

Baptisms

6th September Ruby Louise Smith
27th September Elliot Samuel John
Blythe
1st November Chloé Elize Argent
15th November Noah James Burchell
Amelia Vanessa Smith

Funerals

14th September Nigel Larman
18th September Jennifer Holbrooke
24th September Olive Buckingham
2nd November Joyce England
17th November Francis Parsons
18th November Margaret Wiblin
14th December Thomas Moffat Clark



January 2010

Useful Information

Team Rector:

The Revd Dr Charles Miller Telephone: 520144

Honorary Assistant Priest:

The Revd Canon Norman Brown Telephone: 553454

Churchwardens:

Mrs Carol Bowman Telephone: 528962

Mrs Jean Hercus Telephone: 527822

Regular services at St Michael's

Sung Mass or Family Mass (1st Sunday of month)

Sundays at 9.30 a.m.

Said Mass followed by light lunch

Thursdays at 1.00 p.m.

(except for the 3rd Thursday in the month when it is a Healing Mass followed by light lunch)

Lay-led prayers Sundays at 4.00 p.m.

Mass of Our Lady 1st Saturday in the month at 9.00 a.m.

For enquiries about weddings, baptisms and funerals

please contact Mrs Linda Barker at the Parish Office.

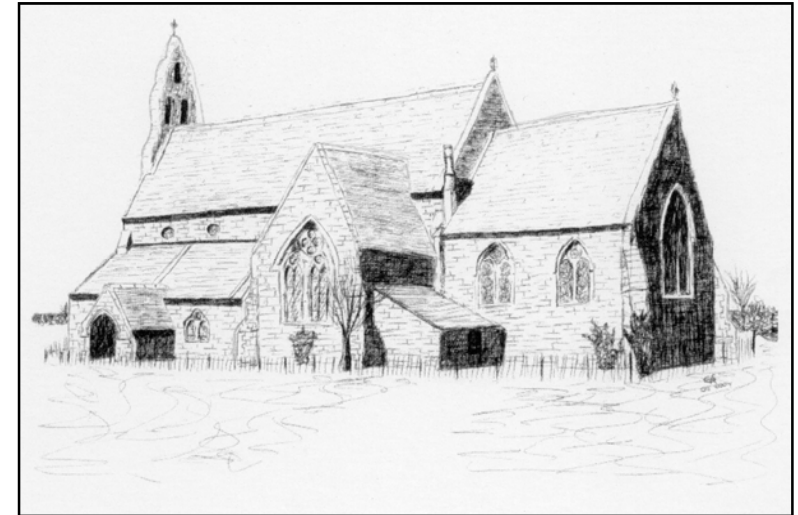
Times of opening are: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays

9.00 a.m. – 2.15 p.m. Telephone: 520144.

For enquiries about booking St Michael's church or the church room

please contact John Enticott Telephone: 523282.

Web site: <http://www.stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk>



St Michael's Messenger

Edited by Carol Bowman, Jean Hercus and Lois Rennells. Layout by Anne Gould.
Printed at the Church Office.

At a meeting of the Church Council on 9th November 2009 it was agreed that we would try to re-establish a newsletter at St Michael's. This is a sample of what a quarterly newsletter might contain. As it has been some time since we last had a newsletter, we have concentrated on the last few months of 2009; we hope you will find it interesting.

In the bleak mid-winter

Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone:
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow
In the bleak mid-winter,
Twenty ten.

Christina Rossetti's carol became a reality this Christmas as Icelandic weather descended upon Britain. The long-range weather forecast predicting a mild winter, proved to be completely wrong. Instead we have endured one of the longest and coldest spells in many years.

The stockpiles of salt and grit quickly diminished and minor roads together with many not so minor roads were left untreated and the country began to grind to a halt. It soon became clear that we were quite unprepared and unable to cope with these sort of conditions. We seem to have very few snow-ploughs, (apart from airports and some districts mainly in Scotland and the north of England) to shift the snow before it froze. On the positive side we

re-discovered community spirit and what it means to be a good neighbour. People went out of their way to see how the elderly and handicapped were being provided for, getting in shopping, taking people for doctor's and hospital appointments. The 4x4 came into its own; getting consultants to hospitals, carrying the emergency services personnel to deal with incidents. Teams of volunteers got out with shovels and brooms to clear pavements, side roads, school entrances to get people back to work, to the shops and schools.

At St. Michael's we have had eleven months without a Vicar and that will continue in this New Year. It is generally reckoned that during a vacancy congregations can be reduced by up to twenty-two per cent. Not so St. Michael's - congregations have held up, services and activities have continued and even expanded as shown in this newsletter. The anniversary of Fr Peter's departure comes up at Candlemass; we hope and pray that long

Memories of Mervyn Beadle

Mervyn died rather suddenly last July at the age of 82. I had known him at St. Michael's for over 40 years, and in more recent years had been his co-churchwarden. He always seemed to be there at Mass whether as M/C or server, or in the congregation with Mary and Pauline. Nevertheless, it still came as a bit of a surprise when, two years ago, he was fêted as having served at the altar for 75 years (having started at 5 as a boat-boy)! So he was literally the heart and soul of our church, a centre of continuity and prayerful stillness in the midst of our worship.



Mervyn was also an institution in Abingdon, particularly in his management of that wonderful shop in Ock Street. When the shop closed down, the local paper was full of sorrowful praise for *Beadles'* attitude of service to the buying public. For this and his other services to the Town he received one of the Mayor's Annual awards.

Mervyn was a local boy. Born in Victoria Road, he went to the Convent School, and then to Roysse's (Abingdon) School on a scholarship. At 18 he went into the RAF, finishing that career in the India he loved, albeit at the dreadful time of its partition. Before taking on the family firm he had a post in the laboratories at Harwell. Alongside his long hours at the shop, and his service at church, he was involved in the Scout movement, from which he would receive their Silver Acorn award; St. John Ambulance through which he would teach first-aid to schools, churches, firms and prisons; (from the Guild, indeed he received the Order of St. John award in a London ceremony). In retirement he seemed to get even busier, becoming involved as a Governor of Kingfisher School and, in a typically active way, helped in the classroom. (He loved maths in particular and we remember his conundrums at St. Michael's Fellowship).

Mervyn and Mary were married in 1951. They made their welcoming home in Swinburne Road, where very soon they had a lively family of 3 boys and later and joyfully a girl. At the back of the house Mervyn kept an enormous veggie plot as well as his beloved chickens.

Back at St. Michael's, Mervyn was our Treasurer and Christian Aid representative. He saw his faith as intimately connected to his socialist beliefs, so I was not surprised to hear that he had at one time considered ordination as a priest. There can be no doubt that he took the Gospel seriously; in so many ways in his life he had gone the extra mile for its sake. When I asked him to do a house-to-house round for Christian Aid Week, his response was "I'll do two"!

John Enticott

Three Cheers for the Christmas Fair

A set of photographs of the re-ordered interior of St Michael's formed a part of the profile sent to applicants for the post of new Team Vicar. 'How Would You Use This Space?' was the question that we asked. It is doubtful if any of the applicants would have answered this query with the suggestion that we fill it with stalls for a Christmas Fair.



Adrienne and Angela put the finishing touches to the cake stall before the doors are open to the public.....

Nevertheless, it certainly proved to be an excellent use for the space on Saturday 21st November.

The fair was a huge success and could have been used as a master class on what can be achieved when everyone pulls together with enthusiasm, combining hard work with a variety of talents. There was such a happy atmosphere and it was a pleasure to see so many members of the congregation, some of our friends from St Helen's and

St Nicolas' and lots of our neighbours from the surrounding area.

We raised the unexpectedly large sum of £1,546.47. The Church Council has agreed that some of this will be spent on professional work on the garden to try to make the outside of the church match the inside. £154.65 of this has been sent to The Porch Steppin Stone Centre. We also received separate donations specifically for them making this up to £196.40. The final figure for St Michael's was £1,391.82.

The last time St Michael's organised a Christmas Fair was about 25 years ago and that was held in Trinity Church Hall so we didn't have a lot of previous experience to help us.

Our particular thanks must go to Eileen Duckett who took on the main organising task ably assisted by her husband Ray, Jane Cadogan, Adrienne Compton-James and



.....and once the doors were open in they came.

before we reach the second anniversary we will have a new Priest in place. Whoever comes will bring change, and we should both welcome it and prepare for it. Next month we move into Lent the great penitential season when we look at our discipleship and our commitment to Christ. May it be a time when together we move forward spiritually. Candlemass brings an end to the Christmas season.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him - *Give my heart.*

Every blessing
Fr Norman

Return to Abingdon holds surprises

The Past

Most of you will be aware that Hugh and I moved to Edinburgh (his home town) in anticipation of our daughter, her husband and two children relocating there. Well, you know how things can change and we returned to Abingdon after nearly four years, having made new friends, caught up with family and enjoyed the many and varied delights of Edinburgh's capital city. The grandchildren were of course our main reason for returning!

We had visitors from Abingdon and at the Fringe enjoyed the "Oxford Old Time Music Hall", which starred several of our friends, and also The Old Gaol's delightful performance of "The Real Inspector Calls".

Arriving back in Abingdon it took us 6 months to find and move into suitable accommodation and during our period of bed and breakfast and renting, friends were very kind to us – we certainly owe a great debt of gratitude to Glenys and John for being so generous and understanding when we were "homeless".

Now, of course, we are back into the old routine and in particular involved at St Michael's where it has been a pleasure to see you all again. Sadly, some faces are missing but new faces have appeared and there is always a warm welcome from the congregation and of course the clergy.

As you know, I have become Church Warden along with Carol and am

doing my best to find my feet in this role. Jane is being extremely helpful and may feel at times that she is still “on duty”, but I hope to ease her load before too long. I have at least encouraged her to join Abingdon Bowling Club and she and I are enjoying our relaxing afternoons in the park.

Peter assures me that there is no set way of being a church warden, so you will have to accept me as I am, please be patient.

I look forward to getting to know you better over the coming months.

The Present

It is now New Year’s Eve 2009, I am into my third year as Churchwarden and have got to know and appreciate you all. Carol and I have become a working team, each with our own strengths and weaknesses. I have found it a very difficult learning curve, especially since Peter left. There have been times when it has felt a great burden and I am glad of the support you have given me. St Michael’s has shown its true spirit and we have all carried on, maintaining our pastoral care as well as our spiritual care. This would not have happened without the devotion of many clergy, in particular The Revd Norman Brown.

I hope that 2010 will see us with the priest we have all been hoping and praying for and that we will all continue to work together with tolerance, understanding and love for one another.

The Future

Jean Hercus

18 months in the life of St Michael’s

Much of what I am going to say is going to be very familiar to the majority of people reading this but I think it is worth just outlining the events which have shaped our life during the past 18 months.

Alongside our normal activities the final stages of the preparations for our major reordering seemed to be an ever present preoccupation during the early part of 2008 – and caused many headaches for a number of people. The question ‘When will the building work start’ was asked with increasing regularity as people worried about weddings, baptisms, church room users, where we were to go during our period of exile from the building, etc. The unsatisfactory answer which had to be given right up to the last minute was always. ‘As soon as we know, you will too...’ It took Fr Peter going abroad for his summer holiday for the final permissions to be granted and the builders who had been on ‘standby’ needed to begin immediately. Perhaps the most scary decision I have ever been involved with as church warden was the one which resulted in Fr Peter returning from holiday to a building which bore more

January by Doris Dowling

January, so aptly named
For indeed he looks two ways –
Back to a year now faded,
Except through memory’s gaze.

Back to the glow of Christmas,
To bonfires and gold leaves in the fall,
To the long warm evenings of summer
And the sound of the thrush’s call.

Back to the blossom of hawthorn,
To the return of the swallows at last,
Back to the gusty winds of March
And wet February’s skies o’ercast.

A cold backward face has Janus,
Guardian of the door,
But also a face looking forward
To the return of spring once more.

Congregation Cooking

We had 100 copies of the Cookery Book printed and we received them from the printers just in time to put them on sale at the Christmas Fair. We sold more than half the copies on that day and the remainder were sold out in a few weeks.

We made a total profit of over £120.00.

A second print run is underway.



**Congregation
Cooking
SOLD OUT**



Recipes from St Michael’s

There was something different to remember on each of the Saturday afternoons that I spent in St Michael's. It was a pleasure to talk to people who just wanted to see what the church looked like after the reordering. It was equally pleasant to show our lovely church to people who had never been in it before. But for me the most memorably satisfying afternoon was when 2 ladies walked in and I asked if they would like any information about the church. They said that their Mother had just died and they had been walking along Park Road and noticed our boards outside so just came in. They asked if it was all right to just sit and I said "of course, as long as you like". They sat in the Nave for about ¾ of an hour and then quietly left saying "Thank you". I really felt that it was meant to be that we were open when they needed comfort. For me it was worth opening all year round just for that one experience.

Lois Rennells

On 14th November the wind was near gale force and heavy, driving rain fell. Anne Gould and I were stewards for that day and having battled against the weather ourselves, we exchanged the view that nobody else would be silly enough to venture out. We didn't dare put out the 'Church Open' boards for fear that they would blow down. To our amazement the south door banged and two visitors arrived and they were particularly rewarding. They walked the labyrinth and were very interested in everything we could tell them about the church. Then I was specially pleased to welcome Sister Josie Midwinter, Priest in Charge of St Peter's Church, Drayton, because I lived in Drayton for nearly 20 years and was a member of the congregation at St Peter's. Sister Josie had seen the opening times advertised in *Round and About*. She is hoping to bring some members of her congregation to St Michael's at a later date.

Visit from a Padre at Dalton Barracks

As part of a day of services throughout the churches in Abingdon, one of the padres from Dalton Barracks, the Revd. Lee Gamdiya invited members of the congregation of St Michael's to join with him for a short service on Remembrance Day. He was assisted by lay minister Alan Wallis. The service started at 9.00 a.m. and included an address, prayers and readings. At the end of the service, they stood in silent prayer in the centre of the labyrinth. This was a very moving occasion somehow made more so because they wore combat dress.

resemblance to the 'Foro Romano' than the church he had left behind and to find that his congregation had decamped to Trinity Church Hall.

The next three months yielded some unexpected but very positive experiences, challenges and opportunities. We joined in with Trinity Church for their Harvest Festival and several of us stayed on to share in their Harvest lunch. Week by week, thanks to the hard work of those who transported things to and fro, shifted things up and down stairs within the hall, moved chairs, tables, piano round within the room we transformed Trinity Church hall into our own special space. Adrienne managed not to get herself arrested carrying the silverware between St Michael's and Trinity and Jennifer was to be seen each week, propping up the door, waiting for the keyholder (me!) to arrive and raring to go. The whole experience was extremely positive and demonstrated beyond doubt that the Church is the people and not the building they meet in.

We were delighted to be able to return to St Michael's in time for Christmas. Many of us had been able to see the transformation taking place. The pews disappearing in army trucks to Dalton barracks, the discovery of the rabbit runs and the pool under the Lady Chapel, the revelation of the 'foundations' the incredible construction of the labyrinth, the renovation of the floorboards, the relocation of the font, the excitement of the new kitchen and so on. Nothing, however, could compare with the first sight of the finished reordered Church. Each person had their own feelings about the reordering. A few remained saddened by the loss of the pews, some had mixed feelings, some were thrilled but the new opportunities for renewal and outreach were indisputable and that, after all, was the rationale behind all our plans.

By this time we had learned that Fr Peter was to leave St Michael's and move to Norwich Cathedral as Canon Librarian. He assured us that although his vision had originally been behind much of the design and planning, he firmly believed that his vision was now our vision and that we would take that vision forward in our own way. He was not to be denied a few weeks of the new experience however. The Christmas services were memorable. The Crib mass 'in the round' with the Crib in the centre of the Labyrinth. The packed Carol Service by candlelight, in the collegiate formation, and the ceremonies of Midnight Mass facing East, as usual. Bishop Stephen celebrated Mass and dedicated each individual aspect of the reordered building at our joyful Dedication Festival which was attended by many previous clergy and other friends of St Michael's, many of whom we had not seen for some time. We are looking forward now to the next stage of the reordering – more news on this next time.

After Fr Peter's departure we were faced with the reality of an interregnum. Thanks to the invaluable support of Fr Norman and other local clergy, all our normal services have continued apart from the regular Wednesday evening mass, but inevitably we have been unable to offer all the special services which we would normally have enjoyed. Services for Ash Wednesday and Holy Week were held as united services by the central cluster using St Nicolas' and St Helen's churches but we were able to hold our own Easter Eve service with John Barton presiding and Richard Bittleston, minister of Trinity church singing the Exultat. We were able to hold our weekly mass with Stations of the Cross during Lent. We little knew at this time that we should be facing Christmas 2009 with no prospect of an end to the interregnum.

Three rounds of advertising and interviews have sadly failed to appoint a new Team Vicar for St Michael's and St Nicolas' but a very supportive and encouraging visit by Bishop Stephen just before Christmas helped to revive our spirits and has enabled us to start the New Year on a much more positive note. He assured the congregation that the right decisions had been made on each occasion and that we needed to trust that God *would* bring the right person to our churches - we must be patient and accept that it was better to make no appointment than the wrong appointment. He also charged us to look outwards not inwards - supporting each other, the clergy and churchwardens, but concentrating on moving forward together, not stagnating, simply carrying on God's work in our community.

Our determination to accept this charge was evidenced by our Christmas services. We were unable to hold a Crib Mass, a service Fr Peter had instigated, as there was no Priest available but Jennifer Small valiantly stepped into the breach enabling an alternative Crib service to go ahead. Thirty adults and 18 children enjoyed an imaginative presentation of the Christmas story and participated in putting the figures in the stable with great enthusiasm. The usual figures were joined on this occasion by a disparate flock of sheep, a camel and four angels. The number at the Carol Service was lower than last year but Glynne Butt and the choir helped to make it a very enjoyable occasion, in fact several people were heard to say that it was the best they could remember. There were 57 in the congregation at midnight, roughly the same as last year and 22 on Christmas morning, more than double the previous year. I think it is true to say that our Christmas Celebrations did, as usual, do St Michael's proud!

We look forward to 2010 with optimism and confidence.

Carol Bowman

The Rewards of Opening St Michael's on Saturday Afternoons

At the end of last winter, Helen Owen voiced her enthusiasm for opening the church on Saturday afternoons. She approached people she thought might be interested in acting as stewards and a small team was recruited with two people 'on duty' at a time.

The original intention was to give this a trial for the month of June. As no problems arose during that month, we decided to carry on, not giving up for the winter until the end of November.

Although we were never exactly swamped with visitors, neither was there any Saturday when nobody came.

Below we give some of the highlights for the people who had the pleasure of showing others our church.

Jane Duce

It is a sad reflection on our society these days that so many churches are kept locked for the majority of the time for fear of vandalism. A number of our Saturday afternoon visitors have been local people who had never seen inside our building and appreciated the opportunity to come and look round. Some have walked the Stations of the Cross (literature regarding these is available on the welcome table); some have asked for information about the history of the church; some have come and spent time in silence or prayer; others have come to see the labyrinth. One lady came all the way from Bicester by bus specifically to walk the labyrinth. She attends St Egbert's Church in Bicester and has since sent us a postcard of it. We look forward to welcoming more people in the Spring when we will again open the church on Saturday afternoons.

Eileen Duckett

The first Saturday that I was on duty happened to be my sister Brenda's birthday so I suggested to my mother and three sisters that we walk the labyrinth together. They agreed and when they arrived they had brought my niece and her 7-year-old daughter, Lacey, as well. Sue Scott was on duty with me and she kindly took Lacey around the Church explaining everything to her which Lacey loved. We all walked the labyrinth which my mother in particular found very emotional. We then celebrated Brenda's birthday with cake and tea. It was a lovely special afternoon and the best thing is that my mother and my sister Angela now join us for our lunchtime service on Thursdays.

Anne Gould

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival was held on 4th October. On the previous Sunday, Carol appealed for garden or allotment produce, not only to decorate the church but also to be sold after the service to members of the congregation. The proceeds would then be donated to The Porch Steppin Stone Centre.

Donations of non-perishable food and money were also needed. There was an excellent response and we were able to send a generous amount of food and over £100 to The Porch

Circle Dancing

The long-planned circle dancing on the labyrinth finally got underway on 15th October. Numbers attending have varied but we are settling down to a steady group. It is quite gentle exercise and you are encouraged to sit out for a dance if you need to.

Our teacher, Mary Williams is excellent and wonderfully patient. The sessions are held every Thursday, last an hour and the cost is £2.

Please do turn up (in good time for a prompt 11.15 a.m. start) if you would like to join in. Alternatively come and watch before making up your mind.

Ride and Stride

The Ride and Stride day on 12th September again coincided with Abingdon Heritage Weekend. This year it was decided that those taking part in the Ride and Stride should come into the church to have their forms signed rather than into the church room as previously and this worked very well.

Things became quite busy by the early afternoon with a combination of visitors who had come to see the church and the Ride and Stride participants. About 60 'Ride and Striders' called at St Michael's.

Glynne Butt took up the challenge this year for St Michael's and raised the sum of £154 from sponsors. £77 of this has been sent to Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. Glynne said she felt quite guilty taking the money because she had enjoyed her day so much.

Unfortunately it was a struggle to get enough volunteers to man the church this year so a big thank you to those who did.

St. Michael's Fellowship

St. Michael's Fellowship resumed meetings in 2009. In the summer, these were held after the Thursday mid-day Mass and lunch and in the autumn in the evenings. Both times have advantages, and we do like to hear what you think.

We had two meetings in the autumn.

In September, our local historian, Jackie Smith, looked at the story of Ock Street. This has been brilliantly demonstrated in recent exhibitions and publications. At St. Michael's we have a particular interest, given that the street of the marvellous Michaelmas Fair would provide the congregation for the newly built St. Michael's Church!

In November, our visitor was Fr Henry Kirk from Abingdon School. His theme was the life of the Virgin Mary as seen in art, mainly of the Renaissance period. We had been used to his art themes from the pulpit, but here we were able to see these wonderful masterpieces, and gain real insight from the way in which he was able to move us through the detail of the works.

And to Come – Holidays and Excursions

We will be having three meetings before Easter. In the first two in February we'll be remembering lazy sea-side holidays on Greek islands; first **Thassos**; then **Samos**. On both holidays Glenys and I took a day's excursion to see sites famous in Christian history; from Thassos we went back across to the mainland to visit **Philippi** where St. Paul made his first converts on the European shore. From Samos we took a more hazardous sea crossing to see **Patmos** and the place where St. John had been imprisoned and had his apocalyptic vision. We'll re-visit these holidays with the aid of slides.

The third meeting, just before Holy Week, will look back at our Church-in-Abingdon visit to **Schongau** and **Oberammergau** at the time of the 2000 Passion Play.

Along with slides of Schongau and the play itself, we can share some of the music that so memorably accompanies it.

All meetings are at 7.45 p.m. in the Church Room and are open to all. We are always glad to welcome visitors from other churches.

The dates are:

4th February	From Thassos to Philippi.
25th February	From Samos to Patmos
25th March	From Schongau to Oberammergau

John Enticott

Humour, Mystery and Drama on 8th November

The presentation of figures can be a rather boring task both for the presenter and for the people to whom they are being explained. This was certainly not the case with David Duce's presentation of St Michael's annual accounts after the service on 8th November. David not only managed to make the complex clear but also entertained us with touches of humour, mystery and drama.

The not very good news

Our planned giving income has gone down considerably because we have lost some members of the congregation through death or moving away from the parish. Our income is not keeping up with our expenditure.

The better news

The restricted fund figures are in good health and we still have enough money in the reordering fund for work on the new Lady Chapel.

The very welcome news

St Michael's has been left some money in the will of a local businessman. At the end of the meeting David asked for spontaneous suggestions on how we might use some of this for the improvement of facilities at St Michael's. There was no shortage of ideas.

Liskerret Male Voice Choir

St Michael's resounded with a variety of lively music on 10th October when we were extremely fortunate to have attracted a visit by the Liskerret Male Voice Choir from Liskeard in Cornwall. They were a large group who came equipped with their own piano, accompanist, staging and a coach load of supporters (all of whom bought tickets). They had an amusing compère who kept the evening moving along admirably. It was an excellent evening's entertainment.

This was a joint venture with St Nicolas' Church and between us we sold over 100 tickets in addition to the ones bought by the choir's supporters. It raised £781.12 which was split equally between St Nicolas' and St Michael's. We would like to thank Tonks Brothers, funeral directors, for their sponsorship. Thank you also to Jane Duce from St. Michael's and Geoffrey Curry and Julia Bishop from St Nicolas' for their organisation and to Jane, Anne Gould and Eileen and Ray Duckett for serving refreshments.

St Michael's Lunch Club

On 25th February 2009 the St Michael's Lunch Club was launched; the new kitchen facilities were put to the test and came through with flying colours.

One of the objectives of the re-ordering of our church was to provide a resource for the local community. With our new kitchen installed, we felt the time was right to start a monthly lunch club which would provide a reasonably priced hot meal for anyone living locally who would like to come and join us. We advertised this across the town and have been delighted by the response.

The lunches are held on the last Wednesday of the month and for £3.75 we offer a two-course meal with tea or coffee to follow. We have approximately 30 people attending each month – many of whom are 'regulars', and we cater for different dietary requirements.

Most of those who attend are not church members, but clearly feel they 'belong'. We provided a full Christmas Dinner for our last meal of 2009 which was attended by 38 people. We were surprised and delighted when members organised a raffle on that occasion which raised almost £60 and was donated to the church. We would like to thank them very much for their generosity. Our grateful thanks also go to the small stalwart band who nobly assist us with laying tables, serving food and washing up.

The next lunch is at 12.30 p.m. on 27th January. Phone either Jane Cadogan (01235 538758) or Jane Duce (01235 522591) to book your place. We look forward to seeing you.

Jane Duce

New in St Michael's Garden

A mountain ash tree has been planted in the garden on the north side of the church in memory of Mervyn Beadle. This was donated by his family and was blessed by Fr Norman Brown after the service on 11th October.

A hydrangea in memory of Nellie Woodley has also been planted in the bed by the west door. This bed was recently cleared of some rather straggly old plants. The hydrangea was donated by Nellie's family. The flowers on the hydrangea were blue when it was planted; it will be interesting to see if they remain blue when it comes into flower later in the year.

