

**King Charles the Martyr Church,
Mutton Lane, Potters Bar**



MICHAEL'S MESSAGES

35th Edition

January 2012

Dear KCM Members and Friends,

ONCE AGAIN A MISCELLANY OF ITEMS to bring you all up to date with what has happened, is happening and will be happening at KCM! In no particular order, as they say....

POTTERS BAR GROUP MINISTRY- "Don't count your chickens before they are hatched" is a very useful saying which I, for one, tend to live by. It is one of the oldest, and possibly the wisest, of sayings, a thought that was apparently recorded in print by Thomas Howell in 1570: '*Counte not thy Chickens that vnhatched be, Weye wordes as winde, till thou finde certaintee.*'

It was thus unfortunate that I got a bit ahead of myself in the last newsletter when I wrote at length about the proposal by the Diocese to create a Potters Bar Group Ministry. To be fair, at the time of writing, there was initial universal enthusiasm that this was the right way forward. However, when the formal proposals were presented to each of the PCC's in question and discussed by them in detail, there arose some significant questions by some of those PCC's, such as 'what would happen if it didn't all work out and a parish wished to withdraw from the Group'. In fact there is no mechanism by which this could be achieved except by creating another Pastoral Order dissolving the Group. The end result was that two of PCC's involved formally objected to the scheme as a whole. The Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee therefore decided at their December meeting that the proposal should be withdrawn and that there will be no Potters Bar Group Ministry. Our own PCC has expressed some regret that the formal scheme will not now go ahead, whilst at the same time acknowledging the truth that, for the Group to work properly in any shape, all the churches would need to fully back the proposals. The future hope is that the Anglican parishes will continue to work together as much as possible as the 'Northern Cluster' in the Barnet Deanery and that some sort of 'Statement of Intent' can be developed over the coming months to put some of our current and future cooperation into a more concrete form.

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR was extremely enjoyable and successful – socially as well as financially. For the record, the profit realised was £3,087 – a figure we have not reached for some years. Thank you very much indeed the team who coordinated the organisation and to all those who contributed in any way to a very enjoyable Saturday.

OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS went well with higher attendance figures and many thanks are due to everyone who contributed to the services in any way over the Christmas season. Many who came were clearly very appreciative of the worship and really did enjoy a happy Christmas. Particular thanks go to the Choir for rising magnificently to the challenge of Midnight Mass without an organist at the very last minute! Elaine Hartland, Jenny Dakin and the families of the Church staged a very enjoyable Nativity Play and it was gratifying that our two Christingle Services raised £567.36 for the Children's Society - £107 more than in 2010 and £200 more than in 2009!

KING CHARLES DAY will be commemorated in London on **Saturday 28 January at 11am** at St Mary le Strand, followed by lunch. **Sunday 29 January** will see our usual **United Service at 10.30** – and will be followed by a **Bring and Share Lunch** to which all will be very welcome.

LENT begins on **Ash Wednesday 22 February** with our **Sung Eucharist at 8pm**, which will include the Imposition of Ashes. During Lent we will once again be following the **Bishop's Lent Course** which will, as before, be held on **Tuesday February 28, March 6,13,20,27 and April 3**. There will be two identical sessions each Tuesday: one at 10.45am-12 noon and the other at 8.00pm-9.30pm. The course follows the Old Testament Lessons set for the Sunday. Lists to sign will be available soon in Church. Details of **Holy Week and Easter Services** are available in the current diary.

HALL BUILDING WORK to create more storage space is continuing. Thank you to our Hall Cleaner, Laura, who is coping uncomplainingly with the inevitable influx of extra dirt into our building

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – we are delighted that Gary Dakin and Philip Green have accepted the PCC's invitation and are joining our Communion Assistant's Team.

THE PCC is working hard at present on a number of new initiatives – including ideas to develop KCM as an **Eco-Congregation** and a small Environment Group (Emma Kidd, Trevor Alexander and Phil Townsend) is currently working on this. Peter Sansom is also working to draw together the many ideas around for the future life of KCM to create a **Mission Action Plan**, a working document that every church in the Diocese is being asked to finalise by the AGM 2012. More details will be published in due course. Another new initiative is **Litter Picking**. Trevor Alexander writes: "Following the PCC Away day in 2010 the Church began a period of prayer from Advent to Lent for the growth of the church. Our prayers focused on how we as a Church could grow to know Christ more and how we could make Christ known, particularly in our local community. One outcome has been to explore how we can provide a useful community service whilst at the same time engaging with local people who do not usually come to Church. As you may know there is a skate park within the parish (adjacent to the Furzfield Centre) which is well used by many young people within Potters Bar. Although Hertsmere Borough Council works hard to keep the area clean it can attract a lot of litter – especially during busy periods. We are pleased to report that we have the approval of Hertsmere to carry out an informal litter picking service at the skate park. Working in pairs, we aim to provide a presence at the skate park getting to know some of the young people and their parents whilst picking litter and generally helping to keep the immediate area clean. More details about this project will come so please pray for this simple outreach initiative".

STEWARDSHIP continues to be important in the life of our church and we held our annual Stewardship Commitment Sunday on Sunday 9 October at both Services, giving everyone the chance to review their Giving to the Church in terms of Money, Time and Talents. We are delighted that the financial outturn for 2011 has seen a surplus of £2,140 on the Church accounts and the profit element of the Hall is £10,752. These are magnificent results and are a good indication of the dedication of so many who contribute to the life and health of KCM. Particular thanks are due to Jean Emmans, our tireless Hon Treasurer, who does so much work to ensure our accounts are always in order – and who had finalised the Annual Accounts by 4 January, four days after our financial year end. Very few, if any, churches could match that! Thank you so much, Jean.

FINALLY - THANK YOU to everyone who contributes in any way to our life as a Church. Many people give a great deal of their time and their energy in the life of our Church in its many and varied forms. Please go on doing what you do as we continue to offer our life and work to God.

