

St James Church Colwall



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 6th March 2011

10.00am

St James the Great Church

Rector's Report

Rev'd Melanie Horton

What a year 2010 has proved to be, with many highs, a few lows and much to celebrate. Glancing through the APCM booklet always gives me a great sense of satisfaction; so much is being achieved by so many people in so many different areas. It operates as a sort of health check and the pulse of St James is strong and regular!!

Despite disruption with snow the year began on a high with our visit to share worship with St James, Aston. It was a wonderfully vibrant occasion with encouraging worship, much laughter, wonderful food and a fascinating opportunity to stroll through the area with some local 'experts' and learn more about the parish in which our link church is set. We were able to return the favour later in the year when our friends from Aston came to us for the Patronal festival. It was undoubtedly a strange day. Worship at Cradley was a wonderful occasion and the fellowship afterwards over a splendid barbeque was lively and entertaining. All this was however set against the backdrop of our sadness over the sudden death of Ruth Walton. A pillar of the church and of the community Ruth's sudden death was a great blow for her family following so soon after Kevin's death and is a great sadness for us, her church family. During the course of the year we also said good bye to other stalwart members of our family; Reginald Lechmere, Connie and Jack Fairey, Michael Burke, Len Williamson and Val Probert, they are all much missed.

One of the greatest highs this year has been the completion of the chancel project. A project ten years in the making there were times when it seemed we would never get the requisite permissions and agreements but the end result is magnificent and well worth the effort in achieving it. We are still learning how to use our new space and furniture to best advantage but undoubtedly we have a wonderful new asset. We would not have achieved the end result without the help of many and thank you to those who have made donations to help fund the work but especial thanks must go the John Stock who oversaw the whole affair, dealt with contractors, architects and diocesan officials, and generously offered his professional expertise with grace and good humour. Thanks also to John Hickman who during the works acted as our onsite overseer!

Our worship this year been varied and exciting and there have been a number of changes. At Easter, after much discussion, we moved the service time from 10.15 to 10.00am a change that happened with remarkably little disruption or tardiness, even from me! More significantly in May we bade farewell to Mary as our Director of Music after many years stalwart service. We are most grateful to her for all that she has done in forming and nurturing our choir and musical tradition. Sue Doswell continues to offer her considerable musical expertise in conducting the choir for major services and helping them to perform at their best.

In June Nick arrived to take on the musical mantle and with his background in Jazz music has brought a new dimension to our music. He and Wendy have also begun a children's choir who performed at Harvest and Christingle to rave reviews! We look forward to further adventures in music with them! The powerhouse of all that we do is our worship and I am still overwhelmed by the number of people who work so hard to make sure that our worship is beautiful, orderly and uplifting. My personal thanks go to all who volunteer their time and talents to support any aspect of our worshipping life.

Throughout the year our work with children has continued to flourish and grow. We have continued to support the local schools, in particular the Village school with assemblies, teaching and aids to the curriculum as well as hosting the Key stage 2 Harvest, Christmas and leavers celebrations. Our involvement with The Elms has grown and we now provide

a weekly rather than a fortnightly assembly as well as offering some input with the pre-prep department. From the beginning of 2011 we are also going on a weekly basis into The Downs pre-prep using some of the open the book material.

Beyond our schools work we have continued to provide family celebrations at major festivals including the Farmyard Nativity and Christingle. The Good Friday Children's workshop made a highly successful reappearance this year with nearly 40 children spending three hours in Church and the Ale House baking Easter biscuits, making an Easter collage, decorating eggs, building the Easter garden and doing some seasonal drama. Look out for this year's version!!

In the current economic climate and with our finances not now balancing for two years in a row nor predicted to do so in the coming year fundraising has become a feature of our life together. The wonderfully successful Dog Show organised by Claire and David Longman and Sue and John Doswell proved that this can be a wonderful opportunity. The evening was sunny, the organisation impeccable, the turnout impressive and even Buffy managed to behave! Most encouraging of all was the fact that many who came were members of the wider community who might not necessarily come to church but who were willing to support our efforts. By now you will know that there will be many more such opportunities in the year ahead and I look forward to sharing with much fun and laughter whilst at the same time hopefully setting our finances in order.

After another busy year I would like to thank the outgoing members of the PCC for their hard work and commitment. Some have agreed to continue to offer their talents and energy to the PCC and others have chosen to retire in favour of new blood but either way they deserve our heartfelt gratitude. Following the completion of a mammoth six year stint in office John Hickman steps down as Churchwarden and I know that I speak for the whole church when I offer our thanks for the tremendous amount of time, energy, thoughtfulness, care and handwork that John has given during his time as warden. I must also offer my heartfelt personal thanks for the support, encouragement and friendship that John has offered to me. From the moment that I was appointed John has always been on hand to offer whatever was needed and I know that my first years here would have been far more challenging without his support. So quite simply, thank you John.

It has also been a great pleasure to welcome Steve Hockett as the new church warden, he has given unstintingly of his time and energy and I am most grateful to him. This report has contained so many thanks you but I could not conclude without one more and that is to Joy who tackles the task of benefice administrator with dedication, skill and good humour, she copes with my occasional scattiness with calm good humour and is an invaluable asset both to the parish and to me - without her Parish life would be considerably the poorer.

In the midst of all the busyness and planning it is vital that we never lose sight of the fact that it is God's business that we are about and God's kingdom we are building. To help us to sustain that focus we must maintain a heartbeat of prayer and worship and an openness to God's spirit. There are many challenges and opportunities in the year ahead and so we pray for God's grace to guide and bless us that we may continue to be a sign and conduit of his love in this place.

Retiring Churchwarden's Report

John Hickman

When Carl asked me to be Churchwarden in December 2004, it was with the background of my loss of my wife Ailene, some two months previously. I had for the previous seven years taken little active part in the life of St James church, my former Rector had apparently written to Carl asking him to excuse me from duties because of my work at my last church in NW Leicestershire as PCC Secretary, Lay Minister and Deanery Synod Lay Chairman for over ten years, including one year as Churchwarden. Ailene's illness has started soon after we moved here, and that also inhibited my involvement. Because of my experience there, and a previous three years as Churchwarden in another Parish near Reading in the late 70's, I accepted his offer. Little did I know that it would last for 6 years, and include Carl's retirement, the need to appoint another Rector, and the request by Melanie to stay on while she settled into the Parish.

The actual job of Churchwarden here is not onerous, but involves time and dedication. I have been greatly helped by many people in that time, and I must say thank you to all who have helped smooth the path: Mike Paulson, from whom I took over; Jenny Houghton with whom I overlapped 1 year; John Doswell, who took on with Jenny, the formal work of leading the Parish Statement including the interviews and ultimate appointment of Melanie, and both of whom have been and still are good friends as well as colleagues; finally to Steve Hockett who has taken on with enthusiasm the role of my latest co-warden.

My thanks must also go to the assistant Wardens, who week by week ensure that all runs to order before, during and after services: Ruth Leadbeater and John Amies who usually look after the 8.30am service as does Mary Roberts. At 10.00am Dorothy Lockyear, Mary and Bill Tyndall, and recently Syd Hill and Stuart Hands all do sterling service.

We all appreciate the support of our retired Priests before, during the Interregnum and who are still willing to take their part each week.

What has this last year involved for me?

A lot of watching of fuel levels because of bad weather last and this winter.

A lot of frustration negotiating with the Hereford DAC to get, eventually, permission to renovate the Chancel and the West Door, which has brought a lot of pleasure for all to see and use. My thanks must go to John Stock for his persistence for our cause whilst busy rebuilding the M1 motorway!

There are still Fabric items, which I would like to see done - we need more cash! Ideas for fundraising?

A great deal of love and goodwill to be working with Melanie, and I am sure all will echo my thanks to her in that we have in her Ministry a continuation of our tradition and a forward movement which takes worship at St James to a new and positive level. May her work here continue and thrive for many years.

I shall still be in the congregation and am ready and willing to support the next person in the post in any way I can.

Churchwarden's Report

Steve Hockett

You may be wondering as to why your Churchwardens have entered separate reports. No we have not fallen out! It is simply that with John retiring from the post this year it seemed only right and proper for him to have his own final report. As he terms it, his "personal report".

This has been my first year as a Warden having previously been an assistant. It has been, at times, a learning curve with a steep gradient! At all times though, an enjoyable one, thanks mainly to John with his patient and kindly mentoring and with the support of Melanie, Joy and all the Assistant Wardens.

As John has said the past year has seen its challenges. We have met them and on the whole overcome them. There is still work to be done, on, in and around our lovely church building, so we need to think carefully as to what our priorities are within that work and how we at least pay for it! We will meet those challenges and with all that love and goodwill that John has referred we will overcome them I am sure.

I look forward to this coming year and welcoming with you, our new Warden who will be joining the team.

Church Electoral Roll

Mary Roberts -Joy Conlon

The Church Electoral stands at 219; this is a decrease of 6 over the year. Sadly all six members have passed away.

Mary is responsible for 'recruiting' of new members onto the electoral Roll and Joy updates & keeps the records.

If you wish to have your name on the Roll, you may contact the Churchwardens, Mary or Joy at any time.

Health and Safety

Shirley Willcox

Following the April 2010 Church Inspection: -

First Aid boxes have been checked all contents updated.

'What to do in the event of fire posters are displayed in the Bell Tower, Vestry, Church porch and Ale House, Mower Shed and Parish Office including the relevant post codes.

Electric Heater has been replaced in the Vestry.

Fire extinguishers are placed in the Church, Ale House and Parish Office (Annually checked).

Chancel refurbishment has removed the risk of trips and falls.

West Doors have been replaced to allow safe exit in the event of a fire, however the pathway outside the west door needs attention to prevent trips and falls.

Replacement mower shed has enabled safer storage of equipment and hazardous substances.

Personal safety letters have been sent to all volunteers who help at the Church, Ale House, and Churchyard.

Risk assessments are sought for all major services.

Finance & Fundraising

Treasurer's Report

Richard Beard

I am pleased to report on the summary accounts attached to this report as follows:

Our gift aid income has fallen each year since 2005 but our costs continue to rise. A major effort will be needed in 2011 to address this decline and Phil Probert and I will be looking for all the guidance we can find to reverse this trend.

Church fees (the majority are funerals) have fallen this year whilst fund raising activities have risen. A fund raising group, headed by Steve Hockett and Phil Probert, will look for enthusiastic members of the congregation to organise an event they are interested in and that could involve the wider village community.

Our Diocesan Parish Share increased by 3% in 2010. This expense represents 61% of this year's annual expenditure of the Church.

Overall our other expenditure remained steady, but a particularly large increase occurred in electricity and fuel oil prices.

Your Finance Committee has met quarterly to review progress and approve any items of an exceptional nature.

The result of our Parish financial activities is a deficit of £10087 (2009 £3505), after having proposed a contribution from our Parish fund to mission giving nominated by the committee of £3643 (2009 £3600). Together with the special collections during 2010 we end up with a total contribution to charities of £9238 (2009 £11226)

The deficit must be taken seriously and, although individuals noted above have agreed to work to promote giving we need all members to give of their time, talents and treasure to continue the work of the Church in our village life.

Overall our total funds now stand at £105481 (2009 £143235), divided between investments in CBF investment funds, current accounts and interest paying accounts with Caf Bank. This reduction of £37754 has two major elements. Firstly the deficit of £10087 noted above and secondly the major fabric spend on the Chancel £36000 (final bill amounts awaited) less donations for this of some £10775 and gift aid supplement of £3446, net spend £21179, West Door £5168 and new mower store £1974.

Our budget for 2011 shows a projected deficit of £9876 including planned mission giving. This is after planned (hoped for) increases in giving and fund raising!

We must urgently look at different ways of increasing our income during difficult economic times if we are not going to slip into a larger deficit position.

Maintenance of our funds is essential to enable the Church to perform all the activities, which benefit both our village and the world community.

Anyone who would like to see a copy of the full detailed accounts or have any questions to ask on these accounts please do not hesitate to contact me on (540539)

Covenants & Gift Aid

Rev Melanie Horton

On behalf of Colwall Church Fund, we would like thank all covenanters for their contributions over the past year.

A big thank you to Beryl for the work she has done in administering the Covenanting and Gift Aid Scheme, no mean task. We welcome Phil Probert who will be taking over from Beryl after the APCM.

If you do not yet belong to the Gift Aid Scheme (and are a tax payer) and would like to find out more, please contact Phil Probert (540506)

Fundraising Report

Steve Hockett

Raising funds efforts this year have been a little shall we say, like the Curates egg... good in parts. What we did was good, but we need to do more. Our thanks should go to those events and efforts that raised money for church funds, namely the Pentatonic Concert, The Posy Weekend, The Jazz Concert and especially The Dog Show.

We should also not forget to mention two other events. Firstly, the Annual Historic Churches Ride & Stride in September, where half of the money raised in sponsorship by those of our church members taking part comes into our church funds. Secondly, the Annual Village Quiz, which once again raised money for our companion church of St James, Aston.

This year's fundraising will build upon all those successes. Our own Phil Probert will be back in charge and by the time you read this report things will be "on the move" again! Our fundraising will aim to involve not only church members but will also take the Church out to the wider community. Your help, assistance or ideas for events will always be appreciated so don't be backward in coming forward! Speak to Phil, Melanie or any of the Warden team.

Fabric & Building Development

John Stock

Chancel re-ordering & West Door

Following supply of additional floor details as requested by the DAC the proposals were finally accepted by the DAC on 22 April and shortly afterwards the Chancellor issued the Faculty for the chancel modifications and the West Door. A condition required our architect to supervise the works.

The chairs for the chancel and matching "overspill" chairs, including 2 chair trolleys, were delivered in July and the new chancel liturgical furniture at the end of September.

The works were essentially complete in September but the removable handrail details were not approved until November and only installed in December. The architect visited the works in January 2011 to sign them off. All that remains is to provide a movable ramp to allow wheelchair access to the chancel. The works were carried out to the agreed budget.

Mower Store

Planning permission for the mower store was granted in March 2010. Den Tame installed concrete pads and Severnside Relocatable Systems Ltd supplied the new unit in May following which a ramp was provided.

Quinquennial Inspection

The Quinquennial building inspection was carried out on the 20th May. Generally the architect is content with the condition and with the improvements that have been made over the last few years. However, a few issues do need to be addressed in the near future including the copingstones to the organ extension and the lead valleys and

snowboards. The Fabric Chairman holds a copy of the report and anyone is welcome to see it.

Vestry

A wall mounted fan heater has been fitted in the vestry.

Churchyard

Mike Paulson

The grass and the molehills continue to grow. The P.C.C. owes a great debt to the more than 12 volunteers who control the height of both despite the vagaries of the weather and demands on their time and energy. We acquired a brand new metal "garden shed" with high security locking, painted to the requirements of the planning permission. An appeal in the pewsheet produced a set of metal shelving and transport for it on which to store fuel cans and hand tools. We were also donated a small petrol mower and a bench seat both in memory of John and Barbara Dutton and also a yew sapling. One of our larger, older mowers was brought back to useful life thanks to the engineering expertise and efforts of Barry Ashton and John Bishop welded a broken wheel mounting on another machine. As the litre price of petrol continues to climb, the P.C.C. must expect our present regime to be more expensive in 2011 even if no extraordinary maintenance to machinery is required.

Fly tipping in the car park has been more prevalent - but thanks to Herefordshire Council, clear up was prompt and efficient. The greatest challenge has been, as always, is keeping up the number of volunteers. We gained one and lost two during the year and none of us is getting any younger or fitter. The time is rapidly approaching when a significant number will not be physically able to handle robust machines over uneven ground for (on average) an hour a cut and either the younger members of the church will have to come forward or the P.C.C. will have to expect that increasing areas of the churchyard will not be mowed as the cost of contractors has been shown to be excessive.

Ale House

Ray Yardley

The Ale House continues to be used on a regular basis by Church groups and the Seekers-but needs to be used more.

It is the ideal place to hold family parties, social functions, post funeral and pre and post wedding occasions. Everything needed is there, crockery, glasses, cutlery and a cooker. Pauline Veale our booking secretary will be very pleased to hear from anyone regarding dates available.

I wish to thank Pauline for the great amount of work she does for the Ale House and Marion Percy and the committee.

Despite the weather our annual Carol Night with Mulled wine and mince pies was a great success. My thanks to the church orchestra and hand bell ringers for providing the music.

Earlier in the year a chutney and marmalade sale was very successful. The 21st season of the 100 Club started with 54 members -a slight drop on the previous year.

One again I must thank our cleaners who keep the Ale House immaculate.

Communication & Outreach

The Colwall Clock

Pauline Veale

It was with considerable trepidation that I set out last July to become the new editor of The Clock. How could I measure up to Chris Sennett or Pat Neave? I received an amazing amount of help from Melanie and Joy during those first months and one superb afternoon when Chris came to sit beside me at my computer to explain some of the mysteries of editing and hasten my learning curve..... for all of this thanks.

The Clock continues to be well supplied with a goodly variety of articles but don't be complacent we can always find room for those that are of most interest to our community. One change that you might have noticed is the inclusion of a diary section from Bosbury. This has arisen because, strangely, Coddington is included in their village plan not ours and it has been felt that folk living in Coddington might benefit from having this information. There are also plans afoot to include other items of interest in the future.

The Clock would of course not happen at all if we did not have so many contributors who mostly follow the excellent guidelines and this in turn makes my life much easier as I endeavour to fit the text around the advertisements and within the required pages. Thanks to Harry Bridges who has just retired from masterminding the advertising, his successor is David Bounds.

Proof reading is not merely checking for full stops in the correct places, but involves considerably more if we are to produce a magazine of high standard, so I would like to thank those folk who have proof read for me and especially Jenny Houghton who also liaises with the printer on my behalf. We look forward to another challenging year.

Road Warden Scheme

Marion Percy

There are a few Road wardens who have moved within the Parish and who are taking over new Patches. Other Wardens have moved out of the village, or sadly died, and replacements are being found for them.

The work of the Wardens is much appreciated by newcomers who are welcomed with a pack which informs them of the activities which go on in our village.

Please continue to let me know the names of folk who move in, so that I can keep the Patch lists up to date. Nicholas Neve also keeps our records on a computer system and would welcome contact by email in addition to my being notified in writing.

As always, thank you to Joy in the Parish Office for assembling the Packs and keeping the contents up to date, and to the Roadwardens themselves for 'watching over' their Patches and for welcoming those new to the village.

CTiC

Marian Paulson

Ecumenical services and the Good Friday walk of witness were again held in Holy Week. The latter time changed from afternoon to morning and was well attended.

The "farmyard nativity" at Woofields farm was again an enjoyable event although numbers were not as great as last year's.

The Unity service was held on January 23rd in the Village Hall. About 60 people attended. Dr Richard Thomas from Worcester, leader of the Salt and Light movement,

spoke on the challenge of working together and the committee, now under Melanie's chairmanship, is currently considering ways in which the churches can work even more effectively to serve the village community. One scheme, which we are seriously exploring, is a debt-counselling service and you will be hearing details of that soon for anyone who may be interested in either helping or being helped.

St James Aston Link Activities Richard and Shirley Willcox (Link Co-ordinators)

Our Patronal Festival was enjoyed by a coach-full of visitors from our link parish of St James, Aston, a buffet lunch being taken in the churchyard and Alehouse after a Festival Eucharist, the visit ending with Evensong.

We represented our parish at a very entertaining Caribbean evening - concert and meal - in the autumn.

The Village Quiz, ably compared by Steve Hockett, and supported by well over 60 people, raised £236, which was sent to St James for the running of their Advice Centre.

With the onset of snow in December, their church administrator and Reader, Jackie Burton, unfortunately slipped and broke an arm. She has not yet been able to return to her work, and so 2011 arrangements have not yet progressed very far, confirming what an important part of the link she is. We pray for her full and speedy recovery.

Finally, a further piece of disturbing news -

At the end of January this year, David Fletcher, the other Reader, emailed about the future of the Advice Centre as follows:

'Basically, we are closing on Monday, (31st January) - at least in our present format. Birmingham City Council took the decision last month to stop funding all their present "suppliers", including ourselves, and not to start any new contracts until 1 July at the earliest - now 1 August. That was a body blow for us, and for other advice organisations, as you can imagine.

We are not yet finished, however! At present we are trying to carry on, on a voluntary basis, two days a week - so that cheque for £236 from the village quiz will pay for about two weeks' expenses of this new way of doing things.

Meanwhile, we are planning to start a new charitable company, registered with the Charity Commission, which will make it easier to apply for funding - and applying to a variety of different organisations for funds. The hope is that we will be able to keep going, but maybe with just two paid staff and some trained volunteers.

I am sorry if that news had not reached you, but as you can imagine we would much appreciate your prayers in this very stressful time. The people who will really lose out if we have to close completely are of course our clients, especially those who don't speak much English...'

After 5 years, we are standing down as Link Co-ordinators, and give our successor(s) prayerful support, especially as St James, Aston endeavours to meet its current challenges.

Ministry

Ministry Team

Andrew Lee

The Ministry team meets generally once a month to help with the spiritual focus of the church. The people who attend are the Rector, Anne Lanyon-Hogg, Ken Withington, Lay Readers and representatives of the various committees that organise the activities of our church and church.

Reports are received from the representatives of the committees.

- The Pastoral Committee which covers the Care Scheme, Ale House lunch and the needs of individuals.
- The Worship committee which considers past and future services.
- The Youth Committee relates what the seekers and other youth members have been doing.

Finally, the ministry team provides a small forum in which views can be exchanged about the future long term priorities.

Ministry Team Retirements

Melanie Horton

As a result of their personal circumstances this year Lesley Hutton, Chris Sennett and Heather Philpot have, during the course of the year, resigned from the ministry team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their enormous contribution to the work of this group which is vitally important in directing the work and priorities of our church community. In order to maintain its vitality it is very important that new members join with this group and thank you to Sue Doswell for responding to this call. If you feel that God may be calling you to share in this work then do have a chat with me.

Colwall Care Scheme

June Weber

The Care Scheme continues to provide a valuable service with lifts to medical appointments, emergency shopping, eye drops, occasional meals and sitting with people to give carers a short break. Referrals continue from the surgery, from relatives and directly from service users. Solo club meets weekly at the Free Church and this is a good contact point to promote the Care Scheme, to advise on access to various services and to hear by word of mouth about people who may have a current need. The Red Cross Warden has now been appointed for the Village and I aim to liaise with the Warden about how we may help and support one another.

We are always pleased to welcome new volunteers. Please contact the Parish Office to leave your name and number or give me a ring, details are on the back cover of "The Clock".

Please remember that volunteers cannot offer long-term care for which people do need to contact one of the local care agencies.

Finally, I would like to thank all our volunteers, for their great willingness to assist when they can with their many and various skills- without them there would be no Care-Scheme.

Prayer Group

Heather and Tony Philpott

The prayer meeting takes place every Thursday morning from 8.30 till about 9.15 at St Crispin's Chapel. We follow the format for Thursday morning prayer in 'Celebrating Common Prayer'. The prayers and responses change according to the season of the church year and are intended to help the church to pray together in a structured and reflective way. Each morning there are two scripture readings and a psalm appointed to be read for that day.

Space is provided within this format for participants to engage in quiet meditation and to offer prayer silently. This has been our practice since we experimented with a period of silence during the season of Lent last year. At this point in the meeting we focus our thoughts and prayers on our church, its life and our community, thanking God for his blessings and bringing the hopes and plans of the church before Him; especially thinking of our leaders and all who give their time in His service. The weekly prayer points from the Pew Sheet may be used for meditation as copies are available in St Crispin's. We always include those individuals who may be in need of prayer at that particular time. We have also prayed for community issues, the wider church and often the troubles that beset our world.

The group is a small one but others join us from time to time. Please feel free to come along when you are able. We are conscious that many will not be available at that particular time and we know that many will be praying for the church in their own way and at a time of their own choosing. We hope that if you have any thoughts on prayer in the church (structure, timing etc) that you will feed these back to us; and if there are any items for prayer, or you are aware of anyone who may wish to be prayed for, do let us know.

Contact point: e-mail: aphilpott@aol.com, Telephone: 541681

Safeguarding Report 2011

Kate Stock

There have been no safeguarding incidents to report in the Parish in the past year.

The government has introduced changes, which mean that all new applicants for voluntary posts with children or adults have to have an enhanced CRB check. These are now checked against the Independent Safeguarding Authority's barring lists, which should give added protection. All existing volunteers in the Hereford diocese have already had an enhanced check and will not need to do anything more until they are due to renew (which is 5 years from the previous check). All the CRB applications are dealt with through the Parish Office.

Seekers

Alasdair Munn, Seekers' Co-ordinator

2010 was a full year for Seekers, lead by Rosie Joules. Our regular term time Sunday Seekers meetings, took place in the Ale House and were well supported by the children and the Seekers Leaders.

Melanie arranged a wonderful summer fair at the Coddington Church for the Seekers. Although the singing and the Punch and Judy show were the show-stoppers, it was wonderful to see the children running playing together with such joy. The ice-cream helped too.

Our Seekers Nativity was a 'Scratch' Nativity. As the children know the Christmas story so well, we decided to do an impromptu Nativity where they could come on the day as a

character of their choice. We were delighted to have several Mary's, a plethora of angles and even a bear. Each character was ably represented as we celebrated the Nativity Story.

Many thanks go out to Rosie for all the hard work and dedication she showed throughout 2010. As her children have grown beyond Seekers age, she has handed over the reigns to parents with younger children. The Seekers Leadership has always been about collaboration between the leaders and 2011 is no exception. Alasdair Munn and Ben Recordon have taken up the challenge of being the point people for 2011.

Choir

Nicholas Blunn

We pay tribute to the many great achievements of the marvellous musician and organist Mary Baron and thank her for all of her devotion to music and to the church during her time as musical director. Following my appointment as Musical Director in June 2010, I would also like to thank all those who have made me and my family feel so welcome and particularly for the support and guidance of Marian Paulson (alto) who has been an enormous help during my induction.

Within moments of our arrival, we were all invited to participate in a number of special summer events; we particularly remember the warm and sunny picnics and parties outside Colwall and Coddington churches as well as the spectacular visit from the congregation of St James, Aston and their gospel choir.

In September we formed Colwall Children's Choir and we were delighted with the performances at Harvest and Christingle. The Church Choir performed at Remembrance and went on to support the Advent and Christmas services with performances throughout the season, ably led by regular conductor Sue Doswell and also for the first time by Wendy Blunn. We now look forward to the forthcoming production of Godspell in April and to the Choir's Easter programme, which will include the Requiem by John Rutter.

Orchestra

Susan Humphrey

It seems the year has turned truly full circle, as just after I wrote last year's report the orchestra played at a Parish Praise service led by Jenni Griggs and now we have just played at another led by her! We have played quite frequently this year. Our newest members are Lynne, Josh and Maddy Lee. Rebecca McPherson and Rachel Hawthorn have moved on to pastures new and we wish them luck at University. I am so grateful for their years of support and hope we might see them occasionally. I do congratulate Tilly Chester (violin) on gaining a place at Chetham's Music School, Manchester. This is terrific news and she loves her first term. We were to have played at the Christingle service but after much soul-searching I called off the plan. I did not want people to feel obliged to come when the church car park had turned itself into the local ice rink, people thus risking injury to limbs, cars and their instruments. We have discovered it is pleasant and roomy to sit in the newly ordered chancel when we are playing as the new steps and stacking chairs restrict space in 'our corner'.

Flowers

Pinkie Elliston

The flower group has had another busy but rewarding year. We started with our usual Coffee Morning in the Ale House in March to organise the rota for flower arranging for the remainder of 2010 and the beginning of 2011 up until Easter. The Coffee Morning this year will be on 2nd April at 10.30, in the Ale House again.

We have organised and arranged flowers for eight weddings this year as well as the weekly flowers, funerals, and the three festivals. A decision has now been made to charge the brides the cost price of the flowers for their wedding, as we always have, but also now I ask for 30% donation of that figure for the church. No one has objected yet and I believe they still get a good deal. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the helpers who do such a wonderful job in helping so willingly to keep our church looking lovely, and also to those who kindly help with the clearing away, especially after the festivals, which is always a grim job. Thanks also go to those kind people who let me raid their gardens for greenery.

Donations for the Easter lilies came to £158.40. This is not a profit making exercise but a chance for people to remember loved ones at the special time of year, and makes the church look wonderful at Easter.

Church Bells

Robin Riches

Twelve months have passed since my last report and another year of calling the Parish to Church on Sunday's. As before we ring for the 10am Communion Service and when the occasional Evensong is held at St James.

Weddings were catered for when Bells were requested, mostly 6 or 8 Bells. No quarter peals were rung but a few members rang in other quarters at local towers. A number of full 3-hour peals were attempted, and all successful, at Colwall by visiting bands.

The electronic simulator has been used extensively for teaching and the monthly district training sessions. I am hoping to get it up-dated for more variations soon. Practice nights on Monday's have been extremely varied with a few members being unable to attend, sometimes we have had to cancel, but I am grateful to one or two ringers from other towers coming to help out.

This coming year is the 125th Anniversary for the Hereford Guild of Bell-Ringers (founded by Rev George Custance of Colwall in 1886) and Colwall ringers will be joining in the celebrations throughout the Guild. Finally the annual maintenance check in November showed no problems but we will soon have to purchase some new bell ropes.

Handbell Ringers

Judy Robertson

We started 2010 by playing at the Epiphany Service and then in March we held an open night in the Alehouse to try and recruit some new members - but unfortunately no one came.

In May we attended a rally at Bishops Frome for the Herefordshire area and learnt some new music.

Hanley Swan ringers invited us to join them in a visit to Loughborough to Taylor's Bell Foundry and museum.

In November we had a workshop/ social evening with Drakes Boughton, Eckington, Pershore, Powick & Hanley swan.

The Tree of Light was the next occasion with the ringers helping out at the Colwall Park hotel, organised by Rotary.

We rang Carols at the the library and finished off the year at the Alehouse.

Mothers Union

Val Dipple

Monthly meetings are well attended, talks are varied i.e. Water Aid, Noah's Ark for bereaved children, Edward Elgar- his life and music. At our November meeting 3 new members were Enrolled, followed by discussion - several points were raised on matters concerning members. Particularly how the media and manufacturers offering fashionable clothes and expensive toys, TV games and other goods, were targeting children causing extra expense and pressure on families, robbing children of their childhood. For the December meeting an Advent Anthology included readings and Carols, concluding with mince pies, shortcake and the usual 'cuppa'.

Fundraising is important to enable overseas projects to be supported along with Aid for emergencies through natural disasters, and holidays in this country for families in need.

The Marmalade sale raised £288 and the coffee morning £235.

New members are always welcome and we particularly would welcome 'younger' members.

Sacristans

Ruth Leadbeater

A big Thank You to the loyal helpers, who come each week throughout the year to prepare the Vessels, Linen and Candles for all Communion Services. As we all do other duties, extra helpers would be greatly appreciated

Servers 'Who lead the way'

Barbara Hatton

Another year when thirteen members of the congregation have given their services unstintingly. Looking back -ten of those have done this since 2000- and maybe longer!

We should all give thanks for this and hope that we can recruit a few new members- especially we need Crucifers. Anyone who attends the 10.00am service will be warmly welcomed onto the 'team' please speak with Barbara if you feel you are interested. Remember if we do not have the trio needed- the service would not start!

Social Activities

Joy Conlon

Epiphany - once again we served Mulled Wine and delicious Epiphany cake- again thank you to all who contributed.

Our Patronal Festival in July- the service was held at St James Cradley- then everyone returned to Colwall for a much-enjoyed BBQ- a special thank you to Melanie who 'offered' to pre cook the chicken -a task I am sure she will not repeat in a hurry, the smell of cooking chicken lingered in the Rectory for days! I must thank everyone who 'pitched in' on the day, providing salads - helping with the cooking- serving from the bar- washing up etc. I know our friends from Aston very much appreciated the welcome, food and friendship.

Harvest Festival- this year we celebrated with a Parish Lunch in the Ale House- a choice of hot meal followed by apple pies & cream. A special thank you to the Guides who acted as waitresses and kitchen hands. Thank you to everyone who helped with the final clearing up. Yet another successful event

The Church Website

Mark Illingworth

The church website at www.colwallchurch.org exists to provide information for its regular congregations and to provide a window on the world to tell others what our churches have to offer. Chris Sennett set up the website and has maintained it since its inception. He hoped to revamp both the appearance and the content of the site, but due to worsening health problems he could not do so. He is now unable to keep the information up to date. Mark Illingworth has taken on the task of managing the website, but he will need your help.

The first task is to make sure that the information on the site is current, so please check the areas that you know about and note any points that need to be updated. Next, bearing in mind both the regulars and the outsiders, consider what can usefully be added. We would like to make the site more visual, so please take photos of events, which might interest either those present, or those who might be involved in future.

Our church could not run without the help of its many volunteers and their efforts need to be coordinated through a number of lists and rotas. It may be worth maintaining some of these lists on the website, if this would save effort in compiling and distributing them. If you are one of the people who are on one or more lists or rotas, please consider if you would like to be able to see the rota on the website, perhaps as an alternative to having it emailed. We recognise that there are people who will still want a paper list.

The churches also have their pages on the Church of England website A Church Near You (ACNY) www.achurchnearyou.com which will be of interest mainly to those who are not regular members of our congregations. As all C of E churches are listed, many with details which can be searched for, it is a useful resource for finding churches in an area, whether by location, style of service or particular facilities for such as the young, deaf or disabled. All our services in St James, St Crispin's and All Saints are listed. If you have suggestions on how our entries could be improved, please pass them on.

Please pass updates and suggestions direct to Mark, via the parish office or preferably by email to webman@colwallchurch.org.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010

INCOME	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Collections	6730	7,398
Gift aid	39785	42,226
Income tax recoverable	11360	11,900
General donations	1406	802
Investment and bank interest	3063	3,462
Church fees	7260	13,272
Magazine (net of expenditure)	466	470
Property income less costs	375	-915
Fund raising	2930	1,784
	<hr/> 73,375	<hr/> 80,399
EXPENDITURE		
Clergy allowances and training	1600	2,667
Sanctuary expenses	593	774
Organ and organists expenses	2659	2,446
Church maintenance (including heat and light, insurance, cleaning, repairs and maintenance)	12000	12,272
Administration (including books, stationery, postage, secretarial and stewardship)	11411	11,753
Miscellaneous	710	982
	<hr/> 28,973	<hr/> 30,894
Diocesan Parish Share (Quota)	50846	49,410
Contributions to Missions and charities	3643	3,600
	<hr/> 83462	<hr/> 83,904
 (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	 <hr/> -10,087	 <hr/> -3505

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2010

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
FUND BALANCES		
Designated	13923	13,923
Parish General	0	2,019
Organ	5331	5,331
Fabric	81866	117,546
Flower	3077	3,100
Bells	1284	1,316
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	105,481	143,235
INVESTED IN:-		
CBF shares and deposits	62656	61,485
Lloyds Bank Plc	2225	472
Alliance Giro	2285	4,155
Cafcash Deposits	44612	80,257
Debtors less creditors	-6297	-3,134
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	105,481	143,235