

A lot has happened! And there is so much to praise God for!

Let's make worship, thanksgiving and generosity features of the next decade!

As we move into this year—what are we looking forward to?

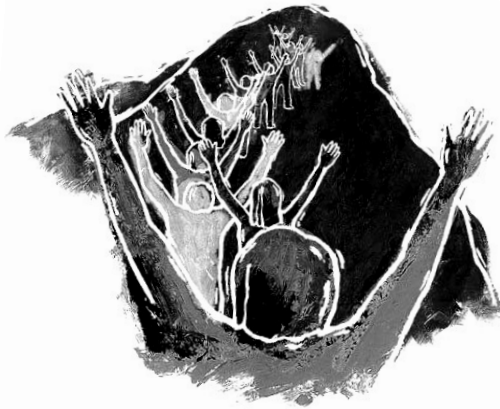
- A new teaching series looking at Luke's Gospel.
- The appointment of a Parish Administrative Assistant to take the parish office into a new era. This is a paid post being advertised in the new year.
- A new marriage course starting in March.
- Easter baptisms and the Global Day of Prayer at Pentecost.
- Mission trips
- Daniel Roe and Letitia Chester starting as new curates in late June. (Daniel will live at 5 Manor Park Close.)
- Necessary works at CPC to replace the boiler and boiler room, and create more storage.

There are blessings and challenges! And as brothers and sisters working together with Jesus we rely on His leading, guiding and blessing—we cannot do anything of worth without this.

So please pray. Pray for His good hand to be upon us, as together we expect great things for His Kingdom.

With love, thanks and appreciation for our fellowship in the gospel!

David



Clifton Parish Churches

New Year Letter '09

from David Casswell, Vicar of Clifton

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

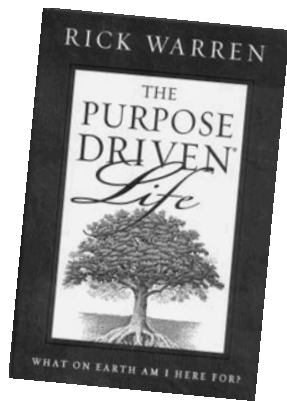
In Matthew 12 we read... ***"While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him.... He replied... "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?"... "whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."*** verses 48ff

As we look forward—we are in this together with Jesus!

This is the end of the year and the decade. A decade of huge changes on the world scene. The rise, use, and influence of the internet has been staggering; do you remember life without Google? It has been a decade of icons, Beckham, Blair, Bush and Obama, X Factor, Jamie Oliver, Harry Potter etc. Then there are things that still need resolution Osama Bin Laden, Madeline McCann, the war in Afghanistan...

It has been a decade of change and development in the church. The





Alpha Course became used worldwide; the book, *The Purpose Driven Life* was a best seller, and new music emerged from Hillsongs and Worship Central.

Closer to home, One Voice York established a prayer breakfast for Christian leaders. This has been running for 10 years now, and has 'birthed' many initiatives with many churches working together—the Global Day of Prayer and Hope 08, the Christian Heritage Walk, FUSE for young people, and now Street Angels, and possibly healing prayer on the streets in 2010.

And there have been changes and developments in the parish too. Curates have come and gone; Andrew Allington Nancy Eccersley, Adrian Cragg, Rachel Hirst, and Rosemary Facer. Now Liz Marshman is looking for the next step in her ministry, and will be leaving this year.

Michael Nokes, Annabelle Barber, Celia Rutt and now Letitia Chester have all trained for ordination. We are so glad that Celia has returned to be licenced on the staff in Clifton, and look forward to Letitia starting in June.

Rev Ron Philpott joined us and strengthened the ministry team, as did Geoff Goodall, an experienced Reader (celebrating 50 years in this role this year!). Margaret Nelson also undertook Reader training and is released in ministry.

But perhaps the boldest move in terms of personnel was the PCC appointing a Youth Worker. This was a step of faith and Simon is entering his third year in Clifton and his ministry has made a tremendous impact; with Jam, Excel, Trips, Besom, Soul survivor, Students, Canon Lee, Connect, mentoring etc.



During the decade there have been building projects... Clifton Moor church building came into use, and the church has both 'come of age', and entered into a new phase of oversight. The Methodists and Anglicans will each have oversight for approximately five years.

St Mark's underwent a complete refurbishment and has now had the car park resurfaced too. Last year saw the 40years celebrations. CPC and St Mark's kitchen's have been refurbished this year.

40 years!

We expanded 5 Manor Park Close when Adrian Cragg moved in with the girls, and then this was sold to the diocese for the official curates house. This, with the sale of a house in The Garlands, enabled us to buy 2 Doe Park, which served as a great house for Rosemary and which we can now rent out.

There have been many other highlights in our church life together this decade...

- the start and development of overseas Mission trips. These have been pioneered by Howard and Jean Dawson and many people have now been to Rwanda, Tanzania and latterly Hungary too. This is a way to be blessed and be a blessing.
- The Alpha Course becoming a regular autumn feature, and now parenting courses too.
- The Cell Groups have been a real blessing.
- The CPC morning services multiplied into the 9.15 & 11am
- The five purposes of Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, and Mission have been underlined and started to receive a real focus in the Get in Gear seminars.
- The Gift, and latterly The Shepherd Boy's Gift have proved ways to bring people together to minister.
- Students making their home with us and participating so fully.
- New people released into leading and preaching roles.
- The parish office established with Julie Jones serving as parish secretary, and Monica Dunham exploring the role of parish co-ordinator.



Throughout this decade we have seen dedicated and committed service from so many on the PCC and in other roles. We honour these men and women this last decade. And inevitably there have been sad things too—particularly the deaths of several committed members of our churches.

Among them, Harold Rutt was a most influential Reader, and Charles Smith was one of the official trustees of the Parish—along with others, close to our hearts.

Thank you!

It should not be forgotten that we also faced a serious financial crisis this year, and as we responded to this together were able to see how God is faithful. We have big challenges ahead and will need to establish regular and legacy giving.