

**The Parish of Ockbrook with Borrowash.**

**All Saints' Church, Ockbrook.**

**St. Stephen's Church, Borrowash.**

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## LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends

As we begin a New Year and following a recent PCC meeting I write to you with some important information about the life of our churches in 2010.

### **Vision**

At the PCC half day away in November we reviewed our current strengths and weaknesses. There was much to be encouraged by, but also some areas that needed our attention. The primary area of church life that we felt needed some focus was that of our relationships.

Following prayerful reflection and another discussion in January at the PCC, we agreed that we should develop our relationships by focusing on the following:

1. Book a family Day away some time in June 2010.
2. A Pastoral Care group led by Rev'd Val Billings (curate) and a small team of people (to be confirmed). This will be functioning by Easter and will involve visiting, caring, practical help and listening.
3. The formation of a group to organise some church social events throughout the year. Those who have agreed to do this are Helen Salih, Vanessa Anderson, Betty Tyler and Hilary Seeley.
4. To organise one joint Sunday service likely to be at 10.00am at All Saints' on a day when all the other services will be cancelled. The hope is to offer a blend of worship styles and then come together for a shared lunch.
5. An invitation and challenge for all church members to seek to live by a personal rule of life for a short season in the year. The PCC as a whole will lead the way by adopting the following rule throughout Lent:

### Rule of Life

I promise to:

- a) Pray daily
- b) Read the bible regularly
- c) Attend public worship faithfully
- d) Commend the Christian faith by word and deed
- e) Fashion my life according to the example of Christ
- f) Give and forgive as generously as God gives and forgives me
- g) Promote Christian Unity.

As the vicar I commend these initiatives to you for prayer and commitment as we together seek to build up our church family.

### **Worship**

Following a review of the current worship services the PCC agreed the following for 2010.

January 24 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Christian Unity – Moravian
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Ash Wednesday Service – All Saints'
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	6.30pm	Passion Tide – All Saints'
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Joint Christian Aid – Moravian
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Joint Anglian/Moravian – All Saints'
August 29 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Joint Anglian/Moravian – Moravian
November 28 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	United Songs of Praise – Methodist.

In August we again combine the 9.15/11.00am service into 10.00am meeting at alternative venues.

- 1<sup>st</sup> August All Age service- All Saints'
- 8<sup>th</sup> August Family Communion – St. Stephen's
- 15<sup>th</sup> August All Age service – All Saints'
- 22<sup>nd</sup> August Family Communion – St. Stephen's
- 29<sup>th</sup> August Joint Anglian/Moravian Service – Moravian

We continue occasional Taize, Reflective and prayer and Praise type services. These will be on Sunday evenings (to be arranged)

Remembrance Sunday Service (November 14<sup>th</sup>) we once again cancel the 11.00am service at All Saints' and support the community parade and service.

### **Finances**

Currently the church is running on a deficit with more expenditure than income. The PCC agreed that we should carry out another Giving in Faith scheme. Each of us will therefore receive detailed information about our financial situation in the context of Christian discipleship and a pledge form to help us prayerfully review our giving. This information will be available by the beginning of Lent 2010.

### **The Internet**

Lastly, I inform you of a desire by the PCC to transition from a paper based communication (i.e. newsheets) to using the internet. This will be more cost effective and save time for the Administrator. To that end, with immediate effect we will begin a pilot scheme of sending information out via the internet. Those without computers will receive hard copies and there will still be some hard copies of newsheets in our churches for general use. There will undoubtedly be some teething problems with this transition, but I would ask that we all seek to see the benefits of this policy.

I commend these things for your prayerful reflection and I wish you all in God's love, a happy New Year.

Tim Sumpter