

# St Stephen's Church, Shottermill



## Annual Reports and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

*For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.*

**Incumbent:**

Rev Danny Wignall

**Bank:**

Lloyds Bank Plc  
12 High Street  
Haslemere  
Surrey  
GU27 2JG

**Auditor:**

Christopher Elsey FCA  
Barter Durgan & Muir  
31 Bepton Down  
Petersfield  
Hampshire  
GU31 4PR

# The Parish of St Stephen's, Shottermill

Agenda for the Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on  
26<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 10.00am

## Vestry Meeting

- 1 Election of 2 churchwardens to serve for the year 2009/2010
  - Andrew Lee and Colin Short

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

- 1 Minutes of the APCM of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2008
- 2 Notification of Any other Business
- 3 Written reports on the past year as follows - *please take time to read these.*
  - Vicars Report - *Danny Wignall*
  - Annual Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish and Presentation of the Audited Accounts - *Ed Walker*
  - Electoral Roll Report - *Jo Long*
  - Annual Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council - *Robin Anderson*
  - Report on the Church Fabric - *Andrew Lee, Colin Short and Duncan Long*
  - Report on the Proceedings of the Godalming Deanery Synod - *Danny Wignall*
  - Rainbow Nursery report - *Hilary Owen*
  - Worship and media report - *Andy Rigby*
  - Children's and families worker report - *Claire Honeywood*
  - Youth Work Report - *Lee Nancarrow*
  - Organ Report - *Nicky Lee*
  - Noah Ark & Rainbow Nursery and Noah's Ark Social Fundraising Committee (SFC) - *Vanessa Clothier-Pratts*
  - Outward Giving/Prayer Ministry/The Marriage Course - *Michael & Jean Clark*
  - Prime Time - *Vanessa Kemp*
  - Pastoral Care - *Jane Saunders*
  - Church Office- *Susan Kennedy & Jo Long*
- 4 Election of Lay Representatives to serve on the Deanery Synod (3)
- 5 Election of Lay Representatives to serve on the PCC (4)
- 6 Annual Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish and Presentation of the Audited Accounts
  - Verbal report from the Treasurer *Ed Walker*
- 7 Appointment of the Independent Examiner to the Council :
- 8 Vicars Report -
  - Verbal report from *Danny Wignall*
- 9 Questions

Date of the next meeting of the Parochial Church Council - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at the Vicarage

This will all take place within the context of a service and will be followed by communion

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting and APCM of St Stephen's Church,  
10 am 27<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

Opened in prayer by Hilary Pettman  
Chaired by Danny Wignall

1. Members not on the electoral roll were proposed to be allowed to remain. All agreed - no objections.

**Vestry Meeting**

2. **Church Wardens** - Neil Caie stepped down a gift and thanks were given. Colin Short proposed to become new church warden by Jean Burchell and Bill Harding. Andrew Lee to remain as Church Warden - proposed by Len Benson and seconded by Moira Howard. All agreed - no objections.
3. **Assistant Warden** - Duncan Long to work alongside Peter Soar. Thanks were also given to Roger Grimshaw for his contribution in the work in the Church flats.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

4. **Minutes from 2007:** were approved. - Jane Harding proposed , Maggie Grimshaw seconded all agreed - no objections.
5. **No Matters Arising** from previous minutes.
6. **Electoral roll report** - The 2007 electoral roll contained 154 names, there were 24 deletions and 13 additions to leave the current electoral roll at 143. Thanks to Michael Clark and Jo Long.
7. **PCC Report** - Danny highlighted the three key objectives as outlined by PCC (improving our publicity and communication in the church; increase our Community based activity and connections; and explore ways of creating middle sized groupings in the church). Thanks to those involved so far.
8. **Deanery Synod Election of Lay Representatives.** Thanks given to Jean Burchell; Sally Carruthers and Jean Leston who will be leaving the posts. New members are required and Fiona Short volunteered to fulfil one of the roles (Proposed by Neil Caie and Seconded Sally Carruthers).
9. **PCC Election of Lay Representatives.** Thanks given to Brenda Petrie, Nicky Lee and Jane Saunders who will be leaving the posts. New members to the PCC were elected Robin Andersen (Proposed by Peter Soar and Seconded by Neil Caie), Carl Sully (Proposed by Andy Rigby, Seconded by Louise Stevenson), Annie Barnesdale (Proposed by Jo Long, Seconded by Jean Burchill), Lynne Browne (Proposed by Vanessa Kemp and Seconded by Ruth Harding). All agreed - no objections.
10. **Annual Accounts** were presented by Treasurer Ed Walker and accounts in full were made available. Ed broke down the balance of the restricted (e.g. building and organ fund) and unrestricted funds. He presented a high level overview of income and expenditure. He drew attention to the repayment schedule of the loans which would fall due over the next 1-3years. Based on current figures it suggests a small shortfall which should be recoverable if prudent. He was thanked by Danny for his work on the accounts. Thanks given by Ed & Danny to Financial team and supporters.
11. The Report on the **Church Fabric** was highlighted
12. The Report on the **Proceedings of the Deanery Synod** was highlighted
13. **Appointment of the Independent Examiner to the Council** -The meeting resolved to reappoint Mr Christopher Elsey FCA as independent auditor to the Council for the term of office ending at the close of the next annual meeting on 26th April 2009. All agreed - no objections
14. **Reports on the past year**

- a. Andy Rigby: **Worship**. Highlighted Sermon recordings on the church website, Church Office, Sound Survey, New Band Position, Time & Space for God (once a month in the evening at 7pm), Organ Fund (grant applications underway as well as fund raising), New Musicians (in Danny & Debs, some musicians have left), Christmas Service (thanks to Pete Buckley for work at Christmas Service - a great success), Jazz Band now formed. Worship laptop was stolen during burglary in church and insurance claim was processed. Danny gave thanks to all worship team (sound, projection, musician, and all others particularly Andy).
- b. Hilary Owen: **Rainbow**. Links with St Stephens stronger than ever. The nursery is currently thriving. Thanks to all volunteer staff. Rainbow Support Group established with Ann Fitchett chairperson.
- c. Danny - **Vicars report** - Thanked all for welcome to church. Thanks to all involved in the housegroup leaders, Dave Mitchell for website ownership, Duncan Long for Good News. Particular thanks to Jill Dilks for all work for church over the years. Flowers will be presented. Jo Long and Sue Kennedy have taken on Administrative roles. Thanks to everyone. Danny outlined our priorities for the year (which are foundational to becoming a healthy growing church) as growing in Right Relationships - with God, with each other and with our neighbours and becoming an even more generous church - in time, resources, practical love and care and finance.
- d. Attention brought to the **Curates report**
- e. Lee Nancarrow - **Amplified** grown from 6 to 18. **Liquid** lots of activities performed and upcoming including 'The Wave'. Announced intention for DNA worker this year. Schools work has progressed massively. Danny offered thanks to Lee, Laura and rest of team.
- f. Liza Caie: **Junior Church**. Sparkerlers & Ignite (30 children on the register) (15 team leaders). No supervised crèche, volunteer welcome. **Holiday Club** engages with 100 children mostly unchurched. **Noah's Ark** 23 families. Vanessa now heads up Noah's Ark with support from team. Liza stepping down. Danny thanks Lisa and presents flowers. Claire Honeywood will be taking over role of Childrens and Family Worker.

15. **Questions** - no questions were raised

16. Date of the next meeting of the Parochial Church Council - 14th May 8pm in church

Closed in Prayer by Danny

### Vicars Report

It's hard to believe that I have been here as your vicar for nearly two years. It continues to be a privilege to live in such a beautiful part of the world and to serve you and the people of this parish.

I continue to be excited about what God is doing here week by week and by what he has in store for us as a church. I believe that we have the potential to be an even more vibrant worshipping, loving, serving and witnessing community as we seek to be daily transformed by the love of God. We are so blessed to have so many people serving in a variety of ways, to have gifted people in positions of responsibility and to have such a wide variety of ages of people and a breadth of styles in which we worship God and pray. This variety is healthy and to be celebrated. We have a wonderful family here at St Stephen's which is easy to take for granted - but for which we should be very thankful.

There are so many people to thank for all their hard work and service to the church and I will try my best to thank as many people as possible during our actual Annual Meeting. However, I just wanted to mention a few folk who have taken on new responsibilities this year who need our continued prayers and support. First of all, I was delighted when Jane Saunders agreed to take on a coordinating role for Pastoral Care at St Stephen's. All those involved in pastoral care now meet regularly for prayer and support and from next term we will begin a series of training sessions. Please read Jane's report and pray about how you might be involved. Speak to Jane if you are interested and remember that training is available. Some of you may want to consider undertaking more extensive training in pastoral care and train to be a pastoral assistant - licensed by the diocese. Annie Barnsdale has already done this and puts her training to good use in a variety of ways in serving the church. Hilary Owen has also begun her training as a Pastoral Assistant in September which is brilliant. We have also changed the timings of our Family Services from once a month to twice a term. We began with our Harvest service last year. My thanks go to Debs Wignall and her team for the excellent quality of our family services. Please speak to Debs if you would like to be involved. This year also saw us taking on a gap year DNA student for the first time - and it has been great to have one of our home grown young people - Nic Owen - working primarily with Lee, Laura and the youth team.

Last year I talked about the need to 'join the dots' between the different areas of our church life. One great example of this is the way in which The Rainbow and Noah's Ark have begun to work much more closely together through the hard work of many people - but especially Vanessa Clothier-Pratts and Hilary Owen. Please see their reports for more details. Another example would be our House groups together meetings which now happen once a term. There is still much joining of dots to be done and one of the ways I and the PCC are taking this forward is in the forming of Purpose groups - listed in the PCC report. Please speak to any member of the PCC or myself if you might be interested in being a part of one of the focus groups.

One of my jobs as your vicar is to continually bring us back to what it is God has called us to be as individuals and as a church. Not surprisingly our common purpose hasn't changed since last year! I believe that our purpose as followers of Christ is clear from scripture and has its basis in the great commandments and the great commissions. As I have said before, this can be put simply as living in three-dimensions: UP to God in worship and prayer; IN - loving each other, growing as disciples and OUT to the world in mission, service and love of neighbour, witness and care for our planet.

In September 2008 the PCC had an away day and we used the time to think and pray about our vision and values. We reaffirmed our vision statement which is "Honouring God, following the example of Jesus and showing his love in our community." The values we came up with are outlined in the PCC report. These values - as well as the strategy I have proposed to help us to live out those values - are meant to be a work in progress and I and the PCC would welcome your comments. Obviously putting our vision, purpose, values and strategy in writing is only part of the story. The objective is that we would begin to live and embody our vision, purpose and these values as individuals and as a church. This will only happen as we begin to understand and own them for ourselves. As part of this process of ownership, our next House Groups together meeting will focus on our values. In addition, over the next few months we will occasionally interject some teaching about one of our values into the regular Sunday morning teaching programme. I hope that these times will be interactive to provide another way for anyone to contribute to a deepening understanding of what these values mean for us and how to live them out.

This year has held a variety of joys and sorrows. We have rejoiced with those who have been baptised, confirmed, have come to faith, have celebrated birthdays, anniversaries or other significant milestones. We have also enjoyed fellowship with one another during our coffee times, our shared lunches, our other social events or in our house groups. At the same time, we have suffered many losses - big and small. Whether it be a loss of job, a loss of health, a loss of relationship, the loss of those moving away, a loss experienced through changes circumstances, or loss through the death of someone we love.

We also lost our curate Hilary Pettman when she retired last September and I have certainly missed her a great deal - as a colleague and a friend. Please continue to pray that God would provide another ordained colleague in the near future. We have applied to receive a curate from the diocese in 2010 - so watch this space! I also want to give special thanks to John Postill and of course to Jeanie. No vicar could wish for a better retired colleague. John and Jeanie give us so much as a church and to Debs and myself personally. Sadly Claire Honeywood will be stepping down as children's and families worker at the end of July and I would like to thank her for all her hard work over the last year. We will also be losing Hadley Bennet at the end of August. Hadley will be ordained as a deacon on 5<sup>th</sup> July, and our loss will be St Luke's Grayshott's gain as she begins her curacy there in September. It is never easy to learn one's craft in front of those who know you well and it has been a pleasure to see the way Hadley has grown in confidence and skill in her leading and preaching in particular. David and the children will continue to worship with us here at St Stephen's

A healthy church is one that knows how to rejoice as well as how to lament and my prayer is that the community of St Stephen's is one where everyone can find a place to encounter God - whatever their circumstances, both in time of joy and in times of loss. Recently at one of our Sunday prayer and praise services, someone had a picture of the church as a boat which I think illustrates this hope very well: The picture was of this boat doing three things: (i) letting down ladders and sending out lifeboats to those outside the boat who needed help, who needed to be rescued and saved; (ii) inviting people to join the party on board and (iii) acting as a hospital ship where people in need come for healing and recuperation. I am reminded of Isaiah 35 which, as I said last year is, I believe, a significant passage for us as a church. Remember, it is a prophecy from Isaiah to the people of God who had been taken into captivity in Assyria. It was a prophecy of hope and speaks of God making the desert blossom, of God strengthening feeble knees and hands, of God saying to the fearful; don't be afraid, I am with you. I believe God is saying all of those things to us today: where we feel spiritually dry, he will refresh us. In verse 6 it says: "*water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert*"; where we feel weak he will strengthen us and when we are afraid he says "*be strong do not fear*." Isaiah also talks about the eyes of the blind being opened, the ears of the deaf being unstopped and the dumb shouting for joy. All of these can be taken literally and spiritually and I long to see St Stephen's as an oasis for those who need healing - physical, spiritual and emotional. And a place from which we can be sent out into the world empowered by the life giving Spirit to be those who can show an often directionless and hurting world that there is hope and a purpose to life - personified in Jesus himself - The Way, The Truth and The Life.

There have been many highlights for me over this past year - too numerous to mention them all, but a few examples would be: the Colour me Beautiful evening, the confirmation service, the bereavement service (new in 2008), the Civic Service in June, the Prime Time tea dance, the Pamper evening, Kids Praise every month, our Carol Service, Summer WAVE events and holiday club and our recent Good Friday crafts sessions

with over 65 children and many parents attending, worshipping loudly with Liquid on Sunday evenings. There have also been quieter moments such as during our week of prayer and the 24/7 prayer week or at our monthly Time and Space for God services. Many of us also enjoyed a fantastic time at New Wine in the summer - if you are interested, it is not too late to book for this year.

As we look ahead to the future, there are some exciting possibilities ahead as we build upon all that God has been doing in our midst. There will be some new initiatives such as Men@St Stephen's, hopefully a parenting course, PCC focus groups etc. Most of all I am looking forward to seeing lives continuing to be changed by the transforming love of God, to journeying together as we seek to be authentic and obedient followers of Jesus in our daily lives - in the highs and the lows.

Finally - well done if you are still reading(!) - my challenge to us all for this coming year is fourfold:

- 1. To make more space for God** - do you read your Bible and pray regularly? Do you find this hard to do on your own? Maybe you could join one of our excellent House Groups? What about listening to one the many great Christians podcast available? What about simply giving God more space to speak to you by going for a walk at lunchtime. We will all make space for God in different ways - please come and speak to me if you would like to talk it through - but we **MUST** do this if we want our relationship with God to grow deeper.
- 2. To make more space for others** - do we spend enough time with our families and friends? Could we join a club or society doing something we enjoy? Maybe we need to pay more attention to those we work with? Remember we are called to be salt and light to those around us - if we don't spend any time with them - this is a bit difficult!
- 3. Be more thankful** - this is pretty obvious, but it is easy to be cynical or to focus on what is wrong in our lives and in the world - but we are called to rejoice and be thankful in all circumstances. This isn't the same as being in denial about things that are not good, like the Psalmist we need to be able to express our doubts, frustrations and fears. Thankfulness is an attitude of mind and one that develops with practice!
- 4. Seek new ways to serve God** - take the risk of asking God if there are any new areas you should be serving in - both in church and outside. John Wimber (I think) was famous for saying that faith is spelt R.I.S.K.! Or what about in the Narnia chronicles Aslan "are you safe?" and Aslan replies "of course I'm not safe!" Christianity is not the safe, easy option, God longs for us to partner with him in his work - we are called to be his hands and feet. When the church - which is of course its people - works together in cooperation with the Spirit of God, there is literally nothing quite like it on earth. Together we can do great things for the Kingdom.

Danny Wignall, April 2009

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2008

### The Finance Team and Auditor

In my second year-end report as Treasurer, I am proud to report that I continue to be ably supported by Michael Clark (Paying in) and Jo Long (Paying Out). The financial affairs of the church would be much harder work without their continued support.

In addition to the finance team a separate stewardship committee continues to meet from time to time with a focus on initiatives for repaying outstanding loans to members and external bodies. Lance Anelay and Michael Pettman left the committee during the year and accordingly new members are being sought.

As for the 2008 accounts, these accounts are now subject to independent examination rather than audit by virtue of changes in the rules. I am pleased to be able to report that Chris Elsey of Barter Durgan & Muir, who audited the accounts last year, and for some years has been our Independent Examiner, has again agreed to conduct the independent examination.

### **Assets**

The regulations require us to show in the accounts all the assets that the PCC has at its disposal other than Consecrated Land and Buildings thereon, which are considered "inalienable". The Church and graveyard are Consecrated and thus not shown in the accounts. It is believed that The Cross is built, in part, on Consecrated Land and the redevelopment plans envisage connecting it to the church to form one building, using Consecrated Land. The PCC continues to hold the view that it, too, should be considered inalienable and not included in these accounts.

The PCC owns Flats No 2 and 3 in Glovers House opposite the church. One flat is occupied by the Youth Minister and his wife and the other is let on a commercial basis. The value of the flats is shown on the Balance sheet but has not been updated this year and remains at the valuation provided by Keats Estate Agents at January 2008. I took the view that any valuation in such uncertain financial times would be close to meaningless and that a valuation at the end of 2009 would be a better yard-stick for the accounts in due course. The accounts have been presented to the Independent Examiner on this basis.

The PCC are trustees for the Pitcairn Trust which was set up in order to provide an income for the maintenance of the Pitcairn graves. The trust income was £43.20 in 2008. Small restricted trusts like this present all PCCs with a considerable problem because the income is minimal, the capital inaccessible and the administration the same as one ten or even a hundred times larger.

The PCC arranges and pays for insurance on both the Cross and the Church and maintains Employers Liability Insurance cover for both buildings.

### **Income**

The PCC encourages all the church members to give to the work of the church using one of the established planned giving schemes; a regular standing order, via the Charities Aid Foundation, through Give As You Earn or in the weekly envelope scheme. Tax is recovered where the donor is a tax payer and the donation is net of tax.

The general voluntary income (direct giving) for the year (£146,658) was a significant increase from last year (£128,179).

The restricted income for repayment of the redevelopment loans (£75,905) is again an increase against the adjusted pledges received in 2007 (£37,252). The pledged income for the repayment of these loans remains roughly constant and the increase is largely as a result of a marked increase in one-off pledges to this fund.

The restricted income for the organ redevelopment work was a healthy £12,153, bringing the total in this fund to £20,002. The vast majority of income into this fund during the year comprised of tax reclaimed from HMRC from one-off pledges to the church.

Overall the number of donors has remained roughly constant. It is worth reminding ourselves that the tax we reclaim accounts for around 20% of our giving income. The accounts will show that the figure is around 15%, however, this hides the fact that a small but increasing number of donors choose to give via their employers (GAYE) or via CAF, where the payment received is made “gross” i.e. it effectively includes the tax element already.

Our Glovers House flat (No 3) was tenanted for the entire year and rental prospects for 2009 are considered good. This is in contrast to 2007 when the flat was untenanted for much of the year.

Other fees for weddings, funerals etc. were slightly up on 2007.

On the face of it we appear to have a very healthy bank balance (£106,454). However most of it is earmarked to settle various items that are due in 2009, in particular building redevelopment loans repayable in 2008 (£44,000), outstanding invoices in respect of the redevelopment project (£6,610), other bills payable in 2009 in respect of 2008 (£8,133) and accrued but unspent outward giving (£22,041). They have all been provided for in these accounts.

The statement of financial activities shows net incoming resources of negative £22,421. This is nothing to be alarmed about. It largely reflects the fact that the Cross redevelopment expenditure incurred during the year was funded in large part from cash that had been saved up in the Rainbow bank account over previous years, rather than income in 2008.

### **Outward Giving**

We allocate 10% of our regular income (as well as any special collections and the Christmas collections) to be given to a broad range of Christian and secular charities and projects locally, nationally and internationally.

Overall, at the end of 2008 £22,041 (2007: £14,990) was available to be given to our selected causes including funds held over from prior years. The Christmas collections raised a fabulous £900 (£195 in 2007) which was donated equally to CRISIS at Christmas and the Children’s Society.

The accounts do not show that the church donated £13,200 to 12 organisations throughout the year. These organisations were: Christian Missions Charitable Trust, Mr and Mrs Roche, Open Doors, Tearfund, Skillway Chapel Workshops in Godalming, Chernobyl Lifeline, Crossways Counselling Service, Mvumi School, Latin Link, International House Derby, Church Mission Society and WEC International (the Munfords). This is not shown in the accounts because this expenditure was all from our 2007 outward giving accrual. The 2008 accrual noted above will be allocated in the next few weeks by a newly formed outward giving committee made up of Danny Wignall, Andrew Lee, Colin Short, Michael Clark and Neil Wilson. As this allocation will similarly not appear in the 2009 accounts, the plan going forward is to donate as much as would be prudent of the accrual throughout the financial year rather than allocate it in the coming year. Notwithstanding this, the other organisations that we did support during the year are contained in the grants and outward giving section of the accounts.

It is worth remembering that we also expend money on a number of causes and projects which are outwardly directed but which for historical reasons are not classified as

outward giving by St Stephens. Examples of this would be significant parts of the children and youth ministries.

### **Expenditures**

The general account expenditure directly relating to the work of the Church increased by £18,500 when compared to 2007. This is due to a large extent to an increase in the Parish Share of £6,471 to £64,328 (2007: £57,857) and considerable increases in our energy and other utility costs. By in large, this increased expenditure was predicted and publicised to the church in the 2008 stewardship Sunday initiative.

### **Reserves**

In 2006 the PCC agreed to set aside annually the sum of £5,000 to form a new Church and Cross estate maintenance fund. This has proved in practice to be a suitable amount to cover annual maintenance expenditure for the year (£2,555 was spent in 2008 and a similar further sum is due and forms part of the accruals) but not sufficient to build reserves in this area. Ideally, more should be set-aside to build reserves but at present this is not affordable.

In Richard Parker's 2006 report he stated that the PCC aims to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to 2 months unrestricted payments in order to cover emergency situations which might arise from time to time. At the year end the balance was 0.8 times average monthly expenditure (2007: 1.95 times). In large part this reduction is as a result of a number of people leaving the church or having to reduce their regular giving at a time of increasing costs and financial uncertainty. It is hoped that during 2009 we will be able to increase the balance on unrestricted funds by continuing a new monthly budgeting and reporting process introduced in 2008 and following a successful 2009 stewardship Sunday initiative.

### **The Cross**

The Cross floor was subject to a number of floods in 2006. An insurance claim was made (£7,500). The insurance proceeds together with a one-off gift to the Church of £6,100 and funds saved and fundraised by the Rainbow Nursery account were used to make various changes to the Cross. A new floor was installed together with new sliding doors. This compliments the installation of new french doors to the outside play area and the new covered outside soft play surface. Further improvements to the outside Rainbow Nursery play area were also undertaken. All of this extra work was carefully budgeted but has resulted in a dramatic reduction in funds held in the Rainbow bank account (£26,589 down to £1,045) and the vast majority of the Rainbow accrual (£3,209) still to be paid.

On the face of it the Cross has once again been run at a loss (£38,525). However, this has been impacted by £40,000 of maintenance works paid for during the year. This "maintenance" includes the works detailed above. Removing these one off costs, the CROSS broadly breaks even, in large part due to an increase in "rent" received from the Rainbow Nursery School. The "rent" for 2008 (£4,500) will be increased in 2009 to £5,500. The new "rent" will then reflect more closely the costs associated with that building and the proportion of time utilised by the Nursery School. It is recognised that this level of rent is not yet set at a commercial level. However, the new arrangements continue to reflect the fact that at present the internal facilities (such as lighting, heating and the kitchen) still do not meet generally accepted commercial standards. This situation will be kept under review with one eye on the proposals to improve the facilities in the Cross as part of the redevelopment project. As the facilities in the Cross improve it is envisaged that the Cross rental income will increase in line with the market

and towards a point in time when the Cross will not operate at such a loss and will be in a position to build reserves for ongoing maintenance.

### **Redevelopment Fund**

Committed pledges during the year from members of the congregation and one off donations towards the redevelopment amounted to £75,905. The normal annual pledge receipt has to date been approximately £28,000. The original 4 year pledges were in large part renewed in June 2008 for a 4 year period and the new normal annual pledge receipt (including tax) going forward is approximately £31,500.

At the end of 2008 we had a total debt of £164,000 (2007: £178,000). A provision for the 2009 repayments of £44,000 has been made in the accounts.

I have shown summary details of the payments due beyond 2009 in the accounts under notes 5.4 and 5.5. It is worth pointing out that during 2010 we are scheduled to repay £83,000 and in 2011 £12,000 to our various lenders along with £2,000 interest each year. The Stewardship committee is carefully monitoring the situation in order to ensure that we have enough funds available to meet these obligations.

The final builders invoice was paid during 2008 and the remaining accrual relates to part of the Cross roof and has been provided for in full.

### **The Rainbow**

The Rainbow Nursery School made a tiny surplus this year of £19, after paying for much of the works on the CROSS and paying £4,500 for the use of the CROSS. It does, however, carry forward an accrual of £3,209 into 2009.

The Rainbow Head reports in more detail on the activities this year in her report.

### **Diocese Parish Share**

This amount, at £64,328, is our largest expense. Whilst this was a large increase on 2007 levels (11.2%), the 2009 parish share is predicted to decrease slightly. It pays for the salary, pension and housing expenses of our clergy, the training of new clergy, the central expenses of the diocese in Guildford and a subsidy to the parishes which do not cover their costs.

The formula for calculating our share was new in 2007. Under the new scheme we paid the basic cost of having a Vicar (£40,300) and a contribution to the other ministry costs of the diocese (£24,028). The contribution to the other ministry costs is based on a formula which uses our average church attendance and the relative wealth of the parish.

It is worth mentioning that this is not something we can opt out of unless we do not want to have a new Vicar! When one considers that we have the full use of two large buildings, the full time service of a resident dedicated Vicar and access to the resources of the diocese for £64,000 it is not an unreasonable charge. We just need to make the best use of the resources at our disposal.

### **Outlook for 2009**

#### **General Fund**

The next few years will present the church with a real challenge from a financial point of view.

As things currently stand our planned expenditure is budgeted to rise by 10% and I am pleased to confirm that it is predicted that this increase will be met by increased pledges following the 2009 stewardship Sunday initiative. However, our finances continue to be tight and we will continue to operate a rigorous process of budgeting and reporting on a monthly basis.

### **Redevelopment Fund**

We need to deal with our debt and, if possible, look to God to see whether to proceed with the further redevelopment as originally envisaged.

At the end of 2008 we had outstanding loans of £164,000 plus interest with staged payments through to 2011. Following the 2009 stewardship Sunday initiative, we have provisions and committed pledges that will cover all of these loans in due course but we will have to find a way to fund £17,000 of unfunded cashflow by October 2010 in order to meet our repayment obligations on time and in full.

The PCC and the Stewardship Committee remain committed to ensuring that all outstanding loan obligations are repaid in full and on time. Individual financial circumstances of pledgors do change and, whilst we are relying upon pledges over the next 3 years to repay our debts, in such uncertain economic times we have to be prudent with our income until these loan obligations are in fact repaid. Until the PCC is 100% sure that it can do so, no further redevelopment commitments will be incurred. However, we must also remember that we have only completed phase one of the redevelopment of our wonderful Church buildings and that there is more to do, if it is God's will for us so to do.

**Edward Walker**

**( See over for signed Audited Accounts)**

## ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

Last year, 2008, the Electoral Roll was revised and the total was 143. It has been updated again this year and 11 names have been removed and 18 new people have been added. This gives a new total for 2009 of 150

Jo Long

## PCC Report April 2008-2009

- Vicar: Danny Wignall
- Elected PCC Members (max 12): Peter Soar, Roger Grimshaw, Jim Honeywood, Louise Stevenson, Helen Mitchell, Ericka Glaysheer, Robin Andersen, Lynne Brown, Annie Barnsdale and Carl Sully (retired September 2008)
- Co-opted/ Ex-officio PCC members: Ed Walker, David Bennett, Tony Owen, Lee Nancarrow, Colin Short, Jo Long, Susan Kennedy, Ian Gee and Hillary Pettman (retired September 2008)
- Church Wardens: Andrew Lee and Colin Short
- Synod Reps (max 3): Fiona Short (retired June 2008)
- Retiring members: Peter Soar, Roger Grimshaw, Jim Honeywood and Louise Stevenson
- 5 vacancies for PCC
- 3 vacancies for Deanery Synod

The PCC have had 6 meetings in the last year. Below are some of the key areas that we have been discussing.

### **Purpose, Values and Strategy**

The PCC Away day provided an opportunity to discuss our purpose as a church, the values we should possess and the strategy to achieve these. This has been used widely within the church but a summary is below:

1. Purpose
  - a. UP (Loving and serving God)
  - b. IN (Loving and serving our church family)
  - c. OUT (Loving and serving our neighbour; Witnessing; Seeking Justice; Caring for creation)
2. Values
  - a. Creating tight relationships with God, each other, ourselves and with our 'neighbour'
  - b. Being welcoming and open to all
  - c. All member ministry (Every Person Counts) - Valuing and nurturing everyone from the youngest to the oldest
  - d. Embracing growth and the change that comes with growth
  - e. Being Generous - In time, skills, resources and money. Being givers of grace
  - f. Compassion - Outward looking. Caring for those in need.
  - g. Centred around Jesus - A place to encounter Jesus and be drawn closer to him. Learning from the Bible - his living word
3. Strategy
  - a. Embracing Change through Enabling Structures - adapting as we grow in numbers, organic growth encourage, support and enable the ministries of the congregation

- b. Creating a culture where Every Person Counts (all member ministry)- All ages called to participate in God's work, Continually identifying and equipping leaders remembering that we are: Followers First, Servants Second, Leaders Last. Ministry is for the good of all
- c. Engaging in mission - Running Alpha courses, Supporting overseas and home mission, Intentionally building bridges into the community, Equipping church members for their individual mission opportunities
- d. Transformative Public worship and preaching - Placing scripture at the heart of all we do, Preaching relevant to being a 21st Century Christian and to seekers, Giving space to encounter and hear from God, Allowing for intimacy as well as awe and mystery in worship
- e. Life giving Small Groups - We are to be in unity as God himself is in unity, To live and practice our purpose and values, A place of community - safe, caring, fun, A place of transformation, Support and training for leaders.

### **PCC purpose groups**

As a church we have a large number of different activities and groups, through which we support the community, each other and serve God. Danny, with the support of the PCC, has grouped these together into Purpose groups. The idea is that this will help the activities and groups within each purpose group work more in tandem. The purpose groups include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth and Children</li> <li>• Worship</li> <li>• Communication and Administration</li> <li>• Finance Team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buildings</li> <li>• Teaching and Discipleship</li> <li>• Outreach &amp; Mission</li> <li>• Care</li> </ul>
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### **How's it going?**

As a regular agenda item the PCC are encouraged to discuss what is working well and what is not working well. In this period we have discussed (amongst many other things) shared lunches, DNA Students, House Group Together evenings, Rainbow, Family Service, New comers, the regular and extraordinary services (e.g. Christmas). This has led to action on building on the many successes that we have and improvements where possible.

### **Finance**

Our treasurer Ed has regularly provided an update on the current financial position and the forthcoming budget. Requests for non budgeted expenditure are considered carefully. From a loans perspective we are aware of the need to increase our giving (and therefore payments) to prevent us from falling behind in our payments by October 2010 and beyond. In 2008 the church kept to our budget. The 2009 budget recognises the regular giving pledges that have been received so far, at the moment we are facing some uncomfortable cut backs and the PCC have talked and prayed for further funds to be made available.

### **Church Building**

The main areas of the Church building discussed within the PCC involved the Organ and Coffee area at the back of the church. The Organ restoration will commence in October of this year after a successful fund raising period led by Nicky Lee. Some funds are still required for the Organ so please help if you can. The PCC were also briefed and agreed with the idea of the coffee area at the back of church, which was paid for by a generous donation. The installation of this has moved at a great pace and we have already

benefited from this in some of our PCC meetings, services, and other events. In addition the lighting of the church has been improved and the speakers and screen have been installed in the crèche.

### **Outreach**

Our open layout within a church has helped to open up a whole platform of activities. Some of these have included Shared Lunches, 'Colour Me Beautiful', Quiz Night and the Pampering evening. These have drawn people in from around the community who may not have otherwise attended the church. Rainbow/Noah's Ark and its fantastic play area has also helped to open things up as well and introduce people to the church. Postcards have been delivered around the community for the major celebrations and we have seen a large number of new members in the church this year.

The PCC needs your support to make the many ideas that we have as a church a reality. Please let us know if you would like to help in any way. Watch out for some specific areas of help needed in the weekly news letter.

**Robin Andersen, PCC Secretary,.**

<b>REPORT ON THE CHURCH FABRIC</b>
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"We commissioned the quinquennial review which was overdue and was performed by Ralph Ball Dip Arch RIBA of Charter Design Associates. This defined a number of matters for attention which we will have to work through over the coming years but happily nothing individually either urgent or significant costly was identified. Duncan and Peter are co-ordinating an orderly work programme to address the matters in rotation . We have had two maintenance days to tackle smaller repairs, which has recently culminated in the CROSS being decorated internally. We are likely to be fixing further work days in the coming year to tackle some of the areas identified in the previously mentioned quinquennial report.

Nicky Lee was successful in persuading Waverley Borough Council to assume responsibility for the maintenance of the wall bordering Liphook Road and they have subsequently rebuilt it which has relieved us of a very significant potential expense.

Michael Clark has built a new desk to hold the sound equipment securely which is a great benefit to all of us.

In addition, we have up graded fire extinguishers in strategic places and tested all the portable electrical appliances for safety.

The work outside the CROSS (the playground etc) was finished off late year after negotiation with Waverley Borough Council about levels of topsoil and preservation of trees.

Nicky has also spearheaded and co-ordinated the construction of the coffee point on the north wall.

Nicky has also headed a campaign to restore the organ, an in-depth report appears in another paper.

**Andrew Lee, Colin Short and Duncan Long**

## GODALMING DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Deanery Synod consists of clergy and parochial representatives from the seventeen parishes in the Godalming Deanery which stretches from the Sussex Border to the Hogs Back. It receives information from the Diocese for onward transmission to their PCCs and parishes and discusses and plans matters of common interest. All clergy are members of Synod and lay people are elected by their respective parishes - this year Fiona Short and Erika Glaysher have represented us.

Godalming Deanery Synod met three times during 2008. The policy is to move round the deanery to a different parish for each meeting.

The meeting in April was held at St Bartholomew's Church Haslemere, where unfortunately the Vicar, Norman Jones, was unable to participate due to illness. It included a presentation by Caroline Mead, the Volunteers Development Officer for Christian Aid in Surrey, who described some specific current Christian Aid projects, for example dealing with contaminated drinking water in Bangladesh and security work in camps in Uganda. She stressed the value of Christian Aid Week, during which £330,322 was raised in Surrey in 2007. Caroline wanted to emphasise that only 1% of Christian's Aid's budget is spent on administrative costs.

The Rev David Mace reported to the Deanery on the recommendations of the Mission and Development Committee. This included information sharing across the Deanery, Financing Mission and Specific Areas of Mission within the area such as Godalming College. It was agreed that Godalming deanery should put a motion to Diocesan Synod requesting that the rebate due to the Diocese from the Church Commissioners should be put towards funding mission rather than reducing parish share. If rejected, it was agreed that somehow, collective financial help should be raised to help St Mark's Ockford Ridge.

During the meeting reports were also given on General Synod and Diocesan Synod.

In July the Deanery met in Wanborough Village Hall. The Rev Ron Wood described his Parish of Seale, Puttenham and Wanborough. David Mace reported again on the Mission and Pastoral Plan and time was spent during the meeting analysing strengths and weaknesses of the Deanery and its mission activities. It was agreed that each PCC be requested to discuss the principle of establishing a Deanery Mission Fund to which they would be asked to contribute to help parishes in the Deanery with specific need.

Reports were made from General and Diocesan Synod. Godalming Deanery's motion concerning the use of the Church Commissioner's rebate was defeated by the Chairman's casting vote but the Bishop's council would look at the motion again and address the concerns raised.

The November meeting was held at St John's Farncombe. The meeting opened with a minute's silent in memory of the Rural Dean's wife, Lyn Fellows. The Rev Margaret Blake welcomed everyone to Farncombe and talked a little about the parish. Derek Holbird then made a presentation on the work of the Diocesan Education Department.

David Mace reported to the meeting again, presenting the analysis made at the previous meeting, which seemed to show mainly strengths and opportunities within the Deanery which should be put to good use. It was agreed that a motion should be brought to the next meeting to set up a Deanery Parish Support and Mission Fund to which parishes should be asked to set aside 1 % of current parish to the fund for an initial period of 3

years. A summary of the Mission Plan 2008-2009 would form the basis of the formal submission to the Bishop of Dorking. Future plans include a deanery Youth and Children Study Day and a mission strategy for Godalming College.

The meeting included a report from Diocesan Synod and financial matters relating to the Deanery Bank Account, the approval of accounts and agreement that the Deanery subscription should remain unaltered.

I believe there has been a real effort by the Rural Dean, John Fellows and the Synod members to make Deanery Synod relevant and worthwhile for its member parishes. It has looked at what can be achieved working together and how information can be shared between parishes.

Future meetings are planned on 16th July (at Busbridge) and 25th November (at Witley). Please speak to Danny if you are interested in becoming a rep.

With thanks to *Anne Martin; Deanery, Diocesan and General Synod Member from St Mary's Chiddingfold* and to *Rev Jolyon Tricky of Busbridge* for supplying these reports for us.

Danny Wignall

### Rainbow Nursery Report

We have taken two huge steps forward in the last school year. One is highly visible for everyone to see, and the other is mostly invisible, but is dramatic and exciting all the same!

If you take a look out of the back of the Cross you will see the results of three years of saving and fund raising. We have a fantastic new outside area which helps us meet government requirements to make greater use of the outdoors, has doubled our space for play, and provides far more opportunities for learning across all aspects of the curriculum. As a safe recreational area it has proved an enormous asset to other church users such as our friends at Noah's Ark, and children attending church on Sundays. Rainbow funds, gifts, fundraising support from St. Stephen's, and charitable donations made this project possible and hard work has made it a reality. I'd like to thank everyone who has been involved, it has been an enormous achievement!

Far less visible but even more inspirational is the development that taking place inside the church. On a Wednesday morning lots of parents and carers are now joining us for our monthly Kid's Praise Service, led so well by Michele Webb, they are spending time enjoying our hospitality before and after the service as Ann Fitchett, Vanessa Clothier Pratts and the social and fundraising group offer refreshments and craft activities. The families who attend are generally not people we see in church, and yet thanks to the efforts these and other church friends such as Danny, Jean Clark and Annie and the quality of the service we are trying to offer (plus a large dose of God's grace of course) they are beginning to "find a place," to feel welcome and at home.

Another event that filled the church recently was the Easter Bonnet competition and parade. Over 160 children and adults were here, there was great excitement, great expectation, great anticipation! Danny coped admirably with the crowds and judged with impeccable astuteness. (Although he says he'll never do it again!!) We sang Christian songs and had great fun together. Again, another opportunity to spend time with these visitors, begin to count them as our friends, and include them as a greater, and significant part of our church family.

With more involvement from the church as a whole, more of a purpose of mission we can continue to build these links, and fulfil the potential there is for outreach to these families Help us fan a flame of desire to welcome these guests into our house more often, and be ready to go out to meet them in theirs, wherever that might be. If you feel inspired, and would like to become involved please do come and worship with us on a Wednesday morning, or speak to me about other events where you can help meet, greet and befriend these families and others, in Jesus' name. Thank you.

Hilary Owen

## WORSHIP & MEDIA REPORT

Firstly, I would like to say a big "thank you" to all the people who help with the worship activities at St Stephen's - that includes the sound desk operators, computer operators, and musicians - everybody plays a part in bringing a wide breadth of music and other related activities to our church.

Thanks to Ed Walker's comprehensive new budgeting system, we have been able to plan for the replacement and installation of equipment in a much more organised fashion - so this year has seen further steps in improving the sound quality in the church - we were able to have an engineer install two pieces of equipment - a "compressor" and an "equaliser", which have helped to compensate for the poor acoustics in the building. We have also sold our original drum kit and purchased an improved (second-hand) kit which again has helped achieve a better sound.

We were also able to purchase the necessary equipment to route sound and video through to the crèche and the overflow seating area in the chancel. This means that crèche supervisors and people in the overflow seats can still enjoy the service and not feel cut off from what is happening.

A huge thank you must go to Michael Clark (and assorted helpers) who have done a fantastic job of constructing our new Sound Desk. This has improved the working conditions for the sound/computer operators considerably, and also hides the vast birds' nest of cables that used to be such an eyesore.

As with all technology, there have been problems with failing equipment from time to time - one of the monitor speakers failed a couple of months ago and had to be sent back for warranty repair. More serious was the failure of one of our video projectors this month, which meant that we had to purchase a brand new replacement. This was an unexpected cost, so if anyone feels able to contribute towards the cost of the replacement, we'd love to hear from you - please speak to myself or Danny or Ed Walker.

Many of the sound desk and computer operators were able to attend a training day that we ran a couple of weeks ago - this was helpful in providing more detailed information about how the equipment works, and also allowed people to ask questions about things they did not understand. We plan to run more of these training days during the next year,

The Time & Space service on Sunday evenings still continues to attract a handful of people, but as I said last year - we really need more people to give it a try - it is only about an hour long and once a month - it means we can enjoy a much more relaxed style of worship and listen to God in the more informal surroundings.

Andy Rigby

## CHILDREN'S & FAMILIES WORKER REPORT

For me the year started last May with a swift induction into the planning of our annual Holiday Club. The theme was 'space' and after an initial slow take-up we were at full capacity levels of 80 children from ages 5-11. We had numerous helpers from the Wave and members of St Stephen's congregation, who did a fantastic job and helped with whatever was thrown at them - without this support it would be impossible to run this popular week.

We have at present 22 children on the register for Junior Church from the ages of 3-10. We divide into two age groups (Bubbles and Splash) but have recently been working together for part of our session; as the new Scripture Union material seems suited to this arrangement. New members have joined the team but we will be requiring more adult volunteers from September as some long-standing helpers stand down. Please give this some consideration if you feel this is something you would like to be involved with. We are always well assisted by members of Liquid in our sessions and I would like to thank everyone who gives their time to this.

Most recently we have run a Fun Session on Good Friday morning, attracting 35 children. This was run alongside a Rainbow and Noah's Ark session resulting in a relaxed and sociable morning for parents and toddlers together with their older siblings. Hopefully this will be an event to be repeated with growing numbers.

Plans in the pipeline include asking Doug Horley to return in the autumn with a follow up Light Party which hopefully will build on from the week of the summer holiday club.

Which brings me back to where I started. The planning for this year's holiday club is underway - we are still looking for more helpers especially those who might like to be involved in the drama - which will be 'live' this year!

Sadly, I have felt it necessary to give in my notice as children's worker with effect from the end of July. The reality of two part-time jobs and family commitments has proven somewhat challenging, so after some lengthy reflection I feel that I should pursue my work teaching at HMP Send. It has been a long-standing wish of mine to return to teaching in a prison and one which, in life's customary good/bad timing presented itself at the same time as my appointment as Children's Worker.

I have been supported in my work at St Stephen's by a great team of helpers and would like to thank everyone who has volunteered over the past year and given their time so enthusiastically and conscientiously. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Children's Worker and am now looking forward to our Showstopper's Holiday Club. Don't forget to sign up to help!

Claire Honeywood

## Youth Work Report

### Amplified

- 1) Amplified Thursday/Sunday - A chance for our 11-14's to meet, socialise and learn about the Christian way of life.
- 2) Amplified Lads and Ladies - A social night put on for the boys and the girls of Amplified separately around once a term

- 3) Amplified weekend away - Once a year weekend away at PGL where the young people get a chance to learn about team work, beating fears and stretching yourself.

## Liquid

- 1) Liquid Sunday - Youth church service held every Sunday where we worship God, listen to biblical teaching and socialise.
- 2) Liquid Bible Study - a weekly bible study for the girls and boys at liquid separately
- 3) Mentoring - a one on one discipleship programme when leaders and other adult volunteers meet with the young people either weekly, fortnightly or monthly to unpack relevant issues on a personal basis in a way that can't be achieved in a group setting.
- 4) Liquid Meals - a social opportunity for the young people to meet and eat together with a dressing up theme. Held every 6 weeks
- 5) Worship School - A worship training day held every 6 weeks where members of liquid come to learn how to play musical instruments, receive professional vocal training, receive training on how to play as a band and receive biblical teaching on the lifestyle of a worshiper.
- 6) The Wave - a project that is held every other weekend and for one week in the summer where the member of liquid serve the community in many different ways
- 7) Glimpse - An evangelistic event held once a term. DJ, computer games, food, open mic and a Gospel message.
- 8) Coffee morning - Liquid holds a coffee morning for OAP's at high lane on the first Thursday of each month.
- 9) ALIVE - an 6 week event held once a year derived from youth alpha.

## Schools

- 1) Detached/drop in - once a week the liquid youth team go into two schools in Haslemere and spend time with the young people there.
- 2) Teaching. We teach RE classes at Woolmer hill school. With subjects like 'does religion cause war?' and 'the role of women in religion'
- 3) Assemblies. We are given biblical subjects to present in assemblies at the Royal School each term.

**Lee & Laura Nancarrow**

<b>ORGAN REPORT</b>
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I hope members will be delighted to hear that the contract for the organ work has been placed with Foster Waite. They are a specialist firm of historical organ builders based in Newbury. The work will commence in about October but may not be finished until January.

The project will cost £22,650 and I understand from our Treasurer that we have raised almost exactly this sum in donations and grants. Given the pressure on church and private finances from the building project and recession I think this is a great achievement by the congregation.

Some of you may wonder how an instrument can possibly justify such a huge cost. It became clear when we approached the diocese that an 1881 Gray & Davidson organ is of national historical importance, a part of our cultural heritage, and that they would not allow it to be scrapped even if it became unplayable. Sadly it also meant they would not allow us to do a make do and mend repair but wanted something of historical conservation quality.

We will repair the heart of the instrument (the sound-chests) and should produce a permanent solution (ie 25-30 years) rather than a temporary fix, to warped and split woodwork and degraded felt and leather workings. This has enabled us to apply for three more grants.

In order to keep within the money raised we currently have had to leave out replacing the blower which is currently too small and means that the organ cannot be played loudly enough or without enough variety of stops. The cost of this would be a further £3000. I have started to try to raise this money from interested individuals in the congregation and have already about £1000 promised. So I still need £50 from about 40 folk, less is more-you can do the sums!

If you groaned when you read the organ would not be available for Christmas, if you have had (or one day anticipate having) the organ at your child's wedding or maybe you have valued it on Remembrance Sunday then don't just leave it to the nine o'clock congregation. Please put a donation in an envelope and give it to Ed or myself via the pigeon holes.

As a condition of receiving £1500 from Surrey Churches Preservation Trust we have to take part in a local sponsored bike ride from one church to another this September. I desperately need one or more people to do this on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Perhaps a fit family or a local personal trainer or a youth group could take it on? Half the money will come to us.

**Nicky Lee**

Thanks to:

All churches Trust

Hazelhurst Trust

Surrey Churches Preservation Trust

## NOAH'S ARK

Noah's Ark parent/carers and pre-school group has been successfully running as an extension of St. Stephen's Children's Work since 1993 and meets in the Cross every Tuesday from 1.30-3.00pm during the school term time. I took on the role of co-ordinating the team just over a year ago with guidance and help from Liza.

Each of our sessions begins with a craft and free play. At 2.00pm we have a break for refreshments provided by our dedicated ladies, Jean Burchell and Brenda Petrie. At 2.30pm everyone joins together for notices and a sing song segment which is now led by Hadley Bennett with great success!

Coffee and Tea is free flowing from the moment you arrive and we endeavour to create a relaxed, warm and welcoming atmosphere where parents and Carers can play with the children and chat to friends. The excellent dedicated hardworking team of volunteers is there to help and be of assistance wherever and whenever possible and is led by Ann Fitchett, Jean Clark, Emma Cunningham, Holly Day, Ali Walker and Emma Andersen, Tracy Thrower and Maggie Grimshaw.

We have successfully been running stalls at the sessions at least once a month which has included Christian Books, Fairtrade, Bring and Buy children's clothes sales, children's books and craft and even a fundraiser for a mum who is running the marathon for a Children's Cancer Charity. We are now looking forward to our summer party at the Vicarage which is always very popular and a great success and known for its bouncy castle and sing a long entertainment!

## RAINBOW NURSERY AND NOAH'S ARK SOCIAL FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

In September last year, with the full support of Hilary Owen, the Social Fundraising Committee (SFC) was founded whose main purpose was to unite the parents and carers of children attending Noah's Ark and Rainbow Nursery.

The SFC is made up of 9 very dedicated, motivated and generous parents who meet at least once a month to provide social events and fundraising for Rainbow Nursery and Noah's Ark. The first task of the SFC was to produce a newsletter for the parent/carers and a Social Contact Register to enable parent/carers to be able to contact other families attending the nursery.

Our events to date have been very successful. The SFC arranged a social evening in October last year at the beginning of term for all new and existing parent/carers. In November we re-launched the Rainbow Nursery and Noah's Ark Coffee Mornings with art and craft and a rainbow dress up day for the children. In December we had a Christmas Pud Fundraising Night. Then in January we combined the Coffee morning with the Kids Praise Service which has been a great success. We invite the parents into the Church for refreshments and craft for the younger ones from 9.00am every second Wednesday of the month, and break for the Kids Praise Service led by Hilary Owen and Michelle Webb, and reconvene thereafter. The Service and refreshments has seen fantastic attendance and has been very well received.

Finally, the SFC hosted the amazing 'Pamper Evening' which was so well supported and had a great energy all night and was attended by over 100 people. The Committee in collaboration with Hilary Owen and Danny worked so hard to create the perfect evening and raised over £600 for Rainbow Nursery and Noah's Ark. Our next combined venture is the running of the Paediatric Emergency Response First Aid Course.

Vanessa Clothier-Pratts

## OUTWARD GIVING

It is good to give! Do we all know that, as a matter of policy, St. Stephen's gives away 10% of its income to a variety of Good Causes? We have done this for several years, and have done our best to keep everyone fully informed by a series of monthly articles in Good News. We apologise for the lack of articles recently; this will be rectified when we have decided on which Causes to support in the current financial year. We aim to support roughly 12 Causes in any year, and usually guarantee support for three years before reconsidering. Depending on the size of our 'income' we are usually able to offer something in the region of £1,000 to each Cause.

Who decides which Causes to support? Until recently this was done by a small committee which made recommendations to the PCC, but we are now looking for suggestions from the congregation. On what basis do we decide whom to support? We have always looked for a link with St. Stephen's. So we support the Munford's (parents of our previous Youth Worker, Chris Kent) at present on home leave from Turkey, Latin Link (Lizzie Parker), Adam and Karina Martin (Caie's in laws) in Derby, the Rocke family (previously members of St.S) missionaries in France, Grace Guinness (CMS Afghanistan)(Laver's House group), Colleen Reddit (Colin and Fiona Short) in Chennai, Mvumi School in Tanzania(Nicky and Andrew Lee)and Chernobyl Children's Lifeline (Donna Rigby). Local Causes include

Crossways Counselling (Jane Saunders) and Skillway (Jim Honeywood). We also support Tearfund (International Relief) and Open Doors (Persecuted Christians).

As we consider which Causes to support in the current financial year, it has been decided to invite members of the congregation to make suggestions for consideration by the PCC. If you have one in mind (and on heart) please submit your suggestion in writing to Danny. You will need to explain (a) precisely what the Cause is, (b) why you think we should consider supporting it financially, and (c) the nature of your personal involvement with the Cause. We are hoping that increasingly our involvement with these Causes will start to go beyond 'just' sending money, and will, in some cases, lead to visits and practical participation in their work. Finally you will be asked to write an article for Good News about the Cause you are sponsoring, but not more than once a year!

It is a great joy to be involved in this part of our church's ministry; knowing that the money we send to these Causes has a great impact for good on the lives of so many around the world

### THE PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

Every single one on the Team feels a great sense of privilege and delight in being part of this important ministry. The Team meets once a term for prayer, discussion and fellowship. We also try to build an element of training or development into these termly meetings. Some of the meetings since the last APCM have been significant spiritual experiences as God has met us in our need, and we have known His love and grace. Last autumn most of the Team attended a Training Day at Guildford Cathedral; a joint enterprise between the Cathedral and the Acorn Healing Trust. There were lovely times of worship, an excellent introductory talk, and then a choice of seminars morning and afternoon - we think that between us we attended all that were on offer. All the subjects covered in these seminars were relevant to the Ministry we seek to offer every Sunday morning during our Services. One of the most valuable was the one on Listening Skills - how long can you listen, concentrate, maintain affirmative eye contact, and refrain from interrupting? Participants had to do this for at least three minutes!

It is a joy to pray with people whatever the reason. So the next time during a Service you wish to give thanks to the Lord, or have a pressing need in your life, or have been challenged by something in the sermon or liturgy, please approach one of the Team and give them the privilege of praying for, or with, you in complete confidence.

We are urged by St. Paul "not to be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, to present our requests to God". [Phil;4.6]

### THE MARRIAGE COURSE.

This excellent Course whose aim is to 'make good marriages even better' was written and produced on DVD by Nicky and Sila Lee at Holy Trinity Brompton. We have been running it in Haslemere for 7 years with almost 100 couples having attended during that period. Although ecumenical, and sponsored by The Marriage Support Group, it has always had a high input from St.Stephen's. Half of the couples on the most recent Course were connected with St.Stephen's, and more couples from our congregation than any other in the area have benefited from the Course.

During the last year three Courses have been held, one in Churt and two at Three Counties Hammer. The most recent one was sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes and was very successful in terms of the benefit to those participating, but alas the numbers

involved were far less than we had hoped for! How do we get the message across that this is a truly BRILLIANT Course, loved by those who benefit from it, and really successful in providing effective tools for improving the marriage?

Current plans are for definitely one, possibly two Courses in the Autumn, one sponsored by all five Fraternal churches across the A3, and one in Haslemere, possibly sponsored by St. Stephen's, though sadly we haven't the facilities for running the Course on our premises.

All those involved on the teams delivering the Course thank God for it, and hope and pray that it will continue to bless married couples seeking to make good marriages even better!

**Michael and Jean Clark**

### PRIME TIME

Prime Time has gone from strength to strength this year by changing to monthly events. We have had a full calendar (apart from Christmas and Easter time). All of the events organised have proved popular and we have been asked to repeat them - the visit to the Houses of Parliament, the Tea Dance and a visit to Champs Hill gardens in particular. We have decided to repeat the Tea Dance next year as even Coral who did the teaching and the Boxalls who provided the music asked to return - so keep your dancing shoes well dusted!!

We are hoping that as more of you out there turn fifty you will join us and we do have some events lined up during the year that might tempt you - for example a visit to Denbighs Vineyard!

Our new schedule of events will be with you shortly and if they prove as popular as our canal boat trip down the Wey & Arun Canal in May, which was sold out on the first day it was advertised, then you need to keep your wits about you and BOOK EARLY!!!

**Vanessa Kemp**

### PASTORAL CARE REPORT

I was asked in October of last year to take on the role of co-ordinating parish care, and having prayed about it felt that God was asking me to use the experience and contacts He has given me in my role as a counsellor, supervisor and trainer to be a resource and encouragement to those involved in Pastoral Care at St Stephen's. Please pray that this will be the case and that God will guide us in the work we are doing together.

We initially looked at the 3 areas into which Pastoral Care falls:

Prayer Ministry  
Pastoral Prayer  
Pastoral Visiting and Care

Prayer Ministry is currently being co-ordinated by Jean and Michael Clark (more volunteers needed) and the prayer chain by Hilary Bicknell.

Annie Barnsdale runs Prayers for Schools. Pastoral prayer refers to those needing more extended prayer than that which can be offered on a Sunday morning, and we are looking at developing this.

The area on which I have been concentrating is Pastoral Visiting and Care - in particular:

- Finding out who is doing what
- Discovering how we can support and assist them
- Identifying the gaps and encouraging and training people to fill them.

Baptism, Funeral and Marriage Preparation visits are co-ordinated by Danny and his team, but my main focus has been to recruit, train and resource people to carry out visits to those in the Parish who have been bereaved or who are lonely or struggling in some way. We have several volunteers and we will be having 3 training sessions this Spring/Summer:

28 April 10-12 am - Basic Listening Skills

12 May 10-12 am - Boundaries and Referrals

9 June at 10-12 am - Understanding Depression and Bereavement

We will be joined by 4 members of the church at Hambledon as they are also setting up a Pastoral visiting team and have asked if I could provide some training. It will be fun to share with each other and will encourage a more lively learning experience. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join us - it does not commit you to anything! The sessions will be held at Wychwood, Scotland Lane.

We have also started meeting together regularly to support and pray for each other. These meetings take place either in the afternoons or the evening so that those who work during the day can attend occasionally. Everyone who is involved in Parish care in any way or who would like to be is welcome. The next meeting will be at Wychwood on 22 June at 2pm. Tea and cakes provided. Hilary Owen will be sharing with us her experiences of training as a Pastoral Assistant, so do come and support her.

I have been amazed by how much is already being done by church members in the parish and am aware that some people in particular do a huge amount. It would be good to spread that load. Anne Laver needs more volunteers to join the Care Home Communion Rota, and we need more people to take communion out to people in their own homes if they are ill or unable to get to church. Please let Anne know if you can help in this way. Vanessa is always looking for more helpers at Noah's Ark as are Hilary and Michele with The Rainbow and Kidz Praise. I would welcome volunteers to join a rota to provide transport when needed for church or hospital visits, and Donna and Maura are planning a cooking day with the aim of filling a freezer with meals which can then be delivered to anyone in need in the parish. If you can help with cooking or donations of money or ingredients (the menu has been planned so find out what is needed first) please contact either of them. The date of the cooking day will be decided in due course.

Within our church community, Prime Time, House groups and Prayer triplets provide an opportunity to pray, learn, care for and have fun with each other and I would encourage anyone who does not currently belong to a house group to consider joining one. I have always felt hugely supported by the House Groups I have been a member of and much of the pastoral care within our church happens quietly in this way.

Debs and Jill are responsible for integrating and welcoming newcomers into the church, and have been busy as we have been blessed with a number of new people this year. Please support them in this role as much as you can even if you are not naturally confident with strangers. They will be blessed by it. The main reason I came back to St Stephen's for the second time 17 years ago was because of the warm welcome I had received from people I did not know. I met Jesus in them and still do.

I am aware that we all look out for each other as a church family at St Stephen's so in this sense we are all involved in pastoral care. My aim is to encourage, enable and support you in this and in the work many of you do in the community caring for family, neighbours and colleagues. I act as the central point of contact for pastoral matters so please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can be of help in any way or if you know of someone who needs support. I can then co-ordinate a response to try to meet that need. The number to ring is 01428 644333.

Thank you all so much for all you do.

**Jane Saunders**

<b>CHURCH OFFICE</b>
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It is now nearly a year since the Church Office was opened. At the present time it is staffed by two Church Administrators, Jo Long and Susan Kennedy, and is open Mon - Thurs each week from 9a.m. - 12noon. The opening up of the Church has created a whole new platform of events, i.e. people calling in for a chat, entering the church for a look around, coming in off the street to pray. Maintenance work can also be carried out more easily now as access to the Church has been made easier. Rainbow/Noah's Ark parents can now come in to chat to their teachers, away from the children, and many meetings during the daytime now take place, in fact, the Church is now a very busy place during the day. One of our Values is being welcome and open to all and this is one way in which we are doing this.

We also now maintain an up-to-date Church Calendar with all the events that are happening (take a look on [www.shottermillparish.org.uk](http://www.shottermillparish.org.uk) and you may be surprised) and don't forget to let the office know if you would like to book the 'Cross' or the Church for any event that you might be planning. Many telephone calls are now dealt with in the office on a day-to-day basis including funeral arrangements, requests for visits by Danny to people who are in need, enquiries on baptisms, weddings, meetings and general maintenance issues that may arise around the church or from the nursery. As discussed at the last PCC Away-Day, we are aiming to be a Church without walls and we hope that the office being open is helping to make this happen.

**Jo Long/Susan Kennedy**