

THE COLOUR SUPPLEMENT

*Newsletter from Bramley Parish Leadership Team
St Peter's, St Margaret's and the Church in Rodley
Pentecost 2010*

Our Challenge, Our Choice

Many thanks to all who have responded to our stewardship campaign with offers of time, talents and money. This Pentecost we dedicate these gifts to God and pray that the Spirit will guide the way we both appreciate and use these gifts in our service to the people of Bramley and Rodley.

If you have not yet completed your stewardship return (or have misplaced it!), then please do so as soon as possible. As you are aware we need to increase our income to avert an impending deficit, and we need to use **all** our combined talents and abilities to serve the mission of the church.

Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, celebrates a fresh outpouring of the Spirit. It is the fulfilment of Jesus' promise to pour out the Holy Spirit on the disciples to continue the work that he began. Yet the gift of the Holy Spirit is not some special and unique gift given only to a chosen few. God's Spirit is to be enjoyed by all of God's people, including those in the Parish of Bramley. If Christmas is a celebration of 'God with us' then Pentecost is a celebration of 'God still with us'.

It is the conviction that 'God is still with us' - that God is about us and within us at every moment - that gives us courage and hope in meeting the continuing challenge of mission in our parish.

Ian Rodley

Seventh Day Adventist Church

As you may be aware, we now host another Christian fellowship on Saturdays at St Peter's. For the sake of clarity and to prevent any misunderstanding, I'd like to share a little of the background of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

- They are members of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland - which means they share the same Trinitarian beliefs as the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Methodist churches.
- They are a worldwide church with some 16 million members and have a particular reputation for building hospitals, providing health care and practical involvement in humanitarian aid.

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- They grew out of 'The Second Great Awakening', a period in the 1840s when many American churches expected the return of Christ. When this did not happen there was considerable rethinking amongst some evangelical Christians. From this emerged a number of new churches, the Seventh Day Adventist among them.
- They believe the Sabbath should be observed on the seventh day of the week, Saturday. They usually devote the day to Bible study, Sunday School, worship and sharing a common meal together. Here at St Peter's they meet for around seven hours.
- Since they teach the infallibility of Scripture, substitutionary atonement, the resurrection of the dead and justification by faith alone, they are often considered to be evangelical
- Finally, they played a part in the acceptance of cereals in our breakfast diet, since the Kellogg brothers were pioneers of health work in the Adventist churches!

Ian Rodley

Thank you and goodbye

Dear Friends

This is just to say a very big thank you for your most generous gifts and good wishes.

You may not have heard what was in all those parcels, and I was overwhelmed by all the presents. They included a CD player, the biggest box of chocolates I have ever seen (and there are still a few left!), a wonderful basket of flowers (still alive over a week later), a very aptly named "Fellowship" rose for our new garden, a most generous cheque for a new cassock alb – and Ian was given three lovely bottles of wine, which I'm hoping he'll share with me!

In addition the Brownies, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers gave me a whole range of cards, a poster, a Brownie bear and mug, and a designer paperweight.

Thank you too to the people of Rodley for the generous Black's voucher – you obviously know my hobbies and walking gear is always needed.

My last service was a wonderful occasion and I shan't forget it, you and the last five and a half years in Bramley and Rodley. I have very happy memories, made some good friends and you are all very welcome to come and see us in our new home in Sheffield.

Our new address is:
St. Aidan's Vicarage, 4 Manor Lane, Sheffield S2 1UF

With my love and prayers

Julie Upton



STEEPLE UPDATE

MAY 2010

The development stage of this project, which involved a detailed survey of the steeple, inside and out, has been completed. The tendering process is also finished and a contractor, approved by English Heritage, has been appointed. The contractor is Ryedale Masonry. The costs of the actual fabric repair work are less than the original estimate of both English Heritage and our architect, being around £142,000 rather than £200,000. Because of the lower costs, English Heritage has reduced its grant offer. However, in March we received the offer of a grant of £15,000 from the National Churches Trust and we have enough funds to proceed with Stage Two of the project – the actual repair work. We have received a confirmed offer and contract from English Heritage for this work.

Scaffolding will start to go up in May. Cladding to a height of six metres will be put round the scaffolding to stop potential vandals from climbing on. Depending on weather conditions, it is expected that the outside work will be finished by mid-August and the overall completion date is 31st October 2010. Scaffolding will also go up inside the spire, as major work is needed inside. This means that the clock will need to be removed. The hands will also be removed from the clock faces. These may be boarded up for protection. While the clock is in store, Smith of Derby will do the work for the automation of the clock – a great relief to the clockwinders, who will not have to endure another winter of climbing up into that damp, windswept winding chamber!

The bell ropes will also be removed while work is in progress. There was a peal of bells on Ascension Day – 13th May – celebrating our Lord's Ascension and also celebrating the start of the repair work.

During Stage Two, there will be regular site meetings with our architect, the contractor, the structural engineer, the Health and Safety consultant and ourselves. The contractors have been given information about when we would ask them to suspend work, e.g. for the 10 am Friday Eucharist and before and after any funerals. The contractors will be storing some materials on site, but this will not interfere with funerals or weddings. We may have to modify our Fire Alarm drill while the scaffolding is up, but church members will be informed in good time of any changes. We will be allowing the workmen to use our toilets, water and electricity.

If anyone has any queries or concerns, please speak to Ian or the churchwardens.

***It is a relief and joy that we have reached this stage
and we give thanks to God for it.***

Fundraising for the work on the steeple

As mentioned on the previous page, in addition to the grant from English Heritage, we have been offered a grant of £15,000 from the National Churches Trust. One of the conditions of accepting this grant is that at least 5 members of our congregation become Friends of the National Churches Trust. The Trust has sent us the following information on how we can help them. If you are interested in finding out more, and becoming a Friend, please speak to Norah Gibson or Susan Woodhead.



NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST

Now is a good time for anyone who is passionate about churches, chapels and meeting houses to join as a Friend or to donate to the National Churches Trust. The National Churches Trust is the leading national independent body concerned with the protection and welfare of Christian places of worship throughout the UK. In 2007 the Historic Churches Preservation Trust (founded 1953) and the Incorporated Church Building Society (founded 1818) became the National Churches Trust. This new charity helps faith communities maintain and enhance the buildings in their care in practical and innovative ways. It tries to ensure that churches, chapels and meeting houses survive and flourish at the heart of their communities. Rising costs and the practicalities of fundraising are only some of the challenges faced by the volunteers managing these unique and special places. The Trust strives to raise public awareness about the challenges that local communities like your own are facing. In 2010 the Trust will offer the opportunity to apply for grants towards urgent and essential structural repairs to churches and chapels. There are also some grants available for projects to install new facilities and improve access. For more details please visit our website www.nationalchurchestrust.org, contact our office on 020 7600 6090, or by email at info@nationalchurchestrust.org.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- The Trust receives no financial aid from government or church authorities. You can help by joining as a Friend from as little as £20 per year. The Friends' Scheme is in development. The more people that join, the stronger our voice will be. Information is available on our website or by telephone.
- We are developing our Volunteers' Programme. If you are interested in giving some time to help us please contact us.
- Make a donation online at our website via your credit card using the 'Give now' secure facilities provided by the Charities Aid Foundation, which enables you to increase the value of your gift, at no extra cost to yourself, if you are a UK taxpayer.
- If you would like to consider remembering us in your will, please contact the office to ask about legacies, or visit our website.

National Churches Trust, 31 Newbury Street, London EC1A 7HU

Tel: 020 7600 6090

Fax: 020 7796 2442

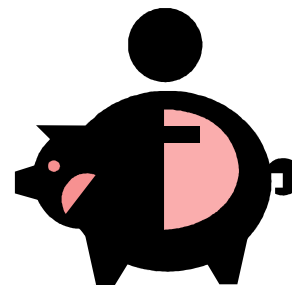
Web: www.nationalchurchestrust.org

Email: info@nationalchurchestrust.org

The Sixth Annual Open Meeting of the

West Leeds Debt Forum

was held at St Margaret's on 12th March 2010.



A wide range of local organisations attended. Our aim was to pull together information on the current situation regarding debt, financial capability and inclusion with a view to lobbying for continued investment in related projects and activities. Topics included the impact of the credit crunch on people, on health and on the local economy, the impact on service providers and the response to the crunch in terms of community projects. Below is a summary of points arising.

Research commissioned by the **LCC Financial Inclusion Project, Development Department**, has shown that investment in programmes to improve levels of financial inclusion gives a significant return. For every pound invested, about £8.40 is generated in additional income for the local economy. Levels of debt decrease, affordable credit sources rather than door step lenders are used, significant amounts of the additional income are spent on food and heating, reduced levels of stress and improved health are reported.

Access to user friendly information and to sound debt advice are vital in promoting financial inclusion, yet Leeds may lose 13 of its debt advisors in 2011.

Awareness of the **Credit Unions** is still low and campaigning is necessary to make the general public aware of these local institutions and their advantages.

Service providers have been swamped by requests for assistance over the past year. **Citizens Advice** could have helped twice the number of clients they did help, had they had the resources. **Burley Lodge** and **St Vincents** advice centres have also seen a big increase in demand for services. Relatively short-term funding for advisory services carries the risk of losing trained staff, who need the assurance of job security.

A range of innovative projects and activities have been introduced to tackle debt and issues of financial inclusion and capability. These include:

The illegal money lending project – seeks to identify unlicensed money lenders and loan sharks; relies heavily on the public for information, but there are barriers to overcome, as people are often intimidated. People are now coming forward, the helpline is very busy and there have been high profile prosecutions.

West/North West Homes works with clients in rent arrears to find ways of managing their finances. Campaigns have been held to raise awareness of existing and new benefit entitlements, including campaigns for young adults and those in Sheltered Housing. Prevention of eviction is a priority.

NHS Health and Wellbeing events include debt advisors, information about where to go on money matters. A Financial Inclusion group has been set up. An audit of financial services and signposting has been done. A Community Development approach is key. The NHS has supported the development of **Let's Talk Money**, in partnership with the **Healthy Living Network**.

Count Me In, developed by the **Library Service in partnership with the Yorkshire Bank**, uses colourful, lively, interactive kits to develop financial literacy skills in the early years of life. Kits can be borrowed from libraries. Demand has been high and the website has also had a lot of hits.

Money Skills, developed by **West Yorkshire Joint Services in partnership with Barclays Bank**, targets the 16-25 year old age range and especially those Not in Education, Employment or Training. A toolkit promotes awareness of wise choices in handling money, credit and banking. Almost ten thousand young adults have been reached.

If you would like a copy of the full report, please contact Norah Gibson.

Items to ponder, perhaps?

(contributed by Norah Gibson)

Three Men on a Hike

Three men were hiking through a forest when they came upon a large raging, violent river. Needing to get to the other side, the first man prayed:

' God, please give me the strength to cross the river. '

Poof! . God gave him big arms and strong legs and he was able to swim across in about 2 hours, having almost drowned twice.

After witnessing that, the second man prayed: ' God, please give me strength and the tools to cross the river '

Poof! .. God gave him a rowing boat and strong arms and strong legs and he was able to row across in about an hour after almost capsizing once.

Seeing what happened to the first two men, the third man prayed: ' God, please give me the strength, the tools and the intelligence to cross the river '

Poof! . He was turned into a woman. She checked the map, hiked one hundred yards up stream and walked across the bridge.

(If at first you don't succeed, do it the way your wife told you!?)

Below is a wonderful poem **Audrey Hepburn** wrote when asked to share her 'beauty tips.' It was read at her funeral years later.

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.

For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people.

For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.

For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day.

For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.

People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone.

Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms.

As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.