



**Annual Report and Financial Statements
Of the
Parochial Church Council**

For the year 2009/10

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Introduction

This annual report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a statement of:

- the main activities of the church and associated groups and organisations
- a record of the activity of the PCC
- a presentation of the annual accounts, a statutory requirement.

As in previous years, comments on this report would be welcome and should be directed to the Vicar, Church Wardens, Treasurer or Secretary.

In presenting this report to the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM), two different years are covered. The financial statements and report is for 2009 (calendar year). However, the 'PCC year' is April 1st 2009 until March 31st 2010. A financial year which coincides with the 'PCC year' would not give adequate time for the preparation, examination and approval of the accounts.

All comments other than the financial report relate to the 'PCC year'.

The Parochial Church Council

At each Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), held in April, a PCC is elected by those on the Electoral Roll and in attendance. Certain positions on the PCC are ex-officio. Of those who are elected, a two year term applies, so 1/2 are elected or re-elected each year. The PCC consists of 10 elected members plus ex-officio members. Anyone wishing to stand for the PCC must be on the Church Electoral roll for a minimum of 6 Months, over the age of 16 and must regularly attend Holy Trinity Church.

For the year 2009/10 the PCC consisted of:

Ex-officio members:

Mr Spencer Hogg	Churchwarden*
Mrs Hilary Kale	Churchwarden*
Mrs Jenny Dunlop	General Synod Representative and PCC Vice Chairman
Mrs Norma Webber	Deanery Synod Representative**
Mrs Janet Cooper	Deanery Synod Representative**
Miss Margaret Gilson	Deanery Synod Representative**
Mrs Janice Young	Secretary

* Churchwardens are elected each year.

** Deanery Synod Representatives are elected every 3 years

Elected Members (elected 2008)

Martin Webber
Anne Wintle
Annie Woodcock
Diane Deakins
John Wintle

Elected Members (elected 2009)

Jonathan Wright
Wendy Stockton
Steve Harrison
Audrey Francis
Kathleen Williams

Assistant Churchwardens are also elected at the APCM. During the past year, these have been:

Mr Ian Shore	Mrs Margaret Walker	Miss Margaret Gilson
Mrs Janet Cooper	Mr John Williams	

The statutory requirement is that PCCs should meet at least 4 times per year. We met on 6 occasions in 2009/10

The Standing Committee

This committee is required by law and has the power to transact business between PCC meetings.

It comprises the Vicar, Curate, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

The committee is chaired by Mark Bennett. Financial and decision making limits have been set by the PCC to allow this committee to be effective. A report of its activities is made at each PCC meeting.

“To show and grow God's Kingdom”

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2010!

In these pages you will see a snapshot of church life, from creche to Accounts. What you won't see is a list of the unsung heroes, whose contributions make the church- the body of Christ- function at a local level. The Wardens and I are immensely grateful to you for *your* contribution, be it financial, prayerful, floral or verbal! Without these gifts, the fellowship would cease to exist.



Holy Trinity is a spiritual home for all kinds of people. Seldom does a day go by without me bumping into someone who worships here, or was married here, or has some other connection with our church. Our 8.30 service is a haven of quiet worship using the Book of Common Prayer. The faithful members of this congregation, like the 10.30, include women and men who have been coming for sixty years. Others may only have crossed the threshold for the first time that day. Our aim is to make everybody welcome.

To these newcomers, whether they're 'trying us out', or here to pray for a loved one, I often find myself talking about our church family as a spiritual home. It's where we come for refreshment, for friendship and to re-charge our spiritual batteries. It's where we're known, warts and all, and accepted for who we are. It's where we gather round the Father, as sisters and brothers, and learn together. We can pray together and go out together to share the light of Christ, our true 'big brother' and our Lord.

This year has seen us make great strides in moving forward as a church. The Bishop sent us James, our Curate, to train here and to assist in leading our pastoral care and mission. Alongside our Youth Worker, Jon Ashley, he and Holly have particularly invested time and energy in our Youth work, but in other areas James' ministry has also begun to bear fruit. We look forward to seeing more in the coming year.

Other developments are recognised elsewhere in the following pages, so I want to look forward for a moment at what we're hoping the next year might bring.

Believe it or, not, we already have two ordinations in the diary. James will be priested on 19th June and Annie Woodcock will be ordained on 4th July. She is approaching the end of her ordination training and will be serving with Richard Lamey at St Mary's, Newton. We wish her every blessing as she begins her new vocation.

We look forward to the day when we can welcome wheelchair users (and the many who find negotiating steps difficult) just as easily as those of us who get about without difficulty. If our first value as a church is 'Access', this surely must be a priority! We have had plans to improve access to church building and hall for some time. An appeal last year raised about £6,000 from our own congregation. We have been working on external sources of funding: As we went to press, we were awaiting news of various grant applications.

Our vision is to 'show and grow God's Kingdom'. We want to be a church where people can *come* to meet with God just as they are, and be changed by that encounter. We also want to be a church that *goes*, out into the community, the highways and byways of Gee Cross, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus in word and deed. Let's commit ourselves, therefore, to continued attention to God in prayer, to our neighbours in loving service and to the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

Every blessing,

Mark Bennett

Vicar

Main issues 2009/10

Preface

The last year seems to have gone by in a flash. We have had different challenges throughout and none of it would have been possible without the dedication, teamwork and support of all and we would like to thank assistant church wardens and others.

In the middle of last year we started out on a review of our Worship, looking at the current services and carrying out a survey of the congregation to understand how the current services are viewed and preferences. This exercise was of great value giving a greater understanding of how our current services are perceived and ideas for going forward. We have seen changes to the 10:30 service further to the review, a more inclusive service for all, and the introduction recently of Christenings into the service have added to inclusiveness. We continue to seek God's guidance on further changes.

Again during the summer we were able to start the GX Fete with songs of praise and a short morning service which was well attended and exceeded our expectations, which should be no surprise when God is in the centre of what we are doing. Our input was well received and appreciated by the organisers and we look forward to the 2010 GX Festival. Thank you to all the people who gave the time to this visible presence of HTC in Gee Cross.

The PCC Away Day 2009 was at the Romiley Life Centre again and the main focus this year was on our vision "To show and Grow God's kingdom" and from this we generated a list of objectives for the next 3 to 5 years as follows:

- 1: To fund current ministry from current giving
- 2: To have a congregation whose demographic profile better reflects the parish as a whole
- 3: To establish a ministry which serves the community of the Cheetham fold estate

These objectives may seem a way off when we talk about 3 to 5 years but we to start within the next 12 months. I know to some people planning in this way does not seem very spiritual but when God sent his only Son down to earth he did so with a plan, it was not by chance that Jesus died on a cross for us but by divine planning. This means that if we are to see God's work accomplished within our community we have to seek God's guidance and plan the works he would have us do to His glory.

I would like to finish by saying we have been through some changes this year and will continue to do so as following God's plan for our Church and Community is never going to be easy but always a life changing experience, and following our core values an essential part of this.

Our Core Values

We are a community that is about...

Access

Breaking down barriers so that people can meet God

Empowerment

Enabling everyone to use their gifts in the service of others

Integrity

Applying the Word of God to everyday life and relationships

Openness

Meeting people in need with the love of Jesus

Uplift

Seeking God in prayer, inspiring people through worship service

Spencer Hogg

Children and Young People

Chimes



Creche for babies and toddlers up to 3 years

The creche has a new home - the committee room in the hall, it being more spacious and better able to accommodate the more active toddlers. The Bell Tower is still used, but more for a short time out needed by the very young.

Bubbles & Splash

For children aged 3 - 7 years old

Following Marion Edmond's retirement I took over the running of the 3-5 and 5-7 years childrens' groups. We also had a name change to Bubbles and Splash, in line with the Scripture Union groups for those age ranges.



In the first term until Christmas we followed the Scripture Union resource Light, looking at Jesus' last days and Moses. Since Christmas we have tried a different way of storytelling based on 'Godly Play'*using wooden figures to act out the stories and responding with 'I Wonder' questions. These questions help the children to enter into the story. At the end of each story session they are able to take small wooden people to represent themselves and put them where they would like to be in the story. This seems to have worked well and the children are always eager to find out what is in the story basket for that week.



There ranges between 2 and 6 children each week and we have a close relationship with the crèche so that the children from the crèche can join us if they

want to and at the end of each session there is usually time to play.

I would like to develop this group more and am eager to hear from anyone who could help create resources. I especially would like any knitters who feel they can knit some figures to create bible story bags to come forward. I have patterns!

I would like to extend my thanks to Alison Frankie, who assists me every Sunday and also to Alice Carr who has just started to help, as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award.

Kate Bennett

*Anyone who would like to know more about Godly Play please ask me or visit the website www.godlyplay.org.uk.

Kids4Christ

For children aged 7 - 11 years old

Report by Jonathan Wright

The group meets regularly on Sunday mornings during the 10:30 morning service and caters for children between the ages of 7 and 11. Hilary Kale is the leader, with me supporting. This year Louise Carr and Liz Stokes have also offered support on an ad hoc basis, with Louise helping out in at least one of the sessions. Numbers have varied throughout the year, peaking at around 8, but dropping back more recently to 3 or 4, as several of the children moved up to TRASH. We have continued to use Scripture Union's Light - Xstream material, which is available free on-line, making planning and organising sessions far easier than previously. Themes have included discovering the challenges of following Jesus, the story of Joseph, and finding out how God speaks through his Word in the book of Acts. During the year some pull out screens were purchased to allow the hall to be divided in two. This has worked really well, enabling Bubbles & Splash and Kids4Christ to share the space, freeing up the committee room for the Crèche.



Youth

HOLY TRINITY YOUTH 2009-2010

The provision for young people at Holy Trinity has undergone a major facelift during the past six months. The arrival of James and Holly Halstead allowed for a much needed split of what was previously the 11-18s group. Since September, T.R.A.S.H. (school years 7-9) has been running on a Sunday morning

**The
Real
Answer
Starts
Here**



during church and a cell group (school years 10-13) has been established in the evening at the Halsteads' house.

On a practical note, enquiries have been made about the possibility of moving T.R.A.S.H. from the vicarage basement to the primary school. Each group has its own volunteers who have done a fantastic job in helping to grow and develop the core group of young people that Kate Bennett had done so well to maintain almost single handed since 2006. Jon Ashley has been on placement from the University of Chester since September and has overseen these changes as well as setting up mentorship networks.

However, he will be finishing in May and so the job of coordinating the youth work will need to be shared amongst the volunteers, or passed on to another placement student should one be secured. Before this happens there will be an opportunity for volunteers to attend a training afternoon on April 25th to explore areas such as long term curriculum planning, professionalism and practical ideas. We shall be taking some of our young people to the Quinta residential in early May, two as young leaders. Over New Year, two of the young people went on a Scripture Union residential in the Lake District; offering New Experiences is something that we need to continue. Hopefully, 2010/11 will see a continuation of the growth of the huge potential within the young people and the quality of provision that is available to them.

Jon Ashley

Other groups

Mums & Tots

Group catering for mothers/grandmothers/carers and children from birth to infant school. The mothers/carers are responsible for the children while attending.



The group is attended by members of the church as well as members of the community, the latter being in the majority.

The group meets on Wednesdays at 10.00am to 11.30am and 1.30pm to 2.45 pm.

We currently have on our books about 21 mothers/

carers and 32 children in the morning and 23 mothers/carers and 31 children in the afternoon. Not all members attend at each session. We also have a waiting list of about 20 mothers/carers.

During the sessions the children play with various floor toys, bikes, play-dough, crayons etc. A simple activity to be completed by mothers and children together is provided most days. Tea/coffee and orange juice with biscuits are served mid-way through the session. During the last quarter hour, the group get together in a circle and sing nursery rhymes and usually one song with a Christian content. The session closes with a simple prayer.

At Christmas and the start of the Summer holidays a bring-and-share lunch followed by a short service are held.

Helpers: - Morning	-Afternoon
Glenys Mottram	Sandra Lathford
Muriel Leah	Mary Warwick
Mary Warwick	Elizabeth Foldesi *
Elizabeth Foldesi*	Ruth Redwood
Ruth Redwood	

*temporarily absent due to private commitments)

Thursday Club

We meet Thursday afternoons - 1pm until 3pm, starting with a cup of tea and a chat and finishing with a cup of tea and a chat.

We take up to 40 members. Although we seem to attract more women, men are very welcome to join. At present we have 5 vacancies

We have 9 team members who are involved with the running of the club, each having a responsibility for a particular role. Jack is our only male team member and would welcome other male members.

The club is run for retired people within the community and our aim is for friendship, fellowship and fun.

The success of the 'Thursday Club' is reflected in the smooth running of the club by the team members. We have just celebrated our 17th Anniversary.

We have a varied and interesting programme, including the odd quiz to keep the brain cells working, music, choirs and singing groups for entertainment. We have lots of interesting speakers on many different topics. We hold auctions and fairs for fundraising purposes. We also have trips out which are very enjoyable, and last but not least - PLENTY OF PARTIES.

We also celebrate with thanksgiving, in church at Easter, Harvest, Christmas and anniversaries. Each member has the choice to attend these services.

Over the years, each member has attended. Some have since joined the church, and it's been an outreach for and into the community, producing a strengthening of friendships and faith.

Finally, if any member has any problem, physical or spiritual, there is always someone within the club they can turn to and be helped.

Leaders

Kath Howarth
Kathleen Williams
Ruth Redwood
Beryl Coulam
Carole Botham
Margaret Howe

Helpers

Sandra Dain
Val Harvey
Jack Gilson.

Male Fellowship

Towards the end of 2009, a group of men met together at the Romiley Life Centre for breakfast - and to talk about creating a Male Fellowship at Holy Trinity. As we've said many times since then, we're very conscious that much of the work in the church is done by a number of faithful ladies - for whom we remain enormously grateful. But how can we encourage one another to play our full part as the men of the church - and how can we make Holy Trinity an environment where other men feel welcome, valued and comfortable?

Many suggestions were made and we have since begun to develop a programme of activities - roughly once a month - which address our three main aims:

1. Encouraging each other to grow in our own personal discipleship. To this end, we had a Men's Breakfast in January - eating together before exploring what Scripture says about our mission as God's church: to be here to offer Jesus to our community. This was a warmly encouraging start to the year for the dozen-and-a-half men who came.

2. Offering social opportunities for us to introduce our non-Christian friends to other Christian men from church. We started 2010 with a family walk around Etherow Country Park and have recently had an evening out at the Bridgewater Hall - a guided tour (we now have a collective mine of obscure and occasionally fascinating facts about the place!) followed by a concert of 20th Century American classical music. Again, this was well-supported and much enjoyed by all.

3. Organising accessible events which give us the opportunity to engage our friends in overt conversation about the Christian gospel. At the time of writing, we have what we hope will be the first of many .Curry with a Question. evenings in planning - a meal together followed by a short talk and discussion, this time on the subject of .Darwin vs. God.

Please do pray for us as we go about this work of building one another up. We're grateful to all the men who have supported the events so far - and to family members who have allowed us the time and space to gather as the men of Holy Trinity! Pray particularly that we'd grow in confidence to ask friends who aren't part of the church to join us for some of these events. Thanks for all your support,

Martin Wardroper & James Halstead

A number of other groups are part of the Church or very closely associated with it. These include:

- : Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. These are very closely associated with the church using the church hall and school for their meetings owing to problems with the Scout Hut roof where they normally meet. The Scouts & Cubs parade and attend church 4 times a year. The Beavers parade for the monthly All Age Worship service.
- : Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. These groups are also very closely involved with the church, parading at the All Age Worship service and using the church hall for their weekly meetings.

4.5) General topics



Worship

Music Ministry

A central part of what we do when we gather as God's people is to sing! The Bible has over 500 favourable references to singing - and of the 20 references in the New Testament, almost all relate to singing. It's part of our joy, our delight, our duty, our worship - as Christians - to sing out our praises to God and to sing to one another of the great story of our God and the salvation he brings.

It's been my privilege over the last few months to begin working with our dedicated team of musicians. They give regularly of their time and gifts to help the rest of us, week in, week out. Though music is often a point of controversy in churches, this is a faithful, necessary and much-valued service. I'm very grateful to all who give their time in this way. The significant steps we've taken since September have probably been largely invisible to most of the congregation. We now meet weekly to pray together as a group of musicians - to explore Scripture, to support one another and to pray for the life of our Sunday services as a whole. These have been encouraging times for many of us, and are joined with the opportunity to rehearse, to learn new songs, to think about what we do as musicians (how we arrange music etc). In addition, we've been able to work more closely with

the AV and technical team, to try and ensure the services operate with minimal distractions. As a result, I'm convinced our Wednesday nights are benefitting the whole Church.

However, at the time of writing, we are planning what we hope will be a visible change in the near future. Under current arrangements, the 10.30 service is either staffed by one organist/keyboard player or by a large group. We intend trying a system where we have an organist/keyboard player and a couple of singers each week - with other musicians added as the service demands.

The hopes for this new approach are as follows:

- *Making the musical offering more consistent (though never identical!) across all weeks;
- *Moving the singers across the church - so that you will be able to see their lead at the same time as looking at the screen for the song words;
- *Offering other musicians the opportunity to join in - with a much more flexible rota, it should be possible to incorporate new people or different combinations of instruments more easily;
- *Enable the introduction of some new material, by having a vocal lead every week.

Music for the 6.30pm and occasional services will remain largely unchanged, and a review of our musical offering at the new 7pm service is needed.

All in all, the general ethos is for a .mixed economy.. We do want to make sure we get the best of the new material being written by Jesus-centred, Spirit-filled, bible-minded songwriters - but also to preserve the best of the traditional hymnody that many have come to know and love. Whilst allowing for appropriate flexibility across the different services in our calendar, I believe this is very much where we are as a church at present.

Of course, the best support you can offer to these endeavours is good, hearty singing each week. But do let me know if you're musically inclined to join in at the front - and do let all of our musicians know just how much you appreciate them!

James



Small Groups at Holy Trinity

April 09- March 10

WHAT?

This year we have used a variety of different materials and formats. These included commercially produced material which helped us to study the book of Samuel and look at the life of David. We also used a study book by Tom Wright which took us through a very detailed study of the book of Ephesians and we learnt about the relevance of Paul's teaching for life today. More recently we have used material which has been produced specifically for our Sunday sermons and home groups and have worked through an "Everybody Welcome" course and used the "Praying and Psalms" booklet to enrich our prayer life during Lent.

WHERE?

Spiritually where have groups fitted in to our overall pattern of life this year? Groups have become an intrinsic part of growth and development this year as the Sunday sermon has been developed within the group setting. This has allowed group members to explore further the faith issues raised.

WHY?

Because this year approx 80 people felt that they have grown spiritually and benefited from the love and care which these groups provide. They have valued the opportunity to discuss openly passages from the Bible and related these to their everyday lives in 2009 / 2010. Many members have also valued being able to pray together for international, national, local and personal matters .

HOW?

- How do small groups grow?

As new people join groups more groups need to be formed. There has been movement during the past year and much spiritual benefit has been gained .

If you would like more information about small groups please contact Anne Wintle 368 8825.

The age range in the groups this year has been from 24yrs to 85 yrs (but I am not too sure about that upper age – we may have older people!) However, even if you are older or younger, groups welcome new members.

WHEN ?

Groups continue meet on Monday evenings and Tuesday day time and evenings at a variety of venues.

Leaders Meetings have been held on 3 Saturday mornings throughout this year. They have been very well attended and evaluation comments have been particularly encouraging.

General Synod Annual Report

I have attended the 2 meetings of General Synod this year. General Synod is the Parliament of the Church of England and debates matters of public importance as well as legislating for Church order and finance. The Church of England has 16,200 churches in 13,000 parishes. At the end of 2007 there were 20,355 licensed ministers including clergy, readers and Church Army officers. In our debates we have dealt with internal matters such as terms of service, discipline, and pensions all relating to our clergy; also proposed legislation concerning women bishops. We looked at the worldwide Anglican Communion and relationships with other churches. We have debated social issues, Youth and the church, and evangelism. The current 5 year term ends in July and I hope to stand for election again.

Jenny Dunlop

Mottram Deanery Synod Report 2009-2010

Mrs Norma Webber, Mrs Janet Cooper and Miss Margaret Gilson are our deanery representatives.

We meet regularly with representatives from all the parishes in the deanery.

The deanery includes Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Mossley, Mottram, Longdendale, Hyde, and Hattersley.

In February 2009 we met at St. Mary's, Newton. A short service of Night Prayer was led by the Rural Dean. Reverend Richard Burton (Diocesan Parish Development Officer) talked about Back to Church Sunday and the GAP process.

An open meeting at Stalyhill Junior School, Stalybridge in March welcomed Bishop Robert to the Deanery. He addressed a very large gathering and we learned much about the man and his ministry.

The Annual General Meeting was at St. Luke's, Dukinfield in June. We enjoyed a service of Holy Eucharist for Corpus Christi led by Father David Schofield. An informative presentation by Gail Robinson, the Lay Chaplain for Deaf and Disabled people for the diocese, gave us valuable insight into disability matters facing congregations.

During 2009 Fran Marsden began his work as Lay Chair alongside Reverend Richard Lamey (St. Mary's, Newton) who is now in his second year as Rural Dean.



In October, we met at St. James', Millbrook. After a short service of evening prayer led by Reverend Alessandra Di Chiara we were actively engaged by Steve Wilcockson (Diocesan Parish Development Officer) in moving forward with the GAP initiative.

Later in the year, and following parish visits, Bishop Robert met with us to share his thoughts and prayers for our Deanery. To further support individual parishes, Reverend Richard Law (St. Mary & Christ Church) organised a well attended and thoughtful Prayer Evening at Holy Trinity, Stalybridge.

Due to a generous anonymous donation we have again been able to distribute small grants from the Deanery Church Growth Fund to help parishes move plans forward.

As we work together in the deanery we keep the following bible passage in our minds:

'You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God' Jeremiah 14.9

Thanks to Mrs Norma Webber, Mrs Janet Cooper and Miss Margaret Gilson and the Rev'd Mark Bennett for their service and support this year and we look forward to furthering our understanding of Christ's work in the Deanery in 2010/11.

Mission and Outreach

Mission Giving at Holy Trinity

What did we do in 2009?

Our giving for 2009 was determined by the review we held in 2008. As agreed we made our donations quarterly and as I write, the quarter four allocations have yet to be signed off. But, importantly, we again committed to giving 10% of income to outreach and mission work meaning we have stuck to this biblical principle as a basis for our giving in these difficult times.

Following last year's review, there haven't been any major changes in our giving but we are clearer about who we support and why we support them. In 2009 we reached the end of the agreement we had made to support Dean and Paula in South Africa. In their place we agreed to support Simon and Laura Walton through CMS. Simon and Laura have worked in Mvumi in Tanzania, with Corrie. This year they will be moving to Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania, with their three children, so Simon can continue his work in a local hospital.

In April 2009 we enjoyed a visit from Simon and his daughters and this cemented our link with this faithful family.

Christian Aid

In April/May 2009, a significant number of our congregation got out into the community to deliver and collect Christian Aid envelopes. It was a magnificent effort and we raised **£855.59** - a big increase on previous years. So a massive **thank you** to everyone who got involved.

Corrie returns to the UK

Corrie came back to the UK in September 2009 after spending 2 years in Tanzania. On returning home Corrie told us about the 'Uji' (porridge) project which Holy Trinity had sponsored. Corrie explained *"As you know you collected some money in church last year for this project. It was used to buy uji to be handed out to people in the HIV/AIDS clinics. Many clients of the clinic would have to walk hours to get there and would not have money to buy any food or drink on the way. There are clinics twice a week. Each clinic day Peter, one of the volunteers working in the clinic, would make sure a big bucket of uji was available. I also want to pass on a big thank you from staff and clients to make this available, as it was a big help to people. I am sure it motivated some people to attend who would otherwise not have come as regularly for treatment as they should."*

It's encouraging to read that as a church family in Gee Cross, we are reaching across the world to help others in Tanzania.

Jane goes to Burundi

In May 2009 Jane Durkin spent a week in Burundi, working with the charity Great Lakes Outreach. Although we don't have any formal link with this charity, Jane was able to share some of her experiences in an evening gathering on the weekend she returned.

This gave us a chance to develop further our understanding of the challenges of outreach work in desperately poor parts of the world.

In 2009, the organisations we supported were:

Bible Society
Children's Society
Christian Aid
Church Mission Society
Church Pastoral Aid Society
Crosslinks (Dean & Paula)
Combat Stress
Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)
Royal British Legion
Tear Fund
Water Aid

Jane Durkin March 2010

6.6) Estate and Building related matters

Buildings and Maintenance



During the last year we have continued to keep up the condition of our Church, Graveyard and Church Hall with the help of a dedicated team of people whom I would like to thank. They continue to work tirelessly week in and week out to maintain our place of worship to enable us as a congregation and people new to the church to be able to meet with God in comfortable surroundings.

As with all buildings though we are always finding further repair work that is needed, the clock is still in need of repair but unfortunately the work is quite extensive and costly. We have carried out minor roof repairs to prevent further water ingress with a view to bringing the clock back into action in the future.

As I am sure you will all be aware during the last year the plans have been drawn up and approved for the Disabled Access works to the Church and Church Hall. This is something that is high on our priority list to have completed as we see this work as essential to giving access to all to worship God.

The church hall has continued to be used on a regular basis which has meant the floor has again recently needed to be re-varnished due to the numbers now using the hall but is holding up well. We have had new cupboards fitted to give improved storage. Generally the hall is in reasonable condition for a building around 26 years old and is a testament to the people who carry out the unseen work of cleaning and maintenance whom I would like to thank.

I would like to thank again all who put considerable effort

into keeping and maintaining our church to a high standard, but would also ask for additional help. We are all getting older and some of the jobs are quite physical especially if anybody has had the privilege using our lawn mower. We are getting to a point now where should we not see people coming forward to assist in especially the grounds maintenance then we will only have two options, the first would be for the grounds slowly to become un-maintained which considering all the hard work people have put in over the years would be a shame. The other option would be to pay a company to carry out the work once we are unable to do so ourselves which as I am sure you can appreciate is not ideal. This is why I am asking for your help. We cannot wait until the team who currently carry out the work are no longer able to continue, we need your help now.

We all have gifts from God and being able to change light bulbs, mow the lawn and fix a toilet are still part of God's gifts and we should praise and thank God for them.

Spencer Hogg.

Holy Trinity Church Hall

The hall is used every weekday for the After School Club and the arrangements are working well. Wednesday is Mums and Tots day which is now so popular that a waiting list has had to be started. Thursdays - the Thursday Club remains very popular with various speakers and events. Apart from Tuesdays the Hall is used in the evenings for the various uniformed organisations Tuesday evenings the local Mental Health Group use our facilities. During 2009 we held an open evening and invited representatives of all the hall users to attend. All users were well represented and as it was a social affair was enjoyed by all and the opportunity to meet up with other organisations proved useful. We continue to be a popular venue for young children's parties and these contribute in no small way to the finances of the hall. We are not sure when the new scout hut will be completed and although this will reduce our revenue it will free up evenings for our own use, During the year there have been functions such as church quizzes, beetle drives etc. and these prove

very popular
 We now have a cleaner who we thank very much for keeping the hall clean and tidy
 The fresh coffee machine which is used on Sundays is very much appreciated and the running costs of it seem to be covered by the donations box
 We have a book in the porch of



the hall to enable users to write in any problems that they may have, but everyone must realise that all work done for the hall is on a voluntary basis
 The Hall Committee thank everyone for all the help that they give.

Norma Webber (on behalf of the Hall Committee)

Church Yard

Grounds



“The Garden Gang”

Another year of hard, but often enjoyable work has passed. We managed to get the churchyard reasonably tidy during the autumn of 2009, despite a late wet spell which meant that we could not make a final cut of the grass in December, as we have tried to do in previous years. However, it has looked reasonably tidy over the longest fallow period, the winter months. However Spring is upon us again, and although held back by the longer than usual cold spell, the grass is just waiting to lengthen.

This year will see the “garden gang” depleted by the retirement of Roy, and now is the appropriate time for further volunteers to come forward for 2-3 hours



per week to join Margaret, Alex, Alex, Derek, Gail, Pat and Pauline, if we are to maintain the standards in the Church grounds.

We are grateful to the Country Park volunteers, for trimming and tidying the long hedge between us (planted by them some years ago) and also clearing the debris.

Still outstanding and deteriorating is the brickwork around several vaults, which will collapse unless re-pointed and replacement is undertaken. Any skilled or willing volunteer bricklayers around Church yet?

Roy Jones/Alex Dunlop

Church Publicity

Contact hak128@talktalk.net or info@holytrinitychurch-gx.org.uk

Church Website

The church website is updated on a monthly basis. It consists of a home page with a map of where we



are, a comments page by Mark and James who alternate month on month. The forthcoming events page features special services etc. Our small groups have their own page where you will find the info on the studies for the current term. On request of the Brownie/Guides etc we have added their details on our community page. This page also advertises events such as the Gee Cross Fete and other local happenings. There is also a history page.

www.holytrinitychurch-gx.org.uk

Please take the time to have a look. Suggestions are always welcome.

Hilary Kale

Church Magazine

The Church Magazine is produced on a regular basis and is available from the last Sunday of every month. Once the articles have been collected and edited it is then passed for proof reading. Hopefully, by the deadline a group gets together to collate, staple and then put the final touches to it ready to be distributed.

Thank you to those who have given the editor articles to be published and we ask you to keep them coming in. Also we would like to offer our thanks to those who regularly give their time in distributing the magazine around the parish.

We also have some people who are willing to step in at the last moment to help with the Magazine. Thank you. This is our Church Magazine so please keep sending the articles, jokes, and anything your groups have done that you think people will be interested in.

Margaret Gilson

Gee Cross Fete -

Report by Jonathan Wright

Following the success of the Sunday morning service which started the Fete in 2008, the Church was asked whether we would be prepared to do the same in 2009. Of course we said yes! Planning for our input to the festival began earlier than in the previous year, with Carole Locker and Margaret Walker also attending the Festival Planning meetings, organised by Rotary. As well as the service, we had a stall, principally focussed on activities for the children. On the day, in addition to Margaret and Carole, numerous other people helped out with blowing up balloons, putting out chairs, setting up the PA system (thanks especially to Martin Webber) and manning the stall (in particular Jane Durkin

was there most of the day doing hand massages and Paul Williams with his origami).



Mark delivered a great 30 minute service, ably supported by the worship group. We drew a good crowd of people, with folks from our own church as well as others in Gee Cross joining together to praise God. Plans are already well under way for this year's festival - if you're interested in joining in, please speak to me, Jane Durkin, Charlie Read, Carole Locker or Margaret Walker.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team was formed many years ago and seeks to reach out with the love of Jesus to the people of this village. We have a team of 7 visitors, (Sheila Barlee, Sandra Dain, Margaret Howe, Ian Middleton, Ruth Redwood, Audrey Smith and Kathleen Williams) who have attended several training sessions including a Listening Course and a Bereavement Course to equip them when visiting the bereaved, sick and lonely or any other person who has a need to talk in a quiet and confidential environment.

We also have a team of 4 visitors (Jenny Dunlop, Margaret Gilson, Hilary Harrop and Jayne Webber) who undertake to visit couples who come along enquiring about baptism for their child. They will visit these couples at a mutually convenient time, following the initial interview with the Vicar. They will be asked to attend at a service where a baptism takes place and a preparation meeting at Church where the Visitors will arrange to visit them in their homes to make the final arrangements for the baptism, such as date and time etc.

Kathleen Williams

**Roy Jones
Windyridge
Werneth Low Road
Gee Cross,
Hyde, SK14 3AF**

20th February 2010

Mrs Janice Young,
The Secretary
Parochial Church Council
Holy Trinity Church
Gee Cross

Dear Janice,

Independent Examination of Church Accounts 2009

I enclose my certification of the Church Accounts. They have been prepared well and efficiently, as required. Various minor queries have been raised directly with John Wintle and others and answered to my satisfaction.

Over the past 4 years there has been a shortfall between Income & Expenditure, which has been met from Reserves. Forward projection indicates that this reserve should run out in 2/3 years time. I realise that this is known, and a concern of the PCC already, and is being addressed. It is perhaps appropriate to remind the PCC that over the last 15 to 20 years, shortfalls in income have been met and surpluses accrued, largely from the "fossil fuel" of bequests and, latterly by the sale of property. During that time, the steady increase in current expenditure, largely via the Parish Share, has eroded the capital surplus, particularly because income from giving has not increased at the same rate as have current costs.

While the contents of the previous paragraph go beyond my responsibilities as Independent Examiner, as a church member, I felt it appropriate to highlight this concern, and wonder how far across the deanery and diocese (and indeed even more widely) similar concerns are being voiced.

Another small matter has been the supply of heating oil, from my enquiries, it would appear that possibly one supplier has been taking advantage, and not giving the church the best market rate at the time. I enclose a list of four local suppliers, to allow wider comparison in the future.

In anticipation of your usual question at this time of year, I think it would be a good idea for me to stand down from the role of Independent Examiner. A change of appointee and a fresh eye on the accounts would probably be a good thing and to the benefit of the church's finances.

Yours sincerely

Roy Jones
20th February 2010

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the PCC of Holy Trinity Church, Gee Cross.

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2009, is in respect of an examination carried out under regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of Regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1993 (The Act) **do not** apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 43 (7)b of the Act and to be found in the guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters.. The procedures undertaken **do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an Audit opinion on the view given by the Accounts.**

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

*to keep accounting in accordance records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and

*to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997,

have not been met; or

2.to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Roy Jones
Windyridge
Werneth Low Road
Gee Cross.

20th February 2010

Treasurers report

In 2009 our expenditure exceeded income by £17,122. The majority of the increase was as anticipated the cost of supporting our curate, James, and the rent and rates for his home in Dowson Road. There was also further expenditure on the committee room in the church hall and screens to help with the children's work in the main hall.

Offerings increased slightly over 2008 and parish fees were up, but bank interest was down reflecting mainly the reduction in interest rates but also our reduced reserves. Hall income was as anticipated up substantially but is still about £1500 less than the running costs. Some of this cost was caused by a blockage in the drains from the vicarage and a survey report has been sent to the diocese whose responsibility these are.

Church running expenses are up slightly with increases in repairs and churchyard costs and insurance.

Parish share was up by £1800 as forecast and the budget set by Chester to try to reduce their deficit means that we will see further increases of 5% (or around £2500) for each of the next two years.

Our mission giving is down on 2008. This is as a result of two things, retiring collections were down and the phasing which we have introduced in our payments to missions means that money we allocated during the last quarter of the year will only be paid in the first quarter of this year.

The gift day we held for the project to improve our disabled facilities brought in £5690 which will be increased by tax refund of £1200. Architects fees for the preparation of the detailed drawings have amounted to £1845. A separate fund has been set up to manage these monies. Funding is being sought from various bodies to help with these works.

We have spent a total of £2341 on projects which could reasonably be expected to have come from reserves which means that our deficit on running expenses is £14,780 which is about what we expected with the additional cost of a curate. As the PCC have stated the way to resolve this deficit in the longer term is to grow our congregation, but increased giving will be needed to fill the gap until this happens. To try to show more clearly the position of our finances the PCC have agreed a new format for the presentation of our income and expenditure through the year. This will be displayed in the hall and will also be in the magazine.

John Wintle

Treasurer

Gee Cross Parish

This is in the Mottram Deanery, part of the Chester Diocese.

The Parish, in the Werneth ward of Tameside MBC, had a population recorded at 11,560 in the 2001 census. 153 people are on the electoral roll in 2010 (*these figure are correct at the time of publishing*).

Holy Trinity Primary School is adjacent to the church and is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. The Church appoints 2 foundation governors, they are Martin Webber and Barbara Hewitt and Mark Bennett is ex officio Governor. Their work on behalf of the Church is appreciated and the PCC would like to express thanks to all for their work and service.

General functions of the Parochial Church Council

Extract from the "Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956"

1) It shall be the duty of the minister and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

2) The functions of the PCC shall include:

a) co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

b) the consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church on any question.

c) making known and putting into effect any provision made by the diocesan synod or the deanery synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the council on any particular matter.

d) giving advice to the diocesan synod and the deanery synod on any matter referred to the council.

e) raising such matters as the council consider appropriate with the diocesan synod or deanery synod.

3) "The PCC is responsible for all parish finance, its management and control, including the appointment of a treasurer. While it may delegate some of its duties, this does not remove its legal responsibilities...."
" (The Charities Act 1993 and the PCC; para 1.32)"

Editors note

I readily accept that this report is inadequate and represents only a small part of the work of the church during the past year. Anyone wishing to see other matters included next year should make a note of their area of interest and pass this to a church warden at the end of February 2011. Many thanks.

Hilary Kale

