

King Charles the Martyr Church, Mutton Lane, Potters Bar

MICHAEL'S MESSAGES

27th Edition
October 2008

Dear KCM Members and Friends,

A Miscellany of Matters!

The Sunday Offertory Collection has been in need of a rethink for some time now.

At present, at **9.15am** no formal collection is taken, simply relying on people to put their offering in the plates by the door. This is fine for regular members but visitors often do not know where to put their collection.

At **11.0am** there is a collection, but that causes awkwardness for those who already give via Bank Standing Order and who have to pass the bag straight on to the next person. The PCC recently discussed this and have unanimously agreed to implement the following changes:

At **both** Sunday morning services there will now be a Collection, with bags being passed round the congregation, in which the weekly 'Giving Envelopes' or cash can be placed. However, for those who give to the Church via bank standing order, there will be the opportunity to place an 'offertory token' into the bag. These offertory tokens will be credit card sized and you will be able to collect one as you come into Church every Sunday and place it in the offertory bag as it comes round. They will be laminated so that they can be reused many times over. This way we hope that everyone can positively be included in the weekly act of giving and commitment to the Church. If you have any questions over any aspects of giving to the Church, Jean Emmans, the Hon. Treasurer, is always willing to help – and she can supply sets of free weekly Giving Envelopes as well as Gift Aid and Bank Standing order forms.

Members of the Parochial Church Council spent the day at Aldenham School recently, reflecting on the life of our Church and Parish. They are currently working on a mission plan for our Church, covering short, medium and long-term goals, and you will hear more of this in due course. I am very grateful to them for their generous and selfless commitment to our life together.

Compassion Sunday was marked at the end of September when our children and young people took a very active part in Morning Worship to speak about the sponsorship of children through Compassion. A number of groups and individuals have taken this idea and acted on it.

Back to Church Sunday also fell that same day and we have received some helpful feedback, which we will note when it comes to next year's keeping of this nationwide Church initiative. Thank you for your prayers and your efforts.

New rules for Church Marriages came into force on 1 October. The existing rules remain – i.e. a couple continue to have the right to marry in the parish church where one or both are resident, or are entered on the electoral roll. However some people would like to marry in a particular church because it has a special significance for them, even if it is not where they now live. Therefore if one or both can demonstrate a qualifying connection, they can be married at that parish church. A person has a qualifying connection with that parish church if that person:

- was baptised in the parish church (excluding baptism at a confirmation service)
- had his/her confirmation entered in the parish church register
- has at any time had his/her usual place of residence there for at least 6 months
- has habitually attended public worship there for at least 6 months

OR

- a parent of that person has at any time during the person's lifetime had his/her usual place of residence there for at least 6 months, or habitually attended public worship there for at least 6 months

OR

- a parent or grandparent of that person was married in the parish church.

In all of the above, the onus is on the applicants to prove their claim satisfactorily to the parish priest. All of these changes reflect the increasing mobility of our society. However the basic format of the marriage ceremony hasn't changed, merely the legal preliminaries. For specific questions, please speak to Michael – and full details are available on the Church of England website.

Finally, our Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday 29 November from 11am to 3pm.

- Raffle tickets are now freely available to be taken and sold – please help yourselves – they are also a very good way to publicise the Bazaar
- We will welcome good quality items to sell – anything – but no jumble or electrical goods. Larger items can be stored in the Vicarage garage from now onwards – please speak to Michael
- We will also welcome suitable raffle prizes and also items for the luxury hamper. Cakes, preserves and so on to sell will also be welcome (please list ingredients).
- If you are not yet involved in a task at the Bazaar, a list will be available for you to sign, indicating how long you will be available to help on the day. We can use everyone, even if only for a couple of hours.
- We will also need help on the following days:
 - Thursday evening 27th from 8.30pm to set up tables and decorate
 - Friday morning 28th from 9.30am to set up stalls
 - Saturday itself at 3pm prompt to help clear away

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ann Davy, Joanne Maddock Lyon, Joy Rowley or Sandie Fenech or Michael.

With renewed thanks for all your work and commitment to the Church and its witness in the local community, this letter also comes with my personal thanks for your generous love and care shown towards me as I continue to enjoy my ministry amongst you in this Church and Parish.