

Annual Perochial Church Meeting
Group Reports



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Children's Ministries

Crèche

We've had a good year so far with a group of regularly attending children. Our numbers have increased to between 6-8 children plus the pre-school children who meet in the church centre. We made the decision at the beginning of the year, having asked for feedback from all our helpers, that we would alter our rota to every 5 weeks. As a lot of our team are involved in other church activities, it reduces the commitment slightly for them and also they spend less time swapping their weeks. This means that we have 3 helpers for each week, which isn't quite enough, but thanks to our parents who sometimes stay in with their children, we cope.

We are encouraged by the fact that the confidence of the children appears to have increased and they are happy to be left. This is helped by the fact that the pre-school children are now outside and so is probably a bit quieter and there's less running around!! For the pre-school group we ask that there is opportunity for them to become more involved with the older children in anticipation of going up to those groups. They appear to have become a group on their own and the children are unsure whether they are still part of crèche or not. Also, if they continue to meet, that a better location is found for them as the centre is too big and restricts the congregation from being able to go outside and listen to the service.

We thank God for the increase in numbers of children, most of whom are new families to the church, and pray that those numbers continue to grow. We also pray for an increase in the numbers of helpers to look after those children.

The crèche would not exist were it not for the commitment of a great team of helpers who are prepared to give up every fifth Sunday to run it. We thank God for the skills he has given these people and that his love is shown through the care they provide.

Club Explorer

Club Explorer meets each Tuesday evening during term time between 5.30 and 7.00pm providing a mid week meeting for 7 to 11 year olds. Over half of these children are from non-church families. Club explorer provides an easy, fun opportunity for church family children to bring their non-church friends along to hear about God, the bible and church life. The great achievement over the past year has been the continued success in bring non church children to hear about God and the continued enthusiasm and interest all the children show in the Lord's word.

The evening consists of games with a break for refreshments. On some evenings we do a craft. A talk provides the biblical input for the evening. This has led to several pointed and searching questions. We hold the talks in the small hall. This allows some of the children to remain with the speaker and ask their questions without feeling the need to run off and play the next game.

We have held a number of events aligned to Church events and mission, which have been successful in bringing 10 to 15 extra children along. Some of these return and become regular attendees.

We have continued to have the support of six leaders. This is an answer to prayer. In last year's report I asked for prayer over the provision of another leader. God has blessed us with two new leaders. This has also meant that a change in my working hours has not had an adverse affect on the running of the club. I would like to thank them all for their commitment, patience and love for the Lord in the work they do each Tuesday evening. Working with non church children can be the most rewarding and fulfilling work, however it can also be the most trying.

The challenges for the coming year remain constant in provide an appealing evening with the focus on the God's word. A need from the coming year is another leader. Outside work commitments are placing an extra burden on the current leadership and an extra leader would cover these absences.

When the group was started seven years ago, I was told that we may never know the fruits of the seeds we plant at Club Explorer. We have been fortunate this year to see some of the children asking enquiring questions about the Lord and requesting to have a bible so that they can read it at home. So thank you to my fellow farmers John Barreto, Antonia Instone, Adam Shirley, Isobel Walker and Alison Howard Williams.

David Christie.

Youth Ministries

"You can have fun whilst learning about Jesus.."

Alice, aged 12.

"Spectrum has helped me to trust Jesus as I tell my friends about him."

Emily, aged 17.

"The leaders made Pathfinders much more fun... bossy, but fun!"

John, aged 14, commenting on the new Pathfinder Small Group Night on Thursdays.

Introduction

In terms of young people discovering Jesus and living wholeheartedly for him, this last year has been an excellent year for the youth ministries in Christ Church Bromley. As you can see from the quotes above, looking at the word of God in a dynamic and engaging way lies at the heart of every youth group meeting. This means that week after week over 30 young people come along to meet with Jesus in his word so that they can live for him in their families and at school with friends.

Pathfinders (11-14s)

Pathfinders is the lower age youth group in Christ Church which exists to make disciples of young people aged 11-14. This includes reaching young people with the invitation to become a follower of Jesus, as well as growing Christ-like godliness in their lives as we look to spread the Gospel through the witness of our members to their friends.

Throughout 2008, the Pathfinder group has refocused our meetings around God's word but ensuring that we do this in a way that is really engaging and enjoyable.

On Sundays we meet as a whole group and on Thursdays our meeting is geared around getting together in small groups. At both meetings we spend time looking at God's word and doing activities that help us engage with and apply what God's word says to us. There are also key time for socialising before and after most meetings.

Spectrum (14-18s)

Spectrum is the upper age youth group in Christ Church which exists to make disciples of young people aged 14-18. This includes reaching teenagers with the Gospel, helping them to grow a Christ-like approach to everyday life, as well as helping them to spread the Gospel through their witness of Jesus to their friends and their service to him in his church.

In this last year, Spectrum has also gone through a period of change in order to be more effective in our aim of making disciples of 14-18s. Each Spectrum meeting was redeveloped so that our focus was on God's word in such a way that is really engaging and enjoyable.

And so on Sundays, there is a talk from God's word, with additional activities that help us engage with and apply the bit of God's word we are looking at that evening. Midweek there are now three small groups available (one for 6th formers, one for the under 16s boys and one for the under 16s girls). And of course, we have time to hang out together before and after each of our meetings. In addition to these meetings there are socials and events that happen throughout the term which are designed to reach out to fringe members and provide opportunities for members to bring friends to 'check out the group' before they come to a more formal Spectrum meeting.

Conclusion

Over the next year, the leaders in both Pathfinders and Spectrum are keen to continue developing their ministries to be as effective as possible in making disciples of Jesus. One of the key ways they will be doing this is to draw in and involve parents more and more in the life of the groups.

Therefore, please do give great thanks to God for our young people, their parents and the volunteer leaders who serve them well with their time and energy. Please pray that the church family would continue to get behind the work of the youth ministry groups and that more young people would be brought to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Other Adult Ministries

Women's Groups

Latteman Bible Study Group

Purpose: we are a group of about 8-10 mums with school-aged children who meet weekly to study the bible, pray and encourage each other in our daily lives to live for Christ and grow in His likeness.

Aim: that through our bible studies we will grow in our maturity, knowledge and love of Jesus so we can be effective witnesses for Him. With this in mind, this year we have studied a variety of topics: Genesis; Helped us see how God sets in motion His plan of redemption through Christ; The Sermon on the Mount has challenged us to see what Jesus wants His followers to be and do; Contentment; This series showed us that life without God will never satisfy and The Apostles creed gave insight into what we believe and it's life changing significance for our daily lives.

This year many of us have been able to invite our friends to outreach events and have been able to be more confident in talking about Jesus to our friends.

It has been a tough year for many in the group with illness, bereavements, loss of jobs and financial problems, however we have been able to be a source of practical support and encouragement to each other and have still had joy and fun in our studies!

Vision: that we will continue to have wisdom in choosing bible studies that will equip us to grow spiritually and relate our Christian faith to the world we live in and respond to the challenges both within the church and our wider community.

That we will continue to meet and encourage one another while having fun learning about Christ.

Cameo Groups

Cameo consists of groups of women from the church and their contacts, who meet weekly to study Gods word and have fellowship and prayer together to help us to grow in our love for the Lord. Most of the time we meet as individual groups and the groups vary in size and age range from young mums to ladies 'of a more mature age '. Every few months however we like to have joint meetings with a view to getting to know each other better. This is important as there is a wide range of experience in the different groups and we aim to be able to support one another through difficult times. With this in mind Iain Broomfield led a challenging discussion in June based on Titus and looking at the inter-relationship of women in the church.

In the autumn we had a meeting thinking about the harvest celebration, both the original Jewish celebration and then what it means to us today in urban life. We joined together to celebrate Christmas, singing carols and enjoying mince pies, and we were eating again in February at an event when we could bring non-christian friends to hear an evangelistic talk and share some pancakes. All the women of the church were invited to join with us in our Easter celebration, 'following in the steps of Jesus ', at the end of March.

Our individual groups have independent programmes designed to meet the needs of the members of the group. This may be a 'whole book' of the bible approach, more in-depth study of a book or portion of scripture, or a subject-based study.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us on Tuesday or Thursday for a couple of really enjoyable hours.

Women's Fellowship

During the year the number of ladies in the Fellowship has remained constant at twenty two. We are always pleased to welcome new members, but are restricted by not easily being able to offer lifts.

Our vision and aim continues to be that each member grows in their love for, and dependence on, the Lord Jesus, and in their awareness of His abiding love and care for them. We are grateful to the many speakers who so willingly come and help us by their talks to this end.

As well as devotional talks, and Bible Studies, we have had representatives from the Leprosy Mission, The London City Mission, Starfish Asia and the Missionary Aviation Fellowship. We have sent donations to each of these societies.

Looking back over the year the love, interest and care for each others' needs is very apparent.

Keep Fit

Keep Fit is held in the Church Halls during term time between 8.00 and 9.00pm on a Tuesday evening. We have twenty four members in total with a weekly attendance of between fifteen and seventeen. Many of the members are Christians with a few coming in from other churches but we do have several members with no church connections.

Aside from keeping us active, the main aim of the group is to build bridges between the church and the local community. We are a very friendly group who care about each other and have built up strong friendships. The Keep Fit sessions are very ably run by Sarah Williams and those of us who attend regularly do feel the fitter for it. The highlights of the autumn and summer terms are when we share a meal together, provided by Benny and Janet Cuthill. In the spring term we generally go out as a group to a local restaurant.

We look for opportunities to invite our members to church events and for opportunities to share the gospel with those ladies who do not know Him.

Christ Church in Park Langley

We are 2 years old this month! Praise the Lord for his grace and faithfulness and for his powerful Word which brings new life and grows us up in Christ.

As we look back over our second year, there is much for which to give thanks, as ever. And at the same time, we long to be able to reach out into the area more and grow in Christ.

The key points of thanks include:-

- i) God's answers to prayers from this time last year; the use of the whole hall, including another room for children's groups and a new later meeting time, Sparklers continuing well and Sparklers for DADS underway.
- ii) two new professions of faith; both through Christianity Explored. God's mercy in bringing people to faith in Christ, through his powerful gospel.
- iii) the fringe becoming more central, seen in a good mixing of people during coffee on Sundays and in those from the plant going to the Belonging Explored stream at RealFood.
- iv) God's grace in Christ being freshly 'heard' as we've gone through the first half of Romans; our present freedom from condemnation and our future freedom from suffering (which has been very real for many of us).
- v) those who have moved on, even in our short life. In the last two years, we've said 'goodbye' to Brendan, Cathy and Charlie (and now Noah) Proctor (returning home to South Africa) and this month to Peter and Juliette Wood (moving to Yorkshire). We give thanks for their valuable partnership and encouragement.

We continue to look forwards and pray for:-

- i) the ongoing ministry of Sparklers and now Sparklers for DADS. We sense these are being the most effective means of reaching the unchurched in our area, so we'd love them to grow hugely!
- ii) our children's work remains precarious, though works very well for the most part, and we are beginning to pray specifically for new families to join us, either fellow workers with a passion for Park Langley and West Wickham or those who don't know Christ.
- iii) we continue to pray for the use of other full or part timers to help grow the work. It would be fantastic to have an apprentice or part time children's worker who could look at ways of helping our children reaching their friends.
- iv) for our growing independence in as far as it will further the spread of the gospel to the unchurched. We're looking and praying towards greater independence in 2010. We hope to become financially independent before long and that the Bishop's Mission Order, for which we still wait, will be of practical use for establishing us as another much needed and recognised gospel witness in the area.

Christianity Explored

Firstly Christianity Explored is a 10 week course to introduce Jesus Christ to people who do not know Him as their Lord and Saviour and address questions they might have about Christianity. Primarily to show who Jesus is, why He came and what it means to follow Him. The course is run using a study guide, video (or DVD) and most importantly of all the Bible, referring to Mark's gospel. Prayerfully by the end of the course many people would want to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Secondly we pray that more Christian believers by using the course material, especially the book of Mark, would share the gospel either formally as part of a team hosting CE, or even informally 1 to 1 with friends, neighbours, colleagues.

Since the last APCM we have been richly encouraged by the people who have attended the two courses run in Spring and Autumn 2008. It has been a privilege to see a small number accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Others continue seeking, but we know God is at work.

Leading up to A Passion for Life, in 2010, it would be great to see the church family equipped further in using Mark's gospel to share the gospel, and also confident in using the CE material.

Mission within Bromley

Our preparation for A Passion for Life has begun in our small groups, as we've been encouraged to commit to praying specifically for those we know who don't yet know the Lord Jesus Christ.

Next term we'll think about our engagement with those around us; living distinctively Christian lives and remaining faithful to God in a culture that seems increasingly far from Him and His good ways.

But we mustn't forget in the midst of mission preparation, that there can be no substitute for passionate gospel intentionality in long term, low key relationships with those around us.

As we continue to move towards Easter 2010, might we have to think about what we need to stop doing in order to make time for relationships with those who aren't Christians? What connections do we currently have with those people and what can be doing to grow those connections in ways which will serve the gospel in their lives?

And as we continue to pray and work for others salvation, how we'll need each other; we'll face knock backs and discouragements. We'll desperately need the spurring of one another to persevere and to keep seeking first His kingdom.

Earlier this year, we enjoyed fantastic evenings at 'ReCreations', the women's craft evening and the Boyz Toyz Nite. It was brilliant to have such original and well organised evenings and a reminder that any passion or hobby can be well employed in the service of the gospel. Have a think for the future!

In the parish, the visiting team continues to build bridges with those immediately surrounding the church building. We sense there is great potential in these visits, but could always use more help. If you would be interested in trying and being trained for this ministry, do get in touch with Cameron Swift. All help would be hugely appreciated.

Lunch on Wednesdays

We thank God for another year in which we have witnessed his love and his care in guiding us as we meet each week for Lunch Club. Some new helpers have joined the team - a real answer to prayer, but we would welcome others who may feel called to join us in this work.

We have seen increasing numbers of members attending 'Seekers' (the small hall is filled to over-flowing!) coming to Christianity Explored courses and our new 'Followers' Group. The latter group is made up of those who want to learn more about following Jesus and

would love to meet more regularly than we can manage at present. We meet monthly but with more helpers could possibly make this more often. All this gives us so much for which to thank God.

Keep Fit and Massage continue to be very popular encouraging our bodies to be more supple. To this end we also had a return visit from Sister Pam and her folk dancing group and almost without exception, everyone took part.

Our Holiday at Home followed the theme of 'fruit' with all our activities - its amazing how much you can do with fruit. Have you ever had a tomato and spoon race? Our thespians acted out plays depicting the fruits of the spirit. Margaret Rhys-Tyler made a beautiful 'fruits of the spirit' tree and drew the threads of our day's activities together as she spoke to us about the outworking of the 'fruits' in our lives. The next day we paid a visit to the Brogdale Fruit Farm for tea and sampled some of their produce.

The police paid a visit advising us on sensible precautions we should take to ensure our safety. We attended a performance of 'Les Miserables' at the Langley Park Schools and visited Polhill before Christmas. Our T'n Talk with John Chandler (a former member of Christ Church) was much enjoyed.

We continue to support the work of Kisumu and Betel in various ways.

Our services during the year were well attended and it is so good to see our folk comfortable and 'at home' in the church as they take part and join in the services. We are so grateful to those who help in setting up the church for us and for preparing the hall each Wednesday before Lunch Club. Thank you everyone!

Our team of helpers continue to meet regularly on the 1st Saturday for Prayer Breakfast, a very important time for sharing, planning and seeking God's will. We also had a 'Day Away' at Cudham church, again a time for reflection and fellowship as we commit ourselves and the Lunch Club to the Lord.

Our aims for the coming year are to continue to provide a time when folk can come and feel loved, valued and cared for and, we trust by our actions and the love of Christ working through us, that many more may seek to find and follow the Saviour who loves them.

Yvonne Fitt, for the Lunch Club Team.

Christ Church PCC

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Monday 27th April 2009 Report from the Secretary of the P.C.C. on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council 2008/2009

1. Since the last Annual Meeting in 2008, the P.C.C. has met on seven occasions. At the first meeting in May, Andrew Nathan was elected Vice Chair; Richard Doré was appointed Secretary and Toby Reid was co-opted onto the PCC pending the appointment of a successor.

2. The P.C.C. has seven Sub Groups

- Mission within Bromley
- Mission beyond Bromley
- Youth Council
- Financial Strategy
- Buildings
- Personnel
- Bromley Christian Workers Trust

At the May meeting, the membership of these Sub Groups was agreed, including some not presently serving on the P.C.C. and throughout the year these Groups have met regularly, with their reports and recommendations being presented to the PCC.

3. At every meeting, regular updates on the ongoing work at Park Langley together the situation regarding the Bishop's Mission Order – Fresh Expressions – which would give legal status to the Plant have been presented. Discussions on this are still ongoing with the Archdeacon and the Bishop.
4. Regular updates on the monthly financial situation – income and expenditure have also been received. In November, the Budget for 2009 was discussed and agreed. It was also explained to the Council that in 2009, the PCC would be required to register with the Charity Commissioners.
5. At the January meeting, Stuart Gilbert offered to serve as Treasurer and he was co-opted onto the Council. Toby Reid agreed to continue to assist Stuart until the Accounts for 2008 had been prepared in April. The P.C.C. thanked Stuart for coming forward and Toby for his ongoing support during the period from May 2008 to January 2009.
6. The Council also decided that the method of auditing the Accounts for 2008 would change from a full Audit to an Independent Examination. As a consequence, financial savings would arise.
7. A discussion paper on “Renewing our Vision” was considered in May and arising from this, Roger Gadsden from the London City Mission was invited to the July PCC to discuss the possible development of stronger links with the work at Churchdown. It was also decided that Growth Groups and small groups would be consulted and their views obtained on three questions relating to the Vision.
8. In July, Roger Gadsden attended the Council to discuss potential options for future links with Churchdown. Further discussion on this took place in September; linking this with the responses received from Growth Groups and small groups on Renewing our Vision.
9. The P.C.C. agreed that a Joint meeting of the PCC and Growth group leaders would take place in October to consider Renewing Our Vision, further. In November, the PCC decided to set up a small group to

review the responses from small groups and matters arising from the Joint meeting with the PCC in October. This Group has met and is formulating recommendations for the next meeting of the P.C.C. in May.

10. Reports from Sub Groups throughout the year have included...

Mission Within Bromley – a review the events leading up to and including the Mission – “Taste the Difference” led by Will Stileman from Maidenhead; also on the importance of visiting in the Parish and the need for more helpers.

Mission Beyond Bromley – Preparations for the special Sunday last November; also providing ongoing support for those serving in the UK and throughout the world.

Personnel - revisions to Application Forms, Job Descriptions, Contracts of Employment and the preparation of a Staff Handbook; also the recruitment and selection of a new Administrator, with the temporary appointment of Abigail Jackson and the situation regarding John Williams, who will be relinquishing his post of Buildings Co-Ordinator at the end of May.

Buildings – regarding essential repairs to both the Church and to 56 Heathfield Road, and the ongoing maintenance and improvement of all Church premises.

Youth Council – Updates on Children’s and Youth Ministry, including the Holiday Club at Easter 2008; also consideration of an important report on the development of Youth Ministry. Discussion on this is ongoing and the Youth Council will be meeting again with a further report to the PCC in May.

11. Following discussions between Iain and Nick Hiscocks, the Council was advised that Nick and Cecelia and their family would be spending three months in the autumn of this year in Australia. They would be - “house and car swapping” with Simon Manchester, Rector of St. Thomas’ Church North Sydney from September to November of 2009. Simon would then support both Park Langley and Christ Church during this period.
12. During the year, the PCC has considered reports from Iain and the Trustees of the Bromley Christian Workers Trust on future staffing needs, including the funding of future Ministry Training Associates. These discussions are ongoing. However, the PCC was advised that Jonathan Arnold had been appointed to replace Antonia Instone until 31st August, when this would be reviewed, with those of other Associates, in the light of proposals to be discussed in May relating to funding and accommodation arrangements from the Autumn.
13. It was also decided by the Council, that the successful Away Day at Farrington’s School in Chislehurst should be repeated in 2009.
14. The P.C.C. agreed that Iain Broomfield, on behalf of the PCC together with Kim Arnold and Richard Doré, both in a personal capacity, would attend the Rochester Diocesan Conference in January 2009. At the March meeting, Iain gave a report on the successful time that had been spent in Bognor.
15. Alison Howard Williams was appointed CRB Officer for Christ Church and it was also agreed that Rosemary Worboys would be appointed as a second CRB Officer.
16. This report is a summary of the many matters considered by the P.C.C. over the past year.
17. In conclusion, the P.C.C. would wish to express its sincere thanks to Iain Broomfield for his supportive leadership and vision within the Council and in the Church, during the past year.

Richard M. Doré, April 2009.