

Report from St. Michael and all Angels, Atworth on year 2010
Given at 2011 meeting

The model which God encourages us to follow is that of people recognising and sharing their gifts for the good of everyone, so all are valued, accepted and included.

I would like to celebrate and give thanks for the ways in which I see this evidenced in the Benefice. Many thanks are due to those who are willing to get involved and to give of their time and talents in a variety of ways.

So my thanks go to

Churchwardens of Atworth and Shaw for their support, commitment and work.

Priests and Deacons who provide support and holiday cover.

Those who serve on the PCC's, particularly to those who have held office like Treasurers and Secretaries. To Deanery Synod reps.

To all those who are co-opted onto Committees of the PCC's and for the work of the Chairs and Secretaries.

To those who produce the weekly Notice Sheet.

Benefice life is all about team work. Thanks for being a great team.

This year we have seen the developing of the Benefice Plan with the creation of a planning group and then the steering group to oversee the plan.

Lay Pastoral Assistants continue with their ministry and we were asked to explain at Deanery Synod how the LPA's pastoral ministry had developed in the Benefice and one of them shared her experience, which was greatly valued.

This year one person finished Lay Pastoral training as another began *her* training.

One LPA has been linking in with the community and particularly looking at how to develop the links with the Pre-schools and nurseries in the Benefice.

Another two have assisted with Marriage Prep and been involved with the baptisms 'follow up'.

Another area they have looked into is that of welcome to the community.

The Care homes are well supported and also visits to the housebound are another aspect of their ministry.

Music and worship in our Benefice has seen some changes with Helen Snowball taking on leading the choir and with Vera Ovens as organist. We welcomed 2 new choir members this year. Another excellent Nine Lessons and Carols took place, this time in Atworth. My thanks to them all.

Then a new initiative has been the developing of the musical/ instrumental side of the Let's Celebrate Together Service. Thanks to singers and musicians and particular thanks to Claire Horton as Co-ordinator.

Just some of the Benefice highlights I would like to mention.

The fantastic Social and fundraising variety of social events that took place this year and the amazing sum of money that was raised.

Messy church was really launched and has begun to see some growth;

For Services of Worship - Thinking Day with the guides and Brownies and Mothering Sunday with Churchfields school in Atworth.

The Emmaus Course was also begun this year. This saw a hesitant start in January through the snow and was held again in the September. It was a joy working alongside the Methodist Minister, Rev'd Ali Morley and to have the support of the Independent church.

This course is only effectively run with people to help- my grateful thanks to all who made this possible. Emmaus is our opportunity to explore the Christian faith and so will be an annual event.

In schools – George Ward School has seen a change of name – Melksham Oak Community School and building! Superb new facilities and wonderful resources are a fantastic asset to aid the young people in their education.

I continue to develop my role there in a variety of ways. Recently I have said good bye to the assistant Head, who was my line manager and now the new assistant head has taken on that role.

At Stonar, there was also a goodbye and a hello as one Head, left and another started. I continue to support them through taking assemblies, leading Services which this year saw the introduction of the Easter Service, which was well received; as well as offering pastoral support.

Still on an education theme I began tutoring for the theological college in September which I am thoroughly enjoying and find this an aid to my ministry both in a theological and pastoral sense.

I continue to enjoy supporting the primary schools and thank Headteachers and staff as well as pupils of both Churchfields and Shaw.

Looking to 2011 now that formal resolutions by the PCC's and agreement of the patrons have been given the 'suspension of the presentation' on this Benefice, which was in place since 1994, will be lifted.

This means that there will be a special service of Installation of myself as Vicar taking place in St. Michael's Church on the 29th May at 10am- everyone is most warmly welcome to attend.