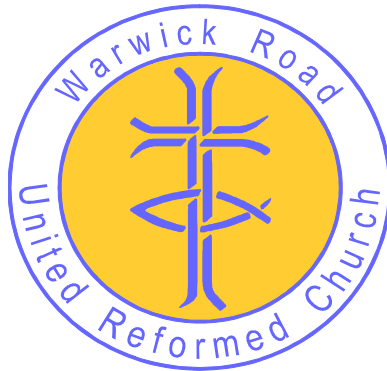


WARWICK ROAD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



***ANNUAL REPORTS
OF ORGANISATIONS
for 2010***

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 6 June 2011**

Minister : Revd Yvonne Stone

SECRETARY'S REPORT

From the beginning of February the pattern of Sunday evening worship changed. Joint services with the Methodist Central Hall began and are normally held on the first and third Sundays at Warwick Road and on the other Sundays at the Central Hall. This has proved to be of benefit to both churches. February also saw the start of Morning Prayers in the Quiet Room on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9.30 - 9.45 am. This supplements the weekly lunch time prayers on Thursdays and the monthly Wholeness & Healing services on Fridays. With the exception of the AGM, the Church Meetings have continued to be held after the morning service.

The Elders and Trustees normally hold an Away Day in the summer, when they discuss and revise the Church Plan. This year it was decided to replace this by a Vision Day, which was open to anyone interested. Groups and individuals were invited to submit written comments in advance. The Vision Day was held at the church on a Saturday in April and was facilitated by the Revd Neil Riches, the minister of Carrs Lane Church, Birmingham. The following agenda for action emerged:

- Ongoing conversations with the Methodist Central Hall
- Achieve a clear understanding of the diversity of Christian life and worship in Coventry city centre
- Assess opportunities for engaging in alternative worship and the planting of new congregation(s).
- Consider the re-establishment of a weekly lunchtime service
- Contact to be made with the key players in the retail sector
- Ongoing conversations with Stuart Jennings

Exploratory work has been done on these action points but we were advised by the Revd Roberta Rominger, the URC General Secretary, not to finalise plans as she felt that a forthcoming "Welcome Campaign" might impact on them.

At the Annual General Meeting in June, Derek Miles retired as Church Treasurer after fifteen years' service and Colin Enstone retired as Church Secretary after six years' service. Richard Blanchard and David Jones were elected as their replacements. In both cases there was a transitional period, while responsibilities were transferred.

The Church Centre continued to provide set lunches for older people on Tuesdays and Fridays. Students from Henley College help on Tuesdays and also run a café on Thursdays, which provides a dish of the day and other light refreshments. Extra volunteers provide cover during college holidays. The smooth running of the Church Centre depended on the work of the late Cyril Robinson, ably assisted by Brenda Stelfox.

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Within the United Reformed Church the Vision4Life process devotes a year to each of the three core elements of our life – the Bible, Prayer and Evangelism. The Prayer Year started in Advent 2009 and the Evangelism Year in Advent 2010. A booklet “exploring evangelism” is available to anyone, who has not already received one. During March three of us attended a 24 hour event organised by the West Midlands Synod at the Holiday Inn, Birmingham. This was entitled Vision4Mission and anticipated the Vision4Life Evangelism Year. In July, John Desmond attended the URC General Assembly as one the Synod representatives.

During Lent the United Reformed Church in Coventry organised a five week course on Prayer as a supplement to the Vision4Life Prayer Year. Later on during Advent there was a course to explore Matthew’s Nativity. In both cases there was an afternoon session repeated in the evening. The North West Coventry Group (Holyhead Road, Brownhill Green and Keresley) remained without a minister. This resulted in an additional work load for the remaining three full time Coventry URC ministers. After several months in hospital, the Revd Bill Young recovered sufficiently to return to work and undertake some church engagements.

We have continued our cordial relationship with Foleshill Road URC and Potters Green URC by sharing in a number of joint services. We have also joined together for a number of social occasions. The Messengers of Salvation Ministries continued to meet in our hall on Sunday afternoons.

The following have served as elders during the year:- Richard Blanchard, Rita Dalton, John Desmond, George Drake, Colin Enstone, David Jones, Diane Lathbury, Dorothy MacDonald. At the AGM two Elders came to the end of their three year term of office: George Drake and David Jones were unanimously re-elected. My grateful thanks go to our Minister, Elders, Trustees and the rest of the fellowship for supporting me throughout the year.

As a matter of record the church roll statistics are as follows: -

No. on Roll at December 2010	66
Adherents	8
New Members during 2010	-
<u>Losses</u>	
Deaths of Members	2
Transfer Out	-
Deletion	1
No. in Junior Church	6
No. of Baptisms	2

Colin Enstone

WARWICK ROAD PARTNERSHIP

The Directors of the Company at the outset of 2010 were:

- Carol Caley
- Janice Drake (Company Secretary)
- David Jones
- David Lathbury (Chairman)
- Derek Miles (Treasurer).

The other members of the company are the remaining Trustees.

Cyril Robinson, the Church Centre Manager, was employed by Warwick Road United Reformed Church and within his remit he was responsible for managing No.12 Warwick Row in order to boost the commercial lettings income of the premises.

No.12 Warwick Row, the commercial unit, is let through our commercial agents Reeves & Partners. Compass took occupancy of No. 12 in December 2008 and began their operations from there at the start of 2009. A good working relationship has been established with Compass and they have hired the Church Centre on several occasions for events. They have been operating successfully from the premises during the whole of 2010. Apart from one or two minor works, the only significant work to No. 12 during 2010 was the repainting of the external woodwork as part of the wider redecoration works to Nos. 9-12.

Financially, No. 12 Warwick Row contributed £22,000 rent income to WRP Ltd. during 2010 and £17,000 was paid to the Church under Gift Aid.

David Lathbury
(Chairman of Directors)

TRUSTEES

The Trustees at the start of 2009 were:

- Carol Caley
- George Drake
- Janice Drake
- Colin Enstone
- David Jones
- David Lathbury (Chairman)
- Derek Miles (Treasurer & Assistant Chairman)
- Ruth Mohamed
- Graham Page

Cyril Robinson reported to the meetings in an ex officio capacity.

Graham retired as a Trustee in June after many years' faithful service, which involved various roles including chairing the Oasis Redevelopment Committee which oversaw the redevelopment of the former buildings ancillary to the Sanctuary and the creation of the new Church Centre in 2003.

During the year Roger Smith, our part-time caretaker, retired to spend more time on the golf course and in Spain. His brother, Martyn, who helps us in so many ways with various maintenance works around the premises has now taken on Roger's duties as well, on a self-employed basis.

The main Trustees' responsibilities concern financial and personnel management and maintenance of the premises and equipment. A variety of Church policies and procedures are monitored and updated by the Trustees, including the annual review of Risk Management Policies. Fabric Committee reports to the Trustees and a summary of its activities can be found in a separate report. 2010 was another very busy year for the Trustees with 4 meetings, and 4 special meetings after Sunday morning worship, plus joint meetings with the Elders which take place each quarter.

The thrust of the Trustees in 2010 was to continue the consolidation of 5 years' growth in lettings and activities of the Church and Church Centre rooms in the face of the severe cutbacks as a result of the recession. Many organisations which use our premises were experiencing severe financial restrictions and the anticipation was that use of our premises would be reduced. Faced with this situation the 2010 the gross income from the lettings, catering and car parking spaces decreased by 18% (compared with 2009) to £71,421. The actual number of lettings dropped marginally in 2010 compared with 2009, but the

main area of reduced income was catering since this was where organisations chose to reduce their outgoings.

In 2010 we received £10,000 for our second year of grant assistance from the Lloyds-TSB Foundation to support our outreach work with students and the elderly in the Church Centre. Grant aid is now very difficult to obtain, however, although opportunities are still being monitored.

The Warwick Row properties provide the church with substantial income and so it is important that occupancy is maximised. The two apartments at No.9 and No. 11 Warwick Row provided £13,367 gross income during 2009. No. 9 was vacant from February to June, while No. 11 was fully let with the same tenant during the year.

During 2010 work has been progressing with the Church's solicitors to prepare a replacement Church Constitution, required for all churches above a certain threshold as part of the new governance arrangements with the Charity Commissioners. The particular situation of Warwick Road Church, with its Trustee arrangements, needs to be properly reflected in this document.

Improvements to the operational efficiency of the Church Centre and Sanctuary have continued with:

- a re-valuation of the buildings of Nos 9, 11 & 12 Warwick Row (at £650,000)
- a successful re-assessment of our insurance by Congregational Insurance
- various works to the roof of the Sanctuary
- redecoration of No. 9 Warwick Row
- installation of gas-fired central heating system to Nos. 9 & 11 Warwick Row which will improve their efficiency and make them easier to re-let in future
- repairs to floor tiles in the Church Centre and redecoration of various rooms.

2010 proved to be challenging as predicted in the 2009 report. A big thrust in 2011 will be to identify further ways of attracting income and areas where we can be even more efficient. However, with the goodwill and determination which is shown by all our staff, paid and unpaid, I am sure that we will continue to achieve the outreach we aim for and to develop in new and exciting directions.

David Lathbury
(Chairman of Trustees)

FABRIC COMMITTEE

The Fabric Committee's objective is to maintain the fabric and facilities of the Church, Church Centre and Nos. 9-12 Warwick Row in good order. The Fabric Committee is a sub-committee of the Trustees who have oversight for the financial and physical management of the Church at Warwick Road. Fabric Committee meets each quarter.

The committee membership at the start of 2010 was:

- Joanne Cadman
- George Drake
- Kevin Green
- David Lathbury (Chairman)
- Cyril Robinson
- Barry Stelfox
- The Minister, Church Secretary and Church Centre Manager - ex officio.

Apart from the many ongoing servicing works and other minor works, the key elements which the Committee led on during the year were:

- Various roof repairs to the Sanctuary.
- Damp-proofing the Sanctuary rear wall.
- New floor tiles in the Vestibule plus draught-proofing the main doors and redecorating the toilets.
- Re-decoration of the area beneath the rear Gallery.
- Re-decoration of toilets, corridor and office in Church Centre.
- Repairing and re-painting the stucco rendering to No. 9/10 Warwick Row.
- Re-painting the external woodwork to 9-12 Warwick Row.
- Installing gas supply and new central heating systems to Nos. 9 & 11 Warwick Row.

Many other smaller jobs were carried out during the year. Martyn Smith does many of these works, as well as some of the larger ones, around the premises which is a very cost-effective way of achieving our aims.

Barry Stelfox maintains our courtyard planting areas with the colourful bedding plants for summer and winter, and by pruning the herbaceous shrubs which provide the structure to this attractive area.

We always welcome constructive comments and suggestions on improvements that can be made to the fabric and maintenance of the Church premises. If you wish to help in any way, including serving on the committee, then please contact any of the members.

David Lathbury

MUSIC

Looking back through the 2010 diary shows that we had another full and busy year. Our own choir, although quite small in number, has continued to contribute an anthem to Sunday morning worship each week, together with introits during Lent and on other special occasions. The presence of the choir seems to be particularly appreciated, and commented upon, by visiting ministers, for whom having the luxury of a choir can be quite a rarity these days. On Palm Sunday evening we joined forces with the Oakleigh Singers, the Tony Gibbs Singers and a number of other friends to sing Stainer's 'Crucifixion'. It was a pleasure to have Keith Hearnshaw accompanying us on the organ, and with the choir positioned on the gallery and Yvonne's carefully selected images on the screen it all made for a memorable evening. Later in the year, Remembrance Sunday fell on 14 November - the 70th anniversary of the Coventry Blitz - so we did a special evening service with the same choirs and more images on the screen courtesy of Yvonne. The year for the choir was as always rounded off with the Candlelight Carol Service, always a happy and enjoyable occasion. Thanks to all members of the choir for all their hard work throughout the year. Thanks also to the various deputy organists who have "filled in" on occasions when I have been away.

The Lunchtime Concerts, which have now been running for twelve years, continue to go from strength to strength and it is good to welcome so many visitors into church for these events. During the year we enjoyed a variety of organists, pianists, individual singers and groups, all of whom were much appreciated by our loyal audience. Sadly the Japanese flautists from Hiroshima were unable to travel to England due to the dust from the Iceland volcano eruption, so we hope they may be able to come at some point in the future. Thanks also to the volunteers who provide refreshments at each concert; more volunteers would be welcome.

During the year we held two Evening Organ Concerts given by Mark Laflin and Keith Hearnshaw, but due to very little support for evening concerts it has been decided to discontinue these.

As usual a number of outside organisations have used the church for concerts: the Savoy Opera Group, Ensemble 1685, students from Coventry University, the Spires Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Coventry Philharmonic Choir who also have their weekly rehearsals here. On Easter Monday morning, David Lowe, a vice-president of the Cinema Organ Society, brought about 30 members of his Canal Boat Society who were meeting at the Canal Basin, and gave them a concert on our organ.

During the year we had a new arrival in the form of a harmonium. This had been removed from a disused church in Walsall and was in danger of being destined for the tip, so I was pleased to be able to "rescue" it, and have played it in church on a number of occasions.

In September we were visited by members of the Coventry & Warwickshire Organists' Association when I gave a talk, illustrated with recordings, on the Cinema Organs of Coventry.

Talking of cinema organs, restoration of the Savoy Radford Wurlitzer has been ongoing. Peter Spencer, an organ builder in Rugby, has done the major releathering work for us on the chests and bellows, whilst Ben has done a lot of rewiring, and I was entrusted with refelting all the pallets. Ben and I, with a significant amount of help, demolished the partition wall in the organ chamber and installed the Wurlitzer swell shutters. Hopefully during 2011 much more progress will be made and before too long the sound of the Wurlitzer will be heard again.

Tim Campain

JUNIOR CHURCH

2010 began well with good attendance of boys and girls. In January, John Cotterill led our worship on Epiphany and made a great impression on the children with his demonstration of burning incense. Later in the month we were joined by Ruby Young, who has been a delight to all the congregation as we have seen her progress during her first year. Ruby, along with Millie, Rebecca and Rachel, have been our regular members throughout the year.

February 18 Junior Church Staff meeting with Yvonne
March 14 Posies for Mothering Sunday

Rachel Selby and her cousin, Stephanie Green, were encouraged to apply for a place at a Girl Crusaders' Union camp planned to take place at Adcote School near Shrewsbury at Easter. However, the camp was over-subscribed and they were offered places at a summer camp to be held at Seahouses in Northumberland, July 29th – August 5th.

This turned out to be a much better arrangement, as the girls were taking their GCSE exams, and the Easter holidays were a vital time for revision. It also meant that they would be able to meet two senior girls from Walsgrave, and two students from Bulkington who had applied to go to Seahouses. Several meetings were arranged to enable the girls to meet up and get to know each other a little before going to camp. When the time came, the two students escorted them on the train, and when they arrived, they shared a room with the two girls from Walsgrave. Rita Dalton was also at the camp. It was an opportunity for the girls to have fun with youngsters of their own age in a beautiful setting, as well as to receive a good helping of Bible teaching.

It was rewarding to see how the girls enjoyed every part of camp and responded to the teaching given. At their own request, they have continued to meet up since camp to renew friendships, share a meal together and take part in a short Bible study and discussion.

May 15 Pilots at Warwick Castle – Arrangements were made, but unfortunately we were unable to go.

May 22, June 26 and July 24 A new venture, “Spark in the Precinct”, was planned, but had to be cancelled due to lack of funding.

June 27 St Andrew’s Service was led by Junior Church Staff and children.

Junior Church Awards Rachel Selby was presented with a Youth Bible
Millie Young was presented with a Child’s Book of Prayers.

August 16–22 “Spark in the Park” This has become an annual event in the Memorial Park, where many churches in Coventry unite to provide free activities for Primary children in the afternoons and for Secondary aged children in the evenings.

October 23 Junior Church Activities Afternoon Crafts on a theme of Noah’s Ark, face-painting by Margaret Hartley, games and tea were arranged for the children, friends and family. The sale of quizzes raised £40 and together with donations of £40, we were able to give £80 to the Church Treasurer.

Children’s songs were reintroduced in Sunday services in the Autumn :

“Who put the colours in the rainbow?”

“Autumn Days”

“I have seen the golden sunshine”

It is hoped that this will remain a feature of Sunday morning worship, and that our repertoire will increase.

November 28 – Each week in Advent, Junior Church opened worship by lighting a candle on the Advent Candle Ring, retelling part of the nativity story and offering a prayer.

The display board has been used to show the children’s work throughout the year.

December 19 Festival Service The children were dressed for the Nativity tableau.

Rita Dalton

PRAYERS

Lunchtime

Lunchtime Prayers are held on Thursdays from 12.05 – 12.30 pm each week in the Quiet Room. Lunch can be ordered at the café before prayer and eaten afterwards.

We pray informally for those on the weekly notice sheet and any other topical concerns. Then we look at some of the lectionary readings for the following Sunday and discuss them briefly. Although the number attending is small it is valued as a time of reflection and quiet in the hustle and bustle of the week. Prayers are led by a group member.

David Adam in his book “Traces of Glory” (SPCK) says, “I believe that the best preparation for Sunday worship is to use the readings for the coming Sunday throughout the week as an inspiration for prayer and intercession”.

I have certainly found that lunchtime prayers make Sunday worship more meaningful.

Morning

Prayers for the work of the Church Centre take place on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9.30 am in the Quiet Room.

The prayers are based on a Celtic Liturgy for Early Morning Prayer and the readings are taken from the Daily Lectionary.

Colin Enstone

WHOLENESS & HEALING SERVICE

I can report with pleasure that the Wholeness & Healing Service has been held during the year on the second Friday of the month, with the exception of August. It takes place in the Quiet Room between 11.15 – 11.45 am.

We seek to provide a time of prayer and healing thoughts with the laying on of hands and prayers for others using the prayer cards. If you wish to have any one you know prayed for, prayer cards are available in the Quiet Room and may be left there to be used at the Service.

Speakers at the services have included our Minister, Yvonne Stone, Revd Ken Newborough, Margaret Saben and myself. We have also had visitors from other URC churches who are most welcome. All are welcome to come to the services.

Many thanks are given to all those who have participated in the services.

John Desmond

HOUSE GROUP

We have continued to meet during the year. Although now small in number, we have followed our usual pattern of meetings where we have discussed many aspects of our Christian life. This includes how the church stands in the world today, the need to encourage more people to come to church, and our own attitude to Christian life.

Our Bible study has continued to follow the lectionary readings for the year.

We would like to thank Jean Enstone, our host, for the use of her home during the year.

John Desmond

STUDY GROUP

Although the Study Group has declined in numbers, we have continued to meet throughout the year, and engaged in some lively discussions. We began in January by discussing “Jesus for the non-religious” by Bishop Shelby Spong. From there we moved to a focus on the Church of the future, asking where the Church is going in our western culture, and feeding into our thoughts about the future of Warwick Road Church in preparation for our Vision Day in April.

After Easter we began to focus on prayer, examining “Thoughts and Prayers”, a booklet produced by “Free to Believe” containing reflections, by some of their members, on praying. “Free to Believe” is a URC mailing group for people who find some traditional Christian doctrines hard to believe in. We were able to read other people’s ideas about prayer and compare them with our own. This subject took us to the end of the year and enlivened our meetings with many animated discussions and arguments.

The group met monthly at our home, 86 Cannon Park Road. Membership remained at about five or six during 2010 but we would love to welcome more members.

Diane Lathbury

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

Secretary	Roger Greenwood
Treasurer	Derek Miles
Christian Aid	Diane Lathbury
Fair Trade	Brenda Stelfox

The year 2010 was a bad one for charities with many reporting that, due to the financial situation, they have had to lay off staff, and reduce the projects that they would have liked to support. Unfortunately, our political and financial leaders, although many of them had a Christian or Jewish background, seem to have forgotten the story of Pharaoh's Dream and Joseph's wise advice. Consequently, they did not fill the barns in the years of prosperity, but instead took on debt, and so we are now seeing the lean kine eating the fat.

Fortunately the supporters of Commitment for Life are all members of a Bible based denomination, and many are also still influenced by their puritan forbears, and so are likely to have been more prudent. With contributions in the quarterly envelopes, a contribution of £83.66 from one of Tim Campaign's Lunchtime Concerts, and £45.99 from the loose change jar put out by Jean Enstone, a total of £756.35 was raised. It is important that we maintain our giving because C for L supports long term projects which have a permanent effect on disadvantaged communities. The regions of Bangladesh, Jamaica, Palestine, and Zimbabwe chosen by the URC have not changed. Many of the projects in these countries have already resulted in a marked improvement in the health, education and nutrition in the poorer regions.

Warwick Road again took part in the house to house collection in Christian Aid Week. As usual it was noticeable that people of all ages and nationalities were willing to contribute. This raised £436.98, and, together with £112.86 from other giving, meant that Warwick Road was able to send £549.84 to Christian Aid.

Fair Trade stalls, manned by Brenda Stelfox and Sandra Harper, were held in the Vestibule during Fair Trade Fortnight and some other Sundays during the year. It is noticeable that Fair Trade food and also clothing have now become a familiar sight in many shops.

Thanks are due to all those who have worked for and supported the above three organisations throughout 2010.

Roger Greenwood

FLOWER GUILD

We have had another good year. Although there are only three members in the Guild, between us we have accepted the responsibility for arranging flowers and decorating the Church when necessary.

During the year we celebrated the Diamond Wedding of Dr and Mrs Graham Page. We wish them well.

Donations of flowers still continue to come from families who no longer reside in Coventry, but who wish to remember loved ones. I would also like to thank everyone who makes a donation for flowers. We could not do our job without you. I now send photographs to all who are not in church on the day that they are arranged.

Distribution of flowers on Sunday to those who are sick or housebound is a valued service to the recipients. However, I have great difficulty in finding people to take them and your support is urgently needed.

Cath Green

READING GROUP

The Reading Group continues to meet on the third Thursday of each month in the Church Centre and has almost completed six successful years. Our membership is now 12, as three left during the year, but the remaining members are very keen and enthusiastic.

Our members continue to choose the books, and as usual we have read novels which cover a wide range of subjects. We took up the challenge and read George Elliot's 'Middlemarch' over two months during the Summer. We found it an interesting book, beautifully descriptive, but incredibly wordy, due to the period that it was written.

Members and friends visited Stoneleigh Abbey during the Summer, and went on the Jane Austin Tour. The Abbey is a grand building, set in lovely grounds, and it was very enlightening to hear about Jane's brief visit. Our guide was dressed in period costume, which added to the ambiance of the afternoon. At the end of the tour, we all met for tea and cakes in their tea-shop.

Our 6th Charity Event in October, featuring a programme of plays, poems and various pieces of prose, was just as successful as last year, entertaining over 100 people and raising £706, the same amount as in 2009. We were delighted that a group of ladies from St. Andrew's House were able to join us, and they said how much they had enjoyed our afternoon. We invited Val Lewis from Global Care, to read a poem she had written, outlining the work that they undertake.

We continue to visit St. Andrew's House on a monthly basis, and read poems and prose (and sometimes a joke or two), in fact anything that we feel will amuse the residents. When we read a well known poem, we often hear a resident's voice joining in, because they have learnt it at school and always remembered it, which is just wonderful.

One of our non-church members told us recently how very caring she feels our Group is with regard to the contact that we have with St. Andrews. We do all work together well. We celebrated the end of 2010 with a Christmas Lunch in the Centre.

Ann Miles

ST ANDREW'S HOUSE & GLOBAL CARE APPEAL

It was agreed at our May Church meeting in 2010, that we would continue to support St Andrew's House Redevelopment Appeal and Global Care for the next three years, and any non-specific gifts or fund-raising would be split 70%/30% in favour of St. Andrew's.

The total handed over in 2010 to St.Andrew's was £981.65 and to Global Care £276.00. The details are as follows:-

St.Andrew's House

Junior Church	£60.00
Coffee Morning – Brenda and Team	85.65
Austria/Oberammergau talk & tea – Ann & Derek	69.00
Reading Group	490.00
Members	211.00
In lieu of Christmas Cards	<u>66.00</u>
Total for 2010	£981.65

Global Care

Junior Church	£20.00
Reading Group	182.50
Coffee Morning – Brenda and Team	28.50
Austria & Oberammergau talk & tea – Ann & Derek	23.00
In lieu of Christmas Cards	<u>22.00</u>
Total for 2010	£276.00

This was another excellent year's effort, which enabled us to enjoy ourselves in a variety of ways. I would like to thank all of you who have supported the various events, and made individual cash donations.

We have pledged to support these excellent Charities for the next two years at least, so please let's have your ideas as to how we can do this.

Derek Miles

MINISTER'S REPORT

I see from going through my diary for last year that Brenda did not remind me about this report until 1 June, but she told me this year that I could not go away on my sabbatical until it was written!

2010 has been a full and eventful year that has seen changes and sadness but also, I think, a drawing closer of church and centre, a renewed vision for the mission of the church, and an increased sense of the spiritual so necessary in our lives.

I record with sadness the death of two members, Winnie Llewellyn and Maurice Jacobs. Other friends of Warwick Road who died during 2010, were Dennis Whiteley and Margaret Oliver. Jim Elliott, a very regular Church Centre attender at the lunch club and outings, also died.

More joyful occasions were the baptisms of Jonathon Gibbs and James Buckley, as well as the weddings of Rachael Mohomed and Stephen Arkell and also Ellen Clarke and John Twinn. The latter was particularly interesting because the whole occasion was recorded by Channel 4 for a programme called 4 Weddings. A strange day and probably one that I would not like to repeat too often. I am fairly sure Warwick Road has never seen anything like it in the past!

We continued our close links with Bablake Pre Prep School and celebrated Easter, Harvest and Christmas either at the Church or in the school. Once again the children did us proud at Harvest when they supplied, quite literally, a whole car load of produce for display and later distribution.

Ecumenically our links with Central Hall Methodists have grown stronger and we now share evening services, alternating weekly between churches. Also on a more practical level we work closely with them on emergency call outs and locking up of the Church and Centre after hours. The future seems particularly bright in that we are talking about working closely on alternative worship, youth work and mission opportunities in the City Centre. I have regular meetings with the ministers of both Central Hall Methodists and Queens Road Baptist Church, developing close working relationships.

Across the City and beyond, the URC ministers continue to meet fortnightly, and we have worked closely during this Year of Prayer, holding joint Lent and Advent courses, well attended by members of Warwick Road. I am pleased to say that Rugby URC has called and inducted Robert Maloney as their minister, which has released me from my task of Interim Moderator. Robert now meets with us at our regular meetings and I think we provide excellent support for each other in our various ministries.

As a church we have continued looking closely at our mission within the City, and as well as thinking about what makes a healthy church and exploring options regarding City Centre Chaplaincy, I have had discussions with Youth for Christ and spent a day talking about my ministry with a local Roman Catholic School. We have also started the process of a Church Centre review, more of which will happen during 2011.

It is never going to be easy to meet the needs of three churches in a pastorate such as the one I am minister to, especially as there are only 24 hours in any one day! I am frequently disappointed in what I can achieve or in how long things take to do, but this is far outweighed by the joy and fun of being your minister. Looking back, 2010 was a fairly quiet year, even if it didn't feel like it at the time, and already 2011 has brought joy as well as much heartbreak for us all. But you know, I wouldn't change it for the world!

Hopefully, once this goes off by e-mail to Brenda, I can start thinking about sabbatical (after all the Easter services of course). I won't see most of you for several months now, but you will not be out of my thoughts and prayers.

I will let you know all about it when I get back,

God Bless you all,

Yvonne Stone