

# **The Parish of St Laurence, Northfield**



## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018 Reports**

**Parish Office, St Laurence Church and Pastoral Centre**

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**The Parish of St Laurence, Northfield**

## **REPORTS FOR 2017/18**

### **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

The PCC has met on nine occasions during the past year. The meetings have always been well attended.

Issues discussed and agreed during the year included:

- The re-ordering and restoration of the church building
- Health & Safety matters
- Setting up of the Stay & Play scheme
- Co-ordinating Community Christmas
- Church-yard maintenance and repairs to church-yard wall
- Parochial fees
- Considering financial reports
- Places of Welcome initiative
- Safeguarding both of children and vulnerable adults

Regular reports have been received from the Sub-Committees:

- Fundraising and Social
- Fabric
- Worship
- Deanery Synod
- CTiN

Appointments agreed at the first meeting of the new PCC in May:

- Joint Vice- Chairs – Elaine Clements and Debbie Keeves
- Treasurer – Randal Brew
- Electoral Roll Officer – vacant
- Secretary – Anne Pycock

### **CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT**

We have seen another busy year as Church Wardens and will be sad to see Elaine stepping down from the role for a well-deserved break! Elaine has often gone above and beyond the role of Church Warden, and I am sure that everyone at St. Laurence is grateful for all her time and effort over the years. Thanks must also go to deputy wardens Roger Bannister, Roy Pouncett, Rowena Nicholls and Linda Orchard and to everyone else who has helped out and stepped into roles at the last minute during the inclement weather we have had.

We have enjoyed working alongside Canon Janet during her first complete year as Rector- and we were very pleased that Father David was licenced as Associate Priest in March- his work both seen and unseen is really appreciated by the wardens and the congregation, and we are pleased that he has decided to stay with us! Father David along with Janice, Father John and Father Paul have continued to support Canon Janet with services in the Church, and we are blessed to have so many clergy worshipping with us.

Church attendance on a Sunday at both services has again decreased slightly over the last year but we still have very good numbers with approximately 109 in total between both Sunday services, including many young people- several who have attended for school places

but have then continued to attend even after they have a place at the infant school. We continue to have approximately 30 children, most of who go out to Sunday School for part of the services. The Rise and Shine service at the Pastoral Centre is now held once a month, and has been a huge success! Families enjoy worship aimed to engage with the children, and all appreciate the toast and refreshments! The Wednesday service at 10.00am also still attracts a regular number of attendees, although this is a much quieter service.

We welcomed 4 new members into the congregation of St. Laurence church in October, in a confirmation service which all felt was very personal to them, and was enjoyed by all who attended.

Although the Re-Ordering group has not met regularly over the past year, work to improve and enhance the Church has continued- with more involvement from the PCC members and congregation. In July, several PCC members visited Holy Trinity Church in Sutton Coldfield to see the results of their reordering project, and from that we all had our own opinions and preferences to take forward with the St. Laurence Church reordering. As a Church we have been fortunate enough to be in the financial position of being able to proceed with an internal porch, with the help of donations and grants. It has been decided that the porch is a priority in the reordering project- as this will stop a lot of the heat in the Church escaping, particularly during the winter months.

We would also like to thank the following people for their help throughout the year:

Music- the guest organists, choir, bell ringers and hand bell ringers  
Servers, lesson readers, Sunday school leaders, lay administrators and those who take communion to the housebound  
Sides people, welcomers and coffee makers on a Sunday morning  
Those who collect and count gift aid, children's society and other donations  
Those who sort out church supplies, wash linen, change the colours, clean the church and the flower guild for the lovely flower displays  
The people who open the church for visitors on a Saturday morning  
Everyone who gives lifts to people to enable them to attend church, and those who keep in touch with people who are not at church  
Everyone who organises the Tuesday coffee mornings  
Those who maintain the church, Pastoral Centre and churchyard  
Everyone involved with fundraising and social events including Gridiron  
All those who have donated to and arranged for the distribution of the food bank  
And anyone else we may have missed!

Again we would like to say thank you to Lorraine our Parish Administrator who oversees the day to day running of the Church and Pastoral Centre, and often much more! Thanks also to Barry who keeps both buildings and grounds in good working order for us.

We look forward to all the of the challenges and changes in the year ahead, and pray that God will be with us in all we do,

Debbie Keeves and Elaine Clements

## **BELL RINGERS**

I think it is true to say we have had a good year. The bells have been rung on all Sundays and when requested by the church. In July we visited Beoley to join their ringing. In Sept we

supported the Heritage weekend. On the 29th Sept Paul rang a quarter peal dedicated to his son Oliver.

The band has expanded and we regularly ring on higher numbers. We thank the ringers from Kings Norton helping us to achieve this. I would like to thank our band for their service to the church and their commitment to ringing. I am very pleased we have the support of our Rector and congregation.

We continue to support the St Martins guild and a few of us attended their annual dinner. The bells are being rung for peals Bi-monthly and quarter peals are rung on request! Special thanks to Sarah as deputy Tower Captain secretary/treasurer.

Carl as Steeple keeper.

Our annual Christmas meal saw over twenty of us enjoy an evening together.

I am especially pleased Carl has agreed to undertake the task of becoming a teacher. This is a two year process and we would be pleased for any members from the congregation to join us in the "Art".

On a personal note this year marks fifty years ringing at Northfield and I hope to ring a quarter peal of Cambridge surprise Royal on 27th August to celebrate this achievement.

Andy Carr Tower Captain

## **CHATHAM PLACE**

During the year, a short service has been held once a month for the residents of Chatham Place. Attendance has varied, but each month the Bible has been read, hymns have been sung and prayers have been said in that community.

In 2018 a Home Communion will be offered.

Janice Wones

## **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

The total collected for the Children's society is as follows

Collection boxes	£461.56
Christingle	£140.68
TOTAL	£602.24

## **CHOIR REPORT**

We have been delighted to welcome two new choir members; Gerry Kennedy and Margaret Southall. We've had fairly regular choir practices over the year, usually on Monday nights – though trying to pick dates on which a group of adults with many years of previous commitments can meet is rather a work of art! Still, as the hymns for the month are sent to us in advance we can work on them.

At Christmas we managed weekly rehearsals for the Carol Service and were more confident about the music this time.

As a parish choir affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music, choir members have the opportunity to take part in various RSCM events. Last year and again this January, some of us went to Birmingham Cathedral to sing Festival Evensong accompanied by organ and orchestra. It was good to be part of a much bigger group and we hope to take part in further events. We did look rather wistfully at choirs with a large group of adults and no less than twenty two children.

I enjoyed a West Gallery Music event at Kings Norton. Sadly I was the only one available to go. Four of us had been the previous time. These day workshops are held every two years at Kings Norton offering a very different type of church music.

We are grateful for the support of a team of organists who take it in turn to play each Sunday and give us a quick run-through beforehand.

Clare Blackshaw

### **CHURCH CLEANING**

The "Holy Dusters" have a good band of regular helpers. We meet once a month, usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 9.30 for around an hour. There are many ways to help dusting, polishing, sweeping, vacuuming and general tidying. New helpers always welcome.

Thank you to all those who have helped throughout the year.

Roy & Sue Dutton 0121 624 9171

### **CHURCH OPEN**

We have reached the stage now that for the majority of the year the church is open to visitors on Saturday morning 10-12 noon. Refreshments are available and visitors are welcome. Many come because of past family connections and we are now seeing repeat visits. The number of visitors is generally higher in the summer when the weather is kind. Many visitors also have an interest in the historic building that is St Laurence Church and we are grateful to Stuart for his update of the short guide to the church.

We are now joining Places of Welcome a diocesan supported initiative to make our cities and neighbourhoods more welcoming. For more information please contact the Places of Welcome website [www.placesofwelcome.org](http://www.placesofwelcome.org)

Linda Orchard

### **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN NORTHFIELD**

Churches Together in Northfield is the grouping together of several of the churches in the Northfield village area. Currently the churches involved are Northfield Baptist Church, Northfield Methodist Church, St. Bartholomew's C. of E., St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Church, St. David's C. of E., St. Laurence C. of E., the Quakers, Harvestways International Christian Fellowship and the Hollymoor Church.

Four committee meetings and several combined services were held during the year. The combined services were held for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at the Baptist Church, Ash Wednesday by St. Laurence and the Advent service at the Methodist Church. There was an invitation for people to go to different churches from their usual one on the Sunday in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The members of the congregations of these churches celebrated Shrove Tuesday at the Quaker Meeting House. They also got together to do a Walk of Witness through Northfield on Good Friday, organised by the Baptist Church. They joined together for a Lent Course. They helped with the tea tent for the Northfield Carnival. At Christmas time they combined to provide the Community Christmas meals, organised by St. Laurence's, and carol singing in Sainsbury in aid of St. Mary's Hospice.

Janice Wones

## **DEANERY SYNOD**

Since the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017, the Kings Norton Deanery Synod has met on three occasions; in June 2017, November 2017 and March 2018.

Every meeting included a guest speaker, updates on parish issues, i.e. clergy vacancies, needs, aspirations, achievements and school reports. Inevitably, attendances among synod members fluctuated throughout the year.

Originally, Bishop Anne was to have been the guest speaker at the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at St John the Baptist Church, Longbridge. Bishop Anne's indisposition, however, resulted in all members being extremely grateful that Ruth Hassall, Director of "Growing Younger" was able to 'step in' and speak about Christian Spirituality.

At the next meeting, at St David's Church, Shenley Green, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017, Dr. Paula Gooder, Diocesan Director of Mission, Learning and Development, spoke in detail of the role and composition of the new "Mission, Learning and Development Team," currently being established.

Cotteridge Church hosted the recent, third Deanery Synod meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018, at which the guest speaker, Diocesan Secretary Andrew Halstead, explained the implications of "People and Places 2," the latest strategy document for the Diocese of Birmingham.

The host parishes provided a warm welcome and a range of refreshments on each occasion.  
Chris Michael

## **DICUSSION GROUP AT ANN MORRELL'S**

This group is still meeting on the third Thursday of each month. Attendance varies from 3 up to 8 people. The conversation ranges from family situations to the state of the world. It provides an occasion when we can get to know each other better and talk about our concerns and ideas among a supportive group of friends.

Janice Wones

## **FABRIC COMMITTEE**

The Fabric Committee met four times during 2017 to discuss a wide range of issues relating to both the church and the Pastoral Centre.

## **CHURCH**

The repair to the mullions of the east window was completed in September 2017. In the spring of 2017, it was decided that the pulpit should be moved from the back of the church to a position at the front near the Chancel step. It was repositioned and is now being used successfully by the clergy. A major focus for the Committee in 2017 has been to explore the possibility of an internal porch. In response to our brief, an architect has drawn up a design and this has been forwarded to the D.A.C. (Diocesan Advisory Committee) for comment. The initial response from the D.A.C. has been favourable. The design has also been shared with the congregation.

## CHURCHYARD

The gate leading to Rectory Road has been replaced. Wooden section markers have been erected in the churchyard and these are proving very useful in enabling visitors to locate graves. Heavy weed growth on the wall alongside Church Hill has been removed and plans to rebuild the church wall have been set in motion. Our thanks, as ever, go to the Community Payback Team for their help in the churchyard.

## PASTORAL CENTRE

A programme of internal and external maintenance and repair has continued throughout the year. New front doors have been installed following an attempted break in and a "Concerns Book" is now available for users to note any issues that need attention. Redecoration and other improvements to public areas are in hand and new lettings are being sought. In addition, a Condition Survey of the Pastoral Centre and The Barn has recently been undertaken and the recommendations will form the basis of future planning.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Practice has continued to be improved and the documentation needed to support this has been put in place. Risk assessments for high attendance events along with agreed procedures for Stewards and an emergency evacuation protocol for the church have been written and successfully trialled. A Quarterly Section Survey for both the church and the Pastoral Centre has been compiled. Such a survey is considered good practice and forms a useful tool to keep on top of Health and Safety responsibilities.

Elaine Clements (Chair)      Chris Andrew (Secretary)

## FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP

Meetings are usually arranged in 4 or 5 weekly sessions three to four times a year. Sessions generally cover faith related topics. Each session lasts 1.5 hours and is generally attended by 5 to 10 people. Faith Discussion group attendees are primarily from St Laurence church congregation, however we had one regular participant from St Bartholomew's for the past 10 years. We are also hoping for 2018 Lent group attendees from Quakers and St. David's to join us in 2018.

The following topics have been covered in Discussion sessions during 2017/2018:

July/ August 2017 sessions

Keep your Sabbath Holy  
Gnostic Gospels - Gospel of Mary Magdalene  
Eco Church

November 2017 sessions:

Law and Love (God's Love)  
Book of Revelations – with Canon Janet as a guest speaker  
Jewish Orthodox faith

The majority of Faith Discussion Group members have also joined St. Laurence's led (Group F) Ecumenical Lent Group in 2018. The Lent course was by USPG – Anything is possible with Eco and Sustainability goals link to Faith.

Marianna Melville

## FLOWER GUILD

Barry and I would like to thank all our Flower Guild volunteers for all their time, effort and dedication in keeping the church looking so lovely and colourful all the year round, particularly so at Christmas and Easter. Thanks also to Gerry Morgan, our Treasurer, who does such a splendid job in keeping our financial accounts in order and to all the people who donate money for the upkeep of fresh flowers throughout the year.

Linda Joyes-Wallace (Team Leader)  
Barry Gardner (Deputy Team Leader)

### **GRIDIRON REPORT 2017-18**

The Gridiron successfully completed its sixth year. There was the usual good mix of walks, days out, games afternoons and meals together. The coffee morning goes from strength to strength with a good number of “new faces” joining the Tuesday morning gathering in the Pastoral Centre. Stuart and Chris are stepping down as diary secretaries and would like to thank everyone for their support over the years. Pauline Bannister has agreed to take over the role and we are sure the group will continue thrive.

Stuart and Chris Andrew

### **THE LIMES**

During the year I started taking Home Communion to the Limes Care Home, in Ivyhouse Road. I am now doing this on about three Sundays each month. There is usually a ‘congregation’ of about twelve and I distribute three or four pre-consecrated wafers.

Janice Wones



During 2017-18 we had a mixed programme for the branch – talks from many people including Roger Bannister about his work with RSPB, we heard about the work of a Street Pastor, Ruth Jacobs talked about her Jewish beliefs and customs and Canon Janet has shared some cathedral secrets. Linda Joyes-Wallace organised a thoroughly enjoyable craft afternoon – with everyone decorating something to take home. We have also enjoyed food – either a meal at the Black Horse or at one of our Social Evenings when we were joined by many non-members. We had a successful summer ‘garden party’ – which we enjoyed in the garden - raising valuable funds for the work of Mothers’ Union. We also had two Saturday morning craft sessions in church – one for Easter and one for Christmas – these are not well attended – but those who come, have a great time.

We have also supported a wide range of projects here in Birmingham, UK and overseas – the work that Mothers’ Union members do is so important in helping families bring up and support their children in the love of God and helping anyone in times of need. Mothers’ Union provides Christian care for families – and not care for Christian families – a fundamental difference. If someone is in need and we can help, we will.

Everything we do is underpinned by our prayer ministry – whether it is the Wave of Prayer, our Holy Communion service for the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, praying

together at meetings, in midday prayers or privately. No matter how hard we work – we need to ensure we pray.

We were asked to discuss amongst ourselves – ‘I’m proud to be a member of the Mothers’ Union because.....’. We have come up with our top 10 reasons (well more than that, so we’re trying to condense!) – we’ll share these with everyone at our Mothers’ Union Annual Services on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June.

We currently have 42 members – always room for more!

Rowena Nicholls

### **MONEY COUNTING**

Our Counting Team has been blessed with the addition of an extra pair of hands this year and, with a certain amount of swapping and double-duty, we have successfully fulfilled our weekly commitment. The introduction of the new £5 and £10 notes has caused mild excitement and we are still looking for the perfect way to "tame" them!

Sincere thanks to everyone involved and a special thank you to Betty Willock who is standing down after many years faithful service.

Gerardine Merrick

### **PLANNED GIVING AND GIFT AID**

We are continuing to encourage gift aiding from our congregation, and this year were able to claim back in excess of £8,000. During Lent (2017), we launched a new initiative to encourage more planned giving which was successful but were able to claim back only in the region of the previous year. We are very grateful to all who contribute both through direct debit and also weekly envelopes and although we now have fewer people donating by weekly donations, those choosing direct debit are increasing.

We would respectfully remind you of two important factors. For us to claim the maximum benefits, we need a copy of any new direct debit forms members of the congregation send straight to their bank (these can be dropped off to the Parish Secretary in the Parish Office) and any yellow envelopes used for donations must contain the name, house number and postcode of the contributor *and must be signed and dated*.

**Finally we feel we must remind you that in order to claim gift aid on their contributions, it is essential that sufficient tax is paid by the donator to cover this amount.**

Thank you for your continuing support.

Jennie King and Valerie Arthurs

### **SAFEGUARDING**

The PCC continues to work towards full compliance with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. This year we have made considerable progress in catching up with the backlog due to the Interregnum and the demands on the Diocesan Safeguarding Training & Development Officer for training

sessions. We look forward to the training on 21 April 2018 which will mean we are very close to full compliance.

## **ST LAURENCE SCOUT GROUP**

St Laurence Scout Group presently has 6 sections (2 Beavers, 2 Cubs and 2 Scouts), with 126 young members, 21 Leaders, 3 Young Leaders. We also have 1 Young adult undertaking their DoE volunteering, making the group one of the largest within our scout district (Rea Valley).

The leadership team continues to provide a varied and exciting programme within all the sections. Some of the activities the young people have enjoyed this year are camping, shooting, archery, swimming, climbing, abseiling, entertaining, pottery, First Aid, with trips to Harry Potter world and Alton Towers.

The beavers helped collect and pack toiletry bags for the Acorns children hospital, which they presented at the hospice which the beavers really enjoyed and was greatly appreciated.

During the year, we awarded 7 Bronze Queen Scout Awards to our young people.

Karl Price and Jayne Perry were both awarded a Chief Scout commendation for good service and Carline Perry was awarded her 5-year service award, albeit a bit delayed.

We had changes in our executive committee with Mel Davies stepping down as treasurer after 5 years. A big thank you for all your help and assistance. I would like to welcome Nicky Westwood into the group and thank her for taking on the role as new treasurer.

I have only named a few of the adults who help in the background and provide the many varied experiences that scouting offers, however there are many others who volunteer their time to ensure the young people have fun. I would like to thank all leaders and parents for all their time, effort and enthusiasm, which they give to St Laurence scout group.

As always, we are always looking for new leaders and have opportunities within of our Cub and Scout sections, if you or anyone you know would like to volunteer please contact me.

Carl Jenkins  
Group Scout Leader  
206<sup>th</sup> St Laurence Scout Group

## **SERVERS**

I'm pleased to report that over the last twelve months, our dedicated band of Servers:- Chris & Stuart Andrew, Martin Corns, Lucy Keeves, Hilda & Roy Pouncett, Anne Pycock and Mark Reynolds have continued to work hard to support the clergy by covering all Sunday services, plus any midweek Festival services.

During the year Mark Reynolds completed his training, was awarded his badge and is now a very welcome regular server and member of our team.

We are pleased to welcome Mark Ingram, (he's the very tall one!) who has now joined us. Also Dorothea Matsveru is hoping to commence training shortly.

Please speak to me if you feel you might be interested in becoming a server or would just like to know more.

Lastly, a very big thank-you team for all the support shown to me throughout the year.

Hilda Pouncett

## **SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING**

The Committee has met several times during the year and arranged many fundraising events and a few social events in 2017 raising just over £6000. There were 5 car boot sales raising £1961 and the Christmas Fayre raised £1801 – these are very popular events and well attended by the wider community. Other fundraising included the Jazz Evening (£383 raised –despite the snow!) and two quiz nights (£300). Charitable fundraising included £946 for Christian Aid and £600 via Cake Sales in church for various charities. Unfortunately one of our Car Boot Sales planned for March 2018 was cancelled due to the snow – but we have many events planned for the year – including the return of the Art Exhibition in October. In 2018 the committee is also looking at how to open the church for more community based events. We are very grateful to the group who organise and assist with these events – and are always open to anyone who wants to join the committee – or to listen to anyone who has a fundraising idea!

## **STAY & PLAY**

We've had a very busy start to the year with lots of activities for the various celebrations.

- Easter egg finger painting
- Easter bunny sticking
- St Patrick's Day shamrock hats
- Mother's Day plant pot gifts
- Mother's Day cards
- St David's day flags
- Welsh cakes
- Paper Daffodils
- Chinese New Year Home corner restaurant
- Chinese dragon puppets
- Valentine's Day cards
- Pancakes for snacks
- 3 little pigs - built houses out of straw bricks and sticks and experimented which one they could blow down with balloon pumps
- Scissor stations - to practice cutting various materials
- Giant shape matching

The playgroup has continued to grow from a small group of 12 children to now in the 30's! We're regularly receiving wonderful feedback from parents.

Donna Clulee & Emma Kupsa

## **ST LAURENCE INFANT AND JUNIOR CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS**

We are very fortunate to have strong links with both the schools which share with us 'St Laurence.' I have been very impressed with the way both schools convey the Christian Gospel in the core of their being. Bible Verses are displayed, behaviour codes are based on forgiveness, pastoral care is outstanding, staff teach RE with confidence and delight and Collective Worship is taken very seriously.

The Rector is an ex-officio member of both Governing Bodies and as a church we appoint 2 of the Governors in the Infants and one in the Juniors.

These have been

Infants: Penny Li, Fr David Pycock (until July 2017) and Damon Hewson (from September 2017). Penny has just stood down after 4 years of rewarding service.

Juniors: Jean Brownsword who is also chair of the Finance Committee and Vice Chair of the Governing Body.

Both schools come to church for services each term and can only just fit in – something to bear in mind should we decide to remove some pews!

Financially both schools have been under considerable pressure and have had to reduce the number of staff though, thankfully, without any redundancies. The number of children with quite complex special needs is increasing which brings its own challenges but it has been encouraging to hear some of the stories of amazing progress.

Summer 2017 was the term of inspections. The Infants faced an Ofsted on some of the hottest days of the year and their headteacher, Caroline Proctor, was off sick for some weeks at that time. I was very proud that they were deemed 'Good.' The Juniors had the regular additional inspection which looks at RE, Collective Worship and Pastoral Care. They received a grade of 'Outstanding.'

Summer 2017 also saw the launch of 'School Kit' – a course run by church using material from the Christian charity TLG (Transforming Lives for Good) to help parents understand modern school life and so support their children better. We are grateful to Chris Michael and parent Heather Hoggarth for leading this. Heather worships at St John's, Harborne. We are also grateful to several members of the congregation who regularly volunteer at school through listening to readers. If you are interested in finding out more then do speak to Rita Gardner and Clare Blackshaw. Clare has also chosen the books which the Mothers' Union has presented to both schools as 'Pastoral Libraries.'

We are delighted that so many former pupils of St Laurence return to church either for their weddings or to have their children baptized. The church-school link is clearly very strong.

Canon Janet

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL – 8.30am (AND RISE AND SHINE)**

Each week we still continue to try and follow the worship in Church with the use of Living Stones (Pebbles) for Pre-School age children and Searchlights (Candles) for 3 – 5's, adapting the material where necessary to simplify for the age group that mainly attend the 8.30 a.m. The average number of children attending Sunday School in Church per week is 15 but at

times can reach 18-20. The numbers partly prompted us to start a Rise & Shine Service in the Pastoral Centre on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday which was to accommodate our new attendees but also to attract back some of our old attendees and encourage young families who wished to attend an occasional service. These services have attracted up to 30 children and their carers and thanks go to all the volunteers who help make this service possible.

We are grateful for the continued parent participation whereby they help with the many activities that their little ones get involved in which many parents seem to enjoy and their creative talents shine through!

Thanks must also go to Rowena Nicholls and Anna Youngs for all their help, hard work, commitment and support in keeping the Sunday School 'manned' and thanks also to Fiona Lighting who also helped until other commitments made it necessary for her to step down in September. We are in the process of extending the team for both the Sunday School in Church and for the monthly Rise and Shine service in the Pastoral Centre and volunteers are always welcome.

Elaine Clements

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10am**

The Sunday school class for 6 – 10 year olds which meets in the Vestry during the 10 am Service has continued with a regular number of between, one and five attending with an average number of three children each week. Unfortunately, on an occasional week, no children have attended. Visiting children are always welcome to join us.

The two Sunday School leaders for this group at present are Marianna Melville and Rita Gardner: one, teaching each week during the whole year. The second Sunday of each month, the children remain in church for the duration of the service, which is usually a Parade service.

For teaching and activities at Sunday School we use the 'Living Stones' Resource materials for Rocks, aged 6 – 10 years – Susan Sayers. This accompanies the theme of the service in church. Each week there is a practical Starter activity, which may be a game, song or some drama, sometimes with music, followed by some teaching and discussion to explain the aim of the lesson. There is a prayer to follow and/or worksheet based activities such as a Word search, or thought-provoking Maze or puzzles to complete in keeping with the theme and aims of the lesson.

Rita Gardner

### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

The committee continues to plan our services and provides an opportunity to discuss the wider aspects of our worship. We have considered drafts of new service books, additional services (such as Christmas, Easter, Confirmation etc.), taken and discussed feedback on all services as to what worked well and what could be improved/changed, the new Beers and Hymns at The Stone, prayer trees, services for those with dementia, Sunday School and many other topics. The committee is always receptive to any feedback and/or suggestions for anything to improve our Worship.