

# The Immaculate Conception Epping



Annual Report  
to the Parish  
September 2010

**To begin, a word from Father James....**

Dear Friends,

I am writing this just prior to Pope Benedict's visit to our country, which we hope will be an occasion of grace and affirmation for us all. Every parish is the church in miniature, where priest and people as a community of faith celebrate the Lord's Word and Sacraments and strive to communicate the message of the gospel to the locality in which they live.

To this end, we must constantly pray that the Holy Spirit will protect us from all harm and division and constantly build us up in His peace and in His power.

I commend to you the reports of our various parish groups, which give a fair indication of what we have been seeking to accomplish over the past twelve months.

But we do not live in the past; we are always looking forward hopefully and we pray that the Lord will continue to bless and prosper all our endeavours for His glory and the common good.

God bless you,  
Father James



## ADORATION GROUP

Adoration of the Sacred Body of Christ in the Eucharist is held from 9.30 to 12.30 on Tuesday mornings, and till 10.30 on the other weekdays, in Church. This is a silent time, and anyone is welcome to drop in to spend some quality time with Our Lord. Watch back page of weekly Newsletter for any updates.

## HOLY HOUR GROUP

This group meets on a Monday in Church at 8 p.m., to adore the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. It has a structured format, in the nature of a Holy Hour. It is divided into readings, hymns, silences and spontaneous prayers of praise and petition, and regularly includes Evening Prayer of the Church. It is a very special time, and is of immense value to the parish as well as to those participating.

If you would like to attend, but have difficulty getting there, please phone Dorothy on 577173 or Susan on 575017.

## ROSARY GROUP

We meet in the home of Susan Asher, Newtimber, 18, Kendal Avenue, on Friday evenings at 6 p.m.

The Rosary is interspersed with hymns and readings, and each decade is offered for a specific intention. The parish needs are always to the forefront of the intentions. The back page of the weekly Newsletter carries details. For further details, please phone 575017.

## THE LEGION OF MARY

After many years, we were graced to have a Parish Mission conducted by the Legion of Mary *Peregrinatio Pro Christo* from the 26th of June to the 3rd of July. Aply led by Latin teacher, John McLoughlin, the group of 13 (supported by two local Legionaries) visited over 3500 homes, and twenty possibles were recruited for the RCIA course, as well as a large number of lapsed Catholics, several of whom indicated an interest in returning to the Faith.

Another good fruit of the mission is the beginning of **our own presidium of Our Lady of Mount Carmel**, which meets every Thursday in the presbytery at 7.30 p.m. However, we are few in number, and anyone with a love of our Faith and of Our Lady would be very welcome to join us.

## OUR CHOIR

On Sundays, at the 11 o'clock Mass, we sing either with the organ, played by Janet Clements, or with the Rejoice Group, which has 2 or 3 guitars, electronic piano and flute. The pieces chosen are varied, to suit all ages. More singers are always welcome, and if anyone has a new instrument he or she would like to contribute, please phone Susan 575017.

## PARISH MAGAZINE



After an interval of six years, we have recently seen our parish magazine re-launched. Susan Asher has taken up the editorial reins again. The magazine is now simpler, but nevertheless has something for everyone. Articles and items of interest are welcome, but only by email, please, to [marys\\_nook@talktalk.net](mailto:marys_nook@talktalk.net) **and also to** [epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:epping@dioceseofbrentwood.org).

## SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

The parish SVP Conference made some 350 visits to people (Catholic and non-Catholic) in their own homes and in residential homes and in hospital. Through the SVP, the parish has supported financially five SVP parishes in Kerala, India, who are twinned with Epping (£600 p.a.), and funded an Indian student for three years. It has also given £1000 to the SVP International Disaster Fund for emergency baby feeding units in Sudan and £450 between six other charitable causes. The conference's funds come from the members and the annual parish retiring collection, which this year was £430. The response to the SVP raffle was £300, with every ticket sold.

If anyone would like to be visited by the SVP or knows someone who would, please contact Fr. James or an SVP member. The conference would love to hear from parishioners who would like to join and can spare a couple of hours a week for visiting.

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN EPPING & DISTRICT

The executive of CTED includes Father James, Deacon Duncan, Davnet Barker and Mary Morgan.

The Executive Committee continues to endeavour to bring fellow Christians to work and worship together for the benefit of the Epping community. The events and service calendar can be viewed on the website link, page CTED from the 'Epping Anglicans'. Our most rewarding success is the 'Box', offering a High Street meeting place and much more for over a hundred young people each week. We are presently considering further projects. Volunteers are urgently needed to help with our projects. If you are able to help in any way, please telephone Mary Morgan on 574719, or simply come along to one of our meetings. The next will be the AGM at St. John's Church at 7.30 pm on the 21st of September, followed by a social evening.

## FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The committee met on 4 occasions during the year and on each occasion the accounts were scrutinised and found to be satisfactorily presented.

Committee members were Caroline Skinnider (Chairman), Malcolm Heughan, Carmel Donaghy, Simon Casson, Sarah Johnson, Richard Steggle and John Dale. Fr James and Deacon Duncan were ex-officio members, Deacon Duncan preparing the accounts.

The following are salient features of the 12-months' accounts

<b><u>2009-10 SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:</u></b>	
	<b>£</b>
-	
Offertory	56,985
Gift Aid Tax Refund	14,954
CAFOD	3,458
Offerings & Donations	5,804
Other Income	13,918
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>95,119</b>
Liturgical & Catechetical Expenses	5,426
Premises costs (Incl Maintenance)	14,949
Charitable Donations	14,247
Diocesan Quota	16,368
Salaries & Wages	5,635
CAFOD	2,000
Phase II Project	7,218
Youth Expenses	1,500
Other Expenses	19,786
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>87,129</b>
<b>Excess Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>7,990</b>
Total funds brought forward from 2009/10	<u>77,509</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward 2010/11</b>	<b>85,499</b>

Caroline Skinnider (Chairman)

**Payments made from the two Parish Charity Fund      Accounts**  
**during the 12 months ending 5<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**7.5% Fund**

£

Family Care Counsel	£130
World Communications Day	£150
Sick & Retired Clergy fund	£600
Marriage Care	£250
Apostleship of the Sea	£200
Peters Pence	£100
Day for Life	£250
CA for Racial Justice	£200
Home Mission Sunday	£200
British Legion	£25
Home Mission Sunday	£150
APF	£200
ZANE	£50
Missionary vehicle assistance	£250
Prison care trust donation	£50
National youth day	£500
BEEF - parish contribution	£600
St John Fisher school bazaar	£50
Anchor House Christmas Gifts	£207
Family care	£145
Pax Christi Donation	£150
BRCDD - Holy Places	£100
Brentwood children society - crib	£85
Lourdes HCPT	£300
Rev. Paul Walker Swaziland	£500
SPUC Flower Appeal	£150
Clergy Housekeeper Fund	£50
Sick & Retired Clergy fund	£300

**TOTAL PAID- OUT OF FUND to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2010**      £5,942

Balance Brought Forward from 2008-2009      £577

Total receipts to Fund during the year 2009 - 2010      £4,274

Payments made from the Fund in 2009 – 2010      **-£5,942**

**Balance available on the 7.5% Fund at 5<sup>th</sup> April 2010**      **-£1,091**

**2.5% Fund (Diocese of Dundee Twin Parish Fund)**

£

· Carried Forward from 2008– 2009      £1,298

· Total Receipts during the year 2009 - 2010      £1,424

· Funds deposited with Embalehne      **-£1,500**

**Balance accumulated at 5<sup>th</sup> April 2010**      £1,222

## ANNUAL BAZAAR COMMITTEE

Janet Abbott organises this annual event with a happy band of supporters. It is a great parish social event as well as an excellent fund raiser. It is always held the 1st Saturday in December. New blood is always welcome, and we hope parishioners will support it all round. Watch newsletter for details.

## THE PIETY STALL

Please have a look at the Piety Stall. We have a selection of cards— Birthday, Sympathy, Mass cards, New Homes and many more. We have some lovely Christmas cards, religious, in boxes and loose ones. There are rosaries, prayer books, crosses and lots of other pieces. There will be a table in the hall hopefully after every Mass once a month for September, October and November. Please see the newsletter. If you have any queries, please contact Janet Abbott on 571128.

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

This small Group is meeting less frequently, though further meetings can be arranged at short notice if required. The meetings, which are held in the presbytery at 6pm on a Sunday evening, are notified in the newsletter during the previous two weeks. Urgent help is also available by contacting Deacon Duncan directly on 01992 577173.

## HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Under its chairman Paul Harwood, this Committee meets every two months, Committee members include Arnold Verrall (Hall Bookings), Terry North (Accounts), Ted Goreham (Hall Caretaker), Dorothy Whitehouse (General Facilities) and Emma Ferns (Minute Secretary). Fr James and Deacon Duncan are *ex officio* members of the Committee, whose brief is to manage the affairs of the Church Hall without calling on parish funds.

Hall bookings are running at a reasonable level and the Hall's finances are on an 'even keel'. A Quiz Night was run in September, providing a contribution of £943 towards the Hall Funds. A professional Theatre Company is coming to stage a production of Oscar Wilde's '*The Importance of Being Earnest*' on 6th November (tickets from Deacon Duncan)

New members are always welcome on this committee

## PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE

This Committee meets on an *ad hoc* basis – when the need arises, Dorothy Whitehouse arranges the help required. During the year, this Committee has provided sustenance at the following events: Peace Service; Bereavement Service; Christmas Carol Service, Walsingham Walkers' Breakfast and Easter Vigil Reception. New members always welcome; please contact Dorothy Whitehouse to express your interest on 01992 577173.

## JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

The Group was established 19 years ago and currently has 7 members. We are involved in promoting issues of practical Christianity such as support for CAFOD; twinning with Dundee, South Africa; letter writing to obtain the release of prisoners of conscience; Pax Christi; pro-Life; support for Anchor House; Christian Aid - and other concerns as they arise. Our Parish is now enrolled in "**connect2-Ethiopia**", a new CAFOD Project supporting the impoverished people of the oldest Christian culture in Africa. We urgently need to recruit members to inject new vision and energy into the group. If you are not currently active in the Parish, why not give it a try!

## JOURNEY-in-FAITH GROUP (R.C.I.A.)

For those adults who are considering full communion with the Catholic Church, or those who wish to deepen their Catholic Faith, this Group meets most weeks between September and Easter on Wednesday evenings.

At the Easter Vigil in March, one person was baptised, three others were received into the Catholic Church and all were confirmed by Fr James. An information evening was held on Wednesday 11th August to form the Group for the forthcoming year

The first regular meeting of the new Group will be on 22nd September 2010. which, at the time of writing this report, will have four members..

Fr James or Deacon Duncan will be pleased to discuss any possible interest in joining the Group, either this year or in subsequent years.

## READERS AT MASS

Additional Readers are always welcome to join the 30 readers who are already on our rota. Training is given. Please contact Deacon Duncan for details 01992 577173.

## SATURDAY MORNING HELPERS

Five teams of young parishioners (and their parents, of course!!) spend about 20 minutes getting the church ready for weekend Masses on a Saturday morning rota. If you would like to join this team of young helpers, please contact Deacon Duncan 01992 577173

## WHIST GROUP

A Group of 8-10 meets about once a month for a very pleasant Whist Evening. The standard is not demanding and new members are welcomed.

Details can be found in the Newsletter, or contact Maureen McLean on 01992 573292