

**Annual Reports ahead of East Bristol Partnership AGM  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010, All Saints Link, 7.30pm**

**Agenda**

- Opening Prayer
- Ratifying Review Proposals – Forum members only

**AGM:**

- Adoption of minutes from AGM 2009 – please look through the minutes in advance of the meeting. (If you need a copy please apply to the office.)
- Any matters arising.
- Questions on previously circulated reports from Clergy, Jim, Liz & Mark (see below)
- Date for additional forum – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm St Mary's

**Reports on work since last AGM reports of July 2009**

Please read these reports in advance of the AGM as they will not be read out again in the course of the meeting. The primary focus of the meeting will be to ask questions on any of the reports in turn.

**Revd. Nick Adams – Partnership Pioneer Minister**

*First year in the partnership completed!*

Ordained deacon in 2009 and Ordained Priest at the beginning of July 2010.

A Special service at St. Aidan's to mark the occasion of my first Eucharist as Celebrant – a real highlight.

Great to see so many folk from right across the partnership enjoying the service and in full song.

## *Mission and Arts Project*

Surveyed all of the Churches – met with positive response

Launch evening this coming autumn with presentations – possible nativity play for Christmas.

Begin work on a *MA Arts in Communities* that closely relates to the project and will be invaluable resource both for the partnership and my future ministry elsewhere.

Work and Outreach to Schools using “The Labyrinth” – a multimedia/sensory resource that takes people on a ‘spiritual journey’.

This too could feed into the Arts Project

## *Partnership Review*

The intended outcome of which is that I will be based more at All Saints thus enabling greater depth of relationship and consistency.

### **Revd. Susan Allman – Partnership Priest**

Before being re-licensed as a Partnership Priest I was asked what I might do in my new role. My mention of secondary school involvement was warmly encouraged. I have established links with Bristol Brunel Academy (Speedwell School) and Bristol Metropolitan Academy (Whitefield School). At BBA I gave pastoral support after the death of a member of staff and the murder of a former student. At the end of the school year Nick Adams, two members St. John’s and I met the sixth form to introduce Nick’s arts project. This will be followed up with a prayer labyrinth in the autumn. At Bristol Met members of All Saints joined with Polish students for an informal Easter celebration.

We now have a link with Briarwood Secondary School (Special Needs) which has been developed with a team mainly from All Saints, culminating in an “Easter Experience” involving the whole school.

I have continued to support the Little Angels mission initiative approved by St. Michael’s PCC in 2007. The group has been growing consistently. Some parents and children have attended All Aboard services.

I have studied on the Ministry of Spiritual Direction Course and given regular spiritual direction to a number of individuals in the EBP. I have also met with several individuals on a mentoring basis to help them develop their ministries.

At St. John's I facilitated the formation of a mental health support group.

In May 2009 I arranged a programme for Romans and our other Ugandan visitors in East Bristol. The Anglican Youth Fellowship Choir sang at BBA and received enthusiastically by the students. Later in the year we were joined by Revd. Samuel and Robinah for the Sunday morning service at All Saints and lunch at Pino's with members of St. Aidan's. Clare Hayes (St. John's) and I visited our linked Diocese of West Buganda with a group of young people from our Deanery to plant trees and participate in mission.

### **Revd. Trevor Denley - Assistant Curate at St Aidan's and in the Partnership**

I have completed my fourth and final year of curacy and have attended a variety of training courses and supervision meetings.

During the past year I have served the EBP in a variety of ways.

- I have conducted the leadership of worship, mainly Eucharistic in all the EBP churches, both on Sunday and Midweek. This has included Baptisms.
- I have 'mentored' a candidate on the EBP Growing Leaders course.
- I have carried our Pastoral visiting within the EBP, including Home Communion.
- With others, I am a member of an Ordination candidate support team.
- I was a member of the Review process team.

Within the Parish of St. Aidan with St. George.

- With others I have launched and run a Messy Church within the local Primary school.

- With Gill Behenna (chaplain to those with hearing difficulties) I have developed and used a form of Eucharistic worship for EPH and Nursing Homes on a regular basis.
- With others I have developed and led school visit days to the church as part of their curriculum and have helped the local school with RE projects, e.g What dying means to a Christian and Baptism and Marriage.
- With others prepared Non Eucharistic services led by others.
- Conducted weddings and funerals where required, including liaison with Registrar.
- Regular Pastoral visiting.

### **Jim Donaldson – Chair of the Partnership Forum**

A year, or rather a little more than a year for me, where much talk of change will shortly become a reality. Change can be difficult for many, and it was a brave but essential step to review the Partnership. Given the rumblings of discontent with us from elsewhere, it was very important that we took the initiative and therefore remained in control of the process. The Review has for me seemed to dominate the time I have been Chair. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of the sometimes painful process, and especially to Roger Morgan for acting as the independent facilitator (and the Diocese for the funding), as the whole moves to the next stage.

In my early days this past year despite some experience as Vice Chair, there were several issues that arose where in thinking how to handle them, I felt responsible, but actually quite isolated and potentially very vulnerable. There was no discernable process to follow, or any recognised method of seeking advice from others. For this reason, the Chair's Advisory Group was formed, and I am very grateful for the support and advice I have received from David Jones, Liz Welling, Mark Gartside, and several members of the Clergy through this Group over the ensuing period. I am very pleased that through the Review process, the purpose of this Group is likely to be absorbed into a new Partnership Standing Committee (which must be much more focussed than our earlier version of a Standing Committee).

On to this next year, and the progress to be celebrated and the challenges to be faced. While the EBP Review is about to be launched, the outcomes and implications of the parallel Deanery Review on Resources is yet to be

announced. Whatever happens, our future is ultimately in our own hands. I have always said that the Partnership can only ever be as good and effective as we the partners want it to be. So we must decide just how much we want God to be an influence in our Communities and the wider Partnership. It is up to us, so let's start and go forward positively to face the future whatever is ahead, and I strongly commend the 'Two Week Prayer Cycle' for the Partnership produced recently by Michael. Are we a Partnership and Churches that will stand up and challenge? If not, where do we think we are going?

### **Mark Gartside – East Bristol Partnership Coordinator**

Here is a summary of what I've been doing over the last 14 months:

Taking banns enquiries – especially since I took over all the management of all the partnership church pages on the Church Near You website.

Dealing with wedding and christening enquiries.

Funeral enquiries for most churches, sometimes including meeting and speaking to families as their first point of contact, and often, as a point of procedure, liaising between funeral directors, priests and churches.

Maintaining a funeral rota of EBP priests.

Developing a rotation of partnership priests around PCC meetings.

Responsibility for coordinating the partnership service rota and making sure all services are covered.

Developing a database of contacts from across the partnership churches, the deanery, diocese and beyond.

Maintaining records of enquiries for occasional offices which come through the partnership office.

Holiday Bible Club – attending all meetings, acting as a group leader and dance coordinator.

I played Jesus in the Easter Play at Briarwood school for children with severe learning difficulties with a group from the partnership.

Website maintenance and development, including getting a new Christian web-host this year.

Compiling and distributing monthly partnership calendars and quarterly newsletters.

1 or 2 trips a month to all churches to put up posters.

Attendance and minute taking at all Forum meetings, chair's support meetings, and monthly Tuesday morning meetings with clergy.

Welcoming and talking with visitors and enquirers to the partnership office.

Facilitation and coordination of partnership review meetings.

Duplication of materials for Growing Leaders course and other one-off services.

Designing and distributing publicity material for one-off events and special services.

Attendance on diocesan child-protection course.

I led dance and drama workshops with the Otters youth group, and did a presentation with the Otters as part of main Sunday service at All Saints.

Fundraising course with the Environmental Trainer's Network

Fundraising presentation at St Mary's.

Fundraising research in conjunction with St John's.

Making links and contacts within other agencies which could benefit the life of the partnership, such as the Bristol Interfaith Network, local neighbourhood partnerships, local libraries, businesses and other churches and denominations.

My main aim for the upcoming year is to continue my fundraising research for refurbishment and installation of disabled access at St John's, in conjunction with moving the partnership office there in line with the

partnership review document and developing St John's as a partnership drop-in centre/ meeting place and resource-centre.

### **Revd. John Goodridge - Assistant Curate at St Michael's and in the Partnership**

As far as I am concerned, it is all about work life balance, having to prioritise all my various roles in order to be effective in all aspects of my family life, daily work, ministry and leisure. Being called to the role of a Self Supporting Minister has been a real challenge for me, which does not go away, especially as my training and experience develops.

During the said period, I have found the reality of being an SSM within the East Bristol Partnership very much like being a 'Wandering minstrel boy' moving from church to church and actually only being at St Michael's 15 out of 57 of worship events.

My ministry has been restricted to mainly leading the Eucharist, regular evening worship, a few occasional offices, baptisms and a wedding. There has also been the continuing rounds of meetings, PCCs, Partnership, Deanery and for my sins, Diocesan Synod.

As Chaplain to the Air Training Corps I attend Parade nights every fortnight and hold Chaplains hour each month, and sit on their Civilian Committee. The parade nights gives me time to meet the cadets and staff and discuss a whole range of issues from what they are doing in their own lives and to help them think and discuss issues ranging from drugs to leadership. I also attended a three day Chaplain's Course at the Armed Forces' Chaplaincy Centre at Ampert House in Hampshire, where I met with serving chaplains who had serviced in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other ATC chaplains and senior RAF officers.

I did manage to get the PCC to attend an Away Day or nearly a day at Elsie Briggs House, which was found to be very useful and rewarding.

One big concern of mine when I started my ordained ministry, was the limitations placed on my time as to pastoral care, including home and hospital visits, baptisms, weddings, funerals and all the preparation that is normally involved in those life events. Then I had to smack myself around the head and say to myself, you can't do it all!

As many of you know I do visit on average four households a day with my day job, which includes a lot of advice and listening to people at difficult times in their lives. This in itself is a working privilege, where, once I have completed my official business, I can offer silent prayer and perhaps occasionally talk about faith if I note they are Christians.

One hopes that my limited ministry has been valued and accepted and it remains to be seen what happens under the terms of the new Partnership Review changes.

**Revd. David James – Vicar of St Leonard's and St Ambrose, and Partnership Priest**

This report has to be seen through the lens of our recent car accident, a challenging time in more ways than one. It begins with a 'thank you' for the support and good wishes we received throughout the partnership for which Ann and I are truly grateful.

My own role in the partnership has inevitably focused around St Ambrose and St Leonard's of which I am incumbent. That said, this has been a challenging time for both churches in differing ways. At St Ambrose we seriously began to address the issues faced by an extremely large building and have worked hard with our architect towards developing an 'open church' which combines a role as a building set aside for worship but also used by a variety of outreach groups. As I write we now have some plans on which we are agreed and hope to put in place in the near future. The aspiration to develop buildings does not happen overnight - others please note! A reasonable consensus has to be formed, practical matters addressed, unforeseen issues dealt with, and not least, the wider Church's permissions and guidelines engaged. Plus continuing with developing and growing church life and dealing with the hope that you are right. If anyone has switched off and thinks this is a local issue, believe me, this paragraph will (and should) be true elsewhere in the partnership as well. St Leonard's faced it's own (very different) challenges during the year but after a period when closure seemed almost a foregone conclusion has now 'bitten the bullet' in terms of the use of its own buildings.

Elsewhere I have tried to support my colleagues who have been involved in the more 'pioneering' aspects of the partnership. If we are to take the New Testament teaching on giftedness seriously and try to apply it within our

Anglican parameters and local expectations, someone has to do the 'bread and butter' tasks. Nobody can be in two places at once, and regular courses, training sessions and meetings need the minimum of interruption. 8.00 Communion, midweek services, funerals etc, all require preparation time and travel and there are consequential tasks which arise from many of them. I've also tried to be a voice to encourage the development of local ministry, have been Trevor's 'training priest', and Ann and I have continued to support in a small (but I believe appreciated way) some of those actively involved in the healing Ministry. And then there is the Review.....

For me, the positive aspects of the Partnership are the involvement with other colleagues and the opportunities it presents to initiate new and sustained work which would not otherwise be done. I hope that the long hours we have spent in the review process will give us a firmer foundation to fulfill both of these, but it will be important to understand that this will need constant and critical monitoring so that it is a living experience and not a 'job done'.

### **Revd. Michael Selman – Partnership Priest**

A large part of my ministry over the past year has been the 'normal' ministry of a parish priest: leading worship, exercising pastoral care and trying to help God's people to *be* the people of God, in this place. Particular areas on which I have concentrated some effort have included:

*Pastoral care:* I have tried to ensure that church members who wish this can be visited at home or in hospital, and where appropriate receive Holy Communion. Much of this is done through the local church's pastoral care teams, but some people need or prefer contact with a priest.

As part of ongoing support and training, Jo and I led a second workshop on Christian Listening and a further one on Bereavement. I have also run a morning course on administering communion for All Saints.

I also have also tried to play a full part in helping maintain provision for funerals from the Partnership parishes.

*Healing ministry:* Jo and I have led a number of evening services of prayer for healing at St Aidan's.

I met with St John's Worship Committee to discuss possible ways forward for that church.

We are planning a day workshop for all churches in the Partnership on Prayer Ministry - at All Saints in October.

*Home groups:* Again, Jo and I produced house group material for Advent 2009 and Lent 2010; in addition to running groups at the Vicarage, the latter course was used by three other groups across the Partnership.

*Ministry training:* Chris Evans from St Mary's started her training for ordination at STETS (run by Sarum College, Salisbury). I have been her 'supervising minister', which involves monthly support meetings. This year she will be joined by Anja Thomson, who is transferring to the Partnership from Hanham parish.

*Wider ministry:* We are all also members of the Diocesan family, and since last autumn, Jo and I have edited the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer. I am a member of the Diocesan team of Ministry Discernment Advisers, who try to help potential candidates for ministry clarify God's calling. In the Deanery, I am convening the prayer support group which is upholding the Strategy Review.

In relating to the wider community, we have had contact with a support group for asylum seekers.

*The future:* Although I shall now be taking more responsibility for St Mary's, Jo and I intend to continue to be actively involved across the whole Partnership, particularly in areas of pastoral care and healing ministry, as well as regularly leading worship in the other churches. We believe that we need to be part of a wider community, in which God's people can grow in their experience of God's love and try to share that gift with others.

### **Rev. Keith Thomasson - Partnership Priest**

1. I have contributed to the following aspects of leadership development:

Growing Leaders

Supervision of LLMs/LLMs in training, Nick Adams and Nicola Callen,

prospective ordinands.  
Home groups  
LLM pastoral placement supervision.

2. In children's work I have:

Helped Giggie (S Mary's) in their development, supported HBC, led a review of children's nurture at All Saints, led T service with others and contributed to the life of St Matts/Dr Bells.

3. In community Music:

Developed the Music school releasing a CD and producing a Dance for Life weekend.  
Developed a link with Bristol Vets Brass band now based at All Saints.

4. Liturgically:

I have had a full role in the EBP and particularly helped develop more All Age patterns of worship at S Mary's and All Saints.

5. Diocesan -wide:

I am a member of the Diocesan Worship and Liturgy Committee.

6. Professional Development:

Music and Wholeness (with Adrian Snell), Consulting with church groups (Mennonites), retreat.

**Liz Welling – partnership Bookkeeper**

East Bristol Partnership Accounts as at the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010: Balance of Account £9,635.26 Which is split between:

- Clergy Fees                      £2,418.43
- Office Account £ 251.86 o/d
- Mission & out reach      £7,468.69

At the start of 2010, it was agreed that all partnership churches would not make a contribution for the clergy expenses to allow the pot of money set aside for expenses to be reduced. We started the year with £3,425.62, and this has had the required effect. All Parishes are contributing to the partnership clergy expenses on a regular basis and funds are received either by standing order or monthly/quarterly cheques. All clergy expenses are paid up to May 2010 and a number of others up to July 2010.

The office is funded by each Church with a contribution of £250 per year per Church. Generally this is received by bimonthly payments of £50, and although the account is currently overdrawn this should be rectified when the next payments are received. The contribution to the office expenditure has not increased, and perhaps this is something that should be considered for the future.

We do not have a general fund and this has been discussed at length by the finance committee. A recommendations that we would like to put forward is to take a 5 or 10 percent slice of all fund raising to cover items that do not come into the heading of clergy expense/ office/ or mission and outreach. This was considered a better method than asking churches to do additional fund raising or giving. This would not come from clergy expenses or office contributions, but from fund raising events or collections from partnership joint services.

Mission and outreach only has one project request for funding in 2011, and that is another Dance weekend, requested by Keith Thomasson. Messy Church at St Aidan's was very successful and they may wish to apply for funding in 2011. Nick Adams has requested funding to cover the cost of a Labyrinth in the region of £50 -£70 for a project at St George community School.

As a Partnership we have not made any collection or contribution towards Charity during 2010.

I have not applied for the gift aid from HMRC, but hope to do so before the end of 2010.