

### **Friends of St John's**

The Friends of St. John's was formed in 1994 to encourage support from the wider community towards the preservation of the church building. Since 1994 over £47,000 has been raised and £27,000 has been donated to the PCC towards the maintenance of the fabric of the church.

### **YTJ (Younger Adults Group)**

YTJ is a social group, perhaps best described as an older youth group!

### **Other groups that meet on a regular basis are:**

St John's Floral Group

St Andrew's Friendship Circle

St John's Ladies Guild.

## **J Schools**

The Yeovil College (Tertiary and Sixth Form) is situated in the parish. In addition to the two County Primary Schools there is the Independent Park School with its Christian foundation; it is the only such school in Yeovil. There is no church school in this parish.

The Park School, the Huish and Parcroft Primary Schools hold their annual Christmas carol services in our churches and the clergy regularly take assemblies in these schools. All three schools have prominent representatives from our churches on their Governing Bodies.

## **K Other responsibilities**

St. John's is the ancient parish church of Yeovil and therefore hosts all the civic occasions services; also at Christmas, St. John's is used by many of the schools in the town as the venue for their Carol Services.

There are two ex-officio roles for the Incumbent as Rector of Yeovil, one is being a trustee of the Marsh Trust which meets with Clergy and Wardens of Yeovil Anglican Churches once a year, and the other is a trustee of the Woburn Trust which meets quarterly and is concerned with Almshouses in Yeovil.

The position of Chaplain to the Mayor is one that the Mayor is free to offer to whom he or she chooses. The rector of St. John's has held this post in the past and latterly the curate of St. John's held this position until she moved to Wellington.

The Yeovil District Hospital has a full-time Chaplain in post and therefore is not a direct responsibility of this parish. A number of lay members of our churches help in the Chaplaincy teams at the hospital and also at St. Margaret's hospice in Yeovil.

The Yeovil College has a part-time Chaplain at this present time.

## **L Missionary and Charity Support**

The parish has set itself a minimum commitment target of giving 10% of its annual disposable income to missionary work and charities. In addition the Christmas loose plate collections are donated to charity.

The parish maintains missionary links with Geoff and Gill Kimber in Romania (CMS) and Andy and Evangelina Lentern in Argentina (SAMS) as well as supporting the Diocesan missionary link with Zambia.

Details of our charitable giving for 2005 are attached.

## **M Parsonage Housing**

A new Rectory was purchased by the Diocese in July 2006. It is located equi-distance from St. Andrew's and St. John's (10 minutes walking distance) in a favoured residential part of the town overlooking the Sydney Gardens.



It comprises a beautifully presented extended four bedroom semi detached property comprising 4 bedrooms, Lounge / Diner, Kitchen / Family Room, Sun Lounge, Family bathroom and en suite with corner bath for the master bedroom, ground floor study with internal and external access and a downstairs cloakroom. To the rear is a fully enclosed beautifully landscaped south facing

garden with patio area, summerhouse, extensive lawns bordered by a large variety of plants, shrubs and fruit trees.

## **N Opportunity for development**

- Closer working with the churches in the LEP to develop and use our strengths as outlined in “Catching the Vision for God’s Tomorrow” see Appendix A
- Greater concentration on the development of Christian youth work within Yeovil in conjunction with the other churches.
- Maintain and develop links with local schools.
- Further development and use of our listening skills within the parish.
- Make greater use of St. John’s church building during the week and extending the hours that it is open so that we can get as many people as possible to come into the church.

## **O Deanery Pastoral Committee**

The following comment is from the Deanery Pastoral Committee:

St. John's is at the centre of the Deanery and hosts special services and meetings of the Deanery Synod. St. John's is committed to the Deanery and Chapter, both urban and rural, and is fully supportive of the Local Ministry Grouping in the Town Parishes. St. John's will be able to use proportionately the new part-time post for development being created in St. James’s parish.

## **P Statement of the Qualities and Attributes the PCC would hope to see in the new incumbent**

A minister who:

- is strong in faith and prayer and an inspiring biblical teacher and communicator.
- is open to and seeks the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their ministry.
- loves God and is able to love and care for people of all ages, and can in turn be loved.

### **Statement of the Qualities and Attributes the PCC would hope to see in the new incumbent—continued**

- has proven leadership and training skills and will continue to build and develop a team, encouraging and enabling lay members to identify and use their gifts in the service of each other and the wider community.
- has a firm commitment to building relationships within the structure of the LEP and also with churches of all denominations beyond the LEP, and in particular within the new development in Yeovil, which while not lying within the LEP are part of our mission imperative.
- has an understanding love of young people and the ability to minister to them and their families.
- delights in a diversity of Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic worship and in music.
- is a groundbreaker with an energy and enthusiasm for evangelism and outreach in the community and with a vision for Yeovil.

#### **Q Other matters**

The parish produces its own church magazine "Focus" on a monthly basis under lay editorship. A copy of a recent magazine is included with the profile. The Diocesan monthly newspaper "The Grapevine" is also available to all church members.

The parish has its own web site that can be found at [www.sjayeovil.dsl.pipex.com](http://www.sjayeovil.dsl.pipex.com).

A pattern of social activities has developed and forms an important and enjoyable part of a balanced church life throughout the year. These gatherings include the usual weekly fellowship over coffee after church services; "Bring and Share" meals" - usually part of a programme to welcome visiting teams, or to mark parish arrivals and departures; Harvest Suppers; Wine and Cheese parties, and Quiz nights.

The parish has held weekends away about every two or three years for the congregation, which have been well supported. A Parish weekend away is planned for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

Each year a number of families have attended Spring Harvest at Butlins in Minehead.

In recent years the Floral Group at St. John's have staged a number of major Flower Festivals in the Parish Church. These events have attracted many out-side visitors, and made people aware not only of the fine medieval building but also of the purpose for which it exists as the "Lantern of the West".

St. John's church has been used by a charitable organisation to sell charity

Christmas Cards from October to December for the last few years. This has proved to be very successful and has brought a great number of people into the church building.

In December 2005 a Christmas Tree Fest was held in St. John's when 17 outside groups, including local schools, decorated Christmas trees in the church. The aim being to share the true hope of Christmas with the people of Yeovil. This was an extremely successful event, which raised £758 for the children's ward at Yeovil District Hospital, and is most likely to be repeated.

## Appendix A

### Catching the Vision of God's Tomorrow?

- The year is ..... some time from now.
- There is but one church within the town centre of Yeovil.
- It operates on six sites throughout the parish and this maxi parish is served by a team made up of 4 ordained leaders drawn from different traditions and others trained and equipped for various ministries. All are appointed as the need arises on the basis of the best person for the job irrespective of their Christian tradition.
- It took the parent traditions some time to get used to this idea but when they realised how determined the Yeovil Town Centre Church was that this would happen ways were found to enable it.
  
- So let us visit each site in turn.
  
- Firstly to **The Christian Healthy Living Centre on Preston Grove.**
- It is used throughout the day for Community Groups too many to mention and runs Courses in the field of Family Support.
- It works closely with the nearby Medical Centre facilitating extended care of many of those with particular needs as well as exercising a continuing ministry of healing.
- And it has a small coffee shop – a meeting place for those who live around or are passing by.
  
- We move nearer to the town centre, to Princes Street, and **The Christian Fair-trade Centre.** Here alongside the full range of fairly traded goods from across the world, farmers are able to sell locally produced food directly to the consumers. There is a rural advice centre and a fair- trade coffee shop.
- It acts as a venue for seminars etc. not only on international Trade Justice issues but also on issues related to justice in the workplace in the U.K.
- When the need arises it serves as a campaign co-ordination Centre.
  
- In South Street the **Yeovil Christian Centre for Silence and Retreats** offers guidance in prayer; Spiritual Direction; conferences and study courses in spirituality and resources for Retreats in Daily Life.
  
- The **Yeovil Shoppers Centre**, adjacent to the Quedam Shopping Centre provides child care and crèche facilities; a wide range of activities for children and young people; a drop –in centre for anyone needing companionship or a listening ear in addition to a restaurant and coffee shop.
  
- Close to the Hospital is **'Home from Home'** which offers help and support for the families of patients in the nearby hospital. As well as providing emergency accommodation for those who need to stay nearby 'Home from Home' also offers a wide range of Counselling and advice services.
  
- In the Centre of the Town, set in the only Green Space, is **The Worship Centre** which is open all day, everyday as a place of prayer and reflection. A short act of

worship is held each day at early morning, at lunchtime and at the end of the working day. This is also the base for a variety of courses in Christian Discipleship. Being the largest building this is also the venue for Civic Services and for the weekly Sunday morning Service of Worship for the whole of the Town Centre Church.

- In addition to the Sunday Morning Service at the Worship Centre there is a service of worship on every evening apart from Sunday at one of the Christian Centres. Worship styles vary according to the tradition and choice of the home community and on each site there is a variety of fellowship groups whose prime function is to build up and meet the needs of the home community.
- On each site there is also a place set apart and dedicated for prayer which is available whenever the centre is open.
- This enterprise began a long time ago on Pentecost 2002..... or maybe much longer ago than that.

*'And afterwards I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
Your old men will dream dreams  
and your young men will see visions.  
Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.'*

*Joel 2 : 28 -29 (NIV)*

We are a Pentecostal people.  
The possibilities are infinite.