

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

25th Edition

**MICHAEL'S MESSAGES**

Pentecost 2008

Dear KCM Members and Friends,

## **A Miscellany of Matters!**

**Recently elected to office** at the AGM and at the first PCC meeting were the following:

Phil Emmans and Madeline Butterworth – Churchwardens

Jean Emmans – Hon PCC Treasurer

Nick Maddock-Lyon – Hon PCC Secretary

Phil Townsend, Nick Maddock-Lyon and Peter Sansom the serve on the PCC for 3 years

Robert Burt and Sue Loader to serve on the Deanery Synod for 3 years (Kirsti Sansom attends as a observer) – and, indeed, all are welcome to all Synod Meetings

We warmly thank those who have again volunteered their services in this way.

*The PCC is very grateful to Peter Sansom for his work over the past 4 years as our PCC Secretary.*

**Our Flower Arrangers**, led by Joan Kilburn, work hard each Saturday morning preparing the arrangements and caring for them during the week. John and Ann Davies of Deepdene, who run a flower stall business in London, have generously supported this work for the past 10 years or so as they have provided almost all our flowers at no cost. In addition, they have also given us a Christmas tree, plants for the Bazaar and oranges for the Christingle Services. Now John and Ann have decided to take a well-earned retirement. We thank them very much indeed for their generous support to KCM over these past years and wish them many a lazy morning lie in!

**The Flower arrangers and the PCC** have been considering how we will be able to fund the provision of our flowers in the future. We have agreed a number of suggestions that we now want to pass onto you:

- Donations (a minimum of £20) will always be welcomed from members of the congregation to celebrate an anniversary, commemorate a loved one or mark any other significant date. Anonymous donations will also be welcomed. You are invited to chose the Sunday of your choice now – please contact Joan Kilburn (851306). Remember that there are no flowers during Advent and Lent each year.
- The Hall Management Committee and Charlie's Angels have offered donations – and some of the profit from the Sunday morning coffee will also be given to the Flower Fund.
- At Easter, we will particularly welcome donations towards the Easter displays in memory of those who have died and the names of those remembered will be displayed in an appropriate way at Easter.

**Thanks to all those** who carefully and prayerfully reviewed their financial giving last year. We are aware that many of you were not able to consider an increase in what you give at present – but would simply ask that you always remember the Church if circumstances change. In the meantime, our income/expenditure remains largely on budget, thanks to the hard work and vigilance shown by the PCC and especially through the diligence of our Honorary Treasure, Jean Emmans, to whom we owe an enormous debt of gratitude.

**Gift Aid forms, Bank Standing Order forms and free sets of weekly Giving envelopes** are always available from Jean Emmans for those who would like to join the Planned Giving Scheme. In addition, we will be particularly encouraging members to join the Scheme over the course of 3 Sundays, starting on Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Legacies** are also a helpful way to assist the work of the Church. The Church Council is currently reviewing our legacies leaflet and hopes that a new edition will be available soon – but copies of the present leaflet are still available in Church.

**Future training courses** being suggested included another short Christian Listening course and a possible repeat of the ALPHA course. Michael is also planning to hold 2/3 informal Introduction to the Bible evenings in the near future. **Confirmation 2009** will be held at KCM in the autumn of 2009 – already a number of adults and young people have indicated they are interested. Publicity will follow in due course of all these opportunities on the weekly notice sheet.

**House study groups** are a valuable part of every Church. We have a number of groups that meet, both in daytime and evenings. If you would like to be linked in to a suitable group, please let Michael know and he will try to put you in touch.

**Events coming up** will include the **Albantide Festival on Saturday 21 June** at the Abbey, an illustrated Lecture to be given by **the Bishop of St Albans at KCM on Tuesday 9 September** at 8pm – his last visit to us before his retirement in November. We are also fortunate that **Simeon Wood will be giving a Concert on Saturday 25 October** at 8pm. In addition, we are holding our regular round of varied Social Events throughout the year – please see the separate leaflets available in Church advertising these enjoyable and popular events.

**The overhead projector system** used at Morning Worship is in need the process of being reviewed. The sun can make reading the words quite difficult – and of course we are aware that computer technology is moving on fast. A small Working Party met recently to begin this work and is currently seeking professional advice and budget costings for the PCC.

**Radio interference** on our Sound System in Church is a nuisance. We are taking steps to see whether a renewal of the Sound System unit will help to obliterate this distracting noise.

**New furniture** more suitable for small children using the Quiet Room is planned to be purchased, in memory of the late Joyce Hearn – we are grateful to her family for their generosity.

**An Estates Committee** has been formed, which will have the task of caring for the upkeep and maintenance of our Church and Grounds, working together with the Hall Management Committee. The PCC is grateful to all those who give freely and generously of their time and talents to ensure we maintain all we have in a responsible way as good stewards.

**A Sabbatical** for clergy is encouraged every 10 years or so, though I have never had the chance of one in 31 years of ministry! The Diocese has now offered me the chance to take such a three-month break, which I am planning to take from December 29 to March 29 2009, returning to the parish in time for Holy Week and Easter 2009. Inevitably some careful planning will be needed to try to ensure everything is covered appropriately and I am grateful to the Churchwardens and PCC who are supporting this idea. I will write nearer the time of my plans for this 3 months away.

**The Bishop of London** recently heard a first hand report of the life of our Church through visit by his Vicar General. You may know that the Bishop of London remains our Patron, even though the parish was transferred from the Diocese of London to the Diocese of St Albans in 1980. He has written this *"King Charles the Martyr is currently a vibrant parish church, ably led by its PCC, serving the community with imagination, vigour and a strong sense of mission"*.

My hope and prayer that this Church may continue to serve the people of our local and wider community in the best ways possible, giving particular thanks for the variety of worship we enjoy week by week, for the facilities offered in our Halls Complex and also for our outreach, particularly mentioning Wednesday Break, the Open Door Café and Charlie's Angels.

