

# Newsletter of the Smaller Churches in the Thames Valley Circuit

## January 2012

Wishing everyone a blessed, peaceful and rewarding 2012!

### Minister's Letter

2012 dawns with much expectation. There is a sense of uncertainty (as there always is) at the beginning of a new year, but there are some "fixed points", for which we need to make preparations. There are opportunities for the smaller churches as the Olympic torch passes through the circuit on July 10<sup>th</sup> and then the crowds will arrive for the rowing at the end of July. We want to support Eton Wick especially for those few days when Dorney becomes the centre of the globe. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee gives us the chance to participate in community events.

We are excited by the prospect of the arrival of three new members of staff, who will offer new vision and energy to the staff meeting and to the mission of the smaller churches. We are going to find it hard to say goodbye to Mannie and Barbara, because we have been blessed by their ministry and their commitment to the smaller churches in the circuit. We already know that Sonia and Andy will be joining us, and we expect a probationer to be appointed to the Windsor section shortly.



As the country travels through difficult times with high unemployment and concerns about finance, people are asking what really matters in life. As smaller churches, involved in the life of our communities, we are prepared to share some good news: that God has not abandoned God's world. In Jesus, God has come to us and continues to come to us.

In the covenant service we make ourselves available to this God; we place ourselves at God's disposal and invite God to use our talent, treasure and time. We shall continue to find opportunities to share food in the neighbourhood and offer hospitality and welcome to all. We shall also go where people are and stand with them in their celebrations and disappointments.

It is an exciting time to be the Superintendent Minister and I look forward to being part of all the mission-work, in which we share as smaller churches in 2012.

Peace.

Andrew

## News from Burnham

Local Church leaders are meeting to explore ways in which the Christian community can work together in witness and service. In the 1980s Burnham had a strong and effective ecumenical group called the *Association of Burnham Christians*. After some years this faded away, and although there is much informal contact between the different congregations, this is the first attempt, after many years, to plant the seeds of regrowth and Christian unity within Burnham. We feel that the coming year offers many opportunities for the Christian community in and around our village and we look forward to taking hold of these opportunities, as Christians united in one purpose.



## News from Old Windsor

Old Windsor holds an annual carol evening organised ecumenically by the Churches, but held in the village Memorial Hall. Our aim is always to present the Christmas story in a fresh way, and, by demand, sing as many carols as we can in the hour or so that our carol evening lasts.

This year we decided that we should show *Open the Book* to the parents and grandparents (and others) who have heard the children talking about it. So, the *Open the Book* Team presented the two Christmas stories, interspersed with carols at appropriate moments. The team was supplemented by a few extra adults coerced (?) into helping.

The Team thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and from comments afterwards, so did those watching! We also were very gratified to be asked "Can we join you?" by two of those who watched.

### Future events - all welcome

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2.30 pm: **Traveller's Tales**, Rev Barbara McIntivey;  
followed by tea.

All Saturdays in March, 9 am - 11 am: **Brunch**, proceeds for Missions

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2.30 pm: **Travellers' Tales**, David and Sylvia Alexander;  
followed by tea.

### Committee Meeting

A reminder to all representatives that our next meeting is at Burnham on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm.