

## November 2008

*From Lynda Barrow & Mike Seddon, Church Wardens*

Dear Friends,

### **Announcing our new Vicar!**

We are thrilled to announce that the next Vicar of our church will be the Revd Charles Sugden!

Charles will start his licensed ministry with us following his "collation" service, in church, at 7.30pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December. You are very warmly invited to attend this service to celebrate the start of Charles's ministry at St Johns. We hope that it will be a fantastic celebration for both church and community!

Charles is currently serving at St James' Church, Poole, and prior to that was Team Vicar at Melksham in Wiltshire. He served his curacy in the Chelmsford Diocese.

Charles is engaged to be married to Kath, who for the last 13 years has been working in Russia for a mission agency, Agape. They plan to get married in the early part of next year.

A few words from Charles about his appointment are included in this letter.

As we get nearer to the end of our interregnum (or gap between vicars) let us give great praise and thanks to God for all that He has blessed us with! Where would we be without the many who contribute to the running of our church and especially Anne our Curate and the team of "retired" clergy who have seamlessly taken our services for these last 16 months? And also not forgetting the many, many others from the office team to the cleaners who do so much to bring God to glory in such a variety of ways.

### **Revd Charles Sugden writes:**

We are so looking forward to being with you soon, after what seems to have been a long wait for both you and us. It is an enormous privilege to become your vicar, and so awesome that were it not for sensing a strong call of God to come and serve you, the parish, the deanery, the diocese.... it would be overwhelming. Thanks so much to Mike and Lynda for all the work they in particular have been shouldering during the interregnum and also to Peter and Catherine Coombs who will be hosting Kath until we're married early in 2009.

You will have plenty of opportunity in the future to get to know us, but here's a bit to be going on with:

Charles has been through the rigours of divorce and has two wonderful children called Michael (son aged 16) and Tikvah (daughter aged 14). They both hope to be at the collation on December 8<sup>th</sup>, but will usually live with their mother in Dorset. Having recently returned from serving the Lord in Russia, Kath is in the throes of re-learning how people live in the UK. She is currently undergoing treatment for breast cancer which was discovered in her recently. Despite the challenges that lie ahead, we are clear that God's intention is for us to work together as a couple, sharing in the mission and ministry He has led us to and we look forward to serving with you and joining with you, facing our challenges and praying through our action together.

## Christmas Services

Even though the leaves are not yet fully off the trees can we say a few words about Christmas!

The Christmas services at St Johns are a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of other Christians and to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ! The range of services on offer present a fabulous opportunity to invite along friends, family and neighbours who may not normally come to church – both to sit in for a service and also to take part. For example, a number of the young people in our Orchestra, for the 4.30pm family carols on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>, come from our local schools. Who do you know who might enjoy coming along to attend or participate in joyful worship this Christmas? More details about the various services are below.

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December

3pm and 4.30pm Christingle services – Earlier service more suitable for toddlers/infants

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December

4.30pm Family Carols with Orchestra  
7.00pm Carol service

**Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**  
2pm & 3.30pm Crib services .

5pm and 7pm Candlelight celebration services  
earlier service more geared to toddlers/infants  
and the later service for juniors & older

9pm and 11pm Holy Communion services

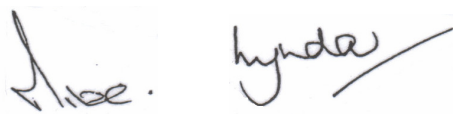
### Christmas Day, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December

8am Holy Communion – a quieter service  
10am All Age Holy Communion – a  
celebration of Jesus' birth

### Communications Advisor

Last but not least, we want to express a big thank you to Melinda Cripps for the work she has done over the last 3 years as our Communications Advisor. Melinda has played a key role in a wide variety of things from the Parish Profile; family focus questionnaire and suppers and also youth activities. Melinda finishes work for us immediately after Christmas when the role ceases and we wish her all the very best for the future.

Yours in Christ



Church Wardens

## Dates Ahead

### November

8 <sup>th</sup>	Parish "At Home" Morning
9 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day
15 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz Night in the Hall
30 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Advent

### December

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Fellowship Christmas lunch: ticket only
4 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Tree Festival begins
6 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies' Breakfast
8 <sup>th</sup>	Collation service at 7.30pm
11 <sup>th</sup>	Jigsaw Playgroup Nativity in church
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sarisbury Choral Society Concert in Church
14 <sup>th</sup>	Christingle service at 3pm & 4.30pm
15 <sup>th</sup>	Brookfield School Carols in church 7pm
17 <sup>th</sup>	Locks Heath Junior School Carol Service
18 <sup>th</sup>	Park Gate Primary School Carol service
19 <sup>th</sup>	St John's School Carol Service