

## PCC ACTION GROUPS, WARDEN'S REPORT ON FABRIC, PCC REPORT, DEANERY SYNOD

### BUILDING ACTION GROUP



The Building Action Group acts on behalf of the PCC in caring for our buildings. This includes not only our beautiful church but also the Church Room and the houses we own.

As the chairman, I am particularly appreciative of the work of BAG members Sheila and Mike Bell and Ian Brockelsby. Again this year, we have been containing costs below budget while maintaining the standard of repair to meet the financial imperatives of the Church objectives and budget.

The very strong winds experienced during the year have had a surprising ability to dislodge lead flashings and tiles from the Church, Church Room and one or two of our properties, and even removed the stone cross from the east apex of the Church roof. The contractor employed by Christchurch on behalf of the Parish Council has continued to maintain the Churchyard to a very good standard, but changes in funding levels may threaten this very satisfactory arrangement. Thanks are due to a Home Group gardening blitz to contain and remove plant growth against the Church and Church Room. Rebuilding of much of the Churchyard wall has been financed by the insurance companies of motorists who seem to have experienced strong magnetic attraction between the wall and their cars. The Building for Ministry Group arranged the reordering of the Church chancel and rearrangement of the PA system to match the new acoustics is in progress. We are making preparations for the Quinquennial inspection scheduled for this year.

I would like to thank all who participated in renovating the Church's house in Berry Way in preparation for Rachel's arrival. The unconventional character of the build of the house continues to reveal itself; roofing repairs and regularising and certification of the gas and electrical systems have been expensive, and further significant expense will be necessary in a few years. Running repairs in the other houses were effected as and when needed.

Tony Leather

Chairman

### STAFF CARE GROUP

The Staff Care Group has been meeting since September 2001 with its remit being approved by the PCC in early 2002. Members are: Gavin Collins, Ian Brocklesby, Maureen Cockburn, Duncan Kerr, Gill Shelley and Fiona MacLeod.



The Group met 4 times in the past year. Recommendations have been adopted by the PCC on matters such as remuneration,

pensions, allowances and policy updates. Assistance has been provided in the management of absence and the recruitment of the Youth Minister and Gap Year Students.

Fiona MacLeod  
Chairperson

### FINANCE ACTION GROUP



It is great to be able to report that the church achieved its level of income in 2007 to meet its running costs as well as being able to give 20% of all income to Mission. However, this was achieved not without some worrying moments as at times towards the end of the year this achievement looked far from certain. The monthly accounts

from August through to November all forecast a significant deficit of income on expenditure which had the Finance Action Group considering whether it should recommend to the PCC that cuts were made to the activities provided by the church in order to reduce costs. But this course of action is always a last resort. Confidence in the generosity of our community and faith in our God underpinned a belief that all would be well. Appeals were made and prayers offered, all of which resulted in a most generous response and a small surplus for the year.

As a result of achieving our budgeted income we were able to give £78346 to Mission – 20% of unrestricted giving. This was up from £72850 last year.

#### Book Keeper and Gift Secretary

A good deal of the year was spent looking for a new Book Keeper to replace Peter Cockburn who has done a fantastic job for a long time. Given additional work commitments he felt the time was right to hand the role over to someone else. We are delighted to announce that Paulis Quittenton has agreed to take over and is currently being trained by Peter. We are extremely grateful to Peter for all the hard work he has put into the role and his excellent stewardship of the accounts.

#### Gift Aid

During the year it was announced by the Government that charities would no longer be able to claim 28% Gift Aid on all such donations but only 25% with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008. This was going to cost Christ Church around £9000 per year. However, in February this year the Government had a change of heart and decided that charities could still claim 28%.

#### Church Building

With the planned extension and development of the church likely to start this year FAG has been giving consideration as to how the much needed funds might be raised. It is very important that the giving of these funds does not take away from the usual giving to the church required to meet its everyday running costs. Therefore it has been decided to set up a separate fund raising committee headed up by Ian Brocklesby. Ian has already begun recruiting to that committee.

**FAG membership**

For information FAG is made up of the following people: Charles Scott ( Chair ), Gavin Collins, Ian Brocklesby, Stephen Blackney, Andrew Robertson ( Treasurer ). Our new Book Keeper, Paulis Quittenton will join the group shortly.

As many of you are aware the Church is totally dependent on the gifts and legacies it receives from its members. There is no other source of income. Whilst it is great to report our achievement in 2007 we still face a real challenge in 2008 if we are to maintain the income necessary to meet our costs.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Charles Scott, Chairman

**MISSION ACTION GROUP**



'Knowing, showing, sharing and declaring God's love' is our aim at Christ Church. In the context of mission that means helping people to see Jesus- in our lives and by supporting our mission partners and Christian organisations as they seek to do the same. MAG exists to help everyone at Christ Church to "help others to see Jesus".

**Highlights of 2007 Support**

A vital part of our mission activity is the steady, long-term support we give our mission partners ('MPs') through prayer, friendship and financial support. Our MPs are based in very different parts of the world, doing very different kinds of work but they are linked by a common purpose-bringing the love of Jesus to others! Although we seldom see them, via the internet we are able to have much more contact with them than previously. Thus we have been able to obtain much fuller, and more up to date, information for our monthly prayer times - and it has simplified planning considerably. During 2007 we have had brief visits from Theresa, Mark and Bob and Mary; we have also had regular contact with Phil and Marion as they

explored a new calling which has opened another chapter in their ministry ( and which has brought our partnership with them to an end, at least for the time being). GIVE THANKS for the steadfast commitment of our MPs and PRAY that we will, in turn, continue to support them throughout the coming year.

**Development**

Funds set aside for mission matched the high level of 2006 so that we were able to continue that increased support in 2007. We didn't hold a Harvest Supper; instead the fellowship was encouraged to support a (very successful) fund-raising event for Kisima held at the Christian centre at Latimer Park Farm. A few weeks later we ran 'Kakamega Sunday' in support of the Kenyan Children's Fund's Koinonia Centre for street children. The team, led by Bishop Simon O'ketch, Stuart and Chloe Glassborow (backed up by Flicky and Ursula who had arrived from Kenya a day earlier) shared very movingly numerous insights into the work of the Centre-a very successful event. GIVE THANKS for the continued high level of funding available for mission and PRAY for all who are involved in the two Kenyan projects.

**Lazarus**

The aim is to help people in the third world facing major needs by financing self-help programmes or basic infrastructure projects. Funds are raised 'by living more simply so others may simply live'-by contributing what we save by living a simpler lifestyle. Three projects were supported during 2007: the Health Centre at Yelwa Dan-Wata in northern Nigeria; the equipping of new classrooms (and funding for an additional teacher) at the Koinonia Centre at Kakamega in Kenya; 'matched' funding to purchase an 8-seater Land Cruiser for use in the diocese of Matana in Burundi. Moldova in Eastern Europe is the focus of our current project. GIVE THANKS for the fresh impetus Lazarus Box has experienced during 2007 and PRAY that more of our fellowship may catch the vision.

**Box**

**Mission Scholarship Fund**

The fund exists to give financial assistance to younger members of our church planning to take up short-term assignments with recognised mission organisations (normally in 'gap years'). One grant was made in 2007. PRAY that the review planned for this year will lead to a revitalised scheme.

**Mission Giving**

Your giving for mission amounted to £103,000 - maintaining the very substantial level achieved in 2006. Support was given to over 50 organisations/causes. (A complete list of grants is set out on page 14). Grants made in 2007 amounted to nearly £105,900 as follows:- (a) grants to mission partners £27,300

(b) grants to organisations £47,250  
 (c) grants in response to one-off appeals £ 6,950  
 (d) Laz Box and special gifts,etc £24,400  
 The analysis below illustrates the broad nature of the work supported and the percentages indicate the emphasis given to the different types of activity.

	Home	Overseas	Total
<b>Evangelism and witness</b>	<b>£15,800 (15%)</b>	<b>£39,400(37%)</b>	<b>£55,200 (52%)</b>
<b>Building the church</b>	<b>£11,500 (11%)</b>	<b>£13,700 (13%)</b>	<b>£25,200 (24%)</b>
<b>Relief of suffering/care</b>	<b>£6,400 (6%)</b>	<b>£19,000 (18%)</b>	<b>£25,400(24%)</b>
	<b>£33,700 (32%)</b>	<b>£72,100(68%)</b>	<b>£105,800 (100%)</b>

REJOICE in this generous response and PRAY that Christ Church will continue to show God's love in this way.

**Conclusion**

Thank you once more-WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NOTHING TO REPORT!! We would also like to thank Jane Cant and Claudette Johnson (who retired from the Group at the end of last year) for all they have contributed .

Duncan Kerr, chairman  
 Members: Maureen Cockburn and Lydia Heyward.

**BUILDING FOR MINISTRY GROUP**

The work this year has seen some progress. As reported last year we received permission, in the form of a faculty, to change the front of the Church to give us more capacity. This work went ahead in July. At the same time we have met a number of times with the various authorities and moved towards a position where we can apply for planning permission. We also proceeded, in parallel, to sell the land in Highfield Way that was no real use to us.

**1. Faculty for Re-Ordering Church Interior**



This work was mostly carried out from 4th June to the 6th July 2007. When we removed the carpet in the the choir Vestry we found a floor of substantial stone blocks with a surface of Victorian tiles. We also found that there was no floor under the pews in the Chancel. Very

quickly, we decided to not remove the stone blocks but to have temporary disabled ramps instead of the major change to the Vestry floor and to make a floor in the Chancel using as much of the oak, supplemented by new oak, as possible. Despite the fact that we issued substantial variations to the contract, at all times we found Lodge & Sons, the builders, sympathetic to our requirements for cleanliness and good workmanship. We took the opportunity to update the plumbing and electrical installation.

The only work outstanding has been the balustrade and handrail to the pulpit but we have recently found a master blacksmith in Tring who will complete the work in early 2008.

**2. Facilities Extension/Annex**

We have met with the Authorities a number of times but have not met as a group separately at all as the main thrust was to move to planning approval stage. The Diocesan Advisory Committee have been supportive throughout. English Heritage have said that we have a compelling case and the Victorian Society have moved reluctantly close to neutral. Three Rivers District Council planning department have listened to us and examined our plans and so far are not opposed.

Planning policy affects us because we are asking to increase our footprint and height in a Green Belt restricted area. Officials are unlikely to recommend in our favour, however, Councillors must be interested in encouraging active members of the community, as we are, across the age spectrum, throughout the week, in their work.

**3. Sale of Land**

The sale of the land to local neighbours was completed in July 2007. The price was £25k netting us £23k after expenses.

Overall, the group is chaired by Stephen Blackney and includes our Vicar, the Churchwardens, Martin Perry,

Sheila Bell, Marion Smith and Duncan Kerr. There has also been a lot of discussion by email.

The next step is to gain Planning Approvals to proceed to the detail design and be ready for the construction phase by the end of 2008.

Stephen Blackney  
BFM Programme

### **WARDENS REPORT ON FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS**



Christ Church continues to prosper in its ministry and enjoys a breadth of style of worship throughout its Sunday services. The 10.30 a.m. service congregation appears to have declined slightly but this is more than compensated by increasing numbers attending the 8.30 am and 7.00 pm services. Our Youth and Children's ministries flourish (very much a Christ Church tradition) by providing extensive programmes and support for the young.

The Church Room project continues to progress, though it is fair to say that obtaining planning approvals takes a much longer period of time than might be imagined! To date a total of seven presentations have been made to various authorities, including The Diocesan Advisory Committee, Three Rivers Planning/Conservation Officers, English Heritage, The Victorian Society, Chorleywood Parish Council and The Council for the Care of Churches. Revisions have been made, principally to the exterior front of the building and further representations are taking place with Three Rivers, prior to the submission of a formal planning application. An update of all aspects of the new building is planned for the Annual Church Meeting in April and it is hoped that this will be the last year we will be handicapped by the limitations of the existing Church Room.

Changes were made successfully to the inside of the church in line with our approved faculty application. The chancel area was opened up by the removal of the platform, asbos (small walls) and both front rows of the

choir stalls in June. (The marble from the asbos has been laid as kerbing in the Garden of Remembrance.) This has enabled us to increase our seating capacity and a further 20 seats were purchased for delivery in December, in time for the busy Christmas period. Disabled access is now possible via ramps to the choir vestry and chancel.

A faculty is still being processed with regard to the main Church Door. The intention is to re-position the existing door to the outside of the church, replacing the rusty metal grille and positioning secure and lockable glass doors, where the current door resides. This should make the church much more accessible and inviting and will be particularly invaluable when the new Church Building is being built.

The usual maintenance and inspection of all relevant equipment/amenities of the church, including routine boiler and gas checks to all Church properties, including Little Croft, Ruardean, Oakfield and Berry Way have been carried out. Repairs are pending for a new church radiator and the re-fixing of various tiles. In respect of the maintenance of the above, particular thanks should be given to Sheila Bell (Administrator) and Tony Leather (Chairman of BAG) and a "happy band of volunteers" for all the work in keeping church properties safe and sound. A new quinquennial inspection will be undertaken in 2008.

It should also be noted that a further road accident, this time incurred by the Herts. police (following the 2 insurance claims of 2006) continued the trend of improving our outside walls at insurance companies expense! The Parish Council has promised to improve its own maintenance of these walls, barring accidents of course! Finally Darren Peter Hough, our Garden Contractor and volunteers have helped to maintain the good appearance of our churchyard and grounds and it should be stated, with much thanks given, that the chair you are sitting on in church, has most likely been repaired by Gavin at sometime or other. The moral of this claim is for you to sit carefully and pay attention!

## MATTERS DISCUSSED AT PCC MEETINGS IN 2007

The re-ordering of the church and provision of a replacement building for the church room continued to be discussed. The internal re-ordering was largely completed, with a couple of matters still needing finishing off (the pulpit rail and amendments to the PA system). Progress towards the replacement of the current Church Room with more extensive and flexible facilities have continued, albeit at a slow pace, with a helpful refinement of our plans and some very useful discussions with the church and secular planning authorities and heritage bodies. This process is very much still continuing.

Our Mission Statement was amended to read "God's love: Know it, Show it, Share it, Declare it".

The PCC were pleased to welcome Rachel Jenkinson as our new curate and wished Paul Manuel every success in his church in Leamington Spa. Other staffing matters were a change of caretaker/cleaner, Sue Kipps finishing in April and Heather Richardson taking over. It was decided to continue to have 3 gap year students but with a slightly different brief. Jonny would stay on for another year and concentrate on the technical side and the two new ones would spend 6 months each with youth and children work. Financial matters were an important part of the PCC's work. There was continuing worry over the likely deficit at the end of the year. A lot of thought was given to Response Sunday. The proper distribution and use of our funds for home and mission was also given very careful consideration. The search for a new book-keeper/ financial secretary has so far been unsuccessful. The plot of land in Highfield Way was finally sold for £23,000, money which will go into the building fund. The J. John Mission to the Deanery next year was supported. The church web site was set up.

Christ Church School Governors - appreciation was expressed for John Hayward who retired as chairman. The PCC were pleased to hear that Sheila Marshall-Taylor was taking over the chair and also welcomed 2 other new governors, Mary Alderson and Sue Doggett

It was agreed that each PCC member would undertake to keep in touch with and pray for a specific church group.

**Membership of the PCC** at 31 December 2007 is as shown below: Revd Gavin Collins (ex-officio); Revd Rachel Jenkinson (ex-officio); Maureen Cockburn (Churchwarden, ex officio); Ian Brocklesby (Churchwarden, ex officio); Stephen Blackney (elected

TALK TALK

2006); Sue Blythe (elected 2005); David Cansdale (ex officio, also Deanery) Michael Citroen (elected 2007 for 2year vacancy); Felicity Crockett (elected 2005); Jane Featherstone-Witty (elected 2007); Aileen Johnson ((elected 2007) Duncan Kerr (Deanery 2005); Charlotte Kohnhorst (elected 2007 for 1year vacancy); Sylvia Mann (elected 2007 for 1year vacancy); Sheila Marshall-Taylor (elected 2006); Martin Perry ( Deanery 2005); Jim Pummell ( Deanery 2005); Andrew Robertson (elected 2007); Marion Smith (Deanery 2005); Nigel Sylvester (ex officio, also Deanery); Audrey Timberlake ( Deanery 2005); Nigel Sylvester (ex officio, also Deanery); Sheila Joel (Secretary) and Sheila Bell (Administrator) in attendance

### **Church membership**

Electoral Roll At the last annual meeting there were 298 on the Electoral The current number is 411.

## **THE RICKMANSWORTH DEANERY SYNOD 2007**

2007 proved to be an eventful year for the Synod, with no less than four parishes in vacancy at some time during the year and the Rev Tim Marshall (vicar of Bovingdon St Lawrence) on sabbatical in the autumn, there was plenty of opportunity for our priests to work across parish boundaries, particularly the active retired clergy. Gavin, as Rural Dean has kept the Deanery alive and well and the parishes are now being filled with their appointed priests. Readers were also asked to lead and preach across parish boundaries.

The life of the Deanery may be pictured as a coming together of Christians from the many Churches to meet and push forward the Kingdom of God and then return to their respective parishes in the form of a courtly dance, very genteel. At least five groups of people met in this way.

The Synod met three times in open session at different venues and discussed a range of items including the Rickmansworth Deanery Review which was approved by Synod and presented to the Diocesan Pastoral Committee in June. The Review highlighted the increasing concern arising from a continuing forced reduction in the number of stipendiary (paid) posts which is likely to result in more operations across parish boundaries and possible benefice amalgamations. It is thought likely that Kings Langley All Saints Church will leave the Deanery and join the Chambersbury Team Ministry which for us would be a relatively pain-free reduction of one stipendiary post. Other topics discussed included the forthcoming missionary event, J. John's Just Ten series on Sunday evenings at Christ Church April 20 to June 22 – do bring a friend. The Synod was also able to welcome the Rev Rachel Jenkinson as Curate to Christ Church and the Rev Deborah Snowball as Priest-in-charge at Rickmansworth St Mary. Deborah was inducted on October 8 and on November 19 the Rev Miriam Mugan was inducted to Croxley Green All Saints; Gavin taking a major part in both services.

Duncan Kerr, Lay Vice Chair of the Synod guided the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee (DSPC) during the year. This group formed a sub-group to produce the Deanery Review. The DSPC met seven times in different locations attending to the financial and pastoral needs of the parishes at the Deanery level as well as thinking of our overall mission. Diocesan links are maintained by Nick Alexander a Reader (Little Heath Christ Church) and on the Diocesan Pastoral Committee and the Rev Canon Robin Brown who is Local Ministry Officer.

Arising from the Deanery Review a Deanery Strategy Group, consisting of key people from the Churches, has been set up under the leadership of the Rev Jim Stevens (vicar of Chipperfield St Paul with Sarratt Holy Cross). One of the main recommendations of the Review is that

we develop a STRATEGY to cope with changing number of clergy and how we can operate across parish boundaries and maybe even harness the enthusiastic energy of Readers and other lay people to accomplish what needs to be done. This group has already met twice and it is planned to report to the Synod in the summer of 2009. The Diocese has agreed to become closely involved so that the eventual strategy is affirmed as future changes in the parishes occur.

A natural focus for the Deanery is the Clergy Chapter which was somewhat depleted during last year but will hopefully be re-invigorated during 2008.

The Deanery has fifteen Licensed Readers, three with Permission-To-Officiate and one of Emeritus status. Sadly Jeanne Penman died in February; she had been an amazingly energetic Reader for many years at Croxley Green St Oswald. The Readers meet four times a year for mutual learning and encouragement. Another group willing and waiting to work across parish boundaries, joining in the courtly dance when invited.

So lots done but lots more to do as we attempt to follow our Deanery motto "We are the body of Christ"

### **DEANERY STRATEGY GROUP**

In June 2007 the Diocesan Pastoral committee welcomed and encouraged the proposal that the Deanery should set up a Deanery Strategy Group to develop a long term strategy for the Deanery that would encourage and enable the whole people of God to be involved in living – and proclaiming-the Kingdom of God to maximum effect throughout our communities (within the constraints of the number of full-time stipendiary clergy).

The group is made up of a clergy member and one or two lay representatives from each parish. The group has met on four occasions and as a result a greater understanding of the strengths and the needs of the other churches in our deanery has already developed. A weekly prayer rota was circulated in the Autumn so that all the churches could concentrate on the needs of the selected church for that week in corporate and individual prayer times. Time was taken in the meetings to seek God's vision and guidance.

Because several churches in the Deanery were without an incumbent until recently, there has been a need to delay making major decisions. However, teams have been set up to investigate the following:

a) the issues which are of mutual concern to those in the largely residential area of the Deanery, and how they might work more effectively; b) possible appropriate interaction with the rural churches in the Deanery.

a) the issues which are of mutual concern to those in the largely rural area of the Deanery, and how they might

work more effectively; b) possible appropriate interaction with the urban churches in the Deanery; c) making contact with the rural parishes across the border eg Flaunden, Latimer, Chenies

the ministry to young people across the whole Deanery – ministry within our churches, in all the primary and secondary schools and to see where work alongside other organisations could be helpfully fostered eg uniformed organisations, youth clubs.

the ministry to the elderly across the whole Deanery – ministry within our churches and in residential homes

In all this we were encouraged to be positive about working ecumenically. The teams are to report back in July.

Maureen Cockburn

## OUR GAP YEAR ASSISTANTS

I can't believe that I have been living here in Chorleywood for over 6 months already! On the one hand it seems like no time has passed since I was arriving and meeting everyone for the first time. On the other hand, I have learned and achieved much more than I expected in such a relatively short period of time.

Thank you to everyone at Christ Church for welcoming me into your church so fully – I am constantly being encouraged, supported and spurred on to achieve new things.

For me, the highlight of the year so far has to be the Winter Ball that took place in January. This was a fantastic evening – and the culmination of a lot of hard work from the youth and so many other people that helped too. It brought many different members of YPF together who would not normally socialize, and gave them a sense of belonging and ownership over the event. When panic set in one week before about the lack of tickets sold, YPF rose to the challenge and invited all their friends – in total we had over 120 guests, with about a third from Christ Church, a third from St Andrew's and a third non-churched friends. This event was fantastic at encouraging unity between the two churches as well as reaching out to their school friends. Through it I have learned so much, including the practical organizing and logistics of such a big social event, but more importantly trusting God with the final outcome, and encouraging young people to take on new roles and use the skills God has given them. I was blown away by God's extravagant provision for this event and reminded of how His hand is in the detail as much as the big.

Leading the Rock Solid Going Deeper group has been another highlight for me and it was a joy to be part of a group of young people who are so eager to know more about God. My faith has grown as I attempt to answer their sometimes tricky questions, and it is great to have so much fun whilst we study our bibles in depth. Roll on the next 5 months! I am expectant to learn a lot more as I work alongside Yvonne in the children's ministry.

Jen



Well it's been a very different year compared to last but it has been an honour being the Worship and Tech Co-ordinator at Christ Church. I feel part of the family even more so that it'll be very hard to move on in August. I have really enjoyed getting to know the 10.30 congregation this year, as before they were just faces and parents of the children and youth, but now you are all friends and I want to thank you for welcoming me and allowing me to lead you in sung worship to the Almighty One. In the 7pm service this year there has been a continuing and increasing movement of God's Spirit in people that has been so exciting and I pray it continues during the Just 10

mission. I would like to thank the dedicated Worship and Tech teams for all the work they do at Christ Church. They are the first to arrive and the last to leave on a Sunday and without them there would be no music, sound or words in the service. Christ Church is truly blessed to have you. Christ Church is a loving, caring, family church. Thank you all for making it so.

Jonny



Hey!

Since moving down to Chorleywood in September, I have encountered so many new awesome things! My whole experience started with our 3 day training at High Leighs conference centre with Tom, Yvonne, Jen and Jonny-where we basically got to know each other and to find where we are with the Lord. Since day one this has been a roller-coaster of events for me, starting with the YPF weekend away-where I really got to know the youth and their many personalities!! Its quite difficult for me to decide which part of the last 6 months I have enjoyed the most. As I am enjoying every part so far- I love going in to Christ Church School, helping with assemblies and playing games in the playground with the kids- so much that if I miss a Monday and don't go in, I end up going in extra on Tuesday AND Wednesday!! Also going into Arnett Hills on Wednesday afternoon and working with the reception class and year 6 is just amazing, to have so many kids look up to you, (some have to look down- as I am rather short) is great! FFF club on Friday evenings are really fun too. To get the chance to tell non-church children about Jesus (and have them actually want to listen) is brilliant! Also just being there for them to talk to and to pray with them- well we are truly blessed!

I have also enjoyed all the toddler groups, (toddler in and jumping beans) because to just sit there and be attacked by what seems like thousands of toddlers is just hilarious. They love it!

I started last term helping out with the choir at Christ Church Primary School, on Wednesdays, which is great as I get to see most of the kids under a different light when in school- from how they behave to how well they sing!!

The youth have also been wonderful in welcoming us into the family, by agreeing to meet with us on a regular basis for Hot chocolate and waffles. (hopefully it is our company and not just the waffles that got them there.)

I would just like to finish by writing a massive Thank you to all the staff team- for making me feel extremely welcome, and to Christ Church as a whole, for making me feel like part of the family. I have met so many wonderful friends here at

Chorleywood, and hopefully the friendships will grow while I carry on working here until August.

Love and Prayers  
Katie

## IF - A CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

(With one thousand apologies to Rudyard Kipling)

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and getting in a stew.  
And just you alone with no one helping you,  
Shift stacks of chairs and tables, quite a few!  
If you can multitask and balance with skill,  
And master techie things such as PA,  
Use vacuum cleaner & screw drivers at will,  
Produce refreshments too at end of day!

If you can gather current information,  
And thus compile a News sheet, week by week,  
Which helps inform the current congregation,  
Of matters which they may or may not seek!  
If you have bent for all of things creative,  
Produce tickets, flyers, posters with a flare,  
Service sheets and programmes illustrative,  
Welcome packs and term cards, all with care!

If you can supervise all calling tradesmen,  
Who keep in tune the organ, lights and clock,  
Fire extinguishers, alarms, and other mayhem.  
And feed them coffee, tea and bars of choc!  
If you can oversee Church and Church room diary,  
Not double book YPF with Young at Heart,  
And set the boilers warm, but not too fiery,  
And know what time to stop and when to start!

If you can keep informed the general public,  
And keep up-to-date the Notice board with pride,  
But to do this you must be in the best nick,  
As you need to balance on the wall astride!



and marking stick brand new!

If you can put together many Rotas  
For Services, Communion, prayer ministry,  
And making sure that all have equal quotas  
Of leading, preaching, praying (that is me!)  
If you can produce budgets tight and squeaking,  
And compile computer spread sheets by the score,  
And balance income & expenses without tweaking,  
Keep tabs on cash-flow columns and much more!

If you can organise a Parish Weekend,  
With bookings trickling in, oh just a few,  
When deadlines are gone and wits are at an end,  
You find, surprise, surprise, the hugest queue!  
If you can juggle rooms and allocate them  
To families large and small and singles too,  
And after hours of vicious contemplation,  
Make sure the Vicar's bed's not in the loo!

If you can verge for funerals and care for  
Those bereaved and those in need of prayer,  
And anyone who happens through our Church door,  
And never mind the office tasks laid bare.  
If you can keep your smile and sense of humour,  
And go the second mile and then some more,  
And know God's calling clear for your own future,  
You could be a Church Administrator!

(But not at Christ Church because the post isn't vacant!)

With love

Sheila Bell 2008

## PASTORAL CARE



My role as co-ordinator of pastoral care in Christ Church is a busy as ever! As I look back over the past year it amazes me how many people I have had the privilege of getting alongside at their point of need. It may be something as simple as organising a lift to the doctor for an elderly person to listening and praying with a person who has just

received devastating news.

One thing that I learn on an almost weekly basis is that God does the work ... when we are tired, drained and feel we have 'nothing left to give' and let's face it we all feel that from time to time, God then does his best work through us. He is so faithful and he enables us through his Holy Spirit to show His love and compassion. I would just like to comment on three areas of pastoral care in this report:

Through home groups, bible study groups, prayer triplets, the Young at Heart group and within friendship groups across our congregations, pastoral care is thriving. I would like to thank all the leaders of these groups who not only plan, teach and lead they also 'pastor' and often provide practical support when needed to their members too.

Our team of bereavement visitors continue to give of their time and I would like to thank them and Mary Sylvester in particular who is stepping down from co-ordinating this group. Her commitment to serving our congregation and parish in this way has been wonderful over several years and she has been a great support to me – thank you Mary!

I now have a new 'Parish Freezer' to replace the old one which fell apart a few weeks ago and this is currently well stocked with home-made shepherds pies, chilli, casseroles, lasagnes and fruit crumbles and pies. This continues to be a practical blessing to many people and my thanks goes to all those who have cooked for me.

We are a big church which is great but that does mean that at any one time there are lots of different needs and so may I end by thanking all those who have helped with pastoral care this year and could I make a specific request for drivers who are available during the day to make themselves known to me! It would be great to have a longer list of people to call on. Young at Heart in particular need drivers on a Thursday morning, you would not need to be

available every week, even if you could help once a month it would be great. Please call me on 282160.

Thank you

Tracy Brown

<mailto:tracyabrown@cccw.org>

**ALPHA** has been one of the highlights of my first nine months here. A total Alpha novice when I arrived, I soon discovered what you at Christ Church have known for years: that the basic Alpha shape - a welcoming meal; a short talk to introduce elements of the Christian faith; followed by opportunity for open exploration and debate – sets the scene for people to discover and deepen their faith, in a low pressure, enjoyable environment.



Two courses have run this year. The autumn evening course, led by Claudette Fisher Johnson, Gavin Collins, and me, attracted 7 participants; a great sized group for trying out hosting in the curate's house! And how encouraging it was to see people engage with the different topics, week by week and through the mid-term 'away-day' at Mill End Baptist church - and from a variety of starting points, begin to stretch out in their journeys of faith.

A spring daytime course, with 5 participants, led by Eileen Gardner and Marion Smith at Eileen's home, is still running as this report goes to press. Compressed into less than 2 hours, and fuelled by coffee, cake and the Holy Spirit (not necessarily in that order!), it has been exciting to see God at work in the participants who (as for the previous course) include those seeking faith; and believers who want to grow in understanding.

Huge thanks are owed to an amazing army of helpers, all of whom are integral to making Alpha work. These include those who gave talks; those who provided consistently delicious meals and cakes; servers who made the job of hosting so much easier; those providing daytime crèche support; those who prayed; those who provided away-day support (musical worship, prayer support, catering) and the Odendaals, who kindly hosted on evenings when I couldn't.

Many thanks to Claudette, whose tireless help, enthusiasm, and organisational skills kept this Alpha novice leader on track and encouraged throughout; and to Eileen, Marion, Christina and Gavin for so willingly and very ably giving so much of themselves and their time in planning and leading the courses. We look forward to the next Alpha with excitement, planned to coincide with J John's Just 10 Mission in

April: please do pray both for those helping, and for those interested in attending. And pray also for those of us leading and coordinating – in our (as well as wider church and home groups') continuing contact

with those who've been through these courses; and in planning programmes beyond this summer.

Rachel Jenkinson

## CHRIST CHURCH TODDLERS

Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri  
10am – 11.30am  
Mon 1.30pm to  
2.45pm



### Toddlers' Ethos

*Christ Church Toddlers exists to serve the Mums and Carers in our local community. We aim to provide a place where all members and their children feel welcomed, valued and cared for. We pray that through our actions our members feel touched by God's love - our motivation as Coordinators and helpers is to make true the Christ Church motto, God's Love: Know it, Show it, Share it, Declare it. Our hope is that the children in our groups are introduced to the story of Jesus and will grow to know Him as a friend and helper.*

### Group Coordinators

Monday morning Claire Johnson, Mavis Bradfield

Monday afternoon Désirée Cronnelly, Louise Flamank, Helen Jansen, Jerry Harrigan and Caroline Richie

Tuesday Ewa Davey, Joy Vale and Myra Chave-Jones

Wednesday Karen Post, Christina Collins

Friday Jasmine Lewis, Frances Parsons, Anne Benson

Admissions/ Treasurer Jo Malcher

## WOMEN'S BREAKFAST



The Women's Breakfasts have been held every other month for several years. They are attended by approximately 80 ladies. The group is a mix of regular Christ Church members, school mums, toddler group mums and friends. The idea is to spoil our ladies and give them a chance to get to know each other better. For those unfamiliar with church attendance, we aim to create a non threatening, friendly environment where they feel included and hope that they have a desire to learn more of Jesus Christ. Vanessa Morley

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Following our move to hold the Men's Breakfasts at the Peppermill Restaurant, the numbers of people attending has increased, so that we are now at full capacity or near-capacity each time. If men want to get to know other men at Christ Church, the breakfasts are a must. There's



now a much greater diversity in ages and spiritualities amongst those who come. We enjoy the relaxed café atmosphere and the excellent service provided by Phil and the welcoming Peppermill staff – those who'd like more than a continental breakfast can, if they wish, go for a full English or anything in between!

About four or five events are held each year. In summer 2007, we were all moved and challenged to hear Ronel Odendaal speak about her responses to the tragic death of her sister in South Africa. The autumn began with Philip Lovegrove, formerly a merchant banker and Church Commissioner, speaking on 'Money Matters'. As part of his story, he described the impact on his faith of his near bankruptcy, which happened after the collapse of a property company he once ran.

There was no meeting in the second part of the autumn, so that everyone could focus on the Harlequin Night – a supper evening for the whole church with live music and a hot supper.

In February this year Rachel Jenkinson used the punning title 'Yes..Minister!' to describe her career path and Christian journey – from Physicist, via the Civil Service to Curate at Christ Church, with, running through it all, a faith which has emerged as central to her life.

Geoff Marshall-Taylor

[geoffmt@btinternet.com](mailto:geoffmt@btinternet.com)

## CHRIST CHURCH BOOKSTALL



During 2007 the Bookstall has continued to supply Bibles, books, Bible-reading notes, cards and even some DVDs to the Christ Church family. Roger & I hope that we have provided a varied and interesting display of good books to whet your appetites for reading! Sales for the year were good – thank you all for your continued support. Again, a large number of books have been sold at the Alpha Courses through the year.

Thank you to all those who have helped us with the practical details of running the Bookstall, especially Peter Cockburn and Sheila Bell for their assistance in different ways during 2007.

The system of payment for books generally works well but could I make two requests:-

If you sign an IOU, please pay promptly to save me having to chase for payment!

If you are placing cash or a cheque in a brown envelope, please mark the outside clearly with your name, the book purchased, the amount and the date. Very often I have to make some inspired (or perhaps not so inspired!) guesses when these details are omitted or I am unable to decipher handwriting.

We look forward to encouraging you with your spiritual reading in 2008 which we trust will bless and inspire you on the journey of faith which we share together. If a particular book has challenged or inspired you then do let us know so that we can recommend it to others.

Nigel Spoor

## YOUNG AT HEART

The meeting of "Young at Heart" (formerly called "Over Sixties") continues to be popular and the atmosphere is always welcoming, friendly and caring. We meet in the Church Room every Thursday during term time at 10 am and enjoy a chat over coffee and biscuits, followed by a hymn and a prayer before a varied programme of talks and activities. On the first Thursday of each month we have a service of Holy Communion, led by our vicar, the Revd Gavin Collins, the Curate or Geoff Marshall-Taylor. The Communion is much appreciated by many members who are unable to attend normal church services. On other Thursdays we either have an activity or talk from one of our own leaders or an outside speaker. This year, these have covered a wide variety of subjects including the Rickmansworth Museum, local activity centres, the Hertfordshire library service and work in prisons for

inmates about to be released back into the community. Our own leaders arrange slide shows, music, quizzes and games. Recently staff from the Beaumont and Burford House residential homes have volunteered to organize activities which have been a great success. We offer a small donation to our outside speakers to a cause chosen by them. One event which members enjoy is helping to fill Christmas gift boxes to be sent to children in need anywhere in the world.

Our Christmas and Easter lunches and the Summer Tea are always enjoyable and provide happy social occasions. At these times we are also able to thank our drivers and other members of the church community who give of their time and effort to help us.

## Group Strength And Teamwork

During the course of this year, Karin Forman has, after four years of dedicated service, handed over the co-ordination role, and Olga has, at more than ninety years old, had to give up playing the piano for us! We are so grateful to her for her past efforts and now have to rely on a CD for a 'singalong' for our weekly hymns. We have also sadly lost our helper Dorothy Beattie who died at Christmas, and one of our long time members, Peggie, whose death we fear was precipitated by a cowardly break-in at her home in Chorleywood.

The present Leadership Team comprises Angela Cannon, Karin Forman, Sheila Jury (and her husband Stuart), Rosemary Kendall, Sally Stanbridge, and Margaret Foster, all of whom play a valued role in ensuring the popularity of this group.

## Transport

We very much appreciate the efforts of our volunteer drivers. At present, we have more members who come from the Beaumont or Burford House care homes opposite the Church and we are most grateful to their carers whose responsibility it is to bring the wheelchairs over to the Church Room. We would however be grateful for extra help in driving some members. This involves collecting them and dropping them off between 10 am and 11.40 am on Thursdays. This does not need to be a commitment every week as we can organize a rota system.

## The Way Forward

If you are able to give a talk, suggest a speaker or provide transport we shall be delighted. Please come along to our meetings - these are always announced in the news sheets in church. You will always be most welcome. We very much appreciate the support of the church community.

Angela Cannon

