

September 2007

From Lynda Barrow & Mike Seddon, Church Wardens

Dear Friends,

Steps towards a new vicar

Last time we wrote it was the start of our interregnum, or gap between the old vicar leaving and the new one arriving, here at St John's. Rather like decorating a room in your house, the preparation seems to take ages before you get down to the actual work of applying the paint or putting up the paper. That analogy rings true for the process of finding our next vicar – many of you will probably be wondering what's happening – and lots of preparation is the answer

Three bits of "preparation" are particularly noteworthy.

First, we have obtained the approval of both the Deanery Pastoral Committee and subsequently Deanery Synod to our next vicar being full time, paid and with the freehold of the parish (simply this means with us permanently, as opposed to a fixed term basis).

Second, the PCC and other helpers have been prayerfully beavering away, writing the description of the parish (parish profile) and the skills aptitude statement (person specification) that will be needed to both attract and select our next vicar. The answers that you gave in the questionnaire sent out with the last pastoral letter have helped to inform the content of both documents. Both the parish profile and person specification will be available for viewing on the interregnum notice board and church website in early October.

Third, as a community we have started to get used to life without Peter and Sandy. While we still miss their presence, we are growing more confident in ourselves. It is also

important that we start to create space into which our new vicar can come and be themselves rather than be a mirror image of what has gone before.

Finally, and leaving the best to last, it is likely that we will advertise our "vicar vacancy" around 5th October with a view to interviewing in early December.

A big thank you to everyone for your patience, love, understanding, prayers, hard work and words of support as we continue our journey together.

Parish "Away" Morning

Saturday 10th November; please note this date in your diary now! The parish "away" morning is open to all-comers and is an important time for us to be together as a church community. Some of you will remember last year's fantastic away morning at Bursledon – well this year you don't have to travel because the event will take place in our own church, centre and hall.

The theme of the "away morning" will be "Our Calling" and we will be considering how we individually respond to God's calling, and also how we respond as a church community.

The morning will start with an informal breakfast together and then we will move into a time of worship, bible study, discussion and prayer. Activities will be included for younger people, so the whole family can come! More details will follow nearer the time.

Romans 8v28: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Situations Vacant

Our church community depends on many people to keep things running and most of these folk are volunteers who give freely of their time. We are truly blessed by these people. Occasionally gaps occur (and not just for vicars) and at the moment new people are needed to help with:

- Audio and projection at church services and events.
- Catering and refreshments.
- Home Groups and other discipleship events.
- Leaders and helpers for children and youth activities – particularly needed are Adult Leaders to work with 14-18 year olds in worship.
- Parish Office and other administrative tasks.
- St John's Primary School – our link school, for whom we need to find a new Foundation Governor and where general help is always welcome.

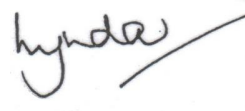
This list is not exhaustive and if you feel called to do something for the church community, please speak to one of the clergy, wardens or office team. Thank you.

Finally, let us thank God for all he has given us and the support that comes from Him as we seek to know God, and make God known.

Yours,



Mike Seddon



Lynda Barrow

Dates Ahead

October

- 6th Ladies Prayer Breakfast – Guest speaker – Carrie Pither
6th Spirit Café, 8pm, Grove room
6th Christians Together Musical Concert at Brookfield
7th Harvest Festival
16th Lunch Club – Church Hall at 12.40pm
30th 'Slavery Old and New' (A presentation by Canon John Harwood of the Church Mission Society) – Church Hall at 7.30pm

November

- 3rd Spirit Café – in the Grove Room, 8pm.
10th Parish "Away" Morning at St. John's, Locks Heath.
10th Quiz Night – in the Hall. Details nearer the time.
11th All Souls Memorial Service at 6.30pm
20th Lunch Club

December

- 4th Fellowship Christmas Lunch – ticket only
9th Bishop Bob Evens guest preacher at 9.30am service.
9th 3pm and 4.30pm Christingle services
16th 4.30pm Family Carol Service, 7pm Main Carol Service.

