

King Charles the Martyr Church, Mutton Lane, Potters Bar

23rd Edition

MICHAEL'S MESSAGES

March 2007

Dear KCM Members and Friends,

A Miscellany of Matters!

FIRST – GOOD NEWS ABOUT OUR FINANCES!

Thank you very much to all those who generously responded last year to our need to review and increase our personal Giving to the Church. We are delighted that, at the end of 2006, the Church accounts showed a surplus of over £3,000. This is a very encouraging result and, although we will need to continue to monitor our income and expenditure carefully (and the PCC will be holding the annual Stewardship Sunday in 2007), thank you all in the meantime. If you have not yet committed yourself to regular financial giving and need further information, then Jean Emmans, our Honorary Treasurer is always willing to speak to individuals in confidence.

The Diocese of St Albans has recognised our ongoing work on Stewardship by awarding us a Certificate under the Stewardship aspect of the 'Vision for Action' initiative. This also acknowledges the immense amount of fundraising, which we have all undertaken over these past few years in the successful completion of the Halls Building Appeal, when we raised over £530,000 to pay for this important project.

Legacies are always a helpful part of our funding, though they are, by their very nature, largely unexpected and unplanned.

We were therefore surprised and delighted at the beginning of 2007 to receive a legacy of £50,000 from the estate of the late Mrs Iris Sands of Deepdene. The PCC have, after careful consideration, decided to put this money into our reserve account, to go towards the (inevitable) future capital expenditure on our Church. For example, we are aware that the Church Roof will need eventual replacement and we know there will always be other calls on our money. It is important for the PCC, on behalf of us all, to be able to put money aside for future capital expenditure. This legacy will go a long way to secure our future.

We were also grateful to receive a legacy of £5,000 from the estate of the late Mrs Rose Aitchison. The PCC have decided that they would like some of this money to be put to the refurbishment of some of our banners which hang in Church – at least two of which are of great historical value and in need of skilled attention, something which was an interest of Rose.

SECOND – GOOD NEWS ABOUT OUR OUTREACH!

Wednesday Break and Charlie's Angels are an important part of our outreach and service to the local Community – and these two groups continue to grow and flourish. We are enormously grateful to all those who freely give so much time and effort to ensure a warm welcome is given to all. In the same way, **the Open Door Café** has proved to be a much valued success story – and this was acknowledged by the award of a Certificate, under the 'Vision for Action' Buildings initiative, given to us by the Bishop of St Albans. Many congratulations to all those who work so hard each Thursday to provide an exceptional opportunity for so many to enjoy good food and a warm welcome. There are always opportunities for people to get involved in the Café, however infrequently you may be available. Just speak to Jean Emmans or Sue Loader.

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 are now running another course, on Wednesday evenings starting on April 18th 2007. Lasting approximately 12 weeks, the course includes a meal, input on a topic and small group discussions.

We already have a small number of participants who are hoping to take part. Please do keep on thinking about someone you might like to invite along. There are leaflets freely available.

We would also welcome more members of the Church who might like to help with the organisation each week. Please speak to Michael if you would like to help. Above all, we ask everyone to pray that this new outreach initiative will be successful and provide a boost for our Church.

THIRD – GOOD NEWS ABOUT A VARIETY OF OTHER THINGS!

The 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. We are very grateful to all those who offer their time in this way – the impression that a clean and tidy Church makes on our visitors and first time guests is noticeable – and is also appreciated by all those who are in Church regularly.

Our Staff Team is beginning to build for the future – and we continue to pray for Peter Sansom and Trevor Alexander as they continue their Reader training. We have also been glad to welcome Paul White on board in recent months as our Oakhill placement student – and pray for him as he seeks the right post when he is due to be ordained later this year.

The Church's Annual Meetings will be held on **WEDNESDAY 28th MARCH at 7.45pm** in the Margaret Old Hall. This is a good opportunity for everyone to come to elect Churchwardens and Church Council members, to hear reports about the life of the Church – and to enjoy a buffet supper in the interval. Do try to make this a priority in your diaries if you possibly can. Someone who attended for the first time last year expressed amazement at the wide variety of activities in which the Church is involved – so, if you have never attended an Annual Meeting, come and be amazed! It is much more than a tedious business meeting, we can assure you!

Holy Week and Easter will soon be upon us. I hope that you will all be able to join as fully as you can in the wide variety of opportunities for worship during that special week, when we seek to follow closely in the steps of our Lord on his Way to the Cross – so that we can all share in the joy of our Lord's Resurrection on Easter Day.

Confirmation Groups will be starting soon after Easter. In the meantime, if you are interested, please collect a letter from Church giving more details – and give your name to Michael now.

2007 sees the 70th anniversary of the creation of the Parish and the Royal Martyr Church Union will be visiting KCM on **Saturday 26th May 2007** for a Sung Eucharist at 11am and lunch, followed by a visit to Hatfield House in the afternoon, concluding with Prayer Book Evening Prayer in the Chapel of Hatfield House. All will be welcome – booking details will be available.

Sunday 8th July 2007 at 10.30am will mark our annual Dedication Sunday, when the Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey John, the Dean of St Albans, has accepted our invitation to preach - a united service which will be followed by a Parish Barbecue in the Vicarage Garden, to which all will be very welcome.

With renewed thanks for all your work and commitment to the Church and its witness in the local community.

