

**Parish of
Kidlington with Hampton Poyle**



**Papers for the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
22nd April, 2008**

Our Vision Statement

- To serve the people of Kidlington and Hampton Poyle for their own sakes.
- To respond to God's call and to recognise the Kingdom of God in the minds and lives of local people.
- By faith and trust in God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – to build up the Body of Christ in Kidlington and Hampton Poyle

PAPERS FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

To be held at St John's Hall Church, Kidlington
on Tuesday, 22nd April, 2008 at 8.00 p.m.

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Minutes of the 2007 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle was held in St Mary's Refectory on 25th April 2007 at 8.00 p.m. The meeting was preceded by Holy Communion at 7.30 p.m.

Those Present

Revd Anthony Ellis (in the chair), Mr John Amor, Mrs Jean Amor, Mrs Betty Angus, Mr Malcolm Austen, Mrs Jean Bagnall, Mrs Pamela Baker, Mrs Barbara Belcher, Mr Ken Belcher, Prof Rob Bruce, Miss Philippa Burrell, Miss Catherine Button, Mrs Anne Clifton, Mr Jimmy Clifton, Mrs Pamela Cooper, Mrs Marie Cosby, Miss Joan Cracknell, Mrs Yo Davies, Miss Margaret Day, Mrs Angela Dean, Mr Dennis Dean, Mrs Kathryn Ellis, Mr Bill Evershed, Mrs Rosemary Gardner, Mrs Monica Green, Mrs Sue Greenaway, Mrs Lesley Heffer, Mrs Meghann Hewett, Miss Stephanie Hobson, Mr Ian Howdill, Mrs Marion Kubat, Mr Nick Kubat, Mrs Stephanie Leach, Mr Michael Ling, Mrs Joyce Morris, Mrs Gail Nawrocki, Mr Malcolm Seward, Mrs Christine Sims, Mrs Lesley Smith, Mrs Nicky Smith, Mr David Townsend, Mrs Joan Townsend, Ms Rosemary Tucker, Mrs Maureen Turner, Mr Bilham Woods, Mrs Judy Woods, Revd Hilary Campbell, Revd Jason St John Nicolle, Revd Jim Turner, Revd William Whyte, Ms Eleanor Williamson. There were 51 people present.

1. Opening Prayers

The meeting opened with prayers.

2. Apologies for Absence

Mrs Liz Bruce, Mr Mark Christodoulou, Mrs Connie Elliott, Mr Dick Elliott, Mr Ben Heffer, Mr David Hewett, Mrs Caroline Howdill, Mrs Margaret Lang, Mrs Cicely Lee, Mrs Pat McGowan, Prof John Morris, Mrs Celia Orr, Mrs Daphne Paul, Mrs Cherrill Seward, Miss Emma Seward, Miss Kate Seward, Mrs Stella Shelton, Mrs Janet Warren, Ms Rebecca Watts, Ms Ruth Watts, Dr Eric Whittaker.

3. Election of Churchwardens

Nominations had been received prior to the meeting for:

Ian Howdill (proposed John Morris, seconded Marie Cosby)

Joyce Morris (proposed Graham Bullock, seconded Jimmy Clifton)

Mark Christodoulou (proposed Rosemary Gardner, seconded David Townsend)

Rosemary Gardner (proposed Glenys Dennett, seconded Joan Danbury)

Jean Bagnall (proposed Pat O'Gorman, seconded Judith Baker)

Monica Green (proposed Isobel Pook, seconded Katy Smith)

No other candidates were nominated; therefore all six were elected unopposed to serve as Churchwardens for the year 2007/2008: Ian Howdill (6th year), Joyce Morris (3rd year), Mark Christodoulou (2nd year), Rosemary Gardner (1st year), Jean Bagnall (1st year), Monica Green (2nd year).

The meeting expressed its appreciation for the hard work of all the churchwardens, particularly Malcolm Seward who was retiring after 6 years service and Isobel Pook who had stood down during the year.

4. Approve and Confirm Minutes

The Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting, held on 19th April 2006 at St John's Hall Church were approved and confirmed.

5. Elect members to serve on the Parochial Church Council

The following have been elected in previous years and so are already members:

Robert Buckeldee, Catherine Button, Stephanie Leach, Nick Wharmby

The following Deanery Synod reps are ex officio members of the PCC:

Ian Howdill, John Morris, Colin Thackray, Rosemary Tucker, Janet Warren

The following were nominated for election and are eligible to stand:

Philippa Burrell (proposed Nicky Smith, seconded Ian Howdill)

Yo Davies (proposed Joyce Morris, seconded Bilham Woods)

Bill Evershed (proposed John Morris, seconded Robert Buckeldee)

Margaret Lang (proposed Joan Townsend, seconded Glenys Dennett)

Michael Ling (proposed Ian Howdill, seconded Monica Green)

David Townsend (proposed Stephanie Leach, seconded Malcolm Seward)

Joan Townsend (proposed Glenys Dennett, seconded Malcolm Seward)

All seven candidates were elected unopposed to serve on the PCC. Of these 5 will be appointed for a period of 3 years and the remainder for a period of 2 years (to be determined by discussion in the PCC).

The following had been nominated for election but is not yet eligible to stand (not on Electoral Roll for previous period of 6 months):

Meghann Hewett (proposed Robert Buckeldee, seconded Jill Buckeldee)

It was proposed that Meghann be invited to attend PCC as an observer until such time as she is eligible to become a member, when she will be co-opted for the remainder of the year. This was accepted

The elected membership of the PCC is now:

Robert Buckeldee (2nd year)

Philippa Burrell (1st year)

Catherine Button, (3rd year)
Yo Davies (1st year)
Bill Evershed (1st year)
Margaret Lang (1st year)
Stephanie Leach (2nd year)
Michael Ling (1st year)
David Townsend (1st year)
Joan Townsend (1st year)
Nick Wharmby (2nd year)

All those standing were thanked for their willingness to serve the parish in this way. Retiring members of the PCC were also thanked for their contribution over the past period.

6. Appoint Sidespersons for the current year

The following were nominated to serve as sidespersons:

Judith Baker	Betty Heasman	Judy Peters
Pamela Baker	Ben Heffer	Isobel Pook
Joan Barrett	Meghann Hewett	Malcolm Seward
Barbara Belcher	Caroline Howdill	Christine Sims
Tracey Bickley	Vera Hurren	Katy Smith
Jill Buckeldee	Peter Ingram	Colin Thackray
Robert Buckeldee	Caroline Johnson	Ann Thomas
Marie Cosby	Graham Johnson	David Townsend
Joan Cracknell	Patsy Johnson	Joan Townsend
Iris Darvill	Bet Lewington	Amey Tunney
Yo Davies	Alice Norrie	Peter Venables
Margaret Day	Ray Norrie	Pat Whittington
Angela Dean	Pat O’Gorman	Olive Williams
Jennifer Dowdeswell	Celia Orr	Bilham Woods
Bill Evershed		

There being no further nominations, all the above were appointed as sidespersons.

7. Appoint an Independent Examiner

Mr David Wilkins had indicated his willingness to continue as Independent Examiner and his reappointment for 2007 was agreed (proposed Michael Ling, seconded John Amor).

8. Approve Members of the St Mary’s Committee

Written nominations had been received prior to the meeting for:

John Amor (proposed Marie Cosby, seconded Caroline Howdill)

Jimmy Clifton (proposed Caroline Howdill, seconded Marie Cosby)
Marie Cosby (proposed John Morris, seconded Sue Greenaway)
Yo Davies (proposed Joyce Morris, seconded Bilham Woods)
Caroline Howdill (proposed Joyce Morris, seconded Yo Davies)
Nick Kubat (proposed Yo Davies, seconded Susan Knox)
Karen Mason (proposed John Morris, seconded Susan Knox)
Colin Thackray (proposed Ian Howdill, seconded Sue Greenaway)

There being no other nominations all eight were approved to serve on the St Mary's Committee.

9. Approve Members of the St John's Committee

Written nominations had been received prior to the meeting for:

Ken Belcher (proposed Mark Christodoulou, seconded Malcolm Seward)
Margaret Day (proposed Mark Christodoulou, seconded Malcolm Seward)
Rachel Evans (proposed Malcolm Seward, seconded Mark Christodoulou)
Gail Nawrocki (proposed Malcolm Seward, seconded Mark Christodoulou)
David Townsend (proposed Malcolm Seward, seconded Mark Christodoulou)
Pat Whittington (proposed Mark Christodoulou, seconded Malcolm Seward)

There being no other nominations all six were approved to serve on the St John's Committee.

10. Approve Members of the St Mary's Hampton Poyle Committee

Written nominations had been received prior to the meeting for:

Judith Baker (proposed Maureen Turner, seconded Tracey Bickley)
Joan Barrett (proposed Jean Bagnall, seconded Maureen Turner)
Tracey Bickley (proposed Joan Barrett, seconded Pat O'Gorman)
Vera Hurren (proposed Isobel Pook, seconded Joan Barrett)
Pat O'Gorman (proposed Isobel Pook, seconded Jean Bagnall)
Isobel Pook (proposed Maureen Turner, seconded Monica Green)
Katy Smith (proposed Joan Barrett, seconded Pat O'Gorman)

There being no other nominations all seven were approved to serve on the St Mary's Hampton Poyle Committee.

11. Approve Members of the St John's Hall Management Committee

Written nominations had been received prior to the meeting for:

Ted Mobley (proposed Mark Christodoulou, seconded Malcolm Seward)
David Townsend (proposed Stella Shelton, seconded Mark Christodoulou)

There being no other nominations both were approved to serve on the St John's Hall Management Committee.

12. Elect representatives for Churches Together in Kidlington

The Anglican church in Kidlington has four members on the Committee of Churches Together in Kidlington (CTK). The following had been nominated:

Catherine Button (proposed Marie Cosby, seconded Joyce Morris)

Gail Nawrocki (proposed Malcolm Seward, seconded Mark Christodoulou)

Pat Whittington (proposed Malcolm Seward, seconded Mark Christodoulou)

There being no other nominations all three were elected to represent the Parish on the Committee of Churches Together in Kidlington. It was suggested that the PCC considered appointment of one of its members serve on this Committee, rather than on one of the other PCC committees.

13. Consider the Electoral Roll Report

John Amor, the Electoral Roll Officer, presented the report on the Roll, which now numbered 265. It was noted that starting a new Roll usually led to a significant decrease in numbers, but this time the total membership was only slightly less. At the last new Roll in 2002 the total was 235. Previous re-starts of the Roll had been as follows:

1990 dropped by 39

1996 dropped by 60

2002 dropped by 19

2007 dropped by 2

John Amor and Trish Friedemann were thanked for all their work preparing the new Roll.

14. Consider Annual Reports

The annual reports of the Parish and its committees and allied groups, as represented in the Annual Report, were received and accepted. There were no questions or comments.

15. Consider the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2006

Anthony Ellis noted that the job of Treasurer continued to grow, with Michael Ling now spending at least 10 hours per week on this task. His contribution was valued enormously.

Michael Ling referred the meeting to the summary presented in the Annual Report booklet (the Annual Report on Pages 10 and 11 and the fund summary on Page 24). He made the following comments:

– The Buildings Appeal (Spire) showed a deficit of £9,521.20 at 31 December 2006 because some grants were not payable until the work was completed.

– The General Fund shows a final value of £0, because all money remaining in the fund had been transferred to other funds, giving a "clean start" for the new year.

Copies of the full Accounts were available for inspection. Michael referred to the acceptance of the accounts by the Independent Examiner. He noted that the General Fund had shown a surplus of £13,000 before this had been transferred. Planned Giving had been higher than budget, just in line with inflation. Unfortunately, it was necessary for this to increase more because of changes in the allocation of the Parish Quota, when each parish will be expected to meet at least the costs of its stipendiary posts. For us, this amounted to £80,000 (stipend, housing, pension etc), rather than the £52,000 we were currently paying. In view of this, all possible remaining monies had been transferred to a Quota Reserve, to ease the transition period. This would help in the short term but more income would be needed to cover the Quota in the future. Michael also noted that only a small sum was being spent on Mission, but this was necessary until the overall finances were more healthy.

There were no questions. The Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2006 were accepted (proposed Michael Ling, seconded Marie Cosby).

The meeting expressed thanks to Michael, especially for the Annual Report summary, which gave a clear overview of the finances.

16. Consider Fabric Report

Ian Howdill presented the Fabric Report, given on Page 21 of the Annual Report booklet. He noted that work on the spire was now completed and the “patchwork” effect of colours visible will tone down with time. Ian also reported on the need for work now to be focussed on St Mary’s Hampton Poyle and St John’s.

In response to a question from Jimmy Clifton, Ian said that it was not yet possible to confirm whether the Appeal would have any funds remaining or a shortfall, as not all accounts and grants had been received. However, he did expect that the project will be more or less on budget.

The Fabric Report was accepted (proposed Ian Howdill, seconded Malcolm Seward).

17. Consider Deanery Synod Report

The meeting was referred to the Deanery Synod report on Page 21 of the Annual Report booklet. Anthony Ellis reported that the Synod was working well together, with an emphasis on holding meetings to do specific work rather than just to be talked to.

The Deanery Synod Report was accepted (proposed Joyce Morris, seconded Pamela Baker).

18. Consider any other matters of parochial or general Church interest

The meeting was then invited to hear a report on the work being done by the PCC Strategy group. Hilary Campbell introduced this, using the theme “Think Back, Live Now, Look Forward”. She noted that the Strategy group was looking at a rolling programme, focussing on a specific area (with milestones) and then moving the focus while ensuring that the previous topic was not finished/forgotten. The focus so far had been:

(i) Young People

- The parish youth group (Together In God) was now meeting regularly and being consulted about future activities.
- Possible training for working with young people was being investigated.
- The possibility of a youthworker was being explored (for young people in general, within/between the churches).
- There were thoughts about how to provide activities separate from Sunday morning services and how to further integrate young people with the rest of the parish community.

(ii) Resources and Places – people, buildings, finance

- The Lenten Challenge in 2007 had aimed to focus attention on the stewardship of financial and other resources for the benefit of the Church
- There was a need to recognise the different facilities of our buildings and characteristics of our congregations and see how they can best be used for the benefit of the whole parish.

Hilary then invited comments and suggestions for future consideration.

The following comments were made:

- The PCC had initially “brain-stormed” to create a list of topics for attention and then set priorities for these.
- There was the need to look at ways of building up people to help contribute to the work of the parish, e.g. lay ministers etc.
- It would be good to make more people in Kidlington aware of this planning, e.g. by an article in the Kidlington News.
- There was a need to recognise and celebrate all the existing groups for young people, e.g. St John’s Ambulance, Scouts, Air Training Corp etc. and to see how these can be used to develop and support young people further. The variety of different offerings to young people was very valuable (e.g. TIG was specifically Christian whilst other groups had other aims). Also the possibility of sports fixtures between local youth organisations could be explored.

The following suggestions for other topics were made:

- leadership development
- inter-faith relationships

- methods of growing our membership, including dispelling any pre-conceptions, e.g. that the church is for the old and the rich
- how the church can provide support for whole families, as well as the attention on children and young people. An example was the Oxford Family Network, which Yo Davies had been much involved with.
- Evangelism – which was not the same as increasing our numbers.

William Whyte expressed thanks from the meeting for all the work undertaken by the Strategy group.

19. Any Other Business

Ian Howdill invited the meeting to pay tribute to the leadership from Anthony Ellis and all the Team during the year. Anthony thanked the meeting and all members of the parish for their support and work for the Church, emphasising how much the Team enjoyed working together and with the congregations in the parish.

Margaret Day was thanked for acting as clerk to the meeting.

There was no other business.

20. Set the Date for the Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting would be held on Tuesday 22nd April 2008 at St John's Hall Church.

21. Closing Prayers

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Margaret Day

Parish of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle: Annual Report for 2007

Background

The PCC for the Parish of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle has the responsibility of co-operating with the appointed Team Ministers for promoting in the Parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the responsibility for the churches of St. Mary's Kidlington, St. John's Kidlington and St. Mary's Hampton Poyle. The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The Parish Vision statement is:

- To serve the people of Kidlington and Hampton Poyle for their own sake;
- To respond to God's call and to recognize and establish the Kingdom of God in the minds and lives of local people;
- By faith and trust in God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - to build up the Body of Christ in Kidlington and Hampton Poyle.

The Parish Office location is: St. Mary's Rectory, 19, Mill Street, Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 2EE.

Bank: HSBC, 10 High Street, Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 2DH
Independent Examiner: Mr David Wilkins

The PCC

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Team Rector: The Rev. Anthony Ellis (Chairman)
Team Vicar: The Rev. Hilary Campbell
Assistant Curate: The Rev. Jason St John Nicolle
Associate Minister: The Rev. Dr William Whyte
Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs Lesley Heffer

Churchwardens: Mrs Jean Bagnall (from Jan 2007)
Mr Mark Christodoulou
Mrs Rosemary Gardner (from APCM 2007)
Mrs Monica Green
Mr Ian Howdill
Mrs Joyce Morris
Mr Malcolm Seward (until APCM 2007)

Representatives on the Diocesan Synod:

The Rev. Anthony Ellis
The Rev. Hilary Campbell

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Mr Ian Howdill
Professor John Morris
Mr Colin Thackray
Miss Rosemary Tucker
Mrs Janet Warren

Elected Members:

Mr Robert Buckeldee (from APCM 2006)
Miss Philippa Burrell (from APCM 2007)
Miss Catherine Button (from APCM 2005)
Mrs Yo Davies (from APCM 2007, for 2 years)
Mr Bill Evershed (from APCM 2007)
Mrs Margaret Lang (from APCM 2007)
Mr Michael Ling (from APCM 2007, for 2 years)
Mrs Stephanie Leach (from APCM 2006)
Mr David Townsend (from APCM 2007)
Mrs Joan Townsend (from APCM 2007)
Mr Nick Wharmby (from APCM 2006)

Co-opted Members of the PCC:

Mrs Meghann Hewett (from APCM 2007)
Miss Eleanor Williamson (as Clerk to PCC, from June 2007)

The Full Parochial Church Council has held six evening meetings and one 'Away Morning' during the year with an average attendance of seventeen.

The strand of the Strategic Plan that PCC has particularly focused on this year has been 'reaching out into the community'. Consideration has been given to church buildings and space, recognising the role these play as community spaces, and discussion is ongoing about the need to refurbish St John's and the need for kitchen space and a toilet facility at St Mary's, Hampton Poyle. At the Away Morning, PCC explored the question of needs and suitable roles for a Youth Worker within the parish / wider community, and a small group agreed to draw up a role specification.

There has been continued awareness of the need to meet the Parish Share, and to increase giving; accordingly, a new sub-committee of the PCC was set up to concentrate on stewardship and fundraising. How to develop Lay Ministries has also been discussed, and it was agreed by PCC that this idea should be raised and explored with the congregation over a period of six months or so - after which PCC would be in a better position to evaluate.

The formal business has covered issues of finance, health and safety and child protection, and each committee has presented reports for discussion.

Committees

Committees met between PCC meetings and Minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary. Reports are also received from the Deanery Synod, Churches Together in Kidlington and the Anglican/ Methodist Liaison Group. The Standing Committee has held seven meetings this year, normally approximately two weeks prior to the full PCC Meetings. The Minutes are distributed to all PCC members. The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC:

- **Standing Committee:** This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.
- **Finance Committee:** This oversees the general financial dimension of the Parish by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting and regular control of Planned Giving, etc.
- **Fabric Committee:** This attends to matters relating to the stewardship of property such as the church buildings and fabric, churchyard and the house at 29 Andersons Close, advises on fabric matters concerning the Rectory, Vicarage and Almshouse.
- **Mission and Outreach Committee:** This nurtures links with other parishes and organizations and prepares proposals for mission giving allocation.
- **Churches Together in Kidlington Committee:** This fosters links with other Christian denominations in Kidlington.
- **Anglican-Methodist Liaison Group:** This explores the relationship between the Anglican and the Methodist Churches in Kidlington.
- **St. Mary's, Kidlington Committee:** This attends to matters of worship, fellowship and administration specific to St Mary's and the Refectory.
- **St. John's Committee:** This attends to matters of worship, fellowship and administration specific to St. John's.
- **St. Mary's, Hampton Poyle Committee:** This attends to matter of worship, fellowship and administration specific to St. Mary's, Hampton Poyle.
- **Giving Committee:** This develops, implement and monitors plans that will attempt to ensure the income of the PCC is in line with, or ahead of, the forecasted needs provided by the finance sub-committee for the short-, medium- and long-term.

The following are the lay representatives on the Churches Together in Kidlington Committee:

Miss Catherine Button
Mrs Sue Mills
Mrs Gail Nawrocki
Mrs Pat Whittington

The following are the lay representatives for the Parish on the Anglican/Methodist liaison Group:

Mrs Pamela Baker
Miss Margaret Day
Mrs Sue Mills
Mrs Janet Warren

Church Attendance

At the APCM in April 2007 there were 265 names on the Electoral Roll for the Parish of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle. This was two fewer than in 2006. The average attendance at the main Sunday service is: 120 at St Mary's, Kidlington, 60 at St John's and 14 at St Mary's, Hampton Poyle.

The following members of the congregation were confirmed in April 2007: Loraine Bresa, Christopher Caspell, Samantha Groves, Charlotte Groves, Rebecca Herlihy, Janet Moores.

Congratulations

Rev'd Jason St John Nicolle announced his appointment to the position of Rector of the Churn Benefice, in South Oxfordshire, from Spring 2008. The parish extends its congratulations and good wishes to Jason and Maranda, and a choral evensong was held in February at St Mary's, Kidlington, to say farewell.

Eleanor Williamson

Report on the Parish Accounts for 2007

Treasurer's Report

The accounts show a net surplus of £2,319 on the unrestricted funds of the parish: that is, on activities that the PCC can determine.

Restricted and Endowment funds show annual surpluses of £91,427 and £557 respectively. These funds can only be used on specified purposes and include, for example, the Buildings Appeal Fund (often referred to as the 'Spire Fund').

At the end of the year, restricted funds totalled £74,905 whilst unrestricted funds totalled £74,584 and endowment funds £11,075.

Income and costs incurred in the general running of the parish are recorded in the General Fund. During the year this fund made a surplus of £7,179. From this, £2,000 was put aside for Mission

giving and £300 has been saved to pay for the quinquennial survey of our buildings. This left a sum of £3,879 which was transferred to the Quota Reserve fund.

The financial challenge faced by the parish is to continue to be able to meet its quota payment to the Diocese, as determined by Deanery policy. The quota (or parish share) is the amount paid by each parish to meet the employment, housing and training costs of the clergy together with the costs of the Diocese and the central church. The Oxford Deanery has determined that by 2010 each parish should pay a sum to cover at least the cost of the stipendiary clergy in its parish, less any fees earned for the Diocese.

In 2008 the quota will increase by £10,000 even after the Deanery allowed a reduction to our figure based on the agreed formula. In 2009 a further £16,000 is likely to be required, and in 2010 a further £17,000.

Therefore, in three years the quota will increase by £43,000.

Savings over recent years have been put aside in a Quota Reserve fund to help fund the quota increase, but these savings will run out in the early part of 2010.

Even allowing for giving to increase in line with inflation, it is estimated that the General fund will be in deficit by about £30,000 in 2010.

The Buildings Appeal fund, generally referred to as the 'Spire Fund' is the largest and most topical of the restricted funds.

Major transactions were the receipt of various grants that were dependent upon the works being completed, and later payments for the works.

Although there is a balance £13,675 on the fund, there are further transactions to be made. The final invoices for works and fees are due, and a further claim will be made for the reimbursement of VAT when all other transactions are complete.

Independent Examiner's Report

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2007, which are set out on pages, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It

is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. 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 financial statements 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 reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations 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.

Signed

David Wilkins CPFA

Dated

PCC Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2007

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	£	£	£	2007 £	2006 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary income	2a	99,914.98	119,777.56	200.00	219,892.54	137,942.23
Activities for generating funds	2b	4,114.53	2,161.67	0.00	6,276.20	2,571.50
Income from investments	2c	1,776.63	247.05	357.23	2,380.91	4,221.93
Church activities	2d	14,044.10	0.00	0.00	14,044.10	6,626.65
Other incoming resources	2e	2,963.82	150.00	0.00	3,113.82	6,226.50
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		122,814.06	122,336.28	557.23	245,707.57	157,588.81
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church activities	3a	119,429.14	91,427.34	0.00	210,856.48	234,306.66
Fund-raising costs	3b	815.01	0.00	0.00	815.01	140.72
Governance costs	3c	250.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	400.00
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		120,494.15	91,427.34	0.00	211,921.49	234,847.38
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNIZED GAINS AND LOSSES		2,319.91	30,908.94	557.23	33,786.08	-77,258.57
Gains on investment assets:						
on revaluation	4			922.96	922.96	
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		2,319.91	30,908.94	1,480.19	34,709.04	-77,258.57
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY	5	72,585.74	43,675.65	9,595.74	125,857.13	192,328.94
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER		74,905.65	74,584.59	11,075.93	160,566.17	115,070.37

The notes below form part of these accounts

PCC Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2007

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Notes	£	£	£	2007 £	2006 £
FIXED ASSETS (Investments)	4			7,924.60	7,924.60	7,001.64
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	14,761.14	68.54		14,829.68	14,805.07
Short term deposits			5,267.06	1,274.44	6,541.50	6,541.50
Cash at bank and in hand		68,726.07	69,448.99	1,876.89	140,051.95	120,482.27
Total Current Assets		83,487.21	74,784.59	3,151.33	161,423.13	141,828.84
LIABILITIES						
Creditors - amounts falling due in one year	7	8,581.56	200.00		8,781.56	33,760.11
Net current assets/(liabilities)		74,905.65	74,584.59	3,151.33	152,641.57	108,068.73
TOTAL NET ASSETS		74,905.65	74,584.59	11,075.93	160,566.17	115,070.37
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted	8	74,905.65			74,905.65	61,798.98
Restricted	8		74,584.59		74,584.59	43,675.65
Endowment	8			11,075.93	11,075.93	9,595.74
Total Parish Funds	8	74,905.65	74,584.59	11,075.93	160,566.17	115,070.37

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 10 March 2008 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Revd Canon JA Ellis (PCC Chair)

The notes below form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2007

Note (1): Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do

not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

- **Endowment funds** are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.
- **Restricted funds** represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund, although a very limited number of funds still retain historical short-term deposits and this will be addressed in the forthcoming year.
- **Unrestricted funds** are general funds which can be used for specific PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognized when received. Tax refunds are recognized when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross wherever possible.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Gains and losses on Investments

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church inventories, which are open to inspection. For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Notes (2) – (7):

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2007 £	2006 £
2 INCOMING RESOURCES					
2a Voluntary income					
Planned giving:					
Bank	38,517.50	294.00		38,811.50	34,972.00
Envelopes	24,841.54			24,841.54	25,884.63
Tax recovered	17,464.23	310.83		17,775.06	18,633.97
Collections	14,251.87	3,191.63		17,443.50	13,943.30
Donations	4,839.84	16,785.28	200.00	21,825.12	24,708.33
Legacies				0.00	0.00
Grants		99,195.82		99,195.82	19,800.00
	99,914.98	119,777.56	200.00	219,892.54	137,942.23
2b Activities for generating funds					
Fund-raising	4,114.53	2,161.67		6,276.20	2,571.50
2c Income from investments					
Dividends and interest	1,776.63	247.05	357.23	2,380.91	4,221.93
2d Income from church activities					
Fees	9,625.60			9,625.60	6,626.65
Church hall lettings	4,418.50			4,418.50	
	14,044.10			14,044.10	6,626.65
2e Other incoming resources					
	2,963.82	150.00		3,113.82	6,226.50
Total incoming resources	122,814.06	122,336.28	557.23	245,707.57	157,588.81
3 RESOURCES EXPENDED					
3a Church activities					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
International	2,550.00	423.70		2,973.70	1,681.44
Link parish					827.63
National	400.00			400.00	596.77
Local	1,000.00	500.00		1,500.00	1,100.00
Ministry:					
Diocesan parish share	60,140.00			60,140.00	54,651.74
Churches Together in Kidlington	300.00			300.00	340.00
Junior Church groups	869.65			869.65	510.29
Music	5,000.10			5,000.10	4,607.74
Repairs and maintenance	8,603.95			8,603.95	2,995.73
Spire works		89,285.69		89,285.69	130,513.02
Heat, light and cleaning costs	7,813.73			7,813.73	3,472.12

Church hall running costs(exc insurance)	4,245.03		4,245.03	
Insurances	8,462.54		8,462.54	7,384.14
Office and admin costs	11,940.00		11,940.00	10,728.88
Other supplies and services	8,104.14	1,217.95	9,322.09	14,897.16
	<u>119,429.14</u>	<u>91,427.34</u>	<u>210,856.48</u>	<u>234,306.66</u>
<hr/>				
3b Fund-raising costs	<u>815.01</u>		<u>815.01</u>	<u>140.72</u>
<hr/>				
3c Governance costs	<u>250.00</u>		<u>250.00</u>	<u>400.00</u>
<hr/>				
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>120,494.15</u>	<u>91,427.34</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>211,921.49</u>
			<u>234,847.38</u>	

KIDLINGTON WITH HAMPTON POYLE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

4 FIXED ASSETS

Investments (all restricted)

The revaluation gains in 2006 were not shown in the accounts for that year.

The gains shown below therefore cover a two year period.

	Bulford	Freeborn	Hulbert	Total
Market value at 1 January	4,671.46	2,019.49	310.69	7,001.64
Revaluation gain	<u>615.79</u>	<u>266.21</u>	<u>40.96</u>	<u>922.96</u>
Market value at 31 December	<u>5,287.25</u>	<u>2,285.70</u>	<u>351.65</u>	<u>7,924.60</u>

5 BALANCES BROUGHT-FORWARD

During the year the St John's Hall was brought into the PCC accounts and the opening balance adjusted accordingly.

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2007	2006
6 DEBTORS					
Tax recoverable	12,212.41	68.54		12,280.95	
Prepayments	2,447.23			2,447.23	
Other debtors	101.50			101.50	
	<u>14,761.14</u>	<u>68.54</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>14,829.68</u>	<u>14,805.07</u>

7 LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due within one year:

HM Revenue & Customs	64.89		64.89
Diocesan fees	761.00	200.00	961.00
Other fees	1,986.98		1,986.98
Pre-paid fees	2,433.50		2,433.50

Other pre-payments	420.00			420.00
Utilities	2,500.00			2,500.00
Other creditors	415.19			415.19
	8,581.56	200.00	0.00	8,781.56 33,760.11

Note (8): Funds

The funds are:

- **General (Unrestricted)** General purposes of the Parish not covered by funds designated for specific purposes.
- **Buildings Appeal (Restricted)** Major repairs to St Mary’s spire, with any surplus to be used on building work. Often referred to as the ‘Spire Fund’.
- **Bell Maintenance (Restricted)** Repair, maintenance or replacement of bells and bellringing equipment.
- **Miss VM Bulford Bequest (Endowment, dated 1976)** Income to be used for keeping the graveyard of Kidlington Parish Church in good order and repair, with request that the Bulford family graves are kept in good order and repair.
- **Dodd (Restricted)** Maintenance of the churchyard at Hampton Poyle.
- **Specific Donations (Restricted)** Used as specifically requested by benefactors.
- **Flower (Restricted)** Provision of flowers.
- **Freeborn Bequest (Endowment, dated 1972)** Income to be used for keeping the Churchyard in good order and repair, with request that the Freeborn family graves are kept in good order and repair.
- **Hampton Poyle Appeal (Restricted)** Major building works at St Mary’s, Hampton Poyle.
- **Hampton Poyle Reserve (now closed; restricted)** Maintenance of fabric of St Mary’s, Hampton Poyle. Balance transferred to Hampton Poyle Appeal which serves same purpose.
- **Miss S Hulbert Bequest (Endowment, memorandum dated 1940)** Income to be used for maintenance of Church and churchyard of Parish Church of Kidlington so long as the grave of Lewin and Mary Hulbert is kept in good order and repair.
- **Keyboard (Restricted)** Purchase of a keyboard and amplification.
- **Mission (Unrestricted)** Sums made available by the PCC for distribution as Mission by the Parish.
- **Quinquennial Survey (Unrestricted)** To provide for cost of quinquennial survey of fabric.
- **Quota Reserve (Unrestricted)** To assist meeting known increases in Quota due to Deanery policy for each parish to meet at least the full cost of its clergy, less fees earned for Diocese. Annual surpluses on the General Fund are transferred to this Fund.
- **Social (Unrestricted)** Social activities, not intended to be fund-raising.
- **St John’s Hall (Unrestricted)** St John’s use as a hall.
- **St John’s 50th Anniversary (Restricted)** Activities to celebrate 50th anniversary of St John’s.

- **St John's Improvements** (*Unrestricted*) Improvements to the fabric of St John's.
- **Vestments** (*Restricted*) Purchase of new vestments at St Mary's, Kidlington.
- **Woodwork, St Mary's, Kidlington** (*Restricted*) Repair work required to some of the wooden fabric at St Mary's, Kidlington.
- **Youthworker** (*Restricted*) For youthwork in the parish area, extending to the neighbouring areas of Wolvercote and Summertown.

Michael Ling

Statement Summary of Funds for the year ended 31 December 2007

FUND	Balance bought	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains/ losses	Balance carried
Unrestricted Funds						
GENERAL	0.00	117,907.57	110,728.41	(7,179.16)	0.00	0.00
MISSION	2,032.67	0.00	3,950.00	2,000.00	0.00	82.67
QUINQUENNIAL SURVEY	(168.75)	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	131.25
QUOTA RESERVE	36,237.04	0.00	0.00	3,879.16	0.00	40,116.20
RESERVE	23,333.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,333.61
ST JOHN'S HALL	10,786.76	4,810.29	5,815.74	1,000.00	0.00	10,781.31
ST JOHN'S IMPROVEMENT	199.39	96.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	295.59
SOCIAL	165.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	165.02
	72,585.74	122,814.06	120,494.15	0.00	0.00	74,905.65
Restricted Funds						
BUILDINGS APPEAL	(9,251.20)	112,294.02	89,367.64	0.00	0.00	13,675.18
BELL MTCE	164.58	98.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	262.93
SPECIFIC DONATIONS	16,576.24	1,542.97	969.70	0.00	0.00	17,149.51
FLOWER FUND	219.75	1,090.00	1,090.00	0.00	0.00	219.75
HAMPTON POYLE APPEAL	0.00	2,200.01	0.00	5,018.55	0.00	7,218.56
HAMPTON POYLE RESERVE (now closed)	4,869.85	148.70	0.00	(5,018.55)	0.00	0.00
KEYBOARD	122.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	122.60
ST JOHN'S 50th ANNIVERSARY	0.00	747.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	747.77
VESTMENTS	1,381.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,381.57
WOODWORK, ST MARY'S	0.00	3,385.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,385.36
YOUTHWORKER	29,592.26	829.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,421.36
	43,675.65	122,336.28	91,427.34	0.00	0.00	74,584.59
Endowments						
BULFORD	5,561.84	168.40	0.00	0.00	615.79	6,346.03
DODD	1,288.97	304.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,593.80
FREEBORN	2,404.42	72.80	0.00	0.00	266.21	2743.43
MISS HULBERT TRUST	340.51	11.20	0.00	0.00	40.96	392.67
	9,595.74	557.23	0.00	0.00	922.96	11,075.93
Totals	125,857.13	245,707.57	211,921.49	0.00	922.96	160,566.17

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Rector's Report

Looking back over to 2007 I think that we have held our own; congregations do not seem to have declined and certainly – at Easter and Christmas – there was evidence of a significant increase. The treasurer reports that we have managed to balance our books again and there are many other positive things to report. These are indications of health. However money and the number of people in Church are not the only indicators of activity. There were new initiatives such as the 'twenty and thirty' age group. In all three Churches we are looking to see if we can improve the buildings to make them more useable for the coming years. I sense that there is energy for the future in most quarters.

It was a great relief to complete the renovation of St Mary's Spire in the early part of the year and to do so with enough money to pay the contractors.

I think the single most disappointing remark that I heard all year was the one reported to me at the time of the Lenten Challenge to increase our giving so that we could pay for two stipendiary clergy within three years. It was said it did not matter to this person because they would not be here when that happened so they did not care whether sufficient money was found to pay our way. This challenge remains the biggest one we have to face in the coming years and I very much hope that the people of our parish will respond generously so that we can continue to have two full time stipendiary clergy resident in Kidlington in the future.

Many good things happen every year as routine. The work with children continues to be significant particularly at St. John's but there are good signs of growth at St. Mary's Kidlington as well. 'TIG' has continued to flourish and develop. The home group continues to meet regularly, the ecumenical Lent groups were successful in 2007 but I would like to see more groups meeting throughout the year. There were two Quiet days one in the Spring and the other in the late Autumn. These are well supported but the size of our venues may limit the numbers who can attend. We continue to support the work of the Gatehouse. There were new things that happened too. In June we had a highly successful "Old Time Music Hall" which raised a significant sum. We had two outings visiting Churches in other areas. On both occasions we easily filled two minibuses.

Our link with All Saint's Montshiwa continued with the visit of Hilary Campbell, Kathryn Ellis and Eleanor Williamson in March. On this visit they were able to speak of the problem of HIV and AIDS in the area for the first time. There is good work happening through "Edukid" which receives a great deal of support in the Parish, indeed it never fails to amaze me that there is always such a generous response to the needs of those in other lands who have so much less than we have here.

Our links with Kidlington Methodist Church continued. In the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we joined the Methodist Church for the morning service, which was an Anglican Eucharist which I was privileged to celebrate. We have continued to meet to discuss areas where there were thought there might be areas of dispute but we discovered that differences were minimal.

I am also aware that a great deal of informal ministry takes place in our church community. I know that the sick are visited and many people receive the love and prayers of Church people. You may not automatically think of this as "ministry" but people are doing just that by their caring. I hope you will see from this report that there is much more to our Church life than worship and concern with our buildings.

There have been changes in personnel during 2007. We welcomed John Pritchard as the new Bishop of Oxford in early June. His first visit to Kidlington as bishop was to TIG. Malcolm Seward finished his term of office as Church Warden at St. John's and Rosemary Gardner began a second stint as Warden. We were delighted with that election just as were with Eleanor Williamson who volunteered to act as the secretary to the P.C.C. The Rev'd William Whyte was ordained Priest at the end of September and in that week we joined him at St. John's when he celebrated the Eucharist for the first time. At the end of the year we learnt that the Rev'd Jason St. John Nicolle was to leave Kidlington on his appointment as the Rector of the Churn Benefice in Berkshire. We offer him our congratulations and wish him and Maranda well in their new work.

I always report on the number of Occasional Offices that take place in the Parish. In 2007 there were more baptisms (64); six confirmations; more weddings (24); and fewer funerals (96). November was a particularly sad month because the Rev'd Tony Knox and Judy Woods were both commended to God at their funerals.

It remains for me to thank all those who serve this parish in so many different ways. I deliberately mention nobody by name for fear in leaving somebody out. It is only because we work together that so much is achieved in our Parish. May I thank you for all that you do.

Anthony Ellis

Team Vicar and St John's, Kidlington Report

Think back, live now, look forward... seems to sum up what we are doing in preparing our annual reports and gathering for the annual church meeting.

Welcomes and Goodbyes

This year at St John's we've welcomed through baptism George Birtles and Ashish Yousaf. We mourned the loss of Ted Langdell (Sybil's husband), Becky McErlain, Liz Rowley, Betty and

Ronald Pearce (Nadine's mother-in-law and father-in-law) and Kathleen Smith (Gail and Pat's mother).

In the wider church family, we have welcomed the new bishop of Oxford, Rt Revd John Pritchard, who made his first visit to St John's in July to share with our parish youth group. In April we welcomed Bishop Henry Richmond to preside at the parish confirmation service at St John's where 4 adults (including Rebecca Herlihy and Lorraine Bresa) and 2 young people made their own faith commitments. Parish curate William Whyte continues to enrich the life of the parish and was ordained to the priesthood in October, presiding at his first eucharist at St John's, with Revd Giles Fraser (vicar of Putney) preaching an inspiring sermon on the theme of thanksgiving. Curate Jason St John Nicolle announced news of his appointment as Rector for the Churn benefice. We sadly mourned the loss of Revd Tony Knox who died in November, giving thanks for all the ways he enriched the lives of many.

St John's Golden Anniversary

Celebrations began on Friday 26th October (a date which marked the 50th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone) with a service of prayers, readings and hymns to give thanks for this place which is used for worship and for community activities. People gathered by the open doors of the hall for opening prayers and then processed out to re-enter the building as an act of re-commitment for themselves and for the building. Bishop Henry Richmond shared in the leading of the service, and a range of people led us in reflection and re-commitment. In his sermon Bishop Henry spoke passionately and encouraged us to re-dedicate ourselves to:

- God in all the depth and challenge and wonder that faith brings to real daily living;
- to people as the living stones of the church;
- to loving people and continuing to take up the work of hospitality and welcome and accepting each other.

During the year we held a very successful craft evening in September, which brought together people from around the parish, and those who maybe don't usually come into St John's, for a friendly evening of chatting with friends, browsing and shopping for that special gift. An exciting range of events and activities are planned for 2008, and alongside some fundraising events to cover the costs of events, we are encouraging folk to use saving boxes to raise money for the work of Edukid.

Junior Church continues to flourish, with all ages from 0 to teenage working well together in very cramped circumstances. The whole community at St John's learns much from all they share with us, and we continue to seek ways to worship together as all ages and all stages of faith. We have all benefited from their presentations and contributions to the family communion services on Mothering Sunday, Pentecost, Harvest and a new date this year of Children's Takeover Sunday on the feast of Christ the King. This year the Nativity presentation was entitled *Come with us to Bethlehem*. It was an action-packed and thoughtful presentation with a welcome re-appearance from the camels, but the donkey took centre stage this year. It had a well-deserved

reprise during the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. The Christingle service was a very effective partnership between church, including Junior Church, and local Guides, Brownies and Rainbows and led for the first time by our curate William. The success of Junior Church is only possible with the support of their families and the tremendous work done by our devoted team of teachers and helpers, for which we thank them warmly.

Other groups for children and young people continue to meet at St John's. **T.I.G. (Together in God)** is a group for 11 to 16 year olds and on Sun July 22nd 2007, Bishop John came to join with youth group TIG in their last session before the summer holidays. He joined in an energetic game, heard about the group beginning to raise money for the charity Send-a-Cow, and talked with the group about himself and about being a bishop. We heard about some of the things he likes to collect - including antique cameras, and some cheap and cheerful 'tat' that he looks out for in his travels around the world. He showed us some of the special vestments that he wears on official 'bishop' occasions, and led us in a time of reflection thinking about our hopes for the future and placing our hopes and prayers on a prayer tree. **St John's Under 5s** continues to meet for pre-school age children with their parents or carers, exploring the Christian story with songs, story, prayer, refreshment and chat.

Another regular group that meets in St John's supports a different age range, and the **Wednesday Retired Club** continues to be a welcome time of gathering each month – a social occasion, with shared meals and activities, trips out and interesting speakers.

Members of St John's have continued to show their care and concern for those in need, both within our community and further afield. In particular, collections of money or gifts have been made during the year for Helen & Douglas House, our link parish of All Saints Montshiwa, local disadvantaged families, Mother Teresa Group, The Children's Society, BibleLands and The Gatehouse. We are also pleased to support Edukid, providing education for children in Cambodia, our regular Traidcraft stall and Christian Aid Week fundraising.

The St John's Committee has met four times during the year for consideration of many topics regarding the life at St John's and within the parish at large. We have continued to progress discussions on how to enhance and improve the facilities of the building, looking ahead to how the building can be a more effective worship and community resource for the next 50 (and more!) years. We have now met with the architect for a preliminary sharing of thoughts and ideas. (We hope to have made the building a little more visible by the addition of a road sign to St John's on the Kidlington roundabout!)

In terms of **worship** we continue to explore elements that may enhance our worship time together on Sunday as well as contribute to our traveling in faith during the rest of the week. Parish quiet days in Advent and Lent are valued, as are the opportunities to meet together in worship and discussion with members of other churches in Kidlington (e.g. the ecumenical Lent groups). A monthly lunch-time bible discussion group, Food for Thought has begun at St John's Vicarage. The Lenten challenge across the parish was focused on Stewardship and in particular

the way in which our decisions on spending money are very much part of our discipleship. Holy Week is an intensive journey, with a variety of reflective opportunities. Our Stations of the Cross worship was led for us with great thought and care by Pamela Baker, who is training for ordained ministry. Weekday opportunities for worship can offer different ways of praying and being together and the Lady Chapel is a peaceful place to come and be still. The monthly evening Iona communion service continues to be attractive to a range of people across the parish, complementing the monthly Celtic Evening Prayer on a Sunday. A Tuesday evening service focusing on prayers for healing and wholeness in October led to a fruitful time of reflecting on the issues around healing and wholeness and their place within our existing pattern of worship. Further occasional times of worship with this particular focus are planned for next year. In Advent we introduced the Travelling Nativity, or Posada, as a way to travel the journey of Advent. Figures of Mary and Joseph travelled to different homes and hospitality and worship was shared.

I know that St John's appreciates the range and variety of input and preparation from team members – this is the real joy of being part of a team ministry. We also thank the extended team of people who give time, energy and love to keep everything going at St John's – serving on St John's Committee, arranging all the rotas, cleaning the Sanctuary and Lady Chapel, doing new flower displays (and clearing away old ones), preparing and setting out the church, preparing Junior Church activities, choosing and playing the music (in particular this year we celebrated and said thank you to Brian Blackmore for 30 years serving as organist for St John's), welcoming visitors, acting as server, reader, sidesperson or intercessor, serving coffee, etc. Thank you to those who serve on parish groups. Thank you to the dedication of church wardens – to Mark Christodoulou in his second year of office, and to Rosemary Gardner who generously took up the role (again!) this year. We also thank the members of the St John's Hall Management Committee who deal with many aspects of the running of the building for us.

The Team Vicar looks back over 2007...

Think back, live now, look forward...

In 2007 I was given an amazing opportunity as Team Vicar, when I had the chance to travel to South Africa. Kathryn, Eleanor and I went as part of our parish developing the relationship with our link parish of All Saints **Montshiwa**, in the North West Province of South Africa. We went in particular to focus on ways in which people are facing the huge challenge of HIV/AIDS in South Africa and discover ways in which the community in Montshiwa can work together to help those amongst them living with HIV/AIDS. You will know that I am fond of stories, and I returned with many stories of the amazing people that we met, stayed with and journeyed with. *Think back, live now, look forward...* was the slogan we saw painted on a wall in Soweto, marking the Soweto uprisings in the late 1970s, and communicating the philosophy of South Africa in remembering the horrors of the times of apartheid and in determining to find ways to live together in diversity and in hope. I used one of my favourite songs, *A Touching Place*, in my preaching at All Saints Montshiwa (the first time a woman had presided and preached there) as an illustration of the Christian vision of building open, welcoming, accepting and healing

communities. I am very thankful to all in the parish, including the good folk of St John's, who made it possible for me to have the opportunity to learn a little about a different place and culture, and to share together honestly the different challenges that our communities face.

Alongside the joys and challenges of parish ministry, I continue to enjoy the role of **County Chaplain for St John Ambulance** in Oxfordshire. I see this as a role that helps me to develop new relationships with people within Kidlington and more widely in Oxfordshire, in association with an organization that has caring and service at its heart.

I mustn't forget to thank my family for their patience and love, and thank you to you all at St John's for being who you are and for sharing in our life together.

Think back, live now, look forward...

Hilary Campbell

St Mary's, Kidlington Report

Although St Mary's is positioned, as Mediaeval tradition dictated, at the extreme eastern end of the village rather than in the middle of modern 21st century Kidlington, it was used extensively last year as a place of gathering for worship and fellowship.

The weekly pattern of services has remained essentially unchanged and they draw regular congregations to which we have been pleased to welcome new members during the year. In addition to our regular congregation many other people come to St Mary's for baptism services, weddings and funerals. Others come for the special services on Remembrance Day, on All Souls Day and at Christmas and Easter. In 2007 these were all very well attended. An additional special service this year was the Thanksgiving Service for the completion of the work on the spire. An invitation was extended to all who had contributed towards the work. The Revd John Jackson was the Preacher and the service was followed by a reception.

On all these occasions our clergy team and our retired clergy lead the worship with reverence and dignity and we thank them all for their ministry and their spiritual leadership. We sadly miss the late Revd Tony Knox whose sermons were always so human and yet so challenging. It was with a different feeling of sadness that we heard in the autumn that Jason St John Nicolle would be leaving us to become Rector of Churn. His preaching has set us many interesting questions and sent us home with much food for thought in the week ahead.

There are a number of Study Groups in the parish that meet on a regular basis. One very real achievement this year has been the setting up of a group for 20 and 30 year olds that meets fortnightly. This is an age group that is often lacking in churches and it is good that we now have enough young adults to lead and support such a group.

Our children's work continues to flourish, the group has grown in size since September and more people have come forward as leaders. The teaching sessions have taken on a wider nature this year and have included talks from other members of the congregation about vestments, incense, flowers and bell ringing.

Throughout the year we have tried to be aware of our responsibilities to others. The Mothers Union continue their Care for Christian Families Worldwide and have joined with others in the congregation to support the Aids awareness work with puppets that Kathryn Ellis, Hilary Campbell and Eleanor Williamson pioneered on their visit to our link Parish of Montshiwa last March. The Trade Craft stall and the card stall are both well patronised each month, and we have continued to support the Gatehouse, providing sandwiches and cakes each month. The Summer Sunday teas reach out to people in our own community and to tourists who enjoy the cakes and the opportunity for fellowship. Similarly, St Mary's Flower Group, the Art Group and Friendly Faces meet regularly in the Refectory, providing a chance to develop skills and meet with friends. The Cakes and Ale Company raised money for Douglas House with their two performances in the Rectory garden of Much Ado about Nothing. The Annual Historic Churches Stride and Ride once again raised money for our church and other historic churches. The Flower Festival for Christian Aid was held this year in September and was organised by the Town's Women's Guild.

Our major parish fund raising and social event in 2007 was an Old time Music Hall. This played to a packed church. The audience, many dressed in Edwardian costume, sang along with the cast in the well-known music hall songs. In the interval they enjoyed wine and strawberries and were entertained by the local jazz group Desafinado. The evening added just one further musical style to the many that we experience in St Mary's during the year. St Mary's choir has sung anthems regularly at the parish communion service and they performed programmes of serious liturgical music at the Memorial Service, on Advent Sunday and on Good Friday. At Christmas Kidlington Amateur Operatic Society presented a concert of seasonal music, and during the year there have been recitals by the Adderbury Quartet and the Kidlington Concert Brass

The St Mary's Committee has met regularly to discuss the spiritual and day-to-day aspects of our worship and the organisation of the Refectory. The Refectory is used regularly by church groups and by community groups. Over the years, the bookings and general smooth running of the Refectory were undertaken by Judy Woods. Judy only resigned from these responsibilities some weeks before her sad death in November. She did a vast amount of quiet unsung work and we miss her greatly.

We are fortunate that we have a faithful congregation who are blessed with a wide variety of talents and who work together in a positive and cooperative way. Thanks are due to the clergy, servers, wardens, sidespeople, readers, intercessors, flower arrangers, musicians, bell ringers, those who work with young people, group leaders, the verger and those who clean the church. These people give of their time week by week and their dedication to their tasks is reflected in

the way that our church seems to be alive and well looked after, a fact often commented on by visitors.

2007 has been another year of consolidation and achievement. We look forward with confidence in the hope that we shall move forward together in faith, committing our time, talents and money to enable us to do God's work in the community of Kidlington.

Joyce Morris

St Mary's, Hampton Poyle Report

Despite all the frustrations which we are experiencing at the moment with regard to the lack of plans from the architect for our proposed alterations and the coldness of the church due to the inadequate heating we are, on the whole in good heart. During the year we have celebrated the major festivals as well as following our usual pattern of services on the first and third Sundays of each month.

Our Rogation Walk in May was this year again dogged by very heavy rain and so it was prudent to abandon the walk and celebrate the event within the relative comfort of the church. Afterwards we were welcomed by Sandra and Harry Kerwood at Manor Farm to enjoy a lovely tea and an opportunity for a long chat. Our thanks go to Sandra, Harry and their family, for the warm welcome and hospitality. Our thanks also go to Doug Brand for providing the music during our service.

In May we also played host to the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary who held their Guild Office at our Church, in September we held our Patronal Festival, and in November we held a service to remember loved ones who have died. This year we also broke with tradition and decided to hold our Harvest Festival and Harvest Supper in the church, which proved to be delightful and was appreciated by the many who attended both the service and the supper. As usual in December both adults and children met one Saturday afternoon to make the Christingles for use on the following Sunday, as a result a total of £209.77 was sent to the Children's Society. Our Carol Service was well attended with most saying how much they enjoyed this service.

During the year there have been some marvellous and joyous moments. In July we saw the marriage of Justin and Tracey Taylor and in August the marriage of Simon and Natasha Pook, Simon being the youngest son of Isobel and Alan. We wish every happiness and much joy in the years ahead to both couples. Four children were baptised during the year, in February Jade Gill Hager, Jade is the Great Grand Daughter of Joan and David Townsend and Jade's Great Great Great Grand Mother was Baptised in St Mary's Hampton Poyle in 1834, Dylan Dyer was Baptised in March, and in July, Katy Safiya Pook was Baptised. Katy is the daughter of Stephen

and Asher Pook and the Grand Daughter of Isobel and Alan, and in October Jackie and Dawn's daughter Dulcie was Baptised.

As part of our fund raising towards the proposed alterations which would then enable the building to be used by the community for activities other than religious services, we held the following events. In January Colin Dexter gave a talk to a large number of people, in July we held a Barn Dance at Model Farm, our thanks going to Glynis and Colin Rogers who hosted this event, and in August we held a Fun Day and Teddy Bears Picnic on the Village Green.

In April we reluctantly had to fell the Sycamore tree to the left of the entrance to the churchyard due to its condition and the danger it could have caused if it was blown down in high winds. We are also awaiting permission to lift the crowns of two Lime trees and the remaining Sycamore as well as removing the two Conifers at the rear of the church. The removed Sycamore has been replaced by a Holme Oak in memory of Bob Bagnall.

The cost of the remainder of the tree work has been donated by Mrs Peggy Hawes, Monty's wife who has also placed a bench in memory of Monty and her daughter Elizabeth. Also you may have noticed that the Cross from the roof which was blown down during the gales of 2002 has been repaired and replaced. Our thanks go to Mrs Joan Barrett and her family who have donated this work to the church.

The community of Hampton Poyle, its life, its Church is the envy of many, but it is you the people who give it its uniqueness, and I thank you for including Maureen and myself as being part of that. To the ladies who clean the church and arrange the flowers, to Alan who strims the grass and to all who mow it, I believe that the church and the churchyard are beautiful and a credit to you all. I would also like to thank the organists Cliff and Pam the unsung heroes who come to play for us at our services. And lastly I wish to thank and pay tribute your Churchwardens Monica and Jean, and your church committee Katy the Secretary, Isobel, Joan, Judith, Pat, Tracey and Vera who all work so very hard on your behalf to support and maintain the life at St Mary's.

Bless you all for what you do and being the special people that you are.

Jim Turner

Bellringers' Report

The bells of St Mary's have rung on most Sundays for service; also on Tuesday evenings practice night. At present, we have a very loyal band of 14 ringers and two young learners who are progressing very well since October 2007.

We rang for 14 weddings; also a Quarter Peal (50 minutes) for the Royal Diamond Wedding Anniversary. This was reported to the *Ringing World* (our weekly news), and also, as requested by our Ringing Master, to the Queen – for which I received a letter of appreciation from the Queen's Secretary. This I framed, and it is now on show in the ringing chamber.

We had two visiting parties; one on tour from the USA. We have attended our Guild Branch Half-Yearly Meeting; also the AGM of which Anthony Ellis is chairman. We staged our usual display at the Flower Festival. In February this year we rang a farewell to Jason St John Nicolle as he moves on to another parish. On 2nd March, Anthony mustered a band of ringers to ring a full peal (over 3 hours) at St Mary's.

We have on order at present (March 2008) 4 new ropes, which will cost almost £700; also a complete service of the bells by Whites of Appleton. We have been self-supporting up until now but will only be able to finance one of these items. So now, after 30 years, we will have to call on the PCC for financial assistance.

We can report that ringing at Kidlington is in a very healthy state under the leadership of Ron Burgess, our Tower Captain/Ringing Master.

Peter Franklin

Outreach and Mission Committee Report

From the terms of reference for this sub-committee:

- Promote wider mission in our parish
- Find opportunities to meet together, including exploring questions of Christian faith
- Focus for ideas about mission
- Propose allocation of mission giving
- Support implementation of mission statement

Wider Community

The relationship with our link parish of **Montshiwa**, in the Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman continues to develop. This year, in March, Kathryn Ellis, Eleanor Williamson and Hilary Campbell spent 10 days in South Africa. The first half of the visit was to fact find in

Johannesburg about a variety of educational, supportive and creative projects focussing on HIV/AIDS. The second half was spent in Montshiwa, sharing information on these projects and wondering together about what might work in the community of Montshiwa. We brought puppets with us as a possible tool to use in education and breaking the painful silences of isolation for those who are HIV+. Masi Cowper (AIDS activist and community worker who is HIV +) made a powerful impact as she addressed the congregation on the topic that is so often not spoken of. The local Mothers' Union have taken on production and it is hoped that use of the puppets will spread across the diocese.

Later in the year the Buckeldee family spent time in Cambodia as part of their commitment to and involvement with the **Edukid** charity. Edukid continues to be another cause strongly supported across the parish.

Discussions have continued on the issues involved in working with **young people** in the community of Kidlington. Churches collectively in Kidlington have been unable to commit financial resources towards the employment of a detached youthworker, although it has challenged the church communities to consider their priorities in terms of working with children and young people. We continue to share in discussions with the council, school and other community initiatives.

Within the parish, a working group is gathering information to put together a job description for a youthworker who could support and help to develop the existing work with children and young people. Established groups continue to develop and grow: Sunday School at St Mary's, and Junior Church at St John's. Celebrating their first anniversary now are: **T.I.G. (Together in God)**, the parish youth group for 11 to 16 year olds (who organised for the parish some joyful, brain-teasing, powerfully reflective worship for Advent) and **St Johns Under 5s** a group for pre-school age children with their parents/carers. Out of this latter group has come an invitation to share a story and some songs with the Toddler Group that meets at St Mary's.

Building relationships in the parish

Another Parish Day Away was organised this year in October: Celebrating our Gifts was another opportunity to enjoy the varied activities of Youlbury Scout Camp, such as archery and pioneering (a challenging building project for a team of all ages). Inside activities included singing, design work, sugar craft icing and storytelling. The group of about 26 people (of all ages) who attended found new creativity and skills that maybe had so far been hidden or neglected.

Welcome and hospitality was a focus of the Diocesan initiative of **Back to Church Sunday**, which was observed by all our churches in the parish on Harvest Thanksgiving, 30th September. Following up this initiative, the group did some work reflecting on our experiences of coming to church and/or faith and ways in which we could improve our welcome and hospitality. The parish nurture/enquiry group which will begin in 2008 (now underway as **Travelling the Way**)

is a continuation of care for those enquiring about or exploring faith and belonging to church. The Diocesan initiative **Living Faith** (an event in June 2008) will be another support for this process.

Giving as Mission

The group continues to believe in the importance of giving so that it is built into the financial strategy of the parish. This year we have been able to support a wide range of causes suggested by members of our congregations and have allocated money as follows:

- USPG - Anglicans in World Mission £500
- Bishop Simeon Trust (Anglican founded organisation involved in humanitarian response to HIV/AIDS in South Africa and currently supporting a project in Mafikeng) £500
- Barnabas Fund (providing practical help to Christians in Muslim environments) £250
- Edukid £300
- Bintang Bolong School Project in Gambia £250
- Toybox (caring for street children in Latin America) £200
- 25% ME (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis) Group (charity representing interests of the 25% of ME sufferers who are severely affected) £200
- Church Urban Fund (working to make lasting, positive changes in the poorest communities in England) £200
- Sobell House Hospice Charity £200
- Christian Concern for One World (Raising awareness of global issues in churches in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire.) £350
- Asylum Welcome (an Oxfordshire charity based in Oxford, which works with asylum seekers, refugees and detainees to give them advice, support and access to their rights,) £200
- Rosy (Respite nursing for Oxfordshire's sick youngsters) £200
- Oxfordshire Playbus (providing play and leisure services for disadvantaged children, young people and families, including adults suffering from Alzheimer's disease) £200
- The Porch Steppin' Stone Centre (providing day long support for homeless and vulnerably housed people) £200
- Dystonia Society (Oxford Support Group) (Dystonia is a neurological movement disorder that affects over 40,000 people in the UK) - £200

Exploring Christianity

Whilst there has been no formal programme of teaching across the parish, learning continues in various settings. There are fellowship groups and discussion groups, as well as the ecumenical Lent groups. There are 2 parish Quiet Days in Lent and Advent. A group of 4 adults and 2 young people was prepared for confirmation this year. Beginning this year was **Food for Thought**, a monthly lunch-time bible discussion group at St John's. In September there was a morning of sharing and learning together for those who lead prayers in our churches.

Communications

We continue to recognise the importance of good communications in all our parish literature. An updated leaflet is now available during the Summer Afternoon Teas season, with information on the churches' worship and other activities, as well as explanation about the parish's commitment to Fair Trade. The group is initiating work on a baptism card with prayer that can be given as a gift to baptism families.

It is important to say a huge thank you to members of the Outreach and Mission Committee and associated subgroups, for all that you give of yourselves and your time. Your contribution makes a difference. Thank you.

Hilary Campbell

Churches Together in Kidlington Report

CTK, as the body uniting all the members of all the mainstream Kidlington churches, worked hard through the year to promote ecumenical activity in the service of Christ and the local community. The usual united activities took place, with some new developments. The officers were: Dennis Chiles (Chair), the Revd. Jason St John Nicolle (Secretary until May 2007), Sue Mills (co-opted as Secretary at the September Council meeting), and Chris Robins as Treasurer.

We were very sad to lose Penny Robins, a long-standing member of the Council and former Treasurer, who died in June: the Council sent Chris a card and many members of all the churches were present at her funeral at the Baptist Church.

Anglican lay representatives on the Council were Catherine Button, Gail Nawrocki, Joan Townsend and Pat Whittington. The Council met on 6th February, 12th June, 18th September, and 6th November, and the AGM was held on 8th May.

The CTK organized or was involved in the following activities:

The January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: a welcome innovation this year was daily prayers at midday in each of the churches in rotation, in addition to the united service, held at St. Thomas More and the well-attended Fellowship Meal at St. John's, when the speaker was Father Seraphim, Chaplain at Campsfield House. Five ecumenical Lent groups followed the York Course "Can we build a better world", in which approximately 40 people participated, and the Good Friday Walk of Witness through Kidlington from St. John's to the High Street, culminating in a public reading of the Passion, was again well attended. There was a united Pentecost service and a successful Holiday Club in August, attended by 26 children and ably assisted by young helpers, but in need of more adult helpers for general tasks.

A decision was made to abandon the Advent united service, like the united carol service before it, but in its place the Methodist Church invited members of all the churches to a service on 27th November in celebration of the Tercentenary of the birth of Charles Wesley. This proved a lively service of hymns and readings, well attended by members of the different churches. CTK Advent activity was concentrated on the distribution of 500 CDs of Christmas carols, with a leaflet detailing all the churches' Christmas services tucked into it - a popular innovation - at the switch-on of the Christmas lights in Kidlington and at Sainsbury's during the singing of Christmas carols in the foyer, and the usual distribution of Christmas cards with service details to every Kidlington household.

Regular monthly Sunday afternoon services at Glebe House, organized by members of the different churches in turn and masterminded by Jason, have continued throughout the year. Christian Aid and the Kidlington News are organized independently, but under the auspices of CTK. The Secretary outlined the Kidlington ecumenical scene for the Churches Together in Oxfordshire Council meeting in October, held at Kidlington Methodist Church.

Discussion about the churches' involvement in community youth work in Kidlington have continued throughout the year, although churches were unable to commit the necessary financial support for a detached community youth worker. Instead, there has been liaison with the County and Parish Councils and Gosford Hill School and the possibility of using a student from Oxford Youthworks is being investigated.

At Autumn Council meetings it was agreed that the time was right to examine the role and activities of the CTK and a Quiet morning in February 2008, led by the Revd. Dr. Nick Wood, current Chair of Churches Together in Oxfordshire, was arranged. It is hoped that as a result of this the united work of the Churches Together will be more focussed in the future.

Sue Mills

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee has met on a number of occasions throughout the year to ensure proper governance of the Parish financial resources.

The broad headline message from this last year is that we have generated enough income to cover our running costs, but that this will not be the case in coming years. A major growth in income is required to enable us to continue doing what we do, in the way we do it.

With expenditure set to increase sharply in the coming years, due primarily to an increase in our Parish Share and income levels not forecasted to keep pace we have taken the step this year of recommending the set-up of a new PCC sub-committee, focused on generating increased income

for the parish. The Giving sub-committee was formalised in the autumn with clear terms of reference that ensure no duplication of focus and activity with the Finance sub-committee.

In 2006, we have continued to manage our limited resources well and have followed the pattern of previous years in putting a budget surplus into a quota reserve. This practice represents good management as our quota costs are set to increase sharply because of the increase in our Parish Share paid to the Diocese to reflect the real costs of the clergy we have in our Parish. By building up a reserve we can offset some of this increase over the next few years, but in parallel, we need to be building a stronger level of income.

In 2006, income from planned giving and collections increased ahead of inflation, helped by the 'Lent Challenge' campaign. This campaign had the aim of increasing awareness amongst congregations about the different ways of giving to the parish: financially, time, support, prayer, etc. Feedback to the campaign was mixed, and, with hindsight, the execution could have been better, but the intention was well-directed and the messages well constructed. We continue to encourage all giving to the work of the church to be as effective as possible. During the last year, a number of people have helped in this way by completing Gift Aid declarations, by moving from cash donations to bank standing orders or by pledging a regular commitment within the Planned Giving scheme.

As another source of income, the committee undertook a review of fees charged for occasional services, as well as reviewing fees for the hire of some Parish buildings.

In closing, I would like to record my thanks to everyone who has been involved in working to steward our resources. We are hugely indebted to our treasurer, Michael Ling, for his contribution in the management of our finances; to Margaret Day for her work as Planned giving secretary; to Trish Friedemann and others who spend many hours counting cash; and to the members of the Finance Committee.

Robert Buckeldee

St John's Hall Management Committee Report

The Committee includes churchwardens from St John's and members elected by the congregation as well as a representative from the Sequence Dance Club. It has met four times during the year.

The Hall has continued to host a number of community activities this year with bookings catering for a wide range of activities, such as fitness clubs, martial arts, dancing and weight-watching. The number of occasional bookings has also been higher with an increased number of bookings for birthday parties for the young (and the young at heart).

The Hall is also delighted to be continuing to host Parish activities for young people, notably the T.I.G. (Together In God), who meet on Sunday evenings in school term time plus the Under 5's group on Wednesday afternoons.

In last year's report it was noted that Margaret Day had agreed to look after the Hall bookings for an interim period while we sought a permanent replacement. It is with great pleasure we report that Margaret has now agreed to take on the role of Hall Booking Secretary and we thank her for her tireless support over the year.

A number of jobs have been completed over the last year to repair / maintain the fabric of the Hall and the surrounding grounds. Of note is the replacement of the locks throughout the building which were becoming a security concern, together with ongoing (and seemingly never ending) repairs to the roof. We thank Ian Howdill and the fabric committee for coordinating these works during the year.

As is to be expected, there have been a number of smaller jobs needed from time to time and David Townsend continues to deal with these meticulously. We are extremely grateful to David and to Ted Mobley, who gives much time to keeping the gardens tidy, although with all the wet weather throughout 2007, Ted's ambitions for the garden remain thwarted until we have a prolonged dry spell.

A much needed Spring Clean took place recently which has left the hall looking clean and refreshed and we thank everyone who volunteered with their mops and buckets to help us do this important job.

As we begin our 50th anniversary year, the committee has continued to look at ways to improve the facilities of the hall. Our dreams for the hall include improving the kitchen area, which is in urgent need of a complete overhaul; the toilet facilities, which need to be updated, to include access for disabled and, with an ever growing Children's Church, the committee room to be extended. With additional input from the congregation of St John's, these ideas have been shared with the Fabric Committee and with the architect Simon Shew and we look forward to seeing what might be possible when preliminary sketches are prepared over the coming weeks.

Over the course of the year, the committee has reviewed its constitution and specifically the relationship between the Hall Management committee and the PCC with particular attention to the financial arrangements. Following discussion with Michael Ling, PCC treasurer and the PCC Finance Committee it has been agreed that as the Hall Management committee is a sub-committee of the PCC, the Hall Management accounts would be included in the PCC accounts as a new designated fund. Ted Mobley will continue to manage the day-to-day transactions and will supply a quarterly summary of income / expenditure to Michael so that he can maintain his PCC records throughout the year.

As a consequence of this, we will no longer require that Ray Chilton audit the Hall management accounts as these will now be covered by the PCC account audit. The committee would like to thank Ray for the many years service he has given us in auditing our accounts.

We must also once more record our thanks to Wendy and Ted Ploughman who clean the hall and set out the church, remaining flexible in doing this each week at a time which suits specific hall use.

We thank all users of the Hall for their custom and support over the last year and warmly thank all those mentioned in this report, whose good works ensure the fabric of St John's Hall Church remains in such good repair and continues to provide an important resource for the community.

Mark Christodoulou and Rosemary Gardner

Fabric Committee Report

St Mary's, Kidlington

The spire work was duly completed, and a celebratory service held on 22nd September at which the preacher was The Rev'd Dr John Jackson, former curate. The total construction cost was £177,976.03 including costs of work to the north gutter. There was an overspend of £9,802.15, covered by a contingency allowance of £11,000. All these figures are net of VAT, some of it recoverable, and Architects' fees.

Sadly we have suffered a set back of a lead theft from the parapet gutter of the Refectory. Current estimates for the replacement of the lead and total redecoration are just short of £8,000 covered by the insurance company. The use of alternative materials is being considered. To protect the large amount of lead on the nave roof it is proposed to apply the latest technique called Smart Water, which is a brush-applied paint with 'DNA qualities' unique to the point of application. The process renders the lead unmarketable, and warning signs around the building are displayed.

Discussions are taking place on refurbishment projects for which donations have been made. For example: the re-ordering of the Lady Chapel by lowering the sanctuary floor; new lighting; removal of the woodwork to the Childrens Chapel (north transept); installation of cupboards; repair of woodwork and removing stain from the woodwork of the chancel.

St Mary's Hampton Poyle

The proposals to provide toilets etc. either inside or outside are moving forward at the slowest of speeds. The Team Rector and the Churchwardens have produced an excellent "statement of need" clearly setting out the benefits to the local community by installing toilets and fresh water.

By such installations the building could become a valuable asset for all sorts of civic activities - even use as a polling station! The removal of the tree by the entrance gate has made a great difference to the visual aspect of this beautiful church.

St John's, Kidlington

What to do with the St John's building is the question. Simon Shew, our quinquennial architect, has been appointed to carry out an appraisal of the whole "plant" to work out how best to bring it into the 21st century and the next 50-plus years. He has a difficult task as, for reasons wholly understandable at the time, the building has been extended in an ad hoc manner.

At all three churches, normal maintenance continues with roof leaks as the most common activity.

Many thanks to all who assist with fabric matters.

Ian Howdill

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Pastoral Plan took up the major part of the first two meetings. It was agreed that parishes should cover their clergy costs and, where this could not be achieved, that they should work more closely to share clerical provision. Some had already begun this process.

The November meeting heard a presentation by Charles Baker and Gillian Argyle of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, which this parish supports through the annual "Ride or Stride". They explained that, for their purposes, an historic church was one over 50 years old; there were 600 such churches in the County. The Trust awarded grants of £1/4m each year, normally for repair work though disabled access and heating were also eligible. Many parish representatives expressed gratitude for the help they had received.

Parish share allocations were agreed for the year ahead, thanks to the painstaking preparatory work of the Deanery Treasurer and Lay Chairman. The Diocesan increase had been 4.5% whereas the Deanery increase had been 7.5%. This was shared between parishes according to which were/were not covering their clergy costs. It was agreed that the Deanery would not accept such a high increase next year.

The Rt Revd John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford, addressed the final meeting. The church today was leaner and fitter, but also smaller, losing one million people over the last 15 years. Prayer and spirituality were central to our future. We needed to be welcoming but also a place of exploration and adventure with a sense of playing with fire. We needed to be a place for challenging reconciliation and encouragement for the community, with an understanding of

relationships, debt and environmental issues. Our churches had to be passionate about God, not places where the bland lead the bland.

Janet Warren

Anglican-Methodist Dialogue Report

The working group, small in number and of varying membership, met on three occasions during 2007 and there had been a successful pulpit exchange in October. The group agreed that future exchanges should include the Methodist Local Preachers who ministered in this area. The study morning in November, led by the Revd Jason St John Nicole was devoted to exploring our rites of initiation. As in previous study mornings, the chosen topic gave rise to interesting discussions and showed no clear divide between our two churches. The working group felt that, successful as the discussions had been, there was a need for the outcomes to be disseminated more widely.

The Revd Dr Martin Wellings announced that he would be leaving Kidlington in the summer of 2008 to take up the post of Superintendent Minister at the Wesley Memorial Church in Oxford.

There had been no harvest supper in 2007 or New Year's party in 2008 but it was expected that the change of Ministers at the Methodist Church and the 50th anniversary at St John's would provide fresh opportunities for social gatherings in the coming year.

Janet Warren

The Parish of Kidlington with Hampton Poyle

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

To be held at St John's Hall Church, Kidlington
on Tuesday, 22nd April, 2008 at 8.00 p.m.
preceded by Holy Communion at 7.30 p.m.

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Election of Churchwardens to serve for the year 2008/2009
4. To approve and confirm the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Wednesday, 25th April, 2007 at St Mary's Church, Kidlington.
5. To elect members to serve on the Parochial Church Council
6. To appoint sidespersons to serve in the current year
7. To appoint an Independent Examiner for the year 2008/2009
8. To approve the membership of St Mary's Committee
9. To approve the membership of St John's Committee
10. To approve the membership of St Mary's Hampton Poyle Committee
11. To approve the membership of St John's Hall Management Committee
12. To elect four members to serve on the Committee of Churches Together in Kidlington
13. To consider a Report on changes in the Electoral Roll since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting
14. To consider an Annual Report of the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the Parish, generally
15. To consider the Financial Statements of the Council for the year ended 31st December 2007, independently examined
16. To consider a Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Churches of the Parish
17. To consider a Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
18. To consider any other matters of parochial or general Church interest
19. To deal with any other business
20. To set the date of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for 2009
21. Closing Prayers

Note: In order to give satisfactory answers to questions regarding Parish finances, it would help the "finance team" if these could be submitted in writing, to a Churchwarden at least 24 hours before the meeting.