

## What's On The Vicar's Mind? February 2010

**"Coming Home"** is how it was described by one church member in terms of coming back into our church building. It feels like that doesn't it and as we re-group we will discover who we are now and more of what Gods calling is upon us.

As part of our re-grouping we are planning a special Saturday of activities for all ages and following it with a special Sunday service the next day. Please can you plot it into your diaries/planners – it will be May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. It's going to be great fun, team are working on the programme and lets face it the more come the more fun it will be!

God has used this last 4 month period of homelessness to change us and challenge us in many ways we have been turned inside out. One of the results of this has been the most community outreach focussed 'Christmas' that we have ever had. It was fantastic how many different ways of reaching out our Life Groups came up with. Rather than us waiting for the world to come to church we went to the world with the love of Christ in some practical form.

It's great to be back in the church building and our first Sunday service was a real celebration. There is still some work to be done on the building so take care if you go into it over the next 2 weeks especially because a wall in the community room is going up!

This week the secondary glazing went up on the huge side windows in church – it has been done so well you can hardly see that they have been done. The decrease in draught and noise is amazing.

As usual with such projects there is a million people to thank, but there are a few especially who most certainly need to receive 'Volunteers of the Month' awards! Those being:

**Malcolm Morris:** who has virtually lived in the church building for 3 months coordinating the traders

**Dave Sterry:** for overseeing the Under Floor Heating side of the project – a complex, specialist, patience building task!

**Jason Hounslow:** who has meanwhile been rebuilding the Sound System/Hearing Loop – which has required considerable skill, patience and time.

**Thank you guys so much.**

Now the building has much better facilities in terms of space and heat, we are praying that it will continue and increasingly be used for the mission of Gods Kingdom in our area. It is the biggest public space in this area of Spelthorne and can seat up to 400 people. We hope it will be increasingly used for Community Events, Conferences and Large Christian gatherings of all kinds.

- At some point in the autumn we will consider taking on someone to oversee the upkeep and development of The Church Building, The Glebe Cottage and The Church Centre. This will be an advertised ministry position and will begin as a part time role – do talk to me if that's something you might be interested in.

## **BREAKING NEWS – TIM, EMMA AND JACOB ROSE ARE STAYING IN SUNBURY!**

Many of you realise that as June gets nearer and Tim's training comes to a close there was the real possibility that he might need to find a Curacy in a different place.

The fantastic news is that our Bishop is offering to us the opportunity to have him serve his title curacy here over the next three years. This is amazing!

At the recent Visionary Leadership Team and the Church Wardens meetings – it was totally unanimous to accept Bishop Pauls offer. His post here will cover all the usual training aspects that a Curate has to fulfil in their initial 3 years but he will have an unusual charge and opportunity – this is to explore mission opportunities in the Spelthorne Deanery with a view in Gods timing to experiment in developing new worshipping communities in our area.

Our challenge is to fund 50% of the cost of having Tim stay here which is £17,000 a year.

**Can you give to this part of our vision?** Tim's salary will be done centrally so any gifts that you want to give for this specific purpose please direct to Barbie Ryder-Matthews or Sheila Stocking via the Church Centre at Sunbury Cross. Please make it clear that your gift is for this purpose and please Gift Aid if you are a Tax Payer. If we can raise a little more than £17,000 per year we could offer a gift to them towards their mortgage – usually a house comes with a clergy post but because this is an unusual extra post and the funding is being split between diocese and parish there is at present no housing allowance. Tim and Emma own their own house which they want to stay in – so let's bless them as much as we can.

I know many of us will be so excited that they are staying – they are deeply loved and add so much to our community's life.

Personally I am so thrilled that one of our original church planters has recognised a calling to ministry, has been selected and theologically trained and is now able to finish that preparation period in the church God raised him up in. God is all over this! We are in an exciting chapter of church life here in Spelthorne! What a privilege to be involved here in these days.

## **Changes to Staff Team and its Management Structures**

New Team since Christmas are:

**Anna Evans** who is working 2 days a week voluntarily working on Alpha and Community Courses at The Centre.

**Ben Hatfield** who is our new Full Time youth worker –the young people are very excited about his arrival.

Please pray for Anna and Ben as they begin with us.

The balance of paid and voluntary workers is very important and we are very blessed to be getting this much more in balance in these times. If you feel you have time or talents to offer please talk to us, we are continually looking to develop what we are doing.

At present we are looking especially to strengthen our **Kids Church Team**. Please talk to Becky our kid's worker about this on [becky@st-saviours-sunbury.org.uk](mailto:becky@st-saviours-sunbury.org.uk) Becky has got great plans for our weekly kids work and the brilliant Holiday Club called 'Massive' which she runs in the summer half term.

## **Management Changes**

As a church grows so structures for that development need to be put in place in order for it to develop further, up to now all staff whether paid or voluntary have mainly been line managed by me as Vicar. Now this has been shared and the following list tells us who oversees who:

**David McDougall** oversees Tim Rose (Curate)/Claire Clarke (Music Director)/Paul Oxley (Curate)/Val Mitchell(Pastoral Director)/ Naomi Zumpe (Mid Week Ministry) /Sheila Stocking (Assistant Treasurer)/ Malcolm Morris (Buildings Work)

**Tim Rose** oversees Becky Quinnell (Children's Worker)

**Paul Oxley** oversees Ben Hatfield (Youth Worker)/ Anna Evans (Alpha and Community Course)

**Claire Clarke** oversees Lorraine Haysom (Church Office Manager)

**Lorraine Haysom** oversees Sarah Baggs (Church Office Admin assistant)

**Staff Meetings**/groupings have also changed!

We now have Overseer Staff/ Main Staff and Wider Staff meeting! This means that staff don't sit in meetings which are irrelevant to them, there is nothing worse than being in a meeting where you have nothing relevant to your work going on when you could have been getting on with something more usefully! I have sat myself in staff meeting like that over the years and it is very frustrating and demotivating.

**Annual Staff Reviews** – these happen with all staff including myself in the summer term.

**Pastoral Team – Val Mitchell** – has started this in the last few months and has already got a team of 10 people around her to take this forward. We really need this development as we grow as a church and I know many of you are really pleased about this development.

**The Centre** – is our new church office site at Sunbury Cross. Here you will find our Admin Centre and also the base for all our church staff. They all have email addresses and can be contacted by phone there as well. As they are increasingly caught up in ministry they may not be in their offices much so email is the best form of contact!

Our new Community Courses will be held here and this is a very exciting development in our ministry. Courses like 'Getting back to work', 'Improving your English' and 'Healthy lunch boxes' are just a few coming up!

Please keep a close eye on our **New Website** [www.st-saviours-sunbury.org.uk](http://www.st-saviours-sunbury.org.uk) for all the latest information on these courses and much more! You can even listen to last weeks sermon on line if you were visiting relatives last weekend!

## **St Saviours and Vision**

The church was originally built on the Staines Road as a Mission Tin Tabernacle! It was placed in Upper Sunbury because that's where the servants of the rich in Lower Sunbury lived! We as a church were birthed by St Mary's Lower Sunbury as a daughter church with the idea and vision of mission to our area.

Today we believe that is exactly what we are called to do. We are called to reach out to our area with the Love of Jesus Christ and the Hope of the Gospel. As a Christian Community living out its faith we are attempting in many different ways to see a sea change spiritual difference come to Spelthorne.

In doing this God has given us some particular emphases for now and I am sure more will come in the future – these are:

- Pursuing Gods Presence individually and collectively in worship and prayer
- Providing for the Poor, reaching out to Widows and Orphans
- Proclaiming in lifestyle and word the message of Jesus

At the heart of all this is 'Community' and we meet mid week in small communities called 'Life Groups'. This is where we are truly able to live out and encourage one another in a deeper faith. Where we can share our belongings and support each other through good times and bad. They are a place where we can find friendship and understanding. We call them 'Life Groups' because they are about living our faith together in community rather than going it alone which so often leads to spiritual isolation and loss of belief. We have many of these groups and more will open as we grow and we would love you to join one. Please talk to Tim Rose about this, email him on

[Tim@st-saviours-sunbury.org.uk](mailto:Tim@st-saviours-sunbury.org.uk)

Mission involves us locally but also internationally. We are increasingly involved in a Ugandan Ministry called WATOTO which is rescuing Orphans and restoring dignity to abused Women. It is very likely that a team will go to work with Women in Gulu this summer– get in contact with us if you are interested in going. The plan is to help them open a self run Café so that they can learn business skills and become self sustaining in their town. Have you management skills to share or time to encourage these women?

One of my areas of gifting is to lead Mission Teams for an Anglican Short Term Mission Agency called SOMA (Sharing Of Ministries Abroad). In the past I have done many of these missions but not so in the last 7 years because of planting this church. It has been important to properly root our church and for its Vicar not to be away much! Since last Autumn I am once again on the road and beginning to take teams to different parts of the world. I am totally energised by doing this and hope very much that some of you will join me at some point. This year I have received invitations to lead SOMA visits teams to Tanzania, Nigeria and The Congo.

However Mission at home remains our priority. We have **J John** coming to St Saviours on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2010, this event is called an 'Audience with J John and Friends'. Its part of a National Tour he is doing and we are really fortunate to have him come to us. J John is the most fruitful and certainly the most humorous Evangelist in the UK in these days. He is always accessible in what he says and has a way of reaching people that is unique. This visit will be ticketed so please use this opportunity – come as a whole Life Group with your friends and relatives. My slight fear is that when the wider community find out he is here then we may well be flooded with people from outside our area! Tickets will be available from the Church Centre.

I am looking into the possibility of following J Johns visit in May with a National Campaign he is launching this Autumn called 'Just 10' an evangelistic course based on the 10 Commandments! In the more distant future I would like us to asking the question what could we be doing on an even bigger scale in 2011? What about a really big Mission Initiative in Spelthorne next year? If it's right we need to start planning it now and think as outside the box as possible! Mission as we saw with HOPE 08 can be all kinds of things, so let's get praying and then planning!

I believe the year ahead is going to be very exciting and a real adventure of faith.

### **Bishop Wand Church of England School**

We have in our direct area a Church of England Secondary School called 'Bishop Wand'. All my three children have been educated there and I think it is time we started to support this school as much as we can. Church Schools have a very important opportunity in the whole education system and this school is going into a whole new time.

Toby Miller was appointed as the new headteacher there in January of this year and at a recent meeting that Kim and I attended as parents he said:

**"Faith is the missing part of the jigsaw of society"**

Toby promoted and supported the Christian faith in a direct way and is determined to take our local church school into a whole new and fruitful season.

What can we do to support him in this?

- We could send our children there
- We could join the prayer group there
- We could get more involved in the general life of the school
- We are going to be offering some of Ben our Youth Workers time there
- I as Vicar am going to offer more time there
- We could promote and talk positively about the school in our community

In the brilliant website that they have it says the following about the school:

***The Bishop Wand Church of England School is one that offers your child a wonderful education in a friendly caring environment ensuring they are happy in their time at school.***

***Our aim is to provide all young people with an education firmly based on Christian values that will lead to them becoming competent, confident and articulate members of society and achieving excellent examination results.***

***Our school community attaches great importance to developing interests and skills that meet the needs of each individual student, so valuing their unique worth.***

We ran a week of mission with the school in the Autumn of 2008 which went really well, we take assemblies in the school, we have a good relationship with the Chaplain and we do have families that send their children there. So we do have some contact with the school already – but let's develop this and be part of the future success of Bishop Wand Church of England Secondary School.

### **Transforming Lives – Spring Courses Coming Soon!**

Following the success of last year's series of courses we are offering 3 new ones this Spring starting the Sunday after 1/2 term – 28<sup>th</sup> February – ending Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March They will run in the Church building or Glebe from 4-6pm for 5 weeks.

#### **'Creative Course'**

- designed for children aged 5-11 – a course where kids will learn what Gods Church is really all about and why children are so important to it. This will be surrounded by games, fun and as ever – food!

#### **'Living Christianity'**

- designed for anyone wanting to know how to live out their faith day by day, for those who have in recent years come to faith or those who want to recapture their close walk with Jesus. This is essentially a discipleship training series written and given by myself.

#### **Biblical Leadership**

- designed for those in Leadership in church of any group or ministry. Here you will be able to sharpen or develop your leadership skills using materials adapted from a course called 'Growing Leaders' written by James Lawrence from Church pastoral Aid Society.

We need to know numbers for these courses so that we know where to locate and how to resource them, so please fill in a form and get it back to us as soon as possible or you could email Lorraine on [Lorraine@st-saviours-sunbury.org.uk](mailto:Lorraine@st-saviours-sunbury.org.uk) giving the following information:

Name/Email/Telephone Number/Course you would like to attend

Please get this in by 21<sup>st</sup> February 2010

There is quite a lot on the Vicar's mind! Well done for making it this far into my Feb news!

Yours as ever,

David McDougall  
Vicar