

**Welcome to  
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH  
(Church of England)**

**St Michael's Green, Warwick Road,  
Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2BN**

**The Parsonage 01494 673464**

**St Michael's Annual Church Magazine  
2008 -2009**

**FROM OUR VICAR ...**

Welcome to this booklet that sets out short accounts of the various church activities that make up the community of St Michael and All Angels Church. I am indebted to Zoe Cook who 'encourages' us all to contribute and then spends time putting together our ramblings into a readable format.

Hopefully this will be an interesting way to discover all the varied ways we live out our Christian faith, both in care for others, fun for ourselves and in worship and study of our loving God. If you are not a church attendee but there is something here you would like to join, or ask for more information, do contact one of the Wardens or the Vicar. It may be that you do not want to attend worship, but would like to share in our social activities, or enjoy gardening and would be happy to join the ground work team! What ever your interest we would love you to join us.

With best wishes and Happy Reading.  
Rev'd Camilla Walton  
St Michael & All Angels Church  
part of the Beaconsfield Team Ministry.

**SOCIAL**

Weekenders

This Group organises social events for St. Michael's and the wider community. Last year's events included a /...

Lenten Supper and talk; a trip to Highgrove; the summer garden party, and the Patronal Supper. This year kicked off with a very popular Sunday Lunch – an experience we hope to soon be repeating.

If you would like to come along to any event, suggest ideas for future events, or join the committee, please phone Zoe on 01494-672949 or Judi on 01494-677406

### Spring Fair

008 saw another very successful Spring Fair & Plant Sale, with more attractions being introduced for children and a Men's Cake Competition too. All these will be repeated this year, plus others too—so do please put 9th MAY in your diary to come along and join in the fun. For more information or can help please speak to Zoe on 01494-672949

### Church Coffee & Teas

he coffee rota continues to work well every Sunday. However, every year there are fewer helpers so that those on the rota cover more Sundays, but do so with great cheerfulness. My grateful thanks to all of them. Coffee in the Church after the Family Service seems to have got off to a good start. We have made a few changes and it is proving a great success. As usual, any new helpers are always most welcome.  
Valerie Honigmann.

### T-Club

The end of 2008 saw our numbers a little low, but 2009 has brought some new members. T-Club offers lots of opportunity for "chatter", lots of hot tea, delicious freshly baked cakes and pastries and a place to catch up with friends and familiar faces from the town. Our Christmas lunch was very well attended and we are currently organising our summer afternoon coach outing – a drive through the beautiful Buckinghamshire countryside followed by tea.

If you are interested in finding out more about T-Club and it's activities, please phone Judi on 01494-677406 or Mary on 866783.

### Men's Lunch

It seems amazing to me that the Men's lunch started in May 2002 and is still meeting the needs that it was set up for. It happens on the last Tuesday of each month, in St Michael's Room, starts at 12.30 and is open to anyone who is around. In all that time the format has changed very little and we spend an hour and a half discussing the issues of the day, and most importantly enjoying a lunch together - a superior ploughman's washed down with wine, beer or fruit juice, all for a fiver. Usually about 10 people take part, some of whom have spent the previous 2 hours working in or around St Michael's doing the many small jobs that need doing. So, if you have time to spare to join us for work at 10am (no skills required) or just for lunch you will be most welcome. Roger Lockyer

### Ladies Lunch

lthough the ladies lunch is "newer on the scene", the time, cost and format is the same as the Men's. We, too, thoroughly

enjoy a time to sit and enjoy fellowship over lunch at Zoe's house. If you'd like to come along just let me know on 01494-672949.

### St. Michael's Miles

So far only the New Year's Day walk has been held. 20 walkers from St. Michael's and St. Mary's completed a 2 hour walk, finishing up at the 'Red Lion', Coleshill for lunch. Weather permitting it is intended to have a 2 hour walk on the first Sunday afternoon in the month (starting in April), meeting at St. Michael's Hall at 1.30 p.m. to share transport. Contact Tom (676373) for details nearer the time.

### Hall Report

St Michael's Hall continues to be a popular venue for a diverse range of activities covering all age ranges. For the young at heart 2008 saw Scottish Dancing return (albeit all too briefly) and a resurgence of the Beaconsfield Bridge Club under new and enthusiastic management. We were sorry to lose one of our oldest regular users, Elite dancing, after they finally signed a lease on their own premises in September. We were however pleased to welcome new regular courses in art, fitness, pilates and Boxercise. We are also pleased to be able to offer the National Childbirth Trust a new venue for their parenting courses starting in March. The Hall has also been widely used by private individuals as a venue for birthday parties, charity quizzes and AGMs amongst other things. Despite the economic downturn, the start of 2009 has seen an increase in interest in hiring the Hall on a regular basis and as a result we have only very limited free slots and now have a waiting list for most mornings and evenings. No report on the Hall would be complete without mentioning our ever popular Church run groups which use the Hall on a regular basis - Bulrushes, T-Club and Rock Solid, or the support given by various members of the Church and in particular Graham Peters and Chris Cook in keeping a close eye on the fabric of the building and its various working/non-working parts!

Tracey Greenough

## **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

### Holiday Club

This is held on the last Wed.-Friday mornings in August (27-29th), and 2008 saw another well attended, happy time for all the 85 children that came. There were lots of crafts, music, model trains, sports activities, and ending in the church with singing/stories by Camilla. Each day the children went home with arms full of things they'd made. If you have children

between the age of 4-11 and would like them to come along this year watch out for the adverts giving enrolment details and we'll see you there. Zoe Cook

### Halo Party

This is our "alternative Halloween party" for children 4-11 years of age. Because the hall was in use on 31st October this year we held the party in the church. This was a great success especially at the end when the lights went low and we lit the candles the children had made and put them on the altar steps where the children sat for a "scary story". 28 children came, and each child went home with a goodie-bag so they didn't miss out on extra sweets from Trick-or-Treating, and there was a prize for the best decorated halo too. Watch out for this in the Autumn if you'd like your child to come.

### Pancake Parties

A new fun addition to the church year at St Michael's was the pancake party held on Shrove Tuesday. The Revd Camilla Walton and her husband, Ken, set up the pancake race track in St Michael's Hall. At the first party, many children under 7 years of age participated in the relay races, tossing their pancakes with great joy while their parents and members of the St Michael's family cheered them on. Afterwards, all enjoyed an excellent tea party with lashings of pancakes provided by the Team led by Judi Burch. This was followed by another successful Pancake Party hosted by the Rock Solid youth group for older children, teenagers and members of Church.

### Bulrushes

Bulrushes (St Michael's Mother and Toddler group) meets on Fridays at 10am during term time in the Hall. We provide a regular facility for mothers, fathers, carers and children in our congregation and for the community. Our priority is to introduce all facets of St Michael's and to encourage newcomers to become involved in our Church life. In particular we highlight the Early Bird Service, Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest Festival and Christingle services, Sunday School, Holiday Group and the Halo Party. Two volunteer mothers/carers help with the planning and running of the 1½ hour sessions. With free use of the Hall and a charge of £1.00 per family group, Bulrushes is self financing. The income pays for all the equipment necessary and the refreshments. Any profit is paid into Church funds. Zoe, Xandie and Barbara in particular have given their time generously. About 25 members of our congregation are regularly involved on a rota basis, taking the register, serving drinks and leading singing sessions. Our visits into the Church

are led by Camilla. We all enjoy the social contact with some bringing their grandchildren! Referrals come by word of mouth, the Notice & Prayer Sheet, the Parish Magazine and Bucks CC. We offer a friendly environment where children learn to mix while Mothers, Fathers and Carers socialise. Attendance is about 20 adults and 30 children which is capacity. This year's programme was jointly organised by Sharon Pick and me. Special events have included fundraising for Macmillan Nurses (world's biggest coffee morning), Mothering Sunday bouquets, Easter Egg Hunt and a visit from Father Christmas, alias Paul Honigmann. Our visit to Bekonscot was a huge success. Bulrushes' stall at the Spring Fair raised over £100. Phoenix cards and Tempest photography sessions were all part of our busy programme. I believe Bulrushes provides a valuable link with the community and local schools. Any offers of help from members of our congregation are always welcome. Many thanks to those already involved.

Mary Peters

#### The Early Birds Service

These services have really grown this year with an average of 12 children and their parents at each monthly service and have about 14 families who have come. We hold the service in St. Michael's hall at 9.15 on the last Sunday of the month and start with one of the children lighting the candle to signify the presence of Jesus with us as the Light of the World and sing an action song. This is followed by an interactive Bible story and another action song to do with the story. The prayers are written by the children and their parents and hung on the Cross which is then brought into church at the 10 am service as part of the offertory procession by one of the children from SMARK. We finish by singing a short prayer and say a Blessing. Drinks and biscuits are served afterwards, which gives everyone a chance to chat. We are grateful to Bar Gregory and Nick Bennett who provide the music and Jane Robinson has also offered to play for us sometimes. For the future we hope to be able to use Power-point in place of the overhead projector we are currently using and to encourage other people of any age to join in playing the music. We would also welcome any other offers of help either in power-point technology, story-telling, setting up beforehand or with refreshments.

Hazel Chow

#### SMARK Children's Church & Creche

St. Michael's Sunday School (SMARK) meets in the Hall every Sunday except for the second Sunday each month when the children are in the church for the Family Service. The children

from 3 to 10 years do various activities with a story from the bible and teaching, usually from the Roots for Churches material. Occasionally the children are shown a very short video of a bible story. The younger children are looked after in the hall with various toys to play with. All the children go into church around 10.40am before, and stay until the end of the service so that they can go to the altar rail with their parents during communion. Xandie Butler

### Springboard

This is a Sunday morning discussion group for the 11 to 14 year olds. Margaret Skinner and I prepare something each week (except the Family Service week) but unfortunately we rarely have any "takers". Most of this age group are either serving in the church or playing sport on Sundays. We are, however, always hopeful and if you know anyone of this age group please do ask them to come and see us – we're really quite fun!! Zoe Cook

## **MAINTENANCE & OUTREACH**

### Church Grounds

Many thanks to all who help to keep the church grounds tidy and cut the grass. There were two Saturday morning sessions (from 10am-noon) last year, held on June 21<sup>st</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>, when hedges were cut and there was a general tidy up. More volunteers would be welcome to cut the grass just once during the summer. Please contact Tom Holyer(676373) if you can help. There is also another opportunity to help with the church grounds and this is on the last Tuesday of the month from 10am-noon and, having worked up an appetite, you will enjoy even more the monthly men's lunch in St. Michael's Room or the ladies lunch at Zoe Cook's!!

### Church Flowers

The Flower Group continues much as it has done over the past few years. We rely upon the generosity of the congregation with the retiring collections at Christmas and Easter for which we are very appreciative. The money given pays for most of the blooms and the flower arrangers provide the balance. We are always more than happy to create an arrangement to commemo-rate an anniversary in memory of a loved one or any other special occasion. My grateful thanks to all of the members of the team who give their time and enthusiastic help in decorating our church, not just on special occasions but throughout the year.

Lorraine Johnson

## Church Cleaning

We must be one of the few churches where its cleaning does not fall to a just a handful of heroic folk. We are fortunate indeed to have over 60 people involved. Every three to four weeks a group of five turn up to clean the Vestry, Sanctuary, Lady Chapel and the Nave and that five will only appear on the rota once a year and that is a promise! In addition there is a Spring Cleaning Day and with up to 60 small chunks of work to be undertaken every fit and able person is encouraged to do their bit. The theory is that everyone who comes to Church contributes to the need for cleaning and it is only fair that everyone who is able becomes involved— as we all know, many hands make light work. This system has been in operation since 1997 and many of the willing hands who signed up then are still involved, but some have moved away, some have become too infirm to help, some have sadly died and some are reaching an age where they will need to stop. Fortunately each year new people have joined, but to keep the rota going we need a continuing influx of new and younger people. If, therefore, you are not on this unique once a year rota do please call Kathryn Lockyer on 673164 and offer your help. Kathryn, who has been organising the cleaning since 1997, is retiring and a new coordinator will be necessary. It must be one of the easiest rotas to prepare as it is only done once a year and the only other task is arranging the Spring Clean. Everything is already computerised so taking over really won't be at all onerous. Please speak to one of the Churchwardens if you think this is something you could take on. Kathryn

Website [www.stmichaelsbeaconsfield.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsbeaconsfield.org.uk)

If you have a computer you can look on the above website to find out what's happening at St Michael's; find out what is happening in The Hall each week; see photos of some of our activities, and much more. There is a link to Daily Prayer on-line, news about the School in India and interesting links to other websites including the Bible on-line. The Angelus and the Annual Magazine are also there to read. We are very grateful to the Oxford Diocese for hosting the website on their computer so that the only cost of the website is the cost of registering the web address – less than £5 a year! If you have any suggestions on how to improve the website, please do let me know. In the meantime, GOOD VIEWING. Christine Stewart.

## The Angelus

After a lot of discussion in 2008, the editorial team decided it was time for a *new look* Angelus. Our aim was to reach out into the community and let people know where St. Michael's is

and what we are all about. We felt that since '*The Angelus*' reaches about 900 households in our parish, it should have appeal to people both inside and outside the church. So with a lot of help and advice from Jean Dean, and the sponsorship of Buchanan Dean Design Ltd, we launched our first high quality and glossy copy before Christmas. The feedback we have had from the general public has been both very positive and encouraging. Buchanan Dean Design produce the design and artwork, as well as paying for the print and so all of the advertising revenue goes straight to St. Michael's.

Please feel free to contribute articles, recipes and advice or helpful hints. Just please do not get offended if we have to edit or shorten your contribution. The reason is that at times there is not enough space left to feature the whole story. We do however try to make every effort to publish articles intact, where possible. Also, if you know anyone who may be interested in advertising, help in this department is always welcome. Our aim is to publish four editions a year. So please keep your contributions rolling in. It is wonderful to be able to show our neighbours in this parish how diverse, open and welcoming we are at St Michael and All Angel's Church!  
Ulrike Heyworth

#### Churches Together in Beaconsfield (CTB)

CTB meets about 5 times a year. It has nine member churches, St. Mary's, St. Michael's, St. Thomas', St. Teresa's, URC Aylesbury End, URC Holtspur, Baring Road Baptist, Jordons Friends, and Free Methodists. It meets to discuss how we can work together to spread the Christian Message. CTB supports the Bongoma Link, organizes the Lent House Groups, the Parish Christmas Cards and has a stand on Beaconsfield Awareness Day. Each church may have two representatives, ours are Deborah Bowsher and Elizabeth Meredith.

#### Christian Aid

St. Michael's congregation has always given generously of their time to help collect for this very important charity that helps the poorest of the Third World and also in their donations and support. Currently we are raising funds by participating in 'Count Your Blessings' during Lent. The next fund raising event is a Film evening at 7.30pm on Thursday, 23rd April at the Beaconsfield National Film & TV School when the film 'The Young Victoria' will be shown. Tickets are all sold at time of publishing but please support future events.

**Christian Aid Week** this year is from **Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> May.** Please see if you can spare a couple of hours during this week to deliver and collect envelopes in our allotted streets, or hold a tin for 1 hour on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> May.

The more volunteers we have, the easier it is for everyone. Other dates for your diary are:-  
Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> October – Bridge Drive at The Fitzwilliams Centre  
For any more information please contact your church Christian Aid representatives - Allen (671330) and Tom (676373).

## **MUSIC**

### Choir

The choir has had a good year with anthems being performed regularly. Our new anthem book is invaluable for the voices we have in the choir. Alan and James have given excellent support in accompanying and we also thank them for the enjoyable organ music which they play before and after the service. This will be my last report as I will be retiring at Easter. My thanks go to the choir who have been so supportive and to members of the congregation for their compliments on the music and for their interest and encouragement.

Helen Baker

### Junior Choir

The choir has really taken-off this year and regularly has 8 to 10 members each month. They all come at 9.30am to practise for half-hour with Alan before the start of the service, and have thoroughly enjoyed the "percussion" at the end of the service! If there are any budding singers out there that would like to join us, please call me on 01494-672949. Zoe

### Music Group

The Music Group plays at the St Michael's Family Service usually held on the second Sunday of the month and in addition, two of us (but it can be more) play at The Early Birds Service for very young families on the last Sunday of the month. This year we have started handing out percussion instruments for the last hymn in the Family Service which has pleased the young players and added much fun and zest to the proceedings. We also have a post-Family Service "Jam Session" which can be great fun and is played by feel rather than to any printed music. This can range from Latin American through to Blues and Nashville Country style. This year we have welcomed Andrew Woodrow - another most able electric guitarist and are looking for any brass and woodwind players in particular to come along and join us. All musicians young and young in spirit are most welcome to talk to myself or Alan Lewis about the slightly more formal Family Hymn music we play and also the informal Jam Sessions.

Nicholas

Tel: 01494671638

## **SERVICES & SERVING**

### Thursday Service

This is a service of said prayers with Holy Communion that is held in the Lady Chapel at 9.15 each Thursday morning. People find the atmosphere to be prayerful and quiet, and often we bring special prayers for situations in the world or for those around us. Lasting just over the half-hour it can be a place of reflection and space in the busy week. Everyone is welcome to attend. Camilla

### Monthly Prayer

On the first Sunday of each month a small group gathers at 9.20am for prayer in the Lady Chapel between the two main services for twenty minutes. This time was set aside several years ago when the prayer board was first hung in the Lady Chapel and is an opportunity to respond in prayer to the needs which people place on the board. As these requests for prayer are continuous and changing the need to bring these petitions to God is ongoing. In addition we pray for our church, its people - the old, the young and everyone between; those who lead; any special activities that we know about, and for ourselves. You would be very welcome to join with us on the first Sunday of each month. Maybe, as we have found, you would value a time set apart to pray for our Church and we would certainly value your presence with us. Just come, if you cannot stay for all of the twenty minutes that's okay, you may quietly join or leave at any time. Roger Lockyer

### Baptism

The highlight of the 'baptism year' at St Michael's was the special service on the afternoon of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2008 to which all families that had baptisms in the previous few years were invited. This was very well-attended and the service, led by Revd Camilla Walton, was greatly appreciated especially by the parents; afterwards all enjoyed a party in St Michael's Hall. We are now following a new order of Baptism service introduced by Camilla which parents, Godparents and their supporters have found very user-friendly and inspiring.

### The Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Team has struggled in the last 12 months as people have left St Michael's and the team is 7 fewer now, although the number of younger people has not changed. Those involved provide help for the Priest presiding during each service and all carry out their duties with a quiet

assurance so that rarely does anyone notice them. As Camilla has got to know us, and has introduced revised liturgy, there have been a few changes to our practices, not least the lay Chalice Bearers taking part in the Invitation to Communion. The other change has been the use of the Lady Chapel for 8.30am services. This has resulted in a little extra work, but I think a more satisfying service. Once again we should give thanks to those who go to St Michael's each Saturday to prepare the Sanctuary for the next day's services, most of the congregation have no idea that they give up part of their weekend so that the church is ready for our services on Sunday. We continue to struggle to support the 8.30 service, and there are times when Camilla is unassisted. A great shame, but we do make sure she is always supported at 10am.

Roger Lockyer (Sacristan)

#### Verger's View 2008/9

The past year has seen some changes at St. Michael's. At Easter Fr. Peter Holmes retired gracefully, having steered us through the Interregnum, giving a fresh insight into theology and Anglo-Catholic traditions. His sermons were always interesting. We have been fortunate in having the support of the Team during the Interregnum, and I have appreciated their help very much. I also enjoyed meeting Carolyn. I hope it will be possible to see more of her in the future as she deputised at short notice with a superb sermon. The Ordination as Deacons of Maggie and Nigel Rode at Oxford was a very special event, attended by the Rector and Rev. Robert Spicer and many of St. Michael's congregation. We shall miss them and wish them well in their future ministries. The only wedding in 2008 at St. Michael's was that of Anna Clarkson. The service was conducted by her former School Chaplain, now Chaplain of Tonbridge School. He and his wife have been friends of the Clarkson family for many years. There were two funerals—in September Rhona Dick, a stalwart helper at T-Club with a delightfully warm personality, died suddenly. She will be much missed by her family and friends. Debbie Abdul died after a long illness. Her daughter and parents have the sympathy and support of their friends at St. Michael's. Both funerals were well attended by friends and relations. This Christmas it was interesting to have the Nativity scene in the Sanctuary. There have been changes in the church, but the main repairs have now been completed. The Family Friendly Services seem popular. We now prepare during Lent for a truly meaningful Easter.

Joy Clark

Since writing this Joy has resigned as Verger and we give

thanks to her for the many years of service at our church.

### Intercessors (Prayer)

I hope that the congregation enjoys the contribution of our small group of intercessors to our prayer life at St. Michaels. Our varying styles hopefully bring different matters in need of special prayer to the notice of people who will in turn add them to their own private prayers.

Anyone, who would like to join our little group would be warmly welcomed. I think that all of us currently doing intercessions find it a very special part of our St. Michaels life.  
Annie Bennett

### Readers

This is an activity that enables members of the congregation to be an integral part of the service. Usually, at the Sung Eucharist there are readings from both the Old and New Testaments. These readings are found in the beautiful big red lectionary book. The majority of people still like to see the reading in advance so when a rota is sent out I give the lectionary page for each reading. There is a small copy of the lectionary kept in the Lady Chapel for people to look at, and there is also a web-site where the readings can be found. I always try to have an appropriate reader for a specific day i.e. a young Mum on Mothering Sunday but usually Christmas and Easter are reserved for the Churchwardens. Reading is not an arduous chore - slightly nerve-racking perhaps on the first occasion - if you would like to read and are not on my list, please let me know.

Margaret Ogborn

### Sidesmen

I should like to express my thanks to our sidesmen who help to make the services run smoothly and are a good point of contact for both the regular congregation and for visitors. We have 6 sidesmen for the 8.30am service – Tony Burckhardt, Iris Luff, Molly Payne, Laretta Sanders, Gwyneth Shackleton and Hugh Thomas, each taking it in turn on a rota. There are 15 sides-men at present on the rota for the 10am service with 3 on duty for each Sunday – Deborah Bowsher, Christina Clews, Ian Dickson, Allen Hobbs, Tom Holyer, Valerie Honigmann, Lorraine & Tom Johnson, Joy Legg, Kathryn Lockyer, Elizabeth Meredith, David Ogborn, Anne Rossiter, Margaret & Graham Skinner. If anyone in the congregation wishes to be a sidesman, they would be very welcome, just contact Tom (676373)

## **CHURCH GROUPS**

### House Groups

#### Tuesday Evening:

We have continued to meet twice each month, apart from during Lent to allow for those who wish to join the ecumenical groups. Having completed our last study of the minor letters, we have spent the autumn and winter following the "Emmaus Course". This was difficult in some ways as we did 2 sessions at a time and sometimes found it difficult to get down to the "New Christian" level of experience that is really expected. Nevertheless, we did think about our Christian roots and the basics of our faith. I also think that it gave new insights into what our beliefs really are. If you would like to know more please contact Roger Lockyer.

#### Thursday Evening:

The Thursday evening House Group has met regularly during the year. We studied Luke's gospel until September. Since then we too have been following the Emmaus Nurture course. The course is intended to help new Christians understand their faith and it has been very interesting for us to discuss which aspects of the course new Christians would find helpful.

Deborah Bowsher

#### "Colenso" House Group:

Helen's house group meets at 2pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month. This year we have been studying the 7 miraculous signs from St John's Gospel and found it very stimulating. We then went on to study the Emmaus Course which is a "Back to Basics" programme suggested by Camilla. We will reconvene after Easter only 16<sup>th</sup> April. New members are very welcome.

Helen 01494 677834

#### Prayer Group

Each Thursday morning 6 or 7 people meet round the kitchen table in Charlotte's house to pray for many individual people who are not well or need our prayers for other reasons. Each week we ask each other what is the latest news on each person and Xandie or Charlotte pray for them again. We have been praying for some people for several years. We bring all these people before God and several people have let us know how these prayers have helped them. It is a fulfilling and enjoyable time with coffee and biscuits, and if anyone would like to join us on any Thursday morning, or if you know of anyone who needs prayer, please ring Xandie Butler on 812121.

### Pastoral Group

The work of the Pastoral Group of St Michael's involves making connections. Connections between those who need specific help for a period of time and those ready and willing to do what they can to meet that need. It could be practical help, such as shopping, lifts to church or to hospital appointments, babysitting, or the occasional meal. For those unable to get to church receiving home communion can be arranged. There may be a deeper need, such as the loneliness of being housebound, bereavement or a long term illness, where a listening ear and someone to call occasionally from the church to have a cup of tea would be welcome. We know it is hard to ask for help, but sometimes it is the only way we can make connections. So if you have a need or know someone who has, please do contact one of the members of the Pastoral Group whose names are listed below. Alternatively you might prefer to speak to Camilla or Hazel. It is always good to remember that both giving and receiving are gifts we can give to one another and that sometimes the helper may become the one who needs help. If you have some time to offer, and are not already one of those whom the pastoral group calls upon from time to time, we would love to hear from you. Please contact...

Roger & Kathryn (673164), Lorraine (672860), Helen (677834), Sheila (676373), Xandie (812121), Laretta (673212).

### **CHURCH COMMITTEES**

#### District Church Council (DCC)

The DCC is the official committee that represents our church. It meets about 5 times a year and has members elected by church members at the AGM. Some of the topics that were discussed this year were: The Diocesan's Living Faith Initiative; Updating the Child Protection Procedures; Church opening; Communi-cations via The Web-site and new-style Angelus; The Young People's Hope Week; Setting up a Stewardship Team; The Data Protection Act; Proposed church office and Administrative help.

For full details of all the DCC activities please see the DCC Report submitted at the AGM.

#### Parochial Church Council (PCC) 2008/9

St Michael's PCC Representa-tives – Brian Hart and Margaret Skinner.

The PCC comprises clergy, churchwardens and representatives from the three churches within The Beaconsfield Team Ministry. It meets regularly to discuss Team activities, and at all the meetings St. Michael's has been well represented. The PCC receives regular reports from Bob Russell (Treasurer) on the financial position of the Team. Stephen Dillon as a Trustee of the Beaconsfield Education Trust confirmed that St. Michael's had received their grant for 2008. The PCC is given an overview of the £42,074 distributed by the Outside Giving Committee and the Youth Worker, Rob Hayden, gives an annual report on his activities. The PCC ratifies a Diocesan Governor and PCC Foundation Governors for St. Mary's C.of E. School, in Maxwell Road. This year the PCC has reviewed the editorial policy for the Parish Magazine. The Rev'd Camilla Walton and Rev'd Steve Painter gave a presentation to introduce Mission in the Parish, which is to be an ongoing theme for The Team. Finally, as a result of new legislation, the PCC will be registered as a charity with the Charity Commission and all members of the PCC need to be Trustees.

### **GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE**

There were three services for the burial of ashes in the Garden of Remembrance during 2008. The arch and welcome notice at the west end of the garden appear to have deterred vandalism (so far). Maintenance has been undertaken by Ann Hickmott and volunteers from St Michael's. Pink geraniums planted in 2008 provided some welcome colour and through the generosity of a local resident we will do the same in 2009. We endeavour to make the garden a place for peace and contemplation.

David & Helen Baker

### **BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**

Each weekend the Book of Remembrance is opened at the relevant date. Specific entries can be viewed on request to either of the Churchwardens. We have negotiated with the calligrapher to marginally increase the space for each homily from 41 to 44 characters. There were 5 new entries in 2009. David & Helen Baker

[www.stmichaelsbeaconsfield.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsbeaconsfield.org.uk)