

e-Bulletin April 2011

Steve Midgley writes....

(As before, if you'd rather not get this, just reply with STOP in the subject line and we'll remove you from the list!)

I want to use this Easter e-bulletin to share some encouraging feedback and let you know about some changes.

CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY

The theme for the weekend was fullness of joy. Those there may remember Fiona Head suggesting people share causes for joy from the weekend. Here are some of the responses:

I found the weekend away encouraging because, although I was leaving my family on the Friday night after my grandfather's funeral, it felt like I was going to just another part of my family.

We have joy in seeing people grow in love for God, and we have joy in seeing the love people in our home group have for each other, and how they care for each other. We have joy in seeing our children grow in love for God and in the love and hard work of people who look after, teach and sing with them at Christ Church. We have exhaustion, frustrations, arguments, failures, sin and we have joy in the grace of God.

A moment of pure 'joy' from the weekend away was singing 'How Great Thou Art'. It was a little taste of heaven.

What stood out at the weekend away was the tremendous sense of togetherness there is at Christ Church.

The highlight of the weekend away for me was the Lord's Supper. There was something incredibly beautiful and moving about us each receiving and passing on the bread and wine.

Our thanks again to those who did so much to make the weekend away happen, especially Julia Ertner. We are exploring dates in May 2013 for the next one.

PAUL HOBBS

It feels a while back now, but good to remember just how good the Paul Hobbs exhibition was! Here are some excerpts from the visitors' book:

Fantastic exhibition. Thank you Paul and Christ Church. Hope it really touches people during the week.

You have been an inspiration to me and all my visual art class (Artist in residence, All Nations Christian College)

Thank you for this opportunity to see Paul's work. Holy Ground project – joyous.

A remarkable exhibition with much to think about (leaflet delivered)

HOLIDAY CLUB

The Holiday Club excelled expectations. Virtuoso contributions from Chris Lowe and Barney Burrell as Chef and sous-Chef (you had to be there to experience it!); an outstanding theme song composed by Vicky Mills and 160 at a Friday night BBQ where parents and guests saw something of what had been going on all week. Thanks to Richard and everyone on the team for the huge amount of work involved.

ANNUAL MEETING

You don't expect Annual meetings to be scintillating, so it was a pleasant surprise when two people got in touch to say what a particularly encouraging meeting it had been.

Some headlines if you missed it:

Wardens: Ian White & James Diver. (Charles Hall stood down after 16 years and we presented him with a gift)

New PCC members:

- Luke Pendlebury
- Mark Smallwood
- Julia Taylor
- Rosie Weston

Deanery Synod reps: Rachel Bruins and Charles Hall.

Finances positive enough to allow us to supplement the forthcoming building appeal with £50k from general funds.

Matthew 20:1-18 reminded us to be a community of 'Last-ers' (joyful, content and amazed at how we've been treated) – you'll need to read the parable to make sense of that.

COMING UP

- May 8th: Church lunch after the morning service
- May 14th: Spring clean! A morning to give the whole building a once over (provided enough people come along)
- May 15th & 29th: Sunday evening seminars on guidance
- June 11th: Church garden party at the Vicarage (2 p.m. to 6 p.m.)
- June 12th: Going Deeper – Peter Head speaking on Spiritual Gifts, 4 p.m.

SABBATICAL

I need to let you know that I am revising my plans for the next three months. For various reasons this hasn't turned out to be a good time to take a sabbatical and the wardens have kindly agreed to me postponing my plans. I am very pleased I can still attend a course at CCEF (the Christian Counselling and Education Foundation) in America in June, but will be around as normal through May and July. There are some important decisions ahead regarding future plans for our youngest daughter, Ellie. Beth and I would appreciate your prayers.

STAFF

Jon Tuckwell is moving to Cambridge in June and will be ordained on July 2nd at Ely Cathedral (guests welcome but bear in mind that it is usually a three hour service!). His main area of ministry will be with the 20Twenty group. Matt Porter has been appointed as a 9:38 apprentice to start in September. We hope to appoint one or two additional apprentices soon.

FRONT EXTENSIONS

The planning group are close to approving a design which will then be presented to the church council. We will make these plans public in time for a final appeal this autumn. Provided we have the fund in place, work could start in the middle of 2012 once planning permissions have been obtained.

SOTIRIOS ON PSALMS

Sotirios Christou has been with us at Christ Church for a while (with Sarah and their two boys). He's written a number of books and recently generously made available free copies of his book on the psalms. He's asked that proceeds from their sale go toward the building project. You can find them on the bookstall at Christ Church. In his

commendation on the back cover Walter Brueggeman comments: *'a winsome and accessible study of the Psalms that will be a useful resource for community worship and for personal pondering.'*

HELP NEEDED

You wouldn't guess it from the excellent music we enjoy each Sunday, but we are quite short of musicians, especially on keyboard, drums and guitar.

We are also short of people to serve tea and coffee on Sundays. It's good to have so many staying to chat over a drink but currently it is falling to a small group to make them for us. Another five or ten volunteers would make a huge difference. The welcome team for morning and evening services also are short of people.

Rachel Bruins needs help on Friday mornings with the First Steps mum's & toddlers group and additional crèche helpers are needed on Sunday mornings (child protection clearance needed for both). If you're interested in any of these areas do be in touch.

Best wishes,
Steve

Steve Midgley
Christ Church Cambridge