

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER



***ANNUAL REPORT
& ACCOUNTS***

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
29th MARCH 2009**

PARISH OF PINNER

The Meeting of Parishioners will be held on Sunday 29th March 2009
at 11am in the Church Hall

AGENDA

- 1 The Secretary reads the notice convening the meeting
- 2 * Minutes of the last Vestry meeting on 13th April 2008
- 3 Election of Churchwardens

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The Annual Parochial Meeting will be held on Sunday, 29th March 2009
At 11.10am in the Church Hall

AGENDA

- 1 The Secretary reads the notice convening the meeting
- 2 * Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 13th April 2008
- 3 Matters arising from the minutes
- 4 Report on changes in the Electoral Roll
- 5 Elections to the Deanery Synod
- 6 Elections to the Parochial Church Council
- 7 Appointment of Readers to Parochial Church Council
- 8 Election of Sidespersons
- 9 Presentation by Rev'd Paul Hullyer, David Poole and Shane Godbolt on:
The Fabric of the Church - a Vision for the Next 10 Years
- 10 *Report on the Financial Affairs of the Church
- 11 Election of Independent Examiner'
- 12 Questions
- 13 Any Other Business

* attached

Item 2

PARISH OF PINNER

The **Meeting of Parishioners** was held on Sunday 13th April 2008 at 11.00 a.m. in the Church Hall.

PRESENT: Philip Lawder (in the Chair), Shane Godbolt, the Treasurer, the Secretary and members of the Church Council and congregation. Apologies had been received from Elizabeth Metivier, Richard Lawrey, Janet Huszczo, Ian McDonald, Hilary Parker, Roger Lester and David Poole.

1. The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

2. **Minutes:** The adoption of the Minutes of the last Vestry meeting held on 1st July 2007 was unanimously agreed. The Minutes were signed as a true record of the Meeting.

3. **Election of Churchwardens:** Philip Lawder informed the meeting that Shane Godbolt had agreed to stay on in office for another year and David Poole had submitted his name to fill the vacancy following the retirement of Philip Lawder. Both having been duly proposed and seconded, they were unanimously elected, unopposed.

This concluded the business of the Meeting of Parishioners.

PARISH OF PINNER

The **Annual Parochial Meeting** was held on Sunday 13th April 2008 at 11.05 a.m. in the Church Hall.

PRESENT: Shane Godbolt (in the Chair), the Treasurer, the Secretary and members of the Church Council and congregation. Apologies had been received from Elizabeth Metivier, Richard Lawrey, and Janet Huszczo, Ian McDonald, Hilary Parker, Roger Lester and David Poole.

1. The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

2. **Minutes:** The adoption of the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting held on 22nd April 2007 was unanimously agreed. The Minutes were signed as a true record of the Meeting.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:** None

4. **Report of changes in the Electoral Roll:** In the absence of Janet Huszczo, Joy Chittleborough reported that in the year since the complete renewal of the Electoral Roll as at 22nd April 2007, 47 new members were added and 5 members deleted through deaths and removals. Once the revision of the Roll was complete there were in all 339 members. Of the 47 names added, only 10 were actually new members; the remainder being those who did not re-enrol at the time of the complete renewal last year. Joy then referred to the statistics contained in the Annual Report which show that the trend of Electoral Roll numbers is going down.

5. **Elections to Deanery Synod:** Nicholas Ridge is not standing again. Shane, on behalf of the Congregation thanked Nick for giving many years of valuable service. An election was held to fill six vacancies. The following nominees were duly elected for a term of three years: Stephen Brown, Mark Arnold and Pamela Stephens, leaving three vacancies unfilled

6. **Elections to the Parochial Church Council (PCC):** Shane on behalf of the Congregation, thanked Sheila Bishop, who is standing down and Mark Arnold and David Poole, who have today been elected to other roles, for all their hard work

An election was held to fill five vacancies and the following nominees were duly elected unanimously for a term of three years: - Richard Lawrey, Audrey Taylor, Wendy Myers, Helen Hutchins and Susan Sabry-Grant.

Following these formalities Susan Cooper urged the PCC to use all their influence to persuade members of the congregation to fill the remaining three vacancies in the Deanery Synod.

7. **Appointment of Readers to Parochial Church Council (PCC):** Shane explained that

responsibility for the appointment of Readers to the PCC rests with this meeting. It was proposed from the chair that Ann Fuller and Nicholas Ridge, as Readers licensed to the Parish, should be members of the PCC. This was passed with one vote against. Although Susan Cooper is a Reader she is already a member of the PCC in her capacity as a member of the General Synod.

Shane expressed thanks to Ann, Nick and Susan for their ministry within the Parish and their generous and unstinting support to Elizabeth Birch and Ian Murray

8. Election of Sidepersons: A list of Sidepersons / Welcomers was displayed in the Church's south porch and on the board in the church hall. It was unanimously agreed that they be elected *en bloc*.

Since last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting the following have been added to the list:- Mrs Beverly Ashton, Mrs Sue Bardwell, Ms Jenefer Claridge, Mrs Lesley Fickling, Mr Clive Fickling, Mrs Sonya Grist, Mr Michael Hetreed, Mrs Ann Kirkley, Mrs Valerie Lewis, Mr Trevor Mitchell, Mr John Morley, Miss Olga Peredi and Ms Deborah Schofield. Shane thanked the Welcomers / Sidepersons most warmly and especially the team leaders because of the extra responsibilities that they carry. A special vote of thanks was given to those who had stood down during the year some after many years of dedicated service. These were as follows:- Miss Liz Canning, Mr Ron Chapman, Mrs Jose Chapman, Mrs Cynthia Fell, Mrs Margot French, Mr Brian Rolph, Mr Richard Shaw and Miss Lynne Williamson. John Ames who had died since the last Parish Meeting was remembered with gratitude and affection.

9. Report on the proceedings of the Council during the year: There were no comments on this Report, which had been included in Church's Annual Report & Accounts.

10. Curate's Reflections on the Year: The year was not quite what Elizabeth had envisaged when she was appointed curate in 2006, but she wouldn't have missed it for the world. It had been a rollercoaster year with some unexpected highs and some scary lows and she wanted to take this opportunity, to thank the congregation for all their support

during this rather challenging time, especially as the interregnum is extending up to September 2008. Elizabeth said she felt that she had little experience and there were a lot of things she didn't know, bearing in mind Simon left only three weeks after she was ordained. For that reason special thanks was given to those who had given her and her family such practical help as well as their ongoing friendship and support. She felt that she was not alone in her journey, but both she and the congregation were moving forward together. The learning curve had been amazing so Elizabeth thanked the congregation for bearing with her inexperience, the things she had got wrong and being generous enough to accommodate this.

There would now inevitably follow a period of change for all of us as Paul Hullyer will bring his ideas and aspirations when he takes up his ministry at St John's. We look to welcoming and supporting him in what he wants to do in the parish and we should bear in mind is that God is with us and growing within our hearts to bring about a "Togetherness" which is part of the Christian Community. This "Togetherness" is so attractive to those who are outside the community that it draws them in.

Elizabeth concluded her address with special thanks to Shane Godbolt, Philip Lawder and Gordon Williams who during this time of interregnum, in their varying ways, have been there bearing the ultimate responsibilities of ensuring the smooth running of St John's.

11. A short presentation by The Friends: Lewis Beddison addressed the meeting by expressing the Friends' hopes for the immediate future. Earlier this year there had been a display of photographs showing the condition of the stonework in the church. In particular the Friends were worried about the pillars which have been crumbling away for a number of years. Technical experts say they are quite safe, but something will have to be done about them at some point. Also there is dampness coming through on the north side of the church and predominantly in the Lady Chapel. Concern was also expressed about the tracery around the East Windows and Lewis invited the congregation to inspect the stained glass and stonework surrounding them.

However, most pressing was the condition of the roof. Arrangements have been made with contractors to repair the tower roof by the end of the summer. If these contractors prove their competence then it makes sense to ask them to complete the re-roofing of the nave the chancel and remaining roof area.

The state of the roof became known in 2000 when the Diocesan Architect addressed the Committee of the Friends. Accordingly, a fund was established for the cost of repairs, but of course, there are those other important items mentioned above that need to be taken into consideration. The Friends have now received an estimate for the repairs to the tower which amount to £40,000 so it's easy to imagine how much the rest of the work is going to cost. The Friends have offered to help pay for these repairs as well as a closed-circuit T.V. system to be installed at the same time. This is to improve the security of the church and also to deter thieves from helping themselves to the lead on the roof while the tower is surrounded by scaffolding. But how is all this to be funded? Obviously the Friends will make a significant contribution.

However, the remainder must come firstly from grants from outside bodies, and secondly from the parishioners and those who use the Church and its facilities. This means involving everyone especially the congregation in fundraising to cover this substantial outlay. Lewis stressed that this was going to be a very long project so it was imperative that not only the adults, but the children and the youth of the church should be made aware of the situation. They should be able to play their part in contributing something toward the repairs which will be spread over then next eight or ten years. After that time, when they come to play their part in worshipping at St John, they can look back and say, "I can remember the Church before it was restored and I played my part in its restoration".

Shane thanked Lewis for his most eloquent presentation.

12. Report on the financial affairs of the Church: Doug Yates drew attention to the lengthy and detailed section on the Financial Affairs of the Church contained in the Annual

Report and Accounts, but wanted to emphasise certain points

- There was a surplus of £30,172 in the year compared to a budgeted deficit but this was after receipt of a substantial legacy amounting to £50,000.
- Income of £18,984 for "Curates" houses and interest on deposits of £21,130 should arguably be regarded not as new income as shown in the Accounts, but rather as part of reserves as they were directly attributable to past giving .
- 37 Eastcote Road received an expensive refurbishment costing £22,325 and the Church Hall was redecorated at a cost of £10,760.
- Based on day to day running expenses there was a deficit of approximately £30,000 if a proportion of the refurbishment and redecorations are taken into account.
- There are substantial reserves of £1,205,029, but most of this is locked up in the value of the three Curates' houses.
- A proper system of budgeting has been introduced and maintained during the year. Also the accounts streamlined so both the PCC and those that deal with the financial records have a clearer understanding of the financial affairs of the Church.
- The budget for 2008 showed a deficit of £39,000, but the PCC agreed to refrain from certain expenditure until the end of June when a review following a review of income. However, subsequent to the current budget being prepared the Chancellor of the Exchequer has made it known that the rate of Gift Aid shall remain at 28% for the next three years. Before his announcement this benefit would have been reduced to 25% giving rise to a reduced income of approximately

£4,000. Added to this, if the Church moves from an annual audit to an independent review of the 2008 Accounts there will be a saving of £4,000. Also it is anticipated there will be further contributions made by the “The Friends” and “Jazz in Church” of between £6,000 and £10,000. Taking all these saving into account this should reduce the overall deficit to £20,000.

- With regard to reducing this deficit the Treasurer expressed concern that in the past all his suggestions for fundraising had been turned down by one group or another. The first was to encourage those in the Church to leave legacies in their wills and to this end he had agreed a discount with local solicitors for preparing such a will. To date no one has used this service, although it doesn't mean that parishioners haven't bequeathed money to the Church. In reply some of the congregation indicated that they were not aware such a service existed, but the Treasurer was able to assure them that it had been advertised in leaflets included with the bulletins which had been published for three consecutive weeks.
- Stewardship – Out of 221 donors only 41 people increased their contributions from January 2008 (Less than 20 %). This is a problem and the PCC together with the Treasurer did not know why there is this reluctance to increase donations. Many donors are giving less than £5 per week. Accordingly the Church is struggling to cover its running costs. Unfortunately, those increases made by the 41 donors have been more than wiped out by deaths and removal of other benefactors. The Treasurer asked the congregation to let him or any members of the PCC know the reasons why they think this is happening as the whole matter of “Giving” is to be reviewed in some detail by the Stewardship Committee later in the year.

The Treasurer concluded by thanking all those who were involved in the finances of the Church

The proposal for adopting the Accounts for 2007 was unanimously approved.

13. Election of Independent Examiner: Douglas Yates reported that in a change in legislation it would now be possible for the Church to move from an annual audit to an independent review. This was because (a) The Church's annual income was less than £500K and (b) The value of the assets was below £2.8 million. Robin Youle, a retired chartered accountant, is willing to become our “Independent Examiner”. Accordingly it was proposed that Robin Youle be appointed as Independent Examiner for the coming year. This was proposed by Doug Yates, seconded by David Payne and unanimously approved.

14. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church: There were no comments on this Report, which had been included in the Church's Annual Report & Accounts. However, Shane commented that this actually only gave a glimpse of the considerable time and effort given by Phil Lawder as well as the extensive support given by Gordon Williams. Both were thanked for their hard work and in turn Phil thanked David Payne for managing so efficiently the extensive refurbishment of 37 Eastcote Road and completing the project on time and £200 under budget.

15. Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod: There were no comments on this Report, which had been included in the Church's Annual Report & Accounts.

16. Report on the proceedings of the PAC during the year: Wendy Myers was asked if she had anything to add to her Report, which had been included in the Church's Annual Report & Accounts. Wendy thanked those who had supported PAC events especially the Monastic Safari Day which had been an outstanding success.

17. Closing remarks: This item on the agenda would only apply if the vicar was in attendance.

18. **Any Other Business:** Shane acknowledged the enormous contribution to our church life of so many people who can't be named individually, but who give their time, skills and specialist knowledge. Their participation is vital and through them we enjoy the amazing variety of what this Church offers us all.

There then followed two presentations as a tokens of appreciation. Flowers were given to Elizabeth Birch for all her wonderful dedication and skill followed by a gift to Phil Lawder for the wise way he had served the parish and chaired the PCC during the time of interregnum.

Shane then went on to thank Richard Lawrence, who was not present at the meeting. She paid tribute to Richard by first drawing the congregation's attention to the Church's new website. St John's was one of the first churches to have a website and Richard was the first webmaster. Through Howard Lush, who designed both the first and current one, Richard laid the foundations giving us the confidence to use the technology and to be where we are today with the relaunched website. A small gift is to be delivered to Richard by way of an expression of thanks from the parish.

As there were no further questions or statements from the congregation the meeting closed at 12.10 pm.

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL DURING 2008

The PCC met 6 times during the year.

Short report on the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Monday 21st January 2008

Interregnum Matters

It was hoped that the new notice board would be in place by Easter.

Believing and Belonging

The former strategy group was re-convened, membership to be the Standing Committee with Rev'd Elizabeth Birch and a member of PCC. Brenda Allanson volunteered. The Group will prepare a development plan for approval by the PCC.

Committee Reports

It was explained that the hall rental fees were at their maximum because they were inline with other venues in the Pinner area.

Children and Youth

It was agreed that Michael Gregory should join Rebecca Poole as the second of the Church's two Child Advocates.

The installation of the new sound system in the hall is awaiting clarification of certain technical points.

Missions and Charities

After much discussion, and dependent on further fact finding, it was agreed that The Friends of Khwendo Kor's Better Health Project be adopted as the Lent Appeal 2008.

Finance

Copies of the budget for 2008 with comparisons to forecast for 2007 were circulated to the PCC.

Youth Worker

Adverts had been placed for a new youth worker. It was hoped that interviews would be in February and an appointment made in March.

Any Other Business

It was suggested that a suitable memorial for Winnie Burrell should be considered. A small team were delegated to consider options.

Short report on the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Tuesday 11th March 2008

Interregnum Matters

Youth Worker – although candidates for the post had been interviewed, the vacancy will be advertised again.

Churchwarden – Philip Lawder informed the Council that following his intention to stand down in April, David Poole had agreed to offer himself for election as a churchwarden at the APCM.

Transitional IT/Communications Group

There is ongoing work associated with maintaining and ensuring the new web-site is up-to-date. In order to provide a focus for this and to bring together the various strands for communication (Parish office computers/computing requirements, photocopying and printing, Website, Parish Review, Weekly Bulletin, PAC Clarion etc) a transitional group is being convened by Joy Chittleborough pending the arrival of Paul Hullyer.

Energy Group

It was agreed to set up an Energy Group, with Peter Ellis as Convenor and working with expert guidance, to carry out an energy audit and make recommendations based on these findings to the PCC.

Financial Matters

Copies of the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2007 had been circulated to the PCC.

Doug Yates reported that under a change in legislation it would now be possible for the church to move from an annual audit to an independent review. Robin Youle is willing to become our "Independent Examiner".

Deanery, Diocese & Synod Matters

St. John's can elect up to six members of the laity to the Deanery Synod at APCM.

Any Other Business

The removal of carpet from the South Porch has disclosed Victorian tiles. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of cleaning/restoring

these tiles and providing permanent access ramps and doormats.

Short report on the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Wednesday 7th May 2008

Interregnum Matters

Rev'd Paul Hullyer has confirmed that the three Readers, Susan Cooper, Ann Fuller and Nicholas Ridge should be re-licensed

Committee Reports:

Hall Committee were investigating the possibility of having the plastic wheelie-bins replaced by one industrial metal waste bin.

Financial Matters

It was reported that lead had been stolen from the roof over the South Porch, drainpipes ripped from the wall and two lead hoppers were also stolen. It was confirmed that although St. John's was a Grade 11 listed building, the stolen lead can be replaced with other materials.

Youth Worker

The vacancy has been readvertised in the Youthworker, Church Times and within the Diocese.

It was reported that SNIP was very successful with an average of around 40 youngsters attending the club on Sunday evenings and someone new joining the club usually every week.

Any Other Business

Shane reported that she would like to involve families in the Offertory Procession, which could be implemented from September.

Two representatives of the PCC needed to be elected to the Standing Committee. Ann Fuller and Richard Lawrey volunteered and both having been proposed and seconded, were unanimously elected, unopposed.

Short report of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Tuesday 1st July 2008

Collections

The PCC was informed that church members had responded generously to recent appeals and a cheque had been sent to the Rev'd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Holy Trinity, Dalston for £4,015 (excluding Gift Aid) to support her work with families in the parish.

Approximately £700 had been given for the Burma Cyclone Appeal.

Induction of Rev'd Paul Hullyer

All was proceeding smoothly in connection with the arrangements for the Induction service on Wednesday 3rd September at 7.30pm to which all are warmly invited. It is hoped to have a complete choir as well as a full team of ringers.

Committees

Membership of all Committees was confirmed subject to minor corrections. It was agreed to reinstate a Socials/Events Group and to recruit members during the summer period.

IT/Communications

The PCC approved the adoption of the Diocesan Guidelines for the Parish Website. A demonstration of the newly styled website will take place in the church hall between morning services on Sunday 14th September and feedback from all church members is warmly invited.

Church Fabric

Following the recent theft of lead from the South Porch roof the new lead sheet roof will be painted with "smart water" which contains a unique DNA marker and rubs off on those coming into contact with the lead. In addition a light has been installed on the south side of the church which will automatically be activated by anyone walking into that area at night.

Work for the installation of CCTV has started together with the installation of additional spot lights and emergency lighting inside the church.

Financial matters

There was currently an estimated shortfall of some £8,000.

Youth Worker

Following interviews on 23rd June. Elise Allanson has been offered the post of Youth Worker and will start work in September.

Short report of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Wednesday 1st October 2008

Committee reports

Youth Ministry

Holiday Club was very successful with 88 children attending and this has brought about an increase in those attending Kidz Klub. SNIP is also flourishing.

PAC

Wendy Myers is to be the new chairman of PAC following the AGM on 23rd November.

Energy Group

It was confirmed that both the South Door and West Porch will continue to be used for entry and exit from the church. The Energy Group are to give their recommendations for maintaining a suitable temperature in the church which is both comfortable to the congregation as well as not being detrimental to the condition of the church's fixtures and fittings.

Nurture, Education & Training

Rev'd Paul Hullyer confirmed that Compline will be said on the four Mondays of Advent.

- It was confirmed that the brown and blue bins are to be retained but only for the sole use of the church. It was recommended that a company named BIFFA should be contracted to supply and empty a lockable metal wheeled bin to replace the existing green bin.
- An amount exceeding £2,000 had been raised for the Oxfam Appeal for East Africa from the Harvest Festival and Harvest Lunch.
- The replacement of the lead roof is progressing well. CCTV is now in place.

Short Report of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Thursday 13th November 2008

Repairs to the Tower

An architect will now be engaged to carry out a site survey noting any additional repairs, e.g. repointing the flint fascia and removing the concrete covering the stone arch above the West Door. This procedure will then lead on to the appointment of a main contractor to plan and undertake all the building work.

Risk Committee

It was agreed by the Council that a Risk Committee should be formally convened whose membership would comprise Rev'd Paul Hullyer, Doug Yates, David Poole and Stuart Natrass. Its purpose is to review the arrangements for the control of risks which arise from the running of the church and to assure that the arrangements are adequate.

Church fabric

Boiler: Nick Ridge gave a report on the current state of the church boiler. Following this report the Council agreed unanimously to the exceptional expenditure of £3,508.55 to replace the burner and its associated controls.

Youth Ministry

Elise Allanson advised that the numbers attending Kidz Klub had increased to 53. Kidz Klub Extra has been introduced which provides extra activities for the older children of Kidz Klub.

PAC Matters

PAC Lent Groups: The clergy are meeting in December to finalise a timetable and content.

*Audrey Taylor
PCC Secretary*

Vicar's report

In the 5 months since I became Vicar of this parish of St. John the Baptist, the climate of the world in which we live, move, and have our being has drastically altered. Many of the touchstones that once were there, and possibly taken for granted, have now been lost or vanished into thin air. There is a culture of uncertainty and loss, coupled with an increased insecurity for many. It is tempting to think that the current, and ongoing, financial crisis affects only a certain proportion of those who are, or were, at its helm. That is not the case, and the economic effects of the recession / depression are and will be felt by all levels of society, irrespective of their economic status or ability.

This current recession, and all that accompanies it, leaves many individuals bewildered as to the way forward, missing those signposts to an almost assured prosperity, and feeling somewhat fearful and lost. For me it is precisely that bewilderment that proves to be a point of engagement with one another; that sense of uncertainty which, if shared rather than hugged to ourselves, leads to an increase in dialogue and the richness of sharing our lives together, irrespective of our circumstances.

St. John the Baptist church, set on the hill at the head of the high street here in Pinner, has experienced many social and financial vicissitudes throughout its, almost, 800 years history. That it will continue to see many more is without doubt, but there remains an imperative upon us as a parish community to engage with those who are on our margins; the lost, bewildered, and those who seek a deeper and richer meaning in their lives, an experience which I know through my own pastoral ministry is felt by many in Pinner and beyond. There is much spiritual searching within our world, and it is incumbent upon us as Christians to assist others in their path of discipleship, sharing our own faith and uncertainty as we journey together, rather than asserting our dogma.

That faithful engagement is, for me, what it is to be a priest in a parish setting, rather than a congregational one, and I have been greatly encouraged by the work already in place here at St. John's in making ourselves available in a

wide and diverse range of ways. Our Christianity for Life course, the house groups, the youth work (we provide as a parish youth ministry from the age of 3 to 18 – not many parishes can say that), Lent groups, the Parish Office, sacristy team and flowers, Church Watch, those who serve at the altar and provide our music, the Friends, Bell ringers, Parish review, the PAC, Holiday Club, and much else besides. Our hall is in almost constant use by community groups, and provides not simply income but also a place next door to the church of visible witness. All of the above are vital for the continuation of the telling of the Gospel here in Pinner, and we must work together in order that not one is lost through our inattention. That we provide a range of mainly eucharistically based services is, I believe, a part of our strength in terms of our worship of God and the building up of a community, and I would look to continue that diversity based upon the celebration of the Eucharist as our main focus of worship.

Often the question is posed: is the Church a people or a building? The answer is that it is both, working together in symbiosis for the furtherance of the Kingdom. Our church building is one of our greatest assets, but it requires a great deal of attention to the fabric. Often I enter the church to find someone praying and rejoice that we keep the building open between Morning and Evening Prayer, but a deeper look at the building reveals that there is much to be done in terms of restoration and conservation, and I wonder what they see and feel in this historic place. Work is required in line with the 2006 Quinquennial report on the Tower and the roof, and the Lady Chapel has much damp that requires attention, as well as a multitude of smaller tasks. The accessibility to our church is an issue, and there needs to be a process of discussion as to the purpose and future use of both the West and the South porch. At the AGM Shane, David and I will present the tentative beginnings of a vision for the beginnings of such work, which will be done not in the immediate future, but which will be done. On Christmas Eve someone commented to me how wonderful it was to see 500 people streaming down the High Street having attended the Christingle service, and they were right. Had we held the service in the hall, the effect would not have been the same. The

building itself is our *most important* piece of immediate mission, and if we neglect its condition, we run the risk of sending out the wrong kinds of signals as to our care for one another.

The word “inclusive” is used within a particular way at present within the Church of England, specifically in terms of a individual’s or group’s relation to the issue of human sexuality, but I would urge that we move away from that rather hijacked definition and explore exactly what it means to be a truly inclusive Christian community. The congregational model of church can tend to become inward looking, with the expectation that individuals will enter through the portals in order to receive grace. For me it is simply the opposite, but that does not mean that the doctrinal emphasis changes. We do reside here as a part of an institution, a national church, which, for all of its faults, also has much greatness within it and the spirit of Anglicanism has always been that it tries to allow others to develop their theology through encounters not only with God but also with one another. That ecclesial model allows for such development, but it also brings great frustrations as well, but I would rather live with the frustrations in order to have the spiritual development that it allows. That inclusivity, based upon what we say together in the Creed, is, I believe, what will allow those who are bewildered and frightened to sense the presence of God within their lives. As a parish firmly within that tradition – not where anything goes but where we welcome the stranger in our midst – I know that there is much to look forward to in the years to come. The writer of the Proverbs tells us that “*Where there is no vision the people perish*”. Our vision is to both believe and belong: believe in Jesus Christ as the incarnate, risen and ascended Son of God, and to belong to both him and to one another. To have a church building and community that welcomes all who seek God, and to embrace them in their bewilderment and spiritual longing, is my inclusive vision for this parish; to teach good news of the Gospel, to preach the Word, and to celebrate together the Sacraments are essentially what we are about here in this place, and it is a task that we all share, along with our brothers and sisters within the PAC.

To close, I would like to offer my deepest thanks and admiration to Elizabeth Birch, Elise Allanson, Susan Cooper, Nick Ridge, Ian Murray and Ann Fuller, for all that they have given me in the past few months and for our ministry together. Thanks also go to Shane Godbolt, David Poole, Phil Lawder and Doug Yates, all of whom strived to make what was a difficult move from Hillingdon as smooth as possible, and to Janet Huszco and Joy Chittleborough who, much to my amazement, have taken from me much that I previously used to do for myself! To Michael, Andrew and the choir goes much thanks and admiration, and I would like to mention Maureen and the sacristy team for their attention to details, as well as all members of the PCC.

Final thanks go to Sarah, Tom and Toby, who have met (and continued to meet) my enthusiasms with a gentle and amused tolerance, and who have endured much in the past year simply because I felt that I was being called to exercise my priestly ministry here in Pinner. To them I am more grateful that I can possibly express.

There is a buzz about our parish that is palpable to all who visit, and I very much look forward to continuing to build on what has gone before, so that those who are confused and frightened by the speed of much modern day life can find a place within our church and community to seek stillness, and to hear the still small voice of God, who is the object of all our adoration and intent.

With thanks and prayers,
Fr. Paul.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hall Committee

The committee (Michael Hetreed – chairman, Dorothy Natrass – secretary, Robert Bunn – treasurer, Diana Bowles – bookings, Sue Bardwell – invoicing, Pam Stevens, Carolyn McDonald, Alison Hetreed, Anne Payne) has met 4 times since the last APCM. Anne Payne was welcomed to the committee in July; she, Alison and Pam are also members of the PCC.

In the last year the sound system was installed and is used regularly by ‘Kidz Klub’, youth groups and other groups including RSPB and the Friends. Its use requires some competent supervision so it is not open to use by all hirers of the hall. At the same time at the instigation of the RSPB a remote controlled projection screen was installed at the East end of the hall. The fire alarm system failed in Spring 2008 and a new control panel was required to restore it.

The building was redecorated externally in the course of the summer and the main hall floor was sanded and resealed at the beginning of August. You (gentlemen) may have noticed that a basin in the toilets has still not been replaced after breakage more than a year ago. The fittings and panels of the toilets have become obsolete and we are working with a contractor to renew the back panels of all the basins in both the ladies’ and gentlemen’s toilets

There has been over the past several years a decline in the number of regular hirers of the hall and an increased number of casual hirers (eg for parties) and this trend was continued. We are very grateful to Diana and Sue for enabling and controlling this activity; it is important that church members wanting to use the hall should check with Diana that it is available for their purpose.

Security has been increased by the installation by the church of CCTV surveillance and recording around all the church buildings and last Autumn security lighting units were installed in the hall to provide light and escape guidance in case of power failure. So far, fortunately, these systems have not been tested in anger.

Following the hall committee’s proposal the contract for rubbish disposal from the hall & church will be changed from Harrow Waste Services to Biffa in March and there will then be no recycling of rubbish from the hall. (The church may continue to put out brown/blue bin recycling rubbish) Sorting of rubbish for recycling has proved beyond the ability of hall users over the last several years. This change will achieve some cost saving and relieve David Roker of the task of re-sorting the rubbish thrown in the various bins each week to make it collectable.

We remain much indebted to David Roker and his sometime deputy David Witney for their work sustaining the activities in the hall and the peace of mind of its many users.

Michael Hetreed

Mission & Charities Committee

The Lent Project in 2008 was for FROK UK Friends of Khwendo Kor, a charity that helps women and children in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. Although highly topical, this was perhaps a controversial choice. However, the charity provides education to 13,903 girls and 2,245 boys in 388 community based Schools. Almost 700 women have been supported in enterprise development. The charity satisfied the Committee that all funds were tightly controlled. For this appeal, the funds were for health care. It provided a mobile van, fully equipped and furnished, with a health team of one female health visitor and a trained birth attendant. Complicated deliveries could be properly managed and free medical camps in the Bannu area. The projected total anticipated was £5626. In fact, £9156 was raised which was an extraordinary sum and very much welcomed by the charity.

A total of £16850 has been distributed to charities this year. There continues to be a wide range of charities, both in scope and type. Some changes in charities will be made this year and suggestions are always welcome.

The Lent Appeal this year is for Centrepoin Ealing a long stay service in Northolt which accommodates 17 young people, primarily

care leavers, aged 16-21, for on average between 12-24 months. The young people are referred into the service from the council's Social Services and Gateway Team through their Access to Resources Team. During their stay they have an individual support and development plan and work towards independence through a "Lifewise" programme of accredited workshops.

The Appeal is for closed circuit television to provide protection for the young people and to deal with sometimes challenging behaviour. The cost of replacing the old broken system is £6480.

Peter Wilson

Information Technology (IT) IT/Communications Committee

The big news this year is the redesigned website. Not only does this succeed in showing our church as an up-to-date and vibrant place, it also contains great flexibility to enable us to expand it as needs and our skills dictate. Our tremendous thanks go to Howard Lush for his skill and time in creating this highly contemporary piece of communication. It has been set up in line with the diocesan guidelines.

Our grateful thanks too to Richard Lawrence, who has stood down after several years as Webmaster ensuring that the content is up-to-date and that everything works smoothly. This function can now mostly be done from the church office, following PCC and diocesan guidelines.

The next task is to ensure that the databases can be made compatible with the new office computer system. Those of you who work with computers will know that this is never as easy as it should be, but once again, Howard is applying his skill.

There will always be the regular upgrading of equipment and software that is a fact of life for any computer system but, with the guidance of professionals, this will continue to be done as economically as possible. It is important to ensure at all times that two key goals are

achieved. We must have a 'business' that runs efficiently and we must be able to communicate our message to the outside world in a relevant and credible way.

Joy Chittleborough & Philip Lawder

Social Responsibility Committee

The function of this committee of the PCC is to draw together and highlight areas of concern where it usually affects pastoral matters or the wider community. We hold a "watching brief" over a number of activities. "No news" continues to signal generally "good news", as it means things are happening as they should. We are most grateful to all our volunteers in their several roles for their faithful commitment.

a) Harvest: The appeal for 2008 focussed on the Oxfam Appeal for East Africa, notably Ethiopia with 10 million people in need of food aid. Contact was through the local Oxfam shop in Pinner, and £2,313 (including gift aid) was raised. The produce donated in church was given to local residences and others; flowers were given to some 20 household members of the congregation.

b) KIT (Keep In Touch): The scheme, started some eleven years ago, continues to enable those who cannot attend church on a regular basis, if at all, to be kept in touch with church matters by the monthly visits of the KIT visitors.

c) Car Lifts: There are only two people who, at present, require lifts and the rota is working well. The drivers have done this for very many years and change dates with each other when necessary.

d) Christmas (PAC) Lunch: Was well attended in St John's hall, as usual, with a large number of helpers. 2008 was "the Madrids'" last stand, but fortunately a new couple have volunteered to take over.

e) PAC Welcome Lunches: This function for people on their own continues to be well supported at the Love Lane Methodist Hall. On 6th December guests were invited to a nativity play performed by the playgroup children organized by Mike Hall. (see also separate report).

f) Bereavement visiting: See separate report.

- g) Marriage Preparation: See separate report.
- h) Baptism Visiting: See separate report.

Nick Ridge

Stewardship & Gift Aid

In 2008 the number of people contributing to the church via Stewardship was 278, some gave individually others as a couple. The final figure for the year was £142,699 with Gift Aid with the "top up" delivering another £38,080. When budgeting for the year it was thought that gift aid would be awarded at just 25% in line with the basic rate of tax of 20% but the Government agreed to "top up" the gift aid to 28% for three years, a welcome action.

The Stewardship Campaign in November was successful, in spite of the gloomy economic situation, with increased pledges of £6811. The number of donors remains the same, the eleven new donors balancing the eleven who were lost to the scheme for a variety of reasons during the year. We received 127 pledge forms, and assuming that some very regular donors carry on giving, we estimate income from Stewardship giving in 2009 will be £148,500. In addition the "Talents" challenge, set by Elizabeth Birch on Stewardship Sunday seems likely to raise another £2 - 3000.

I would like to thank Christine Ashby and Trevor Mitchell for banking and recording Stewardship income.

Morella Boon

Children and Youth



Kidz Klub

Kidz Klub runs every Sunday during term time. Our numbers continue to increase and we currently have 55 names on the register with a regular attendance of 30 or more children each week. Due to the increase in numbers we have increased the groups and now have four age groups: 3-6, 7-9, 10-11 and

12+, the latter being a new group added at the request of the young people themselves. We have followed different programmes throughout the year including Champion's Challenge which portrayed Jesus as different parts of a sports team (selector, trainer, physio, team-mate, substitute, winner, champion). We start off altogether in the hall with a welcome, a song, a game and sometimes a DVD clip. We then go into groups to hear the story, play a game, have a discussion and do a craft. The first Sunday of every month we don't come into church but come back to the Hall at the end of our session to sing and discuss what we've done in our groups. For the rest of the month we come into church during communion. Kidz Klub could not run from week to week without the fantastic talents of Howard Lush who provides music, song words and all things technical every Sunday morning. I also have a fantastic team of leaders and helpers: Brenda, Carolyn, Janice, Fannia, Andrea, Sandra, Geoff, Diana, Mike, Richard, Natasha, David, Rebecca and Emily. We have also welcomed a new teacher: Julie Howes. This is my opportunity to thank all my leaders and helpers for all their hard work and the commitment they have shown since I took on my role as Youth Worker.

Elise Allanson

11am Junior Church

Last year we had an unusual time losing leaders and gaining new members of the team. The situation has been more stable this year (and fortunately we have now gained Elise Allanson in addition) but the team is still seriously short of people. This year we have had fewer children coming to Junior Church (the others now being of an age to stay for the whole service), though numbers have been higher since January with up to nine children. As usual leaders and supporters have done excellent work planning and running enjoyable sessions as well as giving help at short notice. My thanks go to them for their loyalty and their sterling efforts.

We have had our usual sessions each Sunday in term time; activities remain varied and include craft, artwork and drama amongst others.

We would be delighted to welcome anyone who might contemplate joining us, perhaps initially just to observe, to see if they feel they could make a contribution: we really do need more people, both on the rota and who might be able to help at short notice, to ensure that we can continue to cover Junior Church.

Jill Townsend

Kidz Klub Xtra

I have started Kidz Klub Xtra for the young people in the top group of Kidz Klub. Last term we went to Starbucks after Kidz Klub for a hot chocolate and a chat about anything and everything. The trip proved successful and I am planning similar events next year. Kidz Klub Xtra will also be providing a scrumptious breakfast for you later on next year.

SNIP

SNIP is proving as popular as ever for those age 12-18. We have 40 + names on the registers with 30 regularly turning up every Sunday night. We have a range of activities including badminton, table tennis, table football, PS2, hockey, football, board games and a chill-out room. The chill-out room has seen a make over this term and is proving worthwhile with anything from Pictionary to chats about the week taking place in there each week. As well as meeting in the hall we enjoyed lots of trips and activities including a trip to Quasar, pizza making, a movie night and a trip to Top Golf. SNIP are involved in the life of the church through making breakfast after the 9am service during Lent to raise money for the Lent appeal and many SNIP members help with holiday club and Kidz Klub. We have welcomed a new SNIP leader, Julie Howes, this year and my thanks go to Richard Hillman and Howard Lush who give up their evening to co-lead SNIP. I would like people to realise that without Richard and Howard volunteering to run around the hall in football matches, lead discussions, supervise 30 teenagers and their (often heated) discussions SNIP would be non-existent.

Holiday Club

During the Summer the church hall was transformed into superhero training camp for a week of singing, dancing, bible stories, games,

craft and partying as our Junior Heroes holiday club took place. During the week over 80 children and around 40 helpers were put through their paces as they trained to become Junior Heroes. We learned about five young people in the bible who all did something great. On Day One we met Samuel who had to give a really difficult message to Eli. On Day Two we met the boy who gave Jesus his lunch to feed 5,000 people. On Day Three we learned about David who was brave enough to stand up to (and defeat) Goliath. Day Four saw Naaman's wife's servant girl tell her master to obey God's instruction. Then, finally, on Day Five we met Josiah who was King at the tender age of eight. As well as learning about existing Junior Heroes in order to complete our training we made utility belts, shields, superhero masks, wooden spoon puppets and (a Junior Hero must-have) Superhero pants! Each day began by boarding a rocket and flying to Junior Hero training camp. My co-pilot James and I flew the rocket each morning which led to a few minor incidents and emergency landings but we made it...just! The messy games involving yoghurt (mainly all over faces rather than in tummies), eating a lot of doughnuts and dressing up in ridiculous outfits proved very popular as did the parachute games, the puppets Jack and Zack and the Incredibles DVD. On Friday we celebrated becoming Junior Heroes with a Superheroes and Fairies party. Everyone who dressed up looked brilliant but special mention must go to leaders Richard Hillman, Beth Gandy, Julie Howes, Kate Weatherby and Matt Gandy who came as The Incredibles. There also seemed to be quite a few Superman wandering around! The week's adventures came to an end with our special Holiday Club SPACE service on the Sunday. Here we talked about who our heroes are and what qualities we look for in a hero. So people of Pinner you may now leave your houses in the safe knowledge that there are over one hundred Junior Heroes protecting you from danger and spreading a great message!

I would like to take this moment to thank my amazing team. Without their hard work and huge effort Holiday Club simply would not happen. The refreshments and lunch ladies, first aiders and my group leaders and helpers: Howard, Brenda, Elizabeth, Becca, Jonty, Rachel, Alex, Catherine, Janet, Ruby, Julie, Fiona, Rory, Jamie, Peter, Kate, Lucy, Diana,

Emma, Beth, Matt, Morella, Lauren, Maureen, Richard, Millie, Emily, Michael, James, Oli, Jill, Emily, Nick, David, Keith, Heather, Ann, Linda, Mandy, Elizabeth, Valerie, and Liz. Thank you all and see you next year!

As an extension of Holiday Club I ran a Mad Hatter's Team party in the week before Christmas. We had 30 children attend a morning of Christmas Craft, games, a set of puppets telling the Nativity story finished off by tea altogether. My team did a brilliant job and everyone had a really enjoyable morning.

Links with the Community

In addition to my work within the church I have also spent time making links with schools. I have been into Reddiford and taken assemblies and in return they have celebrated their Harvest festival and their Christmas Concert with us in church.

We welcomed Pinner Wood school to church for the first (of I hope many) tours. A brilliant team spent the afternoon showing the different areas of the church including the main body of the church, the vestments and high altar, the lady chapel, the exterior of the church and the bells – with a chance to have a go which seemed very popular!

At Christmas Paul and I invited the Pinner Parish Pre School into church for a small Christmas service and we hope to strengthen our links with them next year.

Christingle was again packed this year. This service is an important part of the church's outreach: for a large number of families it is the only service they attend throughout the year. We made a few changes to the service which included giving out the (unlit) christingles on arrival rather than people moving around the (non existent) aisles to collect them during the service. This went down well and cut the service time down to half an hour. I also put together outreach packs which were given to every child who doesn't attend the church regularly. The pack included a welcome letter, a flyer about the children's activities at church and a comic and a craft that we had used in preparation for Christmas at Kidz Klub. I gave out 160 packs and they seemed to go down well as the hundreds of families poured out down the high street on Christmas Eve.

My plans for next year include increasing and strengthening links with local schools and monthly activities for the Year of the Child.

Elise Allanson

Pinner Nippers

Pinner Nippers is a voluntary run parent/carer baby and toddler group, which has been running since 1984 in the church hall. There is one session each week held on Monday morning from 9.45 – 11.45.

We take children up to aged three. We can take up to 30 parents/carers with their children. We are members of the "Pre-School Learning Alliance" and as such are insured and abide by their regulations.

The fee for the term is £25 per family. The group welcomes new members and operates a waiting list. It is recommended that you register your interest at least nine months before you require a place.

There is tea/coffee/juice and biscuits at each session as well as the provision of a wide range of toys for children. There is also an activity table with play-dough, drawing and crafts. For the last 15 minutes of each session we have a music time with songs and rhymes. At Christmas we hold a party with a 'surprise' visitor!

As a parent/carer run group, we are all allocated a week each term on the rota where we help to set up the toys and serve drinks and snacks.

The group's aims are to provide an opportunity for parents/carers to meet others in similar situations and to encourage the children to develop their social and all-round development in a friendly environment.

For details please contact Danielle Musto on 07932 799056.

Danielle Musto



Pre-School Playgroup

We currently have 7 staff on our payroll, which allows us to offer a staff ratio of 1 adult to every 4 children. All our staff have the relevant early years qualifications.

One staff member retired in July 2008 after 25 years service, we greatly miss her expertise, but employed a new staff member for the start of the new curriculum year in September 2008 and she has settled well into the pre-school routine.

There are 32 children on our register this term, 25 children at each session Tuesday to Friday and 12 on Monday when we use one of the small side rooms.

We are completely full and have a demanding waiting list for September 2009.

We have been able to retain our committee for the current year which enables the pre-school to continue to run smoothly. Our fundraisers have held several fundraising events which were very successful.

We are looking forward to our next Fun Day in May.

Susan Smith, Pre-School Supervisor

Brownies and Guides 2008

Guiding continues to be alive and well in Pinner!

The 5th Pinner Brownie Pack, meets at St Luke's on Wednesdays 6.15-7.45pm and we are pleased to have Brownies from the Parish Church with us. We took part in a County All Section Going For Gold Event at our Campsite and Holiday Home in May and had the opportunity to experience fencing, judo, variety of dance, yoga and arts and crafts as well as fun sports. We completed the First Aid, Number Fun and Healthy Heart Badges. The 11th Pinner Guides who meet at Pinner Free Church on Friday evenings 6-45-8-45pm also took part in and camped at the County

Going For Gold Event and as well as the activities listed above they had the opportunity to experience dragon boat racing and raft building. The Guides also completed their First Aid Badge and Go For It Glamorama. From the Autumn Term 2009 until October 2010 Girlguiding will be celebrating their Centenary and we have many exciting plans including participating in Brownies taking over Butlins in Bognor Regis and an event at Trafalgar Square and more activities are being planned all the time.

If you have a daughter who would like to be a Brownie or Guide and take part in similar exciting activities or if you can offer some help please contact Jackie Diamond, Pinner and Headstone District Commissioner and local Brown Owl and Guide Guider preferably by email jackie.diamond@ntlworld.com or by phone Home: 01582 512863 or Mobile: 07813 083998)

Shane Godbolt and Jackie Diamond

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Lay Assistants and Servers

One of the amazing things that I find about being involved with the liturgy 'on the floor', as it were, is people's ability to just get out there and do it. A brief exploratory session, of course, but then one is 'out there'. I believe this at least partly explains the success with which our Servers and Lay Assistants are able to take part in so many celebratory services, whether it is the Triduum, Confirmation, Patronal Festival, Midnight Mass and in 2008, the induction of Paul, as the highlight.

Servers. David Witney reluctantly had to give up after 10 years because of his increasing mobility problem. Lloyd Davis is off to the University of Canterbury for most of the time, and Mary Pocock, one of our first women servers at Pinner over 20 years ago, has felt it was time to retire. For just as long she was also a Lay Assistant. However, the really good news is that Tom Hullyer is now serving at 11 am and Alastair Poole at 9 am. Peter Mahrer has offered to do the occasional Wednesday morning service, likewise John Taylor, having retired from work, also serves then.

Lay Assistants. Shane Godbolt and Elise Allanson were both licensed “to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion” at the end of the year. We welcome them, and they will be asked to help as appropriate. Meanwhile, we have an exceptionally strong team of Lay people assisting at the Eucharist, including Aidan Smith who is happy to be cast in that role, as well as performing his priestly duties from time to time. I continue to work on getting people to “spread their wings” a little.

It continues to be a great privilege for me to be the one who tries to look after all who do so much for our worship. The need for Lay involvement was spelt out by Hugh Wybrew nearly 30 years ago, and it is good to be carrying that vision forward and to help it develop.

Nick Ridge

Baptism Visiting

In 2008 there were 11 baptisms, some of them at the 9o'clock service and a few at 11am. There were 22 in 2007, so this represented a considerable reduction.

I continue to send out cards and church information to children on the anniversaries of their baptisms.

I would like to thank all the baptism visitors for their help in preparing families for baptisms. If anyone would like to become a baptism visitor, please contact me. It involves only a few hours a year, at your convenience, and is a worthwhile and pleasant outreach

Gill Yates

Bereavement Visitors

During 2008 our bereavement visitors offered support to 23 families, most of whom were referred by our clergy, local GPs and bereaved people themselves. The number of funerals conducted by our clergy was lower than previous years, not only because fewer deaths occurred in our community but also because nowadays there are increasing numbers of Humanist funerals and those of other faiths. Harrow Bereavement Care serves all people irrespective of religious allegiance or none but

this may not always be understood by the wider community.

Although there remains insufficient funds to pay the salary of a co-ordinator, with the encouragement and dedication of our Management Committee and trainers, Harrow Bereavement Care continues to provide extra training, support and an annual conference for our visitors and it is hoped to increase the number of children's visitors this year. Nick Ridge came to the end of his term of office as Chair of HBC and we thank him for his interest and continued support.

Bridget Murray



Pinner Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Our three latest recruits continue to improve and make a constructive contribution to our ringing, both at practices and service ringing. This continues to be a minor problem when ringers are on holiday, but we now ring when there are only four people who are able to be present.

During the year we have had visits from two schools, Pinner Park Middle in March and Pinner Wood in November. We always welcome school visits as the children are so enthusiastic, we keep hoping we might be able to recruit some youngsters, but that seems to be in the future – Kidz Klub may be?

Our social activities included dinner at the Tai Pan Restaurant in Northwood in April plus a ‘Bring and Share’ lunch in August

We also had a most enjoyable coach outing, shared with The Friends, to Surrey/Kent borders. Despite it being much later than usual (4 October), the sun shone for us during the morning, but sadly the rain caught up with us later on, nevertheless a very interesting day was had by all.

Two Community events were ringing for St. George's Day and the Pinner Pantomime evening, when we invite visitors to ‘watch the ringers’ in action!

Unfortunately the number of weddings for which we are asked to ring is declining each year with only four required this year.

We had three bands of visitors this year, one of which was for a full peal - 3¼ hours of wonderful ringing by the Cumberland Youths, some of the most competent ringers in the Country.

Our bells pealed out for the induction of our vicar, Rev'd Paul Hullyer on 3 September a truly memorable occasion for all concerned.

I hope that one or two of you are thinking seriously about the notice which was inserted in the bulletin on Sunday 25 January by our Tower Captain, Chris Lomax, with reference to the request for learners – I'm sure someone out there would find it a most interesting, fascinating and stimulating pastime! Come and join us!

Finally we have to thank Chris Lomax who was our reader for the Nine Lessons and Carols which finished off a most satisfying year.

Anne Payne



Choir and Church Music

Music has again played a full and vital part in the life and witness of this church, the regular weekly offering of music in worship being at the centre of all we do. At present we have a Junior section with some 24 members, extra chairs often needed! Many of the choir, especially the Juniors give 100% attendance every month – this means an average attendance of at least 3 times a week – to all of them I say a big ‘thankyou’ on behalf of the parish. The juniors continue to take outside singing awards with a couple of Dean’s Awards this year, but, most unusually we had two Royal School of Church Music **Gold Awards** (the highest level attainable) won by Emily Greenwood and Lucy Pinching.

The Music Festival proved to be very popular and successful, some £9,000 being given to the Middlesex Association for the Blind – a record amount, all of it due to the dedicated hard work of the committee – again, thanks. September saw the induction of our new Vicar and we managed to fulfil his request for a particular anthem, (new to us), despite it being our first week back after the summer holidays!

In November a 54 seater coach took the choir and some members of the congregation to Bristol for the day, it was cold and wet, but the purpose of the trip was to sing Evensong in the Cathedral – and what a joy to sing in a building with such good acoustics. It was also the day for the unveiling of the secret ‘hoodies’ arranged by Howard Lush and Lucy Pinching with the surprise item being one for ‘Mr T’!!!!

When I took one of Elizabeth’s envelopes in the ‘talents’ challenge I was horrified at the amount inside and it took me till January to get my idea together – the result – CD Number 2 – made up of music recorded during evensongs in St. Edmundsbury and Bristol Cathedrals. Nick Ashton made it all happen, producing virtually everything ‘in house’ – thankyou. Lastly I must express my appreciation of the musicianship, dedication and reliability of Andrew, my assistant – it is great working with him.

Michael Turvey

Christianity for Life

Our eighth “Christianity for Life” course began on January 14th 2008 and ran for 15 weeks on Monday evenings . Based on the book, “*Emmaus, the Way of Faith*”, Part 1 of the course deals with basic Christian belief, Part 2 with growth as Christians and Part 3 with living the Christian life.

Our leaders / facilitators were Morella Boon, John Canvin , Peter Ellis and Ann Fuller. As well as the experienced team we were fortunate to have Elizabeth Birch lead us for a fascinating session on the Bible (who would have thought studying the Old Testament could provoke so much laughter?) She also presided at a memorable Silent Eucharist. For both these sessions, and the one on Prayer led by Valerie Wright from the Grail, we were

joined by other members of the congregation and we felt this innovation worth repeating in the future.

As well as sharing our thoughts and experiences, we looked at the *Life and Ministry of Jesus* through the medium of the animated film, the *Miracle Maker*. As usual we celebrated the end of the course in June with a party.

For the first time there were no Confirmation candidates. There were only two participants-possibly because of the perception that a course without a vicar is not worth attending? But feedback from our two “refreshers” show they appreciated the course and did not feel outnumbered by leaders.

Thanks to the leaders, Morella, Peter and John, for helping to create a safe place for discussion, learning and sharing but also for leading sessions, giving lifts, printing handouts, preparing the room and organising refreshments. Thanks also to Elizabeth for her input and thanks to the course members who helped us quickly become a close-knit group. Small is beautiful!

Ann Fuller.

Church Cleaning

This report does not cover the vestry cleaning for which there is a separate report by Dorothy Natrass on the work done by her and her team.

Apart from the refurbishment of the church floor, which is much appreciated and makes cleaning a lot easier there is very little new to report. We still remain very much in need of help for general church cleaning. We are indebted to all who contribute hugely to keeping things spic and span quietly wielding a duster or taking round the vacuum. Many of you are Church Watchers but there are others including Ann Kirkley who keeps the children’s corner clean and tidy. Please be assured we are very grateful for all your contributions. It is some time since we had a Saturday morning ‘blitz’ open to all! We are hoping to have one before Easter.

We are fortunate in our beautiful church, which gives pleasure to so many visitors and worshippers during the year. Please therefore do consider this important work and either join

the next Saturday morning ‘blitz’ or if you would be willing to help on a regular basis, either on your own or with a friend, then please get in touch with me or any member of the PCC.

Shane Godbolt, Churchwarden

Vestry Cleaning

The vestry is a rather hidden but important part of the church building. Now beautifully refurbished, it is light and much more “fit for purpose”. Our small but stalwart band of volunteers keep it clean and tidy. More helpers are needed. Many thanks to Morella Boon, Jeannine Lawder, Muriel Lawrence, Helen Spark and David Witney for their splendid service.

Dorothy Natrass



Church Library

Below the stained glass window depicting the mother of John the Baptist, at the back of the north aisle, is the Church Library. Some people know it – quite a lot don’t. The number of book loans remains quite small, but fairly constant from year to year. I am grateful to my faithful borrowing band – and to those who used the library for the first time in 2008 – please keep reading! I am also grateful to the clergy and others who have donated books to supplement the stock. There is a library budget and books are normally purchased twice a year – details of acquisitions are put in the Review from time to time. I would welcome suggestions for titles/subject areas to be added to the library.

Margaret Birkinshaw

Church Watch

Many of us will have visited a town or village and wanted to call into the church only to be disappointed to find it firmly shut. We are fortunate to be able to open our church, safely,

every day of the year for at least eight hours a day, to allow people in the community and visitors to enjoy the peace and quiet of St Johns. The team of twenty people who make up the Church Watch team help in part to make this possible. They give an hour or more a week to keep an eye on the church and welcome visitors. Some also help further by doing a little cleaning or by folding the bulletins for services.

This year we were sorry to see Derek Hammond leave the team, we thank him for his commitment to Church Watch over many years. We were pleased to welcome John Taylor and Jenny Claridge who has kindly offered to cover several hours. In spite of this we still have four hours with no cover, they are Mondays 10-11 and 11-12, Wednesdays 11-12 and Thursdays 11 - 12. If anyone can help at those times please contact me on 8866 2120.

Morella Boon

Creative Workshop

Work is continuing on the two new long kneelers for the Church to replace the existing green velvet ones. Our small group enjoys meeting twice monthly in the Church Hall.

Jenny Lawrence

Flower Arranging

We are already half way through January. This marks the first year of my full involvement with the willing group of ladies who give their time and talents to keep flowers in the church bright and fresh. This is my opportunity to say a big thank you to: Sheila, Maureen, Valerie, Hilary, Dorothy, Mary, Jane, Cecily, Rose and Rosalind who are members of the flower arranging team.

I thought it might interest you to know the range of requests we receive during a typical year and are able to fulfil. During 2008 we received 22 requests for memorial flowers. There were three occasions when flowers for weddings were requested. On St George's day the font top was decorated in red and white flowers to reflect the colours of the English Saint's day. To celebrate a 'special birthday', an extra pedestal was requested and this was

carried out using tropical flowers. Add to this list, flowers throughout the church for the music festival in early June. A high point of last year was the induction of Fr. Paul. The ladies did a wonderful job, decorating all the window sills, pedestals, and other areas predominately using gold coloured flowers for the occasion. During Easter and Christmas the Team fill the church with seasonal flowers, some fresh and some artificial.

I arranged a 'Work Shop' in church on the day before the Harvest Festival. I managed to get the services of a teacher who came along willingly to give us some new ideas. Unfortunately, only five members of the team were able to attend, but hopefully we learnt some new techniques and designs.

Much later in the year during Advent, when there are no flowers in church, the pedestals are filled with green foliage, however, for the Service of Thanksgiving for the Departed in early November we created a white arrangement; a similar white arrangement complements the Festival of Light and the positioning of the 'Tree' in the Lady Chapel.

It is greatly appreciated when our efforts are noticed and favourable comments are received.

I would like to thank the loyal team of flower arrangers for their time and creative input. However, if there is anyone who would like to join the flower arranging team, we would be only too pleased to have some new helpers.

Finally, should you have a request for flowers, please note that cheques should be made payable to "CHURCH FLOWERS" as this is the correct name of the account.

Maureen Wilson



Gardening

The gardening party has continued its efforts throughout the year to maintain accessible parts of the garden. Our numbers, alas, have

not risen but fallen with the sad loss of Winnie Burrell.

Over the past year, we have looked at the long-term maintenance of the grounds and especially areas suffering from neglect. We have taken advice from Harrow Council's Tree Protection Officer, who advises coppicing one large bay tree and removal of elderbury trees and replacing with hawthorns. This work will commence soon.

Work has commenced on reclaiming the overgrown area by the Loudon Memorial; for this we have to thank Antonio. Professional help is required for clearing the remaining area. Our aim is to establish a low maintenance garden in this area.

Our thanks to Maureen Craddock and David James for their continued work. A keen rose pruner is required urgently to enable David to retire after 30 years volunteering. Many thanks, David.

If you feel able to contribute any time to our gardening team, please contact Janet in the Church Office, 020-8866 2676.

Faith Holland and Sue Sabry-Grant

The Friends of Pinner Parish Church

Registered Charity 298048

During 2008 we managed/ran some eight funding-raising events and combined with four events, making a total of twelve. I cannot list everyone who helped during the past year or those who provided the draw to the events but The Friends thank them for their time, effort and expertise and, of course, all of you who attended our functions and helped increase our funds for the ultimate benefit of the church fabric.

Sadly, even a church is not immune from thievery and at the PCC.'s request we funded the CCTV system at a little over £10,000. There are major fabric expenses to come, not least the church tower, which we shall pay for as work on it progresses. Columns, main roof and Lady Chapel and certain areas of stonework are all items that require considerable remedial attention.

Our annual subscription is £10 a person or £20 a family and runs from the date of joining. If

you are not already a Friend I hope you will become one; subscriptions may be Gift Aided. Or, perhaps, you might consider the Friends in your Will so that future generations may experience the life of Pinner parish church that you have valued in yours.

We look forward to continuing to raise funds for the church fabrics benefit and will welcome events organised and run on our behalf with that aim from all levels of the congregation.

The Friends Committee looks forward to hearing from you and welcoming you at our events in 2009

Ronald Haslam

Home Communion

We are very grateful to our team of visitors for the time and commitment they give to this much appreciated service. They take communion on a regular basis to many parishioners who can no longer get to Church.

Jenny Lawrence

House Groups

The leaders met in April 2008 and January 2009. The 5 long established groups continue to flourish with a total membership of 35 people, meeting monthly. Leaders/facilitators/co-ordinators are Pat Gowman, Len and Margaret Reed, Nick Ridge, Mary Wright and Ann Fuller. Death and ill health have reduced the numbers and although some groups have recently welcomed new members, there is room in most groups for one or two new people.

The newest group, formed in 2007 by the amalgamation of two groups, though theoretically large, has not been able to attract enough regular members to make the group viable. The leaders are currently considering what to do.

New material added to the housegroup resources includes :

April 2008: *Knowing God* and *Growing as a Christian*, short courses to follow up the basic Emmaus Course (used in our *Christianity for Life* course)

June 2008: Six new Church Times Study Guides

Going by the Book, Here is the news, Doing what comes naturally,
Yours sincerely, Deliver us, Moving mountains

January 2009: Two sets of the newest York Course: Faith, Hope and Love.

During the interregnum Elizabeth had to withdraw as joint co co-ordinator of the housegroups.

I should like to thank all the leaders/facilitators and the hosts for creating a safe place where members of our congregation can explore and deepen their faith. Members of the well established groups find support and fellowship in their groups as well as studying, discussing and praying.

Thanks also to Margaret Birkinshaw for cataloguing the material which can be found on the bottom left hand shelf of the church library.

Ann Fuller

Marriage Preparation

We celebrated four marriages here in 2008 which comprised one couple getting married for the first time and three where one partner had been divorced. It is now the policy of this parish to offer a Service of Blessing after a civil marriage for divorcees.

Due to the small number of engaged couples with whom we had contact, marriage preparation was carried out with one couple on their own rather than meeting with others in a group. This meant that the leaders had the opportunity to focus more on personal issues which might not be appropriate within a group, although the couples did not have the advantage of sharing experiences and expectations with each other.

Bridget Murray

Pinner Parish Review

The parish magazine is published to give the congregation, especially newcomers, a flavour of parish life and is eventually archived in London. Publication is ten times per year and usually 250 copies are printed (350 for Easter

and Christmas issues). The Parish Review is handed out free of charge on the first Sunday of the month and those unable to attend church, or haven't access to the church website, pay a yearly subscription for postal copies. All churches within the PAC receive our magazine and vice versa. Copies also go to the PAC Coffee Shop and Pinner Library as part of outreach. The remainder are available for collection from the church porch – visitors to the church are encouraged to place 50p in the wall safe if they take a copy.

During the year the Review team has seen the inclusion of our vicar, Paul Hullyer, who has written lead articles and our youth worker, Elise Allanson, who provides a youth page – the production assistants remain the same; Margaret Birkinshaw, Anne Davis, Linda Hedderick and Janet Huszczo.

We have received a good mix of interesting articles and the regular centre page 'An Encounter' still appears to be popular. If you have any comments/suggestions, or would like to share experiences/information with parishioners, just let me know.

Joy Chittleborough

Sacristy Rota, Sacristan & Verger

Surprisingly there are still people who are unaware of some of the work that goes on behind the scenes to prepare for the eucharistic services which are held in this church. So let me tell you about the duties performed by the fourteen people, on the sacristy rota, who give up an hour of their time on a Saturday morning.

They mostly work in pairs, once in eight weeks, to clean and polish the holy vessels, and fill them with clean water, fresh wine or wafers, which have to be counted out into the appropriate places. The chalices are then dressed with a variety of clean linen, and the vessels set out on trays in the safe, in an ordered way, which helps in setting up the services on Sunday mornings. They also clean and polish the crosses and candlesticks.

Two of us work singly now, and another pair would like to retire due to other commitments, so if you could spare the time and would like to have the privilege of handling some very

interesting and precious silverware please let me know Tel. 8868-7653.

Meanwhile, my grateful thanks goes to these people and to Betty Warltier who launders all of the dirty linen every week and to my deputy Elizabeth Metivier who aids, abets and bails me out when necessary.

SACRISTAN

Each of the three Altars have a top and under Alter- cloth, which also need to be laundered from time to time, and it would be good if I could have offers of help for this duty too. Another time consuming effort is to keep the sets of amices “ neck- collars”, clean and fit for the servers and clergy to wear. This involves removing the coloured apparel, washing and ironing the white cloth and stitching the apparel back again. Again, as we have six sets of eight of these, I would be glad of offers of help with this, perhaps as a sewing group from time to time?

You may have noticed that the gold Nave Altar Frontal is back in use, and my thanks go to Joy Daffon for her part in the renovation, and to Phil and Jeanine Lawder for footing the bill.

Thanks are also due to Joy for her efforts in repairing the Kneelers which have come apart from their hooks and loops, which is an on-going job I’m afraid. It would be good if the users took more care when un-hooking them and refrained from twiddling them around on their hooks.

Hilary Holloway and myself are fighting a loosing battle with candle wax on the carpet in the chancel and sanctuary. Increasingly large and widely distributed amounts are being dealt with on a weekly basis. Great care needs to be taken when lighting and extinguishing all candles and they should never be moved in haste after putting them out, as the liquid wax spills over vestments, woodwork, floor and carpet, for someone else to deal with. We can remove small amounts of wax from carpet, with iron and brown paper, but larger patches are more persistent, as they melt but reset to leave spots on the carpet. So I plead with all servers, clergy and other handlers of candles to be more careful!

It is good to have our new Vicar, Father Paul, with us and after the excitement of his induction we are getting to know him and his preferences. Tidiness is one of his concerns.

Be aware that abandoned water cups and paper clutter, are one of his abominations.

VERGER

We have had fewer weddings this year and some of them unusually on Fridays or Sundays. We have also had more Eucharistic services for a wedding, a funeral and memorials, which is different and keeps us on our toes.

Maureen Craddock

Three Faiths Dialogue between local Churches, Mosque and Synagogues

Love your neighbour – perhaps is easier said than always done. The first step in a multicultural society must be to gain knowledge and understanding of the local community. The Three Faiths Dialogue began in 1989. It includes all the Pinner Churches, the three local Synagogues – Hatch End Kol Chai, Northwood and Pinner Liberal & Pinner Orthodox plus the Harrow Mosque. The Dialogue is associated with the London Wide Three Faith Forum.

Normally four meetings are held each year but owing to personal tragedy and sickness two had to be postponed. However, the two held were very successful with numbers in excess of seventy. The first on Being an Observant Muslim Woman in Britain Today was a dialogue between Anisa Doha (Muslim) and Jenny Nemko (Jewish). Any notion that Muslim women are kept down by their men folk was soon dispelled. Anisa and her supporters are very much for furthering their careers and education. Questions were asked about dress and the practise of prayer, which are very important to them. After the meeting they chatted very freely with a mixed gathering. The second meeting was hosted by St. John’s Church. The speaker was Dr. Chris Hewer of St. Ethelburga’s Centre for Peace and Reconciliation. His topic was, ‘How Can Faiths Contribute to the Wellbeing of Britain in a Changing Society?’ He covered many areas of society: ecology, education and work, all supported by facts and statistics. His talk stimulated many of those present. A précis will appear in a future Parish Magazine.

Look forward to seeing you at future meetings.

Alan Johnston

Energy Group

The Energy Group is one of the new committees set up by the PCC this year. The details of the context and need for the Energy Group are given below:

Energy group

Context and need

- The Diocese of London has committed itself in the London Challenge 2012 to implementing the Church of England's policy on shrinking our environmental footprint and to playing a full part in the debate on ecological matters
- In recent years the PCC has been supportive of environmentally responsible policies locally, especially in the management of the Hall
- The rising costs of energy are a concern and church energy costs have risen significantly in the past few years
- The PCC Believing and Belonging strategy has brought energy use into focus with particular concerns about heating the West porch
- The Churchwardens are aware that over the years much valuable knowledge has accumulated (e.g. concerning both Hall and Church lighting, heating and sound systems). They have concern that this expertise is held by just a few people and there is a need to make sure that knowledge is captured and brought together so that good decisions can be made for the future
- A unique offer of expertise was made last year by a member of the congregation who has specialist expertise in energy usage and renewable energy. The offer was to work with a small group of those with relevant knowledge of church energy usage to conduct an energy audit. This would enable the PCC to have an overview of how and on what the church is using energy and what if any savings might be possible

Energy Group formation

This context showed the need to bring a range of issues together and to review them. The PCC decided to:

- *Set up an energy group, convened/chaired by a PCC member, to work with expert guidance to carry out an energy audit and make recommendations based on these findings to the PCC.*
- *Include on the group those with specialist knowledge in the identified areas and others as appropriate.*
- *Ask the group to begin its work as soon as possible (although it was known that this would involve collection, analysis and interpretation of detailed data and was likely to take several months) and to act as a 'task and finish' group completing its work with a report and recommendations.*

Details of our work are as follows:

Fuel

Within our congregation, we have a specialist expert in energy usage and renewable energy who offered to audit our current energy usage. He was supplied with recent fuel bills. He has produced a document about what a full energy report will contain, but in the interim has produced a report about energy consumption emphasising important points noted for the completion of this 'Phase 1'. The report is a high level report rather than about day to day minutiae. Our agenda and timescales might well now be different from previously.

His report follows:

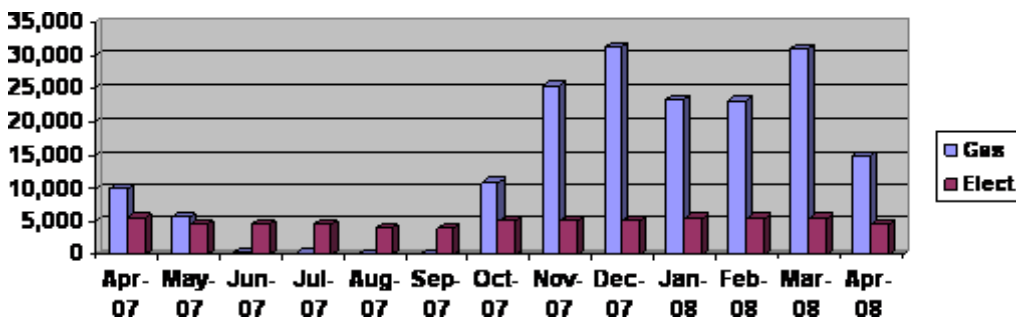
A typical energy report will:

1. Assess the energy characteristics of your buildings (Energy Signature).
2. Examine the condition, performance and capability of your present energy consuming systems in relation to the requirements of your buildings.

3. Make appropriate "no cost/low cost" recommendations that will improve comfort and reduce energy consumption.
4. Offer technical guidelines for upgrading or replacing heating systems where appropriate.
5. Advise on alternative types of systems that are available.
6. Supply checklists for energy management and maintenance problems.
7. Set annual energy consumption targets for the congregation.

The first element of any energy report is to measure the amount of energy being used against any relevant activities (occupancy in the case of a church) and from this an 'Energy Signature' is produced, this acts as a benchmark for when improvements are made.

Step 1: gather the energy used data, this includes Electricity, Gas and Water consumption for at least a typical year. The chart below shows the Gas & Electrical consumption in kilowatt/hours from April 2007 to April 2008.



Step 2: add more detail data (occupancy levels).

Step 3: prepare an 'Energy Signature' by plotting the consumption data against the occupancy patterns by producing a trend line.

The aim of a good energy signature is to:

1. Reduce the gradient of the line by making the building less sensitive to occupancy patterns.
2. Reduce the scatter of points by improving controls.
3. Reduce the height of the line by addressing the source of unnecessary consumption.

Lighting

Another member of the congregation has documented the lighting system in some detail and itemised the cost per hour of each lighting unit. Detailed analysis is available.

The important features are:

1. We all need to be mindful about unnecessary lighting. We need to turn off lights where they are not needed. However, we must also try to keep the church as a welcoming environment.
2. The floodlights are by far the most expensive lighting units. We have taken measures to limit their time in use, whilst still displaying the beauty of the church building.

Boiler

Another member of the congregation has carefully nurtured the boiler over many years. The boiler has caused considerable concern this year but has now had recent repairs. The boiler is now said to be in good working order.

Entry and Exit from Church

Many people have spoken to me about the use of the South door and the West Porch for entry and exit. We are now committed to the use of both these entrances/exits as part of the welcoming nature of our church. However, we also need to make the church internal environment comfortable for people and to make sure that the temperatures do not interfere with fixtures such as the organ and the church fabric. The PCC considered the use of air curtains at the South door but decided that this was not appropriate at present.

Energy Group

In summary, the Energy Group exists to examine energy use within the Church and Hall, and to make appropriate suggestions. This impacts on the heating, lighting, use of different doors for entry and exit, and the 'welcoming' nature of the church. The Energy Group does not have an ongoing remit, and the PCC might now choose to put the work of this group under the remit of a broader committee.

Peter Ellis
Chair of Energy Group

Item 10 The Financial Affairs of the Church.

Treasurers Report and Summary Accounts 2008

The full statutory accounts and annexes audited for 2008 are being made available separately with only a summary being presented in the Annual Report. Further copies of the full report can be obtained from the Church Secretary.

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) combines all the activities into a single statement differentiating between Unrestricted and Restricted Funds.

At the end of the 2008 total funds balances stood at £1,233,708 distributed as follows:-

	£
Unrestricted Funds	
General	55,956
Special Receipts, Unspecified	112,519
Hall Committee	2,993
11 am Refreshments	327
Capital Reserve	219,881
Fixed Assets	795,141
	<hr/>
	1,186,817
Restricted Funds	
Special Receipts, Nominated	0
Jazz in Church	23,837
Tower (Bell ringers)	1,335
Flower Arrangers	531
Quinquennial works	2,050
Youth worker salary	14,391
Music bequest	747
IT/software/web/training	4,000
	<hr/>
	46,891
Total for all Funds	<hr/> 1,233,708

The full SOFA Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Statement are appended at the end of this summary.

The ancillary activities, which are run independently throughout the year, are integrated into the main accounts at the end of the year in order to comply with the Charities Act 1993. The income in the Special Receipts fund includes legacies and other small items.

Review of the year

Total Incoming Resources in all funds of £358,458 (2007 - £378,194) exceeded expenses of £329,779 (2007 - £348,022) by £28,679

This was an improved situation to that budgeted despite stewardship income failing to meet budget. The principal reasons for the improvement were a decision by the government not to reduce the Gift Aid tax refund rate, generally lower expenses in a number of areas, we were without an incumbent for a longer period than was forecast, we were without a youth worker for most of the year, lower exceptional expenses than budgeted and with some of those budgeted items financed by The Friends, and a legacy of £15,418 which was not budgeted..

The highlights in **Incoming Resources** were:

- Planned Giving showed no increase
- Gift Aid tax refunds fell from £39,595 to £37,782 due to some catch-up receipts in 2007

- Special Receipts rose from £11,194 to £12,966 as a result of significant receipts in respect of the Dalston Project (£4,015) in 2008, partially offset by lower donations in other areas.
- Collections rose from £25,345 to £32,237 due to a significant increase in receipts in respect of the Lent Project in 2008 compared with 2007 (£5,145) as well as some increase in the level of private donations over the previous year.
- Rent from houses was up by £8,416 or 44% as a result of a full year of subletting 37 Eastcote Rd
- Legacies in the year totalled £15,418 compared to £50,100 in 2007.
- Our Interest income showed a small increase with a higher invested balance with CBF funds compensating for lower interest rates.

Resources Used declined from £348,022 in 2007 to £329,779 in 2008. The highlights here were:-

- We increased our Diocesan quota payment from £91,910 in 2007 to £95,597. (£94,650.00 + £947.00 for school levy)
- increased payments to Relief Agencies accompanied by smaller increases to Overseas and Home Mission agencies as a result of collections made.
- Cost of Youth Worker decreased from a 2007 figure of £23,693 to £10,708 for the reason stated above
- support costs for services decreased by £2,597
- upkeep of Church buildings and properties fell from £91,675 in 2007 to £77,822 the biggest reason for which was the refurbishment of 37 Eastcote Road required in 2007 before the property was commercially let. However 2008 saw greater expenditure on the church hall on redecoration and floor renovation.
- Management & administration has benefited in 2008 by the fact that we no longer need an audit and Robin Youle has accepted the position of Independent Examiner without payment.

Reserves & Reserve Policy

The Reserves we maintain are as stated in last year's accounts:-

- General Reserve which contains non-restricted reserves which are not allocated elsewhere.
 - Special Purposes Fund for legacies received and any sums donated or allocated generally with certain objectives.
 - Capital Reserves for funding expenditure of a capital nature
 - Ancillary activities includes the sums held by Jazz in Pinner, Bell ringers and Church Hall committee
- And then there are a number of Specifically Restricted Reserves where money has been given and its expenditure restricted to specified matters.
- "Reserves" also obviously exist in the form of the "curates" houses.

The church, like other organisations, needs to secure its future and ensure that we can weather a downturn in our normal income pattern or some unexpected, immediate or exceptional need for expenditure. It is for these reasons that we hold reserves.

The outlook for the future

Our Budget for 2009 shows a small deficit of some £3k before exceptional expenditure. Since the budget was constructed before the result of the Stewardship campaign a continuing flat figure of some £140k was budgeted. An addition of the pledges promises £148k but for a number of reasons a similar figure last year resulted in a lower actual result, but there may be some upside. Budgeting for the exceptional expenditure is difficult since it often takes longer than expected to obtain the approvals for the work and often we benefit from The Friends paying for maintenance work. We expect at least, however, to pay for fire detection and alarm systems in the Church and tree and gardening work in the churchyard

Douglas M Yates
Hon. Treasurer

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 December 2008

	Unrestricted Funds (inc fixed assets)	2008 Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2007 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations, gifts, grants, legacies	217,010	25,084	242,094	268,982
Activities for charitable objects	3,028	37,443	40,471	42,677
Activities for generating funds	26,283	0	26,283	26,421
Investment income	48,099	1,511	49,610	40,114
Other incoming resources	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	294,420	64,038	358,458	378,194
RESOURCES USED				
Cost of generating funds	227	0	227	190
Charitable expenditure				
Grants payable under charitable objects	112,616	19,102	131,718	118,010
Cost of activities in furtherance of objects				
The Ministry	17,261	10,708	27,969	38,596
Support costs for services	22,165	1,577	23,742	26,339
Activities	4,158	37,910	42,068	42,558
Building costs	0	0	0	0
Upkeep	77,822	0	77,822	91,675
Management and administration	25,122	1,111	26,233	30,654
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	259,371	70,408	329,779	348,022
NET RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS	35,049	(6,370)	28,679	30,172
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	0	0	0	0
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	35,049	(6,370)	28,679	30,172
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	35,049	(6,370)	28,679	30,172
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2008	1,151,768	53,261	1,205,029	988,857
Revaluation of Curates' houses (Investment properties)				186,000
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2008	1,186,817	46,891	1,233,708	1,205,029

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

	2008	2007
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible fixed assets	795,141	794,373
CURRENT ASSETS		
Prepayments	3,812	3,915
Debtors	8,600	9,117
Short term deposits	395,619	384,697
Cash at bank and in hand	46,108	31,243
	<u>454,139</u>	<u>428,972</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors due within one year	2,097	5,829
Deferred income	13,475	12,487
	<u>15,572</u>	<u>18,316</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	438,567	410,656
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,249,491	1,164,029
NET ASSETS	<u>1,233,708</u>	<u>1,205,029</u>
FUNDS		
Unrestricted	391,676	357,395
Restricted	46,891	53,261
Capital funds	795,141	794,373
Total	<u>1,233,708</u>	<u>1,205,029</u>

REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH AND PARISH HOUSING

All the usual safety tests have been carried out to electrical and fire-fighting appliances, 'hanging things' and the boiler. The Church gutters are professionally cleared twice a year, and any loose tiles replaced.

Boiler difficulties over shadowed the autumn until just before Christmas after the burner and pump had been replaced, since then the electrical system has been renewed. The work should mean that the boiler will work well for a good period of time but we will review the length of time that it took to repair the system. Thanks to Nick Ridge for pursuing the contractors and bringing it to a successful conclusion. Thanks also to Stuart Natrass and Nick for arranging the alternative provision of electrical heaters whilst the boiler was out of action.

The theft of Lead from the South porch was in the news nationally as well as locally as the, then, rocketing price of raw materials led to a spate of thefts around the country. Not only the roof lead but also the lead hoppers at the top of the drain pipes on the south side were stolen. It took a little time to get an emergency Faculty and to get the insurance claim completed and unfortunately it coincided with some very wet weather resulting in some wet days in the south porch.

In light of this and other thefts from the church premises CCTV has been fitted and advertised. In future if anything goes missing we should be able to review the film.

A small section of Stained glass was damaged and repaired during the year.

Thanks are due to Roger Lester who has after many years stepped down from oversight of the lighting in the Church. This year we have fitted emergency lighting in the case of a power failure and spot lights for the gospel readings and for Jazz evenings.

The church yard was in urgent need of a review which Sue Sabry-Grant has undertaken and some major work on the trees will be actioned over the next few years.

Investigations into the cause of the spalling from the pillars is ongoing – unfortunately due to illness and a breakdown in the train service the expert has not yet been able to revisit the church to review the trial pillar.

The PCC is now looking to create a 10 year plan for the Fabric of the Church, with inputs from interested parties, to schedule work over the next 10 years.

There was no change in the property owned by the church in the last year. Our thanks to David Payne and his team for their excellent work on the houses that the Church own. Our thanks are due to a great many people, too numerous to mention, who give of their time and talents, often unobtrusively, but particular thanks are due to Nick Ridge and Keith French for overseeing the heating and sound respectively, and for the invaluable work undertaken throughout the year by David Roker. We are, as ever, grateful to the Friends for their continuing support.

David Poole

Report on the Harrow Deanery Synod July 2008 – February 2009

There have only been 2 meetings of the Harrow Deanery Synod this year.

The July synod met at Holy Trinity, Northwood. After the opening eucharist, there was a sermon by Sheenagh Burrell covering the Angola London and Mozambique Association over the last 10 years. The aim of the partnership is friendship and 2-way sharing, but the challenges are affected by (1) the size of the country, (2) history, (3) poverty and (4) language difficulties. There are many parish links in London, with 10 links in Angola and 13 in Mozambique.

After refreshments, the Area Dean noted the various arrivals in the deanery, including the Revd Paul Hullyer at Pinner. There were elections of officers to various committee posts, and the synod discussed lowering its representation on the Harrow Bereavement Care committee from 3 to 2, but a decision was postponed until October. There was a General Synod update, and our Susan Cooper

reported on the issue of women bishops. She noted the affirmation of the synod to the wishes of the majority, and that no special arrangements were offered to take a parish that did not want a woman bishop out of the diocese. Voting in the House of Bishops was 28 for, 12 against, 1 abstention; House of Clergy 124 for, 44 against, 4 abstentions; House of Laity 111 for, 68 against and 2 abstaining. She said the synod will now move forward to formal legislation, first consideration being in 2009.

The next synod met in October at St Lawrence's hall, Little Stanmore. Due to the lack of support for 3 representatives on Harrow Bereavement Care, the Standing Committee proposed reducing the number to 2 members, which was passed. There was a parish profile on St Lawrence by the rector, Revd Paul Reece, and a general and diocesan synod report, which will be a regular item. There followed a presentation on the work of Bible Lands by Ray Slade, who is a reader in the diocese of St Albans, and applications were encouraged for funding by the Hillside Trust in 2009.

Stephen Brown

The Pinner Association of Churches



Christians in Pinner Working Together

St John's holds the chairmanship of the PAC during 2009, Wendy Myers having succeeded Anne Savage from St Andrew's as Chairman and Anne Bek from St Luke's is the new Vice-Chairman.

One of the first duties for Anne Savage last year was to organise the **Lent Study Groups**, since Easter was exceptionally early. Good Friday was on March 21 so the groups began to meet on February 11. There were 170 people taking part in 14 groups. The topical subject was **'Who is my Neighbour?'** and gave rise to many stimulating discussions. The course ended with a well-attended service on March 14 in St Luke's Parish Centre.

Fair Trade Fortnight, from February 25 - March 9 was marked by PAC volunteers supervising a display table of Fair Trade goods sold by Sainsbury's in their foyer.

The **Good Friday Silent Walk of Witness** took place on March 21 with some 200 people participating and the improved sound system at the prayer stops was welcomed.

There were several **Inter-Faith** activities this year. The 10 week course on **'Understanding Islam'** led by Dr Chris Hewer, to which the PAC churches were invited by CTE (Churches Together in Eastcote), was well attended, stimulating and very successful. In May all the churches were invited by Pinner Synagogue to 'Yom Hashoah', an evening to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the **Kindertransports** when survivors gave their stories. This was a very moving occasion.

The **Three Faith Dialogue** grows in strength. There was a visit to Pinner Synagogue on March 30 and an informative and friendly dialogue between a Muslim and a Jewish woman in November on **'Being an Observant Moslem Woman in Britain Today'**. In January 2009 Chris Hewer, St Ethelburga

Fellow in Christian/Muslim Relations talked at St John's on **'How Our Faiths can contribute to the Future Well-being of UK Society'**. This was also a well-attended and stimulating occasion.

Praying Together continues to take place once a month on Tuesday evenings rotating around the churches and **Worshipping Together** has taken place on Sunday evenings. On May 11 for the **Global Day of Prayer**, there was a **Worshipping Together for Pentecost** held at Millwall Football Stadium in the afternoon, and in September St John's held our first **Worshipping Together with our new vicar to commemorate the International Day of Peace**. This was a particularly delightful occasion as Stephen Brown, our Christian Aid representative, played the violin during the service, accompanied by Andrew on the piano. Over £200 was collected for Christian Aid. During **Christian Aid Week**, as well as the street collections, the churches collected outside Tesco's on May 13.

The **Summer Fun Day** on July 5 was enhanced by the St Michael and All Angels' Steel Band, which was very popular, together with the usual Puppet Show, games and crafts. Members of St John's ran the refreshments, bringing along their children where appropriate, to join in the fun and games.

Our other park activity, **Songs of Praise in the Park**, took place on August 24. This was well attended, in spite of the conflicting attraction of the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games in Beijing. The Mayor of Harrow gave a short address of welcome to all those present. The collection of £330 was divided between the West Lodge Restoration Appeal and the Welldon Activity Group, which is the Mayor's own charity.

In September, the **World's Biggest Coffee Morning** for Macmillan Cancer Relief was held at the PAC Coffee Shop at St Luke's Parish Centre and £544.99 was collected, some £80 more than last year. The **Coffee Shop** continues as a very successful drop-in centre and meeting place for the local community and a venue for displaying PAC news. Over £1,270 of the profits was given to charity during the past year.

In November the PAC Annual General Meeting was held in St John's Church Hall, followed by tea and a beautiful Taize service, with six candles placed in the centre of the Church representing each of the Pinner Churches.

On November 27, members of the PAC provided carol singing in the early evening at the **Pinner Pantomime** and our annual event of **Carols by Torch-light** by the Christmas tree in the High Street took place on December 19. This year the bells of St John's pealed out to welcome the locals to the event, an added bonus to a very happy and friendly event, with the children playing percussion instruments and an invitation to mulled wine and mince pies at Pinner Free Church afterwards.

The year ended with the annual **Christmas Day Lunch** which, despite the fears that there would not be enough key helpers, was the usual huge success with 65 people attending and an army of helpers on the day and beforehand. Elizabeth and Marcos Madrid will be standing down after three years of co-ordinating the lunch but, fortunately, Jacqui and Michael Wakelam, a recently arrived young couple from Australia, have agreed to take over.

The **Welcome Lunches** (report elsewhere) have continued to provide a popular meeting-place for those on their own and who cannot get out very often.

During this year's **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** there was a **Prayer Lunch** on January 23 at the PAC Coffee Shop, where donations were made towards humanitarian aid in Gaza. The following day, representatives from the churches attended the **CTNT Conference** (Churches Together in North Thames) in central London at which our Joint Hon. Secretaries gave a presentation of our activities in Pinner, and on Sunday, Churches Together in Eastcote invited the PAC to attend their annual **Tea-Table Conference**, where Michael Barnes SJ from Heythrop College gave a talk on 'Unity in Diversity'

On February 5 the PAC Development Group will be hosting an Open Meeting with representatives from the **YMCA** and **THATCH** who will talk about their work

among homeless young people in Harrow. At present the PAC gives an annual donation to **THATCH**.

Lastly, the **Lent programme** for 2009 is entitled '**The Challenge of the Changing Church**' when each church will be giving a Presentation, beginning on March 2 with St Andrew's, Bridle Road. This promises to evoke some lively discussion.

This report shows the extent and variety of activities which the churches in Pinner undertake together. Grateful thanks go to all those members of St John's who have helped organise them during the year and to all those who have supported them with their presence.

Wendy Myers



Report on "PAC Welcome Lunches"

There were 6 Welcome Lunches last year with 50 – 60 guests each time.

We were very grateful to Pinner Helping Hands for supplying the transport – about 20 drivers were needed on each occasion.

In December the Rev'd Mike Hall organised a Nativity play with his toddler group and their parents and a choir from Heathfield School sang carols. It was followed by coffee and mince pies and much enjoyed by a good number of our regulars.

Elizabeth Catto