

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

22nd Edition

**MICHAEL'S MESSAGES**

November 2006

Dear KCM Members and Friends,

## **A Miscellany of Matters!**

**Work in the Church and Hall** during August was completed successfully and we are now reaping the benefit of the work to install new heating in the Church and Vestries and also to improve the sound insulation on the downstairs areas of the Halls complex. Please do tell people that we now have a warm Church and a lovely Halls Complex!

**Thank you to all those** who have generously responded to our need to review and increase our personal Giving to the Church. We are delighted that, at the end of October, the Church accounts showed a (small) surplus of £312. We will need to continue to monitor our income and expenditure and the PCC will be holding the annual Stewardship Sunday again in 2007 – but thank you all in the meantime. If you need to know anything further, then Jean Emmans, our Honorary Treasurer is always willing to speak to individuals in confidence.

**Social Events** are enjoyed by many in both Church and Community. If you would like to organise an event, please let us know. We have enjoyed some recent successful events and plans in the final stages to be put into place for the **Christmas Bazaar**, to be held on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November**.

**We have been pleased** to welcome Lynn Jones who has joined Neo Notley, Jonathan Burt and David Simpson to our band of altar servers. We hope Gill Syms will be able to return in due course.

**Cleaning the Church** is now being organised in a more systematic way every fortnight – and there will always be space for new recruits to join the two new Cleaning teams.

**Every two months we welcome** members of our Uniformed Organisations and their families to join the Morning Worship congregation at 11am. We continue to encourage regular members of the Church to join us for these services, rather than regard them as a Sunday off! ACT 4 will be leading the next service on **Sunday 19 November at 11am**.

**A reminder to parents** that we operate a Crèche every Sunday at 11am, though not on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month or when the Uniformed Organisations attend. We encourage parents where possible to take advantage of the Crèche in preference to the Church Quiet Room, which is a much more cramped space and not soundproofed for either children or adults!

**Visiting Preachers** over the next few months will include the Revd. Gareth Randall (whom we congratulate on his forthcoming move to France) and the Revd David Lindsay, former Chaplain of Haberdashers' Aske's School. We will also hear sermons in the future from Peter Sansom and Trevor Alexander, our two trainee Readers as well as Paul White, our ordinand from Oakhill.

**2007 sees the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Parish** and the Royal Martyr Church Union will be visiting KCM on **Saturday 26 May 2007** for a Sung Eucharist and lunch, followed by a visit to Hatfield House in the afternoon. In addition, I am delighted that the Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey John, the Dean of St Albans, has accepted my invitation to be our special preacher on **Dedication Sunday, July 8 2007 at 10.30am**, to help us celebrate our Dedication Festival.

**Vision for Action** is a Diocesan-wide initiative – full details are in the monthly SEEROUND magazine, which we encourage you to take and read – it's free! There will be a Celebration of Vision for Action on **Saturday 24 February 2007** in St Albans Abbey – if you would like a ticket, please see Michael. The Open Door Café has been nominated for an award – so who knows!....

**ALPHA** is a nationwide course, intended as a basic introduction to Christianity for those who are new to the Christian faith as well as those who might want a basic refresher course. The last time that ALPHA was run at KCM was in the 1990s and the PCC would now like to provide an opportunity to run another course, probably on Tuesday evenings starting in April 2007. Lasting approximately 12 weeks, the course includes a meal, input on a topic and small group discussions. However, before we start recruiting participants, we need to make sure that we have the resources to run such a course – and so we are asking for volunteers to come forward to help in a variety of ways. Full details will be published in a separate leaflet, available soon in Church. If we have the basic structure of volunteers in place by Christmas, then we can begin to encourage people to join the course in January. Please do pray about this and respond if you possibly can.

**The care of the elderly and housebound** has been reflected on recently by the PCC, partly because it is one of the current priorities for the PCC, arising from its Planning Awayday held earlier this year. We are all aware that more of our members are increasingly becoming housebound and unable to get to Church for reasons of illness or infirmity. I try to keep in touch with them by taking Communion once a month but in addition to this, the PCC would like to make the following suggestions for all of us to consider:

- Why not think about calling on someone who you used to see regularly in Church but who is more housebound and on their own now? Many people are always glad of a visit, even a brief one, to keep them in touch.
- Why not check that they are receiving the weekly notice sheet and other items of interest – and agree to drop one in if you discover they are not as in touch as they would like to be.
- Do pray for those who you know to be elderly and housebound – and always remember that I am very pleased to be told, in confidence, of anyone's changing circumstances, such as a stay in hospital and so on.
- Occasionally I come across a former member of the Church who is quite isolated and would welcome an occasional visit. It would be really good if I had access to a small pool of people who might be willing to do this. Please speak to me if you are interested and available, however infrequently.
- Finally, rather than just send someone a Christmas card through the post, why not take the time to knock on the door and give it to him or her personally? Remember that the best and most used pastoral resource in a Church is each other. It is one of the most useful sources of pastoral care and not to be overlooked!

**Finally** we are all too aware of the gap left in the congregation by the death of **Rose Aitchison**. Rose really was a pillar of the Church, and held many posts during her long membership of KCM. We give real thanks for her energy and her commitment and continue to remember her family in our prayers. We have also been saddened in this last week by the untimely death of **Dr Penny Brooks Lo**. Penny bore her suffering with great faith and courage and was immensely strengthened by the support of her friends from the congregation, particularly as her Multiple Sclerosis took hold. She was particularly proud to be a Patron for our Halls Appeal a few years ago. We pray for Ray and for all those who mourn her death and give thanks for her life.

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**Preparations for our celebrations of the birth of Christ** are well underway and it just remains for me to thank you once again for your continuing commitment to God through your discipleship of Jesus of Nazareth, demonstrated by the part you play in His Church. Thank you and God Bless.

