

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION  
RC CHURCH, FAIRFIELD ROAD  
BOSHAM**

**FIRST ANNUAL REPORT**

**BY THE MAD TEAM**

**NOVEMBER 2008**

**PART OF THE PARISH OF  
ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER**

## **FOREWORD**

### **BY FATHER KIERON O'BRIEN, PARISH PRIEST**

I am happy to commend this First Annual Report of the Bosham Making a Difference Group (MAD). Over the last two years this group has grown from a small gathering of committed parishioners to an impressive and organised body committed to sustaining and nurturing the Community based at Our Lady of the Assumption Church. The present focus of activity is fund raising for better facilities in the building, but MAD is by no means only a money-making group. As you will see from the report, the fundraising is not an end in itself, but is part of the wider agenda of building-up the Community both physically and spiritually. This extends to partnership with our sister church in Bosham, Holy Trinity and support for our Parish missionary endeavours, such as Mivomuni Parish in Kenya. The initiative for *MAD* came from the people as the result of a renewal in Our Lady's Church of a sense of life and mission. Members of *MAD* contribute to the management of the whole Parish through the Parish Co-ordinating Group. I see this as a good example of how our local church can not only function, but flourish as *a community of communities within one parish*.

Fr. Kieron

## **TEAM PERSONNEL**

### **The following have served on the committee in the last financial year**

Maria Aldred  
Yvonne Bishop  
Finola Brennan (*Treasurer*)  
Brian Campbell  
Kathy Campbell  
Marion Coombes-Shrubb (*Chair*)  
Ros Davies  
Jenny Edwards  
Mary Eveleigh  
Angela Griffith

Maureen Heath  
Kevin Jamieson (resigned Oct 08)  
Susan Line (*Secretary*)  
Sally Morley  
Jill Serna  
Patricia Smith  
Marj Vickers  
Kim Wiles

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It gives me enormous pleasure to be writing this report and show just how far the Making A Difference group, fondly and perhaps aptly known as MAD, have come since its inception.

It has been a very exciting year. As a result of our meetings we have now arranged for the Church to be cleaned by professionals on a regular basis. Notice boards have been re-organised to make it easier for parishioners to be kept informed. Occasional produce sales have raised money for Fr Joe's parish in Kenya. This year the Feast Day shared lunch was organised by the MAD team and all were very blessed to have the perfect weather to eat outside. A booklet of Bosham Ministries was produced which will soon be incorporated into the new Chichester Parish directory. The Harvest Festival was a joyful occasion and following requests, the group will be discussing with Fr. Kieron the suggestion that thanks for the Harvest be made into even more of a celebration.

Fundraising has been great fun, if at times challenging. If I was ever in any doubt I now know never to under estimate the power of prayer when putting on an event! So how did we fundraise?

1. Barn Dances
2. A Summer Bonanza Raffle
3. Bosham Bounce – a monthly draw of balls purchased at £1 each.
4. A Dance Evening of live Jazz and 50s and 60s Disco
5. Garden Luncheon
6. Summer Sunday Afternoon Concert
7. Coffee Mornings

Again elsewhere in this report you will find an income and expenditure sheet showing how much each event raised. All funds were banked through the Chichester Parish.

Of great surprise and delight to all the committee was the news that the Parish finance committee had awarded £25,000 for the extension from the sale of the Nutbourne Chapel. This was partly given in recognition of the efforts made by parishioners to fundraise themselves but also so that the timescale for the building was within a reasonable limit.

When it comes to thanks I could fill a whole page but space limits, so in a nutshell:

To Fr Kieron for his support and trust in the MAD team - not to mention his excellent cabaret act.

To Major Keith McNally for drawing up our original plans pro bono and his wife Liz for her fantastic singing.

To all members of the committee who have tirelessly worked their socks off time and again.

To Susan, our Secretary, and Finola, our Treasurer, for their diligence and commitment.

To Sheila & Fred Bailey for providing such a lovely venue, as well as delicious food, for our Garden Luncheon.

To Lucy & Jane Phillips and Anna & Lydia Growns for an incredibly well received concert and to their parents for organising the occasion, including the delicious afternoon tea.

To all of you who helped, bought tickets, made cakes, came along and joined in the fun etc. I send you all many blessings and much gratitude.

We are already planning a full programme for next year, starting with a Kitchenalia Sale & Ploughman's lunch on the 29<sup>th</sup> November. Please support us in any way you can and let us have your ideas and comments on anything that will positively Make A Difference to us all. We are still in negotiation with the local planners about the exact site of the new extension but have enclosed a plan of our proposal for your perusal. The submitted mirror plan for the same construction on the north side of the Church was not acceptable to the planning officer. Please join us in praying for this much needed facility and please continue to share your gifts and talents freely.

God Bless

Marion Coombes Shrubbs

## Mad income and expenditure 2007-8

Date	Details	Credit	Debit
Apr-07	Barn Dance	£660.24	
Jul-07	Shared Lunch Raffle	£55.50	
Aug-07	Donation	£15.00	
Nov-07	Barn Dance	£409.69	
Feb-08	Barn Dance	£585.12	
Apr-08	Indian Retreat - Donation	£300.24	
Jun-08	Castle Printers (raffle tickets)		£82.25
Jun-08	Sunday Coffee	£160.59	
Jun-08	Donations Box	£109.10	
Jun-08	Bosham Bounce	£80.00	
Jun-08	Parish Grant	£25,000.00	
Jul-08	Coffee Morning	£76.13	
Jul-08	Barn Dance	£301.61	
Jul-08	Bosham Bounce	£108.00	
Jul-08	Summer Bonanza Raffle	£375.80	
Aug-08	Bosham Bounce	£68.00	
Aug-08	Bounce Prize (E. McCaughey)		£37.00
Aug-08	Donations Box	£38.50	
Aug-08	Summer Concert	£400.00	
Aug-08	Bosham Bounce	£35.00	
Aug-08	Garden Lunch	£602.84	
Aug-08	Sunday Coffee	£50.05	
Sep-08	Coffee Morning	£34.00	
Sep-08	Bounce Prize (P. Griffen)		£29.00
Sep-08	Jazz Night	£206.18	
Sep-08	Bosham Bounce	£67.00	
Sep-08	Coffee Morning	£41.00	
Oct-08	Bounce Prize (M Coombes-Shrubb)		£31.50
Oct-08	Donation Box	£11.78	
Oct-08	Donation/Cheque	£80.00	
Oct-08	Donation	£43.78	
Oct-08	Coffee Morning	£40.00	
Oct-08	Purchase of replacement Urn		£48.45

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO MAD AND THE PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE CHURCH**

The Making A Difference (MAD) group has been in existence for about 2 years. Starting off informally, since the need for improved toilet facilities was identified and referred to them by the Welcomers, the group increased to 12 active members from which were elected three officers i.e. Chair, Secretary & Treasurer.

The MAD group discuss a number of issues pertinent to Bosham such as The Children's Liturgy, Harvest Festival, Blinds for the Narthex windows, Church Cleaning, Notice Boards, Ministry booklet etc.

The need for disabled and improved toilet facilities had been raised as a reason why certain members could not participate fully in the life of the church. The one existing toilet is in the sacristy behind the sanctuary. Anyone of any age wishing to use this facility during Mass has to walk to the front of the Church and up a step to the sanctuary, in full view of the whole congregation. To many this is seen as a loss of dignity and modesty, especially to those of advancing years, as well as being seen as distracting to some others. It was felt that children and the elderly particularly need easy access to toilet facilities.

A health & safety concern was also raised about urns and kettles being used in close proximity to the meeting area of the ever growing children's liturgy so it was felt that a proper kitchen would also be a big asset.

The proposals were put to Fr Kieron, Parish Priest, and subsequently the Finance and Buildings committees. The MAD team was extremely fortunate to have a parishioner at St Richard's who drew up a set of plans for an extension incorporating all the stated needs, including a facility to change a baby's nappy.

The decision to go ahead with an extension was made on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008. Minute 6 of that MAD meeting 2008 stated "The committee agreed, unanimously, that we should go forward with a timber frame construction". This decision was taken after considering that a timber frame construction looks very good and can last up to 200 years but costs about £20,000 less than a standard build.

The estimate at that time of the amount needed to be raised was within £35,000. It was anticipated that funds would be raised in 3 main ways; MAD's own fund-raising efforts, Grants, bids and donations and the Chichester parish from the sale of Nutbourne Chapel. The committee felt that now was a good time to launch the idea and fundraise, despite the current general financial climate, for a number of reasons:

- It had been recognised by many that Bosham RC Church has a positive sense of community.
- Fundraising events would be affordable and good value for money.
- There would be a mix of events to attract a variety of people from within the RC community, other churches, villagers and anyone else who may be interested.
- There was an ever growing nucleus of parishioners willing to give their time and support in any way they could.
- The Catholic Church currently has a supportive Parish Priest who actively encourages MAD.
- There had been excellent feedback from social events, mainly the Barn Dances and the Lenten Lunches that showed a real desire for people to socialize together as well as pray together.
- The Church had already forged deeper links with the Holy Trinity Church in Bosham and believes that fund-raising is a positive way of working towards shared witness and commitment.
- At a time when World News could be seen as depressing and causing anxiety then an antidote may be just what people need whilst showing that the Church is somewhere to turn to.

Proposed future fundraising events will shortly be on the Parish website: [www.strichardschichester.co.uk](http://www.strichardschichester.co.uk).