

CHRIST CHURCH EPSOM COMMON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Registered Charity No. 1127945

Main points of the PCC meeting held on
Monday 10 January 2011



Here is the usual summary of the PCC's recent meeting. As always, fuller details are in the draft minutes which will also be displayed shortly.

Our new Vicar, the Revd Rosemary Donovan: After all the preparatory work in the second half of 2010 and interviews on 2 December, we were delighted formally to note that (as announced by the Churchwardens at all services at Christ Church and Christ Church on the Wells on 19 December), the Revd Rosemary Donovan – currently Associate Vicar for the United Benefice of St Mary and St Anne, Moseley in Birmingham – has accepted the Bishop's invitation to become our new Vicar. There remain some formalities to complete before the appointment is finalised but, with appropriate celebrations, we expect her to be in post in early June, a date which also allows her current Vicar to take his long-planned study leave over the next few months. Under her leadership, we look forward to a new and exciting phase in the life of the parish.

Christmas: We looked back on another splendid celebration of Christ's birth. Numbers at the Christingle and Crib services were as buoyant as ever, although snow and treacherously icy roads and pavements had some inevitable impact on attendance at the other services. Nevertheless, the various collections for our Christmas appeal for Shelter yielded the splendid total of some £1,450.

Missions: While the bulk of the £15,500 earmarked for missions giving is distributed to our "championed" missions, a proportion is held back for responding to urgent and *ad hoc* appeals, such as those for the crises following the Haitian earthquake and the floods in Pakistan to which we responded during 2010. From the £1,000 remaining for such appeals, we allocated: £600 to Christian Aid to be divided equally between its continuing appeals for help in Haiti and Pakistan; £200 to the development appeal (endorsed by the Archbishop of Canterbury) for the College of St Barnabas, a home for retired Anglican clergy in Lingfield; £100 to the Leatherhead Night Hostel; and £100 to *Through the Roof*, the Epsom-based charity that works with churches and other Christian organisations to improve access for the disabled.

Finance: The Finance Group and Treasurer reported on their work in finalising the 2010 accounts and drafting the budget for 2011. Thanks to a substantial gift from an anonymous donor and a very generous legacy from Molly Hardwick, Christ Church's overall financial position was healthier than for many years. However, but for that unplanned income, we would be in some difficulty: through death and moves from the district, Christ Church had lost some significant regular givers; and the parish has incurred extra costs during the Vacancy, not least in redecorating and maintaining the Vicarage ready for the new incumbent.

We quickly decided that it would be irresponsible to do other than plan our future finances on a sustainable basis. Accordingly, we agreed that: the 2011 budget should be tightly drawn and aim for breakeven. At the same time, we should seek to bolster planned giving (particularly from those new to the congregations since *Church Alive* campaign in mid-2009) with a low-key Financial Review in early March – which, as always, would recognise that changed circumstances meant that some may not be able to increase their giving and may even need to reduce it. Finally, we are increasing the minimum working balance on our General Fund to a more prudent four months' average expenditure.

We also agreed to mark Molly Hardwick's generosity with the purchase of a new Paschal candle holder (with a plaque in her memory) that will be more in keeping with the re-ordered Christ Church and, in due course, to consider other useful projects that her generosity could fund.

Quiz evening: We looked forward to the Quiz Evening that Sue Matthews is organising as a social event for the parish on Saturday 5 March.

Next meeting: Our next meeting is planned for Monday 7 March at 8pm in the Hall – the last before the Annual Church Meeting on Sunday 10 April.

Roger Morgan
PCC Secretary