

Rainbow Project

We still await planning consent for St Andrews Community Church!

Staff have moved in to **Trinity Rooms**, and our children's & youth ministries are beginning to make full use of the new facilities. However, there are inevitably a number of 'snagging' issues to be resolved, as with all projects of this size, which means that we are not yet able to open up to other bookings. An official opening will be held on Friday 4 December, from 5 – 7 pm – more details to follow.

Work is now beginning on the complete refurbishment of the Cottage next to Trinity Rooms, which will be renamed 'Trinity Cottage'.

Staffing

The Church Council has accepted the recommendation of its Staffing Subgroup that two appointments be advertised (members of the church family who may wish to apply will find full details on the website)

- **Operations Manager** (full time) – responsible for (i) managing the church office and admin team (ii) buildings and (iii) communications & technology
- **Children's Worker** (full time) – responsible for heading up our children's team and developing our children's ministry

The Church Council wishes to record its immense gratitude to Sharon for so graciously agreeing to stand down from her role in order to enable the appointment of a new, full time children's worker. Once this person is appointed, Sharon is going to spend some time seeking the Lord for how she should be involved in ministry here.

The Church Council is very aware of the resources we devote – quite rightly – to our children and young people; and that work among our senior members easily justifies similar provision. This is under consideration by the Council.

Church Council Matters

At our most recent meeting, we gave thanks to God for his grace in enabling us to make progress on our 3 priorities over the past year (pastoral provision following Roberto's departure; launching a new congregation into St Matthew's Widcombe & supporting the spread of 'Filling Station'; and maturing the church family in discipleship and ministry).

In 2010, the Council's priorities will be

- maturing the church family in discipleship and ministry
- the building of the new St Andrew's Community Church and launching (a) new congregation(s) there
- resolving the future & securing the spiritual health of our more traditional worshippers; and seeking ways to develop and promote our ministry among older members of the community
- seeking God for guidance on our role as a church within our City

- securing financial security through increased giving for our ministry base, which leads to my final point of this edition of 'Church Family ... matters' –

Finance

Apart from our clergy stipends (Paul and Val), everything that we believe the Lord give us to do in mission and ministry depends solely on the financial support of our church family – Foxhill ministries, children and youth, staff salaries, new initiatives such as 'Trinity @ Matt's' and 'Filling Station'...

The church leadership are enormously grateful to all those who give sacrificially to our mission and ministry.

Inevitably, like many other organisations, **htcd** has not remained unscathed by the economic problems facing our nation and indeed the world. We are currently 'trading' at a deficit of some £11,000 a month (our monthly income and outgoings being roughly £32,000 & £41,000 respectively). We have sufficient reserves to ensure that, by the end of this calendar year, we will 'only' have a deficit of some £20,000. However, next year, unless this situation is addressed, we will be facing a deficit of well over £100,000.

We understand, of course, that individual situations change with economic shifts, and that some people have had to reduce their giving for the time being.

However, we still face a most unusual situation as a church family, in that some 150 households on our membership register do not appear to support our ministry in any way financially. I have addressed this situation publicly before, and am puzzled that it continues. I understand that, as Christians today, we all have many calls upon our giving from exciting local initiatives to mission opportunities around the world. However, as a leadership we believe it is an integral part of membership of a local church that we support that ministry first and foremost. When we read the New Testament (whether Acts or Epistles), we find that St Paul and the other apostles see the local church as the primary agent for transformation and renewal.

Nigel Websper, the church treasurer, and I would be more than happy to talk with anyone who has questions about why or how to give to the work of **htcd**. If you've not yet read my little booklet 'what does the bible really teach about giving', please pick up a copy soon. If you would like details of something very specific to which you could give (such as for example our new children's worker salary or the cost of resourcing our new evening congregation in St Matt's, Widcombe), please talk with Nigel (336430).

If you are one of those not currently giving to **htcd**, I invite you prayerfully to consider your response to what I have written.