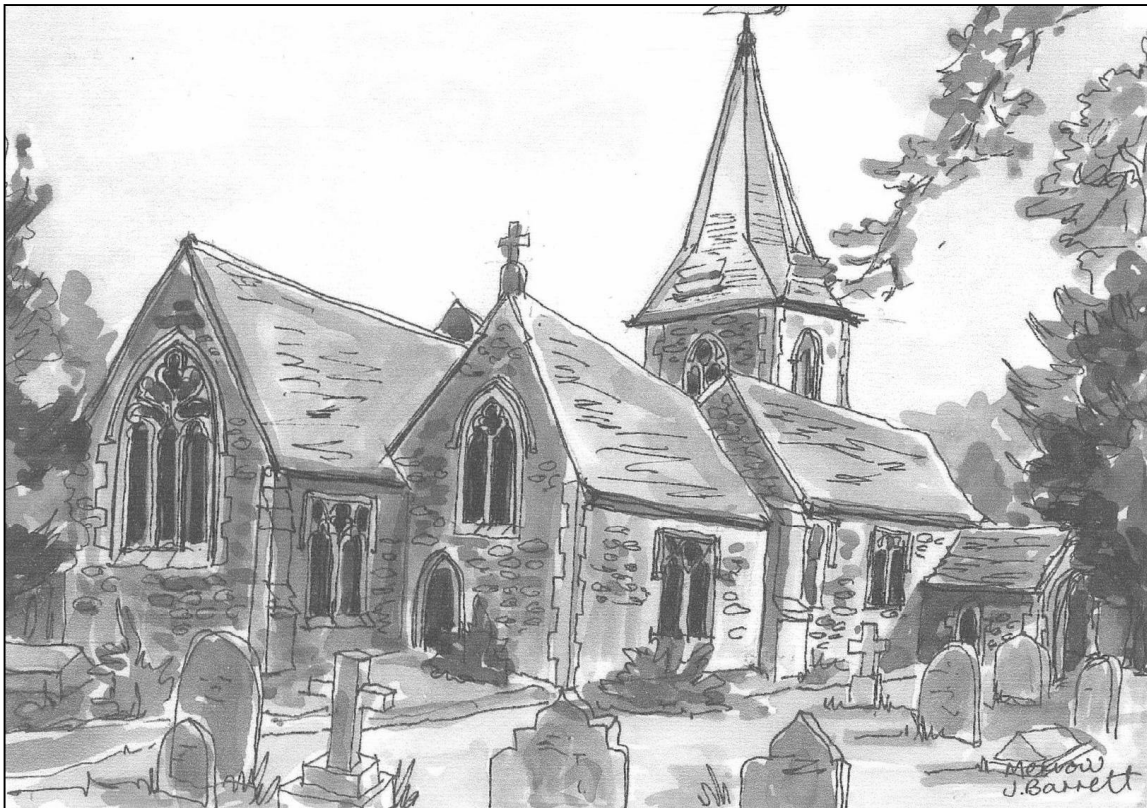


ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST MERROW

ANNUAL REPORT 2006 - 2007



CONTENTS

PCC OFFICERS' REPORTS

Churchwardens
PCC Secretary
Electoral Roll Officer
PCC Treasurer
Child Protection Officer

CLERGY REPORTS

Hon. Assistant Curate

STAFF MEMBERS REPORTS

Parish and Centre Administrators
Director of Music

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES REPORTS

Bell Ringing	Bible Reading Fellowship
Christian Aid	Christmas Bazaar
Coffee Club	Education for Ministry
Deanery Synod	Mother and Toddler Group
Fair Trade	Church Flowers
Junior Church	Merrow C of E School
Parish Magazine	Summer Fete
Together In Christ	Pastoral Team
Servers' Guild	Missionary Societies (CMS and USPG)
Adult Education	

CHURCHWARDENS

A major feature of the past year has been the completion of modifications inside the church. Space has been created to welcome visitors, provide additional storage and to display information. The choir vestry has been transformed whilst reordering of the front pews has improved access and allows for a more flexible approach to worship. We would like to thank everyone for their patience whilst work was in progress. As a result of these works it was agreed that the annual “spring” clean should be delayed until November, immediately prior to Remembrance Day.

Items acquired since our previous report have included the return of the stolen altar cross (wonderfully restored) which was rededicated on Christmas Eve by the Bishop of Dorking at the same time as the dedication of the movable altar. Also judging by the number of candles used, many visitors and parishioners have appreciated the gift of a votive candle stand.

Outside work has included repairs to the wrought iron work surrounding the boiler house and improvements to the entrance from Trodds Lane. In November essential work was carried out on trees adjacent to the car park boundary.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the many people who carry out a wide range of tasks in and around the church. Your hard work and dedication is appreciated greatly.

Finally, we would like to place on record our gratitude and thanks to Diana for her leadership, devotion and commitment to St John’s particularly during the interregnum.

Jean Spencer & Rosanne Bond

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who has assisted and supported me over the last 3 years. It has been an interesting time with many challenges and I have certainly learnt a great deal, especially about the “twilight zone” of faculty applications. I have enjoyed the experience,

especially the fellowship I have been privileged to enjoy with so many of you. I am now more convinced than ever that it is only through the selfless and dedicated hard work of all those involved in St Johns, that enables our church to remain a valuable and valued part of the community of Merrow and the wider church in Guildford.

Jean

TREASURER

PCC SECRETARY

The PCC currently consists of 16 members:

- 8 Elected Members
- 3 Deanery Synod Representatives
- 2 Church Wardens
- 2 Co-opted Members
- 1 Hon. Assistant Curate

Robert Avis Tom Thorp & Hilary Carter step down as Elected Members, Mavis Martin steps down as Deanery Synod Representative and Jean Spencer steps down as Church Warden.

We thank them all for their dedication and service over the last 3 years.

3 new Elected Members and 1 new Church Warden will be elected at the APCM.

A Deanery Synod representative will be elected at a later date from within the PCC.

Laura Parrington (Secretary)

ELECTORAL ROLL

At the Annual Meeting in 2006 I reported that there were 232 names on the Roll.

19 names had to be deleted during the year due to various reasons and 5 people applied to become members so the Roll at its closure stood at 218.

You will have heard that under Church Representation Rules a new Roll is required to be drawn up this year and at the time of writing we are awaiting the return of application forms. Everyone on the old Roll has to complete a new form for inclusion on the new one as names cannot be transferred from one to the other. Forms are still available at the back of church or from me.

John White (Electoral Roll Officer)

CHILD PROTECTION

In July 2006 I took over the role of Child Protection Officer from Danny Rowlands following his move out of the area.

I attended the child protection introductory course in April at which I learnt that the Diocesan Child Protection Policy was in the process of being updated following the Climbié Report. However, no new guidelines have as yet been issued and we are still working with the 2002 documentation.

At the Parish Council meeting in January the Churchwardens signed a copy of the Child Protection Policy statement which is now on display in the Church and Church Centre. This will need to be reviewed annually.

In the course of the next few months, I intend to review all the procedures and look forward to working with the new incumbent (when appointed) on ensuring that we comply fully with the latest framework to ensure that everyone within the Church community fully understands and complies with the latest Diocesan Child Protection Policy.

Helen Wolstencroft

HON. ASSIST. CURATE

For an OLM it has been dauntingly good fun to be “in charge” of the worship and pastoral care of this lovely parish. Particularly I found leading the beautiful worship of the Christmas season to be a spiritual high which I will never forget and I now look forward to endeavour to help us all to do the same for Holy Week and Easter.

Among things that I have done are:

- ❖ Preparation, presiding and preaching at worship
- ❖ Officiating at baptisms, marriages and funerals.
- ❖ Chairing The Worship Committee
- ❖ Occasional visits to Merrow Infants
- ❖ Visit those who fill in The Welcome Cards
- ❖ Home Communion and services at Redwood Nursing Home
- ❖ PCC meetings and Standing Committees
- ❖ Member of the Group Council with the Clandons
- ❖ Deanery Synods
- ❖ Deanery Chapter
- ❖ Christmas service for St John’s play Group
- ❖ Continuing my interest in the healing Ministry including my limited ministry at Epsom General Hospital by being on call on during Monday evening and night. With all the cut backs this may come to an end.

PERSONAL: HIGHLIGHTS HAVE INCLUDED

- ❖ Leading a trip to Rome and Assisi

- ❖ Helping with a Children’s Society walk to Santiago de Compostella
- ❖ The traumatic experience of saying goodbye to Lucy, Paul and Ben as they set off to their new life in Perth, Australia. Followed by the joy of web cams, Blogs etc. I have become quite up to date with some technology! Counting down till I visit them in May.
- ❖ Continuing watching the growing up of James (9) and Emma (6) and Toby (2) Anna continues to keep well
- ❖ Making time for the piano
- ❖ Occasional quiet days at St. Columba’s

I could not have done all this without the support of the Churchwardens and all you parishioners. Thanks you all so very much

Diana Matthews

PARISH ADMINISTRATORS

2006 has been a year of consolidating and fine tuning procedures and systems set up over the past years to make the business of running the Centre as efficient as possible. We complement each other well, each of us with different strengths that have served us well during the interregnum. Our thanks must go to Diana Matthews for the tremendous support we have received over the months, and to Rosanne Bond who has been there to offer advice, guidance and support.

We must also thank Anne Wilson, Jim Styles, Pat Baldock and Hilary Ellwood for their work with Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, and special thanks to Dorothy Seymour who deputises for us. Thanks are due to Eleanora, our faithful cleaner and Tony our caretaker, without whom a lot of heavy stuff wouldn't get moved!

Coffee Potters seem to be a dying breed, and perhaps this year's challenge could be to re-invigorate this outreach. However, we are grateful to our faithfuls. A parishioner has been asked to look at the whole scheme. 2006 saw the introduction of a monthly Traidcraft /charity stalls coffee morning, a popular venture.

The Quinquennial inspection was held in August when the architects toured the building and reported on defects. There was a favourable result with a small number of minor works to be done urgently eg repainting door sills, loose mortar all of which have been addressed. Panic bars on the exit doors to the main hall and the corridor have been replaced. This year the exterior woodwork and the inside walls should be repainted. The boiler continues to give us problems, once requiring the hire of portable heaters and frequently necessitating emergency callouts. The heat exchanger has been replaced but to replace the boiler itself would cost several thousand pounds and incur a great deal of upheaval.

The need to have a surplus of income over expenditure to enable us to put funds aside for future maintenance has resulted in an increase of bookings charges of around 5%. As charges were not increased last year we feel this is acceptable. This year's total income was slightly lower than last year mainly due to a regular user holding more courses on their own premises.

The Annual Meeting for Centre users is scheduled to take place on March 22nd.

Diane Richardson and Mary Starr

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The Choir were homeless for several months this year, whilst the Choir Vestry was being re-furbished, but they took it in their stride, with good-humour, and now appreciate the much-improved "working conditions." I would like to thank all those who helped with the moving of music and robes and with the considerable task of reorganising the music for its new home.

The Choir membership now stands at sixteen (eight sopranos, six altos, two tenors), with an average attendance of ten each Sunday. Practices are an essential pre-requisite for singing in the Choir and these have usually been well-attended. The only exception, unfortunately, was in the run-up to the Christmas services, due mainly to other commitments. For the Carol Service, I was able to call on our established group of "outside" singers, some of whom always augment our Choir for weddings. Sadly, this was not possible for the other services and we had only three singers at each of the Midnight and Christmas morning services.

This leads me on to how I see this might be addressed in the future. I am aware that in the wider congregation there are people who can sing, who are not able to make a regular commitment to Sundays and practices, but who might be interested in a short-term commitment to a specific service, with a few conveniently-timed practices. I would like to encourage these people to come forward and give it a go.

My monthly newsletter "Music Matters" continues to be distributed to all who have expressed an interest in it, hopefully keeping everyone informed with dates for diaries.

One highlight of our musical year was the sponsored hymn-singing event in September. It was enjoyed by all who came to listen and by the singers themselves, many of whom sang for the whole four hours. We raised over £500 for the Anthony Nolan Trust.

Finally, I would like to thank all who have supported me in my role as Director of Music, particularly the Choir, as a whole and as individuals, Diana, Jean, Rosanne and Mavis.

Margaret Phillips

BELL RINGING

Since last November the bells of St. John's have remained silent. The band of ringers has steadily dwindled to the point where there are now insufficient ringers for regular Sunday ringing, and the few remaining ringers go to ring in other churches on Sundays. There was an exception to this: when Frank Lewin who had rung at Merrow for many years, died, a quarter-peal of plain bob doubles was rung in memory of him with some visiting ringers. We did just before the Carol Service so that there would at least be some ringing at Christmas.

Merrow is part of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers. At the time of writing this they were about to hold a practice at Merrow tower and all members of the congregation were invited to visit the ringing chamber to see how church bells are rung.

It would be a pity if Merrow church, which has a lovely ring of six bells, were to remain silent. Bell ringing is such an extensive and fascinating subject, there is always more to learn. As well as providing a service to the church it is a team activity and a great mental exercise – and it is so enjoyable!

If anyone is interested in learning more about ringing please contact Jonathan Banton 01483 561876

Jonathan Banton

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Membership of the Bible Reading Fellowship remains at about 25 and over the past year we have experienced a varied diet of daily readings from both the Old and New Testaments.

The theme changes every 2-3 weeks so we may be introduced to a little known Old Testament Prophet followed by a deeper study of a well known Gospel or Epistle. From May 1st readers of New Daylight will be introduced to the writings of Julian of Norwich. Guide Lines readers will be studying St Luke's Gospel.

The annual subscription is £10.50 and new members will be very welcome.

Dorothy Day

CHRISTIAN AID

In 2006 we at St John's raised the excellent sum of £3,600 (with gift aid) by our annual collection in May. I have been happy to hold the fort again with the continued help of Jackie Waterfall and Hilary and David Kemp, and of course that of the 46 collectors who have helped us to let the people of Merrow know that we do wish to ***Make Poverty History***, as the banner outside our church proclaims.

The probable reason why 2006 was such a good year for Christian Aid and other aid agencies was that there were major disasters – such as the Boxing Day 2005 Tsunami and the Pakistan Earthquake – which captured the public imagination. By contrast 2007 has been a less dramatic year, with no major disasters (so far) to attract widespread media and public attention.

But as was made clear by the recent Challenge Aneka programme on TV (on helping with post-Tsunami reconstruction work) the need of people is still there long after a disaster stops receiving media coverage. Let us bear this in mind as we approach Christian Aid week 2007.

The theme for this year is ***'Growth for Poor Communities'***, with emphasis on encouraging tree planting (at home as well as abroad) to offset the effects of Climate Change. As widely predicted in the media, the affects of droughts and floods, in particular on the world's poorest peoples, are likely to get worse as a result of Climate Change. And of course their future is our future too. I therefore hope it will be possible once again for me to find a sufficient number of Christian Aid collectors and supporters among our congregation.

Jenny Welbourn and Jackie Waterfall

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Kate and I volunteered to run the Christmas Fair last October when Diana appealed for help. It had to be held on 25th November because the Centre was only available on that date. Kate had never organised a Fair before but she proved to be a marvellous partner and we worked together extremely well.

Some regular stallholders were not available this time due to other commitments so we had to find new ones but our parishioners are a wonderful group of people and everyone we approached agreed to help – even some who were completely new to it! As time was short Kate and I left them to arrange their own stalls (although we were there with help if it was needed). And didn't they do well?

I did write to everyone to thank them for all the hard work they put in providing such attractive stalls and if I left anyone out I sincerely apologise.

We made £1533.80 which was extremely good considering we were competing against four other Fairs being held in this area on that day. But over all, it wasn't the money raised that was the most important outcome of the day – it was the fellowship that emanated throughout the Centre from the stallholders on the Friday evening and Saturday morning as we were setting up and from the people who came along to buy in the afternoon. Someone told me it was one of the happiest Fairs they had ever attended and that made all the hard work worthwhile.

Barbara White & Kate Pearmain

COFFEE CLUB

On Wednesday morning the foyer of the St. John's Centre continues to be a lively and noisy place as members gather together to chat over coffee and biscuits. The tried and tested format of our annual programme varies very little, which makes it difficult for me to vary this kind of report.

We have had a few sad occasions during 2006 when we have had to say goodbye to several much loved friends; who have in their differing ways left us with pleasant memories.

On a happier note we were pleased to welcome several new members, who seemed to very quickly join in with the spirit of the club. We are always anxious to know of anyone who would like to join us, especially the housebound. Thanks to Rosanne performing miracles in coordinating our valiant drivers, we are able to offer transport to those with mobility problems.

We continue to find any excuse for a special morning which included last year, Phil. Bristow's birthday. Phil has been a prominent figure in the development of the coffee morning, almost since its conception back in the sixties. We thank her for her continuing help and wisdom so readily given.

Our regular bring and buy sales continued to fund our three major events. The first was our annual lunch when our helpers brightened up a dull February day with their yellow flower arrangements and candles. This popular event owes its success to the many willing and capable helpers including those who man the tables, the kitchen team and the drivers.

The second event was the summer coach trip to Worthing much enjoyed by all as much for the tea as the bracing walk along the prom.

Finally the year ended with the now well-established visit from members of the choir who led our carol singing. This has become a very popular happy occasion and together with appropriate festive fare marked the end yet another year of friendly coffee mornings.

Doreen Yaxley

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM)

The Merrow Education for Ministry group started its second year in September 2006, with eight students returning and beginning Year 2 and one student embarking on Year 1. Education for Ministry ('EFM') is an ecumenical programme of theological study for lay people, offering the same level of theological education as for ordained ministry. The group (consisting of eight students and a mentor from St John's, and one student from Merrow Methodist Church) meets weekly for a seminar. We discuss readings and engage in Theological Reflection, in which we connect our Christian tradition with our experience, culture and beliefs.

During the past year we have progressed in our understanding of Theological Reflection and have worked on finding implications for our lives and ministry, both in the church and in the world. Our discussions are always animated, as we grapple with our understanding of Scripture and the connections or conflicts we discover between the text and our own life experience. We begin each week with worship, which group members take it in turns to prepare. This is always a highlight of our EFM week, as we are nurtured by a great variety of approaches to worship, from formal liturgy such as Compline to symbolic action and silence.

The group is open to new members each September. The course is four years in total: Year 1 Old Testament, Year 2 New Testament and Years 3 and 4 Church History and Theology. However, students sign up for one year at a time and do not need to begin with Year 1. The programme is flexible, and a group can accommodate students in different years of study.

Alison Dren, EFM Mentor

DEANERY SYNOD

March (St Mary's Shalford).

Following introduction of our new Rural Dean, the Rev'd Barbara Messham and a report on the IFE Link from Jane Baker. Canons Paul Jenkins and Nicholas Thistlethwaite gave presentations about making new use of existing worship space, liturgy, music and updating our technology. Two extra PCC reps attended this meeting.

June (Holy Trinity Guildford)

Some weeks before the meeting parish deanery reps were sent a questionnaire re the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Quite a lot of the questions about our future plans could not be answered due to the interregnum. At the meeting there was group discussion of questions relating to the draft response to the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. A Deanery response was prepared and presented in September (All Saints Onslow Village) for further comment before submission to the Diocese.

A new Diocesan Synod took office on 1st August. Guildford Deanery was the only deanery needing an election (9 candidates for 7 places). Mavis and Barbara nominated and seconded Peter Hounslow who was duly elected.

October (Christ Church Guildford).

27 visitors, including Anne Milton, MP and Bp Gabriel from Ile-Ife. Stoughton Infant School reported on the exchange visit to Nigeria and Synod passed a motion expressing total opposition to the possible closure of Surrey hospitals.

The main topic was 'Consecration of Women as Bishops in the C of E'. Mavis reported back to the PCC on this inconclusive debate. Synod minutes state "The feeling was where does this take us?"

It was agreed to be a catalyst for discussion and the matter may be re-visited at a later time but not at a regular Synod meeting. Full resume of submissions by the speakers available from deanery reps.

Mavis Martin, Barbara Lawrence, Dermot Verschoyle

MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP

Our Mother & Toddler Group continues to run every Thursday afternoon from 2pm during term-time. We organise 'setting up' on a rota basis from 1:45pm which seems to work at the moment, but we always need more help.

We have a group of tea ladies who are organised via Stephanie on a rota basis too. We are delighted to see many new mothers with their babies and toddlers who have recently joined, which is always good, as a number of our present toddlers will be leaving after the summer holiday to start school in September.

The Christmas Party was a success which we held in the main hall, and afternoon tea was set out in the small room. Father Christmas arrived and gave a present to all of the children. The presents were organised by Stephanie and Alex, this year we used Osborne Books. It saved a lot of time going out and buying about 30 presents!

We have had a few Bouncy Castles for parties in the main hall, which have proved to be a success, and the Mothers from the Toddler Groups get a discount.

We miss Alan's 'pram service' when he used to play his guitar, which the children loved once a month. We are looking forward to this continuing when a new vicar is appointed.

Alex Armstrong

FAIR TRADE

I am so pleased to report that we have had the most successful year ever selling fairtrade goods.

Part way through the year, I thought that it would be good to find a way to open the fairtrade stall regularly to the general public and asked the PCC if I could hold a stall in the Church Centre every last Friday of the month. This was agreed and over the past few months, we have seen a steady increase in sales at these events. This has really helped to raise awareness of fairtrade with people in the local community attending.

Many parishioners, friends and family ordered their Christmas cards from me and sales were again high. It was so good to be able to rely on people's regular support.

We again held a very successful stall at the Parish Fete in the summer and Christmas Bazaar. Many thanks to Jane Farquarson who supports me on these occasions. It was lovely to see how pleased people were that the stall was at these events.

For the past few months the Guildford fairtrade steering committee (of which I am a member and recently elected 'minutes secretary') have been organising an official presentation of our fairtrade town status certificate to the mayor. The event was held at the Guildhall on Saturday 3rd March and was attended by over 300 people. We were delighted with the response from the general public. People were very enthusiastic and bought many fairtrade food items to try. Thank you to Jenny Welbourn and my family for their support.

A week later I held a fairtrade coffee morning at my home. I really enjoyed this event and it was lovely to raise money and have a chat!! Many of my neighbours supported me along with parishioners and we raised £50. A big thank you to Pat Baldock who helped me so much that day.

Over fairtrade fortnight we sold about £700 of food.
...and so to the most important part of my report...

Providing this service has most definitely increased over the past few years and the job entails quite a number of hours of stock control, ordering, pricing, accounts, banking, and attending events. As I cannot buy stock on a sale and return basis, I have to rely in part on regular support. I am so grateful to all those who support fairtrade which in my view is a terribly important and worthy cause. The fact that we are helping families in the developing world to enjoy so many of the things that we take for granted each day, like sending their children to school and providing medical care, drives me further to increase sales. I am informed of story after story where peoples' lives have been transformed by working with fairtrade organisations.

Thank you again and if you would like any further information about any aspect of fairtrade, please do contact me.

Cathy Thompson

CHURCH FLOWERS

My thanks go to each member of this talented team who throughout the year beautify our Church according to the season.

In addition, some of us participate in other local flower festivals in aid of various charities and we also regularly arrange for the Cathedral.

I am pleased to report the addition of 2 new members and we look forward to working with them in the coming year. My usual plea is for offers to decorate the altar; why not try it in 2007?

Diana Butcher – Flower Co-ordinator

JUNIOR CHURCH

It has been a mixed year for Junior Church; our numbers have dropped a little but the group that remains is growing in faith if not in numbers. We have discussed lots of different topics, prayed together, sang together and laughed together.

Last year was the first of hopefully a regular session, an Easter Activity Day. 30 children had a great day taking part in a variety of activities from making a beautiful Easter garden to Easter biscuits. There was a really great feel to the day and was a good example of the out reach work that St John's could do.

The children had a fun day at the Junior Church picnic although we did miss Alan and Sue, not to mention Wallace and Gromit!

The crèche has continued but without the take up that we had expected. Judith and David, with Katherine Bond, have a good selection of toys and activities so we shall continue to hope that it attract some young parishioners!

We have lost Hilary Carter as a regular 'teacher'. I would like to thank her for all her hard work over the last few years, particularly for stepping into the breach through the Autumn Term.

There is a real need for some new faces to come forward to help out as we are reluctant to drop back to just 2 sessions a month. The support of Liz Mulgrew and Frances Jewson is very much appreciated.

Sophie Dickinson has finished her Duke of Edinburgh Service but fortunately for me and the children, Charlotte Stokes has just started hers. I am very grateful for their commitment and would welcome others coming forward to offer help.

Emma Hooper

MERROW CoFE INFANT SCHOOL

Church schools have their foundation in the Christian Gospel and are linked to a worshipping community. As Foundation Governors it is our responsibility to ensure that Merrow C of E Infant School reflects this foundation, not just in that part of the curriculum termed 'Religious Education' or in the daily Collective Worship, but throughout the whole curriculum and ethos of the school. Christine Martin, the Headteacher, is fully committed to the Christian ethos and the existing links with St John's, maintaining these links with the church and the community is a regular item on the agenda at Governors meetings.

The school continues to receive good support and representation from within the parish. The Governing Body includes three Foundation Governors; the Rector (vacant), the PCC representative (Angela Rye) and the Diocesan representative (David Hunt). In addition, congregation members Peter Tappin and Liz Mulgrew continue to fulfil key roles on the Governing Body, and Jane Darcy is the current Chairperson of the PTA.

During the past year the school has managed to improve upon the already high standards as endorsed by Ofsted and denominational inspections. We hope that on behalf of the church we are able to contribute to the continued raising of these standards.

During the year we have missed the spiritual guidance and regular assembles run by Fr Alan, it is hoped that we can build an equally strong relationship with the new incumbent.

Merrow C of E Infant is an excellent school and is very much part of the community. We were delighted to see many staff and pupils attend the Christingle service. We gain great satisfaction from being on the Governing body and working with the staff for the good of the pupils.

David Hunt

PARISH MAGAZINE

During the year the magazine appearance and content has changed a little. The Rector 'did' the cover so, as it takes time finding 'month appropriate' pictures, after June I decided to stick with a picture of the church! Advertisement pages have been re-arranged and now the 'Registers' appear opposite the 'Services' on pages 1 and 2. December was the last double page spread of the Saints Calendar so from January 2007 the centre spread will be a 'dates' chart, copy-date notice and other magazine information. 2007 will see more quizzes and word searches for younger people, providing I can source the material and someone tell me they want them! I hope you are all enjoying the 'gardening pages' I am grateful to John Boon of Holy Spirit, Burpham for these.

Our Treasurer, Carole, is no longer 'new', Tricia, our advertising manager, continues to fill all available spaces and we have several new advertisers. Pam and Ken keep the bundles of magazines going for the distributors, the distributors continue to work hard at the job – special mention here of Ivy Green who has the largest delivery round. Barbara W. has born most of the burden of proof reading during 2006 and Diana has always sent in 'her' pages well before the copy date, which is most helpful to me. Thanks to several parishioners for sending me serious sayings and amusing snippets for fillers. I still need these to come rolling in, especially fairly short ones. A special thank you to Nick, Tony and team of NJM who print the magazine.

Please look at the job descriptions in the April 2007 magazine and consider volunteering to be a deputy editor or distribution manager.

Barbara Lawrence, editor

SUMMER FETE

It was a HOT day and, although we had the date first, it clashed with World Cup Football!

Despite this, and several other alternative attractions, about 150 adults plus children (being 'free' they were not counted at the gate). Archdeacon Stuart Beake's family came to support him as he judged the children's art competition (a portrait of Father Alan) and our PCSO Michelle came along too. The Fair was opened by Mrs Helen Clark from the Send Family Link Charity.

The worst thing that went wrong on the day was the sound system – it didn't work at all! We missed the Rector! This an important lesson to learn for next year.

Children from Merrow C of E Infant School delighted us with Maypole dances and the accessories, books, bottle tombola, bouncy castle, bric a brac, cakes, cuddly toy tombola, face painting, guess the weight of the cake, jolly jars, lucky dip, name the bunny, the Pimms Tent (Yes we did have a Temporary Event Notice!), plants, raffle, sweet snap, teas, treasure map and water-and-wine game all contributed to the fun and the takings – we made £1,503.20 after expenses, half each to St John's and Send Family Link. (They used the money for really nice toys, important for children with low self esteem).

Thanks to everyone who made it possible – Mr Brooks for lending the lorry, Angus for driving it, the furniture removers, stall setter uppers, lenders of gazebos, tea makers, stall holders, providers of sale goods, the treasurer and team, Emma for organising the children's art competition and the bouncy castle, the unsung providers of pre-fair financial assistance, help with advice and publicity, and most important of all, **you** for coming along on the day and spending money.

Barbara Lawrence

TOGETHER IN CHRIST

2006 was a reasonably successful year for TiC. The Bridge of Prayer event in September, in which all our churches were open and an exhibition on 'Bridges to our neighbourhood' was on display, was appreciated by those who attended.

We now hold joint services on every month when there's a fifth Sunday. While not always as well attended as we might hope, these are always inspiring and often feature themes of vital current concern. The July service took *the Environment* as its subject, and the one in October featured the moral challenge posed by the *International Arms Trade*, with three powerful addresses given by the Revd Rob Esdaile. Our January 2007 service was about *Giving Voice to the Voiceless*, and our own choir member, Maura Dearden, spoke movingly about the campaign to keep open the Royal Surrey hospital.

A now well established feature of these services is our ecumenical choir, drawn from choir members from many of our individual churches. A real sense of camaraderie is developing as members get to know one another better. From the St John's point of view, it is wonderful to be part of a choir which has several men in its membership.

Currently we are in the advanced stages of setting up a joint website. This will both provide information to interested outside enquirers and make communication between our churches more efficient. For example we shall be providing details of Christmas and Easter services on the website, rather than notifying people by cards.

To end on a high note, the Lent house groups attracted a record number of participants in 2006 – nearly a hundred people. The 2007 one, based on the film *Chocolat*, promises to be an even greater success.

David Welbourn

PASTORAL TEAM

PARISH TEAM

We met three times as a team last year;

- ❖ In March we met in the Church Centre and the Rector (Alan) led us in a Lent Meditation which was greatly appreciated by all of us present.
- ❖ In May we held a Eucharist at Avila as a farewell to the Rector as he was about to move to new pastures.
- ❖ In September we met at Kate Pearmain's new home. Following The Blessing of all the rooms in her new home we had a very good discussion on "Where we feel The Pastoral Team " is and ideas for discussing with the New Incumbent.

The team was re commissioned on July 16th at the 10.00am Eucharist by The Archdeacon of Surrey The Ven. Stuart Beake.

On November 16th Anne Cooper completed her training and was admitted as a Pastoral Assistant in the Cathedral and then commissioned at St Johns' the following Sunday.

BAPTISM

During 2006 there were 25 Baptisms during special Baptism Services and 1 during the main Eucharist. Siblings I help us with lighting the candle and pouring the water in the font. On May 7th we had our annual thanksgiving for all those Baptised in 2005 during the 10am Family Worship on Rogation Sunday. Those families were invited individually. Then afterwards there was the family day with rambles, Bouncy Castle and food. We thank Margaret and Hugh Thorpe for playing for us at the baptisms.

Pat Baldock, Pauline Read, Jane Farquharson and Jackie Waterfall continue to prepare the families and attend the Baptisms. I am very grateful to them

Pat Baldock and Hilary Kemp continue to deliver all the baptism Anniversary cards. Thankyou.

They made 104 visits last year! Thank you.

1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd Year	4 th Year
23	35	30	21

PRAM SERVICE:

On the First Thursday of the month these took place in the Church centre until the Rector left. Then Emma Hooper continued with them until her work times were changed. They will be started again in the future.

MARRIAGES

2006: 8

FUNERALS

Services: 5 at St. Johns' and 35 at Guildford Crematorium.

We continue to keep in contact with all bereaved families as long as they would like us to visit or show a need. Kate Pearmain organise a tea party on the 3rd Sunday of some months on the Centre. Those who come very much enjoy the fellowship. Our special Evensong for All Souls was on Sunday October 29th. This continues to increase with popularity each year. My thanks to Kate Pearmain who organises this, and those who visit the bereaved. My thanks to them as well.

PARISH VISITING

- ❖ After The Rector and Helen left I continued to do as many visits as I could plus an average 12 Home communions each month. There is also a Communion Service at Redwood Nursing Home on the First Wednesday of each month. My thanks to Linda Ratneiks who plays the piano each month for us. This is also well supported by members of the congregation whose presence is really appreciated.
- ❖ We also held a Christmas Carol and lessons Service at Redwood on the evening that they switched on their Christmas Lights. Thank you to the Choir for coming.
- ❖ The pastoral team including the clergy has also visited people in hospital and in the local nursing homes and in their homes.

Once again Thank you to all the team for all their hard work.

Diana Matthews

SERVER'S GUILD

The Serving Team is in good heart with 4 “8 o'clock” servers, whilst 6 senior and 3 young servers support the Parish Eucharist. We have welcomed Laura and Dermot who have swelled the ranks of the senior servers, however we have sadly said goodbye to three members - Pauline Read who has been a stalwart for over twenty years, Tom Thorp who joined as one of our first young acolytes and is now off on his pre-university travels and Ellie Carter who has moved to another parish.

I want to pay particular tribute to our new backstage member – Mary Starr. Mary has become our costumier, running up new cassocks and cottas, repairing vestments as well as altar cloths for the Onslow Chapel. She has ensured that we are all well turned out whilst at the same time saving us a small fortune!

I hope that the congregation will want to join me in thanking the team for their dedication, week be week, throughout the past year.

Andrew Culshaw

**MISSIONARY SOCIETIES
(CMS & USPG)**

St Anne’s Hospital, Nkotakota, Lake Malawi, supported by us through USPG has a new 15 bedded ward for male patients, previously not catered for at St. Anne’s. It has also instituted a feeding programme for malnourished infants and children and HIV testing and counselling centres for rural communities since last year.

Katie Hart, our CMS mission partner has returned to the UK after 3 years in Kunming, south west China and we look forward to seeing her at St. John’s and hearing more about her life since she left these shores and embarked on her language programme, before she returns to another location in China where the pollution will hopefully be less detrimental to her health.

Partnership House, the joint headquarters for USPG and CMS at present will be served by a new base in north

Oxford for CMS opening in June, and by different premises in the Waterloo Road area for USPG.

We started the year’s accounts with the spring sale and raised £241.35 for CMS. A similar amount was sent to USPG. Our Harvest Brunch was enjoyed after Harvest Festival on October 1st and £339.36 was collected during the day which was shared three ways between CMS, USPG and Biblelands. On Ash Wednesday, the Austerity lunch this year raised £111.05 for each mission organization. Collecting boxes for CMS totalled £95.26 and contributions from USPG globes amounted to £74.52.

Total sums raised, excluding that sent from proceeds of the summer fete and Christmas bazaar, amount to £560.78 for CMS and £540.04 for USPG.

Kate Pearmain

ADULT EDUCATION

Nothing to report at this time.