

Newsletter of the Smaller Churches in the Thames Valley Circuit

November 2011



Minister's Letter

The picture-story offered to us by Jesus of an invitation to a banquet keeps coming back to me. God is an inviting God, issuing invitations to go on an adventure, offering opportunities, opening doors. We are invited to respond.

The "smaller churches" in the Thames Valley Circuit are being invited by God to look upwards and outwards and to recognise what God is seeking to have done in the communities, in which we live. It has been a joy to sit in on meetings where *Pie and Praise*, *Come, Taste and Sing*, *Messy Church*, *Retreat* have been planned and shared. It has been a privilege to share in Bible Study with groups from the smaller churches and to hear a recognition of the call to pray.

As we connect with this inviting God, we may discover that some of the things we have been doing could be done better or even be allowed to die, so that new ways of worship and mission may be born. Always travelling on ...

As we look to increase the number of paid staff in the circuit, we see this as a time of hope, a time of possibilities, a time of opportunities. So we join together, praying for each other, connecting with the Source of hope and commit ourselves to being faithful to the God who continues to issue invitations.

Peace.

Andrew

Reports and News from the Churches

Eton Wick

Future Events

On 6th November we are hoping to join with members at Windsor at 6.30 pm for a Service of Remembrance, led by Rev Barbara McIntivey, for those who have died recently.

Burnham

Burnham Church was beautifully decorated for Harvest. We thank the many kind people for their generous donations. All non-perishable produce was taken to the Slough Refugee Centre, and local organisations were pleased to receive gifts of fruit and vegetables.

The work of refurbishment and redecoration has now been completed. The smallest community room has been furnished as a quiet sitting room, for small meetings, coffee and chat, board games, or even a few minutes resting the eyes!

The Well at Lent Rise continues its work of outreach among the community. A coffee morning, held in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Fund, attracted a good attendance. Church members were present and the Church itself was open, with music, and a number of people took the opportunity to spend a few minutes inside the Church listening to the music, and chatting to Church representatives.



Cookham Rise

On Saturday, 15th October, between 10.30 and 1 pm, Cookham Rise held another *Messy Church* session. It was based on the creation story, which provided plenty of scope for messy and creative crafts!

Nineteen people, representing nine families, took part – mainly from Toddlers and Rainbow Pre-school. The session began with everyone chopping up vegetables for soup for lunch. It continued with the Bible story about the creation of the earth and a range of activities indoors and out (including pipe-cleaner bugs, junk animals and primordial slime) and ended with lunch – soup, sandwiches, Eden dessert and creative cocktails.

Members and friends of all ages from the church were there to welcome the families and help with the activities; there was a lovely atmosphere and a great time was had by all – praise the Lord! The next *Messy Church* will be in February 2012 – if anyone from any of the other smaller churches wants to come and see what we do, with a view to doing it at their church, they will be very welcome.

Connie Jeffery

Woodlands Park

What a good spirit there was at this year's Harvest Festival on 2nd October. The church family welcomed back one of its older members, Mollie, who has spent many weeks in hospital and is now receiving care at a home in Windsor. There were some children of the families who are part of the worshipping community. A congregation of over thirty sang well as we thought about what it means to "celebrate and trust".

After the service we shared in a delicious lunch of soup, bread and puddings. I think some people managed to try all the puddings (no names mentioned!)

This was a Sunday we shall remember for a long time. Thanks be to the Harvest God!

Old Windsor

Old Windsor held its second *Messy Church* on Sunday, 9th October. 6 children, aged 4 – 12, met together with 8 Adults and had fun thinking about creation. They thought about the world by blowing up balloons and drawing the world on them – only 1 went bang! They placed animals in the country of their origin on a map of the world, created mud from powder and shaped it and made cut out figures to join hands round the world.

A short time of worship was followed by tea which was enjoyed by all.

Future events

- Our series of *Travellers' Tales* continues on Thursday, 10th November at 2.30 pm in the Church Hall, with a Scottish theme. Cost: £4 including afternoon tea Everyone welcome!
- Don't forget that if you are in Old Windsor on a Tuesday morning, we are open for *coffee and a chat* between 10 am and noon, and we'd love to see you. The more the merrier ... and noisier!



Please support us ...

If you can support our activities and events in any way, please do! Thank you!

Contact

This newsletter is edited by Anne Haggarty, the Secretary of the Smaller Churches Support Group. Please contact her with ideas and suggestions.