ the most recently baptised children. These children are part of our youngest group in Sunday School (God’s Bods) and will be specially invited with their families to the Christingle service next month.

### **2. Follow up Bereaved, especially individuals, after funerals:**

An annual Bereavement service is held in early November to which every bereaved family with whom we have had contact has been invited personally. Particularly appreciated is the opportunity to go forward and light a candle in remembrance, when a loved one’s name is read out.

The Minister and Lay Reader have carried out initial visits to bereaved people, and other members of the congregation have helped afterwards where appropriate. There is a need to recruit and train more people for this work. Space is now available at our monthly Lunch Club, so newly bereaved people can once again be welcomed into that group.

### **3. ‘Social’ Events (with special reference to the people who use the building during the week but never on Sunday):**

a) A number of **Christmas events** are planned involving community groups and local schools

b) The recent **Harvest Hog Roast** was an opportunity to invite both friends and family from the community along to church to celebrate God’s goodness to us.

c) **Lunch Club** continues to meet monthly, offering a social event for older people in the community and the opportunity to stay on for Holy Communion afterwards.

#### **4. Children's Work:**

a) All the children's and young people's work, ranging from 1-20+ yrs continued.

b) Many of the church family were involved in running the **Easter Holiday Club** (SU 'Champion's Challenge') for primary schoolchildren, which ran in Holy Week. This culminated in a club/café style Easter Service. This was followed up by a club reunion and activity mornings during the summer holidays.

c) Two groups of young people went to **Christian Holiday Camps** during the summer holidays.

d) At the end of August, Christ Church was one of the venues for **Street Invaders** (a Peterborough wide venture) which, as well as encouraging local youngsters along to special evening meetings, also included some local community work – digging over flower beds in the nearby shopping centre, ready for local schools to replant.

A small number of teenagers, contacted during Street Invaders, have continued to meet regularly on a social basis at Christ Church. The two leaders of this new group, Vivid, hope this will be the beginning of a project where the church can provide a safe resource centre, where young people from the locality (often disadvantaged) can address some of the issues they face in their lives, both emotionally and practically.

#### **Orton Longueville**

1. The Trinity Project – Supplying the Church with a meeting room, toilet facilities, flexible space and a kitchen. Project completion dated: April 2010
2. Enquirer Courses – Currently running the 2 Course of 2009 – Christianity Explored.
3. Youth Club – plans being drawn up to begin in late 2010.

#### **Orton Waterville**

Youth Work (Parachute Drop)

ALM now in training as LLM

Work Completed on wheelchair ramp, door repaired

Other work in hand.

#### **Sawtry**

Teenage 'Seekers' group had great BBQ

Welcoming the newly baptised at All-Age service

Outreach to the village through schools.

#### **Stanground**

Part of our MAP was to finish this project. After years of planning and fundraising, we recently obtained an interest free loan from Norfolk Historic Churches Trust. Our kitchen and toilet within the church building are now complete. We can now enjoy the use of these facilities, enabling greater use of the building together with more chance of Sunday fellowship and an opportunity to welcome new comers, including those attending the informal service to book a baptism.

ALSO,

R.E.A.C.T

Relax, Enjoy and Chill Time, The name given to our group for eleven years upwards which we began as part of our MAP. The group meet regularly every other week when our group for eight to eleven year olds are not meeting. The young people run the club together with our three dedicated and experienced leaders.

## **Stilton**

We have been very pleased with the progress of MAP in our parishes.

'Family Folkus' (Café Style service in the School) has continued to develop – we are looking forward to an autumn children's workshop day which has over 50 children booked on it.

We had a Good Friday walk of witness and open air service in Stilton.

In June we held an out door service in Folksworth for the Ely 900 celebrations, with a Tea.

All village organizations were invited.

We have experimented with a Café Style service at Stilton. This was very successful and will be repeated.

These events and activities match well the pattern proposed on our MAP.

## **Woodston**

- Planning at advanced stage for removal of pews from north aisle of church to create a flexible space in the building for worship, social and community use. Funding gathered for re-furnishing area with chairs and tables. Enhancement of entrance area by removing obstacles to open view into the building and investigating options for installation of glass porch doors.
- Monthly morning midweek service with time for fellowship afterwards to start in new year.
- Exploration with leadership group of shape and content for new informal Sunday evening worship.

## **Yaxley**

Hosted the Diocesan Exhibition entitled "Celebration of Easter"

New form of fortnightly informal evening worship initiated

Two home groups established

Banners and flags being designed and sewn by members of the church to assist in multi sensory worship

## **ELY**

### **Chettisham**

#### **Coveney**

Harvest Playday: involving 31 kids and 12+adults. Activities included: corn dollies; bread making; plate decorating; how the organ works; bug hunt in churchyard and much more.

So successful that plans are in hand for a Christmas countdown morning plus another Harvest Playday next year. A great achievement for a tiny rural parish!

#### **Ely**

##### *Prayer*

New 'open to God' Parish Prayer Meeting

Home Prayer Warriors set up

##### *Worship*

New Worship Patters for Sunday Morning developed and implemented.

##### *Mission*

Easter Prayer Labyrinth in Holy Week

Children's Holiday Club

*Global Mission*

£4,900 raised for a Water Project in Kigezi

#### *Communication*

New Notice boards

Entire Parish Leafleted twice

#### *Pastoral*

2 New home groups created

New Structures for Youth Ministry.

#### **Ely Cathedral**

PA system overhauled and hearing loop extended to improve audibility.

New style summer holiday activities for children well attended

Edward Bear Club, a story, sun and worship group for Parents and Toddlers on Fridays, is growing.

New Sunday Worship Group for Parents and Toddlers started in September.

Exhibitions to highlight Fairtrade, Holy Land Conflict held and Environment Exhibition planned for November.

New 'easy to read' Prayer Books purchased.

#### **Haddenham**

- developing the group, through weekend with Bishop David; Wardens', Treasurers' and Musicians meetings across the group; regular team meetings; joint services; weekend planned for Pentecost 2010
- Haddenham History Project, celebrating the history of the village, and Haddenham and Wilburton Timetravellers 1109 Holiday Club, exploring life in our villages 900 years ago
- continued to work on Wilburton 21<sup>st</sup> Century project
- developing an understanding of 'Sacred Space' for all age groups and for visitors to the churches
- Bible studies planned for the coming year
- weekly ½ hour of prayer
- Creation Time – 5 weeks of sermons, prayers, children's work, school assemblies, after school clubs etc looking at creation and the environment

#### **Little Downham**

#### **Little Thetford**

Linking in mission with the Baptist Chapel, for example through Girls Brigade, monthly All Age Worship, and special events

Each Tuesday an informal Singing Evening, with band, to learn new worship songs for all ages.

Developing links with Church of England Primary School in the village, especially through assemblies, visits to the church and school and special occasions.

#### **Littleport**

#### **Mepal**

##### Capital Project

Improve access to new burial ground which floods during the winter months. Approval for a drainage scheme has been successfully sought from the DAC and a faculty has now been granted. Funding has also been sought from the parish council who have made a grant of £800 enabling the works to be undertaken.

##### School

We continue to build on developing links between church and school. A much appreciated service was held in school on the last Sunday of August followed by a hog roast. A whole school visit to the war memorial on Armistice day has become a part of the school calendar, with the school also laying a wreath in the presence of the wider community during the Sunday service.

#### Social

An initiative was undertaken by the PCC to have a fellowship time after the 10:30 service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. This has not been straightforward owing to the lack of facilities in the Church but members have been committed to this and have made it happen, by such means as bringing bottled water and taking a crate of mugs home to wash. Their efforts have been rewarded by the appreciation of the congregation. Useful discussions have taken place pastorally during this time.

#### **Prickwillow**

##### **Stretham**

Making links with young families, through 'Little Bears' Parent and Toddler Group.  
Holiday Bible Club for children each summer, and Sunday Club each week.  
Developing links with the village primary school.  
Coffee at the Lion each week, followed by BCP Morning Prayer in Church.

##### **Stuntney**

Development of links with Fenland Lodge Care Home, including a new Service of Worship each month.  
Going out into the community, by holding the Harvest Supper in the Village Social Club.  
Introduction of a new, more accessible hymn book in Sunday worship.

##### **Sutton**

###### Worship and Prayer

Furniture in Lady Chapel re-arranged to provide less formal Prayer Stations holding crosses, prayer dice as well as simple literature on techniques of prayer and meditation.  
A Wednesday Evening Prayer Group has started this year as well as an Old Testament Bible study group. Pew bibles (NRSV) have been provided. Diversity of styles of worship is being explored to enable us to engage with as wide a section of the community we serve as possible

###### Fellowship & Hospitality

Hospitality table provided with facilities for mid-week visitors to make a drink  
Increase diversity of church usage to the wider community by bringing social events such as Harvest Supper, Youth Disco and refreshments after funerals into the Church.  
Parish quiet day and conference booked for early 2010

###### Mission and Outreach

Conversations are taking place for major re-ordering (New Heating, flooring and removal of remaining pews) to maximise flexibility of the building for both worship and community use. DAC have given informal consent for this but a lot of work to be done before we are in a position to submit a formal application. As with many other churches the lack of toilet facilities within the building is a major problem, this that can only be addressed as part of a far larger scheme, which is the direction we are now taking. This will be dependant on support from the wider community as the financial implications are beyond the means of our regular congregation who must retain their priorities as parochial expenses such as the Parish Share, utilities, insurances and charitable giving.

Our plan to raise awareness of the Church's presence in the community by means of ringing the bells has made no progress. Despite evidence of people coming to church because they heard the bells on the few in the previous year when a digital recording was used, the bells main have only been rung for one service so far this year owing to the lack of ringers. The Diocese have refused to sanction the further use of digital substitute, on the grounds that we have a band of ringers! This remains a cause of frustration to the PCC.

Tiny Praise a midweek activity for pre-schoolers had been planned to start in the autumn. This has been deferred to spring 2010 owing to the work commitments of some of the leaders and the temperature within the church during the winter months. This will follow on from the Wednesday Eucharist and Lunch, with the aim of using the lunch as a fellowship opportunity for young and old alike and encouraging a wider age group attendance at the Eucharist.

#### Financial

Plans for a 'Stewardship year' based on 'All God's Gifts' have been put back a year following a three parish study day led by the chair of the diocesan stewardship advisory group. This now has to be a priority for 2010.

#### **Wentworth**

- Fairtrade status achieved
- Developing the group, through weekend with Bishop David; Wardens', Treasurers' and Musicians meetings across the group; regular team meetings; joint services; weekend planned for Pentecost 2010
- Holiday Club for Witchford and Wentworth – Timetravellers 1109, looking at life in the villages 900 years ago, and celebrating the Psalms
- Lent study 2009, Bible Studies planned 4 times for coming year

#### **Wilburton**

- developing the group, through weekend with Bishop David; Wardens', Treasurers' and Musicians meetings across the group; regular team meetings; joint services; weekend planned for Pentecost 2010
- Haddenham History Project, celebrating the history of the village, and Haddenham and Wilburton Timetravellers 1109 Holiday Club, exploring life in our villages 900 years ago
- continued to work on Wilburton 21<sup>st</sup> Century project
- developing an understanding of 'Sacred Space' for all age groups and for visitors to the churches
- Bible studies planned for the coming year
- weekly ½ hour of prayer
- Creation Time – 5 weeks of sermons, prayers, children's work, school assemblies, after school clubs etc looking at creation and the environment

#### **Witcham**

We wish to develop

A higher profile for the parish church in the life of the local community.

An efficient and comprehensive communication system with parishioners including database of contacts, including e-mail addresses

We aim to

Prepare a welcome pack for people new to the village.

Prepare a photo board of the key people in the Ministry with contact information.

A shared diary with the Village Hall and Church to avoid events clashing.

The monthly 'call in for coffee' is proving to have a very beneficial result in developing relationships with the community and as a result the Church seems to be viewed with greater affection and/or understanding of our needs by the no churchgoing attendees. Currently this attracts some 24+ people even when the temperature is severe. It can be quite encouraging to enter the church and see them all huddled in their coats but enjoying each others company proving that this is meeting a real need and establishing the church as a meeting place. A recent grant has enabled us to provide better facilities.

#### Survey

The PCC distributed a card last Christmas to every house in the village and during the course of the year a survey to find out how much people valued the church by means of some direct (no feelings spared) questions. Although the written responses were poor the subsequent reaction and conversations in the village show it to be a worthwhile exercise and that people who have been very complacent about the role of their parish church do value it and are prepared to support it

#### **Witchford**

- Developing the group, through weekend with Bishop David; Wardens', Treasurers' and Musicians meetings across the group; regular team meetings; joint services; weekend planned for Pentecost 2010
- Moving forward with plans for the Church extension
- Open Church – church is open regularly, plus open day and open evening with welcome, explanation and refreshments
- Use of the Bible – Lent study 2009, 4 Bible studies planned for the coming year

## **FINCHAM AND FELTWELL**

#### **Barton Bendish**

##### **Beachamwell with Shingham**

As part of our Mission Action Plan and as an ongoing project to mark the 900 Anniversary of the Diocese of Ely the PCC decided to start a "Drop in for Afternoon Tea" one afternoon a month in our Village Hall. This was prompted by the fact that the Post Office has now closed and the pub has now been revamped to be more like a restaurant and lounge so there was nowhere that villagers, especially the elderly and young mums could just met for a casual chat in comfort during the day. The PCC and others scoured local markets and charity shops for china teapots and small jugs so that we could offer people a pot of tea with a piece of home-made cake.

Our first "Afternoon" was in May when 19 people came and now between 35 and 40 join us each month. We are delighted that several elderly people who have had to move away from the village are being brought back to see their old friends and also some Mums and children are joining us when they return from school. Our age range is now 10 weeks to 96 years.

Our other MAP projects include a joint Sunday School with Barton Bendish and discussions between a member of each PCC are being planned. Plans to start a joint Youth Group with Barton Bendish have been put on hold as there are now not enough young people in either village to make this practical. This will be reviewed regularly.

Another project is to introduce a system to help people in the village in emergency situations and the PCC have been asked to consider how this can be implemented and bring ideas to our next meeting in January."

#### **Bexwell**

## **Boughton**

### **Crimplesham**

Developments in the 'Ely 900' year of 2009 ...

- 1) We have undertaken a review of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, including a new and revitalised Order of Service booklet.
- 2) Under the leadership of two PCC members, we co-ordinated a project to produce a Village History booklet. This was launched at the Church Open Afternoon and sold out completely, with a waiting list for more.
- 3) We held a very successful (first) Church Open afternoon, welcoming villagers present and past and visitors from surrounding communities (around 200+ in the course of the afternoon), with a new approach to Harvest Festival which drew a congregation double that of the previous year.
- 4) We have engaged positively with the issues relating to the formation of the Deanery Plan.

### **Denver**

1. Open Air Services. The first open air service was held at Denver Mill on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Despite rather poor weather, there was a lively congregation and the mill is to be congratulated in that they provided us with a canvas covered area to protect us and a free cup of coffee after the service! Further services are planned for 2010 although dates have not yet been set.
2. Baptism Follow up and Sunday School. A Sunday Club has been started in the Village Hall and whilst numbers are still low, volunteers are working with dedication and enthusiasm. At present Baptism families receive cards on the anniversary of the Baptism. We are seeking members of the congregation who will follow up baptisms more immediately.
3. Contact with the Diocese of Vellore. Currently we have had little opportunity to explore this avenue but it will be examined during the winter.
4. Web site. A member of the congregation has taken on the web site as a project. He has found one route we might take but at a considerable cost. Bearing in mind our responsibility to pay as much as possible of our parish share, he is looking for a less expensive option.
5. Other areas of progress. Under the headings of "What we are good at" and "What could we do" we have extended our hosting and welcoming activities. The other things we have done are listed below:
  - a. Link Church We now have regular exchange visits with our link church – Christ the Redeemer in Cambridge.
  - b. Notice Boards. Our main notice board has been repaired and a variety of notices are being displayed both inside and outside the church.
  - c. Meetings for Friendship and Support. Weekly meetings are held on Wednesday mornings with coffee and informal discussion. The Friendship Group meets once a month. The Benefice is holding an Alpha Course. We are setting up two house groups and we are looking ahead to next year and a series of Lent Courses.
  - d. Trekkers. The Trekkers summer activities for children have continued in 2009 with considerable success with the resulting "Prayer Tree" and paper decorations gracing the church for a number of weeks in August.

## **Downham Market**

Developments in the 'Ely 900' year of 2009 ...

- 1 Working away at items on our Parish Vision initiative, formulated in October 2007.
- 2 Working to consolidate *The Ark* toddler group, established in 2008
- 3 Had the courage to discontinue the Family Service, which after 3 years had made no advances.
- 4 Working to consolidate the growth of daily Mass congregations.
- 5 Working to consolidate the re-introduction of Sunday Evening Prayer and Benediction.
- 6 Planned St Edmund's first full *weekend* pilgrimage to Walsingham, 16 -18 October 2009.
- 7 After many years of transferring to a Sunday, planning a special celebration for St Edmund's Day with a visiting choir singing Tallis and Bruckner and guest preacher (20 November)
- 8 Working to consolidate the Pastoral Network scheme (designated lay people act as what we call 'pastoral stewards', points of first contact and pastoral co-ordination for around 10-12 church members each, to try to stop people inadvertently 'slipping through the net'.)
- 9 Brought to a successful conclusion after 5+years' negotiation, one substantial aspect of the Borough Council's responsibility towards the closed Churchyard. (Though more aspects outstanding).
- 10 Spent much time and effort, so far unsuccessfully, in applications to English Heritage towards phase one of a two-phase roof repair project (total estimate £300k).
- 11 Continued to make [slow] progress in getting the congregation to understand the need for developing the building for Accessibility (due 2005) and mission/outreach/greater community use. This included planning a field trip to another Church. (A further complication was the architect with whom we have been working for 3 years leaving his old firm and setting up a new practice. Hopefully now back on track).
- 12 Began planning "*St Edmund's Needs a £Million*" Appeal for (10) and (11) above and other repairs.
- 13 Began planning for new altar paraments.
- 14 Started to establish and 'extended use' agenda:
  - i A keynote evening on Church Buildings and Mission, '*Saving the English Country Church*', with a leading speaker, Sir Roy Strong, for which the Church was packed, with people from a very wide area. May 2009.
  - ii Collaborating with the DM Heritage Society to stage a very well-attended History Fair at St Edmund's, as part of the national *Heritage Open Days* initiative. September 2009.
  - iii Acting as a venue for a concert of the West Norfolk Music Festival, September 2009.
  - iv Acting as a venue for a lecture of the DM Lecture Society. December 2009.

## **Feltwell (Grimshoe Benefice)**

- 1 Go you are sent
  - International focus of 'gifts and mission in preaching and at Benefice council and PCC meetings. Planning for a benefice weekend in 2010, which will incorporate a 'motivational gifts' seminar with priorities being set and pastoral teams established.
  - Outreach in the community via parish magazines, community groups and All Souls Services with recently bereaved families being visited by the priest or

- member of the pastoral teams and personally invited to the service. This initiative was very well received in the villages.
- 2 Outreach to Children, Youth and Families
    - Cross Benefice Children's and Youth Ministry Team established and working cohesively.
    - Funding has been received via a bequest for resource and personnel training with a lay coordinator for the group to be established in 2010.
    - Messy Church activities for Harvest and Halloween were well organised, advertised and attended with children and parents quite enthusiastic and looking forward to regular Messy Church events.
    - Intentional ministry with Baptism families – quality preparation with baptisms talking place within the main Sunday service. Child receives a 'Baptism Bear' and invitations to Messy Church services. Baptism Bear 'reunions' are planned for 2010. Baptism families were invited by members of the ministry team to the Back to Church Sunday services with a pleasing response.
    - Contact with schools and community groups has begun with in-church activities for 'beavers' and school harvest festival in the churches as first step.
  - 3 Quality of welcome, fabric and church layout
    - Back to Church Sunday well advertised, individual invitations were personally delivered with 'accessible' liturgy and refreshments afterwards. These services were well attended.
    - Fabric projects ongoing – faculty application in for Methwold.

### **Fincham**

Co-operation with the other churches in the Group during the interregnum has continued.

This was particularly noticeable when the first interview was arranged – involving chauffeured visits to eight churches and the Rectory, as well as the interview itself.

Two services are being maintained each month, with increased attendances since the interregnum began. Similarly, other churches have been supported at their services.

Newcomers to services have been made welcome

The repairs to the walls have been ordered, but not yet carried out.

Necessary expenditure has been met in general, although the Parish Share is in some doubt.

The urgent requirements arising from the 2009 Quinquennial Inspection have been carried out.

### **Hilgay**

**Hockwold (see Feltwell (Grimshoe Benefice))**

### **Marham**

**Methwold (see Feltwell (Grimshoe Benefice))**

### **Nordelph**

**Northwold (see Feltwell (Grimshoe Benefice))**

### **Runcton Holme**

Every home in the five villages is visited in rotation.

All new people into the villages given a welcome pack.  
Six meetings with each Baptism families.  
Family Worship with uniformed organisations throughout the year.  
Three schools in the villages with weekly visits and teaching RE and Parents Coffee Morning.  
Letters and Services printed in two village magazines which go to every home.  
Church magazine and its outreach to the five villages.  
Services in Village Hall for over 60s.  
Visiting to Tapping House Hospice  
All villagers visited in hospital.  
Contact with villages through and fundraising for charity.  
Holy Baptism always within Family Worship  
Termly visits to the Pre-schools of the villages.

### **Ryston with Roxham**

#### **Shouldham**

#### **Shouldham Thorpe**

#### **Southery**

#### **Stow Bardolph**

Fairtrade Church

*Twining with the Parish of Farcet Hampton:* Reciprocal visits of a busy new town congregation and a small rural parish, we found these visits enormously encouraging and happy occasions.

*Passion Sunday Service:* We made small crosses from different materials. These were then taken to the Good Friday and Easter Services at other churches in the group.

*Rogation Service:* Open air service with blessing of the crops. Special prayers were offered while we stood in a field of spring wheat.

*Lammas Service:* The theme of the service was Bread. A bowl of freshly harvested wheat was placed on the altar. The wheat was taken to the group Harvest Festival on the following Sunday.

#### **Stow Bridge**

Fairtrade Church

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#### **Stradsett**

Developments in the 'Ely 900' year of 2009 ...

- 1 The Churchwardens attended the archdeacon's Visitation
- 2 A massive summer Charity event was held at Stradsett, including the involvement of the Church. This raised around £50,000 for local and national charities. July 2009.
- 3 We have begun to consider the Church building for Accessibility and Mission (appropriate extended use).
- 4 Review of Liturgy – whilst remaining loyal to the BCP and KJV, we have begun a consideration of more user-friendly service booklets.
- 5 We again held our Harvest Festival 'outreach' Service with the Church barely having sufficient room for all who attended. October 2009.
- 6 We have engaged positively with the issues relating to the formulation of the Deanery Plan.

## **Ten Mile Bank**

**Tottenham (See Runcton Holme)**

**Watlington (See Runcton Holme)**

**Weeting (see Feltwell (Grimshoe Benefice))**

## **Wereham**

### **West Dereham**

#### *Notice Board*

The old one now has new glazing and has had a paint job. Due to pressure of other work in the church this item will not be replaced until next year. At least church service times are visible and contact names and numbers available.

#### *Toilets*

We are still without a toilet, we have looked at composting toilets and found that while they work and can be economic. They need to be housed sympathetically in or around the church and as we are a grade one listed structure an outside building will cost a very serious amount of money and therefore a standard flush toilet in a insulated cubicle looks like being our solution. We now have a plan by our Architect and have had quotes from contractors. However due to the amazing fact that we have a second grant from English Heritage for other works we have had to put this work to one side.

#### *Weekday Services*

We still do not have week day services, but we do now have a weekly coffee morning (It's called Yompers for some reason) in the tower. We hope to extend this into a service followed by coffee – however other problems have prevented the leader bringing this forward.

#### *Electoral Roll Prayer list*

We now feature parts of the village each week in our intercession prayers using a published rota and we look for items and people to pray for in this part of Worship. This expands our normal prayer list and brings the church nearer to our community.

## **Whittington**

The redecoration has been completed and the whole church has been spring-cleaned.

The kitchenette and the disabled WC is still ongoing and we hope to see these completed by the end of Autumn if everything goes to plan but certainly by the end of the year if not!

## **Wimbotsham**

- 1 To keep our Church Door Open 24/7/365  
St Mary's is open every day of the year, every hour of the day for pilgrims to enjoy the peace, light a candle and pray if they wish, or just sit and reflect. We have already been able to serve locals, visitors, those tending graves and two tramps. God bless us in our quest for his kingdom to be known by everyone who graces our threshold.
- 2 A bookmark of the church community is still planned, for guests to take away with them. It has been PCC agreed and we await a suitable design.
- 3 'Food and Fellowship' is our social outreach to people of the village who do not attend church. We already have 45 to 50 people meeting each month for Sausage and Mash with a Quiz evening or Fish & Chips suppers with a Beetle Drive evening. For Christmas we have planned a Pudding evening with Christmas carols. This gives the whole of our Church the chance to serve our community.
- 4 "Crazy Church" is our brand new childrens' church activity event. At the moment we meet every month in the Village Hall. 12-15, 5-11 year olds have met three times. We play games, paint pictures and do craft activities and have a Bible story which becomes our theme for that meeting. Three members of St Mary's completed the Core Skills programme run by Julia Chamberlin, the Diocesan Children's Advisor; without this foundation the three say that they would not have had the courage to start the activity. Crazy Church is our most challenging mission and the one which we hope will have the greatest long term effect on our community. We ask for your prayers for this vital project.
- NB All this has been achieved whilst we have been I vacancy, without a Priest for the past 6 years. We have achieved it by the prayerful guidance of the Holy Spirit, the direction of a retired Priest, the determination of a willing PCC and, of course, with God's help.

## **Wormegay (See Runcton Holme)**

### **Wretton and Stoke Ferry**

#### Community Contact

*Drop In:* The plans to create a Drop In Centre/Event is now coming to fruition. Our first Drop In will be in the Stoke Ferry Community Centre on 24<sup>th</sup> November, with plans for them to continue on a monthly basis. The idea is to invite anyone and everyone to come in for tea, coffee, biscuits, etc, any age, and to chat, hear talks, see displays, whatever is interesting.

*Christmas Events:* We are repeating, but hopefully even better now that we have some experience, the new events introduced last Christmas – in particular Posada, where we want even more people to get involved and the Christmas Tree Festival, where again we want more and better decorating.

*Newsletter:* The Newsletter "Three in One" – combining reference to the Trinity (for those who recognise it) with the drawing together of the three villages which make up the two parishes in the one benefice - has been a great success and we plan to maintain and, indeed, improve that.

*Holiday Clubs:* These clubs for children during the holidays have been very successful during the past year. They are not explicitly evangelical, but take place in the Church School in Stoke Ferry and are run by members of the Church and friends. There is quite deliberate use of Christian idioms and Biblical stories etc and we hope that this will make up for the losses of explicit Christian teaching in our schools. Previous users of the Clubs are now coming back to help to run them!

#### Church

*Alpha:* We are joining with a neighbouring benefice (The Denver Group) in their Alpha course this winter and are encouraging members of our congregation and friends to come and see what it is all about.

*Congregation:* We continue to be encouraged by the effect of our outreach into our villages. We have a real increase in the numbers of people coming to Church and, as importantly, in the numbers of people who are interested in the Church as part of village life. This was well evidenced by Back to Church Sunday, where we had a roughly speaking 20% (3 extra for a normal congregation of less than 15) increase in congregation and expect at least one of them to be a continuing attender.

## **MARCH**

### **Chatteris**

*'To know Christ and make him known'*

The Chatteris Parish Church MISSION ACTION PLAN recognises that we are already involved in mission projects both old and new. A recent example will be the start of the HOPE CAFE drop in centre for youth on Friday nights. However, in order to be strategic and visionary about our plans for the future, it was decided to reform the PCC into three working subgroups: Mission, Stewardship and Buildings. These working groups will spend time together to develop a better Biblical understanding as well as specific strategies for mission in their own area.

The working groups have met three times so far to resource themselves by reading books, attending diocesan training and exploring different models in various churches. We hope to develop a strategy for each of the different areas by the next APCM.

The focus of each of the three groups so far is as follows:

*The Mission Working Group* - We are aiming to develop our *welcome* in the four congregations as well as looking for new ways to pass on the baton of our faith to the next generation. Ideas include developing a Welcome Team, a monthly guest service, and encouraging each of the three congregations to develop their own witness to outsiders through teaching and example.

*The Stewardship Working Group* - Assessing and developing a stewardship education program for the whole church. This may include providing workshops, Biblical teaching, leaflets, and personal support.

*The Buildings Working Group* - Assessing and developing the physical space to be more welcoming and accomodating, fit for purpose of mission so that we can better know Christ and make him known.

### **Coates**

Welcome more villagers into our church:

Open Church : Coffee : Candles

Come and Sing Children's Choir

Welcome cards for visitors : History of Church : Noticeboards

### **Christchurch**

We have been investing in Spiritual Growth in Discipleship through 'Discipleship Explored', 'Singing in the Rain' and 'Just 10' courses for the benefice.

We ran a very successful Holiday Club. In Christchurch for 3 morning in July. 20 Children attended. We had a team of Adult and Junior Leaders. We followed up with a very lively Family Worship Service on the next Sunday. Following from our Holiday Club we have begun to form a Youth Group with our young assistant leaders.

We have put in place a plan to invest in Leadership development starting un January 2010 using the CPAS course 'Growing Leaders'. We are combining with our Neighbouring benefice of Chatteris to run it and we have now been able to make this a course for the whole of March Deanery.

We have started Messy Church on a Sunday afternoon once a month for families and children with craft based bible activities a short act of worship on the theme and then having tea together.

## **Doddington**

### **Manea**

We have been investing in Spiritual Growth in Discipleship through 'Discipleship Explored', 'Singing in the Rain' and 'Just 10' courses for the benefice.

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We have started Messy Church on a Sunday afternoon once a month for families and children with craft based bible activities a short act of worship on the theme and then having tea together.

## **March St John**

### **March St Mary**

Completion of major scheme to create 'Access for all'.

We have also reviewed our Pastoral Care arrangements, updated our Prayer and Care Booklet, and produced a Baptism information leaflet. We are looking at the relationship between giving and fund-raising and seeking to increase use of our Hall facilities through better publicity.

### **March St Peter**

A faculty has been granted and major building works are under way for: Improved access in church for disabled people; Improved circulation space for greeting one another and flexible worship; Phase 2 of Roof Repairs.

We have also developed a programme of Sunday Evening Worship, reviewed our Pastoral Care arrangements, updated our Prayer and Care Booklet, and produced a Baptism information leaflet. We are looking at the relationship between giving and fund-raising, consulting our young people on worship and other activities and developing a new group for men.

### **March St Wendreda**

Our website is now up and running and we are looking to further develop it.

Work has begun on our new Welcome Pack and related items.  
Our Outreach and Evangelism events are taking shape.

### **Pondersbridge**

We started here: Leaflet drops; Seasonal activities; Community meals; Welcome; Back to church 100%.

### **Welney**

We have been investing in Spiritual Growth in Discipleship through 'Discipleship Explored', 'Singing in the Rain' and 'Just 10' courses for the benefice.

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### **Whittlesey St Andrew**

An open door, to bring in more,  
Is what we have agreed.  
A few they come, gaze and adore  
We pray it fills a need

From Whittlesea Oz a man did come  
To give us thanks and praise  
For when things were dire, following the Bush Fire  
Some money the Team did raise

Church Literature is now displayed in style  
Rather than being left in a pile  
This is a benefit we would mention  
To both the visitor and the congregation

An Open Night though not well supported  
Is not something to be aborted  
Through prayer and guidance (that's the thing)  
We'll try again in the Spring

An invite list has been prepared  
To use for special services  
Through the open door, let's bring in more  
And so fulfil God's purposes.

### **Whittlesey St Mary**

Welcome, worship and witness in Whittlesey

Opening the Church more often – offering a welcoming space for fellowship and friendship to the whole community of Whittlesey  
Weekly midday prayer meeting – setting aside time together in our busy lives for quiet contemplation and feeding the spirit  
Extending and enhancing our worship with new music, instruments and singers including an outdoor service for the town festival  
Weekly activities for young people and greater participation. Artistic talents employed to ornament the building  
Friday tea and coffee morning – providing a caring, friendly approach to those who wish to make use of our building – to look, to sit or to talk  
Planning for the future – looking at the possibility of major alterations to the fabric of the building for the provision of kitchen and bathroom facilities.

### **Wimblington**

## **WISBECH LYNN MARSHLAND**

### **Clenchwarton**

### **Elm**

### **Emneth**

### **Friday with Coldham**

Supporting a child from Venezuela  
Sunday School  
St Nicholas Toy Service  
Regular Charity Lunch  
Contacting Coldham  
Crib Service

### **Gorefield**

### **Leverington**

### **Newton in the Isle**

### **Outwell**

Parish Prayer Chain started on Shrove Tuesday to pray specifically for MAP projects and matters arising therefrom.

Alternate PCC meetings now focus exclusively on MAP

Heritage Day in early Summer encouraged participation from non-church goers.

Actively working on fund-raising events to raise profile of St Clement's

### **Southea**

### **Terrington St Clement**

### **Terrington St John**

## **Thorney**

### **Tilney All Saints**

1 This year's holiday club, the first for many years, took place at the Vicarage in July. It was a huge success and 12 children enjoyed many activities, all focusing on Noah and his Ark. On the final day we were joined by the parents who joined in the fun. It is hoped that this will be an annual event.

2 A village day, fronted by the local History Group, ended with a special service in the church. People came from near and far, around two hundred in all, and a book on the history of the village was launched. Hymns sung throughout the service covered each century the church has been built.

3 Work will be starting on the 11 October 2009 for the rewiring of the church. This will enable us to install a heating system which will ease the discomfort of the winter period. It has been needed for a very long time. Future plans for a kitchen and toilet facilities will have to wait until our funds have been replenished.

## **Tilney St Lawrence**

## **Tydd St Giles**

### **Upwell St Peter**

Sent out 1,000 invitations (1 to each house in the village) for our own 'Back to Church Sunday' on 20th September

Reviewed style of Family Worship service and amended it to reflect more 'family friendly' style 'Family Service' now to be styled 'Open Worship'

Resolved to work more closely with our sister Parish of St Clement, Outwell on worship and Bible study

Adopted the Parish Prayer Chain begun on Shrove Tuesday 2009

## **Walpole**

### **Walsoken**

Congregational Questionnaire produced in April 2009. A total of 12 questions in all providing both quantitative and qualitative information for consideration by the PCC to help with future Mission Action Planning.

Our Sunday morning TASK club started in January 2009. Approximately 12 children attend on a regular basis with 8 adult helpers working in 4 teams of two.

Baptism follow-up: a work in progress

We have now 'recruited' some lay people to visit baptism couples a week or so after the Christening has taken place. This will be a friendly social visit to build bridges, strengthen our contact with the couple and receive feedback about our church, its welcome and the baptism service itself. The visitors will take with them the baptism certificate and also one of the new Parish Welcome Pack.

Welcome Pack produced September 2009. A 16 page colour booklet containing information about the church and local community. To be given to new people moving into the parish.

## **West Lynn**

## **West Walton**

### **Wiggenhall St Germans**

Increasing our contact with Mother and Toddler and Pre-school groups have led to us running a 'Messy Church', complete with teddy bear and picnic, with more planned for the future. Our outreach to the community took a different direction and changed from a barbeque to providing a tea party for the over 60s Club.

A member of the PCC has this year completed the Lay Pioneer Ministry course. Along with another member from the benefice we are exploring starting a Fresh Expression of Church.

### **Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen**

Following the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to Magdalen in January 2009 as part of the Ely 900 celebrations, it gave us new hope to do more in and with the Church Building and we plan to hold at least two concerts a year to bring people into the building.

After spending £255,000 on restoration work on the building and taking over a year to do it, we plan to have a big celebration to thank God for sending the money and the craftsmen to be able to do the work on His House. For a village of 760 people it has not been easy but with God's help we know that from past experience Our God is with us in all things.

We plan in 2010 to hold a Scarecrow Festival in the Church and grounds and Village this will bring more people into the building and involve the village and create a good fellowship over the weekend.

We plan to continue to hold our annual Pet Service to bring in new people to a church service. We also hope to make progress with our plans for fundraising for a lavatory and kitchen to make the building more user friendly. But above all we want to give thanks to God for his goodness to us and tell everyone about Him.

### **Wisbech St Augustine**

#### **Wisbech St Mary with Guyhirn**

#### **Wisbech St Peter and St Paul**

Objective 1 Improve Communication

- a) New computer system installed in Church Office
- b) Monthly newsletter now issued to congregation and visitors

Objective 2 Establish more links with younger families in the parish

- Youth and Community Committee formed