

# Winterslow Parish Church News

September 2011

## Welcome

Each issue of this particular bulletin looks back on the previous period's activity and previews the events and joys to come in the following three months. This quarter's issue continues to do both of these things but also looks ahead to a period of change and new opportunities. These changes have been brought about by Linda Carter's success in being recommended for training for ordination following her attendance at a Bishop's Advisory Panel in March. The impulse for change though was the subsequent decision that her three year training period should be undertaken whilst being attached to a church in Salisbury. The parish said its goodbye to Linda on the occasion of the last Praise Service which she led on 24 July and this was followed by a farewell from the Clarendon Team at the Team Service at West Dean the following week.

The changes facing the parish stem from this decision in that there are opportunities to take over the roles which Linda has vacated - and also Richard's as he will be joining her to worship at St Thomas' Church in Salisbury at the end of the year. In addition Norman Thorne will be standing down at next year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April. In the coming weeks therefore we will be looking for people to take over the roles of Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary and also to fill the existing vacancies on our Parochial Church Council.

Whilst change may be difficult for us, such events create opportunities for others to come forward to bring their own skills and talents to these leadership roles and ensure the wellbeing of our church.

**Richard Carter** (01980 863539)

## Update

**Parish Fete** - Whilst the weather on the afternoon of the Fete, 16 July, was not unkind, the morning setting up period saw heavy rain and high winds, meaning that we were forced inside the village hall for the afternoon's events. Nevertheless the event was successful with many people from the village lending their support and joining in the activities. At the time of writing, with final figures to be calculated, it looks like some £1,200 was raised which is dedicated to the maintenance and repair of our church buildings.

**Guildhall Table Top Sale** - the latest event on 30 July saw the hard working team raise some £667 which also goes to our premises fund.

**Book and Cake Sale** - Since the last issue of this bulletin, sales have taken place in June and August with some £212 and £213 being raised. It has been good to be on the Village Hall's patio and to see so many coming along for a chat prior to making a purchase!

## Songs of Praise

Not to be overshadowed by the BBC's efforts in producing an edition of 'Songs of Praise' from the cathedral during the summer, the Winterslow Churches Together team had already decided to put together its own version which will take place on Sunday 25th September at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall. Over a period of several weeks during the summer, members of the congregations of all the Winterslow Churches were invited to nominate their favourite hymns, songs and bible passages and explain why they were important to them - you know the format! At the time of writing, the variety of suggestions are being sifted into a final group for inclusion in the afternoon's service which will be followed by refreshments. The day promises to be as successful as last December's Village Community Carol Service so please mark your diary and come along.

## Annual Men's Breakfast

After a hearty cooked breakfast (prepared by some of their number), some forty or so of Winterslow's finest listened as The Venerable Stephen Robbins QHC, the Army's Chaplain General delivered a talk on the role of the chaplaincy in today's army and also how it has developed since its early days. With today's conflict in Afghanistan as a backdrop, Stephen gave a fascinating and moving insight into the work of his inter-denominational team and how they meet the needs of the soldiers they serve alongside on the front line. We learned that his team includes women who are also known as 'padre' and came away with a real feeling of the value of this ministry which is mostly to young men, often without faith but who need support and help in the most difficult of circumstances.

## Journeys...

Dear Friends,

One of the (many!) advantages of being married to the editor of this publication is that I can use it to say 'thank you'. So, thank you for all your support and good wishes, for the gift of book tokens and for your prayers.

But thank you most of all for accompanying me on this journey. If truth be told I don't think I realised I was on a journey until I was in the middle of it and something made me pause at a particular waymark - you know that moment on a walk when you stop and look back to see where you've been and look ahead to what lies beyond. So it wasn't until the moment when I finally listened to God and acknowledged He was calling me to take another step that I recognised I was on this journey. And along the way there have been significant, pivotal moments; experiences and conversations that so many of you have been a part of that have got me to this stage, not least the conversation which started with Nils back in 2003 (ish?) saying 'Have you ever thought about ordained ministry?' and concluding four years later with 'Well, what are you going to do about it?'.  
And so began, more formally, the process of discernment and exploration until I finally attended a Bishops Advisory Panel at the end of March this year. This involved three days of interviews which looked at various criteria: faith, personality & character, relationships, mission & evangelism, quality of mind, spirituality, leadership & collaboration, ministry and vocation. Each candidate also had to give a presentation on one of these areas and lead a group discussion. In addition we were given a pastoral scenario to respond to in writing. It was actually a very enjoyable experience - the other candidates were great fun, the advisers were brilliant and the food was wonderful. But most importantly, each day was punctuated with times set aside for prayer and worship, which nourished and sustained everyone.

After Easter it was confirmed that I had been recommended for training for Ordained Ministry and in order to gain experience in different parish contexts it was agreed that I would be based at St Thomas's in Salisbury.

It isn't easy to leave a family, especially this church family where I and Richard, Jonathan and Helen have been so welcomed, supported, nurtured and loved. So it is with a very deep breath that I leave All Saints' to continue my journey with God. A special word here for Rockface - thank you so much to all you young people - you have taught me so much about faith, spirituality, the Simpsons....

Recently, someone said she saw this part of my journey like stepping stones across a river - "some days you will skip across, other days you will be wary of slipping and falling into the water, but remember that the stepping stones are God, the rock of salvation, solid beneath your feet and unfailing in His love".

With my love and prayers,

Linda.



## **Junior Church**

With the new term just around the corner, a reminder that our Junior Church continues to meet concurrent with the 9.30 am service at All Saints on the second, third and fourth Sundays of each month with the children leaving the service early on to participate in their own activities. On the first Sunday of the month we stay together for an All-Age service. The children report back on their activity when they rejoin us towards the end of the service and continue to amaze us with the variety and innovation displayed in their time together and their confidence with the microphone.

In the coming term, among other things they will be undertaking a project concerning the story of Moses and this will probably involve food somewhere along the way.....! A full programme of their activities will be available shortly and Steve Langdown (862117) will be pleased to answer any queries.

Talking of food, on a number of occasions during the spring and early summer, the Junior Church took to baking and decorating some excellent cakes which were then sold during the post service coffee. The money which they raised was donated to local charity, Morning Star.

We are indeed fortunate to maintain a vibrant Junior Church with leaders whose enthusiasm undoubtedly rubs off on the youngsters who clearly enjoy their time together.

## **Welcome to Andrew Poppe**

It has been good to meet up with the Team's new curate, his wife Sarah and their family over the last couple of months since they moved into their new home in Firsdawn.

Andrew is to be ordained Deacon by the new Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, on Saturday 8 October and will be 'formally' welcomed to the Team at a 10.00 am Team Service the following day in Alderbury. This will be followed by a lunch - please watch for further details. Andrew is likely to be with us for a period of up to four years and we hope he and his family enjoy their time here.

## **Michael Barratt**

After attending a selection conference in June, it is good to report that Michael has been accepted for training as a Lay Licensed Minister within the Team. His two year training period starts in September and he would value your continued prayers as he moves into renewed study and practical training.

## **Lay Worship Leaders**

The last issue reported that the ten people who were discerned for training for this role had commenced their ten week training period. Nine of those weeks have now been completed with the final one scheduled for mid October by which time the plan is for them to have gained some practical experience. The next issue will hopefully give an update on progress and the observations of the candidates.

## **Clarendon Team Women's Day**

On Saturday 18th June Sara Bossom welcomed 20+ women from around the Team into her home for a day of sharing experiences, mutual support and prayer. (OK, and cake....lots of it!). We were blessed with wonderful speakers - all inspirational women of God: Clare Evans from the Vineyard Church in Salisbury, Caroline Lamb from the Chalke Valley Team and our own Jane Dunlop and Elizabeth Moore-Bick. Each speaker shared something of their faith journey and gently encouraged us to look at our own journeys, to pause, to examine our priorities, to consider what to put aside and to discern where God might be leading us. The day was punctuated by much lively discussion, laughter, cake... and infused with prayer. Particular highlights: "try praying in front of a full length mirror naked" (from Barbara Brown Taylor's 'An Altar in the World'), the sand dollar or Holy Spirit shells, the King's Speech - 'I have a voice', but most of all a taste of what happens when we meet together with God to pray and to listen. Look out for more of these days.

## **Housegroup on a Thursday.....?**

An ecumenical group meets at the home of Michael Barratt each Thursday evening between 8.00 pm and 10.00 pm. The group commences a new programme of study on 1 September which relates to the book of Hebrews. Anyone interested in coming along will be made most welcome. Please contact Michael on 863374 for more details.

### **Mission Giving 2011**

The PCC has a policy of giving away 10% of its planned giving and collections each year and this is normally carried out in two instalments, one around this time of the year and another towards the end of the year when the final amount available for distribution is known - this year an amount of £6,000 - £6,500 will be available and this will be split equally between overseas and UK based charities. The PCC has a nominated group of people who decide where our monies should be allocated each year and they have met recently and carried out a review.

Whilst the full details will be published after the September PCC meeting, there are some overseas commitments which we have traditionally honoured and we will include them in our programme this year. These include the Deanery Mission Project (which this year is the Bible Society) and The Diocesan Sudan and Medical Link. As regards UK charities we will be giving support to local organisations including Alabare, Salisbury Women's Refuge, Morning Star, The Trussell Trust and the Salisbury Street Pastors together with some others.

During times of great financial stress and hardship it is good that we are able to give from our funds to help support organisations which are working with those in need.

The Mission Giving Group have also confirmed that the collections taken at our Nine Lessons and Carols Service and our Christmas Eve Crib Service will be allocated to Naomi House and the Children's Society respectively.

### **Rockface**

Our excellent work with our young people also continues as Rockface gets a new term under way next month with its first meeting scheduled for 11 September at the established time of 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm. Meetings are held on a fortnightly basis, though school holidays might disrupt the pattern.

With the departure of the Carters, our youth group will be under the leadership of Steve and Tanya Langdown, Jane Dunlop and Elizabeth Moore-Bick who already have an outline programme in place through to Christmas. There will be two age groups for those in school years 7-9 and those in year 10 and above. The older group will receive confirmation preparation during the year but please note that the sessions are designed to be inclusive for those who may not wish to be confirmed at this time. Steve Langdown can be contacted for more details.

### **Christian Aid 2011**

Mid-May saw us once again working with our friends from the Methodist Church to carry out the house-to-house collection in the parish. The amount raised this year totalled some £1,242.15, a small increase over the previous year. This is one of the larger contributions from the Salisbury area and could have been more had we been able to cover every road and house. Our friends at Truffles also raised some £200 during the course of the week.

Linda Carter has co-ordinated our efforts in the Christian Aid Appeal in recent years but in view of her departure we would welcome someone else to pick up the responsibility for this important task

### **Crisis in East Africa**

In response to the images of the drought and disruption to peoples lives which were shown so graphically on our television screens, specific collections were made after our Sunday services during July. It is good to report that we were able to raise an amount of some £1,297.45 which was forwarded to Christian Aid in response to their specific appeal for funds to alleviate the position of the people so badly affected.

### **Diary Dates.....Diary Dates**

Saturday 1 October - Harvest Supper - Village Hall  
Sunday 2 October - Harvest Festival at All Saints  
Friday 9 December - Village Carol Service  
Saturday 17 December - Dun Valley Singers Concert  
Debbie McIsaac will be licensed to the Team as a Lay Licensed Minister at the Cathedral on 9 October.

### **The Trussell Trust**

In these difficult times, the work of the this organisation is even more valuable as it aims to alleviate the immediate difficulties people find themselves in whilst awaiting the arrival of state benefits. Please remember that we retain collection points in both of our