

**Annual report for 2011 from Revd Jill Perrett presented at Atworth Annual Parish meeting
on Wednesday 18th April 2012.**

The parish of Atworth is part of the Benefice of Atworth with Shaw and Whitley and shares worship within the benefice, church services being held both at St Michael and All Angels, Atworth and at Christ Church in Shaw. It is also part of the Melksham Group of Churches, comprising the parishes of Atworth, Melksham, Beanacre, Holt, Broughton Gifford, Great Chalfield and Shaw and Whitley.

2011 was a year in which we have had much to celebrate. Most significantly, we entered a new chapter in our Benefice with the 'suspension of the presentation' being lifted from the parishes and I received a new status as incumbent or Vicar.

This was one of the last of the Services taken by the Ven John Wraw who is now Bishop of Bradwell on Sea, Essex.

We had a Parishes Away day which had a spiritual focus and was held at Stonar led by Canon David Durston.

During the year St Michael and All Angels Church the following Services were held

Sunday Sung Parish Communion	19
Sunday said communion BCW	7
Wednesday said communion BCP	22
Let's Celebrate Worship	5
Evening services	3
Service of Installation	1
School services	2
Other services	4
Marriages	1
Baptisms	2
Funerals	4
Burial of Ashes	3

This year also saw the replacement of embroidered hassocks for St. Michael's which were contributed by church members and parishioners from the community.

These were dedicated and blessed at a Service.

In our APCM elections we saw election of a new Church warden to Atworth , Richard Slingsby along with Brian Mitchell who was re-elected. We also had new Deanery Synod Reps elected as well as PCC members.

Ministry in today's churches has to be a collaborative one. I would like to deeply thank all those who willingly give of their time and energy to the life of the Benefice as they help embody what following Christ means and I am grateful for their commitment and support.

Life Groups have been a new initiative for this year, so called because they are about life and the vision is that they will be life-giving, supportive groups, for people to grow in their life and faith.

We now have 3 Life Groups which are already growing in number, with 6 facilitators.

My thanks to facilitators and hosts.

This year we had a series of Confirmation classes which the LPAs supported and contributed to.

The Confirmation preparation with the girls from Stonar and the other Confirmation Preparation was a Benefice based one with a mixed age group running from Shell Court.

We did this in conjunction with Melksham Team Ministry to form our first Melksham group Confirmation Prep.

In September we were honoured to see 2 new vocations in authorised ministry being recognised and

supported here. Chris Rees began his training as a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM).

Ruth Gillings, as a 3rd year Ordinand, joined us.

Ruth previously was part of the Melksham Team Ministry.

I now have the privilege and joy of being a Supervisor and Training Minister to both Chris and Ruth, along with my current role as Tutor for a 2nd year Ordinand.

Our links continue with the 2 church Schools. My thanks go to Foundation Governors for their work. We are thankful for the ways in which the school and church work together- school coming to church for Services and to fulfil the R.E. aspects of the National Curriculum; for opportunities like Open the Book and the school's reading programmes and for the generous sharing of school buildings that the schools have given with the running of messy church and the holding of some social events.

I also have the privilege of having a Chaplain's role at Stonar where I take school assemblies and Services, Confirmation Prep, pastoral support, etc; and last year the Head of R.E. and I started up a lunchtime film club.

Music and worship in the Benefice has been developing in two ways. Firstly, on the choral side there was a new development with an evening Advent Carol Service and the Nine Lessons and Carols Service being a Community Carols event.

Secondly, the singers and musicians group for the Let's Celebrate Together Services (LCT) which continue to grow in number and enthusiasm!

My thanks go to all who are involved in leading and providing for the Services by using their musical gifts and talents which enhance our worship of God.

Also thanks to all those on our Flower arranging Teams for decorating the churches for our Services and Weddings.

Thanks also to those who are 'holy dusters' who keep the churches clean, to the lawn-mowing teams who keep the churchyards looking so beautiful and all those who work behind the scenes in many different ways.

The Survey, long planned by the Worship Committee, was delivered.

As a result, the new pattern of Services has started, now having a 9.30am Traditional Parish communion; and an 11am Informal Service each Sunday. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.