

Rector's Ramblings

February 2008 - No 5

ALL Saints
MILTON

Good news!

The PCC agreed at its meeting in January to extend the Children's and Youth Worker contract for a further year beyond the current two-year fixed term, to September 2009. This is a recognition of the good work that Chris has been doing over the past year and a half, and the importance that this church places on work with children and young people. We are very grateful to all of you who have increased your giving to support the PCC's initial step of faith in employing a Children's and Youth Worker - on behalf of the PCC, and the children and young people of All Saints, thank you!

The PCC's decision still contained an element of faith, as the draft accounts show that we ended last year with a deficit of a bit over £5,000 on our General Fund. It looks as though we need to raise a further £10,000 per year to be able to sustain this post into the future beyond the one-year extension. If you want to find out more about increasing your giving, please speak to Christophe Arhel. So there is good news, together with something for your thoughts and prayers!

Parish Weekend Away

I'm getting really quite excited about our Parish Weekend at Hothorpe Hall on 21st - 23rd November. It's now only a few months away, and bookings are steadily coming in. I am bursting to let you know who our speakers will be, but I can't tell you yet, as we still need to finally confirm their availability. However, I can promise that the weekend will be GOOD! If you haven't booked yet, please pick up a brochure from the table in the foyer. Transport need not be an issue, as lifts can easily be arranged. Cost should not put you off either as, through the generosity of people who have already booked, we can offer reduced rates to those who might otherwise be unable to come. So there's no reason not to book right away!

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of this year, I sensed that the Lord is about to do a new thing among us. I've no real idea what it might be, but I have a growing sense of excitement as we get stuck in to a year of Hope. There is much that we can do together as a church, and much that we can do in partnership with other churches, not least our friends in Waterbeach and Landbeach. Can I encourage you to continue to pray and seek the Lord as this year unfolds - when the Lord is on the move, so is the enemy, and we need to keep close to God in prayer so that we can be ready to co-operate with his purposes as he reveals them to us.

With every blessing,



I would be glad to receive your comments or suggestions about any aspect of the life of All Saints Church.

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PCC

I've been thinking about the PCC recently, and I'm aware that certain groups of people within our church fellowship are noticeably absent from the membership of the PCC. One is women - there is just one representative, which, given the nature of our congregation, seems rather odd, to say the least. Another is parents of children and teenagers - there are only a handful of us. Another notable absence is young people (with apologies to the younger members of PCC!), there is no-one under mid-twenties represented.

Elections to the new PCC will take place at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 20th April. Please be praying and thinking about who you would like to nominate for PCC to help make it a more balanced representative and decision making body for our church. You might like to consider standing yourself. The commitment is to six evening meetings per year, starting at 7.45pm and finishing by 9.45pm (OK, 10.00, but the intention is always there to finish on time!). There will also be occasional PCC study mornings (no more than two per year) - I intend to have one for the new PCC on Saturday 14th June, where we will look together at the life of our church and the work of the PCC, to see how the PCC can better serve the church, and to set up a PCC action plan for the coming year.

If you want to find out more about what the PCC does, please speak to me or to any of the current members: Christophe Arhel, Barry Brown, Richard Burrows, John Gray, Mary-Ann Johnson, Hamish Kidd, Andrew Macpherson, Paul Mutimer, Corin Redsell, Tony Stubbings, John Uttin, Barrie Woodman.

24/7 Prayer

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join in with Waterbeach and Landbeach Parish Churches, Waterbeach and Landbeach Baptist Churches, and Waterbeach Salvation Army, in a 24/7 prayer initiative. This will run from Sunday 4th May to Sunday 11th May, and will involve people from all six churches signing up for a time slot over that week, where they will commit to pray, resulting in an unbroken chain of prayer throughout every hour of every day (and night!) in that week. The week will end with a joint service of celebration on Pentecost Sunday evening. Put the dates in your diary now - who knows what the Lord might do when his people commit to pray?!

Hope 2008 in Milton Update

There will be a fuller update soon, but I'm pleased to report that our Hope 2008 group met recently, and that, following a very positive meeting, there is lots planned for this year of Hope. For Hope Where You Live - the first weekend in May - we will be contacting local charitable organisations to find out what the Church could do for them over that weekend. The Men's Ministry is going ahead with a weekend away (even though the initial plans for the Black Forest have had to be revised due to being 'gazumped' by the airline on the cost of the tickets). The Carol singing round the village was so successful in 2007 that the Lion and Lamb have invited us back for an advertised event in 2008. Following the ideas generated at the earlier meeting, Lunch Club is now full again, and further work is being done to gain more referrals in the future. Several members of All Saints are involved in the Parish Plan group, and the church as a whole can help with this by volunteering to deliver and collect the questionnaires. There are other exciting possibilities as well! Please keep praying, as this is a vital element in the whole Hope 2008 process, and be ready to offer your time and talents to these various initiatives. Some of them have already got 'champions' who are moving them forward, but others still need someone to take a lead. If you're interested in getting involved further with any of these, please speak to me or to Mary-Ann Johnson.

Confirmation

There will be a confirmation service in North Stowe Deanery (venue not yet decided, but not far away!) on Sunday 18th May, and we will be running confirmation preparation groups for both adults and young people here at Milton. If you are interested in finding out more about confirmation, please speak to me or to Eleanor Williams.