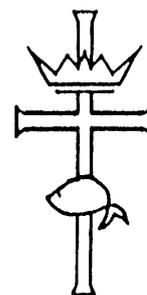


**Benefice of  
Southlake St James  
Woodley**



**in  
The Deanery of Reading**

# Our Vision

**Our vision for Worship** is that it is accessible to all - where each member of the congregation, whatever their age and stage of spiritual journey, is encouraged to be open to the Holy Spirit and new experiences of God.

**Our vision for Outreach** is to be a church 'without walls', reaching out into our community with a clear plan for sharing what we believe and a welcome for all ages.

**Our vision for the Church Family** is for a deepening of relationships with each other as we share a journey of discipleship.

So we are seeking an open evangelical leader who believes passionately in the ministry of the local church to be our new vicar.

This person will guide the church into the next phase of growth with drive, passion and ambition enabling St James to play its part in transforming the lives of people in our community of Woodley and beyond.

We believe God is calling someone who can demonstrate a track record of the following:

- Leading an integrated approach to church and community work that has led to church growth.
- Leading a church in a journey of discipleship and sharing faith through effective Bible based teaching and prayer .
- Leading compassionate and effective pastoral care of a church family through times of change and growth.
- Working with other Christians and churches to achieve God's purpose for the local community.

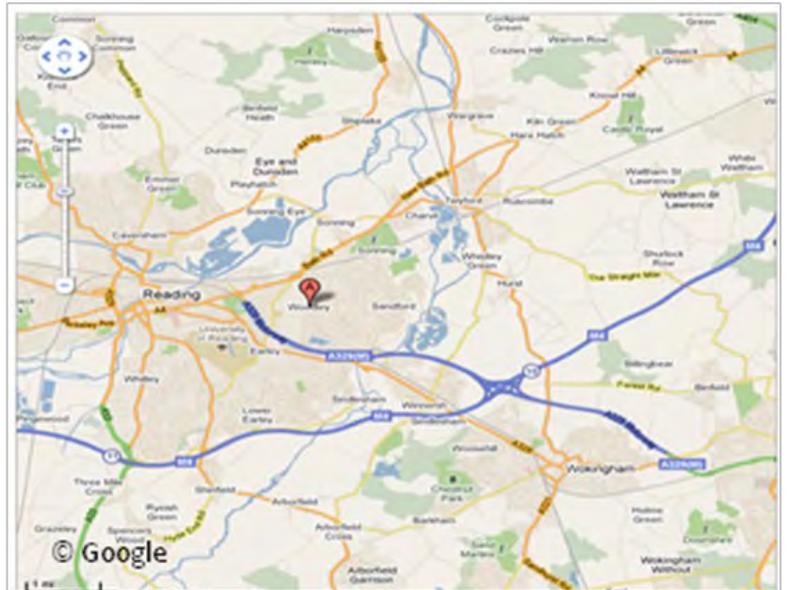
## The communities of Woodley & South Lake

Woodley is a small Berkshire town situated between Reading and Wokingham, close to Junction 10 of the M4.

The ecclesiastical parish of Woodley came into existence in 1881, following the earlier construction of the Church of St John the Evangelist by Robert Palmer in 1873.

Until the 1930s, Woodley was a very small village. At that time an airfield and flying school were opened and in 1932, F.G. Miles came to Woodley founding Miles Aircraft Ltd which continued to manufacture aircraft until after World War II. During the pre-war years many famous aviators landed at Woodley, including Charles Lindbergh and Amy Johnson.

Douglas Bader lost his legs in an accident on the airfield. The aviation tradition of Woodley is remembered through the presence of the Museum of Berkshire Aviation.



After World War II, Woodley continued to grow. Some industries relocated from Reading and new housing developments gave it the residential feel that still characterises Woodley today. In the 1960s, a new town centre replaced the old village shops.



To the casual visitor, Woodley merges into Reading with no discernible boundary. The Airfield estate, built during the 1980s and early 1990s on the former Woodley aerodrome site, is now home to more than 4,000 people - mostly families but also with younger, mobile professionals and a growing number of retired people in owner-occupied houses.

Although Woodley comes under the jurisdiction of Wokingham Borough Council, Reading is the nearest major town with a number of large stores as well as the Oracle Shopping Centre which is ranked as one of the top ten retail outlets in the United Kingdom.

Woodley has good public transport links with two main line rail links to London and a variety of bus routes into Reading and surrounding towns. The nearest stations of Earley and Winnersh Triangle, on the Reading to Waterloo line, are within 30 minutes walking distance or an easy cycle ride. Twyford is on the inter-city route into Paddington.

Although Woodley itself is suburban, it is bordered by a country park, woodland and farmland, and is just 2 to 3 miles away from the River Thames which provides river-based recreational facilities.

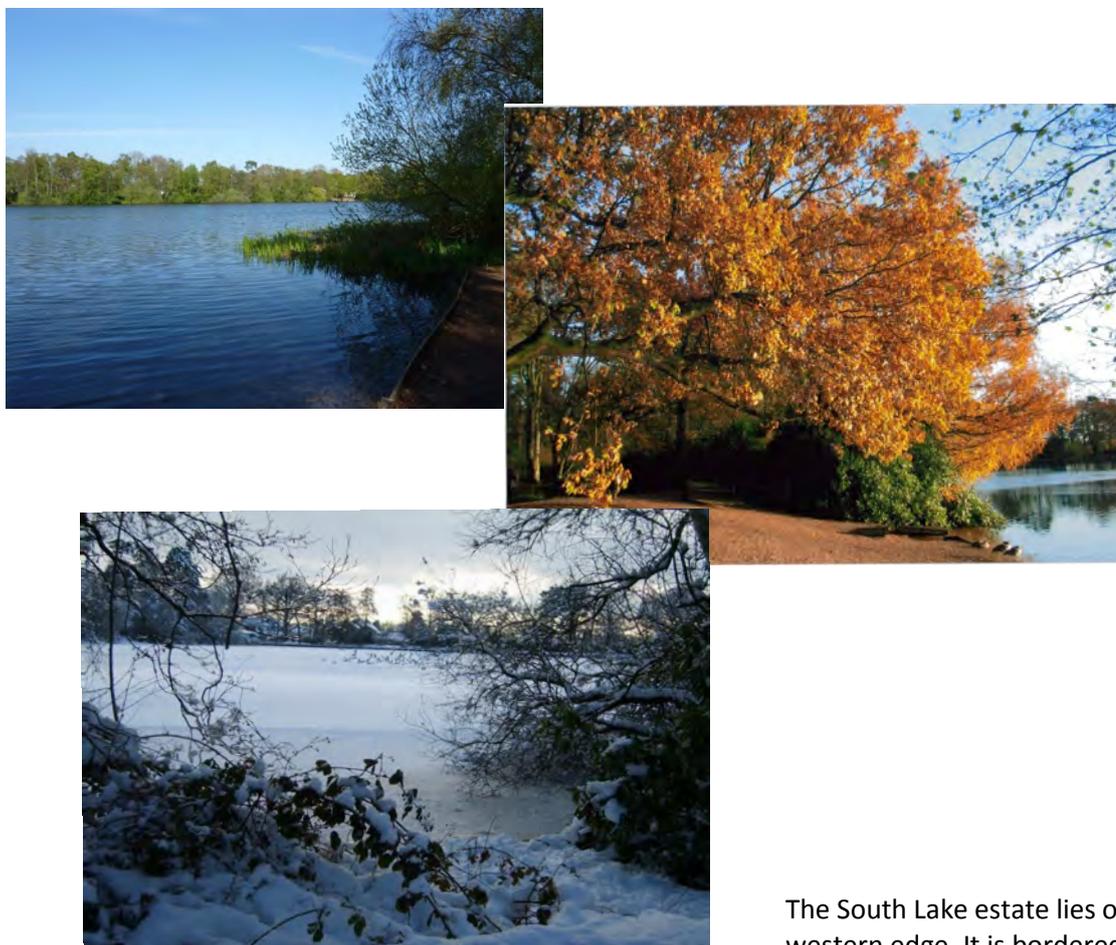
The housing developments, that have contributed so significantly to Woodley’s growth in post-war years, include some detached housing and maisonette accommodation, but the majority of properties are semi-detached. Most houses are privately owned but there is also some social housing and rented accommodation. Latest figures put the population at 26,500 with an estimated 10,000 households.

There is a light industrial area on the edge of the old Woodley Airfield and a number of small offices in different locations around Woodley. There is one main shopping centre (see [www. woodleytowncentre.co.uk](http://www.woodleytowncentre.co.uk)) with a good range of shops, a weekly Saturday market and a monthly farmers’ market. There are also a number of neighbourhood shops in various locations. The main employers in the surrounding area are from the IT and services sectors.

A good proportion of the working population commute from Woodley into London, Reading and other locations.

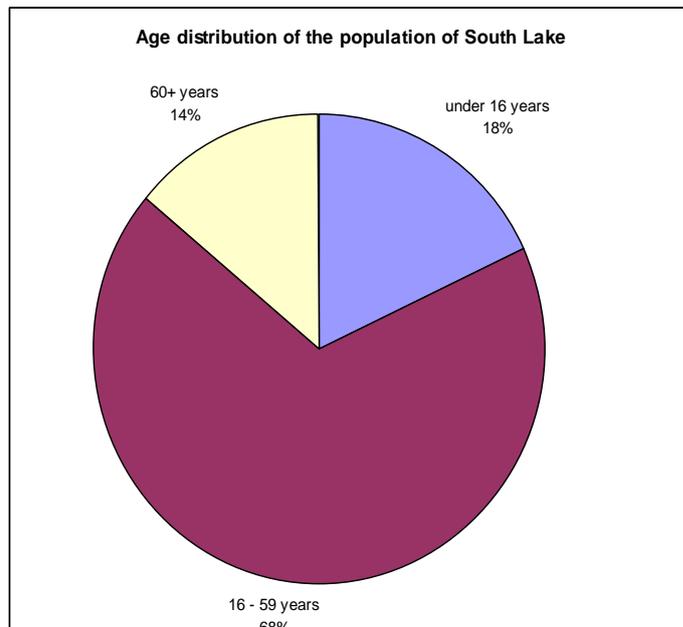
There are 2 secondary schools in Woodley and a number of primary schools and pre-school groups. In addition to the secondary schools in Woodley, Reading has 2 excellent non fee paying, selective schools to which Woodley children may apply—Kendrick School for girls and Reading School for boys.

## South Lake



The South Lake estate lies on Woodley’s south western edge. It is bordered to the south by the Reading-Waterloo railway line. Within the estate there are a number of open green spaces including the lake and its adjoining woodland which are both close to the church building. Today the lake, together with its environs, provides a “lung” for the local population.

The housing estate was built between the mid 1960s and mid 1970s around the South Lake of the old Bulmershe Park estate .



There are 2 primary schools—Highwood and South Lake—within the South Lake Estate. The Bulmershe Comprehensive School and the newly built, re-located Addington School for pupils with special educational needs lie just outside the boundaries of the estate.

## The Benefice of St James

St James' has always been within the open evangelical tradition of the Church of England.

Following a church consultation in 2008, the PCC adopted the following principles for the period 2008-2011:

- To provide quality worship for all ages.
- To be a place to belong and grow – a community.
- To engage with and serve those around us.

Over the intervening years St James' has been registered as both a Fair Trade Church and an eco-congregation.

As part of the process of preparing this profile the PCC, with input from the congregation, has put together a vision statement for the next five years and it can be found at the front of this document.

## Historical background

In 1966, members of a church in Reading were asked by the vicar of St John's Church in Woodley to start house to house visiting on the South Lake estate. In 1969, St John's became fully responsible for the overall ministry, and weekly family services were started in a local school. St. James' Church Centre was opened in 1974. Curates were appointed to St James' until the creation of the Team Ministry and a separate Parish of Southlake in 1992, when the first Team Vicar was appointed. The Team Ministry was suspended in 2007 and replaced with a Group Ministry. A Pastoral Scheme was approved in March 2009, creating the new Benefice of St James within the Reading Deanery. The population of the current parish is about 6000.

## Current developments

A Draft Pastoral Scheme has been drawn up and approved and will take effect from the 1st April 2012. The scheme will create an enlarged Benefice of St James. An area to the north of our existing boundaries will be taken from St Johns' and added to our parish. This is an exciting new challenge for St James' as we look to find ways of being a relevant, active church to the community in our new area. The northern proposed extension will encompass a primary school, one of the Woodley secondary schools and a newly built, but well established, school for children with special educational needs. We already have positive links and relationships in the local primary school. There are also three complexes for senior citizens and it is an area of mixed residential development.

We hope that our new vicar will inspire and encourage us to reach out into this area, to love and serve the community in the name of Christ.

An area to the east of St James' existing parish, also currently part of St John's, will be within the newly formed St James' benefice and will be the Conventional District of Emmanuel. This pastoral reorganisation will mean that Woodley will have two benefices of similar geographic size and population numbers, St James' Benefice doubling in the number of parishioners to about 12,000, enabling the churches to serve their communities more effectively. (More information about this pastoral re-organisation can be found on page 23)



## The Buildings

### *St James' Church Centre*



The Church Centre is situated in its own grounds close to the western edge of the South Lake estate. The original building was completed in 1974, but since that date it has been extended twice. In 1984 the size of the worship area was doubled and in 1991 the worship area was extended again, a lounge was added and existing facilities improved to accommodate a growing and vibrant church family. There is no churchyard.

The accommodation in the Centre is flexible and consists of a worship area, a lounge, a room used primarily by the pre-school group, the church office, a kitchen and toilets. Both the worship area and the lounge can be partitioned to meet the needs of groups and activities and to ensure efficient use of the building. A number of church and community groups make extensive use of the facilities during the week and the Centre is also available for private hire.



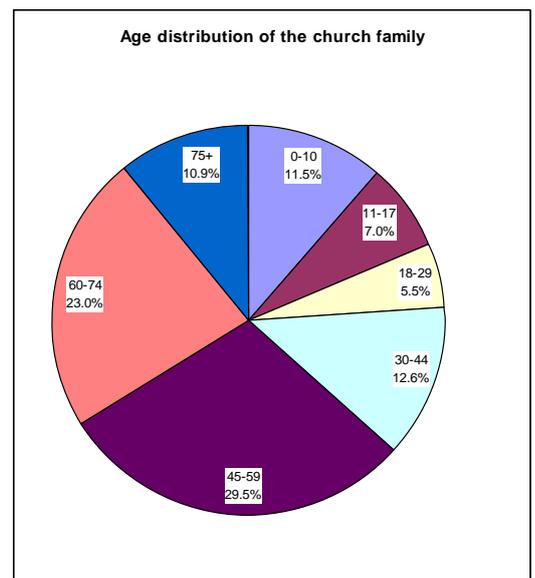
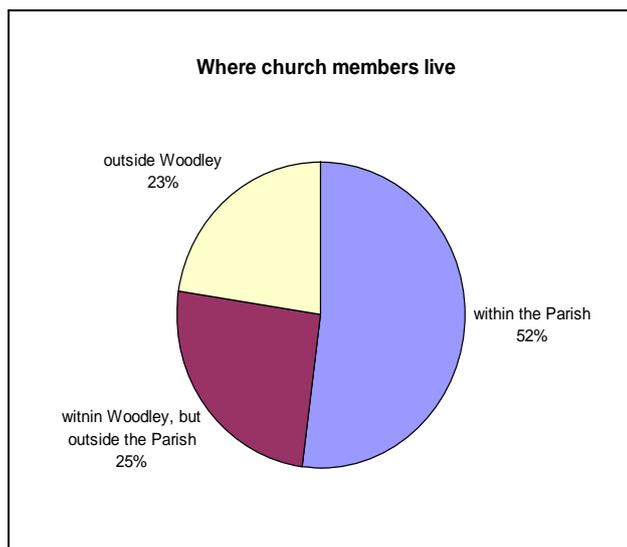
### *The Vicarage*

The vicarage is a 5-bedroom, semi-detached house on the edge of the South Lake estate within walking distance of the church and adjoining one of the local primary schools. Ground floor accommodation comprises a living room, a kitchen/dining area, utility room, hall, study and a ground floor toilet & shower room. On the first floor are the bedrooms and a bathroom. The house has double-glazing and gas-fired central heating. The front of the house faces onto a footpath and playing fields. There is a small garden, garage and car port to the rear with access from a service road. There is pedestrian access to the front door via a footpath from the nearby road.



## Membership profile of St James'

There are currently 151 on the electoral roll, of which 52% live within the parish. All ages are represented in the congregation; an age profile of the church membership is shown below. All classes are represented, but there is a strong bias towards educated professionals. There is also a cultural diversity within the congregation and various nationalities represented.



## The Parish Team

The church employs three members of staff:



The church administrator, Mrs Janice Parker. Janice is based in the church office and works five mornings a week from 9am to 1pm.



The Church Children's worker, Mrs Linda Galpin. Linda is employed for about 12 hours per week co-ordinating, planning and helping to lead the children's work in the church. In addition, Linda leads the work of REInspired Woodley through which she, along with a group of volunteers from all the churches in Woodley, delivers RE lessons on Christianity across all the primary schools in Woodley.



The Woodley Anglican Youth Minister, Mr Ian Mullens. Ian is employed full-time by St James', but is financially supported by, and works on behalf of, all the Anglican churches in Woodley co-ordinating and leading the youth work.

The work of the church couldn't happen without the involvement of many volunteers from within the church family with a wide range of talents and gifts. Most of the church activities are staffed by volunteers, sometimes under the guidance of a staff member.

Worship is no exception to this. The benefice Lay Minister (Dr. David Fulford), an LLM with permission to officiate, an active retired clergyman (the Rev. Tony Coulson), our OLM candidate in training, another ordinand, 2 members of the congregation with authorisation to preach and a number of lay people of all ages assist the Vicar in leading worship and preaching.

The Parochial Church Council is an integral part of the Parish team and consists of the wardens, 12 elected representatives (increased from 9 at the 2011 APCM), 3 Deanery Synod representatives and a Lay Minister.

There are three main committees:

- The Standing Committee which meets monthly.
- A Fabric Committee with responsibility for looking after the building on a day-to-day basis.
- The Mission Support Group with responsibility for looking after the church's involvement in mission at home and overseas, including the allocation of gifts to organisations and individuals.

Other committees or working groups are formed when required to carry out particular tasks.

## Contact details

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Woodley  
Reading  
RG5 3LH

Tel: 0118 966 2568

E-mail: [stjamescc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:stjamescc@tiscali.co.uk)

[www.stjameswoodley.org](http://www.stjameswoodley.org)

# Services



Messy Church



Morning Worship



Café Style



Messy Church

## Sunday services

9am Holy Communion(Common Worship). Average attendance 15

10.30am

All-Age Service, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month  
 Morning Worship, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
 Holy Communion(Common Worship) 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

Average attendances are 93 adults and 19 children under 16.

4pm

Messy Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.  
 Average attendance 20 adults and 20 children



All Age



Messy Church

## Midweek Service

10am

Holy Communion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.  
 Average attendance 10



All Age



Early Morning Communion



All Age



All Age



Our worship has a contemporary feel and, whilst following the liturgy from Common Worship, services are quite informal. We have an able Music Group, made up of musicians and vocalists who support our worship, including a number of children and young people who we encourage to be actively involved in the music, particularly for All- Age services and on special occasions.



At Christmas, Easter and Harvest we have a special programme of services, planned to cater for all ages and needs in the congregation, the parish and local community. Particularly at Christmas we welcome between 400 and 450 adults and children to the two Christingle services on Christmas Eve.

As previously mentioned, there is active lay participation in the planning and leading of worship and teaching. The preaching and ministry is based on God's authority as expressed in the Bible and is sensitive to the Holy Spirit. There is generally no set pattern of robing for Sunday services except for Holy Communion where robes are usually worn.



Apart from All Age services we have children's and young people's groups on Sunday mornings and a crèche area with toys. There are also toy bags which parents can use with their young children. The children's slot in the service is a highlight for adults and youngsters alike!

In recent months we have been trialling a café style church for the occasional Sunday morning worship. This has met with a qualified success, with a good number of the church family very enthusiastic, although there are others who are still unsure of this style of worship. Every Sunday there is an opportunity after services for chatting and fellowship over a cup of coffee or tea.



We have occasional opportunities for worship on Sunday evenings, joining with other Christians in the town for United Services and Free2b (Spring Harvest/New Wine type worship and ministry event).

The midweek Communion service coincides with the Rendezvous group meeting. This is our senior citizens' group and the congregation for the service is made up predominantly from Rendezvous members.

Messy Church began as a cross church initiative in April 2010, since when, building on its success, two of the other local churches have started their own. The numbers attending are growing. There is a mix of church families and those who only come to Messy Church and who are beginning to look on this monthly event as their church. It is an exciting development with a committed and dedicated team from the church family planning, preparing and delivering great themed activities and celebration and providing marvellous meals for everyone each month.



In 2011 there were 8 baptisms at St James'.

Most Anglican church weddings in Woodley take place at St John's Church. There were none at St James' in 2011 but we are planning for 2 weddings and one Blessing of a Marriage in 2012.

There was 1 funeral in the church in 2011 and the Vicar shares responsibility with the other Woodley clergy for taking funerals at the Crematorium for Woodley people. During the first 5 months of 2011, the Vicar took 8 funeral services at the Crematorium and our associate priest took 6 funerals. Janice Parker administers funeral arrangements for all Anglican funerals in Woodley, liaising with the funeral directors and clergy.

## Children and Young People

We have a number of children's and youth groups meeting on Sundays and during the week.

On Sunday mornings, children from age 3 to 10 have their groups called Climbers (7 on the register) and Explorers (10 on the register). Young people aged 10-14 have a Pathfinder Group (currently there are 8 on the register) and we have enthusiastic and committed leaders supported by our Children's Worker. Children's groups meet during the morning service but are still a very important part of worship at the beginning and end of each service. They do not usually meet during main school holidays to allow time for rest and refreshment for leaders.

With the employment of a full time Youth Minister, the young people's work across the Anglican churches in Woodley has grown. There is a co-ordinated programme:

- **WAVE** – a Christian Youth Group for Years 7 and 8 meeting at St James' on a Friday evening with an average attendance of 15.
- **FISH** – a Christian Youth Group for Years 9-11 meets at Emmanuel on a Sunday evening (average attendance 20) and 7 or 8 in an older group who call themselves **BIG FISH!** and they too meet on a Sunday evening, in a local home. The older group operates as a cell group.



- **BLAST** – an Open Youth Club which meets at Emmanuel Church on Monday evenings and attracts 20 – 25 youngsters. It is for years 6-8. It is followed by a late drop-in—**THE EDGE** for those in years 12 and 13.
- **CONNECT** - also at Emmanuel, an Open Youth Club Drop-in for years 9-11 meets on Wednesday evenings.
- **HOT CHOCOLATE CHURCH**—meets on Thursdays.

The range of evening youth groups means we provide targeted activities for 11-18 year olds from both church and non-church backgrounds and manage to reach out to many different groups of young people. Out of these groups come many one-to-one mentoring sessions, small groups and projects that meet after school - from Bible studies through to work with those at risk of school exclusion.



Our close working relationship with JAC (Just Around the Corner) Youth Outreach ([www.jacoutreach.org](http://www.jacoutreach.org)) gives us more opportunities to connect with harder to reach young people on the streets through JAC's detached youth work, whilst also being a great source of resource and support to our youth ministry.

**RAINBOW TODDLERS** – meets on Wednesday afternoons and is for babies, toddlers and their parents, grandparents and carers. People from the church run the group providing craft activities, toys, story and singing time and refreshments for all who come from our local community.

**ST JAMES' PRE-SCHOOL** started in 1974, almost as soon as the Church Centre opened. It was organised by a group of Mums, mostly members of the church family who recognised the need for pre-school provision for the many young families moving into Woodley in the 1970s. It is an important part of the church life at St James' and the support of the Church has been vital in ensuring that the Pre-School has grown and developed over the years, despite low numbers at certain points. The Pre-School, which is OFSTED Registered, is currently thriving and the overall quality of the provision was judged to be GOOD at the OFSTED inspection in May this year. It has also recently been highly rated by Wokingham Borough Council. Once a year, the Pre-School families are especially invited to an All Age Service when we celebrate Pre-School Sunday.



**HANDS OF HOPE PUPPET GROUP** started in St James' in 2003. It recognises and uses the talent of some of our young people who train hard to take part in our worship, particularly on special occasions. They also contribute to



the Woodley churches' involvement in Woodley Carnival and opportunities for witness in the shopping precinct. They have also been able to share their skills and talent with the residents of a local residential home. They have participated in competitions, gaining a 1<sup>st</sup> place and two silver medals at The European Puppet Festival.



## Other Organisations and Activities

**MAINLY MEN** and **WOMEN ON WALKS (WOW)** are 2 groups who go for walks every other Tuesday and are made up of those from church and some of their friends who are available during the day. Another group walks on occasional Saturday mornings. We find these groups provide opportunities for supporting each other, time to chat whilst enjoying the local countryside, plenty of fresh air and healthy exercise.



**HOMEGROUPS.** 5 homegroups meet on a regular basis for Bible Study, prayer, sharing and fellowship. About 40 adults are currently involved in the groups and appreciate the friendships made and support given by members of the group to each other. Four of the groups meet on Wednesdays, one during the day and the others in the evening. The fifth group meets on a Tuesday evening. Sometimes all the groups study from the same material and they also have the opportunity to choose their own materials to suit the members of the group.

**SOUTHLAKE MEN'S GROUP** provides a good opportunity on an occasional basis for the men and their friends to enjoy each other's company on evenings out perhaps for a curry, skittles or a visit to a brewery. Some also enjoy going to the Reading Churches Men's Breakfasts to hear very interesting and inspiring speakers.

Rendezvous



**RENDEZVOUS** caters for the over 60s in the community. A group from the church family faithfully runs Rendezvous, including providing transport for members. They enjoy a varied programme with time to chat, speakers, occasional meals together and strawberries and cream in the summer. Rendezvous meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday mornings of the month.

**SANDWICH BAR** happens between 12 noon and 2pm on Thursdays during term time. It is run by members of the church, providing light lunches for anyone from the church or wider community, particularly the parents/carers of children from Pre-School and a number of older people.



Many church members are involved in serving the church in practical ways – the unsung heroes of the cleaning rota, the talented flower arrangers, the skilled musicians and singers of the Music Group, the practical support from sidespeople at Sunday services, the practical skills of the Fabric committee and the welcome refreshments provided by those on the coffee rota and others who cater for events.

From time to time, we have 'bring and share lunches' after morning worship on a Sunday and there are a number of occasions throughout the year when we get together to share a meal and have fun together. Harvest Suppers and an Agape meal around Easter time are particular highlights and we always enjoy the excellent food that is cooked for us. As part of our love and care for bereaved members of the congregation and others with whom we have contact, we can provide refreshments for families and friends in the church centre after funeral services.



A number of community groups including Rainbow Guides, Brownies and Guides use the church centre buildings regularly. The Borough Council uses the premises as a Polling station for local and national elections.

From time to time, the Diocese uses the church centre as a venue for training courses.

## Pastoral

We aim to care for one another and those we care about in our families and community in the most appropriate ways. Prayer support is an important part of the life of the church family and an active prayer chain enables a large number of the church family to respond to the prayer needs of individuals and situations as they arise. This mainly happens via e-mail but those without internet access are phoned with the prayer requests. A prayer ministry team is available to pray with folk after Sunday services. Those in the team have undertaken some training.

The visiting team will visit members in hospital, ill at home, after bereavement and to keep in touch with one another. We aim to visit families of children baptised at the church annually, till the child is 5 years old, around the time of the anniversary of their baptism to deliver a card. Home Communion is also offered to the housebound.

In the wider context of Woodley:

- The Link Visiting Scheme is a registered charity supported by Wokingham Borough Council and the local churches; a number of the church family are involved in this befriending service for the elderly.
- Contact the Elderly is a national charity which provides friendship and activities for elderly people who might be lonely and not be able to get out much to socialise. A number of folk in the church help organise and host Sunday afternoon teas.
- The St John's Woodley Contact Centre is a place where children living with one parent can meet and spend time with the other parent. Christian volunteers run the centre and there are a number of St James' folk who serve in this way.

For details of some of the wider projects undertaken by churches in Wokingham and Reading, including the Link Visiting Scheme, referred to above please visit [www.the-network.info](http://www.the-network.info)

## Mission and Outreach

Some members of the church are actively involved either professionally or on a voluntary basis in mission, both worldwide and locally.

St James' is keen to support the work of the wider church and this is expressed through our current links to mission partners around the world and to Christian organisations in this country and within the local community. Our financial support is reflected through a commitment of giving 20% of our income to these causes and there is a strong sense of our mission partners being an important part of our Church family, through regular news and prayer updates.

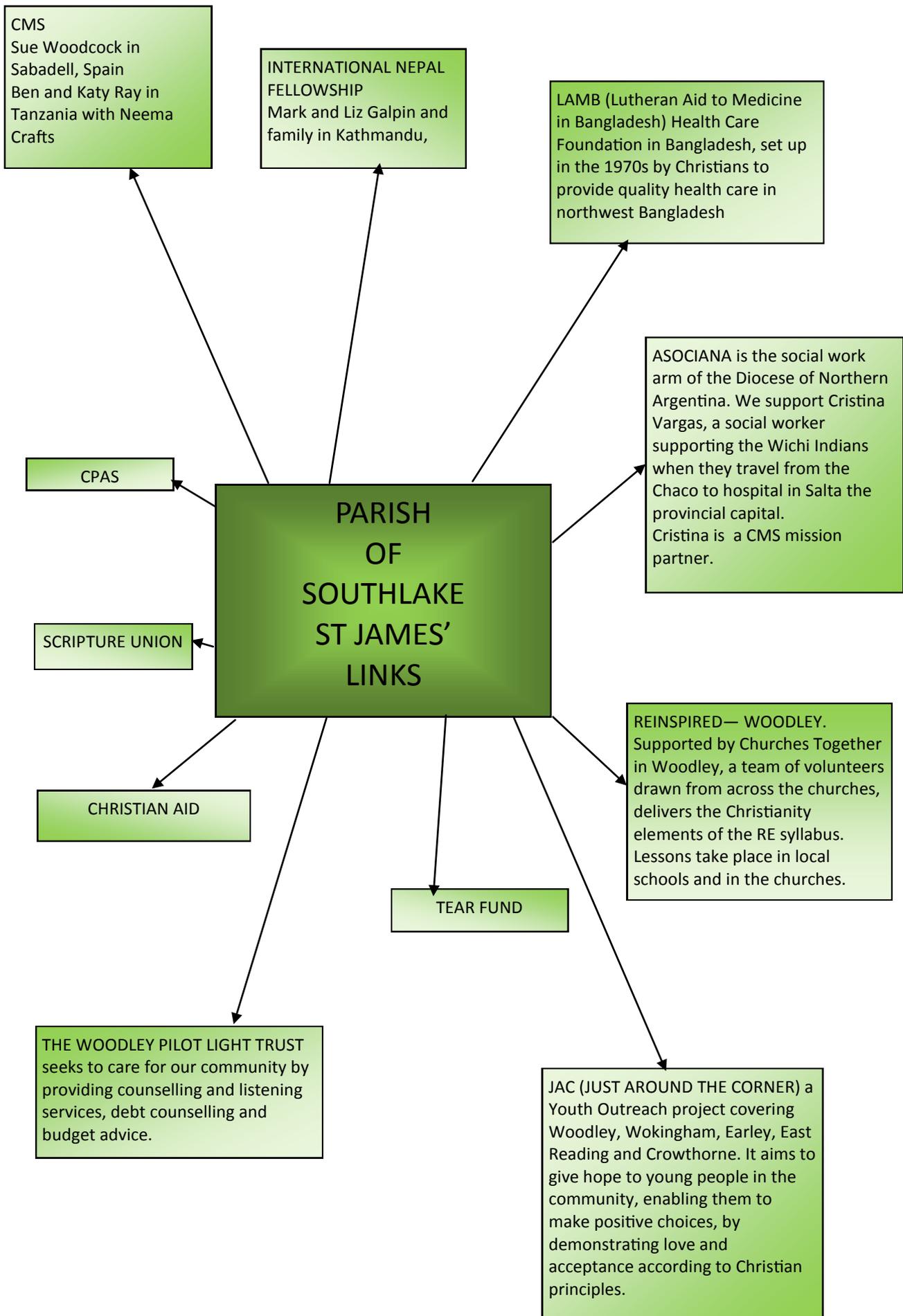
In addition, there are 3 families in the church who are ex-mission partners and 2 families have relatives working as mission partners. Over the years of the life of the church at least 8 people have moved on from St James' to train for ministry in this country and overseas.

Alpha has been part of the outreach of the church although not run in recent years. An Emmaus course ran successfully last year. A very important part of our new outreach has been Messy Church that has successfully involved new unchurched families in St James for the first time. In addition the youthwork outlined on page 12 is a vital outreach ministry and has had a tangible impact in the lives of many young people both inside and outside the churches and it is linked closely with the work of the JAC charity.

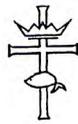
Additional outreach carried out by the churches working together in Woodley includes very well attended family Fundays, a variety of seasonal events such as 'Praise in the Park' at Carnival time; and, over the last 2 years a 'New Wine/ Spring Harvest' type worship and prayer ministry evening run 5 times a year in different churches across Woodley entitled 'free2B'. See Facebook for more details.

## Developments in Maintenance

The PCC has commissioned a feasibility study to look at the options for the future of the St James building. The feasibility study will be based on resolving the current roof problems and ensuring a 50 year design life with minimum maintenance. A building project delivery team has been put in place and the team has already scoped a range of exciting options for dealing with the priority issues whilst increasing the capacity of the building for both worship and functional use in line with our vision for growth. The options will be fully and prayerfully tested and considered through the process and fund raising for the initial stages is already well underway.



The Financial Position of St James' as reported to the  
APCM in April 2011



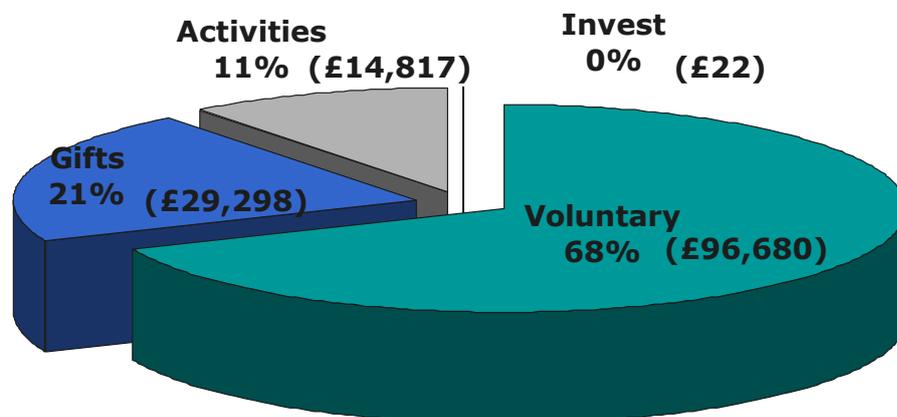
## Income summary 2010 (1)

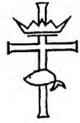
- Total income to the church was £140,817, of which £93,200 was accounted as general fund donor income.
- Other major income included £29,298 raised for specific restricted funds including support for:
  - the Milligans in their work on the JAC project;
  - the employment of a Youth Minister and of a part-time Children's Worker;
  - Sandwich Bar activities; and
  - the health worker project in Northern Argentina (Asociana).



## Income in 2010

**Total: £140,817**





## Income summary 2010 (2)

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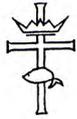
- Gift Aided planned giving was 6.5% higher than in 2009, yielding £65,053, with restricted gifts to support Youth and Children's Worker employment amongst other things raising £25,742.
- Recoverable income tax for General Funds amounted to £14,072, with a further £2,380 attaching to restricted fund donations, mainly attributed to JAC and Asociana project work.
- Lettings income recovered in 2010 to £6,894, mainly due to Pre-school making regular contributions for the use of Church Centre facilities.



## Expenditure summary 2010

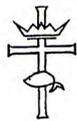
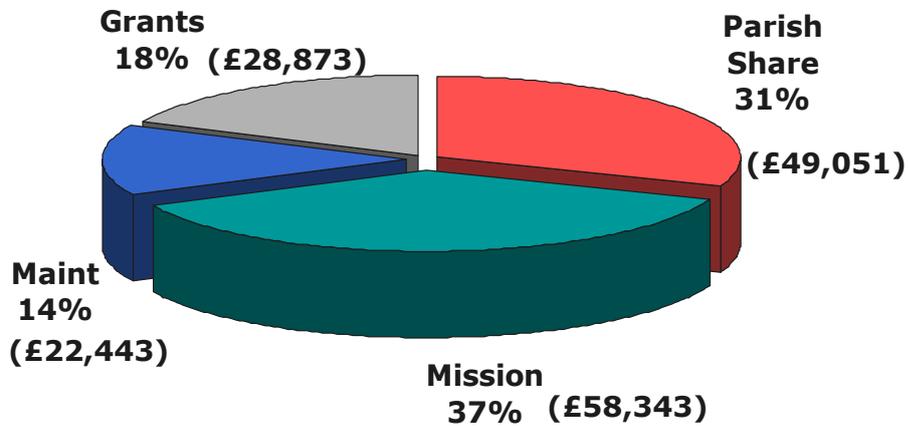
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- Costs have remained broadly in line with the annual budget, with a total expenditure of £158,711.
- The major item of expenditure was, as usual, the Parish Share – this was set at £49,051 in 2010 and was paid in full by the end of the financial year.
- The PCC managed a tithe of 20% of the total incoming resources, amounting to £28,873 for the year. See following table for breakdown expenditure.



## Expenditure in 2010

**Total: £158,710**



## Tithe spending - grants

	General (£)	Restricted (£)
CMS	2160	
Church Army	1,020	
CPAS	800	
SU	600	
Appeals (special)	2,111	-
Tear Fund	800	-
JAC	600	-
Asociana	-	2000
Milligan Support	400	12,924
INF	1,080	-
Other	4,378	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,949</b>	<b>14,924</b>

**Note :**  
**£28,873 / £140,817 =**  
**20.5% of income**



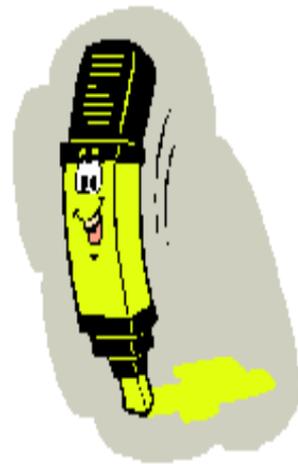
## Repair liabilities

- The PCC has a liability to carry out repairs to the church building as identified by the quinquennial inspection carried out in 2009.
- This work includes structural modifications to the church roof, estimated to cost around £85,000.
- The PCC are considering fundraising options to cover the cost of this work.



## Budget issues to highlight

- Parish Share now at £50.6K for 2011  
– **roughly 3% increase on 2010**
- We now have regular income and one off gifts to fund a full time youth worker post for one further year from August 2011 as well as a part time children's worker post. **SO ...**
- Challenges in 2011 are future Youth Work funding and the roof !
- **Average giving at St James is currently around £10.50 per week (£544 per year)**



## St James' and Emmanuel working closer together

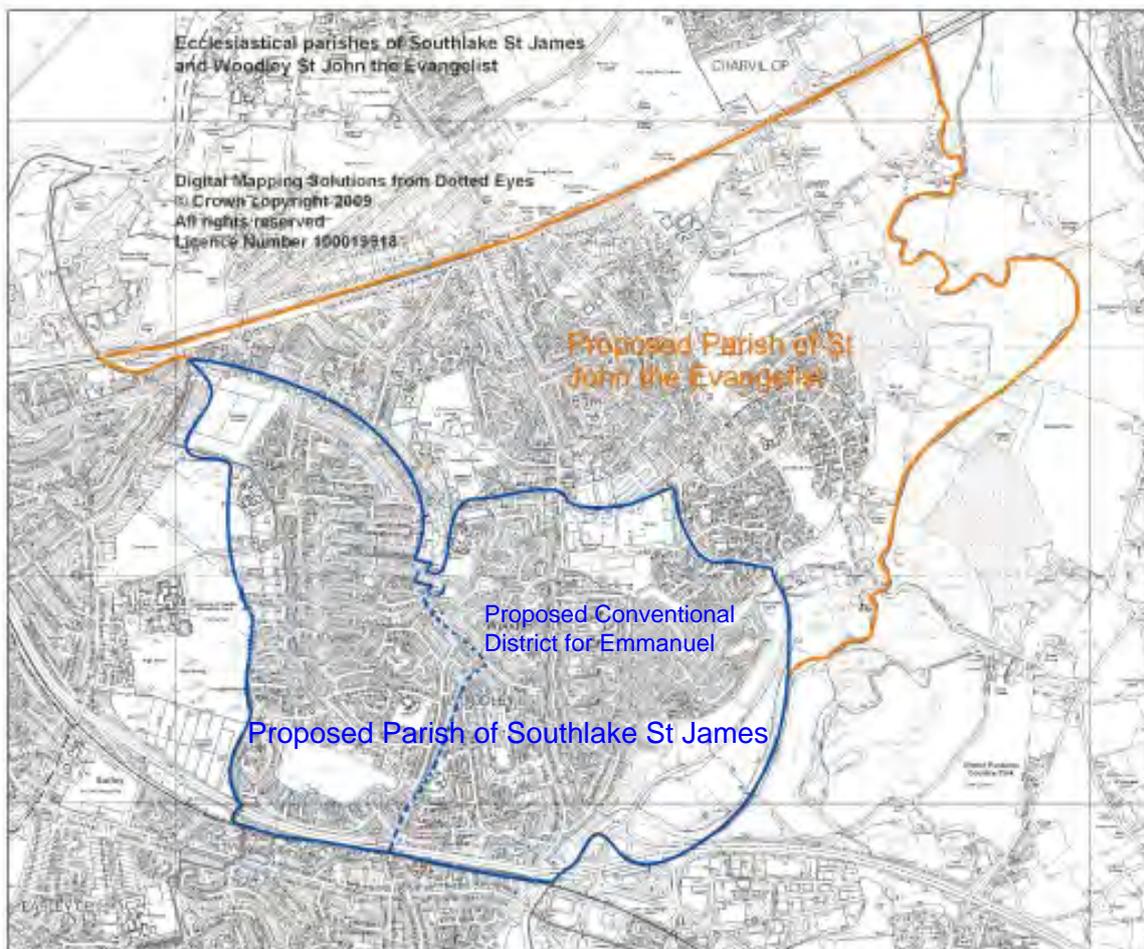
The PCCs of St James and Emmanuel Church are delighted that from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 Emmanuel Church will become a Conventional District within the significantly increased geographical parish of Southlake St James.

This change has come about both as a result of a rationalisation of the parish boundaries with St John's Woodley and St Peter's Earley and a mutual decision by the Woodley churches that becoming part of a larger St James' parish was the preferred option for Emmanuel over the historical links with St John's. There are close ties between the two churches particularly with shared youth work, a similar worship tradition and similar local demography. It is intended that both churches will continue to work with St John's and with the other Churches in Woodley through the existing Churches Together and fraternal structure.

St James' Church is pleased to have the opportunity to serve a larger parish together with Emmanuel and to have a structure that encourages closer co-operation between the 2 churches. Emmanuel church is pleased to have more autonomy and the opportunity to run its own affairs including finances through its own PCC.

The leadership of both churches have agreed their intent to work towards more co-operation whilst maintaining the distinctiveness and autonomy that Emmanuel merits. Sean Riordan the Associate Minister at Emmanuel will become the Priest in Charge from 1<sup>st</sup> April and has made it clear that he remains committed to Emmanuel for at least the next 5 years. St James' and Emmanuel are together recruiting the vicar for the Parish of St James Southlake recognising that the new incumbent will have legal responsibility across the whole parish and would be required to consent to any future appointment at Emmanuel. The parish representatives are clear that the right person will be happy to work on the basis of a partnership of equals with Emmanuel and Sean to serve the parish to the glory of God and in pursuit of the churches' mission to transform our community through sharing the love of Christ.

MAP SHOWING THE NEW PARISH BOUNDARIES



# Emmanuel Church

([www.emmanuel-woodley.org](http://www.emmanuel-woodley.org))



## OUR VISION

To impact and influence individuals and the community with the good news of Jesus

Emmanuel Church was planted in 1991 with a team of 12 people from local Anglican churches and a Church Army evangelist. The building is owned by St John's Woodley and is extensively used by community-based groups during the week as well as for youth groups and other church initiatives. It was originally built in the 1960s as the church hall for St John's.



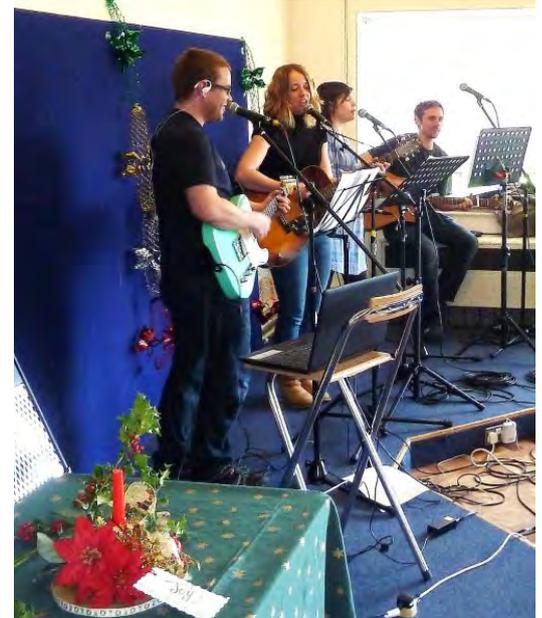
Within the proposed Conventional District there is one primary school, a new complex for older people as well as a Care Home, the light industrial and business park and the Woodley Day Centre next door to the Emmanuel building. The parish boundary in the East runs along the River Loddon for a short distance on the edge of Dinton Pastures Country Park.

The local community adjacent to Emmanuel is a mix of predominantly council housing but also with a good number of ex-council houses and privately owned homes.



## Services

There is one service each Sunday morning.  
The worship is very informal and a little like New Wine in terms of style.  
We feel the informality is key to our effectiveness in reaching out.  
There is a midweek Holy Communion service.



## Children and Young People

There are about 60 under 16s on the books for the Sunday LIGHT groups with an average weekly attendance of 30.  
A lot of the youth group activities use Emmanuel because the building and grounds lend themselves well.

## Membership Profile of Emmanuel

There is an average attendance of 100, each Sunday of which a third or more are under 16. There are 80 on the electoral roll.



## Other Organisations and Activities

As a strategy for "level one" evangelism, we are trying to build relationships by placing renewed emphasis on community engagement through events that are accessible and interesting to local people :

Launch of Little Gems toddler group,  
Summer Fete,  
Christmas Fayre,  
Songs and puppets evening for nearby retirement centre,  
Men's breakfasts

We regularly run Alpha or Christianity Explored where course numbers vary from 3 to 20.

Our goal over the next 3 years is to evolve 3 new faith communities for :

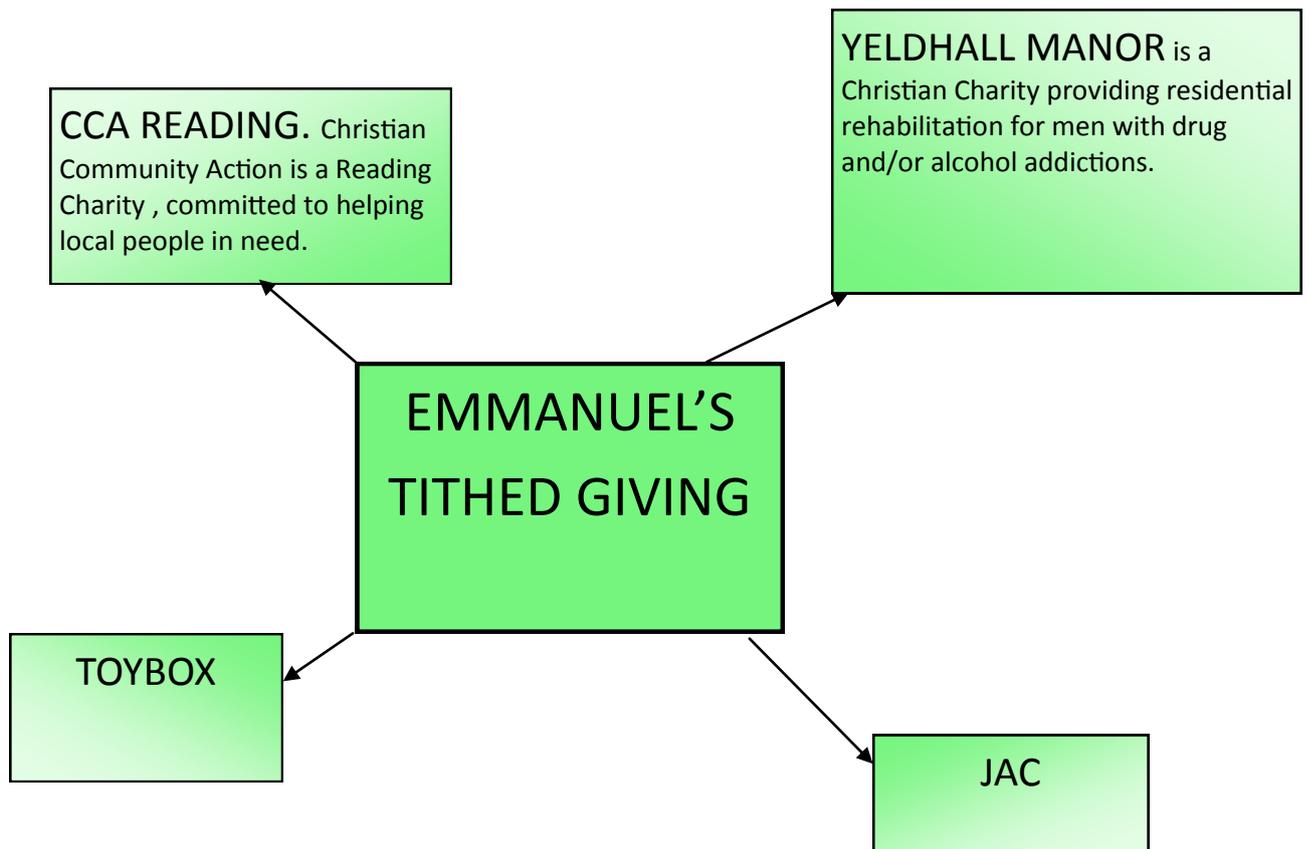
- non-church youth,
- mums and carers
- retired people

(At the same time, we are very open to God redirecting us if He wants to).

We have identified 6 means for helping us achieve this (not all of which are in place!) :

1. Prayer
2. More and better leaders
3. More and better disciples
4. Appointment of a families worker
5. More and better space in our building (initially provision of an on site office and reception area)
6. Funding.

Homegroups are very important to us. However, at present we have only 4 groups - though these are well-led and well attended. As we grow new leaders, we hope to see new groups established.



Emmanuel Church also has strong links with a Kenyan Orphanage and AIDS co-operative.

**EMMANUEL CHURCH**  
**FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31/12/2011**  
**AND 2012 BUDGET**

	2011 Budget	2011 year end forecast	Dec 2011	Jan-Dec 2011	2012 Budget
SO - Gift Aid	£28,500	£30,855	£2,830	£31,515	£29,700
SO - Not Gift Aid	£7,689	£8,186	£517	£6,689	£6,729
Tax on Gift Aid	£7,339	£7,714	£708	£8,134	£7,425
One-off Gift Aid	£0	£396	£350	£680	£0
Tax on one-off Gift Aid	£0	£99	£88	£174	£0
Plate and Other Donations	£300	£430	£23	£313	£300
Interest	£15	£15	£3	£18	£15
Hall Lettings	£16,419	£15,972	£1,889	£16,006	£14,279
Sundry donations	£100	£3,500	£542	£5,609	£100
Insurance Claims	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£60,362</b>	<b>£67,166</b>	<b>£6,949</b>	<b>£69,138</b>	<b>£58,548</b>
Mission	£4,353	£4,675	£530	£4,830	£4,385
Discretionary giving	£200	£100	£351	£368	£200
Quota	£34,957	£34,957	£0	£34,957	£34,957
Clergy Expenses	£2,000	£1,500	£132	£1,350	£1,750
Upkeep of Service	£500	£650	£252	£776	£650
Light	£400	£350	£16	£295	£350
Training Courses	£300	£1,899	£0	£1,599	£500
Puppets	£750	£500	£0	£750	£0
Outreach	£630	£823	£31	£808	£823
Hall - Gas Electric Water	£3,500	£6,092	£434	£5,432	£5,464
Hall - Insurance	£1,257	£1,290	£0	£1,290	£1,290
Hall - Cleaning	£2,000	£2,100	£183	£2,093	£2,100
Hall - Repairs	£1,000	£150	£0	£110	£1,000
Hall - Other Costs	£1,000	£300	£0	£211	£500
Hall - Waste Disposal	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Hall - PA Equipment	£500	£500	£0	£500	£500
Hall - Replacements	£0	£1,500	£0	£0	£0
Hall - Portacabin	£200	£10	£0	£7	£0
Gardening	£100	£0	£124	£124	£0
Support Costs	£300	£250	£0	£271	£250
Other Costs	£150	£250	£505	£704	£250
Recruitment	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Team Youthwork	£6,500	£6,098	£458	£6,129	£6,500
Printing & stationary	£500	£500	£5	£383	£500
Salaries	£3,057	£3,057	£260	£3,120	£3,057
Bank charges	£5		£0	£0	
	<b>£64,159</b>	<b>£67,551</b>	<b>£3,281</b>	<b>£66,107</b>	<b>£65,026</b>
<b>Movement</b>	<b>-£3,797</b>	<b>-£385</b>	<b>£3,668</b>	<b>£3,031</b>	<b>-£6,478</b>
<b>Working Balance</b>	<b>£20,037</b>	<b>£18,887</b>	<b>£22,080</b>	<b>£22,080</b>	<b>£12,408</b>
<b>Minimum Wkg Balance</b>	<b>£10,693</b>				

## Other Churches in the Area

### St John the Evangelist - Anglican

St John the Evangelist was built in 1871, with an extension built in the mid 1980s to provide additional seating and a Chapel. A grade 2 listed building, this is the "old" Parish Church. The St John's church centre (formerly the old C of E school) is adjacent and was taken over by the Church from the local council in the early 1990s. It is used by various church and local groups and provides space for the Church office. The current Vicar is The Rev Eddie Marquez.

### Airfield Church – Anglican & Methodist/URC

The Airfield Church began life as a Church plant by members of St John's and of Christ Church, Woodley (Methodist & URC) in 1994 to be a Christian witness and to offer worship within the community which is accessible to those who are open to meeting with God but are not used to going to church.

Services are held in the Church of England School in the centre of the estate and smaller meetings are held in members' homes. The leadership of the services is shared between members of the Anglican team (clergy and LLMs), the local Methodist / URC Minister and a Methodist Lay Worker.

### St John Bosco – Catholic

The parish of St John Bosco was established in 1946, and a church built in Woodley Centre, with the help of Reading's Polish community. A hall was later added, and from 1956 served as a school run by the Sisters of Mercy from Abingdon. In the same year, the St John Bosco Convent School was opened, and in 1960 the parish centre was moved to Western Avenue. In 1966, St Dominic Savio Junior School was opened, with the Infant School opening its doors in 1974. The current church was completed in 1970.

### Christ Church – Methodist/URC

Christ Church came into being on 7th November 1982 when Woodley Methodist Church and Woodley United Reformed Church (URC) united to become a joint church.

The United Reformed Church fellowship, which prior to 1972 was the Woodley Congregational Church worshipped in the Old Chapel in Loddon Bridge Road. The chapel, which has now been converted to offices, was built in 1834 and was both the first church in Woodley as well as its first school. The Methodist Church in Woodley dates from 1958, worshipping in the Coronation Hall and the former Secondary Modern School (now Rivermead School). The first church on the current site in Crockhamwell Road was built in 1963.

### Woodley Baptist Church

Woodley Baptist Church began in 1979, when a small group of local Baptists began to meet together on a Sunday. Services took place in various venues around the town until the Woodley Baptist Church Centre was opened in 1987. The aim was always that the Church Centre would be used for the benefit of the community. A Pre-school and a Toddlers group is run, and the building is available to be hired for community events. In 2001 a purpose built youth extension (The Venue) was opened which has allowed the church to run evening and Sunday events aimed at young people in the community as well as a church for young people. Since September 2010 a Minister for Outreach - the Rev Graham Doel has been employed to work alongside the Rev David Barter whose ministry is primarily in teaching and pastoral care.

### Churches Together in Woodley (CTW)

CTW is an association of Christian Churches in the town of Woodley, working together for the glory of God and to show his love to local people. Membership is open to all the Christian Churches in Woodley, with both lay and ordained representatives attending four meetings a year. Its purpose is to encourage and enable ecumenical activities and to promote friendship and understanding across denominational boundaries. Many joint activities are arranged, including Lent study groups, meetings for prayer, united services and outreach. CTW support several initiatives in the local community and are constantly looking for ways to further the Kingdom of God in Woodley. The CTW website can be found at [www.woodleychristians.org.uk](http://www.woodleychristians.org.uk).

### Independent Congregations

There are two independent congregations in Woodley meeting in halls within the town.