

### **Churches Together Chairman's Annual Report for 2009**

2009 saw Andy Chrich take over as Chair of Churches Together but his tenure was brief as he left the district to move on to a new position in August. However before he left he had celebrated the Unity Service with us and been involved in the Lenten activities and the Festival Service. I would like to thank him for the work he has done on behalf of Churches Together and wish him well in his new appointment.

2009 calendar of events have passed off very well. The unity service in January was well attended and received as was the Festival service in July. I'd like to thank Fr Peter for his work on the Festival Service Following these it was decided to offer a small honorarium to speakers - £50 – and to ensure that arrangements were made to give him/her lunch.

The Lenten Activities again were well supported and will be repeated this year. The teething problems with the PA from the previous year etc were resolved and the procession was well attended and very moving. We did not produce any cards or posters but it seems attendance at services was not affected.

The Lambing Services at Kettlewell, Hetton and Burnsall were all well supported and the Jazz Songs of Praise was a huge success.

In July I took over as Chair and Peter Thomas as vice chair. The Songs of Praise at Buckden schoolroom was an excellent evening and we hope to invite the Praise Group from Gargrave again this year.

I am aware that the arrangements for Kilnsey Show need discussion and if we cannot resolve it easily this evening, I suggest we postpone this item until the April meeting.

Our normal Christmas and Advent celebrations took place as normal. I would like to thank Peter Thomas for all his efforts in organizing the children, the donkey and making the whole thing run like clockwork I'd also like to thank the clergy who led the various events. We had a poster instead of cards and I would appreciate feedback from communities in the Lower Dale as to their success or otherwise.

At our September meeting we agreed to put a revised meeting schedule in place. This would decrease the number of exec meetings – although working groups would still meet to organize particular events - and hopefully increase events open to all. In a way we did this in Feb when Peter invited Bridget Rees to speak about her time in Gaza. It was a fascinating evening and very well attended despite adverse weather.

Similarly Peter Yorkstone organized an Advent Service here at Scargill which was advertised through the CT network and was again very well attended and quite inspiring. This event tonight is again in the same mould with a speaker forming the main part of the evening's agenda.

On March 9<sup>th</sup> we are holding a Seder Supper – led by the Jewish Community in Leeds – who will give us the opportunity to sample the foods eaten at the Passover Meal and who will explain their significance. The venue is St Margaret's and it starts at 7.30pm

In addition we will hold our normal Lenten activities – study groups, lunches and our Holy Week processions. These will all be advertised in the Link, in Church Notices and the Churches Together network.

Scargill as we see is getting nearer to re –opening and we hope to work more closely together in the wider community. The issue of finance does have to be addressed and a meeting is to take place later this month to discuss this,

Lastly we have the opportunity to develop our own website; the cost is minimal £10 per year and would be a way of sharing news, giving notice of events and sharing prayer requests as well as many other items. At the exec meeting just now we have agreed to proceed with this. Please would you make sure we have all your contact details if you wish to be included in our circulation list.

I'd like to thank all those who have helped me find my feet... and do shout if I have forgotten anything.

Anne Vetch