

AGM 2010 - Report from Church Growth Coordinator

I'm struggling to realise that I am now in my fourth year as Growth Coordinator at APC. It's really exciting to be part of all that's going on in the life of our church. God is doing great things in so many areas and I find that humbling, exciting and challenging.

Alpha continues to be a wonderful way of reaching many for Christ and it certainly works well as an evangelistic tool in our armoury at APC! It's also such a great way 'in' for many people who have recently started coming to church and are wanting to belong – not always an easy task.

In February 2009, we started our first evening course of the year and 55 people sat down for the Alpha meal. I am so grateful for all the hard work so many of our church family put in enabling this to happen. Part of why Alpha works is because of the 'servants hearts' and sacrificial giving of time by so many.

Also in February we started a day time course and held it at Tynings Lane church and, with 10 on the course, it too was a worthwhile time together and we saw fruit from it.

We then started our next evening course in October 2009 with just over 40 people and yet again it was a very significant course for so many.



It's been a real joy and privilege to part of all this and to see so many find faith in Christ and to see the change that has made to their lives.

But what happens after **Alpha**? If you travel on the London Underground, you are continually reminded to 'Mind the Gap'. This has been picked up by the home of Alpha (Holy Trinity Brompton in London) as a slogan suggesting that there can be quite a large gap between finishing an Alpha Course and then doing church.

We at APC address this with our **Beta Course** which happens right after Alpha, meeting weekly, and it's a wonderful way of continuing Christian teaching and providing the link to help integrate people into the life of our church family. Numbers have been a real joyous problem with so many wanting to do Beta (about 35 at present) that we started a Central Beta Course in church with teaching from Richard and Gavin and then breaking up into smaller groups to discuss the talk - a bit like Alpha.

September 2009 saw our second go at '**Back to Church Sunday**' and although it went really well, numbers coming to church on the day were down on the previous year, but what it did do was to bring significant people back to church in a way that 2008 didn't, so that has to be encouraging.

Our **Mev of Aldridge** events continued through 2009. In March we had a Matt Wallace quiz special which was great and so well attended and in July Dr Colin Flenley shared with us his experiences from Anfield during the football disaster in 1989 when 96 fans lost their lives. Between 90-100 men came to each of these events, fantastic!

Our **Aldridge Churches Men's weekend at Glenfall House** Cheltenham took place in November with a full house of 40+. Our speaker was Matt Wallace who spoke on 'Faith & Culture' it was a great weekend with Matt Wallace at his best! Another weekend is planned for 2010 with Evan Cockshaw as our weekend speaker. Speak to me for a place!

Our '**Welcome Team**' (a group of over 30 people on a rota, including our teenagers, who replaced the role of stewards at our Sunday services), continued to work well during the year as too did our '**Information point**' at the back of church. This is a central point where between our two morning services, and at the end of our evening one, people can get information for anything to do with the life of our church.

My work with the **prayer chain and websites** (APC, AYF & The Hothouse) continues, as too does my involvement with AYF Camp which forms part of my job spec., and is as enjoyable as ever!

We are a growing church as figures show, and we have so much to thank God for. Church growth is an area that we **all** need to be involved with and there is still so much to be done. I quoted this verse last year and here it is again: Luke 10 verse 2 "**The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.**"

That harvest field is just outside our church doors so can I please encourage you to get involved in this and see God's kingdom extended and see many more grow in his knowledge and love.

Thank you everyone for helping and encouraging me so much in my role as church growth coordinator.